

## We are trying our best to begin political dialogue as soon as possible

NAY PYI TAW, 4 May—The following is the full text of the monthly radio address delivered by President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein.

### My Fellow Citizens,

As I have done previously, I would like to give you the monthly update on the work of my government, and the developments that have taken place in our country.

I hope citizens were able to enjoy the Thingyan holidays through its festivals, religious merit making, and relaxing with family and friends. At the same time, I thank security, health, and fire personnel that were on

duty throughout the holidays ensuring our safety. I begin this month's radio address with the hope that we can focus the positive energy of the season into the New Year.

A development in April was a meeting between the government, parliament, Tatmadaw, political parties, and ethnic leaders and representatives. Within a few days of this meeting, and at the urging of the Union parliament, six party talks were held. These meetings are consistent

with my message that discussions of different formats with national leaders would be held to advance democratic reforms and national reconciliation. The aim is to achieve better understanding among political leaders with important roles in the national reconciliation process, taking lessons from past failures to reach broad agreement. The most important goal of these meetings  
(See page 2)

## President U Thein Sein delivers speech at jungle camp meeting of boy scouts and girl guides, inspects developments of Mogok

NAY PYI TAW, 3 May — President U Thein Sein, together with Union Ministers U Soe Thane, U Tin Naing Thein, U Myint Hlaing, U Zeyar Aung, Dr Daw Khin San Yi, Dr Myint Aung, Lt-Gen Mya Tun Oo of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) and deputy ministers, left for PyinOoLwin on Saturday afternoon by special flight to attend the jungle camp of boy scouts and girl guides and the president and party were welcomed at PyinOoLwin by Chief Minister U Ye Myint of Mandalay Region, Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Soe Htut and officials of the region government.

The president attended the third jungle camp meeting of boy scouts and girl guides on Sunday morning at the jungle camp of boy  
(See page 3)



President  
U Thein  
Sein  
cordial-  
ly meets  
with scout  
youths at  
PyinOoL-  
win Camp.  
IPRD

### President U Thein Sein's radio message on air

NAY PYI TAW, 3 May — A radio message to be delivered by U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, will be broadcast through radio programmes on 4 and 5 May 2015.

Myanmar Radio, Mandalay FM, Pyinsawady FM, Shwe FM, Cherry FM, Padamya FM, FM Bagan and Thazin Radio will broadcast the message at 7 am, 11 am, 6 pm and 8 pm respectively.—MNA

### 45 works of Myanmar contemporary art on display in KL

By Aye Min Soe

YANGON, 3 May — Forty-five works by eleven Myanmar artists are being exhibited in a month long show in Kuala Lumpur, attracting Malaysian artists and collectors.

The show is aimed at offering Malaysian collectors the opportunity to discover and acquire Myanmar paintings by accomplished artists of the country, according to The Edge Media Group, which  
(See page 9)

## Calls for independent, non-biased media in Myanmar made on World Press Freedom Day 2015

YANGON, 3 May — The Information Ministry and UNECSO on Sunday jointly celebrated World Press Freedom Day 2015

in Yangon, highlighting the importance of quality media in the functioning of a country.

In her speech at the

4<sup>th</sup> celebration of World Press Freedom Day in Myanmar, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi urged Myanmar journalists at the ceremony

to help the upcoming 2015 General Elections to be held in a free and fair manner.

(See page 9)



Union Minister U Ye Htut, Pyithu Hluttaw Committee Chairperson Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and officials pose for documentary photo at World Press Freedom Day 2015 ceremony.—MNA

## We are trying our best to begin . . .

(from page 1)

was to discuss the need for mutual understanding and co-operation among political leaders, despite their different viewpoints and positions, to ensure the success of democratic reforms, national reconciliation, peace process, and the historic 2015 general elections. Examples from other countries show that as elections loom, the political temperature and public expectations rise. Under these heightened conditions and during this period before the elections, it is crucial for there to be political stability. At the same time that political leaders are cooperating to maintain political stability and preparing for peaceful general elections, I urge citizens to act with the spirit of unity, patience, and forethought to ensure the success of this defining moment in our nation's history.

A milestone was reached in the peace process when the Union Peace Work Committee (UPWC) and the Nationwide Ceasefire Coordination Team (NCCT) signed a draft nationwide ceasefire agreement, an event that I attended. The NCCT will now submit the draft agreement for consideration by the ethnic leaders at the next ethnic summit. My government is ready to finalize the nationwide ceasefire agreement, and is waiting for the outcome from the ethnic summit.

The complex nature of the peace process means that the road to lasting peace is a long one. As examples in other countries show, it is difficult to achieve peace within a single term of an elected government. My government's objective is to leave a foundation for the next government to build on— one where there is no more fighting and political dialogue has started. All parties have accepted that the only way to resolve armed conflict is through a political solution. Therefore, we are trying our best to begin political dialogue as soon as possible.

Since my government took office, one of the priorities has been poverty reduction and improving the livelihoods of those living in the rural areas. In this regard, I have not only laid down policies but also visited remote parts of the country to personally inspect development projects. In April, I visited Homalin and Hkamti townships in Upper Sagaing, a place where few national leaders have visited due to logistical and environmental reasons. I am honored to be the first standing president

to visit this area.

The 2015-2016 national budget was released in April, and will take effect in May. According to the Constitution, the government has to prepare the annual budget, and Parliament only passes the budget after analysis, debate, and making necessary adjustments. These actions strengthen the budgetary process, and are examples of the checks and balances between the executive and legislative branches. Once Parliament approves the budget, media will disseminate details of the budget to the public. The democratic process of checks and balances, debate, and transparency ensures that the annual budget— primarily funded from public taxes—reflects the needs and desires of the people.

I also attended the Bandung Conference in Indonesia – an event that is of historical significance for Myanmar. Myanmar was one of the five organizers of the original Asian-African Conference of 1955 at Bandung, together with India, Pakistan, Ceylon (now Sri Lanka) and Indonesia. This conference led directly to the founding of the Non-Aligned Movement. Myanmar's Prime Minister at the time U Nu played a key role in making the conference possible and making it a success. U Thant acted as secretary to the conference.

This was a high-mark in Myanmar's international diplomacy. I believe we must reach that high-mark again. My government is working hard to ensure good relations with all global powers and all nations. We will seek not only to protect and promote Myanmar's interests. But we will also seek to make a positive contribution in international efforts to address global challenges.

At the conference, I urged continued cooperation between the countries and peoples of Asia and Africa based on the Bandung Conference's aims of unity, friendship, and cooperation. Myanmar maintains friendly relations with all countries, and at the same time, seeks to protect and promote our interests. Additionally, our country adheres to the UN Charter, and is a responsible member of the world community.

This year is an important one for the ASEAN countries, and at the 26<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit and 12<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Leadership Forum in Malaysia that I attended, the leaders discussed establishment of a People-Oriented and People-Centered ASEAN community. This effort will require increased engagement between the peoples, businesses, and institutions of the region, and will place a high value

on education, skills, global competitiveness of businesses, and creativity. I urge our citizens to be prepared for these opportunities.

Also in April, at the invitation of the United Nations Secretary-General, a government team led by Union ministers attended the Partnership Group on Myanmar meeting in New York City. Member States supported the reform efforts of Myanmar in the areas of democratization, socio-economic development, and national reconciliation. The majority of members also backed the view that the submission of a draft resolution on Myanmar's human rights record was no longer needed, and this decision would send a clear signal of support for the country's reforms. I welcome their support since this will energize and bring practical benefits not only for human rights but also for reforms in all sectors.

I was especially saddened to hear about the devastating earthquake in Nepal. The threat of natural disasters is increasing, and could impact humans anywhere. Our country suffered its own natural disaster – Cyclone Nargis – from which the affected are still recovering today. A glimmer of light in tragic time like these is the outpouring of support and human kindness. Humanitarian aid is being delivered to Nepal, and Myanmar is doing its part to send vital aid.

It is undeniable that democratic reforms that were initiated since my government took office have brought positive developments to our nation, and as a result, our nation has received recognition and respect from the global community. I am honored to serve as your president during these momentous times. However, these positive developments would not be possible without the dutiful contributions of political leaders, political parties, Tatmadaw, civil society, and citizens. I believe our democratic reforms will succeed because of this collective support.

I stress again that the 2015 general elections will be a defining moment for our democratic transition. Therefore, I urge political forces and citizens to do what they can to ensure the successful holding of these elections, and the success of the democratic reforms. I also pledge to do my utmost to achieve our goals.

I would like to conclude by reaffirming my commitment to achieving peace, promoting economic development and building a better future for future generations.

## Property expo aims to develop country's real estate market

YANGON, 3 May — Myanmar's biggest property expo kicked off on Friday at Tatmadaw Convention Hall in Yangon, aiming to increase investment in the property sector.

About 3,000 apartments, condominiums, and detached houses are being promoted by 50 companies and agents. Nearly 30 under-construction projects are on show at the expo, most of which are expected to be completed by 2016.

"During this expo, people can enjoy discounts of between 5% and 30 %," said Nay Min Thu, managing director of iMyanmar Online Media and Advertising Co., the organizer of the event.

"The three-day exhibition also aims to disseminate knowledge on property and to develop

the country's property market," he added.

The expo also includes seminars by 16 experts

including the president's economic advisor Dr Aung Tun Thet.

Construction compa-

nies should place emphasis on the safety of construction workers and following international standards



Visitors view scale model of high-rise buildings at Myanmar's biggest property expo.—PHOTO: KHAING THANDA LWIN

By Khaing Thanda Lwin

without focusing on their interests alone, Dr Aung Tun Thet told reporters at the expo. He added the government should accelerate the construction of more low-cost housing in the country.

Currently the demand for both property rental and ownership and are is surging despite the market

being cool at the beginning of this year. Nay Min Thu said: "The number of people visiting [www.imyanmarhouse.com](http://www.imyanmarhouse.com) has been on the rise since mid-April. Normally, about 120,000 people per month visit the website. Sometimes this number has increased up to 150,000".

GNLM

## Outstanding ninth graders visit statue gallery in Sale

BAGAN, 3 May — Outstanding students of ninth grade visited a statue gallery in Sale here on Sunday, with a curator showing them round the gallery.

The curator said the visit would implant in the minds of students the sense to cherish their own culture and preserve cultural heritage, thereby arousing their love for nationality, race

and religion.

The Sale Statue Gallery was constructed in 1244 Myanmar Era (1882 AD) and completed in 1254. Located to the south of Bagan, the gallery is regarded as a cultural heritage site with spectacular woodcarvings such as ancient Buddha Statues of successive eras.

Min Min Zaw (Kalay)

## NATIONAL

## President U Thein Sein delivers speech . . .

(from page 1)

scouts and girl guides at the yew forest in PyinOoLwin where the president was warmly welcomed by senior scouts, boy scouts and girl guides.

Then, boy scouts and girl guides opened the camp ceremony by signing "Ready for the People".

Afterwards, Chief Scout of Myanmar Scout Association President U Thein Sein and boy scouts and girl guides saluted the state flag.

Then, the scouts saluted the president with scout salute.

In his speech at the ceremony, the president said that the girl guides was first founded in Myanmar in 1916 and the boy scout was founded in 1920.

It was founded by the government as an independent organization affiliated with World Scout Federation and Asia Scout Federation, according to the president, who also added that the then heads of state performed as head of scouts to honour them.

However, the activity of the scout halted in 1964 due to various reasons and about 50-year later, it was reestablished during the term of the incumbent gov-

ernment in 2012, the president said.

Now, its head office was opened in Mingala Taungnyunt on 29 April and it has about 37,000 members in the entire country and training courses for scouts have been conducted in universities since 27 April, the president said.

Then, the president added that the government is nurturing all round outstanding new generation youths for future Myanmar who are morally good, loyal, genuinely patriotic, capable, philanthropic, respectful of elders and teachers, self-reliant and possess five strengths including physical strength, intellectual strength, moral strength, etc.

The scout association, whose motto is "Be always ready", is social organization free from military and political influences and its members are required to do a good deed each day in accordance with its slogan "Do a good deed each day", the president pointed out.

In conclusion, the president urged the scouts to try their best to become outstanding youths who are capable of building the future nation.

Then, the president



President U Thein Sein cordially meets townselders and local residents in Mogok.—IPRD

signed in the guest book of the camp before receiving a souvenir of the camp presented by the scouts.

Afterwards, the president warmly greeted the youths and viewed capabilities of the scouts before posing for documentary photographs with senior scouts, boy scouts and girl guides.

A total of 910 members including 780 boys, girls and senior scouts from basic education schools and universities and 130 supervisory teachers have been participating in the camp since 30 April.

The president and party later proceeded to Mogok by helicopter where the president was warmly greeted by local national races.

Then, the president heard reports on the Mogok Lake by Union Minister U Myint Hlaing and Director-General UKyaw Myint Hlaing at the project site.

Afterwards, U Tun Shwe, a local people thanked the president for renovation of the lake.

Later, the president greeted the local people warmly.

In his speech in Mog-

ok, the president said that the renovation of the lake is being carried out with the special fund to prevent floods in Mogok during rainy seasons, to supply clean drinking water, to create recreational facility for the people based on the genuine good-will.

It is necessary for local people to cooperate with the government for the conservation of the lake, the president pointed out.

The government has given priority to food, clothing and shelter, drinking water, electricity and smooth transportation and

infrastructures are being built for sustainable development of the country, the president added.

Then, the president added that natural resources alone cannot be relied upon for sustainable development and it is necessary to establish business based on education. In conclusion, the president urged local people to find ways and means to leave natural resources of the town to posterity.

The president and party viewed round the development of the town before going back to Nay Pyi Taw in the afternoon.—MNA

## Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann explains Myanmar's move for coming elections



Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann holds talks at seminar on elections at Carnegie Endowment in Washington DC.—MNA

WASHINGTON DC, 3 May — Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann attended a seminar on Elections 2015 in Myanmar held in the headquarters of

Carnegie Endowment in Washington DC on 1 May.

The speaker stressed cooperation among the government, parliament, people, political parties and social organizations in

making the elections free and fair, saying the coming elections are crucial for Myanmar. According to him, international observers have been invited.

He also met National

Democratic Institute (NDI), International Republican Institute (IRI) and International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES) at NDI's headquarters.

At the meeting, they discussed the development of democratic reform in Myanmar and issues related to the successful holding of elections in 2015.

On 2 May, Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann and his entourage visited Smithsonian Air and Space Museum, where they observed the invention of the airplane by Wright brothers, aircraft used in World War II, aircraft in use, and NASA's first spacecraft.

They also visited the Freer Gallery of Art and the Arthur M. Sackler Gallery, where a curator of Asian culture showed them round the gallery.

MNA

## Preliminary draft of violence against women to complete in late June

By Khaing Thanda Lwin

YANGON, 3 May — A preliminary draft of the law on prevention of violence against women is expected to be finalized in late June, a network of women's rights activists told The Global New Light of Myanmar on Saturday.

The law includes tough penalties for serious sexual assaults. Since 2013, it has been drafted by the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement in cooperation with partner organizations to eliminate violence against women.

"Some chapters need further coordination for the scrutiny of terms and definitions," said Daw May Sabei Phyu, joint secretary of the Working Group for Violence against Women.

At a press conference

three months ago, she said "plans are under way to disseminate knowledge about the law to the public when it comes out as the majority of women are not aware of the legal protections they deserve."

Most Myanmar women experience physical and psychological harassment from their partners, many of whom have to financially rely on their spouses, according to Gender Equality Network's research paper released in February. In order to raise gender-related knowledge among people, GEN is planning to conduct awareness campaigns in June and July.—GNLM

## Residents pour water at Bo tree, offer provisions to monks

NYAUNGLEBIN, 3 May — Nyaunglebin Township YMBA organized the water pouring at Bo tree on fullmoon day of Kason and 96<sup>th</sup> rice offering ceremony



in Nyaunglebin, Bago Region, on 2 May.

Members of YMBA poured water at Bo tree in the precinct of Maha Tilawka Thanyabu Kyauktawgyi Pagoda in the morning.

Local people and well-wishers from various regions including Township Administrator U Thein Zaw Kan and servicemen and family members from No 20 Light Infantry Regiment and police offered provisions worth more than K 25.13 million to 1,086 members of the Sangha from 94 monasteries.

*Nay Lin (Nyaunglebin)*

## Residents plan to build pagoda in Zabuthiri Tsp

NAY PYI TAW, 3 May — Member of Nay Pyi Taw Council U Myo Nyunt held talks with local residents and well-wishers on construction of a nine-elbow-high pagoda (13.5-foot-high) in front of Pynnya Theikdi Dhammayon in Zabuthiri Township on Sunday.

He donated 100 bags of cement for construction of the pagoda to officials.

At the staff quarters in the ward, the council member cordially conversed with staff and urged them to grow vegetables and kitchen crops in the rainy season and security measures of the buildings.

The council member



and officials visited a successful completion ceremony of Maha Pathana rec-

itation at the Dhammayon in Thukha Theikdi Ward in Zabuthiri Township and

offered alms to members of the Sangha.

*Shwe Kokko*

## Mdy Region CCI exchange view with Japanese officials

MANDALAY, 3 May — Vice Chairman of Mandalay Region Chambers of Commerce and Industry U Kyaw Min and executives held talks with, Mr Nobuy Oshi Wkabayashi of Human Resources and Industrial Development Group and party at Mandalay Region CCI Office at

Yadanabon Super Centre at the corner of 78<sup>th</sup> and 34<sup>th</sup> streets in Chanayethazan Township on 1 May.

They exchanged views on trade, transport, hotel service, agriculture, human resources and a plan to implement the stock exchange in Myanmar.

*Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)*



## Firefighters show excellent skills in demonstration to mark Myanmar Fire Brigade Day

MONYWA, 3 May — The 69<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Myanmar Fire Brigade Day will be held at the office of Sagaing Region Fire Services Department in Nandawun Ward, Monywa, Sagaing Region, on 5 May, according to the Sagaing Region government.

An official of Region Fire Services Department said, "This year, firefighters will demonstrate their skills in putting out of fire at high-rise buildings with the use of ladders. The contests for fire drill and use of fire trucks and light fire engines will be conducted in commemoration of the Fire Brigade Day. Moreover, officials will present prizes to outstanding members and stations for training courses and the cleanest stations on 5 May."

More than 1,000 members from district and township fire stations under Sagaing Region FSD will participate in the skill demonstration.

*Po Chan (Monywa)*



## New transformers come into operation to supply electricity at full capacity

LANKHIO, 3 May — Electricians led by Langkho District electrical engineer U Aung Naing Oo of Shan State (South) installed transformers in Langkho and Mongnai townships on 28 April for supplying electricity to local residents at full capacity.

Shan State government allotted the fund for installation of three 11/0.4 KV, 200 KVA transformers in

2014-15 fiscal years. These three transformers were installed in Wamloi Ward, East Ywamagyi Ward and Pinwong ward in Langkho.

Electricians also installed three more transformers in Mongnai Township on 28 April.

Thanks to installation of new transformer, they can use sufficiency of electricity, said a local resident.

*Hsaung Hnin Latt (IPRD)*

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LOCAL NEWS

MYANAUNG, 3 May — A ceremony to present prizes to outstanding trainees in the summer Buddhist culture course was held at Phayagyi monastery in Shwekyin village, Myanaung Township, Ayeyawady Region on 30 April.

Patron of the organizing committee for the training course Bhaddanta Indavudha gave words of advices.

Ayeyawady Region Hluttaw MP U Aung Win Swe and township officials explained preservation of Myanmar culture, lineage and Buddhism.

Officials presented outstanding trainees in the examination of the training course.—Win Bo (Township IPRD)

## Buddhist cultural course for local youths



## Myanmar, Japan ink MoU on contribution to agricultural sector

MANDALAY, 3 May — Mandalay Region Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Breeding signed a MoU on contribution to the Development of Human Resources for agriculture in the Mandalay Region with the Japan's OICSA International Myanmar at Mandalay Hill Resort Hotel in Aungmyethazan Township recently.

Mandalay Region Minister for Planning and Economy U Aung Zan expressed thanks for assistance of Japan in agricul-

ture sector of the region.

They signed a Memorandum of Understanding.

With the assistance of Japan's Mitsubishi Corporation, a rural region development agriculture and livestock breeding school was held in Pakhangyi Village, Yesagyo Township, Magway Region.

According to the officials, an agricultural technological school will be established in Mandalay Region soon.

Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)

## Tawwi Village receives free clinic for health care services

NYAUNGLEBIN, 3 May — A free clinic was held in Tawwi model village in Nyaunglebin Township, Bago Region, on 1 May.

Hteintabin monastery Sayadaw U Tejaniya, Chairman of Nyaunglebin Township Writers Association

Dr Myint Than (Nyaunglebin) and officials cut the ribbon to open the clinic.

Chairman of the Township Writers Association Dr Myint Than (Nyaunglebin) spoke about advantages of opening the clinic

while Dr Myint Thein of the Township Sangha Hospital explained health care services to the people.

The clinic opens twice a month to provide health care services to needy patients from the region.

Nay Lin (Nyaunglebin)



## Local residents pay respect to senior citizens



TATKON, 3 May — The 5<sup>th</sup> ceremony to pay respects to older persons took place at Myat Mingalar Hall in Hsinthay Vil-

lage, Tatkon Township, on 2 May. Secretary of the organizing committee U Nyi Htwe spoke about purpose of holding the ceremony.

The residents donated clothes and medicines to 11 grandpas and 25 grandmas of above 75.

Tin Soe Lwin (Tatkon)

## Outstanding students visit Inlay Lake

NYAUNGSHWE, 3 May — Outstanding students from Inlay Khaungdaing recreation camp visited the significant places in Inlay Lake on 2 May.

They visited agricultural farms in Kaylar village, Sein Thamadi silversmith industry in Heya Ywama village and weaving industries in Inpawkhon village and paid homage to Alodawpauk and PhaungdawU pagodas.

"This is my first trip to Inlay. I enjoyed fine weather. I was very happy on my trip by boat in

Inlay Lake. I paid homage to pagodas in the lake and had much experience from the trip," said Maung Nyi Nyi Zaw from Phyu Basic Education High School No 2.

The students visited the booths displayed at the recreation camp by Department of Agriculture, Education Department, Health Department, Information and Public Relations Department, Irrigation Department, Public Works, Fisheries Department and Forest Department.

Nay Myo Thurein





Customers select bonded goods at the Zhongdamen Bonded Commodity O2O shopping centre in Zhengzhou, capital of central China's Henan Province, on 2 May, 2015. As a project of the "Belt and Road", the bonded shopping centre selling bonded goods from over 60 countries and regions opened on Saturday.—XINHUA

## Cross-Strait economic forum opens in Shanghai

SHANGHAI, 3 May — The 10<sup>th</sup> Cross-Strait Economic, Trade and Culture Forum, a regular meeting between the Chinese mainland and Taiwan, opened on Sunday in Shanghai.

Yu Zhengsheng, top political advisor and senior leader of the Communist Party of China (CPC), and Eric Chu, chairman of the Kuomintang (KMT), attended the opening ceremony.

On behalf of the CPC Central Committee and Xi Jinping, general secretary of the CPC Central Committee, Yu, a member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee, congratulated on the forum.

In his speech, Yu said the mainland and Taiwan should discuss ways for the island to participate in the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB).

Talks may also encompass the Belt and Road Initiative and some regional economic cooperation opportunities, to develop the

international market and improve the competitiveness of the whole Chinese economy, he said.

The two sides should assure the peaceful development of relations by adhering to the 1992 Consensus and opposing "Taiwan independence", according to Yu, who is also chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference.

"Contact and exchange between young people from both sides will help them realize their dreams," Yu said, calling for a better deal for young people living, studying, working or starting businesses away from their hometowns on the other side of the Taiwan Strait, regardless of where they originate.

Yu asked the forum to continue its focus on welfare with exchanges of economic policy and industrial plans. Efforts to help ordinary people, small and medium-sized enterprises as well as farmers and fisher-



Photo taken on 3 May, 2015 shows the opening ceremony of the 10<sup>th</sup> Cross-Strait Economic, Trade and Culture Forum in Shanghai, east China. The 10<sup>th</sup> Cross-Strait Economic, Trade and Culture Forum, a regular forum between the Chinese mainland and Taiwan, opened in Shanghai on Sunday. —XINHUA

men should be considered, he said.

The forum should invite opinions from a wider spectrum of people to cover both major issues of cross-Strait development and specific practical matters.

Pledging better cross-Strait development, Eric Chu said in his speech that the KMT would be responsible for the public, the next

generation and history.

He said the peaceful development must continue and efforts should be made to deepen cross-Strait exchanges and make the benefits of achievements in cross-Strait development accessible for more.

He said the KMT will work to advance the cross-Strait relations on the basis of the 1992 Consensus.

Xinhua

## China, Japan, SKorea commit to economic policies supporting demand

BAKU, 3 May — Central bankers and finance ministers from China, Japan and South Korea said on Sunday they remained committed to policies to support demand in the face of moderate and uneven global growth.

The policymakers for the three North Asian economies held a trilateral meeting, chaired by Japan's Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Taro Aso, on the sidelines of an Asian Development Bank Meeting in Baku, Azerbaijan.

Their joint statement noted that global economy was passing through an uncertain phase, and growth remained moderate and was following divergent paths.

"We are committed to continue implementing timely and effective macro-economic policies in order to help boost demand," the statement said.



Japanese Finance Minister Taro Aso (3<sup>rd</sup> from L) and Bank of Japan Gov Haruhiko Kuroda (3<sup>rd</sup> from R) pose for a group photo with their counterparts from China and South Korea in Azerbaijan capital Baku on 3 May, 2015, before their meeting.

KYODO NEWS

"Structural reforms to increase potential growth should continue to remain a

high priority for a sustainable and balanced growth."

The statement also

urged a caution in monetary policy. "In an uncertain environment of global econo-

my, monetary policy settings should be carefully calibrated and clearly communicated to minimize negative spillovers," it said.

Many economists have warned that expected interest rate hikes by the US Federal Reserve at a time when many other central banks continue to pursue loose monetary policies could cause volatility in capital flows and exchange rates. "When dealing with possible macroeconomic and financial stability risks arising from volatile capital flows, the necessary macroeconomic policy adjustments could be supported by macro-prudential policies," the statement said.

For many years the engine of global economic growth, Asian economies are struggling to maintain momentum.

Growth in China, the

world's second largest economy, slipped to a six-year low of 7.0 percent in the first quarter.

Japan, the third largest economy, rebounded from recession in the final quarter of last year, but the 2.2 percent growth was still regarded as subdued, and the economy has some way to go before fully emerging from years of debilitating deflation.

South Korea's Finance Minister Choi Kyung-hwan told journalists in Baku that his country's growth rate this year was likely to be similar to the 3.3 percent growth posted in 2014. He said policymakers were likely to wait until the end of June before assessing whether more stimulus measures were needed. The four-day annual meeting of the ADB's board of governors began on Saturday.—Reuters

## Some 60 temples destroyed in Nepal's earthquake

KATHMANDU, 3 May — An initial assessment report from Nepal's archaeology authorities showed that around 60 temples across the nation have been destroyed in the 25 April earthquake.

The report from the Department of Archaeology (DoA) in the Ministry of Culture, Tourism

and Civil Aviation said on Sunday that more than 200 monuments have been partly damaged.

The authorities have been in a hard bid to collect ruins consisting of valuable materials from monument sites.

The collection and preservation process has been underway at loca-

tions including the Basantapur Durbar Square, Bhaktapur Durbar Square and Patan Durbar Square, all of which are UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

Local residents and volunteers have joined the military and police personnel to search for the remaining crafted wooden beams, idols, struts and

silver and copper items at the quake-jolted venues.

The earthquake has also done great harm to Nepal's tourism industry as at least 14 historic buildings have been destroyed or severely damaged, including 12 on the list of UNESCO World Heritage.

Xinhua

## Tsunami warnings lifted after quake off Japan

Tokyo, 3 May — Tsunami warnings were lifted for Japanese islands early on Sunday after they experienced a series of small waves following an earthquake, public broadcaster NHK said. Tsunamis of up to 50 centimetres were recorded in the Izu and Ogasawara islands stretching south of Tokyo, before the Japan Meteorological Agency lifted warnings at 4:10 am (1910 GMT on Saturday), NHK said.

Japanese authorities put the magnitude of the quake at 5.9. Earlier, the United States Geological Survey put the quake at 6.1, revising the reading to 5.7, centred 185 km (115 miles) south-southeast of the Izu islands.—Reuters

## WORLD

## N Korea detains S Korean based in US for illegal entry: KCNA

BEIJING, 3 May — North Korean authorities have detained a 21-year-old South Korean student based in the United States for allegedly entering the country illegally last month from the Chinese border, the official (North) Korean Central News Agency reported on Saturday.

The report identified him as Joo Won Moon, saying he was “arrested while illegally entering the DPRK after crossing the Amnok River from Dandong, China on 22 April.” DPRK is an acronym for the country’s official name — the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea.

The report said Joo is a student of New York University and has permanent residency in the United States.

It said Joo “admitted that his illegal entry was a serious violation of the law” and that he is being investigated by state authorities.

There was no immediate reaction by the South Korean government to the report.

North Korea last year released three Americans it had accused of trying to subvert the state, one of whom had been held for two years. Last month, Pyongyang deported a US humanitarian aid worker on spying charges.—*Kyodo News*

## Japan vows to boost ODA to Cuba in foreign ministers’ talks

HAVANA, 3 May — Japanese Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida pledged on Saturday to boost Japan’s official development assistance to Cuba as he met with his counterpart Bruno Rodriguez in Havana as the first top Japanese diplomat to visit the country.

Kishida also met later in the day with Cuban President Raul Castro, who expressed a hearty welcome to his “historic” visit to the Caribbean country and called for further strengthening economic and other bilateral ties, as well as with former Cuban leader Fidel Castro at his home, the Japanese minister said.

The two ministers also agreed to set up a new framework for dialogue between the governments and companies of both countries, Kishida told reporters.

The meetings come in the wake of recent progress in negotiations between Cuba and the United States to restore diplomatic ties

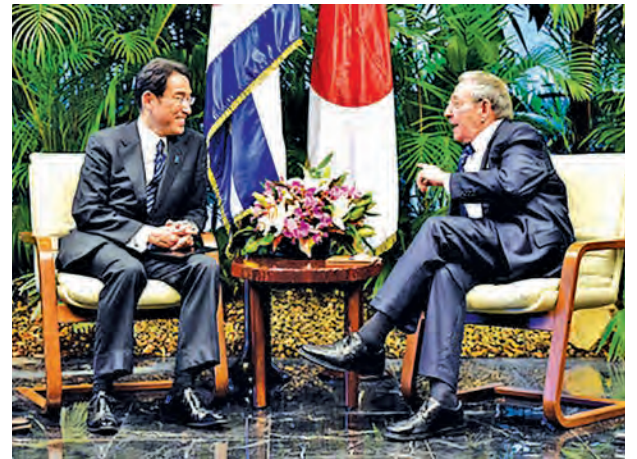
after the leaders of the two nations met last month for the first time in more than 50 years.

“We would like to start grant aid in earnest,” including providing medical equipment for cancer treatment, Kishida said in his meeting with Rodriguez.

Tokyo has given grant aid only for small projects in Cuba so far, but is now planning a hundreds of million yen project for the next fiscal year, Japanese officials said.

Cuba hopes to beef up cooperation with Japan in trade, investment and technology among other areas, Rodriguez told Kishida.

The two confirmed that the envisaged dialogue at a joint public-private conference, which the two sides aim to launch in the fall, will cover the ongoing economic reforms in Cuba aimed at luring foreign investment and improving the business environment along with employment



*Japanese Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida (L) meets with Cuban President Raul Castro in Cuban capital Havana on 2 May, 2015. Kishida arrived in Havana on 30 April as the first top Japanese diplomat to visit the country.—Kyodo News*

and tax systems, the officials said.

Japan hopes to strengthen its ties with Cuba, which it sees as a potential investment destination, in wide-ranging areas such as infrastructure development, tourism and the medical field.

Banking on Cuba’s close ties with North Korea, Kishida also asked his

counterpart to help Japan resolve the issue of Japanese nationals abducted in the past by the neighbouring Asian country.

The two ministers also agreed to launch a bilateral dialogue on UN reforms, as Japan aims to be a permanent member of the Security Council, according to the officials.

*Kyodo News*

## Nepal seeks helicopters, tents as quake death toll tops 7,000

KATHMANDU, 3 May — As the official death toll topped 7,000, officials on Saturday were seeking more helicopters to carry relief supplies to hundreds of thousands of people waiting for help in far-flung areas made unreachable by road due to landslides triggered by the devastating quake that rocked Nepal a week ago.

Police headquarters on Saturday night confirmed that the death toll stands at 7,074, with the number of injured exceeding 14,000. Nearly 141,000 houses were destroyed in the magnitude 7.8 quake, while 150,158 others sustained damage, according to official figures.

“Relief supplies have reached the headquarters of all affected districts. But taking the supplies from the district headquarters to villages cut off by landslides can only be done by airdrop,” Home Ministry spokesman Laxmi Prasad Dhakal told *Kyodo News*.

Dhakal said Nepal needs more helicopters, about 400,000 tents, food, and medicine, in this order of priority.

Nepal Army spokesman Jagadish Pokharel said available helicopters,

including those from the Nepal Army, Indian Air Force, and private airliners, are taking advantage of good weather Saturday to deliver supplies to affected districts.

“On Friday, more than 80 percent supplies that had arrived from various countries at the warehouse at Kathmandu’s airport were delivered. The pace of delivery by air and by land has been swift Saturday too,” he said.

In Kathmandu, fresh vegetables are available, power has been mostly restored, and telecommunications are back to normal.

But there is still fear among people about whether it is safe to stay indoors, either because their houses and shops have developed cracks or those in their neighbourhoods have.

“I opened my shop on Friday, but people in the neighbourhood say the nearby housing complex will collapse at any moment,” said Rajyalaxmi Shahi, a 35-year-old meat seller, whose shop is located in front of the 17-story Silver City Apartments located in Kathmandu’s Kalikasthan district.

The apartment com-



*People line up to receive relief supplies in the Nepali capital Kathmandu on 2 May, 2015, a week after a devastating earthquake struck the Himalayan country.*

*KYODO NEWS*

plex has visible cracks, and its occupants have vacated it.

“I am living elsewhere right now. I want to be sure it’s safe to move back in,” said Sanju Karki, 49, a housewife whose flat is on the ninth floor of the apartment complex.

To help dispel such uncertainty, 1,000 volunteers from the Nepal Engineering Association are assessing structural damage in Kathmandu and offering advice to people on whether it is safe to stay in their dwellings.

“According to our assessment, 10 percent

of houses still standing in Kathmandu are uninhabitable now because they are very unsafe,” said Dhruva Thapa, president of the association. “In total, 30 percent houses suffered damage, but two-thirds of them can be repaired,” he told *Kyodo News*.

There are some 100,000 houses in Kathmandu, according to the association.

Currently, there are still 2,500 people camped out in Tudihkel, the largest open space in Kathmandu.

Col Prayog Rana of the Nepal Army, who is managing the camp, said

some people who had left the camp in the past few days returned after finding their houses too unsafe to live in.

Since taking over management of the camp on Monday when there were as many as 11,000 people there, the army has set up toilets and proper tents. Food and water provided by foreign nations is being distributed regularly.

“I think the people staying here now will be here for a very long time. They don’t have any other safe shelter,” Rana said.

At the camp, 50 Japanese Self-Defence Forces personnel were providing medical aid on Saturday. People were being treated for ailments ranging from knee injuries to insomnia.

“I am grateful that they came from far away to help us,” said Shantamaya Majhi, 47, who received treatment from the Japanese team. Majhi, who saw on television the devastation in northeastern Japan wrought by the large tsunami that occurred there four years ago, said she never imagined that a disaster on such a scale could happen in Nepal.

*Kyodo News*

## Singapore PM congratulates Prince William, Kate on newborn princess

SINGAPORE, 3 May — Singapore’s Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong on Sunday congratulated Prince William and Kate Middleton on their newborn princess.

“Congrats to Prince William and Kate on the birth of their daughter! Remember warmly their visit to us in 2012. Happy that they have an SG50 baby!” PM Lee wrote on his Facebook page.

Singapore’s President Tony Tan Keng Yam will be sending the couple an SG50 Baby Jubilee Gift, commemorating the princess’s birth in the year that Singapore celebrates its 50th birthday, he added.

Britain’s Duchess of Cambridge Kate gave birth to a girl baby on Saturday. The royal couple’s first son, Prince George, was born in July 2013.—*Xinhua*

## PERSPECTIVES

Monday, 4 May, 2015

## The minimum wage and basic human needs

By Myint Win Thein

**I**t has been a long time since the minimum wage law was enacted by the government and rules for the law were issued, but the law cannot still be enforced as it requires an agreement on the minimum wage between employers and employees.

An agreement needs a common ground but it is very difficult for employers and employees to reach a consensus on the minimum wage. This is because the higher the minimum wage, the less the profits for employers, while the lower the minimum wage, the fewer the chances employees have for meeting the basic needs of their families. Since human beings have their own basic needs, it is impossible for them to survive for long without meeting their basic needs.

Let alone the minimum wage, nothing in the world should restrict the basic needs of people. The minimum wage should therefore be set based on no other factors than the cost of living for meeting the basic needs of people. Under such circumstances, the government can play a positive role in setting the minimum wage by giving

incentives to employers for raising the minimum wage by for example offering tax exemptions and providing employees with their basic needs such as lowcost housing and healthcare that every citizen is entitled to. This will actually turn the challenges into opportunities.

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*Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish "Letter to the Editor" that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.*

## A Visit to Room No.113 of the Bago Hostel

By Dr. Saw Mra Aung

**I**t was on the late morning of 13 February 2015. Though winter was retreating, the air was still laden with snow. Off and on, gusts of wind came rushing through the groves of sylvan perennial trees standing straight and lofty in the cool campus of historic Yangon University. Golden sun-beams were netting down through the canopy of shady trees. The wintry sun was emitting its faint but undying rays above the tops of the trees. I found myself near the main-gate, leaving my friends some distance behind. Before me was the Adhipadhi (Chancellor) Road leading to the Convocation Hall, which seemed to be greeting the students and teachers scurrying, some in files, some in groups and some individually. I was heading sluggishly along the Adhipadhi Road for the Recreational Centre, where snacks were being sold in commemoration of the 100th birth-day of Bogyoke Aung San. On reaching the spot right in front of the gate into the compound in which the Inwa Hostel, the Sagaing Hostel, the Pinya Hostel, the Bago Hostel, the Thaton Hostel stand, the song titled "Bahmar Hero" composed about Bogyoke Aung San by Thahaya Saya Tin wafted to my ears with a gale of wintry wind going thus "... ငါတို့ ဗမာပြည်မှ မိဘတိုင်းကွယ် ဝိုင်းအောင်ဆန်းလို သူရဲကောင်းတွေ မွေးရမယ်..." (Every parent of our Myanmar must give birth to a patriotic hero like Bo Aung San). All of a sudden, I felt my hair stand on end and became effervescent with a surge of strong love for my people and country. My steps veered unconsciously off the Adhipadhi Road and made a bee line for the Bago Hostel from which the song was emanating, following the tarred footpath winding through the hedges. Lo! A Bogyoke birth-day commemorative photo-exhibition was be-

ing celebrated tumultuously in front of the Bago Hostel where he stayed during his university days for six years from 1932 to 1937.

When I reached the hedge lining before the Pinya Hostel adjacent to the Bago Hostel, I hurled a glance at the direction where the latter was standing. There was a hustle and bustle of students and teachers milling around the photographs and posters exhibited in front of the hostel. The short foot-path approaching the portico of the hostel was lined on both sides with a series of old black and white photographs posted. Before the series of photographs were the two large photographs of Bogyoke seated in a chair - in a Myanmar jacket and a silken longyi in curlicued patterns in one photo and in military uniform in the other. Then came a succession of old photographs depicting the life of Bogyoke. At the very beginning of the line were the photo-copies of the certificate of B.A degree Bogyoke obtained from Yangon University on 13 July 1940, the invitation card of Bogyoke Aung San and Daw Khin Kyi wedding reception which took place in the year 1304 Myanmar Era and the letter given to Daw Khin Kyi by Bogyoke reading "ကြည်ရေ ပဲပြိတ်နဲ့ နံပြားရရင် စားချင်တယ်" (My darling Kyi, I want to eat steamed garden peas and Nanpya (Roti), if possible). In addition to the photographs, some books written about Bogyoke were put on display. Under a large shady tree right in front of the portico was erected a large picture in black and white of Bogyoke. As the work was so aesthetic and artistic, I observed it at the close-range. While I was doing so, Ko Htein Lin, one of the organizers of the celebration, came and explained patiently to me that it was sent from Russia and that the picture was drawn out of numerous fibers woven, not in paint. Then I learnt from the organizers that room. No.113

where Bogyoke stayed at this hostel during his last university days was kept open to the public.

So quickly upstairs I went. When I got to the front of the room, I saw a great spectator pushing and pulling one another. So I had to elbow my way through them and cast a sweeping look into the room. In the room were a bedstead, an old umbrella hanging and some old photographs on the wall and a table with some old books on it. When I descended from the room No. 113, I noticed the spectator in front of the hostel growing larger, some students and teachers standing before the old photographs exhibited, some writing down something in their notebooks, some looking blankly into the photographs as if visualizing the images of Bogyoke, some doing photographing with their hand-phones.

At 11 am, I left the Bago Hostel. The song "Bahmar Hero" was dying away gradually into the thin layer of hot day-time air as I got greater distance from the hostel. I looked up. The sun was ablaze against the cloudless azure sky. But I thought of Bogyoke to no end all the way back home...

Bogyoke Aung San was born of U Phar and Daw Su at Nat Mauk on 13 February 1915. Although he was named Htain Lin, he was called Aung San at the suggestion of his elder brother U Aung Than who wanted his younger brother's name to rhyme with his. Maung Aung San started learning at U Sobhita's monastic school in Nat Mauk. He was an industrial student, although his parents fussed over him. Since childhood, he had been a deep thinker and a reticent boy. But he was an endless glib talker when it came to his interesting topics. He was also crazy for listening to musical instruments playing. A boy of a few words as he was, some of his intelligent questions cornered el-

derly people. Although he was open to boys, he used to shy away from girls. He abhorred telling lies. Once, while Daw Su was trading in rice, he revealed its actual purchase price in the presence of the customers. So his mother felt uneasy due to her youngest son's openness. On another occasion, when he, together with his friends and cousins, was caught red-handed playing in the village from which they were prohibited by U Sobhita, all his friends managed to escape from the canning of Sayadaw by fabricating excuses. But he avoided falsehood on pains of a good canning given by the Sayadaw. When he passed the sixth standard examination from the Sayadaw's school, he transferred to Ye-

nanchaung Myoma National School to continue with the seventh standard. He came out the ninth among the students from the national schools in the whole country when he passed the seventh standard examination. So he was awarded scholarship. He was on the student's union of the school and participated actively in the students' activities, sometimes making demands to the head-master for the students' needs. As a clever student, especially competent in Pali due to a good grounding acquired from U Sobhita's school, he passed the tenth standard examination with distinctions in Pali and Myanmar-sar from the State High School of Yenanchaung in 1932. (To be continued)

## POEM

### The Great Shwedagon

Some two thousand six hundred years ago, Taphussa and Bhalika, two merchant brothers from (what is now) the land of Myanmar, journeyed west to the land of Lord Gautama Buddha, the Supreme Self-Enlightened One of Badda Kabar. They went to pay homage where He was residing, and offered Him honey cakes and received His blessing, and were bestowed with Eight Strands of His Hair a precious gift for them to their land to bear. Arriving back, they offered the relics to the King of the land who enshrined relics of three previous Buddhas and the Eight Sacred Hairs of Lord Gautama Buddha in what is believed to be a forty four cubits high Pagoda atop a hill known as Singuttra to this day for the multitudes of the land, homage to pay. The successive Rulers and the people of Myanmar built It up to It's present three hundred and sixty feet stature and gilded It from It's base to It's pinnacle, crowned by a Hti studded with priceless jewels. Known to the world as the Golden Shwedagon Pagoda enshrining Sacred Hair Relics of the Lord Gautama Buddha built during His lifetime in a land afar. It's the Jewel of Myanmar, and pride of Yangon, (the historic Dagon). Shimmering in the day and lit up at night, It's golden glow for miles around, an awe inspiring sight.

Lokethar

## Senior General Min Aung Hlaing comforts army members wounded in action



NAY PYI TAW, 3 May — Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, accompanied by senior military officers, on Sunday visited military hospitals in Mingaladon township, Yangon Region, where he spoke words of encouragement and comfort to officers and soldiers wounded in action, offering assistance in cash and kind.

The senior general visited Kyaikthihsaung Sayadaw Abhidhaja Agga Maha

**Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla comfort patient at military hospital in Mingaladon Township.—MYAWADY**

Saddhama Jotikadhaja Bhaddanta Pannadipa who is undergoing medical treatment at Defence Services General Hospital (1000-bed) and fulfilled the requirements.

The commander-in-chief asked after individual wounded army members and fulfilled their requirements for medical treatment.

At Defence Services Orthopaedic Hospital, he encouraged wounded officers and soldiers and assured them a guaranteed future free from worries and anxieties. He also encouraged and comforted the families of wounded officers and soldiers receiving treatment at hospital.—Myawady

### Calls for independent, . . .

(from page 1)

During the event in Yangon Sunday, the chairperson of the National League for Democracy party and the chairperson of the Pyithu Hluttaw Rule of Law and Tranquility Committee also called on

journalists to make more efforts as social media has brought press freedom to a certain extent, demanding greater ethics with dignity in journalism as well.

Union Minister for Information U Ye Htut also stressed the importance

of conditions of safety for journalists and editorial freedom for achieving quality journalism.

People must seek correct information from a non-biased and independent media and from different sources, he added. Sardur Umar Alam, Resident Representative of

UNESCO, read a message sent by United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, Director-General of UNESCO Irina Bokova and United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein, saying that quality journalism enables citizens to make informed

decisions about their society's development and also works to expose injustice, corruption, and the abuse of power.

For this, journalism must be able to thrive in an enabling environment in which journalists can work independently and without undue interference and

in conditions of safety, he added.

As part of the celebration, the secretary of the Myanmar Journalists Network, a representative from an ethnic-based media group, a journalism student and a member of parliament held talks on press freedom issues. —GNLM

### 45 works of Myanmar contemporary . . .



**Paduka Seri Sultan Perak Darul Ridzuan Sultan Nazrin Muizzuddin Shah (Right) and Raja Permaisuri Perak Darul Ridzuan Tuanku Zara Salim (Centre) attend the opening of "Masters of Myanmar Art" in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on 21, April, 2015.—PHOTO: THE EDGE GALERIE**

(from page 1)

organized the exhibition.

The show of the works by the artists—Zaw Min, Aung Thin Oo, Khin Zaw Latt, Khin Maung Zaw, Moe Nyo, Mon Thet, Pann Kyi, Soe Soe (Labutta), Tin Win (Beikthano), Tin Htay Aung and Zay Yar Aye—began on 21st April and will continue until 20 May.

The one-month show titled "Masters of Myanmar Art" is the result of the keen interest of Datuk Seri Kalimullah Hassan, chairman of ECM Libra Financial Group Bhd and a collector of Myanmar art. He seeks to introduce to Malaysian collectors the extraordinary talents he has encountered on his travels

to Yangon and other cities in Myanmar for business and leisure.

His Royal Highness Paduka Seri Sultan Perak Darul Ridzuan Sultan Nazrin Muizzuddin Shah opened the show on 21st April and famous artists and collectors of Malaysia were present at the ceremony.

Khin Zaw Latt, one of the artists whose works are on display, said that His Royal Highness purchased three paintings on the opening day including two of his own.

He said he is proud that works by himself and fellow artist Pann Kyi have become part of the Royal Family's collection.

Proceeds from the sale will be channeled to a charity in Myanmar, according

to the Edge Galerie.

Masters of Myanmar Art showcases the coming together of traditional and modern influences, intertwined with the cultural identity of Myanmar artists, said Ho Kay Tat, publisher and chief executive officer of the Edge Media Group.

From impressionism to realism, the works of this eclectic group of artists explores contemporary Myanmar art from all angles as

the viewer is exposed to a mixture of nostalgic Myanmar life and colourful and expressive abstract renderings, he added.

As Myanmar continues to develop economically, global attention will be increasingly focused on the Southeast Asian nation and Myanmar art has already attracted the interest of collectors from around the world, according to Malaysian collectors.—GNLM



**Myanmar artists (Left to Right) Pann Kyi, Khin Maung Zaw, Khin Zaw Latt, Soe Soe (Laputta), Tin Win (Beikthano), Mon Thet and Zay Yar Aye await the arrival of Paduka Seri Sultan Perak Darul Ridzuan Sultan Nazrin Muizzuddin Shah at the Edge Galerie. —PHOTO: THE EDGE GALERIE**

## Conservatives take one point lead over Labour ahead of Britain's 7 May vote — YouGov



Britain's Prime Minister David Cameron gestures as he delivers an election speech at an engineering factory in Birmingham, Britain on 29 April, 2015. —REUTERS

LONDON, 3 May — Prime Minister David Cameron's Conservative Party has taken a one point lead over the opposition Labour Party, according to a YouGov poll for *The Sunday Times*.

The poll showed the Conservatives on 34 percent, Labour on 33 percent, the UK Independence Party on 13 percent, the Liberal Democrats on 8 percent and the Greens on 5 percent, the newspaper said.

A YouGov seat projection by the pollster's president Peter Kellner indicated the Conservatives would win 283 seats, Labour 261 seats, the Liberal Democrats 32 seats and the Scottish National Party 50 seats, the newspaper said.

Under that seat tally, neither the Conservatives nor Labour would have an overall majority in the 650-seat Westminster Parliament.

Reuters

## Polish fan's death after police action leads to violent clashes

WARSAW, 3 May — A Polish soccer fan died on Saturday after he was hit by a rubber bullet fired by police, leading to violent clashes in a provincial town hours later in which 14 officers were wounded, police said.

Police in Knurów faced a crowd of fans who bombarded them with petrol bombs and other missiles after gathering late on Saturday outside the hospital where the 27-year-old was pronounced dead.

The government had launched an investigation into the fan's death, a spokeswoman said.

"Molotov cocktails, stones and other things were thrown towards the officers. Fourteen officers were wounded during the incident and several aggressive people were detained," Andrzej Gaska, police spokesman in the

southern Silesia region, said on Sunday.

The man died after being hit in the neck by the rubber bullet, fired as police tried to quell supporter violence during a match on Saturday afternoon between two lower-league Silesian teams. The game was abandoned before half-time after fans of both sides invaded the pitch. Police said they intervened to separate fighting fans, who then turned on the officers.

The government was investigating both the post-match violence and the shooting incident "as (to) ... whether the police acted in accordance with their prerogatives," the spokeswoman said.

Knurów was quiet on Sunday but police were on alert to quell any possible further unrest there, Gaska said.—Reuters

## Festive Baltimore rallies in hope after police charged

BALTIMORE, 3 May — Thousands of people took to the streets of Baltimore on Saturday as anger over the death of a young black man turned to hopes for change following swift criminal charges against six police officers.

There was an upbeat mood at the march from the housing projects where 25-year-old Freddie Gray was arrested last month to a plaza in front of city hall where the city's chief prosecutor announced charges on Friday ranging from murder to assault in his death.

Police made at least a dozen arrests of people violating a 10 pm curfew that was kept in place for Saturday. But earlier in the day, relaxed marchers were snapping selfies with police wearing uniform rather than riot gear.

The arrests happened after small groups of protesters broke off from the march, which had ended at the West Baltimore intersection that was the scene of looting on Monday after the funeral for Gray.

Many in the largely black city erupted with joy after the officers involved in the arrest were charged, in contrast to what happened after the deaths of unarmed black men over the past year in Ferguson, Missouri, and New York, where authorities found police broke no laws and officers involved were not charged.

Gray died on 19 April, a week after suffering a fatal spinal injury while in police custody.

While the charges announced by prosecutor Marilyn Mosby brought re-

lief to the city of 620,000, residents said they needed to see justice served, not only in Baltimore but in other US communities where they feel minorities are disproportionately targeted and badly treated by police.

"We will gather in peace and we will march in peace and we will march until police brutality ends in the United States," Malik Shabazz, president of Black Lawyers for Justice, which helped organize Saturday's march, told the crowd.

Organized through social media hashtags #BlackLivesMatter and #BlackSpring, smaller rallies took place in a number of other US cities on Saturday. In Seattle dozens of people marched and blocked traffic, but there was no repeat of a rowdy May Day marches that ended with clashes with police in Seattle, Portland and Oakland on Friday.

Businesses and pro-

testers in Baltimore said they were fed up with the curfew and ready to move on.

"It's unnecessary. The riot is over. The kids did what they did but that's done. This is all peaceful protest," said James Brown Jr, 27, as a crowd of a few hundred people danced on the street. "There is nothing to be angry about. We got what we wanted."

On Friday, Mosby said the Maryland state medical examiner had ruled Gray's death a homicide. She said he was unlawfully arrested and the officers repeatedly ignored his pleas for medical help while he was handcuffed, shackled and lying face down in the back of a police van.

Gene Ryan, president of the Baltimore Fraternal Order of Police, said he was disappointed with "the apparent rush to judgment" in charging the officers and that they had done nothing wrong.

The union launched

an online fundraising plea on its website on Saturday to cover legal expenses for the officers. Online Maryland court records did not list a defence attorney for any of the six — three black and three white officers.

They were released on bond on Friday.

No dates have been set for trials but speakers at Saturday's rally in front of city hall urged people to ensure that they were registered to vote, so that they can be called as jurors.

"We can't get justice for Freddie without 12 jurors for Freddie. Get registered," said civil rights activist Kim Trueheart.

Baltimore residents have largely heeded the curfew, put in place after Monday when protests turned violent and dozens of buildings and vehicles were burned. Twenty police were officers injured and more than 200 people arrested in the unrest.

Reuters



Soldiers rest near the intersection of North and Pennsylvania Avenues in Baltimore on 2 May, 2015. — REUTERS

## French patrol ship rescues 217 migrants off Libya coast

PARIS, 3 May — A French patrol ship rescued 217 migrants from three small boats that had run into trouble off the coast of Libya on Saturday, the maritime police said in a statement.

The Commandant Birot helped several dozen people in distress and intercepted two suspected people smugglers, according to the statement.

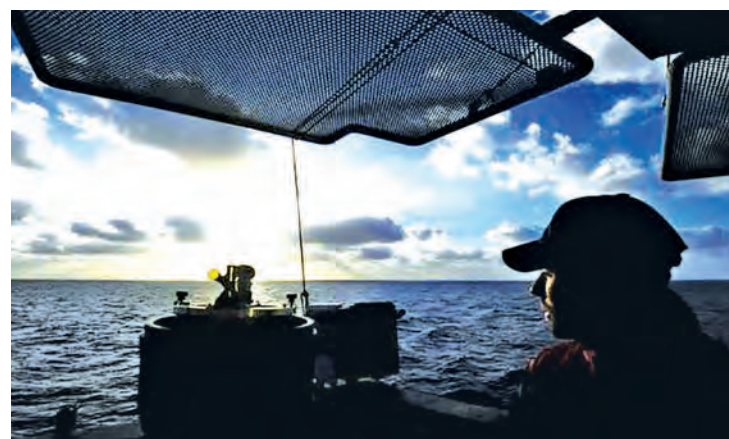
"The intercepted vessels have all been neutralized," the maritime police said, adding that they were responding to a call from the maritime rescue coordination center in Rome as part of the European Union's operation Triton.

The rescued migrants and the suspected people smugglers have been handed over to the Italian authorities, the Toulon, France-based maritime police added.

The sea is one of the

main routes into the European Union for tens of thousands of mostly Asian and African migrants fleeing war and poverty, with almost 40,000 people having arrived this year already.

A migrant boat sank with the loss of more than 700 lives last month, raising pressure for action by EU countries, who pledged to step up search and rescue operations in the southern Mediterranean.—Reuters



A crew member of Italy's Navy ship San Giorgio watches the sunshine during a patrol in open international waters in the Mediterranean Sea between the Italian and the Libyan coasts, on 16 May, 2014. REUTERS

## Yemeni Houthis call on UN to end Saudi strikes: statement

CAIRO, 3 May — Yemeni Houthi rebels called on the United Nations on Saturday to seek an end to Saudi Arabian air strikes against them that they described as blatant aggression against the country.

Warplanes from a Saudi-led coalition are targeting Iranian-allied Houthis who have seized the capital Sanaa and large areas of the country.

“We want to emphasize the grave and tragic situation that

comes in the light of the continued Saudi blatant aggression on our country and our people,” said the Ansar Allah Zaydi Houthi movement’s foreign relations official Hussein al-Ezzi, in a letter addressed to the UN secretary general.

Zaydis are a sect of Shi’ite Islam that predominates in Northern Yemen.

“We look forward to your active humanitarian role...to put an end to the Saudi aggression against our people without any justification or reason,” the letter said, listing a number of areas and damage the



People gather near houses destroyed by an overnight Saudi-led air strike on a residential area in Yemen’s capital Sanaa on 1 May, 2015.—REUTERS

strikes had caused so far.

The United Nations says the conflict in Yemen has killed 600 people, wounded 2,200 and displaced 100,000 since Houthi rebels allied with Iran seized the capital Sanaa in September.

Saudi Arabia believes the Shi’ite Muslim Houthi group is a proxy for its regional rival Iran. Saudi backing for the resistance in Yemen’s mostly Sunni Muslim south has raised fears that Yemen could descend into all-out sectarian war.—Reuters

## Rocket attack kills 3 at Benghazi medical centre in Libya

BENGHAZI, 3 May — A rocket hit a medical centre in Libya’s eastern Benghazi on Friday, killing three people, medics said.

Seven other people were wounded when the rocket hit a centre for dispatching ambulances, medics said. It was unclear who had fired it.

Forces of Libya’s official government and Islamist groups are fighting for control of Benghazi, creat-

ing chaos that has gripped the oil-producing nation four years after the toppling of Muammar Gaddafi.

The battle for the country’s second-largest city has been raging for a year, causing destruction, but neither side has scored a decisive victory.

The North African country has two governments allied to armed factions fighting for power and territory.—Reuters



A hole is seen in the ground after a rocket hit a medical centre on Friday, killing three people, medics said, in eastern Benghazi, Libya on 1 May, 2015. REUTERS

## Iran pledges to protect shared security interests with Yemen

DUBAI, 3 May — Iran’s deputy foreign minister said Teheran will not let regional powers jeopardise its security interests in Yemen, *Tasnim* news agency reported, in the strongest acknowledgement yet of Iranian involvement in the Arabian peninsula.

Iran has denied accusations from Western and Arab states that it is arming Shi’ite Muslim Houthi rebels in Yemen, though a UN sanctions monitoring panel revisited those allegations in a confidential report this week. Teheran has regularly condemned a Saudi-led air campaign against the insurgents.

“Others will not be allowed to put our shared security at risk with military adventures,” Hossein Amir Abdollahian said, according to the *Iranian Tasnim* news agency in an article published on Saturday.

Saudi Arabia, which sees itself as the guardian of Sunni Islam, has long vied



Houthi militants ride in a patrol truck in Sanaa on 2 May, 2015.—REUTERS

for influence with Iran, the region’s main Shi’ite Muslim power.

The Saudi-led coalition has been carrying out air strikes in Yemen since late March against the Houthis and their allies, whose rapid advances forced Yemeni President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi and his government into exile in Riyadh.

Iran does not recognize Hadi and has portrayed the air strikes as an intervention in Yemen’s internal affairs.

Earlier this week, Sau-

di Arabia said coalition jets destroyed the runway of Yemen’s Sanaa airport to prevent an Iranian cargo plane from landing there.

US Secretary of State John Kerry said on Saturday that several countries, including Iran, backed a negotiated political process to resolve the conflict in Yemen.

“As long as that is yet untested and unfailed ... all of us have hopes that Yemen can find a path forward,” Kerry said during a visit to Sri Lanka. “It is not going

to be easy, many things have to happen.”

The UN Panel of Experts, which monitors compliance with the Security Council’s Iran sanctions regime, noted in its latest annual report that Teheran shipped to arms to a number of recipients in the Middle East in Syria, Yemen, Iraq and Lebanon, including the Houthis, Hamas and Hezbollah.

According to the panel’s analysis of the 2013 seizure of a Yemen-bound ship, media reports and information received from the Yemeni government, Iranian arms shipments to the Houthis date back to at least 2009.

The panel’s report, which was seen by *Reuters*, said that apart from the 2013 incident no alleged arms shipments by Iran to the Houthis were officially reported to the panel or to the UN Security Council’s Iran sanctions committee.—Reuters

## Amnesty says Egypt using courts and jail to intimidate journalists

CAIRO, 3 May — Egyptian authorities are using the courts to stifle journalism, Amnesty International said on Sunday in a report that listed 18 reporters and media workers jailed and dozens more facing criminal investigations.

The New York-based rights group said several reporters have been detained for long periods without charge or trial, including an Egyptian photographer known as Shawkan who has been held for more than 600 days.

Rights groups say a crackdown launched by the government of President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi after the overthrow of Mohamed Mursi of the Muslim Brotherhood in mid-2013 has muzzled freedom of expression.

“In Egypt today anyone who challenges the authorities’ official narrative, criticizes the government or exposes human rights violations is at risk of being tossed into a jail cell, often to be held indefinitely without charge or

trial or face prosecution on trumped-up charges,” Amnesty said.

The Egyptian foreign ministry responded to the report saying the journalists were arrested based on a warrant from the public prosecutor and afforded full due process.

“Nobody is being targeted for being a journalist. Such accusations are politicised nonsense,” said spokesman Badr Abdelaty.

The sentencing of three Al Jazeera journal-

ists to between 7 and 10 years in prison last year on charges of spreading lies reinforced the view of rights groups that the government was rolling back freedoms gained after a 2011 uprising.

Australian Peter Greste was deported in February, while Canadian-Egyptian Mohamed Fahmy and Egyptian Baher Mohamed are undergoing a retrial after a court found procedural flaws in the original case.

Among the other inci-

dents cited by the Amnesty report were 25-year prison sentences given to 14 journalists and media workers last month on charges of spreading false information and inciting violence. That ruling can be appealed.

In a separate case, five journalists from the privately-owned *Al Masry Al Youm* newspaper face a criminal investigation after accusing security forces of corruption and human rights violations.

Another photojour-

nalist, arrested at a Cairo protest in December 2013, was detained for more than 18 months before being charged and ultimately acquitted last week.

Amnesty said most convictions lacked evidence and were based solely on testimonies of the security forces.

Since mid-2013 at least six journalists have been killed while covering protests in Egypt by security forces or during clashes among demonstrators, the group said.—Reuters

## Seattle police say prepared for more protests after May Day clashes

SEATTLE, 3 May — Seattle police said on Saturday they were preparing for more weekend protests after a May Day march that turned violent when crowds hurled bottles and wrenches at officers, who responded with pepper spray and flash grenades.

Sixteen people were arrested in the violence, which erupted late Friday after a day of peaceful demonstrations to call attention to workers' rights, immigration issues and police treatment of minorities in the United States.

Three officers were hurt, including one who suffered a broken wrist and another with a dislocated shoulder, police said.

Law enforcement was ready in the event of more protests, department spokesman Drew Fowler said.

"We are prepared to support all demonstrations of free speech," he said in an email. "However if there is physical violence or property destruction we will take action to protect public safety."

Protesters annually assemble on 1 May as a day to focus attention on labour and immigration issues, but demonstrators in cities across the country also used the occasion to rally against



Police use pepper spray against demonstrators during an anti-capitalist protest in Seattle, Washington on 1 May, 2015.—REUTERS

police violence.

The violent protests in Seattle contrasted with peaceful and even celebratory demonstrations in Baltimore after prosecutors brought charges on Friday against all six officers involved in the arrest of Freddie Gray, the 25-year-old black man who died of spinal injuries suffered while in police custody last month. On Monday, the city was rocked by looting, arson and clashes with police.

In Seattle, anti-capitalist protesters wearing masks hurled wrenches, bottles and other items late Friday

at officers.

The violence was echoed in other US West Coast cities, with peaceful May Day marches breaking off into unsanctioned gatherings in Portland and Oakland, California.

An Oakland car lot shared by dealerships was particularly hard hit, with about 50 cars vandalized. Most had windows smashed out or shattered and one was set ablaze, said Steve Tittel, of King Security in Oakland.

Tittel said the protests had been hijacked.

"This is not the First

Amendment," he said. "This is just a chance to break stuff."

Twelve people were arrested in Oakland on a variety of charges, police said.

In Portland, police used pepper spray and flashbangs after some protesters threw objects at officers and tried to force their way on to a bridge, law enforcement said.

Seattle police said they would review the actions used by officers in accordance with a federal monitoring agreement to stem a pattern of excessive force in the department.—Reuters

## Classic film on Vietnam War screened for 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary

TOKYO, 3 May — "Hearts and Minds," an Academy Award-winning 1974 American documentary film about the Vietnam War, has hit screens in various parts of Japan to coincide with the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of the war on 30 April.

Directed by Peter Davis, the movie is designed to show the whole picture of the war with scenes showing actual combat, a woman carrying a baby suffering from burns, a small girl running naked on a road after being severely burned on her back and the agony faced by soldiers as well as interviews with politicians and news footage.

Jun Edoki, 52, a movie critic and the president of film distributor Eden Entertainment Inc, made arrangements to run the film.

"The fundamentals of recent conflicts and wars haven't changed at all since then," Edoki said. "We humans will commit the same mistakes unless we learn from the past."

"The smell of burning is growing strong in the world," Edoki said against the background of growing debate on revising Japan's war-renouncing pacifist Constitution, the rise of Islamic State militants in the Middle East, and terror and revenge attacks in many quarters of the globe.

"We should consider 'lessons of war' this year as it marks the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of World War II and the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War," Edoki said.

"Hearts and Minds" caused a great deal of impact on the movie industry.

Michael Moore said the movie inspired him to become a filmmaker. He produced a 2004 documentary film, "Fahrenheit 9/11," which covered American military person-



Japanese photojournalist Bunyo Ishikawa talks in Suwa, Nagano Prefecture, on 26 March, 2015, about his work in battlefronts during the Vietnam War. on 30 April marks the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of the war.—KYODO NEWS

nel and their families and hit out at the presidency of George W Bush for the invasion of Iraq in 2003 following the 2001 terror attacks on the United States.

The Vietnam War was "nothing but killing and demolition," recalled Bunyo Ishikawa, 77, a photo journalist who covered the war on the front line.

A large number of photos and videos about the war have been left because there were no restrictions on news coverage at that time, according to Ishikawa. But restrictions were introduced during the Gulf War of 1991 and the Iraq War as the authorities were eager to avoid public criticism against them.

Conditions for news coverage have greatly changed recently as journalists have been the targets of attacks by IS militants while one-sided propaganda proliferates via the Internet.

"As photos and footage of war are records of history, efforts to report what happens in war must continue," Ishikawa stressed.—Kyodo News

## Japan marks 68<sup>th</sup> Constitution anniversary as LDP eyes referendum in 2017

TOKYO, 3 May — Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's ruling Liberal Democratic Party is preparing the way for holding a referendum in 2017 to realize the first-ever amendment of the pacifist Constitution as Japan marked the 68<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the country's supreme law coming into force on Sunday.

The LDP wants to have the Diet initiate amendment of the US-drafted Constitution in 2017 after

the summer 2016 upper house election and then hold a referendum.

However, the latest opinion polls indicate the public remains divided over constitutional change.

A nationwide telephone survey conducted by Kyodo News in late April showed 46.7 percent expressed support for constitutional amendment, while 42.3 percent voiced opposition.

Defenders of Japan's

postwar Constitution in its present form and others advocating its amendment are set to hold rallies on Constitution Memorial Day on Sunday ahead of a meeting of the lower house's constitutional examination committee on Thursday.

Any initiative to revise the Constitution must be supported by at least two-thirds of each chamber of the Diet before it can be put to a national

referendum.

With the age for voting in plebiscites on constitutional changes set to be lowered to 18 from 20 four years after a revision to the national referendum law came into effect last June, the LDP sees the environment as having been set to begin detailed discussions on constitutional amendment, and it aims to lead the controversial discussions with other parties.

Kyodo News

## Dozens tried for mob killing of Afghan woman that sparked outcry

KABUL, 3 May — Dozens of Afghan men including several policemen faced trial on Saturday over the mob killing in Kabul of a 27-year-old woman accused of burning a Koran, a lynching that prompted unprecedented protests.

The trial, expected to last two days, was broadcast live on television.

A frenzied crowd beat and kicked the woman, named Farkhunda, to death on 19 March and set her body on fire as several police looked on near a shrine in central Kabul.

The attack was captured by mobile phone video and distributed online. Some of those arrested were tracked down after bragging about participat-

ing on social media.

One of the men on trial Saturday, identified only as Sharifullah, described his role in the attack.

"I kicked her once or twice but did not participate in the whole thing," he testified.

"Others were asking for a match box, so I gave them my lighter."

The broad-daylight

attack proved a polarising incident in conservative Muslim country.

Some defending the killing as a defence of Islam, but many others were outraged at the viciousness of the attack even before an investigation showed that Farkhunda had been falsely accused of desecrating the holy book.

Several protests

against violence against women sprung up in Kabul, including one in the last week that re-enacted the attack.

It is the first time since the Taliban were ousted in 2001 that a popular movement has mobilised in support of a woman.

Under the Islamist Taliban regime, women were banned from leav-

ing home without a male guardian, denied education and forced to wear the all-covering burqa.

Women's rights were enshrined in Afghanistan's constitution after the Taliban were ousted by a US-backed military intervention, but the majority of society remains deeply conservative.

Reuters



**Soldiers clean ashes in Ensenada, Llanquihue Province, Chile, on 2 May, 2015. The Chilean government on Thursday declared a state of “maximum alert” against the latest Calbuco volcanic eruption in the southern region of Los Lagos, adopting precautionary measures to face the emergency.—XINHUA**

## New York City police officer shot in head while conducting patrol

NEW YORK, 3 May — A New York City police officer was shot in the head on Saturday evening as he attempted to inquire about a suspect's actions during his patrol on the street.

The shooting came as the country is suffering a new round of tensions between African Americans and police forces.

At approximately 6:15 pm (2315 GMT), one of the New York city police officers was shot while operating an unmarked police car and conducting patrol with his partner in the borough of Queens, New York

City Police Commissioner Williams Bratton said at a press conference.

Officer Brian Moore was seated in the driver's seat and Officer Erik Jansen was in the passenger's seat when they observed a male, black, in his 30s, walking and adjusting an object in his waistband.

Moore positioned the vehicle behind the suspect and inquired about the suspect's actions. The male immediately removed a firearm from his waistband and turned in the direction of the officers and deliberately fired several times

into the vehicle, striking Moore in the head.

Both officers were still seated in the vehicle and did not have an opportunity to get out or return fire, Bratton said.

Moore was then rushed to Jamaica Hospital, while officers on the scene searched for the suspect. The suspect, identified as Demetrius Blackwell, was located and taken into custody later. Demetrius Blackwell is 35 years old and has an extensive arrest history, which includes criminal possession of a weapon and robbery, the

commissioner said.

“It is a painful day for all of us — it is a painful day for all New Yorkers, it's a painful day for all members of the NYPD,” said New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio.

He said Moore comes from a police family as his father and uncle were both retired as sergeants with the department, and praised his brave service and devotion to the job.

The officer is now in stable condition and the investigation of the event is underway, according to the officials.—Xinhua

## Attacks in Iraq's Anbar, Baghdad kill at least 26

BAGHDAD, 3 May — At least 12 Iraqi soldiers and paramilitary forces were killed on Saturday by suicide car bombs targeting an outpost in western Anbar Province, while attacks in the capital killed at least 14 civilians, security and medical sources said.

The fighters were part of a campaign announced by the government last month to recapture parts of the Sunni heartland from the jihadist militants of Islamic State, which has held the territory for the past year.

The forces were targeted in a train station in Garma, on the road to the

Islamic State stronghold of Falluja, 15 km (10 miles) to the east. The ultra-radical group did not claim the attacks, but the tactic is one they often employ.

“Five of the armoured car bombs managed to reach our forces in the train station and blew up. It reduced the station to dirt,” an army officer told Reuters by phone.

He said the fighters managed to destroy another six car bombs before they reached their targets.

The officer said the death toll was likely higher than 12. Bodies were still being pulled from the rubble and the army had sent

reinforcements that continued to clash with militants.

Tribal sources from Garma confirmed the attack but were not able to provide details. Government officials could not be reached for comment.

In Baghdad, two car bombs went off on Saturday evening near a restaurant and a gas station in the predominately-Shi'ite

district of Karrada Dakhil, killing 14 civilians and wounding more than 30 others, police and medics said. Such attacks are not uncommon in the capital, where Shi'ite areas are often targeted by the Sunni Islamist insurgents the government is struggling to dislodge from large sections of the country's north and west.—Reuters

## Ten wedding guests killed in south Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, 3 May — At least 10 wedding guests were killed and several others injured when high power electric wires fell at their van in Pakistan's south Dadu district on Sunday morning, local media reported.

Samaa TV said that the accident happened at about 10:40 am (local time) in Dadu, a town in the country's south Sindh province.

The van was carrying guests from Dadu to a

neighbouring town when the accident happened.

The bride and the groom remained safe in the accident as they were not in the van.

Police said that the van caught fire following the cables fall on it which resulted in the casualties.

The injured people were shifted to a nearby hospital where at least two of them were in critical condition.

Xinhua

## 18 killed in W Afghan bus accident

HERAT, (Afghanistan), 3 May—Some 18 people were killed while three others wounded after a mini bus plunged at a ravine in western Afghanistan's province of Badghis on Sunday, an official source said.

“The incident took place in Band-e-Mangan, a mountainous area in Bala Murghab district at around 10:00 am (local time) Sunday. The ill-fated vehicle was travelling from western Herat province to the northern part of the country,” district governor Ahmad Zia Akazai told Xinhua.

hwa.

The injured were shifted to a hospital by the locals. A rescue team and police were dispatched to the area to shift the bodies, the official noted.

Reckless driving might be the reason for the deadly accident, the governor added.

Although there is no statistic on the road-accident related casualties in Afghanistan, careless driving on the congested roads in the war-battered country often claims the lives of hundreds of travellers annually.—Xinhua

## Chinese woman punished for walking dog on expressway

WUHAN, 3 May — A young lady walking her pet dog along an expressway in China startled even local traffic police.

According to the transport department in central China's Hubei Province, a woman was found walking her dog on the emergency lane while her boy friend “answered an urgent call of nature” by the roadside with their car parked in the middle of the highway on Friday. According to the officer on the scene, the driver did not set up a

warning triangle behind the car and passing vehicles had to slow down suddenly and change lanes to avoid the danger.

In addition to a fine of 200 yuan (32 US dollars), six penalty points were put on the driver's license. An accumulation of 12 points within a year means the license is suspended.

Friday was the first day of China's three-day May Day holiday, during which expressway tolls are canceled to boost domestic tourism.—Xinhua

## WEATHER REPORT

**BAY INFERENCE:** Weather is partly cloudy to cloudy in the South Bay and partly cloudy in the Andaman Sea and elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

**FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 4<sup>th</sup> May, 2015:** Weather will be partly cloudy in Lower Sagaing, Magway and Bago Regions, Kayah State and rain or thundershowers are likely to be isolated in the remaining Regions and States. Degree of certainty is (60%).

**STATE OF THE SEA:** Seas will be moderate in Myanmar waters.

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## Going platinum blonde damages my hair: Kim Kardashian



Reality TV star Kim Kardashian

LOS ANGELES, 3 May — Reality TV star Kim Kardashian says even though she loves her platinum blonde hairdo, it has damaged the texture of her hair.

Kardashian, 34, made the confession in a backstage interview with Catt Sadler before her appearance on “Jimmy Kimmel Live!”, reported Aceshowbiz.

“I did love the blond

and I wish I could have kept it a little longer (but) I really wanted to go to Armenia being a brunette. I wish I had kept it a couple months longer,” she said. Kim had her hair back to dark color before heading to Armenia.

“I’ll do it again, but I’m going to have to wait now a couple years because it just damaged my hair so much — I just need to get it back,” she said.—PTI

## Mercedes Benz Fashion Week kicks off in Tbilisi

TBILISI, 3 May — Fashion industry is getting more and more serious in Georgia. Worldwide Brand Mercedes Benz Fashion Week is held for the first time in Tbilisi, the capital of Georgia.

Mercedes Benz Fashion Week Tbilisi will be held from 1 to 6 May, 2015, during the week-long event, 21 Georgian Designers along with their colleagues from Ukraine and Russia will present their works to various guests from different countries, representatives of different fashion magazines and fashion industry.

Designers, artists and creative minds from different parts of the world will be coming to the capital of Georgia, Tbilisi, to showcase their creativity and talent to fashion experts and professionals from around the globe.

Two international projects will be held during fashion week: art & fashion days ARTGEORGIA and international fashion design contest BENEXT. Exhibitions, shows and other performances will be held in places all around Tbilisi.

Mercedes Benz Fashion Week Tbilisi was opened by very beautiful show of Georgian designer Datuna Sulikashvili on Friday. He presented collection based on 3 colors black, white and coral red. His collection was very feminine as usually, he presented long dresses and mixed costumes made of very beautiful materials, both very light and heavy patterns mixed with each other.

The Show was attended by almost every celebrity from Georgian society and also guests from Azerbaijan, Ukraine, as well as journalists and bloggers from Europe.—Xinhua



A model presents a creation of David Sulikashvili during the Mercedes Benz Fashion Week, in Tbilisi, capital of Georgia, on 1 May, 2015. —XINHUA



Director Josh Trank is no longer attached to helm the upcoming spin-off of popular action franchise “Star Wars”.—REUTERS

## Josh Trank quits ‘Star Wars’ spin-off

LOS ANGELES, 3 May — Director Josh Trank is no longer attached to helm the upcoming spin-off of popular action franchise “Star Wars”.

Trank called his decision to exit the “Star Wars” universe “personal” and thanked the team of Lucasfilm and Disney for their support. The 31-year-old “Chronicle” director further said he wanted to explore “original, creative

opportunities”.

“After a year of having the incredible honour of developing with the wonderful and talented people at Lucasfilm, I’m making a personal decision to move forward on a different path. I’ve put a tremendous amount of thought into this, and I know deep down in my heart that I want to pursue some original creative opportunities,” Trank said in a statement.

“That said, the Star Wars universe has always been one of my biggest influences, and I couldn’t be more excited to witness its future alongside my millions of fellow Star Wars fans. I want to thank my friends Kathleen Kennedy, Kiri Hart, Simon Kinberg, and everyone at Lucasfilm and Disney for the amazing opportunity to have been a part of this. May the Force be with you all,” he said.

Sources close to the development, however, said Trank was often indecisive and uncommunicative.

His unusual conduct during the making of Fox’s upcoming “Fantastic Four” movie had apparently raised alarm among Lucasfilm executives that were entrusting him with the second Star Wars standalone film.

PTI

## Selena Gomez hits back at body shamer

LOS ANGELES, 3 May — Singer-actress Selena Gomez has defended herself against body weight critic.

Shortly after noticing hateful weight criticisms under one of her Instagram photos, Justin Bieber’s ex-girlfriend hit back at the body shamer in the comments section underneath the photo.

A fan commented on the photo, saying, “Mmm...@selenagomez you need to work out! Please stop eating junk food.”

The same fan continued to criticize the pop star’s body weight.

“She is not curvy at all,” so the body shamer added. “She’s an actress she needs to tone her body,

in the business sadly the image its important I’m just saying that she needs to workout thats nothing wrong with that... @hugging-selena\_@selenagomez.”

The 22-year-old star immediately slammed the

hater in the comments section. “You’re disgusting. IM IN the business and I could care less about ‘they’ or you say I should look like. I don’t need to do anything other than love myself, take care of my work, fans, family and friends.”—PTI



Singer-actress Selena Gomez

## Julianna Margulies awarded star on Hollywood Walk Of Fame

LOS ANGELES, 3 May — “The Good Wife” star Julianna Margulies has been honoured with a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

The 48-year-old actress is a supporter of the charity Project ALS, which aims to help find effective treatments and ultimately a cure for amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, also known as Lou Gehrig’s disease, reported People magazine.

“If you can have the light shine on something, if you show up to something, then it makes it all worthwhile.” Theatre producer Jenifer Estess, a close friend of Julianna’s, was diagnosed with ALS while the actress was appearing in ‘ER’. At the time, she rallied her co-stars to show their support for Project ALS,” Margulies said.



“The Good Wife” star Julianna Margulies

“The first event I went to, I was dragging all my co-stars: George Clooney, Noah Wyle... And then the next year, it was Brad Pitt and Jennifer Aniston and the cast of ‘Friends’. It was quite remarkable.”

The Walk of Fame star is just the latest in a series of awards Margulies has received throughout her career, including no less than three Emmys — two for “The Good Wife”, in 2011 and 2014; and one for “ER”

in 1995, for her role as nurse Carol Hathaway.

The Walk of Fame honours achievements in the entertainment industry, celebrating everyone from TV stars to directors and producers, as well as several fictional characters, like Mickey Mouse, Godzilla and Shrek.—PTI

## GENERAL



Japan's Kenta Matsudaira (R) and Koki Niwa are subdued after losing to China's Fan Zhengdong and Zhou Yu in four straight games in the men's doubles semifinals at the world table tennis championships in Suzhou, China, on 2 May 2015. — KYODO NEWS

## Japanese men settle for bronze in worlds doubles

SUZHOU, 3 May — Japan's Kenta Matsudaira and Koki Niwa will leave the table tennis world championships with bronze medals in men's doubles after losing their semifinal on Saturday.

Matsudaira and Niwa were beaten in straight games by China's Fan Zhengdong and Zhou Yu 11-3, 11-7, 12-10, 16-14.

"It was a comprehensive defeat," Matsudaira said. "I thought we would be able to give them a better game, but they took the initiative and prevented us from playing our own

game."

In the men's singles quarterfinals, Japan's world No 5 Jun Mizutani was on the receiving end of a master class from world No 3 China's Zhang Jike, losing 11-4, 11-6, 10-12, 11-5, 11-9.

"Of all the matches I've played against him, this was my worst," Mizutani said. "He hit amazing balls. It took time to get used to them, and that was everything."

"It drove home to me how my technical skill is still insufficient."

KyodoNews

## SurveyMonkey CEO, husband of Facebook's Sandberg, dies

SAN FRANCISCO, 3 May — Dave Goldberg, Chief Executive Officer of SurveyMonkey and husband of Facebook Chief Operating Officer Sheryl Sandberg, died unexpectedly on Friday night, his brother wrote in a Facebook post on Saturday.

"It's with incredible shock and sadness that I'm letting our friends and family know that my amazing brother, Dave Goldberg, beloved husband of Sheryl Sandberg, father of two wonderful children, and son of Paula Goldberg, passed away suddenly last night," Robert Goldberg wrote. Goldberg was known for his low-key demeanour and the grace and good humour with which he handled being married to one of the nation's most recognizable executives. In her book "Lean In," Sandberg attributed much of her



File photo of Sheryl Sandberg, Chief Operating Officer (COO) of Facebook with her husband David Goldberg, CEO of SurveyMonkey in Sun Valley, Idaho on 9 July, 2014. — REUTERS

own success to her marriage to Goldberg, who she said supported her career decisions and shared equally in the work of raising their young children. The two married in 2004.

Tributes to Goldberg poured in over social media from friends and other executives, including Facebook chief Mark Zuckerberg, who called Goldberg "an amazing person."

"Kindest, most generous, loving father, loyal husband, great CEO, & sweetest friend," tweeted Salesforce CEO Marc Benioff. "May his memory be a blessing." Television and movie writer John Quaintance said on Facebook that Goldberg was the first person to encourage him to write professionally, changing the course of his career. Goldberg was also the first

person Quaintance met who owned a Blackberry device. "I rolled my eyes at the idea that people were ever going to need to read their emails away from the office," he wrote.

Goldberg, 47, joined SurveyMonkey, which helps organizations conduct surveys, in 2009. Valued at \$2 billion, SurveyMonkey is backed by Bain Capital Ventures, Google Capital, Tiger Global and others.

"Dave's genius, courage and leadership were overshadowed only by his compassion, friendship and heart," the company said in a statement. "His greatest love was for his family. Our sympathy goes out to them and to all who were touched by this extraordinary man."

The family did not disclose the cause of death.

Reuters

## World No 1 Ding wins women's singles title at TT worlds

SUZHOU, 3 — World number one Ding Ning defeated her compatriot and world number two Liu Shiwen in seven sets for women's singles title at the world table tennis championships here Saturday evening.

It was Ding's second world championships title after she triumphed in 2011 worlds held in Rotterdam, the Netherlands.

Coming into the final with a favourable 11-6 head-to-head record against Ding, Liu hit top form first and took the opening set at 11-7, but Ding responded quickly by winning the next three sets to lead 3-1 overall. The momentum, however, was switched to Liu's side as she pulled back two

sets to level the match and forced a deciding seventh set. Trailing 0-2 in the final set, Ding seemed to injure her right ankle while trying to save the ball.

Having received a 10-minute medical treatment, Ding showed her battling qualities at the resumption of the game and overtook the lead at 7-5.

Limping from time to time in the remaining game, Ding kept the pressure upon Liu and never looked back before winning at 11-8.

"I definitely didn't want to give up since I had come so far. I just wanted to give out all my strength in this match. Finally I won the match and I feel that it is just like a dream," Ding said of her injury.

Ding's title is also China's 11th straight women's singles title at the world championships. Chinese women have monopolized the event since 1995, with Deng Yaping winning

twice straight, Wang Nan three times in a row, Zhang Yining and Ding twice, Guo Yue and Li Xiaoxia once. Chinese Mu Zi and Li Xiaoxia finished joint third.

Xinhua



China's Ding Ning competes during Women's Singles Final against her compatriot Liu Shiwen at the 53rd Table Tennis World Championships in Suzhou, city of east China's Jiangsu Province, on May 2, 2015. Ding Ning won the match 4-3 and claimed the title. — XINHUA

## mitv Myanmar International

(4-5-2015 07:00 am ~ 5-5-2015 07:00 am) MST

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| <b>6:00 am</b>         | <b>8:00 am</b>              |
| • Mono Classical Songs | • TV Drama Series           |
| <b>6:15 am</b>         | <b>8:50 am</b>              |
| • Myanmar Series       | • Pyi Thu Ni Ti             |
| <b>6:55 am</b>         | <b>9:05 am</b>              |
| • Fashion Show         | • ASEAN China Cultural Show |
| <b>7:15 am</b>         | <b>9:25 am</b>              |
| • TV Drama Series      | • Myanmar Video             |

## Italy says 3,700 boat migrants rescued, operations ongoing

ROME, 3 May — Nearly 3,700 migrants were rescued from boats near the coast of Libya on Saturday and early Sunday and more rescue operations were expected during the day as people smugglers took advantage of calm seas, Italy's coast guard said.

All of those rescued were being brought back to Italian shores, a spokesman for the coast guard said, and some reached Lampedusa, Italy's southernmost island, during the night.

The mild spring weather and the calm summer seas are expected to push total arrivals in Italy for 2015 to 200,000, an increase of 30,000 over last year, according to an Interior Ministry projection.

The nationalities of those rescued had not yet

been determined, he said. Italy coordinated the rescue efforts mounted by a total of 13 vessels. Italy's navy, coast guard and finance police were involved, as was a French ship acting on behalf of the European border control agency.

Growing lawlessness and anarchy in Libya is giving free hand to people smugglers who make an average of 80,000 euros (\$90,000) from each boatload of migrants, according to an ongoing investigation by a southern Italian court.

Shocked by what was described as the most deadly Mediterranean shipwreck in memory last month, EU leaders agreed to triple funding for its Triton sea patrol mission after a migrant boat capsized and up to 900 drowned. — Reuters

# Mayweather cements legacy with Pacquiao win

LAS VEGAS, 3 May — Floyd Mayweather Jr cemented his place among the pantheon of boxing greats by improving to 48-0 with a unanimous decision over Manny Pacquiao on Saturday in a fight that lived up to its immense hype and price tag.

Mayweather weathered an early assault from the Filipino southpaw before winning the later rounds using his reach and jab to finish ahead on all three scorecards in a welterweight showdown set to be the top grossing prize fight of all-time.

“When the history books are written, it was worth the wait,” Mayweather said in the ring after a four-belt unification bout that was more than five years in the making.

Though Pacquiao repeatedly forced Mayweather to backpedal, the wily American blunted his opponent’s best efforts by using his renowned defensive skills while getting in several telling jabs and punches of his own.

Mayweather and Pacquiao had promised to deliver on years of hype and give fans their money’s worth and were true to their word in delivering an entertaining contest that had the capacity crowd on its feet roaring from the opening bell to the end of the 12 round showcase.

“Manny Pacquiao is a hell of a fighter, I see now why he is at the pinnacle of boxing,” the 38-year-old Mayweather said after an emotional embrace with Pacquiao. “I’m a smart fighter, I outboxed him.

“We knew what we had to do. He’s a tough competitor... a very awkward fighter and I had to take my time and watch him closely.”

The fight between the two greatest boxers of their generation was one that appeared might never happen as Pacquiao resisted Mayweather’s demands for blood-testing for five years.

When the two camps finally hammered out a deal, it was the richest in boxing history, setting new records for pay-per-view (PPV) buys and gate receipts.



Floyd Mayweather, Jr of the US lands a left to the face of Manny Pacquiao of the Philippines (R) in the 11<sup>th</sup> round during their welterweight WBO, WBC and WBA (Super) title fight in Las Vegas, Nevada on 2 May, 2015.—REUTERS

The fighters were also paid royally for their night’s work, with Mayweather guaranteed \$120 million and Pacquiao \$80 million although both men could pocket much more depending on the number of PPV purchases.

For Mayweather, the fight was one that will shape

his legacy.

Even if he were to have retired unbeaten there would have forever been a question mark hanging over his career without at least one meeting against his Filipino rival.—Reuters

## Defeats leave Burnley and QPR on brink, Man Utd lose

LONDON, 3 May — Burnley and Queens Park Rangers’ Premier League survival hopes were left hanging by a thread after defeats and unfavourable results elsewhere left them rooted to the foot of the table on Saturday.

Manchester United slipped to a third successive defeat, 1-0 at home to West Bromwich Albion, at the other end of the league

and missed the chance to go second behind Chelsea who can lift the title on Sunday by beating Crystal Palace at Stamford Bridge.

Most interest on a dramatic Saturday was centred on the relegation dogfight, with Burnley and QPR plummeting ever closer to the trap door.

Mark Noble’s first-half spot kick was enough to condemn Burnley, who

had Michael Duff sent off following the award of the penalty, to a 19<sup>th</sup> league defeat this season as they went down 1-0 at West Ham United.

Sean Dyche’s basement side, who are eight points adrift of safety, now need to win their remaining three games to have any chance of avoiding the drop.

“You can’t guarantee

you win with 11 v 11 but it gives you a better chance,” Dyche told Sky Sports. “The way the team operate they will give everything and we will continue to do that.”

Burnley have won many plaudits with their effort and application this season but a measly return of 26 goals, the lowest in the top flight, has undermined their campaign.

The visitors laid siege to West Ham’s goal in the closing stages but were again found wanting in attack. Second from bottom QPR, one point ahead of Burnley, also face an almost impossible task to preserve their top-flight status after losing 2-1 at Liverpool through goals by Philippe Coutinho and Steven Gerrard.

QPR were desperately close to claiming a credible point but Gerrard, playing his penultimate game at Anfield, headed the winner past keeper Rob Green in the 87<sup>th</sup> minute after Leroy Fer had equalised Coutinho’s early goal.

“We’ve let another point slip,” said QPR manager Chris Ramsey. “We’ve been poor at maintaining our concentration in the last few minutes in quite a few games.”

Reuters

## Chelsea beat Palace to clinch Premier League title



Eden Hazard celebrates scoring the first goal for Chelsea during their Barclays Premier League at Stamford Bridge on 3 May, 2015.—REUTERS

LONDON, 3 May — Chelsea clinched their first Premier League title for five years with a 1-0 victory against Crystal Palace at a jubilant Stamford Bridge on Sunday.

Playmaker Eden Hazard scored the crucial goal in the 45<sup>th</sup> minute when he headed home the rebound after Palace keeper Julian Speroni had saved his weak penalty.

Chelsea were tested at times by a dangerous Palace side but the final whistle was greeted by raucous scenes as Jose Mourinho’s side clinched their fifth top-flight title and first since 2010.

Chelsea have 83 points from 35 games and cannot be surpassed by closest rivals Manchester City, who visit Tottenham Hotspur later on Sunday, and Arsenal both of whom trail by 16 points. Palace remain 12<sup>th</sup> with 42 points.—Reuters



Manchester United’s Robin Van Persie has his penalty saved by West Bromwich Albion’s Boaz Myhill during their Barclays Premier League at Old Trafford on 2 May, 2015.—REUTERS