

Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham briefed on development and stability in Rakhine during visit

NAY PYI TAW, 18 May —Vice-President Dr. Sai Mauk Kham, who also chairs the committee for stability and development of Rakhine State, met with the state chief minister and officials in Sittway on Sunday morning.

The vice-president said communal violence was hampering regional development and urged all responsible persons to cooperate in the affairs of Rakhine State.

He also said that the government would coordinate with the UN and INGOs to provide for the welfare of people in temporary camps.

The Rakhine State chief minister briefed the vice president on the current situation, e.g. stability and development of Rakhine State.

Ms. Yosi Burckhardt of UNICEF and Ms. Nicola Pyatt of Save the Children



Vice-President Dr. Sai Mauk Kham in Rakhine State, discussing current security and development situation with local government officials and international aid organizations.—MNA

elaborated on arrangements for education, health, sanitation, and food for people in temporary camps.

The vice-president also visited Myebon and met with people in Kantha Htwet Wa temporary

camp.

To wrap up his visit, the vice-president and officials went back to Sittway

and met with representatives of both communities in the conflict separately.

MNA

Road safety to be dramatically improved after fatal bus crash: all private bus line control committee

By Aung Kyaw Kyaw

Most of the Yangon-Nay Pyi Taw bus lines are making preparations to improve safety on their buses after the recent fatal bus crash on the Yangon-Nay Pyi Taw express way, in which 14 people died, officials told NLM.

In interviews with officials from three bus lines and the all private bus line control committee at Bawgathiri Highway Bus Terminal in Nay Pyi Taw on Friday, the managers said in future there will be a speed limit and strict control of who is behind the wheel.

“Our bus line gives jobs to drivers only when they have long experience and the right driving licence. It assigns two drivers and one bus conductor for



U Win Swe urges for stricter control of drivers and buses.

PHOTO AUNG KYAW KYAW

a route (Yangon-Nay Pyi Taw) and always instructs the drivers not to drive faster than 110 km/h,” said Ko Nyi Nyi, who is in charge of Myat Mandalay Tun Bus-line (Nay Pyi Taw).

“10 minutes before leaving the bus station, bus conductors are to check the bus for extinguishers and emergency hammers on the bus. It is the job of the bus conductor to remind passengers to fasten belts

for safety. The bus line has passenger insurance, but not for buses. The bus line will have insurance for express buses after its meeting on 17 May,” he added.

“I check the passengers are ok whenever the express bus passed forty miles on the route (Yangon-Nay Pyi Taw) and help the driver by talking to him,” said Ma Nwe Nwe Zin, a bus conductor of Mandalay Min bus line (Nay Pyi Taw).

“The bus line has already got insurance for buses. Regarding passenger insurance, it will sell for K 300 each as of 17 May,” she added.

“We check up the buses every Saturday. We have a lot of buses and drivers. Therefore, our drivers have some rest time,” explained U Kyaw Naing from Shwe Sin Sakkyar/Shwe Sin Bus line (Nay Pyi Taw).

“Despite the recent

car accident, passengers are still booking tickets for the Yangon-Nay Pyi Taw routes,” he continued.

U Myo Nyunt Oo from the all private bus line control committee said, “Death rate of road accidents is high because of careless driving. Drivers are not educated. Some do not even have basic education level. Also, they didn’t go to driving schools. As you know, a driver needs to know road signs and follow road rules.”

“Our committee gave training on road signs and road rules to bus drivers from 1 to 14 May. We do so very often. For road safety, the committee is practising the five “Es”; education; engineering; enforcement; environment; emergency (medical care), and four “Ps”; people; policy; practice and participation,” he told NLM.

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34th ASEAN Chiefs of Police Conference concludes

NAY PYI TAW, 18 May—The 34th ASEAN Chiefs of Police (ASEANPOL) Conference concluded on Friday in the capital of the Philippines Manila, attended by 198 Chiefs of police and delegates from ASEAN countries, as well as China, Japan, Korea, Australia and New Zealand, Russia, Interpol and the ASEAN Secretariat.

The conference was aimed at strengthening cooperation to combat regional crimes, and improve policing skills as well as training police forces of the ASEAN countries.

Myanmar hosted the 32nd ASEANPOL Conference in 2012.—MNA

Media accreditation cards for 8th ASEAN Defence Ministers’ Meeting to be issued on 19 May

NAY PYI TAW, 18 May—The 8th ASEAN Defence Ministers’ Meeting-ADMM will be held at Hotel Royal ACE in Nay Pyi Taw from 19 to 21 May.

The media accreditation cards will be issued to local and foreign correspondents who have filled in the online media registration form, at gate No. 2 of the hotel from 12 noon to 5 p.m. on 19 May.

Shuttle buses have been arranged for journalists from Mann Myanmar Hotel and Sky Palace Hotel, starting from 7 a.m. on 20 May.

The media centre will be open at Hanthawady building of the hotel and a press conference will be held at Thanlwin Hall of the building.—MNA

Children under training of basic culture course in Meiktila Tsp



MEIKTILA, 18 May—The basic Buddhist culture course is being given to children at the monastery in Kwetnge Village of Meiktila Township, Mandalay Region.

Altogether 160 children from Kwetnge Village and nearby villages are attending the course.

The course is aimed at providing cultural knowledge and Buddhist culture

to the children before opening the schools. The course will last from 3 to 20 May, said the abbot of Zaygon East Monastery of Kwetnge Village.

Chan Tha (Meiktila)

Locals have opportunity to raise reading habit thanks to library



YANGON, 18 May—A ceremony to open Myitta Yaungchi self-reliant library was held in Hsapachung Kyaungsu Ward

of Dala Township, Yangon South District, on Saturday morning.

At the opening ceremony, township level of-

ficials discussed durability of the library. Township Information and Public Relations Department and well-wishers donated books and publications to the library chairman and officials.

“We are pleased for opening the library as our children are eager to read books,” said a local.

It was aimed at widening the scope of knowledge of local people thanks to the library.

It is a 16 feet long, 12 feet wide and 13 feet high. Construction of the building cost K2,416,100.

U Banya Maung Maung

City development tasks undertaken in Magway



MAGWAY, 18 May—Magway Region government is making strenuous efforts for keeping Magway, the city of Magway Region, pleasant and clean in line with the city characteristics and for ensuring traffic safety.

The local authorities install steel fixing along the 2630 feet long traffic island on Bogyoke Road and the wire mesh along the 120 feet long section from Myinkin to Thitsa Streets and another section from Myitta to Thitsa streets on Magway-Taungdwin Road.

All the development task cost K52,693,818.

Officials and workers are pouring out their efforts for timely completion of the tasks.

Ko Myo (IPRD)

Preservation of ancient palm-leave inscriptions performed at Pitakat Chamber in Thaton

THATON, 18 May—Thuwunna Bhumi Pariyatti Sasanahita Association takes responsibility for maintenance of the palm-leave inscriptions and systematic storage at U Po Thee Pitakat Chamber in the precinct of Saddhamma Jotikarama monastery at the foot of Myathabeik Hill in Thaton, Mon State.

“The chamber is owned by the association. Rare palm-leave inscriptions, folded papers and Pitakat treatises donated by retired assistant officer U Po Thee-Daw Khin Khin Gyi and family are being stored at the chamber many years ago. International researchers arrived here to



do research the palm-leave inscriptions and folded papers. We maintain these rare works for durability. We take care of works as the palm-leaves are ancient works,” said U Khin Aung, secretary of the association.

A total of 788 packets

of ancient palm-leave inscriptions and 28 folded papers in Mon, Pali and Myanmar languages are being stored at the chamber.

Members of the association carried out maintenance of the works twice a month.

Thet Oo (Thaton)



Workers of Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee and the in-charge of the market carrying out sanitation of garbage at Arharathukha Market in Pyinmana of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area with the use of heavy machinery on Saturday.—MIN MIN LATT (MANN TEKKATHO)

Village library fulfills wish of locals for reading

MONYWA, 18 May—As part of efforts to implement rural development and poverty alleviation scheme, the books donation to Thuta Pyinnya library was held at the library building in Nyaungbinwun Village of Kani Township, Sagaing Region, recently.

Township Education Officer Daw Htay Yi urged the local people to read the books for development of knowledge.

Staff Daw Thin Thin Aye of the Township Information and Public Relations Department demonstrated on systematic keeping of books and

registration.

Township Management Committee Chairman U Htin Aung handed over books to the village librarian.

“In the past, we went to urban area crossing the creek to borrow books. So, we could not go to the shops due to lack of spare time.

Now, the village library will fulfill our wishes for reading, and I thank the officials for their efforts in establishment of the library,” said U Kyaw Win, a bookworm from Nyaungwun Village.

*Sagaing Region
IPRD*

NATIONAL

60th anniversary of Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence celebrated

YANGON, 18 May—The 60th anniversary of the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence implemented by India, China and Myanmar, was celebrated on Sunday at Strand Hotel on Seikkantha Street in Yangon, with an address by Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin.

During the celebration, Indian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Gautam Maukhopadhaya, Chairman U Sein Win Aung of Myanmar-China Friendship Association and Vice-Chairman Mr Geng Zhiyuan of China-Myanmar Friendship Association made speeches to mark the 60th Anniversary of the Five



Union Minister U Wunna Maung Lwin addresses the ceremony to mark 60th anniversary of the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence.—MNA

Principles of Peaceful Coexistence.—MNA

World Bank helps rural development in Chin State

NAY PYI TAW, 18 May—As part of the Community Development District (CDD) project jointly steered by the Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development and the World Bank, Deputy Minister U Tin Ngwe met with local people of Makyauk-ar Village in Kanpetlet Township of Chin State, sources said.

The deputy minister explained ongoing rural

development tasks, which include the expansion of a three-mile-long earthen road linking the township and the village, the renovation of the village primary school, and the construction of reservoirs and pumps.

The community-based project covers 62 village-tracts, each of which is entitled to US\$ 27,000 a year for three consecutive years.—MNA

Leader of NLD, 88 Generation call for amendment of Section 436 of Constitution

MANDALAY, 18 May—Chairperson of the National League for Democracy Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and Leader of 88 Generation Peace and Open Society U Min Ko Naing expressed their willingness to amendment of Section 436

of the 2008 Constitution at Aungpinle Sport Ground in Chanmyathazi Township in Mandalay on Sunday.

MNA

Deputy Minister U Tin Ngwe and officials launch community-based development project in Kanpetlet.—MNA



Private medical centre to introduce sophisticated technology

YANGON, 18 May—The opening ceremony of PERFECT- Myanmar Molecular Imaging and Therapy Centre (MMITC) took place at Sedona Hotel on Sunday afternoon, sources said.

Addressing the ceremony, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe said the use of cutting-edge technology is of great help in diagnosis and treatment, adding that molecular imaging is a latest

branch of radiology, with the application limited to high-tech countries. He expressed his gratitude to MMITC, which will render services unavailable even in general hospitals.

MNA



Myanmar's Priorities for ASEAN Chairmanship

Myanmar's priorities of ASEAN Chairmanship will be—

- To ensure the full implementation of the remaining tasks in realizing ASEAN Community by 2015.
- To set the priority areas for acceleration in implementation of the ASEAN Community, to review the status of community building, to set future initiatives to vitalize ASEAN, to formulate programmes in promoting ASEAN external relations.
- To carry out the review of ASEAN Charter, in order to maintain the relevance of ASEAN in changing circumstances.
- To conduct the mid-term review of the implementation the ARF vision statement and to develop a new vision for ARF.
- To transform ASEAN as a people-centred organization, to enhance engagements with civil society, to accelerate participation of women, youth, parliamentarians and media in the activities of ASEAN.
- To work on developing the ASEAN Vision beyond 2015.

Southwest monsoon enters southern Myanmar

NAY PYI TAW, 18 May—The southwest monsoon has entered southern part of Myanmar, the Andaman Sea and southeast of the Bay of Bengal last 24 hours, according to the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology.—MNA

Travellers urged to buy insurances following fatal bus crash

MANDALAY, 18 May—Following the recent fatal bus crash on the Nay Pyi Taw-Yangon route, travelers are now advised to buy travel insurance, Managing Director of Myanmar Insurance U Aye Min Thein said on Friday.

“Traveller may buy two different types of travel insurance for over 100-mile long trips on express-

way,” he said at a press briefing in Mandalay.

Myanmar Insurance has been selling insurances at K300 for over 100-mile trips on expressways. This insurance will compensate families with K3.5 million in case of death and K2.4 million for injuries. In the past, MI compensated only with K1 million in such cases.

In order to get more compensation for travellers, all bus lines will sign a MoU with MI and twelve private insurance companies.

To avoid fatal bus crashes in the future, he also urged the bus line owners to only hire drivers with a valid licence.

Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-Printing House)



An official explains services of Myanmar Insurance for travellers.

A first for Indonesia, ethnic Chinese leader takes charge in the capital



Basuki Tjahaja Purnama, Jakarta's then vice governor, talks to residents affected by floods during his visit to Jakarta on 19 Jan, 2013.—REUTERS

JAKARTA, 18 May — Indonesia's presidential race isn't until July. But there's already one winner.

Basuki Tjahaja Purnama, better known by his

nickname "Ahok", has taken over as acting governor of the Indonesian capital Jakarta. He is the first ethnic Chinese to do so in a country that is 95 percent

native Indonesian and has the world's largest Muslim population.

A Christian, Ahok succeeds Joko "Jokowi" Widodo who has stepped

aside to run for the presidential election on 9 July, which opinion polls suggest he will win. Ahok will automatically take over to complete Jokowi's five-year term if he does win. Indonesia's Chinese make up only about 2 percent of the 240 million population.

Resented for their wide control over trade and business, and suspected of loyalty to China, Indonesian-Chinese have been deliberately kept out of the political and military hierarchy for most of the country's almost 70 years of independence.

The resentment, which has burst into bloody riots in the past, appears to be on the wane, although it's not over.

Even critics of Jakarta's acting governor complain mostly about what they see as his abrasive

style of governance, not his background. "People are voting for a track record today," Ahok told *Reuters* in an interview in his office in April. "It's not about the race or religion...or some primordial idea of who should run (the country)."

Ahok has been the bad cop to Jokowi's good cop. In contrast to the typically soft-spoken and Javanese Jokowi, Ahok has gained a reputation for being a tough guy not afraid to shake up the city's sleepy bureaucracy.

"The first thing we have to fix here is the bureaucracy...by testing and evaluating their performance," Ahok said. "We say to them if they don't want to follow us, they can get out. Sometimes we have to kick them out. Of course they are angry but we don't care."—*Reuters*

Cambodian PM flies to Shanghai for leaders' summit

PHNOM PENH, 18 May — Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen flew to Shanghai, China on Sunday morning to attend the 4th Summit of Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) to be held from Tuesday to Wednesday.

Hun Sen is accompanied by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Hor Namhong, Minister of Rural Development Chea Sophara, and other members of the government, Sry Thamarong, a senior official at the Prime Minister Hun Sen's Cabinet, told reporters at Phnom Penh International Airport ahead of departure.

"The summit will focus on enhancing dialogue, confidence and coordination, and on jointly constructing a new Asia with peace, stability and cooperation," he said. "It will also be a forum for leaders in Asia to exchange views on security issues and new challenges."

He said the summit is called in the context that the situations in Asian region and the world are going through complicated changes, and the Asian region has faced unprecedented opportunities and challenges. According to Sry Thamarong, Hun Sen will meet with Chinese President Xi Jinping and visit the Shanghai Aircraft Design and Research Institute during his stay in Shanghai.—*Xinhua*

Next Iran nuclear talks due on 16-20 June

DUBAI, 18 May — The next round of nuclear talks between Iran and six world powers will take place in Vienna on 16-20 June, senior Iranian nuclear negotiator Abbas Araghchi was reported as saying by the *IRNA* official state news agency.

There were no further details in the agency's report late on Saturday about the planned discussions, which are aimed at ending a decade-old standoff over Iran's nuclear program.

Teheran says its nuclear programme is for peace-



Video cameras are set up for the start of a news conference at the United Nations headquarters building (Vienna International Centre) in Vienna on 14 May, 2014.—REUTERS

ful aims such as power generation and medicine. The West and Israel suspect it is a cover for acquiring the capability to make nuclear weapons. The latest round of negotiations in Vienna last week resulted in little progress.

The six powers want Iran to agree to scale back uranium enrichment and other sensitive nuclear activity and accept more rigorous UN inspections to deny it any capability of quickly producing atomic bombs, in exchange for an end to sanctions.

In a related development, Iranian media reported that an International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) delegation would visit Teheran on Monday to discuss Iran's nuclear work. In Vienna, there was no immediate IAEA comment, but diplomatic sources on Friday said a meeting early this week was expected. Iran has offered to work with the IAEA in clarifying what the UN agency calls the possible military dimensions of the country's nuclear programme.

Reuters

India's Modi gets hero's welcome as he brings new era to New Delhi

NEW DELHI, 18 May — Hundreds of Indians thronged the leafy streets of New Delhi on Saturday to greet Narendra Modi's triumphant march into the capital after he decimated the Nehru-Gandhi dynasty and the ruling Congress party in the biggest election victory the country has seen in 30 years.

Modi leaned far out of his car, waving a victory sign to jubilant supporters, in a drive from the airport to the headquarters of his Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in the center of town.

A Hindu nationalist who critics fear will be divisive and autocratic, Modi toned down religious issues in his pitch to India's 815 million voters and won the world's biggest ever elec-

tion with promises of economic development for all.

The three-times chief minister of the western state of Gujarat is an outsider to Delhi's power circle. The low-chance son of a tea stall-owner, his rise to power signals the end of an era dominated by the descendants of India's first prime minister, independence hero Jawaharlal Nehru.

"Four to five generations have been wasted since 1952, this victory has been achieved after that," Modi said, in a jibe at the Nehru-Gandhi family and the Congress it dominates.

Describing himself as a "worker", he hailed grassroots campaigners who showered him with pink rose petals as he arrived at party headquarters. There

he met other party leaders and was expected to start discussions about forming a cabinet. Modi will not formally take office until after Tuesday, the party said.

Modi has given India its first parliamentary majority after 25 years of coalition governments, with his party winning more than six times the seats garnered by Congress. With almost all 543 seats declared by Saturday morning, Modi's BJP looked set to win 282 seats, 10 more than the majority required to rule. With its allied parties, it was heading for a comfortable tally of around 337 — the clearest result since the 1984 assassination of prime minister Indira Gandhi propelled her son Rajiv to office.—*Reuters*



Hindu nationalist Narendra Modi (wearing a garland), the prime ministerial candidate for India's Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), gestures to his supporters outside party's headquarters in New Delhi on 17 May, 2014.—REUTERS

WORLD

APEC to craft road map in 2014 for realization of new free trade area



The APEC trade ministers' meeting is held in the coastal city of Qingdao, east China's Shandong Province, on 17 May, 2014. The two-day meeting of APEC trade ministers opened on Saturday.—XINHUA

QINGDAO, (China), 18 May — At a time when maritime tensions involving China are under the spotlight, Asia-Pacific trade ministers agreed on Sunday to promote regional economic integration and create a road map, possibly by the end of 2014, for the realization of a new free trade area.

"We are committed to further advancing

the Asia-Pacific's role as an engine for the global economy through increased cooperation and mutual support," the ministers said in a statement adopted at the end of a two-day meeting in the eastern Chinese port city of Qingdao.

The meeting effectively marked the start of China's chairmanship this year of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooper-

ation forum and came at a time when the region, which accounts for nearly 60 percent of the world's gross domestic product, is fraught with maritime tensions, most recently between Beijing and Hanoi in the South China Sea.

The ministers said they are "determined to uphold the principles of openness, inclusiveness and cooperation under a win-win spirit...(and) deepen and strengthen regional economic integration."

The ministers agreed to develop a road map for the establishment of a Free Trade Area of the Asia-Pacific, embracing all APEC member economies, instructing their officials to finalize it by the end of 2014.

The meeting for the 21-member grouping in the major coastal city in Shandong Province is the first in a series of ministerial sessions to prepare for the forum's summit in November in Beijing.

Kyodo News

Elections for municipal, provincial, district councilors kick off in Cambodia

PHNOM PENH, 18 May — The elections for municipal, provincial, district councilors began on Sunday morning in Cambodia with five political parties joining in the contest.

The non-universal poll is cast by only 11,459 sitting commune councilors — typically along party lines — for the municipal, provincial, and district councilors.

According to the National Election Committee (NEC), the five parties participating in the elections are the ruling Cambodian People's Party (CPP), the main opposition Cambodia National Rescue Party (CNRP), the royalist Funcinpec Party, the League for Democracy, and the

Republican Democracy Party. NEC secretary-general Tep Nytha said 11,459 sitting commune councilors, including nearly 8,300 coming from the CPP and 2,955 coming from the CNRP, lined up to cast their ballots on Sunday.

More than 800 observers from political parties and civil society are monitoring the poll at 197 polling stations across the country, NEC said.

Preliminary result will be released on Sunday evening as the official one will be announced on 30 May. It is the second time the nation held the elections for municipal, provincial, district councilors. The mandate for the councilors is five years.—Xinhua



National Election Committee officials prepare to count ballots in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, on 18 May, 2014.

The elections for municipal, provincial, district councilors began on Sunday morning in Cambodia with five political parties joining the contest.

XINHUA

Obama calls outgoing Prime Minister Manmohan Singh after election

WASHINGTON, 18 May — US President Barack Obama called outgoing Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on Saturday to thank him for developing deeper relations with the United States, a day after Singh's political party was swept from power. On Friday, Obama called Singh's successor, opposition leader Narendra Modi, and invited him to Washington at a mutually agreeable time.

Obama, who hosted Singh at a White House state dinner in his first term, thanked him for "his critical role in transforming and deepening the US-India strategic partnership and our cooperation on global challenges," a White House statement said. "The president conveyed his appreciation for Dr Singh's friendship, noting that he looked forward to further expanding the strong relationship between the United States and India with Prime Minister-Elect Narendra Modi," the statement said.—Reuters



US President Barack Obama (R) shakes hands with Manmohan Singh in the Oval Office of the White House in Washington on 27 Sept, 2013.

REUTERS

Israel hints back-channel talks launched with Palestinians

JERUSALEM, 18 May — A senior member of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government hinted on Saturday that Israel was involved in back-channel contacts with Palestinian and Arab officials despite the collapse of US-brokered peace negotiations last month.

Foreign Minister Avigdor Lieberman confirmed that centrist Justice Minister Tzipi Livni, Israel's main negotiator in the nine months of talks, had met secretly in London this past week with Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas.

"I think that it's true that she met (him)," Lieberman told Israel's Channel 2 television when asked about a report the same station had broadcast on Friday saying the two had met.

Lieberman insisted it had been "a private meet-



Israeli Foreign Minister Avigdor Lieberman

ing" and did not mean negotiations had resumed, though his comments were the first official confirmation that the sides were still in direct contact despite the suspension of formal diplomacy.

Livni has confirmed she visited London but aides have declined comment on reports that she met Abbas there. Abbas has also made no comment.

Lieberman said Israel was sticking by its decision of last month to suspend formal talks with the Palestinians over Abbas's deal to forge a unity government with Hamas in the Gaza Strip. The Islamist group rejects dialogue with the Jewish state.

The negotiations renewed under the tutelage of Secretary of State John Kerry in July were already

teetering towards failure.

Lieberman said "there is no stagnation" in diplomacy despite the negotiations' formal end last month.

"The fact there are no negotiations with Abu Mazen (Mahmoud Abbas) doesn't mean there aren't other things" taking place, he said, suggesting Israel should seek out other figures, including in the Arab business world, as potential partners and dismissing the possibility of a deal with Abbas.

"We must play along the length and breadth of the playing field," he said.

Netanyahu has also hinted at seeking a way to break the diplomatic deadlock. Haaretz daily said on Friday he planned to consult with cabinet ministers about alternative courses of action.—Reuters

Ukraine crisis will be “game changer” for NATO

GAIZIUNAI, 18 May — Artillery (Lithuania)/ Brussels and tank fire reverberate around a Baltic airstrip where US paratroopers are fighting alongside Lithuanian soldiers. The battle is just an exercise and it only involves 150 US soldiers — but the symbolism is clear.

With eastern European states nervous about Russia after it annexed Ukraine's Crimea region and massed 40,000 troops on Ukraine's borders, the United States and NATO allies want to show Moscow that former Soviet republics on the Baltic are under the alliance's security umbrella.

“We're ready if something were to happen, but we're not looking to start any problems,” said Sergeant James Day, from the US 173rd Airborne Brigade, during war games on the vast Gaiziunai training ground in western Lithuania.

That chimes with NATO's current posture. In an initial response to Russia's intervention in Ukraine, The United States has sent 600 soldiers to the three Baltic countries — Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania — and Poland to take part in exercises to bolster NATO's presence in eastern Europe. But the alliance has no inclination to intervene militarily in Ukraine.

Longer term, the crisis will have a profound impact on NATO's relations



Paratroopers of the 173rd Airborne Brigade of the US Army in Europe take part in military exercise “Black Arrow” in Rukla on 14 May, 2014.—REUTERS

with Russia, its strategy and how it deploys, trains and equips its forces, although Europe has no wish to return to a Cold War-style confrontation between huge armies.

The crisis will compel the alliance to refocus on its core mission of defending its members after years in which its main effort has been far away in Afghanistan.

The 28-nation military alliance accuses Russia of tearing up the diplomatic rule book with its annexa-

tion of Crimea.

“For 20 years, the security of the Euro-Atlantic region has been based on the premise that we do not face an adversary to our east. This premise is now in doubt,” NATO Deputy Secretary General Alexander Vershbow said last month.

The crisis, called a “game changer” by Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen, will dominate the alliance's agenda as it prepares for a summit in Wales in September,

which will mark the imminent end of the NATO-led combat mission in Afghanistan.

The United States, Britain, Denmark, France, Canada and Germany have sent or promised extra fighter aircraft to increase patrols and training over the Baltics, Poland or Romania.

A fleet of nine minehunters from NATO countries has been despatched to the Baltic and another task force of five ships to the eastern Mediterranean.

denying Russian troops were operating in the peninsula.

The crisis has already affected relations between NATO and Russia, which have cooperated uneasily in recent years in areas such as combating terrorism, piracy and Afghan drug-trafficking. NATO suspended cooperation with Russia last month over Crimea.

The damage is not likely to be repaired as quickly as after Russia's 2008 war with Georgia, when a freeze in top-level contacts between NATO and Russia lasted barely six months.

“As compared, say, with the reset after the Georgia war, this is going to be a much more prolonged and difficult period,” said a senior NATO official, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Russian President Vladimir Putin declared in March he had the right to invade Ukraine to protect Russian speakers there, causing alarm in NATO members Estonia and Latvia, which have large ethnic Russian minorities of their own. Officials at NATO are asking themselves if Putin would seriously consider challenging a NATO member, although if it tangled with a NATO member state, Russia would also be risking a confrontation with the United States.—Reuters

Turkish mine disaster town under lockdown as death toll rises to 301

SOMA, 18 May — Turkish police put the mining town of Soma on virtual lockdown on Saturday, setting up checkpoints and detaining dozens of people to enforce a ban on protests as rescue efforts following the country's worst industrial disaster ended.

The last two bodies of workers thought still to have been left in the mine were carried out four days after a fire sent deadly carbon monoxide through it. That brought the death toll to 301, Energy Minister Taner Yildiz said.

Hundreds of riot police patrolled the streets while others checked identity cards at three checkpoints on the approach road to Soma, a Reuters witness said. The local governor banned protests in response to clashes a day earlier between police and several



Miners rests in front of the coal mine in Soma, a district in Turkey's western province of Manisa, after a coal mine explosion on 17 May, 2014.—REUTERS

thousand demonstrators.

Eight lawyers from the Contemporary Jurists Association, including its leader, were handcuffed and detained during the lockdown on suspicion that they had gone to the town to take part in more protests, the private Dogan news agency reported. A

total of 36 people were arrested and taken to a sports center in the town where they chanted: “the pressure cannot intimidate us”, the agency said. The number of detentions could not immediately be confirmed.

Tuesday's disaster has triggered protests across Turkey, aimed at mine

owners accused of ignoring safety for profit, and at Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan's government, seen as too close to industry bosses and insensitive in its response. Erdogan has presided over a decade of rapid economic growth but worker safety standards have failed to keep pace, leaving Turkey with one of the world's worst industrial accident records. The plant manager denied any negligence at the mine which was inspected by state officials every six months.

Demonstrators clashed with police in the western port city of Izmir overnight, some setting up makeshift barricades and throwing stones and fireworks aimed at the police, Hurriyet newspaper reported. Some 40 people were detained.

Reuters

Sri Lanka's president warns of attempts by Tamil diaspora

COLOMBO, 18 May — Sri Lanka's President Mahinda Rajapaksa on Sunday warned that some members of the Tamil diaspora are attempting to mislead the Tamils in the country, five years after the defeat of the Tamil Tiger rebels.

Speaking at victory day celebrations held in the southern town of Matara to commemorate five years since the end of the 30 year war with the rebels, Rajapaksa insisted that the war was not against the Tamils but the rebels.

However he said that some people are attempting to mislead the Tamils in an attempt to divide the country once again.

President Rajapaksa assured the public that the government will not leave any room for the country to be divided again.

A massive military parade was held in Matara to commemorate five years since the end of the war.

Members of the security forces took part in the parade in front a large crowd, which included diplomats in Sri Lanka.

President Rajapaksa said that the best place to address any political issue is the parliament and that is why a Parliament Select Committee was appointed.

Almost all the political parties but the main Tamil party in Sri Lanka joined the Parliament Select Committee

The Tamil National Alliance is demanding direct talks with the government before it joins the committee, a demand the government has so far refused.—Xinhua

WORLD

Street by street, Assad extends grip in central Syria

BEIRUT, 18 May — From his base in Damascus, Bashar al-Assad can contemplate a broad sweep of Syria clawed back from rebels who once threatened to drive him out. The capital which they targeted is now plastered with posters inviting Syrians to reelect him president.

Powerful foreign allies have helped Assad hold or retake a chain of cities which form the north-south backbone of the country, keep his grip on the Mediterranean coast to the west and restore control over the Lebanese border.

The culmination of that slow, grinding military turnaround came last week with the final withdrawal of rebel fighters from Homs city, a month before the presidential election in which Assad faces no serious



A picture of Syria's President Bashar al-Assad is seen along the Mezzeh highway in Damascus on 12 May, 2014.—REUTERS

ous challenge.

His foes dismiss the 3 June vote as a farce, saying the huge areas still beyond his command make a cred-

ible vote impossible, but the fact that authorities can consider a notionally countrywide ballot reveals their growing confidence.

One of the two candidates officially approved to run against Assad said the overwhelming majority of Syrians would be

able to vote, downplaying the fighting that still kills around 200 people a day and the almost three million who have fled.

"In the middle of the country the situation is perfect for election. On the coast the situation is very good. In the southern part of Syria the situation is getting better," said Hassan al-Nouri, a US-educated former minister of state.

The military respite has come at a cost. Assad's foreign Shi'ite supporters have often taken the lead in battle, leaving his own forces to play a peripheral role against rebels who are themselves increasingly directed by outside Sunni powers.

Whoever pulls the strings, though, the long term momentum is clear.

Reuters

Cairo bomb wounds at least three at pro-Sisi rally

CAIRO, 18 May — A bomb wounded at least three people at a Cairo election rally for presidential frontrunner Abdel Fattah al-Sisi on Saturday, security sources said, underscoring Egypt's instability nearly a year after he toppled Islamist leader Mohamed Mursi.

A man riding on a motorcycle threw the homemade device in the direction of Sisi supporters at the street gathering of about 150 people in a north-eastern district of the capital, the sources said.

Former army chief Sisi, who was not present, is expected to win the election on 26-27 May, after gaining the support of many Egyptians who backed his ouster of Mursi after mass protests against his rule.

Sisi has avoided public appearances during his election campaign, apparently for security reasons. He said in a television interview that there were two attempts on his life, but did not elaborate.

Saturday's attack was the first targeting a campaign event.

Sisi's only competitor in the election is leftist Hamdeen Sabahi who placed third in presidential elections in 2012.

Reuters

Mexico captures leader of drug gang in violent state

MEXICO CITY, 18 May — The Mexican government said on Saturday it had captured the leader of a drug gang allied with a dangerous cartel in the violent southwestern state of Guerrero.

Mexican police arrested Leonor Nava, boss of Los Rojos (The Reds) in Tecpan de Galeana north-west of the beach resort of Acapulco, the biggest city in Guerrero, National Security Commissioner Monte Alejandro Rubido told a news conference.

Known as "El Tigre" (the tiger), Nava is suspected of trafficking drugs to the United States, extortion and kidnapping. He is also being investigated in connection with the murder of eight army soldiers in December 2008, Rubido said.

Los Rojos are allies of the Beltran Leyva drug cartel, which fractured into several groups after its leader Arturo Beltran Leyva was killed by marines in 2009. Rubido said Nava, 45, was the main leader of Los Rojos. Guerrero is one of Mexico's most violent regions and borders the Pacific state of Michoacan, which the government has had to reinforce this year to beat down another drug cartel.—Reuters

Gunfight erupts in Mali's Kidal as PM visits

KIDAL, 18 May — A gunbattle erupted between the Malian army and MNLA Tuareg separatists in the northern city of Kidal on Saturday shortly before a visit by the prime minister, an army source and an MNLA spokesman said.

Mali's new prime minister, Moussa Mara, landed in the city for the first time since his appointment last month as he seeks to revive long-delayed peace talks with armed groups seeking autonomy for a region of northern Mali they call Azawad.

A spokesman for the MNLA said the gunfight

began on Saturday morning after the army opened fire on their barracks following pro-independence protests in the city.

"They were the first to fire and they aimed at our position and we responded," said MNLA spokesman Attaye Ag Mohamed in Kidal, speaking over occasional bursts of gunfire.

An army source travelling with Mara confirmed that clashes had taken place near the local governor's office and said that at least one person had been killed, without giving details.

Mali, a vast landlocked former French col-

ony of 16 million in West Africa, descended into turmoil when Islamist fighters took advantage of a 2012 Tuareg-led rebellion and seized control of the country's north.

French troops drove back the Islamists last year, elections were held and a UN peacekeeping mission is rolling out.

The trip to Kidal, a city 1,500 km north of the capital Bamako and seen as part of the Tuareg heartland, is symbolic for the government as it seeks to show that it has stamped its authority there.

"Long live a diverse

Mali but one that is united and indivisible," Mara said on Twitter ahead of his departure.

Tensions between separatists and supporters of the government are a simmering undercurrent of daily life in Kidal, although flare ups have been relatively rare and the latest violence appeared to have been triggered by Mara's visit.

Kidal resident Assikadaye Ag Waezagane said at least 100 pro-independence protesters had gathered at the airport since Friday and at one point occupied the runway.—Reuters

West Africa leaders vow to wage 'total war' on Boko Haram

PARIS, 18 May — West African leaders on Saturday agreed to work together to wage "total war" on Boko Haram saying the Nigerian Islamist group had become a regional al-Qaeda that threatened all of them.

Nigeria's neighbours Chad, Cameroon, Niger and Benin, and Western officials, met in Paris to flesh out a plan enabling them for the first time to share intelligence, coordinate action and monitor borders.

Although Boko Haram has been fighting for five years, carrying out bombings and attacks on civilians and the security forces, the kidnapping last month of more than 200 girls from a school in the northeast has focused world attention on them.

"Boko Haram is no longer a local terrorist group, it is operating clearly as an al-Qaeda operation, it is an al-Qaeda of West Africa," Nigerian President Goodluck Jonathan told a news conference in Paris following the meeting.

"We have shown our commitment for a regional approach. Without West African countries coming together we will not be able to crush these terrorists," he said.

Outrage over the mass abduction has prompted Nigerian President Goodluck Jonathan — criticized at home and abroad for his government's slow response — to accept US, British and French intelligence help in the hunt for the girls.

British Foreign Minis-



French President Francois Hollande (C) poses for a family photo with (LtoR) Britain's Foreign Secretary William Hague, Niger's President Mahamadou Issoufou, Chad's President Idriss Deby, Nigerian President Goodluck Jonathan, Cameroon's President Paul Biya, Benin's President Thomas Yayi Boni, European Council President Herman Van Rompuy and US Undersecretary of State for Political Affairs Wendy Sherman during a meeting at the Elysee Palace in Paris, on 17 May, 2014.—REUTERS

ter William Hague, speaking before the start of a meeting, said the Nigerian military was not organized in a way to deal effectively with the group, and offered military advisers to

help structure them. "There is determination to tackle this situation head on ... to launch a war, a total war on Boko Haram," Chad's President Idriss Deby said. The countries agreed to

launch coordinated patrols and rescue operations, share intelligence, put in place a mechanism to prevent weapons' smuggling and monitor borders.

Reuters

PERSPECTIVES

Monday, 19 May, 2014

Young and promising athletes will get more support in future

By Myint Win Thein

Success in sports brings high status, not just for the athlete, but the country and its citizens as well. By encouraging sports, a country can win the respects of others, and its relations with will become broader and deeper, contributing to national development. For na-

tional development, achievement in sports plays an essential role.

It is important to nurture talented athletes. Myanmar once boasted many outstanding sportsmen and sportswomen, helping to raise its status. In other words, it is not wrong to say that the success of Myanmar in the SEA Games resulted from nurturing young athletes with systematic training. Athletes must be physically and mentally strong, and while there is much talent out there, they need to be supported.

The Ministry of Sports, in cooperation with sports federations, is organizing various sports events including soccer matches in the capitals of states and regions starting from June in order to give athletes from different parts of the country the chance to train to well and to participate in the next SEA Games and other major sports events.

The more young athletes a country nurtures, the higher the chances to be able to select the best. By selecting the best athletes training them systematically, the potential for success in sports will be greater. Although host Myanmar was successful in the last SEA Games, they could not choose the best athletes due to the lack of time to prepare. Myanmar had to participate in the SEA Games with older athletes and inexperienced young ones. But officials have said they will in future invest to build strong teams to represent the country.

Write for us

We appreciate your feedback and contributions. If you have any comments or would like to submit editorials, analyses or reports please email wallace.tun@gmail.com with your name and title.

Management-cum-Leadership

For the young aspirants who want to become good managers and effective leaders in their respective fields, I'm now trying my best to offer them the most salient points about Management-cum-Leadership; not about, mind you, Management vs Leadership.

I'm offering my own understanding of Management and Leadership, not stereotypes from most text books on Management and Leadership.

The Analytical Meanings of Management and Leadership

First, please note that Management and Leadership, especially Business Management and Leadership, typically in Corporate Management & Leadership have been defined, here, as follows:

Management is assumed to be MAGIC, and Leadership is interpreted as POETIC.

So, MANAGEMENT means MAGIC in the following sense:

M for **Making** Things Happen and Getting Things Done for the right purpose, in the right way and at the right time, cost-effectively.

A for **Accountability** which means everyone must have a tremendous sense of responsibility and commitment.

G for **Goal-Driven** which means everybody in-

involved in a project, or in a team-work must have a Burning Desire to achieve the Goal on time and within allotted Budget.

I for **Innovation** which means all the team members must be more or less Innovative, totally committed to out-innovating the best existing innovators.

C for **Customer** which clearly and unequivocally means everything must be done with the unwavering spirit of meeting or exceeding Customer Expectations, because Customer is Business.

Now, Let's see what is meant by the term LEADERSHIP, since we have assumed that Leadership is being POETIC,

P for **Persuasion** which means persuading the followers to be resolute, to fear no sacrifice and to surmount all difficulties to win victory, by offering all possible incentives and encouragement.

O for **Obsession** for the utter Accomplishment of the MISSION IMPOSSIBLE. The Leader must, first of all, have the Determination

Kyi Mun

and the Capability to turn Heaven & Earth upside down!

E for **Empowerment** which means all the team members must be appropriately and adequately Empowered to be able to fully discharge their duties.

T for **TARGETING** relentlessly the OBJECTIVE which has been strategically agreed to be attained.

I for **Insight** which is the ultimate talent of a strategist who must see the Big Picture as well as far into the Future.

C for **Courage** which simply means that nothing worthwhile can be superbly accomplished without faithfully following the good advice:

"Be Strong and of Good Courage; Be not Afraid; neither Be Thou Dismayed."

This is a concise form of analytical interpretation of Management-cum-Leadership which aspiring young managers and leaders can adopt, improve and practice in their long march towards their goal of OUTGENERALLING the GENERAL.

U Kyi Mun residing in Yangon is a consultant of NAING Group Capital CO., LTD.

Union Industry Minister discusses cooperation, investment in Vietnam

NAY PYI TAW, 18 May—U Maung Myint, Union Minister for Industry, paid a visit to Vietnam from 11 to 15 May to discuss a wide range of issues on co-operation.

In a meeting with Vietnamese Prime Minister Mr Nguyen Tan Dung, the Union Minister said he wanted to promote cooperation in the fields of chemicals, ferti-

lizers, steel and agricultural machinery, with the Vietnamese Prime Minister pledging to invest in Myanmar's economic sector.

On 14 May, the union minister held discussions with the chairman of SMIDB Bank of the Vietnamese Industry Ministry on signing an MoU.

The Union Minister also visited a number of fac-

tories, including Biti's shoe factory in Ho Chi Minh City, and held talks on investment matters with chairmen from Vinatex garment industry, Vietnam-Steel industry and Vietnam National Chemical Corporation in Hanoi.

The Union Minister also visited Eresson food-stuff and beverages factory in Quang Minh Industry Zone in Hanoi.—MNA

Honorary Ph.D. degree conferred on Mandalarian



Official of New Age International University, the Europe/USA confers honorary Ph.D degree on Suddhamma U Kyaw Win.

MANDALAY, 18 May—New Age International University, the Europe/USA conferred honorary Ph.D degree (Philo.) on Suddhamma U Kyaw Win, managing director of Mann Myay Yazar Co., Ltd. at Mandalay Hill Resort Hotel in Mandalay on Sunday morning.

President of Peace Society Worldwide Dr Vijay

Kumar Shah presented a certificate of honorary degree to Suddhamma U Kyaw Win.

Dr. Chandan Agarwal, Central Committee member of the Peace Society Worldwide, explained excellent performance of U Kyaw Win in religious affairs and social welfare tasks in Myanmar.

Ph.D degree holder

Suddhamma U Kyaw Win expressed thanks for recognition of the New Age International University, the Europe/USA for his contributions to propagation of Buddhism and social welfare tasks. Later, Dr. U Kyaw Win gave gifts to the guests of the university.

Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-Printing House)

LOCAL NEWS

Kanma Township sees boost in production from thriving paddy plantations

KANMA, 18 May—Summer paddy plantations are thriving in the irrigated areas of Madae Dam in Kanma Township of Magway Region, officials said.

Local farmers put 2,645 acres of farmlands under short-term paddy strains namely Palethwe, Yadana Toe and Shwepyithay.

Due to cultivation of short-term paddy strains, farmers have the opportunity to produce paddy in a short period and have the adequate time to prepare ploughing for cultivation of monsoon paddy.

Kyaw Zeyar Win (IPRD)



Straw hat production increases family income of rural people

NGAZUN, 18 May—Local people in Nyaungbinyoe Village in Ngazun Township, Mandalay Region, are doing agricultural tasks as main business.

In their spare time, the local people produce hats made of wheat straws. Most of the local people can make the straw hats skillfully.

In making the hats, they can earn K 400 per hat. Skillful adult can make four hats a day. A child hildren can produce two hats each a day.

The families of the village can fetch K 5,000 to K 6,000 a day. The shops sell K 800 to K 1,000 per product depending on the quality and size. In the

summer, straw hats are in high demand in the domestic market.—Zaw Min Naing (Myingyan)



A family produce straw hats to earn income in Nyaungbinyoe Village in Ngazun Township.

Village library opened to improve literacy of people

TAUNGTHA, 18 May—A ceremony to put the rural library identified “Mee Ein Shin” into service took place at the library in Hsinbyu Village of Taungtha Township, Mandalay Region, on 15 May morning.

Head of Township Information and Public Relations Department U Htein Lin explained the plan of durability of the libraries.

Mandalay Region

Hluttaw representative U Than Htay Aung donated books and publications and K 30,000 to the library and Head of Township IPRD U Htein Lin, various subjects of books, newspaper and one DVB-T2 set top box to a library official.

The library building is 30 feet in length and 20 feet in width, and it costs K 5.5 million.

Kyaw Myo Naing (Taungtha)

Basic first-aid course conducted to strengthen Red Cross Brigade

KYAUKPADAUNG, 18 May—The basic first-aid course No. 1/2014 is being conducted at Myoma Kweththit Basic Education Primary School in Kyaukpadaung Township of Mandalay Region as of 16 May.

It is aimed at turning out the qualified Red Cross members as reserved force of the State who can give a

helping hand to the victims in the State of Emergency.

The training course is conducted under the different levels of committees systematically.

A total of 60 trainees from 12 wards and 120 students from basic education schools, totalling 210 are attending the course that will last up to 22 May.

Ko Nay (Kyaukpadaung)

Tax law, law amendment clarified in Kyaukpadaung Tsp

KYAUKPADAUNG, 18 May—A meeting to clarify tax law and amendments in 2014 was held at the office of Internal Revenue Department in

Kayin national students learn their languages

HPA-AN, 18 May—The 17th Kayin literature course concluded on the lawns in the compound of Basic Education Primary School No 7 in Ward 6 of Hpa-an in Kayin State on Thursday.

Under the instruction of the Kayin State government, the Kayin literature and culture course was launched in wards and villages of the township. As

of 2013, the courses have been conducted in Ward 6.

“Ward 6 of Hpa-an has opened the course for the 17th time although other wards have conducted second time. As Kayin national has many tribes, their languages are in diversity. Whatever it may be, all Kayin nationals have to learn not only Sakaw Kayin language but Poe Kayin

Kyaukpadaung Township, Mandalay, on Saturday morning.

It was conducted by Internal Revenue Department under the Ministry of Finance.

Head of Township

IRD U Naing Oo explained matters related to the law in respective chapters on tax law and law amendment to township authorities and entrepreneurs.

Ko Nay (Kyaukpadaung)

language. If the literature and culture fade out, the nationals will disappear. So, all the people are to try hard to preserve their languages and culture,” said a member of the course organizing committee.

U Aung Pyi Soe, Vice-Chairman of Phalon Sawaw Party, said, “We attended the concluding ceremony of the training

course because it is an importance of Kayin nationals. I have a wish that Kayin language should be put in the curriculum of the school.”

Local authorities and Kayin don dance trainers joined the concluding ceremony of the language course. Over 50 students attended the course.

Tun Tun Htwe (Hpa-an)



**TODAY'S
MYANMAR
NEWS SITES**

UK housing market has deep problems, says BoE's Carney

LONDON, 18 May — The British housing market has “deep, deep” structural problems which pose the biggest current risk to the economy, Bank of England Governor Mark Carney has said in an interview.

“The issue around the housing market in the UK ... is there are not sufficient (numbers of) houses (being) built,” he told Sky television. In extracts of the interview released by Sky ahead of its full broadcast on Sunday, Carney noted that the number of large mortgages being approved is on the rise and said more houses needed to be built in Britain.

“We’re not going to build a single house at the Bank of England,” he said. “We can’t influence that.

“What we can influence

... is whether the banks are strong enough. Do they have enough capital against risk in the housing market?”

Carney said the Bank could also check lending procedures “so people can get mortgages if they can afford them but they won’t if they can’t.”

“By reinforcing both of those, we can reduce the risk that comes from a housing market that has deep, deep structural problems.”

Carney said there was evidence that large mortgages, where house-buyers are given loans up to four times their salaries, are on the rise again.

“We don’t want to build up another big debt overhang that is going to hurt individuals and is very much going to slow the economy in the medium



A construction worker assembles metal frames at a housing development project in south London on 6 Aug, 2013.—REUTERS

term,” he said.

“We’d be concerned if there was a rapid increase in high loan-to-value mortgages across the banks. We’ve seen that creeping up and it’s something we’re watching closely.” Last week the Bank played down the chances of an imminent

rate rise despite fears of a growing house price bubble.

“The biggest risk to financial stability, and therefore to the durability of the expansion, centers on the housing market and that’s why we’re focused on that,” he said.

Reuters

US reports third case of MERS virus

WASHINGTON, 18 May — A third case of the deadly Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) virus infection has been found in the United States, the country’s Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) said on Saturday.

The patient is an Illinois man who had close contact with the country’s first confirmed case of MERS virus infection in Indiana and “probably got the virus from the Indiana patient,” the CDC said in a statement.

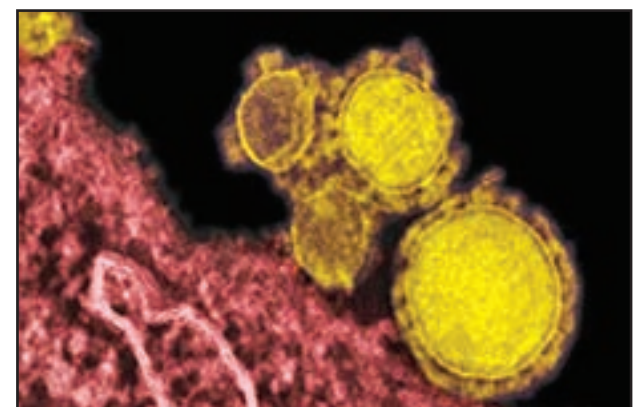
The Illinois resident “did not seek or require medical care” and “is reported to be feeling well”

on Friday night, the CDC added.

The first US MERS case is a US resident who had traveled back from Saudi Arabia and was admitted to an Indiana hospital on 28 April. He was confirmed to have MERS virus infection on 2 May, and has since been released from the hospital.

A second US imported case of MERS virus infection was confirmed on 11 May on a 44-year-old man who also came to the US from Saudi Arabia. This patient is currently hospitalized in Florida and doing well, the CDC said.

The MERS is a virus



at this time but as part of the MERS virus infection follow-up investigation of the first case, local health officials have monitored his health daily since 3 May, the CDC said.

It said that the Illinois resident, who has no recent history of travel outside the United States, met with the Indiana patient on two occasions shortly before the latter was identified as having had MERS virus infection.

The Illinois man tested positive for the MERS virus

that is new to humans and was first reported in Saudi Arabia in 2012. As of 16 May, there have been 572 laboratory-confirmed cases of MERS virus infection in 15 countries with 173 deaths, the CDC said.

Most of these people developed severe acute respiratory illness, with fever, cough, and shortness of breath. Officials do not know where the virus came from or exactly how it spreads. There is no available vaccine or specific treatment recommended for

US states take lead in writing bitcoin rules



Mock Bitcoins are displayed on a table in an illustration picture taken in Berlin on 7 Jan, 2014.

REUTERS

CHICAGO, 18 May — A task force of US state regulators is working on the first bitcoin rule-book, the head of the group said, hoping to protect users of virtual currency from fraud without

smothering the fledgling technology.

Numerous companies in the United States enable customers to pay for goods and services in virtual currencies. But since bitcoins

are not regulated by the federal government, users face a maze of rules in the 50 states.

“We may be looking at some type of model definitions, or model laws or regulations, and very likely recommendations to either our federal colleagues or to Congress,” David Cotney, Massachusetts Commissioner of Banks, told Reuters on the sidelines of a public hearing into the issue on Friday.

Cotney was appointed in February to head the new Emerging Payments Task Force, a group of nine members of the Conference of State Bank Supervisors (CSBS). He said the task force had given itself rough-

ly a year to complete the task.

The task force was hoping for a clearer definition of which operators needed to be regulated and which ones did not, Cotney said in the interview.

“Who’s in and who’s out? So if we can offer that (it) would be a ... big step,” he said. Cotney’s group also looks at other new payment technologies, such as mobile phone payments, and PayPal, an online money transfer service. Bitcoin is the most prominent of a group of so-called virtual currencies created by computers and governed by the Bitcoin Foundation, outside the control of any government.—Reuters

China says faster economic reforms needed Property map reveals agony of home buyers

BEIJING, 18 May — China will try to quicken the pace of economic reform this year as part of the government’s efforts to arrest a slowdown in the world’s second-largest economy, the country’s top economic planning agency said late on Saturday.

The National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) reaffirmed nine reform priorities for 2014, including deepening reforms in the power and the oil and gas industries and cutting red tape for investment approvals, according to a statement on its website, www.ndrc.gov.cn

“Not only for reform draft planning, but also to solve the risks and problems



A Chinese national flag is seen in front of a chimney of a heat supply plant in Beijing on 13 May, 2014.

REUTERS

of the current economy, we all need to try boldly to quicken the reform,” the NDRC said in the statement after a two-day meeting on economic reform.

The statement followed

a batch of economic data that showed across-the-board weaknesses in China’s economy, sparking new calls for Beijing to ease policies to shore up growth.

Reuters

BEIJING, 18 May — An average wage earner has to save for 13 years just to raise the down payment for a small flat in Beijing — if he or she can live on thin air.

The Chinese capital is one of nine places that are marked as “red zones” in an unofficial map indicating how much home buyers suffer in different parts of the country.

In the red zones, home buyers have to scrape together every single cent they earn for at least nine years — without spending anything even on food — to cover the down payment for a home no bigger than 80 square meters in floor space.

The down payment makes up an average 30

percent of the home price.

According to this “map,” which has become popular on the web since Friday, home buyers in Beijing are the third most miserable groups after those in Hong Kong and Macao, where ordinary wage earn-

ers have to save 19 and 14 years respectively for the down payment.

Other Chinese cities that are printed red on the map include Xiamen, Shanghai, Nanjing, Hangzhou, Shenzhen and Taipei.—Xinhua



SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY



Argentine paleontologist Pablo Gallina talks about the discovery of a brontosaurus accomplished at the province of Neuquen, in Buenos Aires, capital of Argentina, on 15 May, 2014. Argentine paleontologist Sebastian Apesteguia and his team has found 19 vertebrates of a sauropod dinosaur with long neck named "Leinkupal laticauda" in Patagonia of Argentina, being the unique registration of an animal in these features for South America and the last one that lived in everywhere of the earth, according to the local press.—XINHUA

Intel's CEO looks to hobbyists for wearable innovations

SAN MATEO (California), 18 May — Intel Corp's Chief Executive Officer Brian Krzanich mingled with electronics buffs at Silicon Valley's annual maker mecca on Saturday as the chipmaker looks to amateur inventors to inspire a new wave of smart clothing.

With sales of smartphones losing steam, technology companies including Intel believe that wearable

the perfect wearable is going to be when you figure out what problems you're trying to solve, and I don't think you're going to be able to build a wearable that does it all for everyone," he said.

"Who better to design the next athletic wearable than an athlete," added Krzanich.

Thousands of people attended the open-air event, which gives hobbyists and



Intel CEO Brian Krzanich (R) listens to Node.js Sandbox creator Michael McCool (L) at the Maker's Faire in San Mateo, California on 17 May, 2014.—REUTERS

computing devices — a still undefined category including smart watches, fitness trackers and Google Glass — could become a major trend in personal computing.

But smartwatches and fitness bands launched by Samsung Electronics Co Ltd and other tech companies in the past year have yet to really take off. At the Maker Faire in San Mateo, California, Krzanich told Reuters that successful smart clothes will come from individual inventors focused on their own needs.

"The trick to making

their families a chance to socialize and check out other people's projects. Among the most popular attractions were demonstrations of flying drones, voice-activated robots and a giant metal octopus shooting fire from its tentacles.

Krzanich is a weekend tinkerer in his own right and just finished restoring a 1974 Land Cruiser. Intel is not the only technology company to look to the growing maker movement for inspiration but it has been among the most aggressive.

Reuters

Italy investigates mobile app practices at Apple, Google, Amazon

MILAN, 18 May — US tech giants Apple, Google and Amazon and French game developer Gameloft are under investigation in Italy for alleged unfair commercial practices, the country's antitrust and competition authority said.

The investigation will determine whether the four companies are misleading customers by advertising mobile game apps as free, when in fact purchases are required to continue playing beyond a certain point, the regulator said in a statement.

"Consumers could wrongly believe that the game is entirely free and, in any case, that they would



The leaf on the Apple symbol is tinted green at the Apple flagship store on 5th Ave in New York on 22 April, 2014.—REUTERS

know in advance the full costs of the game," the antitrust watchdog said.

"Moreover, insufficient information seems to

be provided to consumers about the settings needed to stop or limit the purchases within the app."

Reuters

China says Internet security necessary to counter 'hostile forces'

BEIJING, 18 May — A Chinese official in charge of regulating the Internet has said Beijing must strengthen Internet security because "overseas hostile forces" are using the Internet to "attack, slander and spread rumors", state media said on Sunday.

Wang Xiujuan, the deputy director of the China National Internet Information Office, said political security is fundamental, reported *The People's Daily*, the official newspaper of the ruling Chinese Communist Party.

Wang's remarks coincide with a broad crackdown on online freedom of expression that has intensified since President Xi Jinping came to power last year. The crackdown has drawn criticism from rights advocates at home and abroad. "Now, overseas hostile forces are using the Internet as a main channel to penetrate and destroy (us)," Wang was quoted as saying. "Using the name of 'Internet freedom' to repeatedly attack, slander and spread rumors



A map of China is seen through a magnifying glass on a computer screen showing binary digits in Singapore in this 2 Jan, 2014 photo illustration.—REUTERS

in an effort to undermine our country's stability and national security."

Winning "the struggle for ideological penetration" would "decide to a great extent the future of our party and country", Wang said.

In February, Xi took the reins of a government body for Internet security, saying he aimed to turn China into a "cyber power". He said then that working on public opinion online was a long-term responsibility and the Internet could be used to "spread discipline".

The party renewed a campaign on online discourse last year, threatening legal action against people whose perceived rumors on microblogs are reposted more than 500 times or seen by more than 5,000 people.

China maintains tight control over the media. Censorship is widespread and Internet users cannot access information about many topics without special software to circumvent restrictions.

Wang said China wants to strengthen its security of networks and informa-

tion systems in part due to intrusions in cyberspace by foreign governments, according to the *People's Daily*. The case of former US intelligence contractor Edward Snowden showed that "a few countries have used their superiority in Internet resources and information technology to conduct large-scale Internet surveillance and to steal a large volume of political, economic, military and corporate secrets", Wang said.

He did not name any country but questions over cyber-espionage have long cast a shadow over China-US ties, with each side accusing the other of spying. The Defence Ministry said in March China would beef up its Internet security after the *New York Times* and *Der Spiegel* reported that documents leaked by Snowden said the US National Security Agency accessed servers at China's Huawei Technologies to obtain sensitive data and monitor executives' communications.—Reuters



File photo taken on 17 March, 2014 shows a man launching Arrowlite by hand. Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) on 13 May, 2014 unveiled a micro sized-unmanned aerial system developed for American Special Operations forces and counterterrorism units. Hand-launched by a single operator, Arrowlite is a tactical drone that provides small teams with aerial surveillance and reconnaissance of targets. It can be assembled and launched in 60 to 90 seconds after removal from a carry case, and features a payload of day/night thermal cameras, a laser illuminator and encrypted data-link, according to a statement from IAI.—XINHUA

Greeks vote in first round of local elections

ATHENS, 18 May — Greeks began voting on Sunday in the first round of local elections that mark Prime Minister Antonis Samaras's first big electoral test since coming to power two years ago.

The vote, along with European Parliament elections a week later, are being closely watched as a gauge of sentiment towards Samaras's fragile coalition, which could be in jeopardy if the far-left Syriza and far-right Golden Dawn parties fare well.

Nearly 10 million Greeks are eligible to vote on Sunday to elect mayors and town councils for 325 municipalities as well as prefects - similar to state governors - for 13 regions across Greece, with a runoff vote to be held on May 25.

After six years of recession and repeated waves of austerity measures that have shrunk incomes and pushed unemployment over 26 percent, the election is being fought as

much on national issues like an unpopular EU/IMF bailout as on local issues.

"I'll vote for Golden Dawn or Syriza. Why vote for those who have robbed us? My husband's salary has shrunk to 600 euros, I'm out of work and my young son got a night-job for 400 euros to help us out," said 45-year old Vaso Stathakou, a mother of two.

"It's not a matter of ideology, I don't give a damn about their politics. My message is clear and I'll use every opportunity to send it: Get out!"

After falling in recent months, Greek bond yields have crept up again on fears that a new bout of political instability or a collapse of Samaras's government could unravel a feeble economic recovery taking root in the country after a prolonged recession.

Pollsters say the outcome of the first round could have an impact on the more crucial EU vote to be held next week, where polls show Samaras's New

Democracy party lagging behind Syriza.

"To asset managers looking at Greece the vote is an event surrounded by uncertainty, hence the volatility," said Theodore Krintas, head of wealth management at Attica Bank, referring to the outcome of the EU election later this month.

"The uncertainty is due to the fact that the vote has been played up domestically as crucial to stability. Markets will reassess the situation after the vote."

The focus on Sunday is on the race for Athens mayor, where the current mayor - a leftist-backed independent - is in the lead followed by candidates for Samaras's New Democracy party, rival Syriza and the anti-immigrant Golden Dawn.

A surprise second-place finish by Golden Dawn's spokesman Ilias Kasidiaris, who shot to fame after slapping a female lawmaker on live television, that allows him



People look at billboards with voting information for the upcoming local government elections in Athens on 17 May, 2014.—REUTERS

to go to the second round would pose a major setback for Samaras.

Samaras, a conservative who has promised Greeks that the country is finally pulling out of its economic crisis, has led a crackdown against the far-right party after a party sympathizer fatally stabbed an anti-fascist rapper last

year.

The far-right party's leader and senior lawmakers are behind bars pending trial on charges of being part of a criminal organization, but the group consistently ranks as Greece's third or fourth-most popular party in opinion polls.

On Saturday, Samaras made a final appeal to vot-

ers to reject his rivals in the Athens race.

"There is a very specific dilemma in Athens," he said.

"Are we going to leave the city in idleness and to those who want anarchy or will we unite our forces so that no vote is lost and Athens pushes ahead?"

Reuters

Bangladesh salvages capsized ferry, 54 bodies recovered



Rescue members inspect the capsized MV Miraj 4 ferry during a salvage operation at the Meghna river at Rasulpur in Munshiganj district on 17 May, 2014.—REUTERS

DHAKA, 18 May — Rescue workers in Bangladesh completed the search of a stricken river ferry on Saturday, bringing the number of bodies recovered to 54 two days after the vessel capsized with around 200 people on board.

"We were able to salvage the capsized ferry today and there are no more bodies inside the wreck," said Saiful Islam Badal, deputy commissioner of Munshiganj district.

About 40 people swam to shore and 35 were rescued after the double-decker ferry went down in the Meghna river near the capi-

tal Dhaka during a storm on Thursday afternoon, police and rescue officials said.

An official of the Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BI-WTA) said the MV Miraj 4 ferry had capacity for 122 passengers, but according to several survivors and a district official the number on board was almost double, though there was no log kept.

Divers attached chains to one side to pull the ferry right side up on Saturday. At the end of the day, Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BI-WTA) declared the end of the rescue operation inside

the vessel, but Saiful said a search of the river would go on.

"Rescuers from the navy, coast guard and police will continue to search while there is a possibility of finding more bodies in the river," he said.

Hungry and enduring the summer heat, grieving relatives thronged the river bank. Many were wailing in distress, and voiced anger that the rescue operation had been ended.

"I am here to find out what happened to my uncle and my brother and I cannot go back to my home without them," said Mukhlesur Rahman.—Reuters

Ten killed in road accident in W India

NEW DELHI, 18 May — Ten people were killed and eight others injured when a truck crashed into three other vehicles on early Sunday morning in the western Indian state of Gujarat, police said.

The incident took place at National Highway No 8 at Bharuch of the state when the driver of a steel pipes laden truck lost control of the vehicle and hit three other vehicles. The truck driver and nine people on another vehicle were killed and eight others were injured.

Road accidents take place frequently in India due to reckless driving, overloading or over packing of passengers and bad road conditions. An estimated 100,000 people are killed yearly on the road in India, according to official figures.—Xinhua

Families evacuate Benghazi as renegade general vows more attacks

ABYAR / TRIPOLI, 18 May — The self-declared Libyan National Army led by a renegade general told civilians on Saturday to leave parts of Benghazi before it launched a fresh attack on Islamist militants, a day after dozens were killed in the worst clashes in the city for months.

Families could be seen packing up and driving away from western districts of the port city where Islamist militants and LNA forces led by retired General Khalifa Haftar fought for hours on Friday. Dressed in military uniform, Haftar — whom the speaker of parliament accused of plotting a coup — said his troops had temporarily withdrawn from Benghazi for tactical reasons.

"We'll come back with force," he told reporters at a sports club in Abyar, a small town to the east of Benghazi. "We've started



General Khalifa Haftar speaks during a news conference at a sports club in Abyar, a small town to the east of Benghazi, on 17 May, 2014.—REUTERS

this battle and will continue it until we have reached our goals," he said.

He said government and parliament had no legitimacy as they had failed to achieve security. "The street and the Libyan people are with us," he said, adding that his troops were spread out in several parts of eastern Libya.

In Tripoli, parliamen-

tary speaker and military commander-in-chief Nuri Abu Sahmain said Haftar was trying to stage a coup.

"(LNA) members who have carried out the clashes in Benghazi are out of the control of the state of Libya and they are trying to attempt a coup for their own interests," Abu Sahmain said in a televised news conference.—Reuters

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The Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Ministry of Energy
Invitation for Expression of Interest (EOI) from
Interested Parties
For Sales and Distribution of Jet Fuel

1. The Myanma Petroleum Products Enterprise (MPPE) is a state-owned enterprise which is responsible for carrying out the retail and wholesale distribution of petroleum products under the Ministry of Energy (MOE) in Myanmar. The MPPE is currently distributing jet fuel in 11 airports in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.
2. In order to better serve customers in the importation, storage, distribution and sales of jet fuel in Myanmar's airports and to improve the management of the business while conducting environmentally friendly operations, the Government and the MPPE are seeking an experienced partner to form a joint venture. The purpose of the future joint venture company is to operate and improve the existing Jet Fuel Distribution Enterprise's business activity at the Yangon International Airport first. At a later stage, negotiations will be opened with the MPPE to expand the joint venture to the remaining 10 airports.
3. Interested foreign companies should please submit the Letter of Expression of Interest together with a completed Pre-Qualification Application form (posted on MOE's website) attached with the following documents endorsed by Myanmar Embassy in the respective country, to Managing Director, Myanma Petroleum Products Enterprise, Ministry of Energy, Office No.6, Nay Pyi Taw, by 16:30 hours on 16-6-2014, at the latest, by hand.
 - (a) Certificate of incorporation
 - (b) Memorandum of association
 - (c) Articles of association
 - (d) Company profile
 - (e) Financial statements for last three years
4. Pre-qualification applications that cannot include all the documents under the above paragraph (3) and that cannot reach the above address by 16:30 hours on 16-6-2014 will not be considered.
5. Applicants shall be the company running jet fuel distribution at least three International airports in three different countries.
6. Documents and detailed information regarding EOI are available at <http://www.energy.gov.mm/index.php/en/information/announcement> and applicants can personally contact jetfueltender@gmail.com and the following address if they have any further queries:

Managing Director
Myanma Petroleum Products Enterprise, Ministry of Energy
Office No.6, Nay Pyi Taw
Tel: 067-411488; 067-411053; 067-411119; 067-411135
Fax: 067-411101
Email: mppe.ho2@mptmail.net.mm

15 killed, 29 wounded in attacks across Iraq

BAGHDAD, 17 May — At least 15 people were killed and 29 others wounded in separate attacks and clashes across Iraq on Saturday, police and medical sources said.

Nine people were killed and 13 others injured by artillery and rocket shelling in different districts of Fallujah, 50 km west of Baghdad, a medical source at Fallujah General Hospital said on condition of anonymity.

A roadside bomb struck a popular market in Tarmiya, some 30 km north of Baghdad, killing two civilians and wounding 13 others, a local police source said.

A Iraqi soldier was killed and two others wounded when a roadside bomb hit an Iraqi army patrol in the area of Ouja near Tikrit, 170 km north of Baghdad, the police source said.

An military officer was shot dead by unidentified gunmen near the town of Balad, 80 km south of Tikrit, the source said.

In Mosul, unidentified gunmen also shot dead a policeman, a local police source said, adding that a gunman was killed and another wounded when a roadside bomb in Fallah neighbourhood suddenly exploded.

Xinhua

Extension of the Request for Letter of Expression of Interest (LOEI)

Title: Joint Venture Project of LPG Production, Storage, Distribution and Marketing for Liquefied Petroleum Gas Plant (Nyaung Don)

Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise (MPE) had invited the interested foreign investors for the request of the Expression of Interest regarding the above title from 1.04.2014 to 7.04.2014 in the New Light of Myanmar newspaper and to be submitted by 15.05.2014 during office hours.

Now, MPE hereby announces that the additional information for LOEI shall be as follows;

- (a) The submission of LOEI shall be extended up to 26.05.2014 from 15.05.2014.
- (b) The endorsement from the respective embassy of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar at the place of company's registration or nearest shall be submitted.
- (c) **No submission of LOEI shall be considered in Tender Process and only the companies who had met MPE's requirements shall be proceeded for the Invitation to Tender.**

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North Korea says apartment building collapses, offers rare apology

SEOUL, 18 May — North Korea has apologized to bereaved families after an apartment building collapsed in Pyongyang last week, possibly killing hundreds, the official KCNA news agency said, a rare admission of fallibility from the reclusive state.

Pyongyang's expression of "profound consolation and apology" was the first official news of the disaster, which happened in the Phyongchon district of the North Korean capital on Tuesday.

"The construction of an apartment house was not done properly and

officials supervised and controlled it in an irresponsible manner," said the statement from KCNA, which is better known for its strident attacks against South Korea and the United States.

The KCNA statement also said the collapse of the apartment building "claimed casualties" but did not give any indication of how many may have been killed or injured. It said a rescue operation ended on Saturday.

An official from South Korea's unification ministry confirmed on Sunday that a 23-storey apartment

building had collapsed in Pyongyang on Tuesday, although he would not say from where the information had been obtained.

The official, who asked not to be identified, said the building was presumed to have held 92 households, or families, and that it was common for North Koreans to move into new buildings before construction was completed. "Hundreds are presumed to be dead, assuming that each family has an average of four members," he said.

A spokeswoman for the unification ministry

said it was presumed there were four households on each storey but she also said it was not known exactly how many were in the building at the time.

The KCNA statement said North Korean authorities put emergency measures into place to rescue people from the collapsed building and to treat the injured. It said that Choe Pu Il, North Korea's Minister of People's Security, had "repented", saying he had failed to supervise the project adequately, "thereby causing an unimaginable accident".

Reuters



Chinese Navy training vessel Zhenghe arrives at port of Visakhapatnam in east Indian on 17 May, 2014. Chinese Navy training vessel Zhenghe and missile frigate Weifang arrived in port of Visakhapatnam in east Indian and started a 4-day visit on Saturday.

XINHUA

Turkish Director Ceylan — ‘I deal with inner worlds’



Director Nuri Bilge Ceylan poses during a photocall for the film “Winter Sleep” in competition at the 67th Cannes Film Festival in Cannes on 16 May, 2014.—REUTERS

CANNES, (France), 18 May — Turkish director Nuri Bilge Ceylan says his film “Winter Sleep” dealing with the huge divide between rich and poor, the powerful and the powerless in modern day Turkey is not based on current events, but is meant to teach his country a lesson.

Ceylan’s film lasting three hours and 16 minutes has received some of the best reviews of any film shown so far at Cannes, with the French newspaper *Le Monde* calling it “magnificent”.

Despite its setting in the vast Anatolian steppe, the atmosphere is almost claustrophobic as it shows a rich man and former actor named Aydin (Haluk Bilginer) who uses his intellect and position to bully his tenants and beat his wife and sister into intellectual submission.

But Ceylan said his portrayal of abuse of power — by a man obsessed with his own pride — is based on tales from Chekhov, and was not inspired by recent events in Istanbul where people rioted over the planned development of a popular city square.

“Of course Turkey is a country where there are many problems ... every day you come up with another big issue. The artist doesn’t have a lack of subject matter,” Ceylan told *Reuters* on Saturday, the day after the premiere of his film.

“In this climate some directors or writers like to deal directly with these problems and some of them deal with that indirectly. I personally don’t like very much to deal with the social matters but what I deal with are the inner worlds of the people.”—*Reuters*

Kareena Kapoor shoots for Singham Returns despite ill-health



Kareena Kapoor

MUMBAI, 18 May — The gorgeous Kareena Kapoor, who will next be seen in *Singham Returns*, is showing thorough professionalism towards the project.

According to sources, the actress was recently not keeping well and was down with viral fever. But since the shooting of *Singham Returns* was to commence from Thursday at Rohit Shetty’s favourite location, Goa, the actress, without complaining, took a flight to Goa to join the team and started shooting on time without wasting any day.

Rohit Shetty’s *Singham Returns* also stars his favourite star Ajay Devgn as the male lead. It is all set to release on 15 August.—*PTI*

Angelina Jolie, Brad Pitt to star together in “Experimental Art Piece”

LOS ANGELES, 18 May — Actress Angelina Jolie says that the next movie she will star in with her husband and actor Brad Pitt will be an experimental art piece.

The duo has planned to collaborate on a movie penned by Angelina Jolie, reports *contactmusic.com*.

“I wrote something a few years ago for Brad and me. Just for fun. Just an independent little art piece. Because we don’t get to do those as much as we’d like. But it’s something really small and experimental,” said 38-year-old Angelina.

The pair’s five-year-old daughter Vivienne, who recently received her first acting credit, will be featuring alongside her mother in her forthcoming film *Maleficent* as Princess Aurora.



Lady Gaga seems to be suggesting that Katy is inspired by her earlier work.

Early George Harrison guitar fetches \$657,000 at Beatles auction

NEW YORK, 18 May — An electric guitar played by George Harrison on British television before the Beatles’ US “invasion” fetched \$657,000 (390,641 pounds) at auction on Saturday in New York, topping pre-sale estimates, Julien’s Auctions said.

Harrison, who died in 2001 at age 58, played the black-and-white 1962 Rickenbacker 425 electric guitar on 1963 appearances on the British TV shows “Ready Steady Go!” and “Thank Your Lucky Stars” with the Beatles.

Harrison also played the guitar during the sessions when the Beatles recorded “I Want to Hold Your Hand” and “This Boy” in October 1963, months before they brought “Beatlemania” to the United States, launching the British Invasion of rock bands.

The guitar was estimated to sell between \$400,000 and \$600,000, Julien’s said ahead of the auction.

Harrison bought the guitar in 1963 in Mount



The 1971 George Harrison hit ‘My Sweet Lord’ was re-issued on 14 Jan, 2002 in aid of charity.

REUTERS

Vernon, Illinois, while visiting his sister in the United States, the auction house said. Also sold at the auction was a handwritten placard with doodles signed by John Lennon and Yoko Ono from their 1969 anti-war “bed-in” in Montreal, which fetched \$187,000. A Hofner bass rented by Paul McCartney in the mid-1960s sold for \$125,000.

Other notable sales from the auction included a white jumpsuit worn by Elvis Presley during a 1971 concert that fetched \$197,000, and 1990 red Rolls-Royce Corniche III convertible owned and used by Lady Gaga that sold for \$125,000.

Reuters



Angelina wrote the script for Brad and herself a few years ago.—PTI

PTI

Did Lady Gaga just politely accuse Katy Perry of copying her?

LOS ANGELES, 18 May — Lady Gaga has taken a subtle dig at singer Katy Perry, hinting that the latter’s new Prismatic tour looks eerily similar to her past live concepts.

Katy Perry kicked off the Prismatic World Tour in Belfast, Ireland on 7 May.

Lady Gaga saw photographs of the 29-year-old’s new show and took a slight jab at her on Twitter, reports *contactmusic.com*. “It looks like green hair and mechanical horses are the thing now,” she posted.

The Poker Face singer previously sported neon green hair for a shoot with controversial photographer Terry Richardson and made an unforgettable entrance at last year’s American Music Awards, riding a white mechanical horse.—*PTI*

GENERAL

Arsenal end trophy drought with thrilling FA Cup win



Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger (R) lifts the trophy as he celebrates with his players their victory against Hull City in their FA Cup final at Wembley Stadium in London, on 17 May, 2014. — REUTERS

LONDON, 18 May — Arsenal ended their nine-year wait for a major honour when they beat Hull City 3-2 after extra time in a pulsating FA Cup final on Saturday after a dreadful start when they conceded twice in the opening eight minutes.

They recovered with a first half free-kick from Santi Cazorla, a second half equalizer from Laurent Koscielny and a brilliantly taken extra-time winner from Aaron Ramsey who scored with the outside of his right foot.

After the final whistle jubilant manager Arsene Wenger, in charge of Arsenal since 1996, confirmed he was staying at the club to end speculation over his future.

Wenger, showing rare emotion after he was doused with water by his celebrating players, replied “yeah, yeah, yeah” when asked if he was signing a new contract.

Not only was this Arsenal’s first major honour since their FA Cup win in 2005, they equalled Manchester United’s record of 11 FA Cup wins.

Wenger equalled former United manager Alex Ferguson’s record of five FA Cup wins by a manager and Arsenal became the first team since Everton beat Sheffield Wednesday 3-2 in 1966 to win the FA Cup after coming from two goals down.

Frenchman Wenger, beaming with satisfaction, said; “We wanted to make history and win the game. It was the turning point in

the life span of this team.

“If we hadn’t have come back it would have been terrible. I praised the spirit many times of this team. Congratulations to Hull they played very well. “I always said my future doesn’t depend on this match but I wanted to wait to see how it all goes.”

He might well have been saying “Non ! Non ! Non!” after the opening eight minutes when Hull, playing in the FA Cup final for the first time in their 110-year history and whose trophy drought has gone on ever since, blasted their way into a 2-0 lead with goals from two of their three centre-backs, James Chester and skipper Curtis Davies.

Chester scored when Arsenal failed to cut out a mis-hit pass from Tom Huddlestone with Chester planting the ball wide of Arsenal keeper Lukasz Fabianski to give his team a shock lead.

Worse was to follow for Arsenal four minutes later when they failed to clear from a set-piece and Davies scored from a narrow angle after Fabianski had palmed the ball on to a post.

In some ways, although Hull were delighted to be ahead, the goals came too early in the match for them.

Arsenal, better in every position, ended the league season in great form with five straight wins to secure fourth place while Hull staggered over the finish line and ended 16th.

Arsenal’s superiority,

with Cazorla the main midfield creator and Ramsey showing glimpses of the form he had at the start of the season before injury sidelined him for three months, complemented him superbly and helped Arsenal dominate possession for long periods.

Despite their early advantage, Hull could not build on it, but matters might have turned out very differently if they had gone three up after 12 minutes when a dipping header from Alex Bruce was cleared from under the Arsenal crossbar by Kieran Gibbs.

Gibbs was guilty of a staggering miss after 78 minutes which could have haunted him if Arsenal had lost when, with just a touch needed to score what would probably have been the winner, he failed to find the target.

Despite going behind Arsenal showed great resolve in their fightback and got a lifeline when Cazorla scored with a brilliantly struck freekick from 25-metres out after 17 minutes.

His strike evoked memories of Paul Gascoigne’s famous free-kick for Tottenham Hotspur against Arsenal in the 1991 FA Cup semi-final at Wembley as it soared into the upper left-hand corner of the goal.

Arsenal continued to press and attack from both left and right wings but with striker Olivier Giroud having minimal impact on the Hull defence, they had to wait until Koscielny

benefited from two lucky deflections to turn and equalise from close range after 71 minutes.

Giroud had a great chance to settle it early in extra time when he thundered a header against McGregor’s bar before Arsenal’s sublime winner set up by Giroud’s back-heel.

“It’s such a great feeling right now, I’m quite emotional thinking about it,” matchwinner Ramsey said.

“We have conceded early a few times this season but we showed great strength and character today.

“That’s up there with the most important goals I’ve scored and hopefully this is the first of many to come.”

Reuters

MYANMAR TV

(19-5-2014, Monday)

- 6:00 am
- 1. Paritta by Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw
- 6:50 am
- 2. Musical Programme
- 7:00 am
- 3. News/ Weather Report
- 7:45 am
- 4. Documentary
- 8:00 am
- 5. News/ International News
- 8:30 am
- 6. ASEAN Programme
- 9:00 am
- 7. News/ International News
- 9:30
- 8. Cartoon Series
- 10:00 am
- 9. News
- 11:00 am
- 10. Teleplay
- 12:00 pm
- 11. News / International News / Weather Report
- 12:25
- 12. Myanmar Movie
- 2:45 pm
- 13. Music Programme
- 3:00 pm
- 14. News
- 4:00 pm
- 15. News/Weather Report
- 4:30 pm
- 16. University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) First Year (Zoology)
- 5:00 pm
- 17. News
- 5:30
- 18. India Drama Series
- 6:00 pm
- 19. News/ Weather Report
- 6:20 pm
- 20. Traditional Boxing
- 6:50 pm
- 21. TV Drama Series
- 7:00 pm
- 22. News
- 7:20
- 23. TV Drama Series
- 8:00 pm
- 24. News/International News/Weather Report
- 8:35 pm
- 25. Documentary
- 8:45 pm
- 26. People Talks
- 9:00 pm
- 27. News
- 9:30 pm
- 28. Documentary - Mono Classical Songs

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(19-5-14 07:00am~
20-5-14 07:00am) MST

- * Local News
- * Unique Art of Stucco Work
- * World News
- * Famous pagodas of Sagaing
- * Local News
- * Food Trip (Episode-2)
- * World News
- * In The Studio : May Phyu Phyu
- * Local News
- * The Art of Making Glaze Ware
- * World News
- * Myanmar Masterclass “Caricature”
- * Local News
- * Journey to Unimagi-nable Spots (Episode-1)
- * World News
- * Myanmar Movies Re-view “Satan Dancer”
- * Local News
- * Let’s explore the Customs of Mindut
- * World News
- * Tea Leaves
- * Local News
- * Family of Toys
- * World News
- * Inspiration
- * Local News
- * Beautiful Mon Choral Dance
- * World News
- * The Eel Business (Fisherman the eel culture)
- * Local News
- * While I visited around Taunggyi
- * World News
- * ...Changes



Dancers perform as they take part in the annual dance parade in New York City, the United States, on 17 May, 2014. Thousands of dancers came to Broadway in Manhattan of New York City during the dance parade on Saturday to perform over 70 types of dances that can be found around the world.

XINHUA

China earns first ticket to 2015 FIFA Women's World Cup

HO CHI MINH CITY, 18 May — Chinese women's national soccer team earned the first ticket to attend the FIFA Women's World Cup finals to be held in Canada next year by beating Myanmar 3:0 on Saturday evening in their second group match in the ongoing Women's Asian Cup.

The Chinese made four changes in their starting lineup with Zhang Xin and Wang Chen replacing Xu Yanlu and Huang Yini in the midfield, Wang Lingling replacing Liu Shanshan as left-back and forward Gu Yasha replacing Yang Li who scored four goals in the first game.

At Thong Nhat Stadium in Ho Chi Minh City of Vietnam, midfielder Ren Guixin opened the scoring with an acrobatic effort just ten minutes after the kick-off of the match in Group B.

In their first match,

Myanmar surrendered two early goals to Republic of Korea in the opening 10 minutes, and the same fate threatened as Ren met Gu Yasha's left-wing cross with an athletic bicycle kick that arced over goal-keeper Mya Phue Ngon and into the net.

However, there had been no deluge of goals in the rest of the first half. Zhang Xin was benched after 35 minutes by China's head coach Hao Wei who threw on striker Yang Li. But the Chinese girls' attempts were fruitless until second-half substitute Ma Xiaoxu doubled China's lead a minute before the hour-mark.

Just before the final whistle, Yang Li succeeded to net her tournament-leading fifth goal as she headed home with three minutes of the tie remaining, helping China qualified for the semi-finals despite the re-

sult of the following match between the Koreans and the Thai.

With the win coming on the backs of a comprehensive 7:0 victory over Thailand in the group opener, eight-times continental champions China maintain their 100 percent record in this tournament to advance to the final four with a game to spare.

The tempo began to drop in the closing minutes of the game as China appeared content with the three points and a place in the knockout stages, while Myanmar seemed satisfied with a respectable result against the East Asian powerhouses and conserving themselves for their crucial final group stage clash with Thailand on next Monday and a place at stake in the fifth-place play-off.

AFC media officer Chetan Kulkarni congratulated China's progress into



Han Peng (L) of China vies for the ball with Than Than Htway (R) during the Group B match against Myanmar at the 2014 Women's AFC Cup held at Thong Nhat Stadium in Ho Chi Minh city, Vietnam, on 17 May, 2014.

XINHUA

the FIFA Women's World Cup next year, confirming that it was the first ticket among qualifiers in all con-

tinents around the world.

According to the qualifying rule of the 2015 Women's World Cup, the

top five finishers of the 2014 AFC Women's Asian Cup will automatically advance to Canada.—Xinhua

Myanmar Football Academy recruits new players for football teams

Myanmar Football Academy conducted the final recruitment of trainees for Myanmar Football Academy opened in Mandalay, at the training ground No 1 in Thuwunna on Sunday.

MFF organized the first stage sports trials for new trainees in seven major cities—Yangon, Mandalay, Nay Pyi Taw, Taunggyi, Monywa, Magway and Mawlamyine from 26 to 29 April.

Technical director U Win Thu Moe and coaches chose 30 selected players out of 87 tentative trainees to form the U-12 men's football team.

The remaining candidates will be picked



out for U-13, U-14 and U15 football teams. Players for these football teams will be trained at

the football academy.

The Myanmar Football Academy (Mandalay) was inaugurated by FIFA

President Sepp Blatter in 2011.—By Nyi Myat Thawda; Photo: Soe Nyunt

Martino quits as Barcelona coach after trophyless season

BARCELONA, 18 May — Barcelona coach Gerardo Martino resigned on Saturday after just one season in charge having finished second to Atletico Madrid in the La Liga title race and failed to win a major trophy. The Argentine had been faced with the tough challenge of maintaining Barcelona's incredible recent record of success and while they remained in the title chase until the final game of the season, their performances drew criticism.

Victory in Saturday's final game at home to Atletico, would have drawn them level on 89 points with the Madrid side and seen them finish first with a superior head-to-head record. In the end, however, they could only manage a 1-1 draw, which left them without major silverware for the first time in six years.

Barca also failed to reach the last four of the

Champions League for the first time in seven years after being knocked out by Atletico in the quarter-finals.

"I would like to thank the club for putting their confidence in me and I am sorry that I was unable to deliver," Martino told a news conference.

"The team fought to the end with lots of dignity. I would like to congratulate Atletico they have done very well all through the season."

Martino's task was made more difficult over the season with injuries to key attacking talents Lionel Messi and Neymar while defensive weaknesses were badly exposed.

Martino had said earlier in the campaign that it would be difficult for him as he was not from the Barcelona or closely-linked Dutch school of football and there were constant debates about his more direct style.—Reuters



Barcelona's coach Gerardo "Tata" Martino

Williams to face Errani in Italian Open final

ROME, 18 May — Top seed Serena Williams held off 11th seed Ana Ivanovic 6-1, 3-6, 6-1 on Saturday to face Sara Errani in the final of the Italian Open.

Ivanovic rattled off four straight games in the second set to level up the match that had looked to be heading in only one direction. However, as on so many occasions in the past, Williams responded by raising her level once again.

She earned a break at



Serena Williams

the start of the decider with a series of devastating returns, and from that point on it was one-way traffic as

the American coasted across the finish line.

Williams praised Ivanovic's performance in the second set.

"She played really well in the second set and at the same time my first serve percentage dropped. She's a great

returner, so she put me under a lot of pressure because of that," she said.

"I lost my concentration a little bit, so at the start of the third set I just tried to get really pumped, keep myself focused and pretty much do everything to play my best tennis."

Williams is to face Sara Errani, who beat No 6 seed Jelena Jankovic 6-3, 7-5 earlier to become the first Italian in 29 years to reach the final.

Xinhua