Two-century-old monastery boasts high cultural standard of Myanmar

Ye Myint

Two-century-old monastery boasts high cultural standard of Myanmar

Myeik, 4 April— King Bodaw had been on the throne in Mandalay Royal Palace when he appointed the chief of Petaung district as the tenth commissioner of Myeik in 1175 Myanmar Era. The new commissioner had a mansion built there and ruled the town for three years. An emergency situation prompted the king to send for the commissioner to the palace. Having no desire to leave his mansion as it was, the commissioner donated it to a Buddhist monk named Bhaddanta Kosala through religious rites. As a result, the mansion was converted into a monastery, which was then named “Min Kyaung”, literally meaning a monastery donated by a royal commissioner. Some ancient architectural features of the monastery remain intact even after more than two hundred years, displaying the high standard of Myanmar’s architecture of ancient times. In addition, items of over 200 years can be seen there. Some of them include lacquer objects, bronze Buddha images, bronze cups and trays, wall paintings and wood carvings embroidered in gold, and a portrait of the first presiding Sayadaw, Bhaddanta Chandima, current presiding Sayadaw, maintains the religious edifice, where Buddhist literature is now taught to student monks and novices.

Min Kyaung is a must-go place for history enthusiasts.—Zaw Myo Naing (Myeik, IPRD)

Ngapali’s fame as beach destination on the rise

By Ye Myint

With crystal clear water and a pristine 8-mile stretch of sand, Ngapali in westernmost Myanmar is an unspoiled seaside getaway of the kind coveted by international travelers.

Situated 7 kilometers from Thandwe in Rakhine State, Ngapali overlooks the Bay of Bengal and is only a 30-minute flight from Yangon. The beach is renowned for its safety for swimming, as well as the well-preserved natural state of its ecosystem. Nestled on palm-lined shores, its fame is growing throughout Myanmar and Southeast Asia. Its reputation as one of the best beaches in Myanmar is a draw for tourists from around the world, especially Europeans. Visitors can take boat trips to explore nearby islands with coral reefs, or see the lifestyle of local people in fishing villages.

With more flights to Thandwe airport, which is being upgraded, and a growing number of hotels, tourist numbers are on the rise.

According to the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism, measures are being taken to preserve Ngapali’s ecosystem and environment by banning taking sand from beach, destroying submerged rocks and reefs, and littering.

Upper House speaker honours valiant citizens in northern Shan State city

Nay Pyi Taw, 4 April— Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Aung Myint, accompanied by famous artists, visited Lashio in northern Shan State on Saturday to honour fallen soldiers in Laukkai conflict, and to comfort wounded military forces, members of Myanmar Red Cross Society and media persons.

The speaker said Laukkai conflict was not resulted from cracks in political ideology and ethnic issues, instead, it was based on the greed of drug lord who tried to control on the three estates of administrative, legislative and judicial in Kokang Self-administered Zone. (See page 3)

Police save 83 trafficked victims in March

Yangon, 4 April— Police uncovered 14 cases of human trafficking in March, rescuing 83 victims, most of whom were men sold to work as forced labourers in Thailand. Police Captain Min Naing said Saturday.

In March, Myanmar’s anti-human trafficking body arrested 18 traffickers, mostly women, he added.

According to police, the number of human trafficking cases between January and March this year has reached 29. Shan State tops the chart with 9 cases, followed by Kachin State and Bago Region with 5 cases respectively. The police uncovered five cases during the period involving women who were forced into prostitution.

The authorities arrested 44 traffickers during the three months, but 24 suspects are still at large.

According to official figures, the number of trafficking cases from 2006 to 2014 reached 1123 nationwide. The majority of victims came from Shan State and were sold into forced marriages in China.

Figures for human trafficking incidents in 2014 exceeded the previous year’s total of 102 nationwide, with police focusing more on such cases, Police Cap Min Naing said at a conference.

Myanmar’s Central Body for Suppression of Trafficking in Persons plans to increase temporary shelters for victims in border areas, especially in Tachileik, where many victims have taken shelter at monasteries.

Police usually take action against suspects under Section 24 and 25 of the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Law enacted in 2005, which is being rewritten in cooperation with both local and foreign legal experts. Police Lt-Col Khin Maung Hla said in an interview with the Global New Light of Myanmar.

Water shortages must be addressed in hot season

The last old Myanmar capital city “Ratanap” [Mandalay] Part II

Water shortages must be addressed in hot season

The authorities arrest-
Solar-powered LEDs set to illuminate Upper Myanmar township

By Kyaw The-ein (MNA)

NAY PYI TAW, 4 April — Industrial firm JJ-Pun, in partnership with First Myanmar Investment Co. Ltd. and Philips Lighting, recently announced plans to light up off-grid areas in Upper Myanmar with the installation of solar-powered LED “Community Light Centres.”

The initiative aims to improve quality of life for people living off the electricity grid and to demonstrate the possibilities of sustainable development in rural areas of Myanmar, JJ-Pun said.

CLCs are areas of approximately 1000 square metres, the size of a small soccer pitch, illuminated using a new generation of highly efficient solar powered LED lighting. During the past year Philips Lighting has carried out CLC projects across Kenya, Ghana and South Africa, and is on target to reach 100 such centres by the end of 2015.

Drawing on this success, Myanmar’s first CLC will be constructed in Ngar Zinyine village in the Ta-da-U Township of Upper Myanmar. Construction of the CLC is scheduled to be completed during October 2015.

“Bringing light to the vast amounts of people in Myanmar currently living off the electricity grid will act as an enabler for both social and economic development within these communities,” JJ-Pun managing director Philipp Hoffmann said. “I am delighted the Community Light Centre programme gives us a sustainable means to achieve this and hope our actions demonstrate the important role sustainable development has to play in Myanmar’s modernisation.”

Health workers provide insecticide-treated nets in Malaria risk areas

MONYIN, 4 April — Health workers in Monyin Township, Kachin State, provided 9575 insecticide-treated nets free of charge to people living in 15 villages in the township in March, according to health officials.

To prevent malaria transmission, the staff also demonstrated use of of the nets. During their tour of the villages they provided free health care to children under five, expectant mothers and elders.

In the past Monyin Township had only 245 health staff including 19 physicians, but in 2015 April, 10 new physicians were appointed in Monyin Township.—GNLM-001

Minds of youths improved with Buddhist culture

KAWLIN, 4 April — The second Buddhist cultural course kicked off at the monastery in Gwaygyo village in Kawlin Township, Sagaing Region, in the last week of March, under the guidance of the advice of Natyedwin monastery Bhaddanta Pandita. On the occasion, well-wisher U Shwe Min-Daw Yin Yin Htwe donated K3 million and course equipment to village elders. Shin Janaka, Shin Kavinda and Shin Khemacara of Thitsaweda meditation centre from Patheingyi Township have been giving lectures to the trainees on the 10-day course.

Electrician killed repairing power supply after storm

KAWLIN, 4 April — An electrician was killed trying to restore power following a severe storm in Kawlin, Sagaing Region, on 2 April.

The storm damaged homes and businesses. It blew the roof off Myoma Market, flinging goods and corrugated iron sheets into the air. Local residents evaded the sheets on the roads.

Electrician U Ba Maung died while trying to repair power lines.

Ko Ko Nyein (Kawlın)

Well-wishers share merits for donations of religious edifices

MANDALAY, 4 April — A ceremony to share merits for construction of two prayers halls, religious buildings and an archway was held at Weponlayama Makkhaya monastery in Chanayetthan Township on 3 April.

Well-wishers Thiba Thudhamma Theingi, Thiri Thudhamma Theingi and Nwe Nwe San and family offered donations to venerable monks on the occasion.

They donated religious edifices and social welfare worth K418 million in Mandalay, Sagaing, Mahaaungmye and Wetlet townships.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)

Literacy campaign starts in Myawady Township

MYAWADY, 4 April — A basic literacy campaign began in Myawady, Kayin State, as of 1 April. On 2 April, Deputy Commissioner of the district U Lwin Ko Oo and township departmental officials together with those of social organisations visited the teaching sessions in the wards and villages.

A total of 137 university students and 134 basic education teachers are instructing 1,490 local people at 142 teaching sessions in Myawady.

Htein Lin Aung (IPRD)
Upper House speaker . . .

(from page 1)

U Khin Aung Myint said U Phone Kyaw Shin was a former communist party member and produced illegal drugs at the border area before and after he returned to legal fold. He said Phone Kyaw Shin’s forces brutally killed 14 members of police after the government forces raided his drug and weapon factories in 2009. Phone Kyaw Shin’s insurgents attacked Laukkai area in early 2015 after strengthening his forces.

Pro-peace rallies held in Shan State

KYAUKME, 4 April — Some 15,000 ethnic people marched here on Saturday to support draft peace deal between the government and armed groups signed in last week. Under the slogan “Peace is expectation of all people; To a peaceful and prosperous new democratic state; Union Peace; Victory of Second Panglong Agreement”, the rally in northern Shan State of Kyaukme township was taken part by people of Shan, Bamar, Danu, Paung and Kokang ethnics. Peace campaigners also called for continuous efforts for peace, national reconciliation and political dialogues with ethnic people.

In Linkyay Township, southern Shan State, a total of 1,200 locals launched peace demonstration, with messages “Stop fighting immediately; Peace is essential for genuine democratic state; Anarchists are our common enemies.”

Myanmar observes mine awareness day

YANGON, 4 April — International mine awareness campaign was held here on Saturday as the world marks the 10th UN International Day of Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action designated by the United Nations.

Under the theme for this year’s day — More than Mines — the ceremony was held at Kandawgyi Palace Hotel and jointly organized by civil service organizations and NGOs.

Yangon region’s Chief Minister U Myint Swe said the number disabled persons has been increasing due to internal conflicts, adding that Myanmar opposes the use of land mines.

Myanmar has commemorated this day two consecutive years in 2013 at Myanmar Peace Centre and in 2014 in Loikaw, Kayah State. Dr Su Su Thar Tun, senior advisor at the UN on Peace and Development, read the message of UN Secretary-General, followed by explanation of Mr. Yann Faivre, programme director at Handicap International, on challenges of mine clearance works.

Later, Lt-Col Thant Zin, chairman of Peace Myanmar Aid Foundation, appreciated the guests, and the chief minister looked around land mine detected items and pictures displayed at the ceremony. Government and ethnic armed group signed draft ceasefire agreement last week after a marathon talks since President U Thein Sein administration has taken office in 2011.

With more than US$2.4 billion in assistance in over 90 countries for conventional weapons destruction programs since 1993, the United Nations has applied two mine action expertise to an increasingly wide range of explosive hazards, from unexploded missiles, artillery shells, rockets, grenades and mortars, to unsafe and unsecured weapons and ammunition, improvised explosive devices and cluster bombs. —MNA

Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe observes booths displayed at ceremony to mark International Day of Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action. —MNA

Myanmar’s biggest property expo to come in May

By Khaing Thanda Lwin

YANGON, 4 April — iMyanmar Co. will hold the country’s biggest property expo at Tatmadaw convention hall here in May, the online advertising group’s managing director U Nay Min Thu said Friday.

Featuring talks by 20 real estate experts, the event will run from 1 to 3 May. Over 50 companies will sell flats and condominium apartments during the three-day expo, he said. “At least 5,000 flats and condo apartments will be sold at the expo, with the organiser expecting more than 3,000 visitors to come to the free event,” U Nay Min Thu said at a press conference.

House hunters will have access to home loan services through the Construction and Housing Development Bank, he said.

“We have a plan to hold another property expo in Mandalay by the end of this year and to conduct property seminars every two months,” the managing director of iMyanmar told the Global New Light of Myanmar.

During the press conference Friday, iMyanmar Co. also introduced its iMyanmarhouse.com application and property magazine. Lead developer U Aung Khant Zaw said the new mobile app allows users to upload property advertising free of charge. Users can also read property-related news and videos through the app.

The May issue of the iMyanmarhouse.com property magazine was published ahead of schedule, with information about the economic impact of the housing market, Executive Editor U Thant Wai Soe said.
Ex-Japan PM Murayama to attend China’s WWII event in September

BEIJING, 4 April — Former Japanese Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama said on Friday he is planning to attend a ceremony that China will hold in September marking the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II.

“If I receive a formal invitation, I intend to go,” Murayama, who served as prime minister from June 1994 to January 1996, said in a telephone conversation with Kyodo News.

Murayama said he recently got a call from China’s ambassador to Japan, Cheng Yonghua, saying the country wants to invite him to the event.

China calls the anniversary its victory in a war of resistance against Japanese aggression.

The former socialist prime minister is known for penning a statement in 1995 apologizing for the suffering Japan inflicted on its Asian neighbours through colonization and wartime aggression. The so-called Murayama statement was released on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the end of the war. The document is highly regarded by China and many other countries.

China has invited world leaders, including Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, whom it sees as a historical revisionist, to attend the ceremony in Beijing.

Among other countries, besides Russian President Vladimir Putin, it is still unknown who will take part in the ceremony, which will be combined with a major military parade.

The likelihood of Abe travelling to China for the event has been clouded by simmering Japanese government officials said last month.

China has been wary of what Abe may say on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of Japan’s defeat in the war and has called on him not to water down the Murayama statement and other past apologies issued by Tokyo.

Last month, China said it has also invited foreign armed forces to march in the military parade expected to be staged in Tiananmen Square “to remember history, commemorate the martyrs, cherish peace and open the way to the future.”

The last major military parade in China was held in 2009 to mark the 60th anniversary of the founding of the People’s Republic of China.

Until now, a military parade has been staged every 10 years in Beijing on the country’s founding day on 1 October, but not on the war anniversary.

Kyodo News

Suga wants “honest” exchanges with Okinawa amid US base row

SAHA, (Japan), 4 April — Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga said on Saturday he wants to honest ly communicate with the Okinawa governor, ahead of their meeting amid growing tensions over the planned relocation of US military base within the prefecture.

Suga, the top government spokesman and one of the closest aides to Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, arrived in Okinawa, where he will meet with Gov. Takeshi Onaga on Sunday, their first meeting since the government was elected last year with support from voters opposing the relocation plan, which is part of a Japan-US agreement.

“I want to have an honest exchange of opinions with Governor Onaga over easing the burden of Okina wa in hosting (US) bases as well as promoting its economic development,” Suga told a meeting of the local chapter of Abe’s Liberal Democratic Party. At the talks with Onaga, Suga is likely to restate government hopes for understanding from people in Okinawa toward the long-standing plan to relocate the US Marine Corps Futenma Air Station within the island prefecture, which already hosts most of the US military facilities in Japan.

On Saturday, Suga will attend a ceremony marking the return to Okinawa of a housing area used by the US military, agreed by the two countries in 2013 as part of their efforts to ease the hosting burdens of the prefecture.

Kyodo News

China says Iran deal good for Sino-US relations

BEIJING, 4 April — This week’s framework nuclear deal with Iran was also good for boosting relations between China and the United States, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said in a call with US Secretary of State John Kerry.

The agreement can be attributed to all sides seizing a historic opportunity through concerted efforts, Wang told Kerry, China’s foreign ministry said in a statement released late on Friday.

“China and the United States, bearing fundamental responsibilities in safeguarding the international nuclear non-proliferation system, maintained good contact with each other during the negotiations, while instilling positive energy into bilateral relations,” the statement cited Wang as saying.

“In a bid to finalise a comprehensive deal as scheduled, China will maintain close coordination with all parties concerned, including the United States, and continue to play a constructive role during the process,” Wang added.

While China and the United States are at loggerheads over everything from cybersecurity to the value of China’s yuan currency, the world’s two largest economies also cooperate closely on certain international issues, including the Iranian and North Korean nuclear disputes.

The Chinese statement cited Kerry as saying that the United States appreciates China’s important and constructive role in the latest Iran nuclear talks.

The tentative agreement, struck on Thursday after eight days of talks between Iran and six world powers in Lausanne, Switzerland, clears the way for a settlement to allay Western fears that Iran could build an atomic bomb, with economic sanctions on Tehran being lifted in return.

It marks the most significant step towards rapprochement between Washington and Tehran since the 1979 Iranian revolution, and could pave the way for better relations.

China and Iran have been close diplomatically, economically, and energy ties.

China’s crude oil imports from Iran jumped by nearly 30 percent last year to their highest average level since 2011, as Iran’s largest oil client boosted shipments after an interim deal eased sanctions on Tehran.

Reuters

Cambodia evacuates eight citizens from conflict-hit Yemen

PHnom Penh, 4 April — Cambodia has evacuated eight Cambodian Muslim students stranded in conflict in Yemen, Koy Kuong, a spokesman for the Cambodian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, said on Saturday.

“The Cambodian Embassy to Kuwait has closely cooperated with the Malaysian Embassy to Yemen to evacuate 8 Cambodian Muslim students from Yemen because the current situation in this country could not guarantee security for our citizens,” he said in a news statement.

Currently, the 8 Cambodian Muslim students are staying in a safe place during the waiting for the return to Cambodia,” he said. Security sharply deteriorated in Yemen since early March when conflict erupted in several provinces in the country’s southern regions.

The conflict killed more than 500 people over the past two weeks.

The Shiite Houthi group launched attacks on Aden city, which Yemeni President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi declared as the temporary capital after he fled weeks of house arrest by the Houthis in the capital Sanaa. Last Thursday, a Saudi-led coalition started air strikes on Houthi targets in Sanaa and other cities, saying the multinational action was to protect Hadi’s legitimacy and force the Houthis to retreat from cities it seized since September 2014...

Xinhua

Indian president signs land ordinance re-promulgated by Modi govt

NEW DELHI, 4 April — Indian President Pranab Mukherjee has signed off on the land acquisition ordinance, which was reissued late last week under unusual circumstances after the government failed to pass it in Parliament, said local TV channel NDTV on Friday.

This is also the first time for the president to bypass one house of the Parliament, the Upper House, to sign the ordinance to let it be re-promulgated.

The ordinance, or emergency executive order, seeks to make land acquisition easier for industry and to develop roads, ports and power stations, among other infrastructure projects.

To reissue it, the government cut short the budget session in one house of Parliament, the Rajya Sabha or Upper House of Parliament, which refused to endorse the bill.

The Indian Constitution says the bill be passed within 60 days of the Budget session that started on 23 February. However, the ordinance will now be presented in both houses of Parliament again.

The Lower House of Parliament or Lok Sabha has already overwhelmingly endorsed it. The ordinance includes nine changes made when a bill to replace it was passed in the Lok Sabha last month. With no possibility of the bill making it through the Rajya Sabha, where the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party and its allies are in a minority, the government had no option but to issue the ordinance again.

A united opposition led by the Congress has termed the ordinance an anti-farmer and vowed not to let it pass.—Xinhua

Indian president signs land ordinance re-promulgated by Modi govt

NEW DELHI, 4 April — Indian President Pranab Mukherjee has signed off on the land acquisition ordinance, which was reissued late last week under unusual circumstances after the government failed to pass it in Parliament, said local TV channel NDTV on Friday.

This is also the first time for the president to bypass one house of the Parliament, the Upper House, to sign the ordinance to let it be re-promulgated.

The ordinance, or emergency executive order, seeks to make land acquisition easier for industry and to develop roads, ports and power stations, among other infrastructure projects.

To reissue it, the government cut short the budget session in one house of Parliament, the Rajya Sabha or Upper House of Parliament, which refused to endorse the bill.

The Indian Constitution says the bill be passed within 60 days of the Budget session that started on 23 February. However, the ordinance will now be presented in both houses of Parliament again.

The Lower House of Parliament or Lok Sabha has already overwhelmingly endorsed it. The ordinance includes nine changes made when a bill to replace it was passed in the Lok Sabha last month. With no possibility of the bill making it through the Rajya Sabha, where the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party and its allies are in a minority, the government had no option but to issue the ordinance again.

A united opposition led by the Congress has termed the ordinance an anti-farmer and vowed not to let it pass.—Xinhua
India’s ruling BJP committed to peaceful ties with Pakistan

NEW DELHI, 4 April — India’s ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has adopted a new foreign policy formula, which calls for peaceful and cooperative relations with Pakistan in fighting terrorism, local media reported on Saturday.

The BJP adopted a resolution during its national executive meeting on Friday in the southern city of Bangalore, presenting a five-point formula of its foreign policy, said The Hindustan Times.

The policy pitched for peaceful engagement with Pakistan to gain the neighbour’s cooperation to root out terrorism in the region, said the report.

It also praised the government of Prime Minister Narendra Modi for “firmly and appropriately responding to the provocations on the border” allegedly by Pakistan military.

The BJP is “committed to building peaceful and friendly relations with Paki- stan, predicated on an end to terrorism,” it said.

US Defense Acquisition Chief Frank Kendall speaks to journalists at a news conference at the 2014 Farnborough International Airshow in Farnborough, southern England on 14 July, 2014.—Reuters

WASHINGTON, 4 April — The US government would support selling General Atomics’ electromagnetic launching system for aircraft carriers, and other key technologies, to India, the Pentagon’s chief weapons buyer told Reuters on Friday.

Defence Undersecretary Frank Kendall, who heads a joint US-India defence trade and technology effort, said he was optimistic about the two countries’ efforts to cooperate on a planned aircraft carrier for India.

“I’m optimistic about cooperating with them on that,” Kendall told Reuters in an interview, when asked about the possibility of India acquiring the Electro- magnetic Aircraft Launching System (EMALS) built by privately held General Atomics, which is based in San Diego, California.

“They’re going to have to make their own decision about what technology they want, but I don’t see any fundamental obstacles to them acquiring some of our carrier technologies, if they want them,” he said.

India wants to use state-of-the-art US technology to boost the range and potency of a planned aircraft carrier, US says would back India buying US aircraft carrier technology

S Korea, Japan, US to hold talks on defence cooperation mid-April

SEOUL, 4 April — Senior defence ministry officials from South Korea, Japan and the United States will hold two-day talks from 16 April in Washington to discuss promoting trilateral defence cooperation, South Korea’s Defence Ministry said on Friday. Details on the agenda are being worked out, but the talks are expected to focus on North Korea’s growing military threats.

India’s ruling BJP committed to peaceful ties with Pakistan

NEW DELHI, 4 April — Diplomats at the United Nations are expected to shift into high gear for discussions on Security Council reforms in the weeks ahead following preliminary intergovernmental negotiations in late March.

As part of its push to join the exclusive club of permanent members, the Japanese government under Prime Minister Shinzo Abe is expected to lobby hard for reforms this year, the 70th anniversary of the founding of the global organization.

Japan will be working together with Brazil, Germany and India that form the so-called Group of Four (G-4) to re vamp the organization’s most powerful decision-making body.

Negotiations started on 26 March under the initiative of Jamaican Ambassador to the United Nations, likened reform negotiations in the current General Assembly session, according to Japanese Ambassador Motohide Yoshikawa.

Rattray has presented a three-phase approach to the negotiations and asked member states to submit by mid-April their positions on key points of discussions, such as to what extent the council should be expanded, sources familiar with the matter said.

The second phase would be interactive dialogue sessions to explore each other’s positions, followed by the third stage of condensing the document to produce a negotiation text, the sources said.

Any plan to transform the council, entrusted with such powers as imposing sanctions and even paving the way for military action, requires endorsement by two-thirds of the UN member states to amend the UN charter.

Reaching this threshold will be difficult, given the deep divisions among members over how reforms should be undertaken that were manifested in previous intergovernmental talks.

During a General Assembly meeting on Security Council reforms in November, Antonio de Aguiar Patriota, Brazilian ambassador to the United Nations, likened reform debates to a carousel running endlessly in circles, even after participants had exhausted the major points of contention, and made a plea to push the agenda forward.

The United Nations now encompasses 193 member states, nearly quadrupling from 51 when it came into being 70 years ago. The Security Council, however, has maintained a 15-state quota since four nonpermanent seats were added in 1965.

The council is currently made up of five permanent members with veto powers — Britain, China, France, Russia and the United States — and ten nonpermanent members who are elected from regions of grouping for a two-year term.

Japan has served on the Security Council ten times as a nonpermanent member with the last stint in 2009-2010.

A majority of member states are believed to share the view that the council should have an expanded roster.

The G-4 is seeking to increase both permanent and nonpermanent membership.

The Consensus Group, comprising Italy, South Korea and other countries, argues that only the nonpermanent quota should be expanded.

In 2005, the G-4 introduced a resolution to the General Assembly seeking to add six permanent and four nonpermanent members. It was eventually scrapped in the face of opposition from the United States, China and other countries.

Since 2009, intergovernmental negotiations have been conducted in every General Assembly session, but no major strides have been made.

The 69th and current session opened last September and runs for one year.

Rattray took over the chair from Afghan diplomat Zahir Tanin, who had served in the post since 2009.

Tanin said in a recent interview with Kyodo News that he decided to leave the post because he felt the political will to move forward was lacking.

The council is current

Key Taleban commander killed in eastern Afghanistan

KABUL, 4 April — Afghanistan’s security forces raided Taleban hideouts in the eastern Wardak province early on Saturday, killing five military leaders including key commander Mullah Wazir alias Mullah Farid, and injuring three others, the provincial government said.

“Units of security forces, acting upon intelligence reports raided Taleban hideouts in Jalal and Jaghato districts in the wee hours of Saturday. As a result, four rebels, including a key commander Mullah Wazir alias Mullah Farid, were killed and three others

participants in a rally held in Tokyo by the Labour Lawyers Association of Japan on 3 April, 2015, raise signs bearing a message expressing their opposition to a planned bill to scrap working-hour limits for high-income professionals with annual salaries of 10.75 million yen ($90,000) or more. Under the so-called white-collar exemption system, people who engage in research and development, and other professionals such as dealers at financial institutions will be given the option of being exempt from working-hour regulations.—Kyodo News

US Defense Acquisition Chief Frank Kendall speaks to journalists at a news conference at the 2014 Farnborough International Airshow in Farnborough, southern England on 14 July, 2014.—Reuters

WASHINGTON, 4 April — The US government would support selling General Atomics’ electromagnetic launching system for aircraft carriers, and other key technologies, to India, the Pentagon’s chief weapons buyer told Reuters on Friday.

Defence Undersecretary Frank Kendall, who heads a joint US-India defence trade and technology effort, said he was optimistic about the two countries’ efforts to cooperate on a planned aircraft carrier for India.

“I’m optimistic about cooperating with them on that,” Kendall told Reuters in an interview, when asked about the possibility of India acquiring the Electro-magnetic Aircraft Launching System (EMALS) built by privately held General Atomics, which is based in San Diego, California.

“They’re going to have to make their own decision about what technology they want, but I don’t see any fundamental obstacles to them acquiring some of our carrier technologies, if they want them,” he said.

India wants to use state-of-the-art US technology to boost the range and potency of a planned aircraft carrier, S Korea, Japan, US to hold talks on defence cooperation mid-April

SEOUL, 4 April — Senior defence ministry officials from South Korea, Japan and the United States will hold two-day talks from 16 April in Washington to discuss promoting trilateral defence cooperation, South Korea’s Defence Ministry said on Friday. Details on the agenda are being worked out, but the talks are expected to focus on North Korea’s growing military threats.

Prior to the trilateral meeting, South Korea and the United States plan to hold bilateral talks on defence cooperation on 14-15 April in Washington.

The South Korean ministry also said US Secretary of Defence Ashton Carter will visit South Korea on 9-11 April and hold talks with South Korea’s Defence Minister Han Min Koo on 10 April.—Kyodo News

India’s ruling BJP committed to peaceful ties with Pakistan

NEW DELHI, 4 April — India’s ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has adopted a new foreign policy formula, which calls for peaceful and cooperative relations with Pakistan in fighting terrorism, local media reported on Saturday.

The BJP adopted a resolution during its national executive meeting on Friday in the southern city of Bangalore, presenting a five-point formula of its foreign policy, said The Hindustan Times.

The policy pitched for peaceful engagement with Pakistan to gain the neighbour’s cooperation to root out terrorism in the region, said the report.

It also praised the government of Prime Minister Narendra Modi for “firmly and appropriately responding to the provocations on the border” allegedly by Pakistan military.

The BJP is “committed to building peaceful and friendly relations with Paki- stan, predicated on an end to terrorism,” it said.

US Defense Acquisition Chief Frank Kendall speaks to journalists at a news conference at the 2014 Farnborough International Airshow in Farnborough, southern England on 14 July, 2014.—Reuters
Big TV debate of British election campaign yields no clear winner

**WASHINGTON, 4 April** — The campaign of likely US presidential candidate Hillary Clinton has signed a lease on the Clinton campaign headquarters in Brooklyn, New York, a source with knowledge of Clinton’s plans said on Friday.

Clinton, the former US secretary of state and the wife of a former president, secretary of state and the US presidential candidate — The campaign-in-waiting, the ex-pont Plaza in the Brooklyn 2016 election later this year, is expected to launch her campaign.

In an unusual format for Britain, Cameron faced off against six political rivals in what was the first and only full TV debate of a campaign that has yet to attract voters, many of whom say they feel jaded despite a rising economy.

In one of Cameron’s more frequent appearances in an otherwise reserved performance, he pointed to his rivals, one-by-one, and said: “I think we need more debt and more taxes, more debt and more taxes, a lot more debt and more taxes, some more debt and more taxes, and definitely more debt and more taxes.”

A rare moment of drama came when a female audience member briefly interrupted Cameron to complain about the number of homeless people sleeping in the streets. — Reuters

Netanyahu says in any nuclear deal Iran must recognize Israel’s right to exist

**JERUSALEM, 4 April** — Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on Friday that any final nuclear deal with Iran must include a commitment from Teheran recognising Israel’s right to exist.

Netanyahu, whose address to the US Congress last month failed to stop the United States and five other major powers agreeing a framework accord with Teheran on Thursday, made the demand after his security cabinet met to discuss the deal.

“Israel demands that any final agreement with Iran will include a clear and unambiguous Iranian commitment of Israel’s right to exist,” Netanyahu said in a statement.

“Israel will not accept an agreement which allows a country that vows to annihilate us to develop nuclear weapons. period.”

US President Barack Obama, who called Thurs-

day’s agreement a “historic
understanding”, called Net-
anyahu within hours of the talks concluding, saying the deal represented pro-
gress toward a lasting solu-
tion that cuts off Iran’s path to a nuclear weapon.

But Netanyahu said a final accord based on what was agreed in Lausanne, Switzerland “would threat- en the survival of Israel” and rather than blocking Tehran’s path to the bomb, “would pave it”.

“Israel will not accept a nuclear programme, bolster Iran’s economy and increase Iran’s aggression and terror throughout the Middle East and beyond,” Netanyahu said. “It would increase the risks of nuclear proliferation in the region and the risks of a horrific war.”

Obama mentioned several times during his speech on the deal that the United States stood with Is-
rael on security and would not allow “any daylight between their positions, but the reassurances have not satisfied Netanyahu.

Israel, believed to be the only nuclear-armed state in the Middle East, has previously said it could take pre-emptive military action if necessary to stop Iran getting such weap-
ons.— Reuters
Kenya Administration policemen stand in front of Garissa University College in Garissa on 4 April, 2015.—Reuters

Sunday, 5 April, 2015 | 7

Yemeni fighters repel Houthis in Aden after arms drop

Aid in Aden, launched its air campaign nine days ago along with regional backers.

The intervention marks Riyadh’s most assertive move yet to counter what it sees as a spread of Shi‘ite Iran’s power in the region, a proxy struggle also playing along with regional backers.

The credibility of the international community. We must not fail.

The al-Qaeda aligned group said the attack was retribution for Kenya’s presence in Somalia and mistreatment of Muslims within Kenya.

“No amount of precaution or safety measures will be able to guarantee your safety, thwart another attack or prevent another bloodbath from occurring in your cities,” the group said in an emailed statement.

In the message, directed at the Kenyan public, the group vowed a long and gruesome war, saying Kenya’s cities will “run red with blood”.

The death toll in the attack on the Garissa University College has risen to 148, Interior Minister Joseph Nkaissery said late on Friday, adding that police were interviewing five suspects after making three additional arrests on Friday.

The raid on Thursday was the biggest attack on Kenya since 1998, when al-Qaeda bombed the US embassy in the capital Nairobi and killed more than 200 people.—Reuters

Somali militants threaten more bloody attacks against Kenya

The al-Qaeda group said the attack was retribution for Kenya’s presence in Somalia and mistreatment of Muslims within Kenya.

“No amount of precaution or safety measures will be able to guarantee your safety, thwart another attack or prevent another bloodbath from occurring in your cities,” the group said in an emailed statement.

In the message, directed at the Kenyan public, the group vowed a long and gruesome war, saying Kenya’s cities will “run red with blood”.

The death toll in the attack on the Garissa University College has risen to 148, Interior Minister Joseph Nkaissery said late on Friday, adding that police were interviewing five suspects after making three additional arrests on Friday.

The raid on Thursday was the biggest attack on Kenya since 1998, when al-Qaeda bombed the US embassy in the capital Nairobi and killed more than 200 people.—Reuters

Russia calls UN meeting to discuss a humanitarian pause in Yemen

The council is due to meet at 11 am (1500 GMT) on Saturday. Yemen President Abdr-Rabbu Mansour Hadi fled Aden last week in the face of the Houthi offensive, which has continued to advance despite nine days of air strikes by the Saudi-led coalition aimed at driving back the Iranian-allied Houthis and restoring Hadi’s authority.—Reuters

Islamic State takes 90 percent of Damascus refugee camp

The Islamic State said on control of 90 percent of a Palestinian refugee camp on the Damascus outskirts where 18,000 civilians have suffered years of bombing, army siege and militia control, a monitoring group said on Saturday.

The hardline group’s offensive in Yarmouk gives it a major presence in the capital. Islamic State, the most powerful insurgent group in Syria, is now only a few kilometers from President Bashar al-Assad’s seat of power.

The United Nations has said it is extremely concerned about the safety and protection of Syrians and Palestinians in the camp. Civilians trapped there have long suffered a government siege that has led to starvation and disease.

“The situation in Yarmouk is an affront to the humanity of all of us, a source of universal shame,” UN Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) spokesman Chris Gunness said. “Yarmouk is a test, a challenge for the international community. We must not fail. The credibility of the international system is at stake,” he said.

The Islamic State on Wednesday launched an attack on other groups of fighters in Yarmouk, in particular Al-Kafir al-Bad-Maqdis, an anti-Assad militia of Syrians and Palestinians from the camp. Islamic State supporters posted on social media of the severed heads of two men they said had been beheaded after fighting for Al-Kafir al-Bad-Maqdis.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, which monitors the conflict in Syria, said the offensive by Islamic State and al-Qaida’s official Syria wing, the Nusra Front, had gained overnight control of a stretch of the northeast of the district, close to central Damascus. They now control 90 percent of the camp, it said.—Reuters
Sunday, 5 April, 2015

Water shortages must be addressed in hot season
By Aung Khin

Summer season in Myanmar lasts from March to May, while April is the hottest month of the year, with daytime temperatures in the central areas normally peaking at above 40 degrees Celsius.

In arid zones, water shortages still need to be addressed. Many people in those areas are suffering the harmful effects of extreme heat. More than four thousand villages face water scarcity during the hot summer months in Mandalay region alone.

Hot weather also dries up drinking water ponds in many villages, forcing villagers to dig wells for water. Extreme day temperatures can also increase the risk of flu, skin allergies and other illnesses.

When the body’s temperature control system is overloaded due to hot weather, people suffer heat-related illness. Normally, the body cools itself by sweat. Under some conditions, sweating is not enough to cool down the body. In such cases, a person’s body temperature rises rapidly. Excess body temperatures can damage the brain or other vital organs. Labourers and vendors are most at risk from heat-related illnesses, in some cases dying from them. They cannot afford to follow the suggestion of the authorities and experts to stay indoors in the daytime.

Electricity shortages are another problem Myanmar experiences in hot season. Lower water levels in dams and reservoirs impact the country’s productivity.

As the economy of Myanmar is largely reliant on water resource, sufficient supply of water is fundamental for the country.

Write for us

We appreciate your feedback and contributions.
If you have any comments or would like to submit editorials, analyses or reports please email Wallace. tuw@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.

---

PERSPECTIVES

Sunday, 5 April, 2015

Water shortages must be addressed in hot season
By Aung Khin

EXCEEDING EXPECTATIONS

Interactive Marketing

• Internal Marketing (Between the business and the Employees)
• External Marketing (Between the business and the Customers)
✓ The aim of Internal Marketing is: To recruit and retain Top Talents in the forms of Best of Breed or Best of the Class.
✓ The aim of External Marketing is: To Exceed Expectations of the customers.
✓ The aim of Interactive Marketing is: To deliver the Delightful Experience to the Customer in “The Moment of Truth.”

PRODUCT, PRICE, PLACE AND PROMOTION
(The 10-P’s Marketing Mix)

• Product ……… to deliver ……… Core Benefits
• Price ……… to determine ……… Cost
• Place ……… to create ……… Convenience
• Promotion ……… to be in touch with the Customer in Communication
• People ……… to provide ……… Caring
• Process ……… to provide Accuracy & Speed ……… Comfortability
• Physical-Evidence ……… to provide Image ……… Confidence
• Philosophy (Business) ……… to deliver Best Value
• Purpose (Business) ……… to create Win-Win-Outcomes
• Policy (Business) ……… to put the Customer First

*EXCEEDING EXPECTATIONS

To have a cutting edge in competition, it is very important for the business to be able to exceed the expectations of the stakeholders:

• Customers
• Employees
• Owners/Shareholders
• Community & the Entire National Economy

* TARGETING
In competition, it is very important to thoroughly know:

• Strengths } of Ourselves &
• Weaknesses } the Competitors
• Opportunities } for Ourselves &
• Threats } the Competitors

“How knowing thoroughly well ourselves as well as the enemy will deliver to us a hundred victories in a hundred battles,” said Sun Tzu. We must target at multiplying our strengths and opportunities and eliminating our weaknesses and threats. We should also target at having a winning edge in:

• Strategy
• Objective
• Distinctive Capabilities
• Comprehensive Resources, and
• Morale

* INNOVATION
To be competitive, to survive, to prosper and to grow, we have got to be creative and innovative. We must passionately cultivate a creative and innovative environment and culture. We should be always reinventing our business processes, vision and strategy. The whole organization must be working hard and smart victoriously with the conquering spirit. Our motto should be something like: “Innovate or die.”

* TOUGH-MINDEDNESS
To compete effectively, we have got to be tough-minded. We must advance steadfastly from strength to strength. Strategically we must have an offensive plan of action, and tactically we must have a very strong and invincible defensive preparedness. We should be:

• Tough & strong in financial viability
• Tough & strong in operational efficiency
• Tough & strong in managerial effectiveness
• Tough & strong in Customer & Employee Satisfaction
• Tough & strong in Competitive Advantage

* INSIGHT
To be advantageously competitive, we must have insight into cultivating and inculcating:

• Big View
• Long-term View as well as the Short-term Wins
• Prior Planning Plus Preparations Promoting Peak Performance Practice
• Distinctive Capabilities
• Comprehensive Resources and
• Indomitable Spirit

* ON-LINE MARKETING
To beat the competitors, it is imperative to penetrate the on-line market. Market-share Growth must be relentlessly pursued in two-pronged attacks in the brick & motor market and in the Internet Market. Initially, online market should be penetrated in niches of our unique strengths and capabilities.

N E V E R  S A Y  D I E
Business itself is a tough affair. Competition is tough, ruthless and big in scope. We have got to be resolute, fear no sacrifice and surfmount all difficulties to win victory after victory. We must forever drive, strive, thrive, arrive and revive.

* CONCLUSION
Competition in Business is very intense, ruthless and very widespread. There is even cut-throat competition in the business world. Such a ruthless competition is dubbed: the rat race, dog-eat-dog culture and a mad practice. Anyhow, there are many decent, broad-minded and kind-hearted business people, also. In business, a fair and square type of competition can also be exercised. In such high principled and decent competition, the competitors usually focus on the following winning characteristics of business objectives and strategies called QUIVERS:

• Quality
• Uniqueness
• Innovation
• Value
• Excellence
• Relationships
• Service

By Kyi Mun

* Competition

- Competition means:
  1. A situation in which people or organizations compete with each other for something that not everyone can have.
  2. An event in which people compete with each other to find out who is the best at something.
  3. Competition is rivalry between people or organizations.

- Let’s explore the wider meanings of competition in the following manner:
  C for Customer
  O for Offers
  M for Marketing
  P for Product, Price, Places, Promotion
  E for Exceeding Expectations
  T for Targeting
  I for Innovation
  I for Insight
  O for Online Marketing
  N for Never Say Die

* CUSTOMER
In doing business, you cannot avoid competition. Whatever sort of business you do, you have to compete for the customer, without whom, there could be no business. Theodore Levette, the business and marketing guru said: “Customer is business.” Management guru Peter Drucker also said: “The business of business is to create customers.” Every businessman knows quite well that Customer is The Only Revenue Source. “It is said in the Myanmar homegrown sense, “If business is the Night, Customer is the Moon, bright!” “If business is the Fish, brother, Customer is Water!”

* OFFERINGS
A business offers its product or service. But, actually, what a business offers to its customer is the benefits, solution or answer to satisfy the needs and wants and expectations of the customer. It should be remembered that:
The Seller sells Benefits, and
The Buyer buys Value.

* MARKETING
In competition, marketing can be a competitive advantage. Marketing is Targeting the Customer. The main function of marketing is to get and to keep customers. There are three types of marketing, viz.:
• Internal Marketing (Between the business and the Employees)
• External Marketing (Between the business & Customers)
✓ The aim of Internal Marketing is: To recruit and retain Top Talents in the forms of Best of Breed or Best of the Class.
✓ The aim of External Marketing is: To Exceed Expectations of the customers.
✓ The aim of Interactive Marketing is: To deliver the Delightful Experience to the Customer in “The Moment of Truth.”
The last old Myanmar capital city “Ratanapong” [Mandalay] Part II

Maha Saddhamma Jotika dhaja Silhu Dr. Khin Maung Nyunt

In the founding an urbanization of his new capital city “Yadanapong” [Mandalay] ‘Yadanapong Naypyitaw’, King Mindon was fortunate enough to have abundance of knowledge and experiences at his disposal. First and foremost was the two previous capitals namely Inwa and Amarapura which gave him good experiences and lessons to take and bad experiences and lessons to avoid. The strategic location and natural resources facilities of Inwa guided King Mindon to the site of Mandalay which covers by far much larger and wider areas than that of Inwa and Amarapura. Although Mandalay is now surrounded by the confluence of five rivers, the Ayeyawady, the Zambezi, the Dagan, the Pauk and the Padaung lotus blooms, flows clockwise around Mandalay hill.

Like in days of yore in the royal city of Rajagaha in India of Buddha’s lifetime, the Bahi Si (central clock drum) boomed, drowning away the rather disagreeable sounds of the time which are still popular as classic are Mya Man Giri and Man Paya. The Yetkan zin hill, the Naga Yit hill, the Ko-yin Maung hill, the Shin Ma Lei hill, Mogok hill range, Kyaukse hill range, Pyet-kawi hill range at not so far distances from which rain water and spring and fall waters constantly provide enough aquatic quantity to Mandalay Naypyidaw through the natural streams and dug-up canals connecting with the natural lakes and reservoirs such as the Shwe Ta-chaung, Yatana Nadi, Thingaza which are the half of Mandalay hill. The Yetkan zin hill, the Naga Yit hill, the Ko-yin Maung hill, the Shin Ma Lei hill, Mogok hill range, Kyaukse hill range, Pyet-kawi hill range at not so far distances from which rain water and spring and fall waters constantly provide enough aquatic quantity to Mandalay Naypyidaw through the natural streams and dug-up canals connecting with the natural lakes and reservoirs such as the Shwe Ta-chaung, Yatana Nadi, Thingaza which are the half of Mandalay hill.

Unlike Taungthaman In lake which blocked Amarapura for its urban expansion, the said aquatic sources at Mandalay site lie at safe distances giving extensive spaces for splitoff of the city population. Besides the mighty Ayeyawaddy river that winds about zigzagly from its northern most reaches to the confluence of the Nmaiikha and the Mali Kha (Myitson) after passing many defiles, becomes mild and tame as it reaches Mandalay hill. The facilities of Inwa guided King Mindon to the site of Mandalay hill. From thence southward the Ayeyawaddy turns into a dancing lady, caressing and kissing Mandalay only to keep it apart from the Minmaw and the Sagang hill ranges along the banks, facing Mandalay. These hill ranges are dotted with religious monuments and edifices of the past historic periods of Myanmar history. Hence the topographical disadvantages of Amarapura were not repeated at the site of new capital city Yadanapong Naypyitaw (Mandalay).

King Mindon consulted his ministers, Brahmans Priests, Soothsayers, Astrologers, learned Buddhist monks, city and town planners, architects engineers and land surveyors. He left no stone unturned in the founding of his new capital city. By now, many experts from the advanced western countries had arrived at the site to give him advice and demarcated and housed palace city (Nan Myo Taw) was built in the centre.

In the definition and demarcation of the new capital city, King Mindon and his brothers Crown Prince Kanaung who are descendants of Thethyka race of Gotama Buddha. They are great grandsons of royal ancestors. Their fame and glory spread to the six planes of celestial world. Cool, clear water flows clockwise around Mandalay hill from the Ayeyawaddy river, thence north along the west side of the Ayeyawaddy river to the Shwezigyet Pagoda, thence along the water’s edge on the west side of Pyay PAN and along the water’s edge on the west side of Malaka and Alangun Islands, to Haiangyunn on the far side of the Ayeyawaddy river to the north-east corner which is Powa North Village at the junction of the Natpauk branch of the Ayeyawaddy river and along the water’s edge on the west side of Malaka and Alangun Islands, to Haiangyunn on the far side of the Ayeyawaddy river to the north-east corner which is Powa North Village at the junction of the Natpauk branch of the Ayeyawaddy river.
Singapore sees highest proportion of younger diabetes patients

SINGAPORE, 4 April — Singapore has the highest proportion of younger patients with type-2 diabetes across nine Asian territories, Channel NewsAsia reported on Friday, citing a study by the Asian Diabetes Foundation.

The two-year study polled 319 patients from Singapore, Thailand, China, the Philippines, Hong Kong, India, South Korea, Taiwan and Vietnam, it said, adding that in Singapore, three in 10 had diabetes before the age of 40, the highest proportion with younger patients.

Singapore currently has 498,190 patients with type-2 diabetes, and it still poses great challenge to keep glycaemic under control among them. “Diabetes has no symptoms. So when you are young, you don’t really think it’s a problem because there is no symptoms, you don’t experience pain and you are not aware of its complications,” Dr. Hellen Ng, consultant physician at Mount Elizabeth Novena Specialist Medical Centre told Channel NewsAsia.

“Because of that, people don’t care. They think they are doing well. On top of that, many other lifestyles such as too good a diet, lack of exercise and a sedentary lifestyle all contribute to increasing weight and increasing risk of diabetes.” — Xinhua

Toyota’s Aqua likely to have been FY2014 top-seller in Japan

 TOKYO, 4 April — Toyota Motor Corp’s Aqua hybrid is likely to have been the top-selling car in Japan in fiscal 2014, maintaining the top spot for the third straight year, with sales estimated at around 228,000 vehicles, industry sources said on 3 April, 2015.

Minivehicles, with engines up to 660 cc, are expected to account for seven in 10 of the top 10 best-selling models last fiscal year, the sources added.

Minivehicles, with engines up to 660 cc, are expected to account for seven in 10 of the top 10 best-selling models last fiscal year, the sources added.

US adds only 126,000 jobs in March, unemployment rate unchanged at 5.5 percent

WASHINGTON, 4 April — The US economy added 126,000 jobs in March, falling short of economists’ estimate of 245,000 and the unemployment rate held steady at 5.5 percent, the latest sign the labour market might be slowing down, the Labour Department reported on Friday.

The increase in employment marked the first time the monthly job growth fell below the key 200,000 benchmark, which was typically associated with a strengthening job market, over the past year.

Last month, employment continued to trend up in professional and business services, health care and retail trade, while the mining, manufacturing and construction sectors lost jobs, the department said.

“The wage growth for US workers remained modest. Average hourly earnings rose 7 cents to 24.86 US dollars in March and were up only 2.1 percent over the past 12 months, which suggests underlying slack remains in the labour market. The latest worse-than-expected job report might make the Federal Reserve, the US central bank, to be cautious in deciding when to start raising interest rates. The central bank has kept benchmark short-term interest rates near zero since December 2008.

Fed Chair Janet Yellen said last week she expected an increase in the target range for the federal funds rate to be warranted later this year, as long as the labor market continues to improve.

Stockton predicted the central bank is more likely to wait until September to start hiking interest rates, as Yellen signaled a little bit desired to see more data to confirm the improvement of the US economy.

Fed officials will make better judgment by September whether the early part of the year’s weakness in the data was just temporary or whether it signaled more serious slowdown,” he said. — Xinhua

Heavy metal losses for China’s rare earth companies

BEIJING, 4 April — Two of China’s major rare earth miners reported sharp falls in profits in 2014, in the face of poor demand and weak prices.

Major producer, REHT reported on Friday 5.84 billion yuan (949 million US dollars) in operating revenue in 2014, down 31.1 percent from 2013. Net profits plummeted by 57.4 percent to 634 million yuan, according to the company’s annual report.

On the same day, China Minmetals Rare Earth Co posted a 64.8 percent drop in operating revenue to 702 million yuan and its balance sheet shows that over 90 percent of the world’s rare earth industry has been beset by problems including illegal mining, smuggling and a lack of competitiveness due to weak research and development.

“When all barriers are lifted, regulators will face fresh pressure and will need effective instruments if the industry is to prosper,” said Wu Yiding, dean of Jiangxi University of Science and Technology.
The Ministry of Industry and Information Technology, watchdog of the rare earth industry, said new projects will be removed if the industry is to prosper.

The Ministry of Industry and Information Technology, watchdog of the rare earth industry, said new projects will be removed if the industry is to prosper.

Toyota’s Aqua likely to have been FY2014 top-seller in Japan

File photo taken in December 2014 in Nagoya, central Japan, shows a model of Toyota Motor Corp’s Aqua hybrid. The Aqua is likely to have been the top-selling car in Japan in fiscal 2014, maintaining top spot for the third straight year, with sales estimated at about 228,000 vehicles, industry sources said on 3 April, 2015.

With demand growing for less-expensive cars with superior fuel efficiency, minivehicles account for about 40 percent of the new cars sold in Japan.

The two-year study polled 319 patients from Singapore, Thailand, China, the Philippines, Hong Kong, India, South Korea, Taiwan and Vietnam, it said, adding that in Singapore, three in 10 had diabetes before the age of 40, the highest proportion with younger patients.

Singapore currently has 498,190 patients with type-2 diabetes, and it still poses great challenge to keep glycaemic under control among them. “Diabetes has no symptoms. So when you are young, you don’t really think it’s a problem because there is no symptoms, you don’t experience pain and you are not aware of its complications,” Dr. Hellen Ng, consultant physician at Mount Elizabeth Novena Specialist Medical Centre told Channel NewsAsia.

“Because of that, people don’t care. They think they are doing well. On top of that, many other lifestyles such as too good a diet, lack of exercise and a sedentary lifestyle all contribute to increasing weight and increasing risk of diabetes.” — Xinhua

Minivehicles, with engines up to 660 cc, are expected to account for seven in 10 of the top 10 best-selling models last fiscal year, the sources added.
Teardown of new Samsung Galaxy smartphone suggests deeper loss for Qualcomm

Seoul, 4 April — Samsung Electronics Co Ltd used more of its own chips to power the new Samsung Galaxy S6 smartphone than it did for the predecessor S5, according to an early teardown report, in a blow to US chip supplier Qualcomm Inc.

Samsung is not only using its own Exynos mobile processor, as had been widely reported, but also decided to rely on its in-house semiconductor business to source other parts, including the modem and power management integrated circuit chips, Ottawa-based consultancy Chipworks said in a web posting dated on 2 April.

Samsung is counting on its new flagship Galaxy S6 and S6 edge phones to help revive earnings momentum after a disappointing 2014. Strong sales of system chips such as its Exynos processor could also help boost earnings, analysts and investors say.

The Galaxy S6 also comes with Samsung’s home-made modem, US telephone carrier AT&T said on its website.

“It’s pretty clear if they’re using Shannon for the modem for AT&T that they’re trying to use all-Samsung silicon,” said Jim McGregor, an analyst at Tirias Research. “With their market share going down they’re under pressure to increase profit margins.”

The findings suggest a deeper loss of business for Qualcomm in the new generation of Samsung’s flagship handsets than anticipated previously. Teardown reports of the predecessor Galaxy S5, released last year, showed the US chipmaker supplied several components that Samsung has supplanted with its own this year, based on the phone Chipworks investigated.

Qualcomm said in January that a key customer declined to use its new Snapdragon processor in an upcoming flagship phone presumed to be Samsung’s Galaxy S6. But it had been unclear whether Samsung would drop Qualcomm’s modem chips as well.

Qualcomm is the industry leader in LTE, the most advanced modem technology, but Samsung, Intel, MediaTek and others have developing their own offerings.

Samsung and Qualcomm did not immediately reply to requests for comment. —Reuters

Indonesia plays hardball with smartphone manufacturers

Jakarta, 4 April — When Polytron became the first Indonesian company to produce 4G-capable smartphones last year, it changed the ‘Manufactured in China’ inscription on its handsets to ‘Made in Kudus’, a town in Central Java province.

Polytron relocated production from China to comply with local-content rules introduced in 2012. The regulations have raised concerns about higher manufacturing costs and hang question marks over an industry championed by the Indonesian government.

The United States has pressed Indonesia to relax the rules, which it says will hamper efforts of tech giants such as Apple Inc (AAPL.O) to expand into one of the world’s last big markets where use of smartphones has yet to truly take off.

Assembling far from China’s electronics supply chain means it costs up to 50 percent more to manufacture a mobile phone in Indonesia, according to Polytron, a smaller player among local phone brands.

“Honestly, we are doing it because of the regulation, to be in compliance,” Polytron spokesman Santo Kadarusman told Reuters.

The government ramped up enforcement of the rules last year. The regulations are part of a push under President Joko Widodo to transform Indonesia from an economy that consumes products into one that produces them, in his attempt to boost economic growth and eliminate the country’s trade deficit.

Polytron has both objected to CNNIC’s move when it was first introduced and filed legal action against it. CNNIC has rejected the challenge.

Most mobile phones sold in Indonesia are made in China. There was no phone manufacturing industry in Indonesia until last year when 15 companies submitted plans to the Industry Ministry to start production. Among them was Samsung Electronics Co Ltd (005930.KS), which opened a factory near Jakarta.

The regulations require importers of smartphones to manufacture in Indonesia or have their import licenses revoked by 2016 or 2017, depending on when they received their license.

Employees at a Polytron showroom pose with the company’s line of smartphones and tablets in a shopping mall in Jakarta on 1 April, 2015.—Reuters

Mozilla to also reject Chinese Internet body’s certificates

Beijing, 4 April — Mozilla Corp, creator of the popular Firefox web browser, said on Thursday it would follow Google Inc and no longer recognize new certificates of trust issued by a Chinese Internet authority.

Google’s Chrome and Mozilla’s Firefox are some of the world’s most widely used browsers, and the moves could disrupt users accessing a broad range of Chinese web sites.

As a result of Mozilla’s step, users of Firefox may get a warning when attempting to visit sites, Mozilla and Google have both objected to CNNIC delegating its authority to issue certificates to an Egyptian company called MCS Holdings, which mishandled the matter last year.

MCS Holdings said it would allow CNNIC to reapply so its certificates could be recognized again.

Chrome is the world’s most popular desktop and tablet browser, with nearly 50 percent share, while Microsoft Corp’s Internet Explorer has nearly 18 percent compared to Firefox at 16.9 percent, according to Statcounter.

Fault link means larger quakes possible on US west coast

San Francisco, 4 April — Researchers with University of California at Berkeley have proven that two faults in the Golden State are actually one, and that the two could rupture together in an earthquake more destructive than previously thought.

“The maximum earthquake on a fault is proportional to its length, so by having the two directly connected, we can have a rupture propagating across from one to the other, making a larger quake,” lead researcher Estelle Chaussard of the Berkeley Seismological Laboratory, said in a press release issued on Thursday by UC Berkeley.

What the postdoctoral fellow and her colleagues have worked on are the 70-km-long Hayward Fault, known as one of the most dangerous in the United States as it runs through large population areas near San Francisco, and the Calaveras Fault, which runs about 123 km.

Knowing that the Hayward Fault ends just short of the Calaveras Fault, there has always been ambiguity about whether the two are connected, said Chaussard. “People have been looking for evidence of this for a long time, but only now do we have the data to prove it.”

The UC Berkeley team used 19 years of data from European Space Agency satellites to map ground deformation and measure creep along the southern end of the Hayward Fault, and found that the creep did not stop at its presumed end, but continued on another 15 km and the trace merged with the trace of the Calaveras Fault.

In addition, seismic data show that micro-earthquakes on these faults 3.5 to 7.0 kilometres underground have also merged, Chaussard said. “With this evidence from surface creep and seismicity, we can argue for a direct junction on the surface and at depth for the two faults.”

The researchers also found that the underground portion of the Hayward Fault meets the Calaveras Fault 10 kilometres farther north than where the creeping surface traces of both faults meet. This geometry implies that the Hayward Fault dips at an angle where it meets the Calaveras Fault.

The US Geological Survey (USGS) updated seismic hazards last month and estimated a 14.3 percent likelihood of a magnitude 6.7 or greater earthquake on the Hayward Fault in the next 30 years and a 7.4 percent chance on the Calaveras Fault.

The estimates are based on the assumption that the two faults are independent systems, and that the maximum quake on the Hayward Fault would be between magnitudes 6.9 and 7.0. Given that the Hayward and Calaveras faults are connected, the energy released in a simultaneous rupture could be 2.5 times greater, or a magnitude 7.3 quake.

“It would be even greater,” Chaussard said, if the rupture extended south to where the Calaveras Fault meets the San Andreas Fault, which has produced major quakes in the past.

A man is seen next to a Firefox logo at a Mozilla stand during the Mobile World Congress in Barcelona, on 28 Feb, 2015.—Reuters
Malaysia charges cartoonist over tweets critical of judiciary

KUALA LUMPUR, 4 April — Malaysian prosecutors on Friday slapped a record nine sedition charges against a political cartoonist over a series of tweets he posted criticizing the incarceration of opposition leader Anwar Ibrahim.

Zulkifli Anwar Ulhaque, 52, better known by his pen name Zunar, pleaded innocent to the charges, which are based on a series of nine tweets he posted on 10 February slamming the Federal Court’s decision on the same day to send Anwar back to jail for five years over a sedition conviction. In one of the tweets, Zulkifli wrote in the Malay language, “The lackeys in black robes are proud to hand down the sentence.”

Zulkifli went on to suggest that the judiciary was bought and the verdict was predetermined. Anwar has steadfastly maintained that his sedition charge and conviction are the result of a plot by the ruling elites to ruin his political career.

“No one has been charged nine times for sedition. The most is two,” Zulkifli’s lawyer Latheefa Koya told reporters outside the courthouse. A defiant Zulkifli appeared at court wearing a purple outfit similar to the uniform that police detains wear while in lock-up. He even brought his own handcuffs and posed for photographers. Zulkifli had spent three days in a police lock-up after being picked up for investigation over the tweets on 10 February.

“How can I be neutral if even my pen has a stand?”

Recallng his native township in Sekinchan, Zulkifli has previously been detained on sedition charges, having had several brushes with the authorities over pointedly political cartoons that poke fun at the ruling elites. His works have been seized and some banned from publication.

The present nine sedition charges will likely not be the last for him.

Kyodo News

Search to continue for 13 people missing after Russian trawler’s sinking

BUENOS AIRES, 4 April — The efforts to search would continue on Saturday for the 13 people who were missing after the fishing freezer trawler they boarded sank off Russia’s Kamchatka Peninsula on Thursday morning, a local official said on Friday.

The past days went by without positive news regarding searching effort, said RIA Novosti in a report quoting an official with the Far East division of the Russian Fisheries Festival in Korsakov port in Sakhalin district.

The trawler, with 132 people on board, including 81 Russians and 51 foreigners, sank in freezing water of the Okhotsk Sea at 6:15 am local time Thursday.

A rescue crew hoisted 119 people from the water, of whom 56 were still alive as of 2 am on Friday, according to the Russian Emergency Situations Ministry.

“Two Russians and 114 foreigners were evacuated to the Magadan city earlier on Friday, and 25 people are being treated in a hospital there,” the ministry reported.

The cause of the accident is under investigation by the Russian Federal Investigative Committee.

The bodies of the victims will be flown to Khabarovsk for identification and taken to their families, and the cost of sending the bodies home was promised to cover the cost of sending the bodies home.

“Mr. Putin was determined,” a spokesman for the ministry’s Kamchatka branch said in a report.

The accident occurred in the Okhotsk Sea, the main industries are raising sheep, fishing and some tourism.

Oil has also been discovered in the area, raising the stakes in the dispute over control of the archipelago.

A Russian television channel said it had learned of the documents several days ago when he received a series of telephone calls from Snowden’s media team in London. Each call lasted less than one minute in order to stave off wiretapping attempts, he said.

The caller summoned him by the name of the next day, and asked him to be at a designated corner of the city at 4 pm to collect the documents, Fitte said. He was taken to a “bunker” where he was asked to turn over his cellphone while he collected the material that appeared on TNs website.

Russia’s military presence on the Falklands to counter British efforts in enforcing its military presence in the area.

According to a spokesman for the ministry’s Kamchatka branch, the cause of the accident is under investigation by the Russian Federal Investigative Committee.

An investigative department of the Far East branch said that the investigation results of possible safety rules violation will be announced in a week.

The owner of the trawler, Magellan LLC, planned to pay compensation to the families of the victims and promised to cover the cost of sending the bodies home.

“Of course, the Ministry of Defence will cover all costs,” a spokesman for the ministry’s Far Eastern division said.

N Korea fires five short-range rockets into Yellow Sea in two days

SEOUL, 4 April — North Korea fired four short-range rockets into the Yellow Sea on Friday, a day after firing a similar rocket toward the same area, South Korea’s Joint Chiefs of Staff said.

The projectiles, believed to have a range of 140 kilometres, were fired between 4:15 pm and 5 pm from Dongchang-ni, North Pyongan Province, the JCS said in a statement.

The North Korean military fired the rockets apparently as a gesture of defiance against an annual US-South Korean military exercise that has been under way since 2 March. The drill is scheduled to run until 24 April.

Reuters

Libya Dawn fighters check passing cars near a local checkpoint in the al-Tusha area, west of al-Azizia, Libya, on 3 April, 2015. Clashes continued in al-Azizia on Wednesday between pro-government forces and the Islamist armed coalition Libya Dawn.

Xinhua

Heavy smoke and blaze are seen at a liquid storage facility of Ultracargo, one of the major liquid storage companies of Brazil, in Santos, Sao Paulo state in Brazil, on 3 April, 2015. The fire broke out here on Thursday, according to the local press.

Xinhua
Two bombs explode near Cairo police station, no casualties

CAIRO, 4 April — Two bombs exploded in Cairo’s residential Imbaba district on Saturday, causing no casualties, Egypt’s state-run Al Ahram newspaper said on its website. Ahram said the bombs exploded in front of the Ahmed Oraby school near the Imbaba police station.

It said bomb experts had cordoned off the area and were searching for any more explosives in the area.

Most of the worst in a campaign of bomb attacks in Egypt have hit the Sinai peninsula, a remote but strategic region bordering Gaza, Israel and the Suez Canal. But smaller blasts have become increasingly common in Cairo and other cities. Imbaba has been hit by similar incidents before. In February, a bomb exploded outside an Imbaba restaurant, killing one. An Egyptian militant group claimed responsibility for Friday attacks on military checkpoints which killed 15 soldiers and two civilians in the Sinai.

WEATHER REPORT

BAY INERENCE: Weather is generally fair in the Andaman Sea and East Central Bay and partly cloudy elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 5th APRIL, 2015: Rain or thundershowers are likely to be isolated in Upper Sagaing Region, Kachin, Chin and Rakhine (North) States and weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining Regions and States. Degree of certainty is (60%).

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

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Continuation of likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers in the Northern Myanmar areas.

Advertise with us!

For inquiries to place an advertisement in the GNLM, please email wallace.tung@gmail.com (+95) (01) 8604532

No injuries in Germanwings plane emergency landing in Stuttgart

BERLIN, 4 April — No one was hurt when an Airbus plane of the German low-cost airline Germanwings made an emergency landing at Stuttgart Airport due to “technical error,” the Focus Online reported on Saturday.

The pilot reported an unknown defect of the plane around 11 am local time, some one hour after the Germanwings Flight 4U 814 bound for Venice took off from Cologne.

The plane made an emergency landing at Stuttgart Airport around ten minutes later, with nobody being hurt, the report said, quoting the manager of the airport, Georg Fundel.

Fundel said it is being examined whether the passengers should switch to other Germanwings flights or if the landing aircraft can be repaired quickly. —Xinhua

Yemen air strike kills family of nine

SANAA, 4 April — An air strike on a village near the Yemeni capital Sanaa killed a family of nine, residents said on Saturday, in what appeared to be a hit by the Saudi-led military campaign against Houthi militia.

Five other people were wounded and some citizens remained under the rubble, state news agency Sabr said.

The operation by Saudi Arabia and other Sunni Muslim states is aimed at stopping the Iranian-allied Houthis and former president Ali Abdullah Saleh winning control of Yemen, and reinstating Saudi-backed President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi.

Residents near Okash village, which is near an air force camp on Jebel al-Nabi Shoueib mountain, said the air strike was on Friday night and killed nine people.

Saba said the family of 11 men, a woman and six children. It posted a picture on its website showing three children lying next to each other with pieces of papers with the date 3 March, 2015 written on them. Reuters could not immediately verify the authenticity of photo.

Passengers queue to get on train at the Guangzhou Railway Station in Guangzhou, capital city of south China’s Guangdong Province, on 4 April, 2015. Guangzhou received a travel rush during China’s traditional Qingming Festival, or Tomb-sweeping Day, which falls on 5 April this year.—Xinhua

Tourists walk on the Bai Causeway at the West Lake in Hangzhou, capital city of east China’s Zhejiang Province, on 4 April, 2015. Saturday was the first day of three-day-long holiday of Qingming Festival, or Tomb-sweeping Day. —Xinhua
Robert Pattinson, FKA Twigs engaged?

Los Angeles, 4 April — “Twilight” star Robert Pattinson is reportedly engaged to girlfriend FKA Twigs after just six months of dating.

The couple exchanged promise rings with each other last month, reported Us magazine.

“I hear they were telling people they were promise rings, but I haven’t seen Pattinson wearing one. They only told a few people about the engagement.”

“They’ve been inseparable. He’s planning on going to Coachella to support her. They’ve been living together and he’s been calling her his greatest love,” a source said.

It was reported in September 2014 that the Brimstone actor, 28, and the buzzed-about British singer (real name: Tahliyah Debrett Barnett), 27, were dating.—PTI

January Jones doesn’t need marriage

London, 4 April — “Mad Men” star January Jones says marriage isn’t important to her because she does not “need the tax write-off.”

The 37-year-old actress, who recently started dating her “The Last Man on Earth” co-star Will Forte, insists she is not afraid of tying the knot, reported Contactmusic.

“I think when I was younger I was keen on having marriage, kids and all that. But as I got into my late twenties and early thirties, all my ideals shifted and having a document to prove love wasn’t really important to me. It’s the relationships that were important, and I still think that way,” she said.

But Jones admits she probably wouldn’t reject a proposal from the right man.

“I mean, if someone came along and was obsessed with marrying me, I would think about that. But growing up, all my family was married and never really got divorced, so marriage was a big deal, it was something you definitely did, so it’s not that I’m afraid of it. I just don’t need the tax write-off.”—PTI

Tom Hardy signed on for three more ‘Mad Max’ movies

Los Angeles, 4 April — Hollywood star Tom Hardy will reprise his key role in the three upcoming films of the hit “Mad Max” franchise.

In an interview with Esquire where he graced the cover for May issue, it is revealed the British hunk has inked a multi-picture deal to reprise his role in the franchise.

He is expected to play the titular role made famous by Mel Gibson in the next three more instalments.

Still, he plays it down as saying, “Everything’s based on figures and how things are perceived. Inevitably it’s a business.”

The fourth entry in the franchise, “Fury Road” is directed by George Miller from the original movies.

It will arrive Stateside on 15 May. Charlize Theron, Rosie Huntington-Whiteley, Riz Ahmed, and Zoe Kravitz are among the cast.—PTI

Disney announces ‘Winnie the Pooh’ live-action movie

Los Angeles, 4 April — Disney is working on a new adaptation of A A Milne’s “Winnie the Pooh (2017).”

The Mouse House is developing a live-action movie based on the children favourite story with indie filmmaker Alex Ross Perry (“Listen Up Philip”) on board, reported Ace Showbiz.

The new story will follow an adult Christopher Robin as he revisits Hundred Acre Wood and reconnects with the iconic residents that include the titular bear, his best buddy Piglet, Eeyore the donkey, Tigger, and Kanga the kangaroo among others.

The announcement comes after Disney revealed plan to revive Mulan in a live-action feature film. The studio is also bringing “Pete’s Dragon” to life with indie filmmaker David Lowery (“Ain’t Them Bodies Saints”) at the helm. Other upcoming Disney remakes include “The Jungle Book” from director Jon Favreau, “Beauty and the Beast (2017)” from director Bill Condon, and “Dumbo” from director Tim Burton. They join “Alice in Wonderland”, “Maleficent”, and “Cinderella.”—PTI

Vin Diesel cemented his hand, footprints in Hollywood Boulevard

Los Angeles, 4 April — “Fast & Furious” star Vin Diesel was honoured at a ceremony in Hollywood Boulevard.

He was accompanied by his girlfriend and his children as he left his hand and footprints, reported Ace Showbiz.

This 47-year-old actor looked manly with navy suit he wore. He is the 282nd movie star to receive the exclusive honour.

Before the cementing process, he gave a speech and delivered it with some jokes. Diesel, who was born Mark Sinclair Vincent on 18 July, 1967, cemented his hand and footprints at the TLC Chinese Theatre in Hollywood. Not only his hand and footprints that were cemented, but he also asked his children to put their fingers on the cement. Showing her support for the actor at the ceremony, his girlfriend Paloma Jimenez looked stunning in an all-white dress. She flaunted her figure although she had just given birth to their third child, Pauline.—PTI

34th Istanbul Int’l Film Festival held in Turkey

Turkish director Suleyman Turan (2nd L) makes a speech at the opening ceremony of 34th Istanbul International Film Festival in Istanbul, Turkey on 3 April, 2015. Over 200 films from Turkey and around the world, including Chinese movie “The Golden Era”, will be shown in the following 16 days of 34th Istanbul International Film Festival.—Xinhua
Fire hits part of GE’s Louisville facility, no injuries reported

LOUISVILLE, 4 April — A huge fire ripped through a section of General Electrical’s (GE.N) Louisville, Kentucky facility used for warehousing and offices on Friday, forcing the giant industrial park to shut down for at least the coming week, the company and union officials said.

“The fire at GE Appliance Park has been contained,” said Kim Freeman, a GE spokesperson. No one was injured in the blaze, according to company and city officials. Bluing six — a non-production building which warehouses production parts and contains offices — suffered extensive damage, according to the company spokeswoman.

Smoke from the fire at GE’s Appliance Park could be seen more than 10 miles (16 km) away, and debris was found more than a half-mile away. Televised aerial footage showed a raging fire, dense dark smoke and collapsed building walls.

GE evacuated the remaining buildings in the 900-acre (365-hectare) complex, spokeswoman Kim Freeman said.

The fire was contained to the warehouse and office building, where no production took place, she added.

The Louisville Zoo, located nearby, was closed due to the fire as well as heavy rains. “Smoke clouds came directly over the zoo, and we are making sure the animals and staff are safe and putting animals inside for the day,” said Louisville Zoo spokeswoman Kyle Shepherd.

“They need to make sure everything’s safe,” said Dana Crichton, president of IUE-CWA Local 83761 which represents factory workers at Appliance Park.— Reuters

France bans super-skinny models in anorexia clampdown

PARIS, 4 April — France will ban excessively thin models in anorexia clampdown from Friday, according to a new law passed in France, designed to protect models.

Lawmakers also made it a requirement that women hire for a job and for a modelling appearance of a model for a BMI of at least 18, about 1.75 metres (5.7 feet), before 55 kg (121 lb) for a height of few weeks afterwards.

The law, voted through the lower house of parliament by Hollande’s Socialist majority despite opposition by conservative lawmakers, envisages imprisoning of up to six months and a fine of 75,000 euros ($82,000) for any agency contravening it.—Reuters

United striker Van Persie not ready for Manchester derby

LONDON, 4 April — Manchester United forward Robin van Persie is unlikely to be fit for the Premier League derby match against Manchester City later this month, manager Louis van Gaal said on Friday.

The 31-year-old has missed the last five games with an ankle problem suffered in the 2-1 defeat at Swansea City on 21 Feb ruary. The Dutchman has already been ruled out of this Saturday’s league game at home to Aston Villa and asked if he would be fit to face City on 12 April, Van Gaal said: “I don’t think so.

“The process has to go and he is ready for that but I know that from my experience it is not like that.” Van Gaal earlier told MUTV that Van Persie was recovering along with left back Luke Shaw, who has been out with a hamstring injury.

“Robin is coming back on the (training) pitch and Luke Shaw has already had a week on there but match rhythm is very important,” said Van Gaal.

“You cannot compare a player who has been out for four or five weeks to those that have sufficient match rhythm.”

Van Gaal explained later in his news conference: “We have a process for injured players in the medical department, they then go to a football coach for tests and then to me. ‘Robin still isn’t with the football coach.’

Manchester United’s Robin van Persie (R) scores his team’s third goal from a penalty during their English Premier League soccer match against Burnley at Old Trafford in Manchester, northern England on 11 February, 2015. — Reuters

Reuters
Djokovic and Murray to meet again in Miami final

MIAMI, 4 April — World number one Novak Djokovic will face Britain’s Andy Murray in the final of the Miami Open for a third time on Sunday after the pair triumphed in their semi-finals.

The pair have one win each against each other at Miami but Djokovic be looking for a repeat of his Australian Open win over the Scot and to improve his 17-8 career record against him.

Third seed Murray delivered a controlled and precise performance to beat Czech Tomas Berdych 6-4, 6-4 while Djokovic faced greater resistance in the form of big-serving American John Isner but still won 7-6(3), 6-2.

The first set was on-serve throughout but the Serb emerged victorious from the tie-break and never looked back.

The four-times Miami champion broke twice early in the second to open up a 4-1 lead and from then on the match was out of Isner’s reach.

The big-serving American was unable to create a single break point in the game but the 29-year-old, ranked 24th in the world, will be encouraged by his run to the last four.

“It is always tough to play someone who serves that well, that at times it is frustrating,” said Djokovic.

“It is important to hang in there mentally, be patient and make him play. I put a lot of pressure on his second serves, moved him around the court and always made him play an extra shot. I am pleased with my performance.”

Earlier, in bright sunlight and Floridian heat, Murray broke Berdych early in both sets and looked in charge throughout, winning 80 percent of first-serve points while registering four service breaks.

Berdych made a break of first-serve points while Murray broke Berdych in both sets and looked in control throughout the match.

Djokovic and Murray have one win each against each other in the Miami Open.

Murray won 7-6(3), 6-2 in 2012 and Djokovic won 6-1, 6-4 in 2013.

Murray spent his off-season practice time on the court at the Crandon Park Tennis Centre and has clearly acclimatised to the heat and humidity. “I’ve obviously played some good tennis here over the years. The reason for that is because I’m extremely familiar with the conditions, with the surface, the way the court plays,” he said.

“There are little things in the court that maybe players that haven’t played on it all the time, I know. ‘Because I practice on it all the time, I know how the ball bounces in certain areas and which serves work into certain spots on the court and how the ball responds off different spins. So that’s why I feel comfortable on it,” he said.—Reuters

Saul to return for Atletico at Cordoba

MADRID, 4 April — Atletico Madrid midfielder Saul Niguez has recovered from a painful blow to the kidneys and will start for the champions in Saturday’s La Liga game at bottom side Cordoba, coach Diego Simeone said on Friday.

Saul sustained the injury in the Champions League defeat at Bayer Leverkusen at the end of February and had to remain behind in Germany for treatment after the game.

“He is in very good shape,” Simeone said of the 20-year-old Spaniard.

“He is an important player for us and we have always said that,” the Argentine told reporters.

“Hopefully, tomorrow he can return in the same state as he left us in Germany, where he was participating very well.”

“He gets into very good scoring positions, works well in the middle, knows what we want from him and is very competitive.”

“We need his talents and tomorrow we hope he can respond in the way he was before he got injured.”

A win fourth-placed Atletico in Andalucia would lift them above Valencia into Spain’s third automatic Champions League berth and close the gap on second-placed Real Madrid to two points.

Valencia host sixth-placed Villarreal on Sunday, when leaders Barcelona, four points clear of Real at the top, are at Celta Vigo and Real host Granada.

Andy Murray celebrates after his match against Tomas Berdych in a men’s singles semi-final on day twelve of the Miami Open at Crandon Park Tennis Centre, Key Biscayne, FL, USA on 3 April, 2015. Murray won 6-4, 6-2.—Reuters

Middlesbrough go top after Bamford scores again

LONDON, 4 April — Middlesbrough’s on-loan Chelsea striker Dominic Solanke delivered his 15th league goal of the season to help the second-tier promotion chasers top the Championship table with a 1-0 home win over Wigan Athletic on Friday.

Aitor Karanka’s Middlesbrough have 75 points, one ahead of Bournemouth who drew 1-1 at Ipswich Town, and two in front of third-placed Norwich City after the Canaries won 1-0 at Brighton and Hove Albion thanks to Bradley Johnson’s second-half goal.

Wafford are fourth, on the same tally of 73 points as Norwich but with an inferior goal difference, after drawing 2-2 in a top-sy-turvy encounter at sixth-placed Derby County.

Brentford are fifth on 69 points after romping to a 4-1 victory at London neighbours Fulham. Ipswich and Wolverhampton Wanderers are a further point back in seventh and eighth respectively, on the same points as Derby.

There are six games left in the season. The top two go up to the Premier League and the next four teams battle it out in the playoffs for one remaining promotion slot.

Middlesbrough striker Bamford will hope to have caught Jose Mourinho’s eye at his more illustrious parent club Chelsea after scoring his fifth goal in their last six league games to take his season’s tally to 17 in all competitions.

The England under-21 striker scored the bottom corner with an effort from outside the penalty area in the 20th minute after being held off a late Forest rally to win 1-0.

The other nominees are

Valencia host sixth-placed Villarreal on Sunday, when leaders Barcelona, four points clear of Real at the top, are at Celta Vigo and Real host Granada.

Valencia host sixth-placed Villarreal on Sunday, when leaders Barcelona, four points clear of Real at the top, are at Celta Vigo and Real host Granada.

Middlesbrough’s Patrick Bamford (R) scores past Manchester City’s Fernado Reges during their English FA Cup 4th round soccer match at the Etihad Stadium in Manchester, northern England on 24 Jan, 2015.—Reuters

Valencia host sixth-placed Villarreal on Sunday, when leaders Barcelona, four points clear of Real at the top, are at Celta Vigo and Real host Granada.

Valencia host sixth-placed Villarreal on Sunday, when leaders Barcelona, four points clear of Real at the top, are at Celta Vigo and Real host Granada.

Middlesbrough’s Patrick Bamford (R) scores past Manchester City’s Fernado Reges during their English FA Cup 4th round soccer match at the Etihad Stadium in Manchester, northern England on 24 Jan, 2015.—Reuters

Wafford are fourth, on the same tally of 73 points as Norwich but with an inferior goal difference, after drawing 2-2 in a top-sy-turvy encounter at sixth-placed Derby County.

Brentford are fifth on 69 points after romping to a 4-1 victory at London neighbours Fulham. Ipswich and Wolverhampton Wanderers are a further point back in seventh and eighth respectively, on the same points as Derby.

There are six games left in the season. The top two go up to the Premier League and the next four teams battle it out in the playoffs for one remaining promotion slot.

Middlesbrough striker Bamford will hope to have caught Jose Mourinho’s eye at his more illustrious parent club Chelsea after scoring his fifth goal in their last six league games to take his season’s tally to 17 in all competitions.

The England under-21 striker scored the bottom corner with an effort from outside the penalty area in the 20th minute after being held off a late Forest rally to win 1-0.

The other nominees are

Valencia host sixth-placed Villarreal on Sunday, when leaders Barcelona, four points clear of Real at the top, are at Celta Vigo and Real host Granada.

Valencia host sixth-placed Villarreal on Sunday, when leaders Barcelona, four points clear of Real at the top, are at Celta Vigo and Real host Granada.

Middlesbrough’s Patrick Bamford (R) scores past Manchester City’s Fernado Reges during their English FA Cup 4th round soccer match at the Etihad Stadium in Manchester, northern England on 24 Jan, 2015.—Reuters

Valencia host sixth-placed Villarreal on Sunday, when leaders Barcelona, four points clear of Real at the top, are at Cela