

President U Thein Sein graces impressive ceremony of novitiate in Sagaing Region

NAY PYI TAW, 24 May — The government of Sagaing Region on Sunday organized an impressive ceremony of novitiate for children who have never attained novicehood in the village of Bukaing in Myaung township, Sagaing Region, with President U Thein Sein attending the ceremony and donating money for novices.

Bhamo Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kumarabhivamsa, Chairman of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee, ordained over 7,000 children as novices.

The Bhamo Sayadaw gave Ninefold Precept to the congregation, followed by recitation of parittas by members of the Sangha.

President U Thein Sein donated K10.8 million for 108 novices and K9m for lunch for monks and novices.

The president also presented offertories to the Bhamo Sayadaw, who in return presented a certificate of honour to the president.

Union ministers, chief ministers of regions and deputy ministers presented

offertories to monks.

Union Minister for Religious Affairs U Soe Win briefed monks on religious affairs.

A sermon delivered by the Bhamo Sayadaw was followed by the sharing of merits gained from praiseworthy deeds.

The president offered a set of monastic items each to the novices and lunch to members of the Sangha. He also had a group photo taken together with the novices.

The president and his entourage visited a model village called Parimma in Myaung, a historical hometown of King Kyansit, where they paid homage to Labamuni Buddha Image at Hti Hlaing Shin Pagoda.

The president offered gold foils, lights, flowers and water before signing in the visitors' book. He also donated money for the pagoda through the board of trustees, which in return presented a picture of Buddha Image to the president.

The president also inspected the condition of Chindwin River and its environs.—MNA



President U Thein Sein offers eight prerequisites to novices in Bukaing Village, Myaung township.—IPRD

Bangladesh Govt to bring back 208 Bangladeshis rescued by Myanmar Navy

YANGON, 24 May — The Bangladesh Independent paper issued on 24 May

published a news story stating that the Bangladesh government is all set to bring

back the 208 Bangladeshi citizens rescued by the Myanmar Navy on May 22.



Chief Minister of Rakhine State U Maung Maung Ohn and officials of UN agencies comfort boat people at the relief camp in Ale Thankyaw village in Maungdaw Township, Rakhine State.—MNA

Initiating the process, the Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) Zonal Commander of Teknaf has sent a letter to Myanmar authorities concerned yesterday, sources in the Home ministry, Coast Guard and the BGB said. Zonal Commander of BGB in Teknaf Lt Col Abu Zar told The Independent that they have written to the Myanmar authorities informing them that a high-powered team headed by the BGB's Sector Commander of Cox's Bazar will be sent to identify the Bangladeshi citizens and bring them back to the country, it said.

It also quoted Lt Col Abu Zar as saying "We have been informed through sources that the rescued Bangladeshis are staying at a refugee camp located at a Madrasha (See page 9)

Myanma Insurance to launch new health insurance system

YANGON, 24 May — Myanma Insurance is planning to launch its new health insurance system, starting to sell health insurance to people as from the end of May, according to an official of the Myanma Insurance.

Each unit costs K50,000, offering a 30-day leave for medical care at hospital per year with K15,000 as an expense for medication per day.

A person is eligible to buy up to five units, according to the state-run Myanma Insurance. The Myanma Insurance begins to operate the health insurance system in Yangon first, and so far private companies have not yet been given a green light to run the service.

Seven types of insurance have been allowed so far to 12 private companies to run in Myanmar.—GNLM

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Taungtha Township to electrify all villages



TAUNGTHA, 24 May—A ceremony to launch supply of electricity to rural area in Taungtha Township was held in Shaukpin Village, Taungtha Township, Mandalay Region, on 23 May. Officials switched on

supply of electricity to the village.

Up to now, Taungtha Township has electrified 53 villages through the power grid, 28 villages through diesel-generators, 34 villages through solar system

and one village through biogas.

Local authorities are making efforts for installation of power lines to 39 villages through the power grid.

Aukawthan (Thaungtha)

Rural residents to receive potable water soon



Region Minister makes donations for regional development

MANDALAY, 24 May—Mandalay Region Minister for Social Affairs Dr Win Hlaing and wife on Saturday donated K5 million to the fund of Maha Khem-itayama Thitseint Monastery in Upoktaw Ward in Aungmyethazan Township

in Mandalay Region.

The aim of donation was to construct a new religious building in the precinct of the monastery.

The region minister and family also donated one vehicle each to the abbot of Yadana Monas-

tery, township red cross society and a local social organization, K1 million to the funds of paving two streets in Aungmyethazan Township and K3 million to township library.

Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)



NAY PYI TAW, 24 May—Government sinks tube-wells in the rural areas of Zabuthiri Township spending its budget for 2015-2016 FY, aiming to distribute potable water to residents.

U Myo Nyunt, a member of Nay Pyi Taw Council, on Sunday inspected progress in sinking tube-wells and construction of an asphalt road in Tagyikon and Shataw villages, meeting with local people to clarify progress of the works.

In Balatheikdi and Nyanatheikdi wards, U Myo Nyunt urged staff families to work hard, promote friendly relations among them and cultivate kitchen crops.

Shwe Kokko

Myittashin Blood Donors Association receives cash donation



MYANAUNG, 24 May—Daw Win Sint and family living in Myanaung Township in Ayeyawady Region, presented K70,000 for an oxygen cylinder in memory of late U Ohn Maung to Myittashin Blood Donors Association Saturday.

The local charity association was founded seven

years ago with the aim of providing blood donation for emergency cases. The association in partnership with Myanaung Hospital also provides ambulance services to emergency patients, association secretary U Than Tun said.

Nay Win Zaw (Myanaung)

Traditional marionette training aims to develop Myanmar's puppet techniques

MANDALAY, 24 May—Organized by Myanmar Puppeteers Association, a training to disseminate Myanmar traditional marionette techniques on Saturday opened at Mya Mandalay Hotel in Chanayethazan Township, Mandalay.

At the opening ceremony, Patron U Ye Dwe of the association shared

his knowledge on background history of emerging marionette entertainment in the country, with urging the new generations to preserve the traditional arts and culture.

Association chairperson Daw Ma Ma Naing and vice chairman U Sein Myint explained purposes of the training and interrelations among arts

of marionette, painting and sculpture to the attendees.

The course runs from 23 to 27 May, with puppet experts from Yangon and Mandalay and lecturers from National University of Arts and Culture (Mandalay) to give lectures to the trainees.

Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)



President U Thein Sein sends message of felicitations to Argentine counterpart

NAY PYI TAW, 25 May — U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to Her Excellency Madam Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner, President of the Argentine Republic, on the occasion of the anniversary of the National Day of the Argentine Republic which falls on 25th May 2015.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 24 May — Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham and wife Daw Nang Shwe Hmon, Chief Minister of Shan State U Sao Aung Myat, deputy minister and officials attended the meeting with local people held at the village-tract hall of Naungmon Village in Lashio Township on Sunday.

Present were state ministers, Hluttaw representatives, departmental staff, village administrators, town elders, cultural troupe and local people.

At the meeting, the vice president explained the two purposes of meeting with people from 17 village-tracts by saying that one was to inspect designated sites for construction of a station hospital and a fire station and farmland allotted for locals and to fulfill the needs of locals while discussing other matters.

Then, the vice president pointed out a few examples of success achieved

Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham attends to needs of local people in Lashio



Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham views site chosen for construction of fire station near Naungmon Village in Lashio Township.—MNA



during the four years of the term of the government such as availability of mobile SIM cards, electricity, better transportation services, compulsory education and free health care

not only for urban areas but also for rural areas before saying that his visit to the area is to fulfill other needs of the local people including education, health, electricity, water supply and

transportation.

Then, village administrators and officials reported to the vice president on requirements for regional development and the chief minister and officials explained the tasks being carried out to fulfill the requirements.

After the meeting, the vice president cordially greeted the local people and presented cash donation for development of Naungmon Village to the

village administrator.

Afterwards, the vice president inspected the site for the fire station and the farmland allotted for locals.

Then, the vice president paid homage to the abbot of the village monastery and donated cash and offertories.

In the afternoon, the vice president and wife attended the ceremony to honour Presiding Naya-ka Sayadaw of Thirimingalar Mansu Monastery

Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Bhaddanta Poññananda, who won honorary certificates of the president.

The vice president and wife paid homage to the Sayadaw at the ceremony before donating cash for the Sayadaw.

The vice president and wife, the chief minister and well-wisher donated K 28.2 million for the Sayadaw at the ceremony.

MNA

Union Minister participates in 21st International Conference on the Future of Asia



Union Minister U Soe Thane addresses 21st International Conference on the Future of Asia.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 24 May — Union Minister at the President Office U Soe Thane spoke about formation of ASEAN Economic Community and its effectiveness on Asia, remaining reform process and Myanmar's future at the 21st International Confer-

ence on the Future of Asia, organized by Nikki Inc, in Tokyo, Japan on 21 and 22 May.

The president, former prime minister, senior minister and ministers of Mongolia, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam, the Philippines, Cambodia

and India and ASEAN Secretary-General Le Luong Minh expressed their opinions on future of the Asia.

The Union minister called on Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance of Japan Taro Aso on 21 May and exchanged views on cooperation in economic development between the two countries.

The Union minister also called on Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and discussed political, economic and social progress in Myanmar.

The union minister also met with Emeritus Senior Minister Goh Chok Tong of Singapore and Vice President of Indonesia Kalla and focused on human smuggling and endeavours of Myanmar.

On 21 evening, he attended the dinner hosted by Nikki Inc together with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and leaders of Asian countries.—MNA

Consultative workshop agrees on basic principles for framework for administrative reform

NAY PYI TAW, 24 May — The Consultative Workshop on Developing a Framework for Administrative Reform continued its second day at the Myanmar International Convention Centre-2 here on Sunday, according to officials.

Topics discussed in the section on capacity building for government employees included leadership and meritocratic system, enhancement of skills management, and modification of civil servant laws, rules and regulations.

Discussions in the section of public services focused on implementation of policies, skills management and issues related to the fulfillment of public desires in a

short time.

The section on decentralization covered topics such as delegation of financial issues and development funds at township level.

The section on transparency and accountability dealt with democratic accountability in delivery of public service, information gathering and complaints handling.

On behalf of the Administrative Reform Consultative Committee (ARCC), Union Minister U Hla Tun spoke words of appreciation to participants at the two-day workshop.

He described capacity building, decentralization and transparency and accountability all play a vital

part in the process of the country's administrative reform, stressing harmony in their implementation of the tasks.

He expressed his belief that the workshop would be productive in establishing a framework for administrative reform, which he said would convince the international community to see the government's priorities, thereby paving the way for more assistance and investment.

According to officials, the workshop agreed on basic principles for developing the framework, followed by a roadmap for future procedures that will be developed and submitted to the government.—MNA

Awaing Kyaungsu Bridge links Hinthada, Kyonpyaw townships

HINTHADA, 24 May — Awaing Kyaungsu Bridge was commissioned into service in Kyonpyaw Township, Ayeyawady Region, on 21 May.

Speaker of Ayeyawady Region Hluttaw U Tin Soe spoke on the occasion while Head of Hinthada District Department of Rural Development U Aung Thet Shay explained construction of the bridge for improvement of transport.

Ayeyawady Region Minister for Kayin Ethnic Affairs U Mahn Than Shwe presented a commemorative pennant to the speaker.

The Department of Rural Development assigned duty to Sitha Shwe Thway



Company for construction of the bridge. The construction company donated cash to the fund for construction

of a laterite road.

The Department of Rural Development allocated K91.2 million for construction

of a 160x12x22-foot bridge to link Hinthada and Kyonpyaw townships.

Kyaw Kyaw (Hinthada)

4th BEHS in Kalay ready to admit students in 2015

KALAY, 24 May — Construction of new building that started on 23 September 2014 has been completed at No 4 Basic Education High School in Kalay, Sagaing Region.

The government allowed construction of BEHS No 4 on 2 June 2014 on a five-acre land plot on Judson Road in Thazin Ward, Kalay. A 140-foot-long and 30-foot-wide three-storey building was constructed on the land plot for admitting the students. Township authorities managed timely completion of the school building to be able to admit students in 2015 academic year.

Joe Net



Agri Bank plans to disburse more than K3 billion to 12,000 farmers in Pale Tsp

PALE, 24 May — Myanma Agricultural Development Bank under the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation started disbursement of agricultural loans to local farmers as of 21 May.

The bank plans to deliver K3,584.44 million to more than 12,000 farmers from 56 village-tracts in Pale Township, Sagaing Region. Manager U Tin Aung Myint of Pale Township

MADB said, "We disbursed K28.2 million for 217 acres of monsoon paddy and 325 acres of pigeon pea to 72 farmers on 21 May."

The bank plans to issue K100,000 per acres of paddy and K20,000 acres of other crops to the farmers who must submit the farming right certificates, according to the bank official.

Min Khant Soe
(Zeyar Myay)



Departmental personnel, members of political parties and social organizations on 23 May participate in collection of garbage on roads in Myanaung, Ayeyawady Region, for the second time with a view to keeping urban area clean and pleasant.—NAY WIN ZAW (MYANAUNG)

Ethnics in Launglon receive citizenship scrutiny cards, households registrations

DAWEI, 24 May — Head of Launglon Township Immigration and National Registration Department and staff issued citizenship scrutiny cards and household registrations to ethnics residing in the township at Basic Education Primary School in Ward A, Launglon, Taninthayi Region, on 23 May.

The immigration staff officers and local authorities presented 54 citizenship scrutiny cards and three households registrations to the ethnics and households



in Ward A and 38 hold registrations to households in Ward D. cards and five households the eligible people and Po Shwe Thun (Dawei)

REGIONAL

Abe “very pleased” with Japan lawmaker’s meeting with Xi

BEIJING, 24 May — Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has expressed his delight at knowing Chinese President Xi Jinping attended a dinner party this weekend aimed at promoting exchanges between the two countries, a lawmaker said on Sunday.

Toshihiro Nikai, a veteran lawmaker from Japan’s ruling party, said he has already spoken with Abe over the phone and explained to the premier about his conversation with Xi at the event on Saturday in the Great Hall of the People.

“As Prime Minister Abe was paying attention to our meeting (with Xi), he was very pleased,” Nikai told a press conference to wrap up his three-day visit to Beijing.

The ceremony was attended by a Japanese delegation of more than 3,000 people, including lawmakers, local government officials and representatives from the tourism industry, and some senior Chinese officials.

In his first appearance at such an event involving



An event aimed at promoting exchanges between China and Japan is held in Beijing’s Great Hall of the People on 23 May, 2015. Chinese President Xi Jinping attended in his first appearance at such an event involving Japan since taking office in 2012.—KYODO NEWS

Japan since taking office in 2012, Xi said he wants to promote friendly cooperation between Asia’s two biggest economies.

“China attaches great importance to developing Sino-Japanese relations,” Xi said. “China has not changed this basic policy and will not change it in the future.”

Although Xi criticized Japan’s past militarism during his address, which lasted about 10 minutes, much of his speech focused on the need to strengthen people-to-people exchanges, especially those between younger generations from both sides, for further improvement of bilateral relations.

Xi’s remarks at the gathering are seen by Japanese government officials as the clearest sign yet that Beijing is prepared to seek a broader thawing of relations with Tokyo.

Chinese media also gave favourable coverage to the delegation’s visit and

highlighted Xi’s future-oriented remarks, in a significant departure from the past several years of critical reports about Japan, when ties between the two countries were chilled by disputes over territory and wartime history. At the venue of the party, Nikai, who headed the delegation, also delivered a personal letter from Abe to

Xi. Known for his good relations with China, Nikai said the delegation’s visit, which was not funded by the Japanese government, has succeeded in setting the stage for accelerating the pace at which tensions between Tokyo and Beijing ease.

After listening to Xi’s remarks, Nikai said he has felt that Japanese people in various fields should make more efforts to build a better future for the two countries.

Touching also on a statement Abe is due to release this summer on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II, Nikai said, “It has been brought to international attention. I am hoping it to be a good one that will help (Japan) to have friendly external ties.”

The 76-year-old lawmaker from the Liberal Democratic Party said he will inform Abe of all the details of his discussions with Xi and other senior Chinese officials after he returns to Tokyo on Tuesday.—Kyodo News



Photo shows various Chinese newspapers dated on 24 May, 2015, reporting on President Xi Jinping’s attendance at an event aimed at promoting exchanges between China and Japan held the previous day in Beijing’s Great Hall of the People.

KYODO NEWS

Women activists cross DMZ to South Korea

PAJU, 24 May — A group of international women activists crossed the heavily-fortified Demilitarised Zone (DMZ) between North and South Korea on Sunday in what they said was a symbolic act for peace.

North and South Korea are still technically at war after the 1950-53 Korean War ended in a truce, not a peace treaty. Despite its name the DMZ is one of the most heavily militarised and fortified borders in the world.

“We feel very celebratory and positive that we have created a voyage across the DMZ in peace and reconciliation,” said US activist and feminist Gloria Steinem, honorary co-chair of the WomanCrossDMZ group, which is calling for a permanent peace treaty to replace the armistice which ended the conflict.

The group, which had initially set out to embark on a symbolic walk across the DMZ at the Panmunjom “Truce Village”, instead crossed from North Korea in a bus flanked by South Korean military and police cars at a customs area which connects to the jointly-operated Kaesong Industrial Zone.



Female activists from around the world arrive at Pyongyang airport in Pyongyang, North Korea, in this photo taken and released by Kyodo on 19 May, 2015.—REUTERS

“This is about human relationships, this is about us seeing our common humanity in each other,” Mairead Maguire, Northern Ireland peace activist and Nobel Laureate, said at a press conference on the southern side of the inter-Korean border.

On the South Korean side, the group united with a larger group of South Korean activists, and held a rally at a pavilion just south of the Demilitarised Zone.

But a few hundred metres away, between lines of South Korean police, the reception was more frosty as around 500 conservative protesters greeted the WomenCrossDMZ group with placards telling them to “go

to hell”, “get out” or go back to North Korea.

The group is not without its critics further afield too. Washington DC-based blogger and attorney Joshua Stanton has for weeks on his blog One Free Korea said the march detracts from human rights issues in North Korea, and ultimately works in the isolated and repressive state’s favour.

“What Pyongyang really wants is to use peace talks to lift UN sanctions, gain recognition as a nuclear state, and extract ‘security guarantees’ to silence criticism of its crimes against humanity,” Stanton said in an email.

North Korea is under

heavy UN and US sanctions designed to stop the procurement of luxury goods, and technology related to its nuclear and ballistic missile programmes.

An introductory video on WomenCrossDMZ.org, the group’s official website, said millions of North Koreans lack “basics of survival” because of what it describes as “crippling embargos” against the North Korean government.

Stanton said such statements from the group’s organisers play down the role of the North Korean leadership in the isolated country’s lack of development and brutal oppression.

Reuters

Gov’t declares high alert after landslide blocks Kali Gandaki River in Nepal

KATHMANDU, 24 May — A massive landslide has blocked Kali Gandaki River in western Nepal’s Myagdi district since early Sunday morning.

According to the Ministry of Home Affairs, the landslide triggered by earthquake has blocked the river in Baisari village development committee, burying a few dozen houses.

However, no human casualty has been reported so far.

The Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment has immediately declared “high alert” in the settlements along the banks

of Kali Gandaki River on its website. Locals of district headquarters Beni and Galeshwar among others have started to move to safer locations. Meanwhile, residents living in the downstream of the river from districts like Syangja, Parbat, Myagdi, Baglung, Gulmi, Palpa, Nawalparasi have been asked to stay alert.

The home ministry also informed that a chopper with six rescue personnel have been mobilized in Myagdi this morning for the rescue efforts. Nepal Police, Nepal Army and officials from the home ministry are already on the scene.—Xinhua



Nepal Army personnel demolish a damaged house in Kathmandu, Nepal, on 23 May, 2015. — XINHUA

Iran agrees to “managed” inspections to military sites for nuclear deal: negotiator

TEHERAN, 24 May — Iranian negotiation team has accepted inspections into Iran’s military sites in talks with world powers for a possible nuclear deal, Iran’s senior nuclear negotiator Abbas Araqchi said on Sunday, according to semi-official *Fars News Agency*.

The Iranian negotiation team has accepted

an enclosed protocol to the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), which allows “managed inspections” to its military sites, Araqchi said, stressing the inspections should be strictly managed by Iranian authorities.

However, the Iranian negotiators have not accepted the talks and interviews with the country’s

nuclear scientists, he said.

The remarks by Araqchi were made in the closed-door meeting of Iran’s Majlis (parliament) on Sunday following the conservative lawmakers’ recent questions to the Iranian negotiation team about the developments of the nuclear talks ahead of 30 June deadline.

On Wednesday, Iran’s

Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said Tehran would not allow inspections into any of its military sites by foreigners under the pretext of a possible nuclear deal.

Also, Iranian President Hassan Rouhani said on Thursday that Iran would never sign a nuclear deal that would allow foreign access to the coun-

try’s scientific and military secrets.

Iran and world powers concluded latest round of negotiations on Friday in a run to finalize an accord on the country’s nuclear issue.

Iran and the P5+1 group, namely the United States, Britain, France, Russia and China, plus Germany, have held sev-

eral rounds of talks on a comprehensive nuclear accord since 2008.

Iran’s nuclear programme has long been a subject of concern for Western powers, who believe it to be geared toward developing nuclear weapons. Iran insists it has an inalienable right to develop its civilian atomic plan.—*Xinhua*

Australian PM flags tougher measures to be announced on Aussie IS fighters

CANBERRA, 24 May — Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott said on Sunday that the government is expected to announce tougher measures on Australian citizens who joined the Islamic State (IS) terrorist group.

Those measures may include stripping Australian citizenship of those who are found to have been promoting, supporting or taking part in terrorism and prosecute those returned fighters.

Earlier this year, the government said it would amend the Citizenship Act so that dual nationals could be stripped of their Australian citizenship if



Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott

they have been involved in terrorist acts. The Australian Broadcast Company (ABC) reported that the government is considering to expand that plan to reach those with sole Australian citizenship.

“People who are fight-

ing with terrorist groups overseas or who are engaged in terrorist activities here in Australia are effectively taking up arms against us and it’s very hard to imagine that we should allow to remain in the bosom of our country

people who are trying to destroy us,” Abbott said in a pre-recorded statement.

He noted that since the terror alert level was raised from Medium to High last September, Australia has witnessed terrorist inspired events in Sydney and in Melbourne, referring to the Lindt cafe siege in Sydney last December and the recent arrests of youngsters in Melbourne who were charged of staging terrorist attacks on policemen on ANZAC Day.

Apart from those, Australian police and intelligence agencies have also foiled six terrorist attacks.

As a result, the parliament has passed new

laws to strengthen police powers, including laws on metadata, and the government has boosted funding for counter-terrorism agencies.

“But despite these efforts, Australia faces a growing challenge from foreign fighters and from home-grown terrorists,” Abbott said in the statement. “At least 250 Australians, some very young, have become ensnared in the evil ideology of the Daesh death cult.”

Australian Security Intelligence Organization (ASIO), the country’s main intelligent agency, currently has over 400 priority counter-terrorism investi-

gations.

“To those young Australians contemplating joining this death cult, I say, think again. Throwing in your lot with the most barbaric people in the most dangerous parts of the earth could cost you your life,” Abbott said.

Abbott said more announcements will be made in the following week to “keep our country as safe as possible”.

“You can be assured that this Government will do everything in our power to protect our people and to stop radicalized and brutalized people from roaming our streets,” he said.

—*Xinhua*

Pakistan to host regional meeting on Afghanistan

ISLAMABAD, 24 May — Pakistan will host senior officials meeting of the “Heart of Asia-Istanbul Process” on Monday to discuss the upcoming ministerial conference to be held in Islamabad later this year.

The Heart of Asia-Istanbul Process was launched in 2011 to bring together regional countries to promote peace and prosperity in Afghanistan through concerted efforts of participating and supporting countries as well as international and regional organizations engaged in the process.

Representatives from other 12 participating countries, 16 supporting countries and 12 regional and international organizations have been invited to attend the meeting, the Foreign Ministry said on Sunday.

The deliberations in these senior officials meetings would form the basis

for the Islamabad Declaration, to be endorsed by Heart of Asia countries and organizations during the ministerial conference.

The meeting will be co-chaired by Pakistan’s Foreign Secretary of Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry and Afghanistan’s Deputy Foreign Minister Hekmat Khalil Karzai, the Foreign Ministry said.

As the co-chair, Pakistan will take initiatives to take the process forward from the Beijing conference in October 2014, the ministry said in a statement. “It will play a lead role in various activities of the Process, including three Senior Officials Meetings to discuss topics pertaining to the theme of this year’s Ministerial Conference i.e. Heart of Asia-Istanbul Process: Enhanced Cooperation for Countering Security Threats and Promoting Economic Connectivity,” it said.—*Xinhua*



Participants form a giant peace sign during the “Handshake for Peace” event in Pasay City, the Philippines on 24 May, 2015. —XINHUA

Vucic, Pupovac: Governments' cooperation important for Serbs

BELGRADE, 24 May — Serbian Prime Minister Aleksandar Vucic had a meeting on Saturday with Milorad Pupovac, president of the Serb National Council (SNV) in Croatia, at which they agreed that the cooperation between the governments of Serbia and Croatia is crucial in addressing all open issues, including the ones referring to the position of Serbs in this country.

Vucic and Pupovac exchanged opinion on solving problems that Serbs in Croatia are facing, reads a statement by the Serbian



Serbian Prime Minister Aleksandar Vucic and Milorad Pupovac, president of the Serb National Council (SNV) in Croatia.—TANJUG

government's press office.

Pupovac thanked Vucic on the genuine sup-

port to promoting the position of Serbs in Croatia and the government's commit-

ment to cooperation with the Croatian government.

They agreed that intensifying communication and cooperation between the two governments is crucial for solving all open issues, including the ones referring to the position of Serbs in Croatia.

Vucic underlined that the Serbian government stands ready to maintain full cooperation with the Croatian government with an eye to promoting bilateral relations as an important condition for stability in the entire region.

Tanjug

Cleveland protests erupt after officer found not guilty in fatal shooting of two unarmed suspects

CLEVELAND, 24 May — A Cleveland police officer was found not guilty on Saturday in the shooting deaths of an unarmed black man and a woman after a high-speed car chase in 2012, one in a series of cases that have raised questions over police conduct and race relations in the United States.

Judge John O'Donnell said Officer Michael Brelo, 31, acted reasonably in shooting the two suspects while standing on the hood of their surrounded car and firing multiple rounds through the windshield. Brelo, who was among a group of officers who fired on the car, was found not guilty of voluntary manslaughter and aggravated assault.

Protesters took to Cleveland streets on Saturday night as police patrolled in riot gear. Cleveland police spokeswoman Jennifer Ciacchia said that more than 20 people had been arrested.

Brelo's trial, which began on 6 April, took place at a time when US law enforcement is under scrutiny for the use of lethal force against minority groups. It followed a series of high-profile deaths of unarmed black men in confrontations with police, which have prompted sometimes violent demonstrations.

The two people who were killed, Malissa Williams and Timothy Russell, were black and Brelo, a former Marine, is white.

"Brelo was acting in conditions difficult for even experienced officers to imagine," O'Donnell said during the roughly hour-long reading of the verdict.

"He was in a strange place at night surrounded by gunfire, sirens and flashing bulbs. Brelo did not fire too quickly or at a person who was clearly unarmed or unable to run him over," he added.

Soon after the verdict, a small crowd of demonstrators took to the streets chanting "No justice, no peace," with protests becoming larger and more unruly. Police said on Twitter there was an incident with a large crowd with people spraying others with pepper spray.

Police arrested at least three people at a restaurant after someone threw an object through a window and injured a customer.

Reaction to the verdict was swift on social media, with many saying they were bewildered.

US Representative Marcia Fudge, a Democrat from Ohio, called the decision a "stunning setback on

the road to justice."

"The verdict is another chilling reminder of a broken relationship between the Cleveland Police Department and the community it serves," she said in a statement.

"Today we have been told — yet again — our lives have no value," added Fudge, who is African-American.

The US Justice Department said its civil rights division, the US attorney's office and the FBI were reviewing testimony and evidence from the state trial and would determine if federal action would be taken.

"While the law and the court ... found him not guilty, we feel that he was culpable and he was far from innocent, as was the city of Cleveland in their role in this situation," Paul Cristallo, an attorney for Russell's family, told a news conference.

Brelo's attorney, Pat-

rick D'Angelo, described prosecutors as "ruthless" for pursuing the charges against his client. "It was classically a case of David vs Goliath," he said.

The trial came months after the Justice Department found the Cleveland Police Department systematically engages in excessive use of force against civilians. It launched the investigation after a series of incidents, including the Brelo case.

The department, in a December report, found that supervisors tolerated and in some cases, endorsed use of unnecessary or unreasonable force.

Just days before the report was released, a Cleveland police officer shot and killed Tamir Rice, a 12-year-old boy who was carrying what turned out to be a replica gun that typically fires plastic pellets. The shooting is under investigation.

Reuters



Cleveland mounted police patrol the streets as protesters march out of the city following the not guilty verdict for Cleveland police officer Michael Brelo on manslaughter charges in Cleveland, Ohio, on 23 May, 2015.—REUTERS

Polish presidential race too close to call, spells trouble for ruling party



Poland's President Bronislaw Komorowski

WARSAW, 24 May — Poles vote for a president on Sunday in a run-off that is too close to call but already spells trouble for the ruling Civic Platform as it looks to re-election later in the year.

Originally seen as a shoo-in for a second five-year term, incumbent Bronislaw Komorowski finds himself neck and neck with his conservative challenger, Andrzej Duda, who defied opinion polls to come out on top in the 10 May first round. Victory for 43-year-old Duda would mark the first major electoral win in almost a decade for the opposition Law and Justice party, and provide a springboard to challenge for government in the autumn.

Even if he loses, the race has turned former legal aide and European MP Duda into a national political player and sounded a warning to the ruling Civic Platform.

Eight years in power, the centre-right Civic Platform has presided over rapid economic growth and rising salaries in eastern Europe's biggest economy. But despite unprecedented prosperity, many Poles feel the fruits of their labour have been unfairly spread, resulting in increased inequality, and are eager for new faces at the top.

"The current president had five years to prove himself, and now I want something new," said 22-year-old student Dominika Gaszcz.

In Poland, it is the prime minister who leads the government, but the president is head of the armed forces, has a say in foreign policy and in the passage of legislation and also controls who heads the central bank. "Perhaps these years have been good, but only for a narrow group," Duda told supporters in his native Krakow, southern Poland, on Friday. "Yes, it's time for change, time to end this sluggish, indolent presidency," Komorowski, 62, has been criticized for running a lacklustre campaign, jumping to life only after his loss in the first round. Since then, he has shown more energy and two opinion polls on Friday had the contenders practically level. "The polls suggest it may be thousands of votes that will decide, perhaps even hundreds, whether Poland will drown in arguments, become an embarrassment to the world because of the views of such people," Komorowski said on Friday of Duda and the Law and Justice party that backs him. Piotr Matys, emerging markets strategist at Rabobank, said: "Even if Duda fails to dethrone President Komorowski, I think that the Civic Platform may not stay at the helm after the general election due later this year."—Reuters

Greece will not make June IMF repayment — interior minister



A Greek national flag flutters next to a statue of ancient Greek goddess Athena, in Athens on 21 May, 2015.

REUTERS

ATHENS, 24 May — Greece will not make a debt repayment to the International Monetary Fund due next month as it does not have the money, the country's interior minister said on Sunday. "The four instalments for the IMF in June are 1.6 billion euros (1.2 billion pounds), this money will not be given and is not there to be given," Nikos Voutsis told Greek Mega TV's weekend show.

Shut out of bond markets and with bailout aid locked, Athens has been scraping state coffers to meet debt obligations and to pay wages and pensions.—Reuters

PERSPECTIVES

Monday, 25 May, 2015

Cooperation between city authorities and dwellers will make Yangon nicer place

By Myint Win Thein

Floods on roads, streets and residential quarters in rainy seasons in Yangon have been one of the headaches of city authorities for some years. However, the authorities have been taking a number of measures to stop

the horrible scenes of people walking in knee-deep dirty water and vehicles being pushed away from floods by groups of people by building huge sewers in downtown areas and dredging drainage systems during the summer.

When drainage systems were dredged, it was found out that most of them are blocked by rubbish dropped by the residents indiscriminately. City authorities should call for cooperation of the city dwellers during the dry seasons not to throw rubbish into the drainage systems. In addition, Yangon is the largest city and Myanmar and covers a wide area of land.

Therefore, the city authorities may not have enough resources to wipe out the floods on streets, roads and residential quarters overnight. This shows that cooperation between the city authori-

ties and the city dwellers will make Yangon a more pleasant place more quickly. Therefore, it is important that city authorities and city residents to cooperate all the year round to not only for the season floods but also for other unpleasant scenes to make Yangon a nicer place to live.

Write for us

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

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.

Moral Turpitude

Aye Pe (Padaung)

Every year I look forward to the visit of my daughter who lives in Yangon. As was expected, during the last summer vacation, my daughter paid a countsey call on me at my home, together with her five-year-old son. Next morning I took my grandson for a walk along the Padaung-Natmauk Road. Out of the town, I as a habit, looked around. The whole environment was pleasant with its natural beauty and multi-coloured flowers of different kinds. I enjoyed the fresh air and beautiful surroundings.

But my enjoyment left me suddenly when I saw a group of young children throwing sand at a fat boy who seemed to be mentally ill and whom the other children seemed to pick on. I was aware at some boys tried to throw sand at the clumsy poor young boy, which got into his eyes and mouth.

Of course I stopped my grandson immediately and even screamed at him when he wriggled out of my hand to run to the scene and to join the other children doing mischievous things. My grandson stopped and so did the other boys. But my grandson did not seem to understand what wrong he had done. Back home we held a long talk on I rather gave him lecture. But he did not seem to understand how to behave well I meant morally well. I felt quite embarrassed. At the same time I was greatly puzzled over the question of how could

one teach children to behave morally? Can it be taught at all?

According to psychologists, it is better to train the children since their childhood. Childhood is a preparation for life. One remarkable motto is "child is father of man". During this period they should get a training that fits them for the life they have to lead. In other words a child should be trained up in the way he should go.

Children are like a tree. A tree, when it is young and small, can be trimmed to grow as we wish. In the same way the mind of a child can be trained in the way that their parents and teachers want to. Good habits can be formed and children can be set upon the right path in life.

It is not too early to train the children. We should not wait for long. If we wait too long, the mind of the child like a tree, grows stiffer and harder, and can no longer be guided this way and that we wish.

When bad habits have fixed themselves upon the mind, it is no longer easy to turn the child into fresh way, nor do new ideas easily find an entrance into his mind. The shape of his mind like that of his body becomes set and fixed. It can't now be changed.

It is a shameful thing for a child to be ignorant of doing wrong things. That is an important fact, we should all wish to avoid. The best way is to shape the mind of the child with better ideas thoughts and intentions which will enable him to make appropri-

ate judgment.

According to psychologists the most important factor in moral behavior is mature moral judgment. A young child gets mature when he is fully grown or developed mentally or physically. He will be mature enough to be given too much responsibility because he has reached a stage where his flavor has fully developed. He will possess careful thoughts and intentions. His character will be mature because he is able to give mature judgment by experience. So, experience has matured the child to a great extent.

There are other things of importance to be learnt in childhood. Among them are good manners and discipline. Good manners can only be learnt by mixing with other good people. We must never think that manners are mere trifles and of little importance. They are very important indeed and on them may depend greatly our happiness and success in life.

When we meet people, first they notice our dress and general appearance. Then their mind may switch to manners. If we are polite and well-behaved they will think at once that we have been will brought up and came of a good family. But if we are rough and rude in our manners they will think "This is an ill-mannered and rude or uncultivated boy. He has evidently been brought up in low company". So we see how important it is to learn good manners.

In striving to improve the moral conduct of the children, parents should hold group discussions daily or weekly because the relationship between par-

Letter to the editor

Whose Responsibility?

It is a well-known fact that all individual departments under the state administration have fixed responsibility. A policeman has to maintain & keep law and order in the area where he is posted to stand by. This arrangement is universally true all throughout the world.

The same is applicable to all sectors under all government administrations.

Here, I particularly would like to point out the duty and performance of our city administration municipal corporation. I particularly point out the

city corporation is not working good enough to fulfill this bounded duty. In this connection, I can point out a lot of instances to justify my (accusing finger) statement.

Take a walk at any part of the busy city in Yangon. You surely will find piles of litters and rotten food-remains spreading all along pavement. Pedestrians have to cover their noses when they have to walk along those areas.

In addition, the city workers seldom take time to remove or clear refuse or litter blocking the flow of dirty water along the tunnel

with the result of breeding mosquitoes and bacteria on the side walk of the streets.

In this connection, I would like to point out a few instances that the workers under the city corporation are indulgent in not doing their duty properly. For instance, they lifted up concrete covers on each side of a street and then dug off all dirt from the tunnel and piled up on the sidewalk for a long time.

Under the circumstances, it is highly important for the city authorities concerned should start taking measure to see to the matter in the interest of the citizens at large.—*Tin Aye*

Letter to the editor

Dear Sir,
Subject: Garbage Collection in Yangon

Reference: Front Page of your esteemed paper of 14th May, 2015

I regret to write that your heart-rending news almost caused a heart-failure especially to a pensioner like me. I'm sure others in the same plight will feel the same, if it really comes into being.

We were all thanking the considerate Government for the increase in Govt. employee salaries

and pensions and praying for the present Govt. to consider more easements towards the cost of living, by more reductions in taxes and other collections, including Government Subsidies, when this bombshell came, regarding Garbage Collection and new charges. Perhaps it is a good way to clean and modernize our capital and suburbs. But to think that a downtown employee or pensioner would be paying Ks 1,000 more to garbage collection, amounting to Ks 12,000 per year,

will be a bad dream, especially for families with two or three children going to school or taking unavoidable tuition! Besides, except for the increase in collection fees, there is no mention of the system of collection in detail for the interested public, if any.

I would like to suggest that although 'profit-sharing' has become the fashion in our democratic enterprises, at least, think of the public welfare with better service and less costs to earn our Thanks and Blessings.—*A Patriot*

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ents and their offspring plays a vital role in families. Psychologists suggest that discussions be held at the dinner table which is the best place on just before the youngest go to sleep. They also suggest "Don't wait until a child has done something wrong to start". That is precisely the worst

time when the child has violent emotion. In reality violent emotion will hurt one's mind and body even more painfully and drive him further on the wrong path.

Sometimes, the mind of the child may be complex and intricate. So he may not know what to do.

But parents, teachers and elders need to help them so that they will be able to give appropriate judgment as well as to do something right. We should make consultations with them. Sometimes they need parents' suggestions. So parents must listen to what (See page 9)

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing honours new generation youths of navigation and aviation courses



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla seen with new generation youths.—MYAWADY

NAY PYI TAW, 24 May — Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing attended the ceremony to honour new generation youths of navigation and aviation courses at Zeyar-thiri Beikman on Sunday.

Present were wife of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services and Commander-in Chief (Army)

Vice-Senior General Soe Win and wife, Chief of General Staff (Army, Navy and Air) General Hla Htay Win and wife, senior military officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief and wives, the youths and their instructors.

At the ceremony, the senior general said that youths are people whom the country have to rely on as future leaders and experts but they may stray off correct path after being exploit-

ed in the field of politics and decadent culture as they have to spend most of their time on their studies.

Then, the senior general pointed out that the future of the country is in the hands of the youth and urged them to try be people who can contribute to the interests of the country and the people.

Then, the senior general and the youths exchanged presents and enjoy the music of Myawady Band before posing for documenta-

ry photographs.

Before the ceremony, the youth viewed round the weapons, communication equipment, miniature ships of Myanmar Navy manufactured by the Tatmadaw, uniforms of defence services, and aircraft of the Tatmadaw and simulator rooms of pilots. In the morning, the youths visited the National Heritage Park and the Museum of Military History.—Myawady

45,000 people.

The country has seen an increase in the number of youths who are interested in entering the field but who aim to land higher-paying overseas jobs. One-fourth of the country's physiotherapists are working abroad, with more than 200 in Singapore alone, U Tin Myint said. Established in 2013, the Myanmar Physiotherapy Association is trying to list as a member organization of the World Confederation for Physical Therapy (WCPT) with the aim of improving the standard of the industry in the country.

GNLM

devotees, we would rather die than break the Sila or moral. Every Sangha aims to reach the stage of moral purity. If a person attains to this first stage of sanctification he is said to be taken entirely free from having rebirth in apaya or lower worlds. It is our belief. So, we are all responsible to get rid of moral turpitude from our young children while they are young.

scribed rules, U Tin Myint said at an annual general meeting in January.

The MPA expects enactment of the law to help create favourable working conditions for local physiotherapists. The association has been drafting the law since 2014 and expects it to be put before parliament in the coming year, the MPA general secretary said.

There are around 1,400 physiotherapists across the country, or roughly one per

never come. It is important for the child not to discard their hidden violent emotion. No matter how the child is spiritually, physically or economically identified, it is still very important to have good moral conduct. The child must lead a moral life so as to enable him to give moral judgment whatever he does or whatever he experiences in life. As we one Buddhist

When a child sees other children throwing sand at the fat boy's face, he must immediately know the quality of his own moral judgment. In other words, he must understand what is right and what is wrong, before doing something. If the small amount of violent emotion or thinking remains in a corner of the child's heart, right or wrong action will

Union FM sends message of felicitations to Argentina

NAY PYI TAW, 25 May — U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Hector Timerman, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Argentine Republic, on the occasion of the anniversary of the National Day of the Argentine Republic which falls on 25th May 2015.—MNA

Human Resources Development Centre commissioned at YTU

NAY PYI TAW, 24 May — A ceremony to hand over a six-storey Human Resources Development Centre (YTU) RC donated by Chairman of Shwedaung Group of Companies Ltd. U Aik Tun was held at Yangon Technological University in Insein Township on Sunday.

Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe, Ambassador of Finland Mr Jarmo Kuuttila, Centres of Excellence Leading Committee Chairman U Nyi Hla Nge, Rector of YTU Dr Aye Myint and Chairman of Shwedaung Group of Companies Ltd. U Aik Tun formally opened the building.

Union Minister for Science and Technology

Dr Ko Ko Oo delivered an address on the occasion.

On behalf of well-wishers, Russian Ambassador Mr Vasily B Pospelov spoke words of thanks.

Deputy CEO U Aung Than of Shwedaung Group of Companies Ltd handed over documents related to the building to Rector Dr Aye Myint.

The building has 39,837 square feet of area with 12 lecture halls, five offices, one meeting room, one assembly hall and other rooms in addition to two lifts.

The main building was constructed at a cost of \$1.5 million and furniture and projectors cost \$25,560.

MNA

Bangladesh Govt to bring . . .

(from page 1)
building of Thandwe area of Rakhine state in Myanmar. Local members of United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) are providing food to the Bangla language people".

He further informed that the Chief Minister of Rakhine state visited the camp yesterday.

Zonal Commander (East Zone) of the Coast Guard Captain Shahidul Islam said that the Coast Guard was prepared to bring back the 208 Bangladeshis from Myanmar and that four high-speed boats have been kept ready for the purpose, the paper said.

Meanwhile, there are reports of more Bangladeshi citizens at sea who are yet to be rescued by Myanmar authorities. According to Captain Shahidul of the Coast Guard, 150 more Bangladeshis floating in the sea are yet to be rescued. "We have been informed by

seven persons who reached the country from the coast of Myanmar last week that 150 more Bangladeshis are floating in three boats in the coast of the neighboring country. The Myanmar Navy is yet to rescue them," he said.

"We have sounded the matter to higher authorities for taking further steps in this regard," he added.

On Friday morning, Myanmar Navy rescued 208 Bangladeshi people who were floating in two fishing trawlers at the country's western coast. More than 3,000 people from the country have landed in Malaysia, Thailand and Indonesia after floating in ships and engine boats for a long time.

Bangladesh's foreign ministry is communicating with these countries through diplomatic channels to bring them back to the country, the paper said.

GNLM

Physiotherapy law aims to improve industry standard in Myanmar

By Khaing Thanda Lwin

YANGON, 24 May — A draft law to regulate the physiotherapy industry is close to completion and will be submitted to the government in early June, Myanmar Physiotherapy Association general secretary U Tin Myint said recently.

The roughly 20-page draft law defines professional physiotherapy practice, as well as the duties,

responsibilities and ethics applicable to the industry. It stipulates a maximum one-year jail term and revocation of licence for violation of the law, U Tin Myint told The Global New Light of Myanmar.

The law aims to provide better protection for professional physiotherapists and weed out charlatans who do not follow pre-

Moral Turpitude

(from page 9)

their child is saying. When discussions are allowed to run freely and truly, parents are shocked to discover what their children really think. One of the psychologists said that children view right and wrong in their own way depending largely on their age.

Fighting partly destroys Yemeni-Saudi border crossing — witnesses

CAIRO, 24 May — Saudi forces and Yemen's Houthi militia traded heavy artillery fire which blew up part of the main border crossing between the two countries overnight, residents said on Sunday, an escalation of the two-month war.

The Haradh border crossing, the largest for passengers and goods between the world's top oil exporter, Saudi Arabia, and its impoverished neighbour, was evacuated amid shelling which razed its departure lounge and passport section, witnesses said.

Residents of several Yemeni villages in the area left their homes and fled from the frontier, which has turned into a front line between the kingdom and the Iran-allied rebels.

Saudi Arabia has led an Arab coalition bombing the Houthis and backing southern Yemeni fighters



Houthi militants stand near a government building destroyed by a Saudi-led air strike in Yemen's northwestern city of Saada on 23 May, 2015.—REUTERS

opposing the group and loyal to the exiled government in Saudi Arabia headed by President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi. The Sunni Muslim states believe the Shi'ite Houthis are a proxy

for influence by their arch rival Iran, but their campaign has yet to reverse the rebels' battlefield gains.

Residents in the central city of Taiz said Houthi forces and pro-Hadi fight-

ers fired tank and artillery shells at each other throughout the city overnight, and the Houthis seized control of a military base on a strategic mountaintop.—Reuters

Northern rebels say captured 19 Mali soldiers

BAMAKO, 24 May — A Tuareg-dominated rebel coalition said on Saturday it was holding prisoner 19 Malian government soldiers captured in clashes a day earlier, amid growing violence in the north that threatens to derail UN-brokered peace efforts.

Army sources confirmed that soldiers were missing after the Coordination of Movements of Azawad (CMA) briefly seized the small town of Tessit, in Mali's northern Gao region.

A spokesman for the CMA said its fighters had withdrawn from Tessit by Saturday morning, taking with them captured weapons, ammunition and the prisoners.

"They are Malian soldiers and there are 19 of them," Almou Ag Mohamed told Reuters.

Photos from a CMA fighter present in Tessit seen by Reuters showed at least a dozen men, most in civilian

clothing, with their hands tied behind their backs and surrounded by rebel fighters.

It was not immediately possible to independently authenticate the images or identify the captives further.

"Some soldiers are missing. It's very likely that they were taken prisoner," an army officer based in the nearby town of Gao said, asking not to be named.

Neither he nor an intelligence officer in the capital Bamako gave further details.

A ceasefire deal was signed between the government, its allies and northern separatist groups last year, but violations have increased since pro-government fighters seized the flashpoint town of Menaka late last month.

The United Nations said on Friday it was investigating reports of serious human rights abuses during fighting over the town of Tin Hama, not far from Menaka, this week.

Reuters

Iraqi forces regain ground from Islamic State east of Ramadi

BAGHDAD, 24 May — Iraqi forces regained ground from Islamic State militants in western Iraq on Sunday, advancing towards the city of Ramadi one week after it fell to the insurgents.

A police major and a pro-government Sunni tribal fighter in the area said they had retaken the town of Husaiba al-Sharqiya, about 10 km east of Ramadi, with the help of Shi'ite paramilitaries.

Shi'ite militias, Iraqi security forces and pro-government Sunni tribal fighters launched a counter-offensive on Saturday against the insurgents, who have pushed east towards a key military base after overrunning Ramadi.

"Today we regained control over Husaiba and are laying plans to make more advances to push back Daesh fighters further," said local tribal leader Amir al-Fahdawi, using an Arabic acronym for Islamic State, also known in English as ISIS or ISIL.

"The morale of the fighters is high after the arrival of reinforcements and loads of ammunition".

Reuters

French public back military intervention in Syria

PARIS, 24 May — Most French people are in favour of military intervention by France in Syria, a poll showed on Saturday, a sharp reversal from a survey in 2013 when the majority opposed government plans for air strikes against Syrian President Bashar al-Assad.

France has been providing weapons to opposition Syrian Kurdish forces but has repeatedly ruled out a military operation in Syria without a United Nations mandate.

It was the first country to join the US-led coalition carrying out air strikes on

Islamic State insurgents in Iraq and Syria, but ruled out taking part in strikes on targets inside Syrian borders for fear it would benefit Assad.

In a survey of 1,103 French people carried out by pollster BVA, 55 percent said they would support French action in Syria compared to 64 percent who were against in 2013.

The survey showed that "92 percent of French say they are personally worried by the situation in Syria," BVA said in a statement.

Syria's civil war is in its fourth year, and the

chaos is allowing Islamic State to continue to make territorial gains. Last week, the militants seized the city of Tadmur, home to the ancient ruins of Palmyra, after days of fierce fighting with the Syrian army.

Speaking after the fall of the city, French President Francois Hollande said the US-led coalition fighting Islamic State militants in Iraq and Syria "had to act".

Ministers of the coalition's member countries will meet in Paris on 2 June to plot a strategy, including how to reverse recent losses.

A UN mandate for



Al-Rahman corps and the Islamic Union for Recruiting the Levant demonstrate their skills during a military training in Marj Al-Ashari, eastern Ghouta of Damascus on 22 May, 2015.—REUTERS

military intervention is a remote possibility since Russia and China have al-

ready vetoed watered-down Security Council resolutions.—Reuters

Egyptian court acquits 17 charged for protest at which activist killed

CAIRO, 24 May — An Egyptian court on Saturday acquitted 17 people of violating a strict protest law earlier this year at a march commemorating a 2011 uprising, judicial sources said, a rare decision since Egypt introduced the statute in late 2013.

The demonstration in January caught the world's attention after the death of 32-year-old protester Shaimaa Sabbagh was caught on video.

The public prosecutor has separately charged a police officer who allegedly fired birdshot to try to dis-

perse the protest in connection with Sabbagh's death.

Defence lawyer Sayed Abu el-Ila, who was photographed with Sabbagh dying in his arms, told Reuters this was the first acquittal since the protest law came into force in 2013.

The statute curtailed demonstrations, a regular feature of the turbulent years since the overthrow of Hosni Mubarak in 2011, and has landed many leaders of that initial uprising behind bars.

"I am not pleased by an acquittal at the expense of Shaimaa's blood," Abu el-Ila told reporters. "Shaimaa

sacrificed her life to oppose an unjust law, and the law is still in place."

President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi has come under pressure over what critics perceive as heavy-handed security tactics since the army overthrew President Mohamed Mursi of the Muslim Brotherhood in mid-2013 following protests.

A crackdown that began with the deaths of hundreds of Brotherhood supporters and the imprisonment of thousands more has expanded to include other activists.

A separate court on Saturday began a trial of Mursi

and 25 others on charges of insulting the judiciary. The defendants include Brotherhood leaders as well as television host Tawfiq Okasha and liberals Alaa Abdel Fattah and Amr Hamzawy.

Mursi was sentenced to 20 years in prison last month on charges arising from the killing of protesters and faces the death penalty in connection with a mass jail break in 2011.

He has denounced the legal proceedings against him. Separately, the public prosecutor referred 61 alleged Brotherhood members from the Delta province of

Damietta to a military prosecutor on suspicion of violence-related offences.

Egypt expanded the jurisdiction of military courts last year to permit them to try civilians accused of acts ranging from attacking state facilities to blocking roads, part of a broad crackdown on opponents.

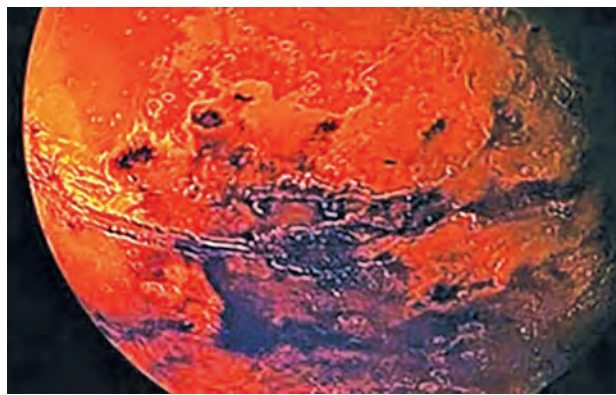
The government has banned the Brotherhood and labelled it a terrorist organisation, accusing it of killing hundreds of police and soldiers in the past two years.

The Brotherhood denies any link to violence.

Reuters

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

UAE gears up for Mars mission



ABU DHABI, 24 May — The state-owned Masdar Institute of Science and Technology has set up a team of researchers in order to support the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to achieve its goal of sending an unmanned space probe to Mars by 2021.

“The team we have set up is tasked with ensuring that our institute is able to support the UAE’s Mars mission and capitalize on the diverse and high-value

expertise of our research infrastructure,” said Mohamed Sassi, a professor of the institute.

The initiative for the UAE’s Mars mission, named “Hope,” the first in the Arab world, was launched in October.

The UAE government has already invested 5.4 billion US dollars in space technologies, and about 150 Emirati scientists and engineers will participate in the mission.—Xinhua

Daimler and Qualcomm to develop in-car tech, wireless charging

FRANKFURT, 24 May — Carmaker Daimler on Saturday announced a partnership with mobile technologies company Qualcomm Inc. to explore wireless recharging of mobile phones in cars as well as recharging of electric cars without cables.

The move forms part of a broader push by Daimler, parent company of Mercedes-Benz, as well as rival German carmakers BMW and Audi to build their expertise in software and telecommunications to bolster their status as high-tech carmakers in an era when tightening emission rules force them to downsize engines, once a mainstay of profit.

In a joint statement, Daimler and Qualcomm said they were assessing the application of wireless technology to charge their

electric vehicles (EV) and plug-in hybrid EVs without ever having to plug them in. The companies are also exploring technologies that will enable customers to wirelessly charge devices such as mobile phones whilst driving in their car, as well as ways to enhance in-car experience through high-speed 3G/4G connec-

tivity.

“It’s important that we remain on the cutting edge of technology and continue to deliver unparalleled experiences to our customers,” Daimler’s board member for research and development Thomas Weber, said.

“With this in mind, we are eager to jointly explore

possible fields of future cooperation with an internationally leading tech firm like Qualcomm,” Weber said in a statement.

Germany’s premium auto makers are currently on a tear to bulk up their technology expertise, and are readying an offer for Nokia’s mapping division HERE.—Reuters



Shareholders arrive for the Daimler annual shareholder meeting in Berlin on 1 April, 2015. — REUTERS

Mind-controlled prosthetic limbs allow precise, smooth movement

WASHINGTON, 24 May — More than a decade after becoming paralyzed from the neck down, Erik Sorto has been unable to perform even the simplest of daily tasks. “That was the ultimate goal: to drink a beer by myself,” said Sorto, a 34-year-old from Los Angeles who became a quadriplegic after a 2002 gunshot wound.

Things may be looking up for Sorto and others with similar disabilities. Scientists on Thursday described a better way to harness mind power to move prosthetic limbs.

Microelectrodes, implanted in the part of the brain that controls a person’s intention to perform a movement, enabled a patient to fluidly guide a robotic arm, they said.

In a study published in the *Science* journal, sur-

geons at Keck Medicine of the University of Southern California placed a pair of small electrode arrays into Sorto’s posterior parietal cortex, or PPC.

These neural prosthetics were then connected to computers that processed Sorto’s brain signals and determined his intent, allowing him to control a robotic arm mounted to a table nearby, or a computer cursor. “Mr Sorto was able to learn to grasp different objects, play ‘rock-paper-scissors,’ play video games, drink a beverage,” said California Institute of Technology neuroscientist Richard Andersen, who led the study.

“The PPC is a rich source of signals that can be used to determine the goals of a paralyzed subject,” said Andersen. “These signals can be used to control



Patient Erik Sorto takes a drink in this handout photo taken April 2015, provided by Lance Hayashida/Caltech. REUTERS

‘smart’ robotics and computers that can work out the details of movement of external devices such as a robotic limb.” Neural prosthetic devices have previously been implanted in paralyzed patients’ motor

cortex, the part of the brain that directly controls body movement. However, while those patients could control a robotic limb, movement was delayed and jerky.

Implanting the neuroprosthetics in the part of the brain that controls the intent to move yielded a more natural motion. Sorto said he had a few tasks lined up.

“On the top of the list is that I want to be able to groom myself. I want to be able to brush my teeth by myself,” he said.

And he was indeed able to drink his own beer.

“When I was able to do it with the robotic arm, it just reassured me that somehow in the future, people with my disability will be able to have some sort of independence,” said Sorto. “And with that will come some sort of self-pride.”

Reuters

Astronomers discover most luminous galaxy in universe

WASHINGTON, 24 May — US space agency NASA said on Thursday that its Wide-field Infrared Survey Explorer (WISE) telescope has discovered a remote galaxy that shines with the light of more than 300 trillion suns, making it the most luminous galaxy ever found.

The galaxy, known as WISE J224607.57-052635.0, belongs to a

recently discovered new class of objects called extremely luminous infrared galaxies. NASA said its dazzling light may be due to a behemoth black hole at its belly.

“Supermassive black holes draw gas and matter into a disk around them, heating the disk to roaring temperatures of millions of degrees and blasting out high-energy, visible, ultra-

violet, and X-ray light,” the space agency explained in a statement.

The light, however, is absorbed by surrounding cocoons of dust, which prevents us from seeing the galaxy with optical telescopes.

When the dust heats up, it radiates infrared light, which was only now detected by the WISE telescope.

Because light from the galaxy hosting the black hole has traveled 12.5 billion years to reach us, astronomers are seeing the object as it was in the distant past, NASA said.

At that time, our universe was only a tenth of its present age of 13.8 billion years but the black hole was already billions of times the mass of our sun, it said.—Xinhua

China ranked 4th among world space powers: report

BEIJING, 24 May — China’s space capabilities are ranked the fourth in the world, and the gap between the leading powers is narrowing, according to a report issued recently by a Chinese research organization.

China is at a crucial period developing from a major power to a great power in space, says an evaluation by the Beijing Institute of Space Science and Technology Information, affiliated to the China Academy of Space Technology.

Last year saw a record 92 launches around the world, with 262 spacecraft put into orbit. The institute for the first time evaluated the space capabilities of 20 countries and regions across six aspects: strategy, product systems, infrastructure, industrial scale, innovation and international influence.

It rated the United States, Europe, Russia, China, Japan and India as the leading powers in space.

The United States’ status as the only super power in space is unshakable, but the gap between the United States and its followers is narrowing, says the report.

Europe and Russia are ranked as the next two great powers. With its technological advantages and alliances with the United

States, Europe has made a giant leap in its space capability. Russia has curbed its decline, showing signs of recovery thanks to its medium and long-term plans and reform of its space industry, the report says.

China, Japan and India are major powers in space. Pursuing an independent development path, China has made remarkable accomplishments in space technology, showing strong momentum and potential.

Driven by technological innovation, active international cooperation and an alliance with the United States, Japan has made rapid developments.

India became the first Asian country to successfully send a probe to Mars in 2014, marking a breakthrough in its space capability, says the report.

The report also mentions emerging countries in space represented by Canada and the Republic of Korea, which closely follow China, Japan and India.

Space has become a “high frontier” as nations jostle for political, economic, military and science and technological advantages. Driven by the needs of national security and economic interests, more countries are vying to flex their muscles in space, says the report.

Xinhua

Congratulations!

Our sincere congratulations to

**U Aung Ko Win,
Chairman of Kanbawza Bank Ltd.**

on his achievements of
Special Honorary Presidential State Excellence Award
for making the Highest Tax Payment to the State
for three consecutive years.

During the five year-sovereignty of the new democratic Government,
Chairman U Aung Ko win is recognized as the three-time winner
of the **Highest Taxpayer Award** for paying the highest income tax in
the amount of Ks. 6.015 billion during FY 2011-2012,
Ks.10.828 billion FY 2012-2013
and Ks. 17.010 billion during FY 2013-2014.

On behalf of Myanmar Industrial Port, I wish that you will continue to
prosper and succeed both in your business
and philanthropic endeavors.



**U Ko Ko Htoo
Chairman
Myanmar Industrial Port (MIP)**

Congratulations!

Our most sincere compliments to

Daw Nang Lang Kham,
Chairperson of Brighter Future Myanmar Foundation
of the Kanbawza Group of Companies
for her achievement of
Presidential State Excellence Award
conferred by President U Thein Sein
for the **Best Philanthropic Organization** in Myanmar.

During the five year-sovereignty of the new Democratic Government,
Daw Nang Lang Kham,
the Chairperson of Brighter Future Myanmar Foundation
has contributed over **Ks. 64 billion** to support cultural, education and
religious affairs, youth and community development,
disaster relief and recovery programs, sports and many more.

In 2013 and 2014, **Brighter Future Myanmar Foundation**
of Kanbawza Group of Companies
bear the costs of eleven chartered flights for 3000 Myanmar migrant workers,
who were facing social conflicts in Malaysia and
the foundation brought home 273 Myanmar fishery workers stranded in
Port Blair, India by a chartered flight.

Brighter Future Myanmar Foundation
is currently spearheading the rescue and repatriation actions
for over 500 trafficked and enslaved Myanmar fishermen
in Benjina Island, Indonesia.

Brighter Future Myanmar Foundation has successfully implemented
the Water Project in the regions of Southern Shan State where there was no water
due to the geophysical conditions of the region. The foundation has effectively
constructed 33 tube wells, 108 water tabs and 51 water tanks for over 40,000 people
living in Kalaw, Bawsine, He`ho, Pindaya, Taungyi, Hopone and Nansan City
in addition to construction of roads and hospitals.

On behalf of the Myanmar Industrial Port,
I would like to congratulate you on your achievement in receiving
the **Presidential State Excellence Award**
as the Chairperson of the **Best Philanthropic Organization**
in Myanmar.



U Ko Ko Htoo
Chairman
Myanmar Industrial Port (MIP)

Sweden's Mans Zelmerlow wins Eurovision Song Contest

VIENNA, 24 May—Sweden's Mans Zelmerlow won the final of the Eurovision Song Contest in Vienna on Sunday, beating Russia and Italy in the world's biggest international music show.

The 28-year-old singer and TV presenter, who had been a bookmakers' favourite, performed the winning electro-pop ballad "Heroes," dancing in front of a black screen with animated gnomes.

Sweden has won the 60-year-old competition six times, more than any other nation apart from Ireland. Sweden won most recently in 2012 with "Euphoria" by Loreen and now gets to host the contest again next year.

This year's theme was Building Bridges, which many artists interpreted as

an appeal for tolerance in performances that included a gay kiss scene by Lithuania.

"We are all heroes no matter who we love, who we are or what we believe in," Zelmerlow told the crowd in Vienna after getting a hug from last year's victor, bearded drag queen Conchita Wurst of Austria.

He beat Russia's Polina Gagarina, whose song "A Million Voices" reaped top scores from most former Soviet satellite states that earned angry jeers from the crowd in Austria.

"Please remember that our motto is building bridges and that music should stand over politics tonight," presenter Alice Tumler told the audience.

The annual kitsch-fest was watched last year by more than 195 million

people in 45 countries, or more viewers than the Super Bowl.

This year China broadcast the world's longest running music competition, a fixture in the gay calendar, live for the first time.

Whilst viewers are often puzzled by the inclusion of countries outside Europe such as Israel, which qualifies thanks to membership of the European Broadcasting Union (EBU), this year the net was cast even wider.

To mark 60 years since the first Eurovision in 1955, Australia was given a wild card entry and singer Guy Sebastian and his up-tempo song "Tonight Again," a big hit with the crowds in Austria, finished fifth.

Eurovision is hugely popular in Australia, where about 3 million people watched it last year, and



Singer Mans Zelmerlow representing Sweden poses with the trophy after winning the final of the 60th annual Eurovision Song Contest in Vienna, Austria, on 24 May, 2015.—REUTERS

broadcaster SBS is an associate member of the EBU.

Recent hosts have spent an average of 25 million euros (\$27.54 million)

on staging the event. But EBU media director Jean Philip de Tender said it was possible to host it for 11 million euros, allowing

the host nation to break even, meaning even small or cash-strapped countries have a chance.

Reuters

Icelandic film on sheepfarmer brothers wins Cannes 'Regard' prize

CANNES, (France), 14 May — An Icelandic movie about two sheep-farming brothers who have not spoken in 40 years but are brought together by an outbreak of a disease that threatens their flocks won the Un Certain Regard prize at the Cannes Film Festival on Saturday.

"Hrutar" (Rams) by director Grimur Hakonarson took the top prize in the grouping of 19 films in the festival's second most important competition. The films are chosen to display filmmaking techniques and trends in a variety of cultures and countries around the world.

Jury president Isabella Rossellini said viewing the entries "was like taking a flight over the planet and seeing all the inhabitants

and their emotions".

Hakonarson said winning was a surprise, but he was delighted.

"There are very good films in this programme and very big directors," he said. "I didn't expect this. I'm in heaven."

The film is set in remote northern Iceland, among sheepfarmers whose livelihood is threatened by an outbreak of scrapie that is fatal to sheep and requires all their flocks to be put down, but the director thought it would strike a chord with anyone.

"I think it's a universal story, it's a story about family conflicts, even though it's an Icelandic film, it seems to touch the hearts of the audience, you know, but the film, it's also entertaining, it's also fun-

ny," he said.

"It's a mixture of drama and comedy and we seem to have, maybe, profited from that a little."

Japanese auteur Kiyoshi Kurosawa got the Best Director award for his latest film "Kishibe No Tabi" (Journey to the Shore).

The Jury Prize went to Croatian director Dalibor Matanic for "Zvizdan" and the Un Certain Talent prize was awarded to Romanian Corneliu Porumboiu's "Comoara" (The Treasure).

The special jury prizes for debut films (Prix de l'avenir) went to "Nahid" by Iran's Ida Panahandeh and "Masaan" by Neeraj Ghaywan of India.

The main competition winners will be announced on Sunday.—Reuters

Cobie Smulders stars in 'Unexpected' trailer



actress Cobie Smulders

LONDON, 24 May — Pregnancy forces actress Cobie Smulders to re-evaluate her life in a trailer for "Unexpected".

The 33-year-old "Avengers: Age of Ultron" actress portrays a teacher whose surprise pregnancy leads her to question her future as both a mother and a teacher, reported *Digital Spy*.

High school teacher Samantha Abbott (Smulders) is helped through her pregnancy by developing a bond with student Jasmine (Gail Bean), who is also expecting a baby.

The drama also stars "Downton Abbey" star Elizabeth McGovern as Samantha's mother, while Anders Holm is the teacher's husband.

"Unexpected" comes from "Empire Builder" director Kris Swanberg.—PTI



Zayn Malik

LONDON, 24 May—Media mogul Simon Cowell has confirmed that no one can replace former One Direction star Zayn

One Direction will not replace Zayn Malik: Simon Cowell

Malik. Ever since Malik decided to bid farewell to the British band there has been speculation that someone could fill his shoes, reported *Daily Mirror*.

"No I don't think so, they're doing fine. When it happened (there was) no warning — nothing — and they just they were still doing these huge tours and they dealt with it," he said.

The 22-year-old singer had left everyone shocked by his decision to exit the band in March this year.

PTI

Katy Perry to release new album by 2016

LOS ANGELES, 24 May — Katy Perry's manager Steven Jensen has revealed the pop star will release her next album by next year.

The "Dark Horse" hit-maker, who released her last album two years ago, is currently on a break from her world tour to support her fourth studio album "Prism", reported *Ace Showbiz*. "She plans to release her next album by 2016," Jensen said.

She has been on the road since May last year and has just completed the Asian leg of the tour. She will next head to Latin America in September.

PTI



Katy Perry

GENERAL

Turkey hosts 14th Chinese language competition

ANKARA, 24 May — The 14th “Chinese bridge” Chinese proficiency competition for Turkish university students opened in Middle East Technology University here on Saturday.

“My Chinese dream,” which is the topic of the contest, attracted 25 students, who have past the writing test in the morning, to give their own story about their connection with Chinese language and culture.

“The world is so big, I want to go to china and have a look,” the sentence which is quite popular on Chinese web, was used in Arad’s speech about why he chose to learn Chinese.

Dance of Little Ap-

ple, the most popular song in China in 2014, and the drunken beauty of leading Chinese opera performer Li Yugang, among other famous Chinese songs and dances, were included in the performance list of the competitors.

The show of famous poetry “To the Oak Tree” written by Chinese poet Shu Ting helped Gullu from sinology department of Ankara University to win the first runner-up and gain a chance to go to China, a dream she has been trying to fulfill for a long time. “I love Chinese poem and songs and I wish to go to China to get my master degree,” Gullu said.

Zeynep, the girl who

won the ticket to the world “Chinese Bridge” competition host annually by Hanban in Beijing, was very excited after the contest. “I am fascinated by Chinese culture and I could even touch the pulse of this dragon. Now I have a chance to improve my Chinese by communicate and compete with the students from other countries in China. What a dream come true!” she said.

Wu Changqing, the headmaster of Confucius institute in Middle East Technology University which held this year’s “Chinese bridge” competition together with the Chinese embassy to Turkey, said that “The quality of the competition

is higher than last year because it is harder to choose better students through writing test and speech competition. The number of Turkish students interested in studying Chinese is increasing these years which force the competitors to learn harder to win the champion.”

“‘Chinese bridge’ is not only a contest among Turkish students but also an important pillar of the bridge of social, cultural and economical relationship between Turkey and China, which will definitely benefit Chinese and Turkish people,” said Yu Hongyang, the Chinese ambassador to Turkey.

Xinhua

Correction: Please see the photo published on Page 15 of this daily issued on 23-5-2015 as follows:(Ed)



Staff and volunteers work to clean a brown pelican at the International Bird Rescue centre in San Pedro, Los Angeles, California, United States, on 22 May, 2015.—REUTERS

Magnussen to have shoulder surgery, out of worlds

SYDNEY, 24 May — Double world champion James Magnussen has been ruled out of defending his 100 metres freestyle title in Kazan with a shoulder injury, Swimming Australia has said.

The 24-year-old, nicknamed “The Missile” by Australian media, will need to have surgery after testing showed the injury had reduced the strength in his left shoulder by up to 70 percent.

“Unfortunately surgery is the only viable option if I am to be fit for the 2016 Rio Olympics, Magnussen said in a statement.

The statement also indicated he would have the surgery in early June.

“I will now focus all my time and effort on pre-



James Magnussen of Australia reacts after competing in the men's 50m freestyle heats during the World Swimming Championships at the Sant Jordi arena in Barcelona on 2 Aug, 2013.—REUTERS

paring for the Olympics next year.

“I am looking forward to regaining full strength in my shoulder and getting back to my best performances.”

Swimming Australia head coach Jacco Verhaer-

en will now name a replacement for Magnussen in the 50 and 100 freestyle and in the 4x100 freestyle relay team for the championships that run from 24 July – 9 August in Kazan, Russia.

Reuters

New Volkswagen plant opens in central China

CHANGSHA, 24 May — German automaker Volkswagen’s new plant in the central province of Hunan began operation on Sunday with a Lavidia sedan rolling off the production line.

The plant, based in the provincial capital of Changsha, has an annual capacity of 300,000 units and covers an area of 1.67 million square metres.

The plant, built by the automaker’s Chinese partner Shanghai Volkswagen, is a state of art facility featuring a press shop, body shop, paint shop and final assembly floor.

Shanghai VW also has plants in Shanghai, Nanjing, Yizheng, Urumqi and Ningbo.

Volkswagen Group China, which includes Shanghai Volkswagen and FAW-Volkswagen, delivered 3.68 million automobiles to the market across the Chinese mainland and Hong Kong in 2014, up 12.4 percent year on year.

Xinhua

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Myanmar International

(25-5-2015 07:00 am~ 26-5-2015 07:00 am) MST

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MRTV

News Channel in Brief

(25-5-2015, Monday)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 6:00 am | 2:10 pm |
| • Paritta by Venerable Mingun Sayadaw | • Gitadagale Phwintbarohn |
| 6:30 am | 3:00 pm |
| • Myitta Pawana by Mingun Sayadaw Phayagyi | • News / International News |
| 7:35 am | 4:35 pm |
| • Weekly Entertainment | • University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) — Frist Year (Law) |
| 8:00 am | 5:30 pm |
| • News / International News | • Head Line News |
| 8:35 am | 6:35 pm |
| • Documentary (Women in Myanmar Society) | • Socio Economic Scenes |
| 9:30 am | 7:00 pm |
| • Head Line News | • News |
| 9:35 am | 7:35 pm |
| • Documentary (ASEAN) | • Documentary |
| 10:35 am | 8:00 pm |
| • People’s Talks | • News / International News / Weather Report |
| 11:35 am | 9:00 pm |
| • MRTV’s Youth Programme | • News / International News / Weather Report |
| 12:00 noon | • Hluttaw Image |
| • News / International News / Weather Report | • TV Drama Series |
| 1:35 pm | |
| • Tasty Trip | |

MRTV

Entertainment Channel

(25-5-2015, Monday)

- | | |
|------------------------|------------------------------|
| 6:00 am | 9:25 am |
| • Mono Classical Songs | • Musical Programme |
| 6:20 am | 9:45 am |
| • Myanmar Series | • Pyi Thu Ni Ti |
| 6:45 am | 10:05 am |
| • Fashion Show | • ASEAN CULTURAL FAIR (2014) |
| 7:05 am | 10:20 am |
| • TV Drama Series | • Myanmar Video |
| 7:50 am | 12:00 noon |
| • TV Drama Series | • Close Down |
| 8:25 am | |
| • Teleplay | |

There will never be another Xavi, Luis Enrique says



Barcelona's captain Xavi Hernandez holds up the trophy after winning the Spanish League title, at the end of the Spanish BBVA La Liga (first division soccer league) match between FC Barcelona and RC Deportivo La Coruna at Camp Nou stadium in Barcelona, Spain, on 23 May, 2015. Xavi announced on Thursday his retirement from Barcelona at the end of the current season. He will play next season at Al Sadd in Qatar.—XINHUA

BARCELONA, 24 May—There will never be another player like Xavi and Barcelona will have to adapt accordingly now he is leaving, coach Luis Enrique said after the midfielder's final La Liga game for the club on Saturday.

Xavi, 35, announced this week he was joining Qatari side Al Sadd after 17 seasons in Barca's first team and 23 trophies, bringing to an end more than two decades with the club he joined as an 11-year-old in 1991.

After Saturday's 2-2 draw with Deportivo La Coruna, captain Xavi hoisted aloft the La Liga trophy that Barca secured

last weekend, their fifth in seven years and his eighth.

He fought back tears as he thanked fans packed inside the giant Nou Camp arena for making him "the happiest man in the world".

Considered one of the greatest midfielders to have played the game, Xavi effortlessly controlled play in the central areas and was at the heart of a glorious run for Barca and Spain over the past eight years.

He won three Champions League crowns with the Catalan giants and helped Spain clinch back-to-back European Championships in 2008 and 2012 and their debut World Cup

in 2010. Saturday's game was his 765th appearance for Barca in official competition, a club record.

"There is no replacement for Xavi," Luis Enrique said.

"You cannot replace unique players," added the former Barca and Spain midfielder.

"I, as a coach, and those who come after me will have to adapt to different types of player.

"Xavi is a football genius and he is the best midfielder in the history of the game."

Xavi can still win another two trophies with treble-chasing Barca before he departs.

They play Athletic Bilbao in the King's Cup final at the Nou Camp next Saturday and take on Juventus in the Champions League final in Berlin a week later.

"We want this treble, knowing how tough it is, they are going to make it hard for us," Xavi told reporters.

"On a personal level I want to finish by lifting the Cup and the Champions League," he added.

"Obviously today when I saw my wife, my parents, my family and friends I choked up. And hearing people chanting my name was incredible."

Reuters

Stars aligned as Djokovic chases career slam in Paris

PARIS, 24 May — Novak Djokovic may never have a better chance to win a maiden French Open title and complete a rare career grand slam.

The world number one enters this year's Roland Garros on a 22-match unbeaten run having claimed the Monte Carlo and Rome Masters titles.

While his great rival and claycourt master Rafa Nadal is showing signs of frailty, Serbia's Djokovic, who has reached the final twice at Roland Garros (2012 and 2014), could not be in better shape.

Since last November, he has won the ATP World Tour finals, the Australian Open and became the first man to win the opening three Masters tournaments of the season in Indian Wells, Miami and Monte Carlo.

"It is obviously very encouraging knowing that



Novak Djokovic of Serbia celebrates winning against Roger Federer of Switzerland after their final match at the Rome Open tennis tournament in Rome, Italy on 17 May, 2015.—REUTERS

I have won all of the big events from last October, that I've been playing some of my best tennis in my life, and coming into Roland Garros with that amount of confidence helps," he told a news conference after Friday's draw.

In 2011, Djokovic arrived in Paris brimming with confidence only for

Roger Federer to snap his 43-match winning streak in the semi-finals. But the Serb believes he has matured into a more level-headed player. "I just feel more complete as a player in terms of ability to handle the emotions on the court, to find a way to win the tough matches," he explained.—Reuters

Odegaard becomes Real's youngest La Liga debutant at 16



Real Madrid's Martin Odegaard warms up during their Spanish first division soccer match against Getafe at Santiago Bernabeu stadium in Madrid, Spain on 23 May, 2015.

REUTERS

MADRID, 24 May — Teenage Norway midfielder Martin Odegaard

became Real Madrid's youngest La Liga debutant at the age of 16 when he came on as a substitute in the 58th minute of Saturday's final game of the season at home to Getafe.

Odegaard, who is 16 years, five months and six days old and joined from Norwegian top-flight side Stromsgodset in January, replaced league top scorer Cristiano Ronaldo at the Bernabeu as Real brought a disappointing season, in which they failed to win a major trophy, to an end.

Ronaldo struck three

times, taking his tally for the campaign to 48 goals, in a 7-3 victory for the home side against their city neighbours as Real finished second, two points behind champions Barcelona.

Odegaard made his Stromsgodset debut at the age of 15 and became Norway's youngest international when he started against United Arab Emirates aged 15 years and 253 days in August, breaking a record that had stood for more than a century.

Reuters

Champions Bayern will come back stronger, says Guardiola

MUNICH, 24 May — Bayern Munich coach Pep Guardiola pledged his team would come back stronger next season after they lifted the league trophy in a huge post-match party following a 2-0 victory over Mainz 05 to end their Bundesliga campaign in style.

The Bavarians set a Bundesliga record by keeping a 22nd clean sheet of the season, while keeper Manuel Neuer's 20th league game without conceding a goal was also a league record.

Having let in only 18 goals in their 34 games, they also equalled their own league record from their treble-winning 2012/13 season for the fewest goals conceded.

Bastian Schweinsteiger was on target in his 500th competitive game for the club after Robert Lewandowski had converted a penalty, with Bayern

bouncing back from three consecutive league losses.

Fans had hoped for more than just the league title in coach Pep Guardiola's second season in charge, with the Bavarians eliminated in the semi-finals of the German Cup as well as the Champions League.

Yet their run to their 25th German league crown, which they wrapped up last month, still served to confirm that domestically they are in a class of their own.

"Next season we will return even stronger in order to keep the fans satisfied," Guardiola, who had changed into a dry set of clothes after being showered with beer on the pitch after the match, told reporters. "Onwards, always onwards."

"That is my goal. I want to congratulate my players and my staff as well as the fans who always sup-

ported us," added Guardiola, who had to deal with a lengthy injury list this year.

"I hope to have the best possible squad next season," he said.

Midfielder Schweinsteiger said the season had been a success considering all the injuries they had suffered.

"We won our third straight league title and that is something I had not achieved until now," said Schweinsteiger, who has won eight Bundesliga titles and a total of 20 trophies with Bayern.

"We were also close to reaching the other two finals. Considering the injuries we had, we did really well overall."

Guardiola has repeatedly committed to seeing out his contract that ends in 2016 and any extension talks will take place later this year the club and coach have said.—Reuters



Bayern Munich's players celebrate after the German first division Bundesliga football match between Bayern Munich and Mainz in Munich, Germany, on 23 May, 2015. Bayern Munich won 2-0 and claimed their 25th Bundesliga title.

XINHUA