President calls for political dialogues before elections

NAW PII TAW, 8 April—Political dialogues are needed before the 2015 general elections, while unity is fundamental for building a new democratic state, President U Thein Sein told political leaders, ethnic affairs ministers and ethnic leaders at a meeting on Wednesday.

While meeting with the political stakeholders at the Presidential Palace, U Thein Sein said the transition period is a critical time for Myanmar, and dialogue is a crucial step for all political forces of the country, adding that he is arranging talks proposed by Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

The president also said the democratization process directly relates with peace-making efforts, saying the recent signing of a draft ceasefire agreement had been met with congratulations from the international community.

He also noted the need for the signing of the final stage of the agreement after holding talks with stakeholders before the upcoming elections.

U Thein Sein said almost all of the negotiations for the potential nationwide ceasefire agreement were based on the proposals of ethnic armed groups, with the government’s Union Peace-making Working Committee firmly focused on a peace deal.

He expressed his belief that all registered political parties will contest upcoming elections, making it a historic event.

In his concluding remarks, U Thein Sein said that while stakeholders may have differing views, they also have common interests which should be implemented for the development of the country.

He finally emphasized that the 2015 general election is slated for October and November, and the Union Election Commission is making systematic preparations to show the international community a free and fair election.

The president also stated that the upcoming election is related to the dignity of the country, and national duty must be jointly performed by all stakeholders.

Weather expert warns of thunderstorms in Chin, Sagaing, Kachin

By Aye Min Soe

NAW PII TAW, 8 April—Myanmar’s former top weather official on Wednesday warned people in Chin State, the upper part of Sagaing Region and Kachin State to be alert to the possibility of thunderstorms over the next few days.

Lightning, thunder, isolated heavy falls, gale-force winds and hailstones may occur due to cumulus clouds in those areas, with a 60-per cent likelihood of such events in the next few days, said U Tun Lwin, a former director-general of the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology, in a Facebook post.

Thunderstorms mostly happen in April and May in Myanmar. Since 1980, the country has seen an increase in the number of thunderstorms, with more than 100 people killed by lightning strikes in some years, the weather expert said.

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The president also stated that the upcoming election is related to the dignity of the country, and national duty must be jointly performed by all stakeholders.

Also present at the meeting were Vice Presidents Dr Sai Mauk Kham and U Nyan Tun, Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Pyithu Hluttaw Thara U Shwe Mann, Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint, Chairman of Union Election Commission.

Three foreign banks set to open Yangon branches 23 April

By Ye Myint

YANGON, 8 April—Three foreign banks, two from Japan and one from Singapore, announced plans to open branches in Yangon later this month.

Their plans to commence operations on 23 April follow the Central Bank of Myanmar’s announcement earlier this month that the three banks had been awarded final licenses.

The three banks—The Bank of Tokyo Mitsubishi UFJ, Ltd (BTMU), Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation (SMBC) and Oversea-Chinese Banking Corporation Ltd (OCBC)—became the first to clear the final hurdle among nine foreign lenders awarded preliminary approval last October.

According to the announcement, the three banks met all requirements of the stringent entry process as defined by the CBM last November.

Mr. Koichi Kyono, manager of the Yangon Representative Office of BTMU, confirmed the 23 April opening date of the BTMU Yangon branch with the Global New Light of Myanmar on Wednesday.

It will provide full banking services, including deposits, loans, and foreign exchange, to foreign companies and domestic banks operating in Myanmar.

In a 7 April media release, SMBC’s representative office in Yangon said the bank, with the opening of Yangon branch on 23 April, will operate in Myanmar in conjunction with local partner KBZ Bank.

“The growth of Myanmar’s economy is expected to continue to be strong and we are looking forward to expanding our footprint in this important market,” said Mr. Kyono. (See page 3)
Parliament stops accommodation for MPs at state-owned guesthouse

NAY PYI TAW, 8 April — MPs asked Pyidaungsu Hluttaw on Wednesday for Hluttaw’s accommodation as the parliament has stopped its arrangement for their staying at the guesthouse owned by the guest house of Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee during Hluttaw sessions.

U Mahn Tin Aung Myint, an MP of Kayin State constituency 12, proposed construction of buildings for parliamentarians by 2016 when they come for Hluttaw sessions.

Government takes measures to prevent child labour, recruitment as soldiers

Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Brig-Gen Kyaw Zan Myint.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 8 April — The government is taking measures to prevent child labour and the employment of children in dangerous or illegal work, including the recruitment of minors into armed forces, Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Brig-Gen Kyaw Zan Myint told the Pyithu Hluttaw session on Wednesday.

Those who abandon or traffic children, or force them to beg, will also be targeted, the deputy minister said, in accordance with criminal and juvenile laws. Those who abandon a child under 12 are liable to a maximum seven-year sentence. Trafficking children for forced labour is subject to a life sentence under the anti-human trafficking law, according to the deputy minister.

The ministry of health is also trying to issue birth certificates when newborns are discharged from hospitals to prevent abandonment of children for the deputy minister added.

Concerning child soldiers, the deputy minister said that armed forces have their own rules and regulations for recruiting new soldiers who are required to be between the ages of 18 and 25.

Armed forces have released 594 child soldiers who were recruited improperly, while action was taken against 50 officers and 277 other personnel who recruited child soldiers.—MNA

Amyotha Hluttaw approves report of Public Account Committee

U Salai Khwe Yan, MP from Chin State constituency No 12.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 8 April — Amyotha Hluttaw session on Wednesday approved the report of the Public Accounts Committee.

The report also said that the meeting was successful and he proposed taking action against those responsible.

After discussions, the session approved the report.

At today’s session, the speaker informed the representatives of receiving bill for Myanmar Accountancy Council from the Pyithu Hluttaw with some amendments.—MNA

Representatives of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw discuss accommodation for MPs at guesthouses of Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee.—MNA

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

Parliament stops accommodation for MPs at state-owned guesthouse

Daw Nang Sae Awa, an MP of Hpa-an Township constituency, also said MPs agreed in 2012 on transfe-ral of budget for building temporary accommodations to the peace-making works, and submitted that proposal for review. Daw Dwe Bu, an MP of Injanyan Township constituency, also said accommodation for parliamentarians should be located near Hluttaw buildings for easy access.

In response to the proposals of parliamentarians, Union Minister for Finance U Win Shein said MPs are provided with free accommodation arranged by the Parliament during the period of Hluttaw sessions, however, using any state-owned buildings for the affairs of their parties is deemed breaching political party registration law.

Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development Dr Kan Zaw said submission of these proposals are quite late as Pyidaungsu Hluttaw has approved the whole national planning for 2015-2016 fiscal year last month, but serious consideration will be needed to amend the planning by law.

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw then decided not to discuss this proposal any more.

Today’s session also approved the small and medium sized enterprises development bill, highways bill, legal term translation committee bill and My-anmar medical council bill which were handed over by the remarks of the President.—MNA

U Thein Hlaing, Sagaing Region constituency No 8 said that Hsegyi Sagaing Region constituency No 8 said that Hsegyi Creek RC Bridge in Kalewa Township built with the union budget is not usable during rainy seasons and a school building in North Tonlaw Village is not durable. The representative proposed taking action against those responsible.

At today’s session, the speaker informed the representatives of receiving bill for Myanmar Accountancy Council from the Pyithu Hluttaw with some amendments.—MNA

Livestock, Fishers and Rural Development.

U Salai Khwe Yan, a representative from Chin State constituency No 12 pointed out at the session that both contractors and supervising authority lack accountability for road and bridge projects in Chin State and said that effective action should be taken against those responsible.

U Thein Hlaing, Sagaing Region constituency No 8 said that Hsegyi Creek RC Bridge in Kalewa Township built with the union budget is not usable during rainy seasons and a school building in North Tonlaw Village is not durable. The representative proposed taking action against those responsible.

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Hopeful of better outcomes

U Zozam of Chin National Democratic Party.—MNA

U Saw Tun Aung Myint of Yangon Region Government.—MNA

U Khin Maung Swe of National Democratic Force.—MNA

U Zozam of Chin National Democratic Party said that the meeting was a success and he proposed electing chief ministers of states and regions at state/region Hluttaws.

All participants at the meeting supported the draft nationwide ceasefire agreement, according to an ethnic affairs minister at the meeting.

The chairman of the Union Election Commission promised a free and fair election, according to some participants.
President U Thein Sein inspects regional development tasks in Hkamti

**Capacity enhancement course improves skill of personnel**

**Nay Pyi Taw, 8 April**—A total of 17 sustainable development goals and ASEAN Economic Community are to be implemented simultaneously as of 1 January 2016, Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development Dr Kan Zaw told the concluding ceremony of the planning capacity course No 1/2015 at the ministry on Wednesday.

As implementation of millennium development goals will be finished in 2015, it needs to graduate the country from the status of least developed countries, he added.

He urged trainees to join the administrative machinery in drawing the plans for the people so as to beef up the third wave process of the State.

The two-week course ran from 23 March to 7 April for enhancement of capacity of staff and officers to be assigned at new organizational setup of the ministry. **MNA**

**Three foreign banks set to open...**

**Nay Pyi Taw, 8 April**—President U Thein Sein inspected men’s and women’s wards at Hkamti People’s Hospital and comforted patients on Wednesday.

After giving presents to patients, the president met with doctors and health workers at the hospital, telling them the health sector is essential to the development of human resources.

The president pointed out that doctors and health workers are required to hold talks on health education and disease prevention for ethnic communities and urged them to give treatment to local people warmly.

Hkamti Hospital was built in 1948 with government funds on land donated by Chairpin Sao Mya Sein. It was upgraded into a hospital after renovation of the former building with government funds in 1953. Due to floods in 1954, the hospital was moved to the current site and was upgraded into a 100-bed district hospital in 2010.

Afterwards, the president and party inspected a new 50-bed hospital in Zeephyugon Ward and the Government Technical Institute in Hkamti.

The principal of the institute spoke about comprehensive courses offered in cooperation with local authorities.

Union Minister U Soe Thane and U Tin Naing Thien reported to the president on measures being taken for education development. The president said the institute has been established for local people in border areas who have passed matriculation and cannot afford university education. Students at the institute are required to learn useful skills and serve the interests of the state, the president said.

He pointed out that although Myanmar has to depend on the agriculture sector for economic development, the country needs to be an industrial nation in the long run and urged the teachers to instruct students properly.

**Hkamti Government**

**President calls...**

**Nay Pyi Taw**—A press conference on talks between the President and political leaders, ethnic affairs ministers and leaders of ethnic delegations was held at the hall of the Ministry of Information, here, on Wednesday.

Union Minister U Ye Htut spoke about the talks and replied to queries raised by media. It was attended by 42 local and foreign correspondents.

**MNA**

**Navy conducts combined fleet exercise**

**Nay Pyi Taw, 8 April**—Some 20 vessels took part in naval drill at Rakhine offshore on Wednesday.

The annual war games dubbed ‘Combined Fleet Exercise—Sea Shield 2015’ tested firing anti-submarine missiles, ground-to-air and ground-to-ground ballistic missiles and several other missiles.

A special squad of Naval Seals also demonstrated exploding an oil tanker.

Myanmar navy conducted Sea Shield 2014 with 21 vessels last year, and the drill of this year was launched with 22 navy vessels and 1,186 navy personnel.

Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing made a remark about the drill, saying that navy should develop electronic system for its military operations on water, underwater and coastal drills. The war games was also viewed by Chief Minister of Rakhine State, senior military officers and media persons. **Myawady**

**Press conference highlights talks between President and political leaders, ethnic affairs ministers and leaders of ethnic delegations**

Union Minister for Information U Ye Htut meets media in clarification on talks between the President and national race and political leaders.—**MNA**
**Agricultural staff demonstrates pest control method using wasp species**

**Nay Pyi Taw, 8 April** — The Plant Protection Division of the Department of Agriculture showcased a demonstration on multi-plant protection with the use of trichogramma species at Kungyangon farm in Taikkyi Township, Yangon Region, on 5 April.

Deputy Director Dr Kyin Kyin Win explained the advantages of using the tiny trichogramma wasp species to combat pests at crop and paddy plantations. Agricultural staff demonstrated use of the species in front of about 200 local farmers and officials of agricultural companies.

Ko Pauk (Ookar Myaw)

**Sports course concludes with skill demonstration of youths**

**Kyaukpadaung, 8 April** — The summer sports course concluded at the township gymnasium in Kyaukpadaung, Mandalay Region, on 3 April.

Chairman of Township Sports and Physical Education Committee and Township Administrator U Saw Tun Win commended the youths for their efforts.

Groups of boys and girls demonstrated their football and aerobic sports skills.

Altogether 150 trainees attended the football, aerobic and Sepak Takraw courses from 23 March to 24 April.

Ko Nay (Kyaukpadaung)

**Station hospital being built in Kanna Village, Natogyi Township**

**Natogyi, 8 April** — A 16-bed station hospital is under construction in Kanna Village, Natogyi Township, Mandalay Region. Township administrator U Kyaw Naing inspected progress of the station hospital.

The Ministry of Health allotted K100 million for construction of the station hospital located on Pyinsi-TadaU inter-district road.

Natogyi Township has opened Taose, Wetlu and Kanna station hospitals in the township.—Khin Zar Mon Myint (Law)

**New apartments in Chanmyathazi Township to house service personnel**

**Mandalay, 8 April** — Work is under way to construct 22 five-storey buildings in Chanmyathazi Township, Mandalay, in the 2015-16 fiscal year.

The region government has built 55 buildings with 718 apartments in 24 townships for government service personnel. At present, a total of 27 buildings with 432 apartments are being constructed in Chanmyathazi Township with funding from the region government, Region Minister for Transport U Kyaw Hsan said.

According to the statistics of the Department of Human Settlement and Housing Development, Mandalay City will see 1.01 percent population growth over the next 30 years.

Town planners have therefore been drawn in 23 townships of the region to improve the living standards of local residents.

Town planners of the region have focused on upgrading plans of Myanma Railways to reduce the track gradient on the Namkhama-Bonchaung section of the Mandalay-Myitkyina railroad. Town planners have focused on upgrading the Mandalay-Myitkyina railroad in Kachin State with an Economic Development Cooperation Fund loan.

Shwe Lin Pyae Son

**Korean experts to assist in upgrading Mandalay-Myitkyina railroad**

**Wuntho, 8 April** — A six-member technical team led by Ms. Park Yun-myung, of the Republic of Korea, together with Deputy General Manager U Than Huy of Myanma Railways and officials conducted a survey on the Gyotaung-Nankham-Bonchaung railroad section in Wuntho Township, Sagaing Region, on 31 March.

They studied root causes of derailment, landslides in monsoon and plans of Myanma Railways to reduce the track gradient on the Namkhama-Bonchaung section of the Mandalay-Myitkyina railroad.

On 1 April, they visited Mawhan-Kadu section in Molnyin Township, Kachin State.

The Korean experts have focused on upgrading the Mandalay-Myitkyina railroad in Kachin State with an Economic Development Cooperation Fund loan.

Aung Ye Thwin

**Departmental staff undertake public welfare tasks in Myanmaung Tsp**

**Myanmaung, 8 April** — A medical team and a departmental staff team carried out public welfare tasks in rural areas of Myanmaung Township, Ayeyawady Region, on Tuesday morning.

They provided health care services to local residents free of charge while sharing health knowledge at the Basic Education Middle School Branch in Zalokkyi Village.

Departmental officials issued citizenship scrutiny cards and household registrations to the citizens under the assistance of Township Administrator U Min Min Tun and Region Hluttaw. Immigration officers delivered CSCs to 218 adults.—Win Bo (Township IPRD)
Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi

NEW DELHI, 8 April — Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday came to the rescue of distressed farmers hit by unseasonal rains and hailstorm by announcing higher compensation for crop damage and easing criteria for them to avail government support.

The prime minister told a local public function that he has also asked banks to restructure loans of affected farmers and instructed insurance companies to pro-actively settle their claims.

Modi said farmers would be eligible for input subsidy if 33 percent of their crop has been damaged against the prevailing norm.

According to the prevailing yardstick, the farmers are eligible for such subsidy over crop damage of 50 percent or more.

Modi said the input subsidy given to distressed farmers would be enhanced by 50 percent of the existing amounts.

Expressing concern over the problems faced by farmers due to abnormal weather conditions over the past year, the prime minister said helping farmers in such time of distress was the government’s responsibility.

The government has sent teams of central ministers to affected areas to assess the extent of damage it added.

The union and state governments, the banks and insurance companies would all do their utmost to provide relief to the farmers, said the prime minister.

Some parts of India, especially in the northern provinces, have been subjected to abnormal weather phenomena over the past one month like rains and storms, which have inflicted heavy losses to the farmers.

Mitsubishi Aircraft Corp is considering postponing its maiden flight from the previously scheduled late May to June at the earliest.—Kyodo News

Senior Japan, S Korea, US diplomats to meet next week

TOKYO, 8 April — Senior diplomats from Japan, South Korea, and the United States are arranging to meet next week in Washington, a diplomatic source said on Wednesday.

The meeting at the vice-ministerial level will allow the three countries to exchange views ahead of the expected release in late April of revised US-Japan defence cooperation guidelines and work toward bolstering trilateral ties, the source said.

During the talks, the officials could also discuss cooperation to deal with North Korea’s nuclear and missile development programs.

The source said they could also take up the sensitive issues of wartime history and territory, which have soured bilateral relations between Japan and South Korea, both major US allies in Asia.

Japan’s Vice Foreign Minister Akitaka Saiki, South Korean First Vice Foreign Minister Cho Tae Yong, and US Deputy Secretary of State Antony Blinken are expected to attend the meeting.

In recent days, South Korea has stepped up criticism of Japan for reasserting its territorial claims over disputed islets in the Sea of Japan in Tokyo’s annual foreign policy report and newly approved Japanese school textbooks.

Senior defence ministry officials from the three countries are also scheduled to hold two-day talks from 16 April in Washington to promote trilateral defence cooperation.

A joint statement from 1997 of the US-Japan defence cooperation guidelines is designed to strengthen cooperation between the US military and the Self-Defence Forces to address security threats without being bound by pre-set geographical operational limits.—Kyodo News

Japanese envisions possible contribution of $1.5 bil to China-led bank

TOKYO, 8 April — Japan does not rule out the possibility of joining a Beijing-led development bank to be launched by the end of the year and the country envisions a possible contribution of up to $1.5 billion to the institution in the event of its participation, according to a draft government paper.

Despite what would be the second-longest contribution after China’s, Japan is concerned that such a fiscal burden will not guarantee its influence in the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank given opacity in its governance standards, says a draft paper, a copy of which was obtained on Tuesday by Kyodo News.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe will carefully consider whether to join the China-led initiative while taking into account the pros and cons of Japan’s participation as spelled out in the draft paper.

Assuming that $10 billion of the AIIB’s initial capitalization of $50 billion would be financed by actual payments by potential members, the envisaged Japanese share of $1.5 billion was calculated based on the size of the nominal gross domestic product of potential participants and on the assumption that Asian economies account for 75 percent of the payments and non-Asian members hold the remaining 25 percent.

After confirming “founding members” on 15 April, China aims to agree on the AIIB’s Articles of Agreement by the end of June through negotiations involving more than 50 countries and territories that have signed up for the institution.

While even European members of the Group of Seven industrialized nations and US allies in Asia such as Australia and South Korea hope to take part in the negotiations, Japan and the United States — which see the AIIB as a challenge to World Bank and Asian Development Bank that they lead — are standing back from joining.

According to the draft paper, the positive points of joining negotiations to set up the AIIB are that Japan can be directly involved in the rule-making process of the bank and that a Japanese entry could lead to improved relations between Tokyo and Beijing.

Negative points for entering the talks are that it will hurt ties with the United States and that Japan may end up giving “legitimacy” to a Chinese tool that critics say intends to bring developing countries from Southeast, Southwest and Central Asia into Beijing’s economic sphere of influence.

In the recent White House meeting with Chinese Cabinet ministers, US officials have said Japan has had discussions with China about whether it will be possible to establish fair governance in the AIIB and whether carrying out lending that ignores debt sustainability will inflict harm on other creditors, but that Tokyo has yet to obtain a clear explanation from Beijing.

Japan will also call for transparency in the screening process for the provision of AIIB loans.

Looking ahead, Japan will continue to gather information about the AIIB such as relations between the subscription of shares among members and their voting rights, schedules in the coming months and the compatibility of the bank’s operations with international standards, according to the draft paper.

While increasing cooperation with other G-7 members — Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy and the United States — as well as Australia and New Zealand in dealing with the AIIB, Japan will also consider sending senior officials from the Finance Ministry and the Foreign Ministry to China to promote dialogue on the bank, it says.

Kyodo News

File photo taken in October 2014 in the central Japanese town of Toyoyama shows an aircraft for the test flight of the first-ever Japanese-built small passenger jet, dubbed the Mitsubishi Regional Jet. It was reported on 8 April, 2015, that Mitsubishi Aircraft Corp is considering postponing its maiden flight from the previously scheduled late May to June at the earliest.—Kyodo News

Mitsubishi Aircraft Corp is considering postponing the maiden flight of its newly developed small passenger aircraft, dubbed the Mitsubishi Regional Jet, from the previously scheduled late May to June at the earliest, sources close to the matter said on Wednesday.

It will be the fourth postponement of the first flight by the first-ever Japanese-built small passenger jet. Mitsubishi Aircraft has initially said that it expected the maiden flight to take place between April and June.

The company, based in Aichi prefecture, then set a new date of late May ahead of a leading aerospace trade show in Paris in mid-June, hoping to boost the number of orders.

Mitsubishi Aircraft has already received a total of 407 orders from US and Japanese airlines, including Japan Airlines Co and All Nippon Airways Co.

The 35-metre-long, twin-engine aircraft will seat about 70 to 90 passengers.

Kyodo News

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi

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The prime minister told a local public function that he has also asked banks to restructure loans of affected farmers and instructed insurance companies to pro-actively settle their claims.

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According to the prevailing yardstick, the farmers are eligible for such subsidy over crop damage of 50 percent or more.

Modi said the input subsidy given to distressed farmers would be enhanced by 50 percent of the existing amounts.

Expressing concern over the problems faced by farmers due to abnormal weather conditions over the past year, the prime minister said helping farmers in such time of distress was the government’s responsibility.

The government has sent teams of central ministers to affected areas to assess the extent of damage it added.

The union and state governments, the banks and insurance companies would all do their utmost to provide relief to the farmers, said the prime minister.

Some parts of India, especially in the northern provinces, have been subjected to abnormal weather phenomena over the past one month like rains and storms, which have inflicted heavy losses to the farmers.

Kyodo News

Indian PM comes to rescue of distressed farmers hit by unseasonal rains

Explosion occurs near police station in Jakarta, injures four

JAKARTA, 8 April — An explosion occurred near a police station in Tanah Abang of Central Jakarta on Wednesday, injuring four people, local media reported here.

All the victims have been rushed to a nearby hospital, local Metro TV said. The police is investigating the cause of the explosion.

Television footage showed that the victims suffered some cuts on their bodies, some of whom have to be shifted to another hospital for better treatment.

Xinhua

Fujimoto's maiden flight from late May to June is likely postponed to summer
Tokyo, 8 April — US Secretary of Defence Ash Carter kicked off his first Asian tour on Wednesday with a stern warning against the militarization of territorial rows in a region where China is at odds with several nations in the East and South China Seas.

Carter’s visit to Japan coincides with growing US concern over China’s land reclamation in the Spratlys archipelago of the disputed South China Sea, where Beijing has rival deals with several countries including the Philippines and Vietnam.

Tokyo and Beijing have a separate row over Japanese-controlled islands in the East China Sea.

US and Philippine troops will take part in an annual military exercise in April, a month after the Spratlys in the largest such drills since the allies resumed joint activities in 2000.

Asked whether the beefed up US-Philippine exercises were a response to China’s moves, Carter said that Washington and Manila had shared interests in the region, including a desire to ensure there were no changes in the status quo by force or that territorial rows were militarized. “We take a strong stance against the militarization of these disputes,” Carter told a news conference after talks with his Japanese counterpart, Defence Minister Gen Nakatani.

Chinese reclamation work is well advanced on six reefs in the Spratlys, according to recently published satellite photographs and Philippine officials. In addition, Manila has said Chinese dredgers had started reclaiming a seventh.

While the new islands won’t overturn US military superiority in the region, Chinese workers are building many islands' structures as well as possibly two airstrips that experts have said would allow Beijing to project power deep into the maritime heart of Southeast Asia.

The commander of the US Pacific Fleet, Harry Harris, told an Australian think tank last week that China was using dredges and bulldozers to create a “great wall of sand” in the South China Sea. China claims most of the potentially energy rich waterway, through which $5 trillion in ship-borne trade passes every year. The Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, Brunei and Taiwan also have overlapping claims.

Carter also welcomed progress toward the first update in US-Japan defence cooperation guidelines since 1997, a revision that will expand the scope for interaction between the allies in line with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe’s push to ease the constraints of Japan’s pacificist constitution on the nation’s military.

“It is going to give first of all Japan, but also our alliance, much greater scope to provide security in the region, and for that matter elsewhere outside of the region,” Carter said as the talks began. Abe’s government in Tokyo came to the aid of an ally under attack would pave the way for closer cooperation between US and Japanese forces across Asia, Admiral Robert Thomas, commander of the US Seventh Fleet, said last month.

In January, Thomas had said the United States would also welcome Japanese air patrols in the South China Sea.

Nakatani told the news conference with Carter, however, that the new guidelines did not target any particular region including the South China Sea.

Neither Tokyo nor Washington have territorial claims in the South China Sea, but the US Seventh Fleet operates in the area and any Japanese presence would irritate Beijing.

In a written interview with Japan’s Yomiuri newspaper published on Wednesday, Carter expressed concern about China’s land reclamation in the South China Sea.

“We are especially concerned at the prospect of militarization of these outposts. These activities seriously increase tensions and reduce prospects for diplomatic solutions,” the newspaper quoted him as saying.

We urge China to limit its activities and exercise restraint to improve regional trust,” Carter also repeated Washington’s opposition to any “coercive unilateral” actions by China to undermine Japan’s administrative control of disputed islands in the East China Sea, known as the Senkaku in Japan and the Diaoyu in China.

China’s Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying told a regular news briefing in Beijing: “We hope the US side can respect the wishes of China and relevant countries to resolve the problem via dialogue, say more responsible things and make more responsible moves, so it can genuinely play a constructive role in maintaining regional peace and stability.”

Abe’s government plans to submit bills to parliament in the coming months to ratify his cabinet’s decision last year to allow Japan to exercise its right of collective self-defence, the biggest shift in Japanese security policy in decades.

Carter, Nakatani and the two countries’ foreign ministers are expected to unveil new guidelines in April, Abe’s counterpart, Defence Minister Gen Nakatani told Reuters on 24 April for a summit in Washington.

The poll showed Oba-}
**Fire on Russian nuclear submarine fully extinguished — shipyard**

**Moscow, 8 April. — A fire and source of smoke onboard the Oryol nuclear submarine at the Zvyozdochka shipyard in northern Russia has been fully extinguished, an official spokesman for the shipyard has said. “The burning of the rubber insulation in the area of ballast tank in the space between the outer and strong hull of the submarine’s afterbody has been completely extinguished,” Evgeny Gladyshev said. The spokesman said the dock has been flooded with water. The firefighters continue filling the scene with water, he added. Russia’s Ministry of Industry and Trade and the Defence Ministry have set up a commission to investigate the circumstances of the accident and assess the damage, earlier reports said. There were no armaments or fuel and lubrication materials onboard the submarine, and the nuclear reactor had been shut down long before the fire. As a result, there is no threat of environmental or radioactive contamination.**

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**Ahead of Britain’s election, Labour takes two percent point lead — YouGov poll**

**London, 8 April — Ahead of Britain’s 7 May election, the opposition Labour Party has taken a 2 percent point lead over Prime Minister David Cameron’s Conservatives, according to a YouGov poll for the **Sun** newspaper. The poll put Labour on 35 percent, the Conservatives on 33 percent, the UK Independence Party on 14 percent, the Liberal Democrats on 8 percent and the Greens on 5 percent, The Sun newspaper said. Neither Cameron’s Conservatives nor Ed Miliband’s Labour Party is forecast to win an overall majority, according to most opinion polls.**

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**Indonesian man survives nearly two-hour flight in wheel well**

**Jakarta, 8 April — A 21-year-old Indonesian man survived a nearly two-hour domestic flight to Jakarta after hiding in the plane’s wheel well, media reports said on Tuesday. The young man, identified as Mario Stefan Ambartua, jumped the fence of Sultan Syarif Kasim II Airport in Pekanbaru, Riau Province on Tuesday afternoon, and climbed unobserved into a wheel storage compartment of Flight 177 operated by Garuda Indonesia just before it took off. At Sukarno-Hatta International Airport in Jakarta, Mario was noticed walking out onto the landing field, wobbling, by an airport ground crew. “He looked lacking of oxygen. His fingers turned blue, his left ear was bleeding,” said Garuda Indonesia Corporate Communication Secretary Pujibroto, who like many Indonesians goes by a single name. Garuda Indonesia ground crew immediately turned him over to the airport health post for medical treatment. According to Pujibroto, the maximum cruising altitude of the Garuda Indonesia plane from Pekanbaru to Jakarta was 10,363 metres (34,000 feet), far above the 4,877-meter (16,000-foot) threshold where the temperature outside the flying aircraft drops to the freezing point. Due to his weakened condition, the motive behind Mario’s action was not immediately clear. Quoting his relatives, however, Pujibroto said that since he was born, Mario lived in Pekanbaru and had been dreaming of going to Jakarta. For the past 10 days, he had observed the Pekanbaru airport. He also learned how to sneak into a plane from the Internet.**

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**Japan Airlines jet makes emergency landing after mid-air engine shutdown**

**Tokyo, 8 April — A Japan Airlines jetliner with 228 passengers was forced to turn around for an emergency landing in Tokyo on Wednesday after the aircraft’s right engine shut down during a flight to the northern Hokkaido island, an airline spokesman said. The Boeing 777, powered by Pratt & Whitney engines, landed safely at Tokyo’s Haneda airport, the spokesman said, with no injuries reported. The cause of the engine shutdown was as yet unknown, he added.**

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**France’s Hollande to declassify Rwanda genocide documents**

**PARIS, 8 April — French President Francois Hollande has decided to declassify documents related to the Rwanda genocide that killed over 800,000 people in 1994 to help shed light on the role of the French government. The documents will be available to researchers and historians if they make a request to Dominique Bertinotti, a former minister and custodian of Mitterrand’s archives. More than 800,000 minority Tutsis and politically moderate Hutus were killed in a three-month rampage by ethnic Hutu extremists in 1994 while the world largely stood by.**

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**Greek anti-establishment protesters torch cars, clash with police**

**Athens, 8 April — A small group of black-clad anti-establishment protesters clashed with riot police in central Athens on Tuesday, hurling petrol bombs and burning cars after a march against high-security prisons. The group of about 50 hooded protesters threw stones and petrol bombs at police in the central Exarchia district, a Bohemian quarter popular with artists and left-wing intellectuals. “They set two cars and a few garbage bins on fire, attacking police with stones and petrol bombs,” a police official told Reuters. The protesters were calling for the end to high-security prisons, which the new left-led government has vowed to scrap. Last week, anti-establishment protesters occupied several public buildings and briefly entered the grounds of parliament, calling for the release of jailed members of a Marxist group.**

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**French President Francois Hollande**

**France’s anti-establishment protesters**

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**Japan Airlines jet makes emergency landing after mid-air engine shutdown**

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**Smoke rises over the shipyard in Russia’s Severodvinsk. —Iitar-TASS**

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**Britain’s opposition Labour Party leader Ed Miliband speaks at the presentation of their business manifesto in central London on 30 March, 2015. —REUTERS**

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**Greek anti-establishment protesters torch cars, clash with police**

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**France’s Hollande to declassify Rwanda genocide documents**
Management must adapt to new business environment

By Aung Khin

Myanmar has started to open up many sectors of its economy to the world, including energy, advertising and finance. One of the challenges local organizations are encountering is competition for human resources. While international organizations and businesses take consideration of employee welfare in the form of year-end leave, salary increases and promotions, many local firms neglect these things. Although local employees are accustomed to such disregard, they realise their lack of labour rights when comparing their conditions to those of their counterparts in well-managed international firms.

As a result, some organizations that are neglectful of labour rights struggle to hold onto skilled personnel in the long term. Most employees are willing to work hard for their firms provided their welfare is properly taken into account. Imprudent bosses and irresponsible managers must therefore bear responsibility when companies are unsuccessful. Management must realize that the work conditions of previous decades in a closed society are no longer satisfactory.

To develop the management capacity of local firms, managers should not turn a blind eye to the welfare of their staff. Competition in the new market of Myanmar is gradually intensifying. Businesses face rapid change like never before. Globalization has increased access to markets and opportunities for growth. Under these circumstances, human resource development is very important for the sustainability of a company. If a firm cannot hold onto its workforce, it will lose human resources that are familiar with the policies of the company.

In most developing countries, there is typically a lack of human resources with technical expertise at both the national and local level. Management styles of the past may have suited an era when there was little competition in each sector, but they are sorely outdated in a globalised business environment.

The management of a company should not focus only on finances, but should consider technical, social and institutional constraints to avoid business failure.

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.tan@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.

Believe and Achieve

By Kyi Mun

“Whatever you can conceive and believe, you can achieve!” - Napoleon Hill

To conceive some creative ideas is difficult, to believe in the conceived idea is more difficult, and to achieve the conceived idea is most difficult. It is said that rivers are bending (and crooked) because they follow the easier ways. Man is prone to prefer living and moving and having his or her being in the comfort zone to living in the combat zone. But anyone who wants to amount to something in his or her life must be able to do something well. So, he or she has got to conceive, believe and achieve something in their life. In the Bible it is said: “This one thing I do, Forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press towards the MARK.”

“So, let’s try to explore what does it mean to believe and achieve in the following manner:

Believe

E for Endevour
L for Learn
I for Inspire Yourself & Others
E for Excel in something
V for Value Yourself
E for Expect Success

Achieve

A for Action Plan
C for Commitment
H for Help
I for Innovate
E for Envision the Future
V for Values & Beliefs
E for Earn Your Way to Success

BE BOLD

To believe and achieve in your life, you have definitely got to be bold, because life is a struggle or a fight or a maze. You cannot afford to be feeble-hearted to believe in something and to achieve some worthwhile aim and object. It is necessary to be bold for a decent and honorable person: “To dare nobly, to will strongly and never to falter in the path of duty.” It is said: “Fear and be slain; believe and live!”

ENDEVOR

You have got to live and move and have your being in action of some worthwhile purpose. Man has to work in order to live. You have got to possess the necessary skills in thinking, speaking and doing. First of all, you have to think and speak and act in the right way. Right and proper thought, speech and deed should be earnestly learned and practiced. And then, you have to focus all your energy and time on doing something well. It is said: “Doing a common thing uncommonly well will bring you success.”

“In the struggle of life, fight your way to success with great expectations and great courage. Always expect success in whatever you do, with tremendous belief you want to do.”

ACTION PLAN

Without a definite Plan of Action, you would be like groping in the dark, or you would be wobbling unsteadily in some uncertain direction. You have got to know what you want. You want with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your strength. When you see your goal clearly and vividly, do not hesitate to practice: “This one thing I do, Forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press towards the mark.”

COMMITMENT

Your commitment is your promise. Your commitment should be clear, definite and total. Always make an unwavering promise to yourself as well as to others. The meaning of commitment is to WALK THE TALK. Commitment also means taking action, taking charge, taking responsibility, making things happen and getting things done, as required. All of us should be fully committed to dutifully and courageously carrying out what we have undertaken to do.

HELP

If you want to believe and achieve for your own benefit, you should surely help other people as much as possible. Someone else’s good is your own good, and doing everything in your power for the good of others is better. Success for oneself has to be achieved by oneself, but success does not come from oneself; it always comes from other people. So, the benefits of helping others certainly extend to helping yourself. In order to believe and achieve, help others as much as possible.

INNOVATE

Life is always changing, progressing and advancing. So, you cannot stand still, while all the world is moving fast. Tastes, habits, customs, likes and dislikes are always changing. You have to move with the trends. You must spot the changing trends and accordingly change your objective and strategy. You have got to go with the flow. It means you must serve the emerging market. You must adapt your tactics to the current trends and innovate your concepts, processes, products and services. Remember that: Innovate or die.

ENVISION THE FUTURE

Just as all the world is changing, you must not cling to your cherished old vision and strategy. In the light of changing circumstances, your world outlook, your philosophical view and your business perspectives have to change accordingly by making concrete analysis of concrete situations. You must see the outside world as it concretely is; you must not harbor any bias, prejudice, dogmatic views and fanatic beliefs. You must see the outside world realistically.

VALUES & BELIEFS

If you value your parents, you believe in them and vice versa. Since you have a life of your own, you should value it and believe in the goodness of it. If you believe in Peace, Progress and Prosperity, you must establish the values of Peace, Progress and Prosperity in your life. Your values are your dependable ground and your beliefs are your beacon. So, you have got to live and move and have your being in noble values and solid, sound beliefs.

EARN YOUR WAY TO SUCCESS

You must give every bit of yourself to success. You should be really authentic, reliable and constructive. You should be the pivot on which your achievement should revolve. You cannot wish for, ask for or succeed; you must earn your way to success with positive mental attitude, can-do-spirit and the habit of going the extra mile. Your learning and earning curve must be strong, steep and stable.

CONCLUSION

Conceive, believe and achieve with strength, strategy and stamina!
New resort project set to showcase traditional Myanmar culture

Amarapura, 8 April — Development of a new resort incorporating traditional Myanmar culture and handicrafts is underway in Amarapura Township, Mandalay Region. The Taungthamanal Resort is being built on a 40-acre plot east of Taungthaman Lake in the township. The project site, more than 1,900 feet from Taungthaman Bridge, is located near Taungthaman, Nwansawut, Tenthai and Ywathit villages.

During the three-year construction period, the Myanmar traditional cultural heritage booth, Myanmar traditional handicraft shopping mall, service area, tourist guide area, recreation park and tourism service area will be built at the project site. “Our project will create job opportunities for local residents,” adviser U Soe Myint Thu of Taungthaman Thitsa Company said. “We will not cut down trees at the project site. If necessary, we will grow more plants there.” The company formed by 12 Myanmar entrepreneurs will spend between K200 million and K300 million on the first phase of the project.

The company plans to implement the project with the assistance of foreign experts and seek advice from them in purifying water for local consumption.

Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-printing House)

Students learn about conservation at Inlay Lake sanctuary

Nyaungshwe, 8 April — The Environment and Wildlife Conservation Division at Inlay Lake arranges talks for visitors from Myanmar and overseas, as well as university students on excursions. A 135-student team led by faculty members from Zoological Department of Bago University visited Inlay Lake sanctuary on 6 April.

With the use of cattle for agricultural tasks such as winnowing requiring far greater investment of time and effort, a growing number of farmers are coming to understand the advantages of machinery. —(Tatkon Township IPRD)

Farmers prefer use of agricultural machinery

Tatkon, 8 April — Use of cattle for agricultural work is dwindling in Pobbatiri and Tatkon townships, Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, as local farmers opt to use machinery in production of crops such as mung bean and chickpea, in addition to ploughing.

Training improves skills of IPRD staff

Nay Pyi Taw, 8 April — A training course for staff of the Information and Public Relations Department under the Ministry of Information concluded in Pyinmana on Wednesday.

Deputy Director-General U Maung Pe and officials presented prizes to outstanding trainees. Leader of the trainee Assistant Director U Maung Maung of IPRD (Head Office) received completion certificates for all.

Altogether 31 trainees attended the four-week course from 16 March to 8 April.—Tun Tun Win (Pyinmana)

Local residents support peace-making process

Namkham, 8 April — Local residents staged a demonstration march in support of a nationwide ceasefire along Muse-Namkham union highway in Namkham Township, Muse District, northern Shan State on 6 April morning.

More than 300 local residents including social organizations, ethnic literature and cultural groups and town elders led by U Nyunt Kyi went round the town and gathered at a ground in front of the town hall.—L Soe (IPRD)
United Nations, 8 April — Gulf Arab countries and Jordan want the United Nations Security Council to blacklist the son of Yemen’s former president and a Houthi militia leader and effectively impose an arms embargo on the rebels that rule most of the poor Arabian peninsula country.

Experts from the 15-council members met on Tuesday for the first time to discuss a draft resolution that would impose a global asset freeze and travel ban on Ahmed Saleh, the former head of Yemen’s elite Republican Guard, and Abdulmalik al-Houthi, a top leader of the Iran-allied Sh’ite Houthi group.

Spain arrests nine in operation against Islamists in Catalonia

Madrid, 8 April — Spain arrested nine people in the northeastern region of Catalonia early on Wednesday as part of an operation against Islamic militants, local police said.

“The arrested are accused, amongst other crimes, of belonging to a terrorist organization,” a spokeswoman for the Catalan police said. Spain has arrested around 30 people in relation to suspected militant activity this year as part of efforts to stop the radicalization of young Muslims and prevent them joining jihadists in Syria or Iraq or attacking targets at home.

Pakistan MPs speak out against intervention in Yemen

Islamabad, 8 April — Pakistani members of parliament spoke out against getting involved in Yemen on Wednesday as they resumed a one-sided debate on a Saudi request to join a campaign against Iran-allied Houthi forces in Yemen.

Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif was due in Pakistan later on Wednesday when he is likely to urge Pakistan to reject the Saudi request.

“The Yemen war is not our war...Our advice to the government is that the army should not go to Yemen,” said opposition member of parliament Shireen Mazari.

“As Muslims, we have a duty to counter any threat to holy shrines but there is no such threat today.”

Opposition Senator Tajir Hussain Mashadi said the “aggressors” were the Saudis and the victims were the Yemenis.

“Now the aggressors are asking another sovereign state, Pakistan, to come to provide military aid to Saudi Arabia.”

The Sunni royal family of Saudi Arabia and Iran’s Sh’ite theocracy are rivals for power in the Middle East. Their competition frequently fuels sectarian violence.

Last month, a Saudi-led coalition began conducting air strikes in Yemen against Houthi rebels. Saudi Arabia and Yemen share a border and Saudi Arabia says it is afraid that instability might spill over to its territory.

Saudi Arabia wants its staunch ally, Sunni-majority Pakistan, to join the coalition, and has requested ships, aircraft and troops.

Pakistan’s parliament began debating the request on Monday and no legislator has spoken in support of sending troops for Saudi Arabia to use in Yemen.

Although there are many groups in the complex Yemen conflict, Pakistani lawmakers fear it could develop into a proxy war between Saudi Arabia and Iran, and inflame already simmering sectarian tension at home.

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has said he will defend Saudi Arabia’s “territorial integrity” but not spelled out what, if any, commitments he has made. On Tuesday, Sharif told lawmakers Iran should be part of the debate and urged parliament to take its time in coming to a decision.
German orders mark weak start to 2015 with unexpected February fall

Wednesday, 9 April, 2015
BUSINESS & HEALTH

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BERLIN, 8 April — German industrial orders unexpectedly dropped in February, partly because companies got fewer major contracts, after bookings already plunged in January, suggesting manufacturers had a subdued start to 2015 in Europe’s largest economy.

Orders for goods made in Germany — a highly volatile indicator — decreased by 0.9 percent on the month, data from the Economy Ministry showed. A Reuters poll had forecast a 1.5 percent rise.

It was the first time since last year that orders had slipped for two months running.

“Today’s drop in new orders shows that after a series of almost euphoric news and indicators from Germany and euro zone, some caution is clearly justified,” said Carsten Brzeski, senior economist at ING. But he said the weak euro should help German industrial firms. “Judging from early indicators and with similar exchange rate weakness, order books are currently only moderately filled. If past performances are any guide for the future, German exporters can start rubbing their hands.”

The decline in new contracts was driven by a drop in demand for capital and intermediate goods. Bookings for consumer goods, which rose by 2.9 percent on strong demand from abroad, were the only bright spot. A breakdown of the data showed domestic demand was stagnant, while demand from abroad dropped by 1.6 percent.

The Economy Ministry said the basic trend in industry was likely to remain “pointed moderately upwards” though. Other evidence has painted a rosier picture of Germany manufacturing expanded at the fastest pace in almost a year in March as output gained momentum.

Overall, Germany looks set for a decent performance in the first quarter, with business and investor morale improving, unemployment falling and the private sector gaining traction. Consumer sentiment is at a 13 1/2-year high as shoppers benefited from rising wages and cheap oil.

The orders data for January was revised up to a fall of 2.6 percent from an originally reported 3.9 percent plunge.—Reuters

With diabetes, fewer meals may mean less hunger, depression

NEW YORK, 8 April — People with type 2 diabetes may have less depression and fewer hunger pains if they opt for a big breakfast and lunch rather than six smaller meals throughout the day, suggests a new study.

“Eating large breakfasts and lunches may be more beneficial than the usual snacking model,” said Dr Han-Kahleova, the study’s lead author from the Institute for Clinical and Experimental Medicine in Prague.

“However, further larger-scale, long-term studies are needed before offering clear recommendations,” she told Reuters Health in an email.

The analysis used data from a previous study that compared two restricted-calorie diets in 54 people with type 2 diabetes.

Each study participant spent 12 weeks eating six small meals a day, and then another 12 weeks eating a large breakfast and lunch, with no dinner.

With both diets, people reported fewer depressive symptoms and better quality of life compared to how they felt at the beginning of the study, but the improvements in mood were significantly greater when they ate larger meals twice a day.

Disinhibition, which is the tendency to overeat in certain situations, improved more on the two-meal diet. People also reported feeling less hungry when they ate just twice a day, researchers reported in the European Journal of Clinical Nutrition.

People who eat less frequently may feel fuller and more satisfied when they do eat, rather than feeling hungry all day long from eating small meals, said Kahleova, who added that people need to eat 30 to 40 grams of fiber per day to be successful.

“Eat a hearty breakfast: eat breakfast like a king, lunch as a prince and dinner as a pauper,” she said. “If you feel hungry in the evening you can have a vegetable salad.”

“I think it’s fascinating research,” said Margaret Powers of the International Diabetes Centre at Park Nicollet in Minneapolis in a telephone interview.

By looking at the effect of eating patterns on patients’ depressive symptoms, the new research is starting to take into account the “big emotional component to eating,” said Powers, who wasn’t involved with the new study but is president-elect of healthcare and education for the American Diabetes Association.

The most important thing for people with type 2 diabetes is to have a plan in terms of when they eat and how they spread their intake of carbohydrates throughout the day, Powers said, adding that the goal is to maintain steady blood sugar levels and a healthy weight.

“There’s no one right way or wrong way, but I think this says that we do have to pay attention to this emotional side of eating,” she said. “If somebody’s eating two large meals a day and they want to eat at other times and they can’t and that’s making them miserable, that’s not the right plan.”—Reuters

Risk of breast, ovarian cancer may differ by type of BRCA mutation

WASHINGTON, 8 April — Women who have inherited mutations in the BRCA1 or BRCA2 genes have an increased risk of breast and ovarian cancers, but the impact varies depending on the type and location of the mutations, researchers said on Tuesday.

The results, published in the US journal JAMA, may lead to more effective cancer risk assessment, care and prevention strategies for health care providers and BRCA1 or BRCA2 carriers.

“We’ve made a lot of progress toward understanding how those differences will change the decisions a woman makes about preventive surgery or other behaviors, the researchers said on Tuesday.

The important question that remains is whether these differences will change the decisions a woman makes about preventive surgery or other behaviors, the researchers said on Tuesday.

The results of this study are a first step in understanding how to personalize risk assessment around a woman’s specific mutation, which can help guide care and providers in the cancer prevention decision-making process,” said Rebbeck, also associate director for Population Sciences at Penn’s Abramson Cancer Centre.

Rebbeck and colleagues analyzed more than 31,000 women with a BRCA1 or BRCA2 gene, of whom about 19,000 women with a BRCA1 mutation, 46 percent were diagnosed with breast cancer, 12 percent with ovarian cancer, 5 percent with breast and ovarian cancer, and 37 percent with no cancer.

Of the nearly 12,000 women with a BRCA2 mutation, 26 percent were diagnosed with breast cancer, 6 percent with ovarian cancer, 2 percent with breast and ovarian cancer, and 40 percent with no cancer.

Within the BRCA1 and BRCA2 genes, the researchers identified certain mutations that significantly increased or decreased a person’s risk of breast or ovarian cancer.

Previously, a woman with BRCA1 mutation would have been thought to have a 59 percent risk of breast cancer and a 14 percent risk for ovarian cancer, up until age 70.

However, the new research suggested that women who carry a specific BRCA mutation may differ by type of BRCA mutation, most commonly present in the Ashkenazi Jewish population who have a 69 percent risk of breast cancer and a 26 percent risk of ovarian cancer, for example.

The important question that remains is whether these differences will change the decisions a woman makes about preventive surgery or other behaviors, the researchers said on Tuesday.

“Additional research is needed to determine the absolute risks associated with different mutations, and how those differences might influence decision making and standards of care, such as preventive surgery, for carriers of BRCA1 and BRCA2 mutations,” said senior author Katherine Nathanson, associate professor and director of Genetics in the Basre Research Center for BRCA at Penn’s Abramson Cancer Centre.

BRCA1 and BRCA2 were thrown into the spotlight two years ago after film star Angelina Jolie, who carried a BRCA1 mutation, revealed her decision to get a preventive, bilateral mastectomy. Last month, the New York Times published a piece about the increasing number of women who opt for preventive mastectomy surgery to have their ovaries and fallopian tubes removed.

Cheaper cars not to increase sales in Malaysia

BANGKOK, 8 April — Despite price drop, the car sales in Malaysia will not see a notable increase because of weakened demand after the Goods and Services Tax (GST) was implemented, according to the local media reports on Tuesday.

Malaysia automakers have cut prices by 1 to 3.25 percent since GST was implemented on 1 April. Analysts believe that although the price cut is bigger than expected, the tax on repair and maintenance costs, car accessories, car insurance and Ron97 gasoline almost offset the attractiveness of buying a car.

Xinhua

Employees work at a factory run by PIKO, a model railway manufacturer, in the eastern German town of Sonneberg, on 9 Oct, 2014.—Reuters

A tradition pancake breakfast in Calgary, Alberta, on 7 July, 2012.—Reuters

Risk of breast, ovarian cancer may differ by type of BRCA mutation
Obama has ‘diminished’ US power, Cheney says in new book

WASHINGTON, 8 April — Former Vice President Dick Cheney, already a fierce critic of President Barack Obama, accuses him in an upcoming book of allowing American power to become “significantly diminished” even as the threat of terrorism rises. Cheney renews his criticism of Obama in “Exceptional: Why The World Needs a Powerful America,” a book co-authored with his eldest daughter, Liz Cheney, due to be published on 1 September by Threshold Editions, which has backed books by conservative authors. Threshold is part of publishing house Simon & Schuster, which is owned by CBS Corp (CBS.N).

"Un fortunately, as we face the clear and present danger of a rapidly growing terrorist threat, President Obama has significantly diminished our power and abandoned America’s allies and emboldened our enemies,” Cheney said in a statement released by his publisher.

As vice president for eight years under Republic an President George W Bush, Cheney advocated a muscular American foreign policy and championed the Iraq war.

He was back in the news in December after a Senate Intelligence Committee report detailed CIA torture of detainees during the Bush administration.

Cheney strongly de fended the CIA’s use of aggressive interrogation tech niques on foreign terrorism suspects, saying the practices did not amount to torture. "I’d do it again in a minute,” Cheney said. In an interview published in Playboy magazine last month, Cheney escalated his criticism of Obama.

"I look at Barack Obama and I see the worst president in my lifetime, without question — and that’s saying something,” Cheney said. "I used to have significant criticism of Jimmy Carter, but compared to Barack Obama and the damage he is doing to the nation — it’s a tragedy, a real tragedy, and we are going to pay a hell of a price just trying to dig out from under his presidency."" 

Liz Cheney, a former State Department official, last year dropped her bid to unseat a Republican incum bent senator from Wyoming,拆除 to become a fierce critic of President Barack Obama in the Oval Office and did not notice the power failure, spokesman John Earnest told a news briefing.

"Things are slowly but surely returning to normal here in the White House complex," he said.

The State Department's daily briefing was suspended after power was lost. At the US Capitol complex, where lawmakers were absent for an Easter recess, a backup generator switched on, keeping most lights and appliances running.

At least four Smiths onian museums were evacuated, including the Natural History Museum on the National Mall, where the power failure left hundreds of visi tors milling around outside.

"It was just dark and a lot of people there and it was dark and it was awkward. Because, like you couldn’t see anything, you’re just standing there and the lights are off,” tourist Karina Coul ter told Reuters Television.

Power also went out as media tycoon Oprah Winfrey was speaking at a Postal Service ceremony marking the issuance of a stamp honoring poet Maya Angelou.

Some subway stations in the United States’ second-busiest mass transit system ran on backup power. Buses were deployed to shuttle passengers from one station to another.

Power supplier Pepco Holdings Inc (POM.N) said its crews were repairing transmission equipment in Charles County, Maryland. The company’s website showed a handful of customers without power by early evening, mostly in the District of Columbia.

The Southern Maryland Electric Cooperative (SME CO) said in a tweet that a Pepco transmission conduc tor broke loose at a SME CO substation, causing the outages. A spokeswoman for Pepco, Courtney Nogas, said a broken insulator had caused a fallen transmission line. Thomas Popik, founder of watchdog group the Foundation for Resident Societies, said the outage “is an excellent example of the grid’s fragility and why physical security is so important.”

He said federal regulations on the electric grid failed to address worries about physical security.

Narita airport opens new terminal for budget airlines

CHIBA, Japan, 8 April — Narita International Airport, Japan’s largest international gateway, opened a new terminal for budget airlines on Wednesday in a bid to court a growing number of low-cost carriers for domestic and short-haul international flights.

The airport, serving the greater Tokyo area, inaugurated its third terminal at 3:30 am with a countdown and applause by a crowd of around 100 terminal users.

“I hope the new terminal will help LCCs grow and increase our traveling options,” said Sosuke Nakano, a 24-year-old company employee from Saitama Prefecture on a sight-seeing trip to Kagoshima in southwestern Japan.

The first flight from Narita International Airport Corp, the operator of the airport, is urging passengers to arrive earlier, as it takes roughly 10 to 15 minutes on foot or bus to get to the new terminal from Terminal 2, which hosts the nearest train stations.

Terminal 3 comprises a three-story main building and a two-story satellite facility, including a 24-hour open rest area available for passengers for early morning flights, with a total floor space of roughly 66,000 square meters, the company said.

Efforts were made to reduce construction costs in order to curb facility usage charges paid by airlines and passengers at the terminal, which is the first addition to the airport since the December 1992 opening of Terminal 2, the company said.

After losing some customers for international flights to Haneda airport, which is located closer to the centre of Tokyo and added landing slots for international flights about a year ago, the Narita airport operator hopes to increase users with the new terminal.

Five of the 14 LCCs serving Narita airport have moved offices to the new terminal to offer a combined 700 flights a week to connect the airport with Sapporo, Fukuoka and 10 other domestic cities and seven foreign destinations.
China’s chemical plant fire resurfaces

Zhangzhou, 8 April — Fire at a chemical plant in east China’s Fujian Province on 8 April, 2015. A fire at the chemical plant that exploded on April 6 in Fujian reignited again early Wednesday. — Xinhua

The fire, which had been put out, resumed at around 7:40 pm on Tues-

day. It was later extinguished again at around 11:40 pm, said the head- quarters for handling this accident at the Tenglong Aromatic Hydrocarbon (Zhangzhou) Co Ltd on the Gului Peninsula in Zhang- zhou City.

The same oil tank caught fire again at around 2:09 am on Wednesday. Residues contained in one of the oil storage tanks had self-ignited when exposed to the air, according to the headquarters.

More than 170 fire en- gines have arrived to battle the blaze.

On Monday evening, oil leaked from the xylene facility caught fire and led to blasts at three nearby oil storage tanks at the company. — Xinhua
Life is about enjoying yourself: Miranda Kerr

**Miranda credits her positive outlook to her mother Therese Kerr.**

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Taylor Swift, Sam Smith lead Billboard Music Awards nominees

**Pop star Taylor Swift (L) and British soul-pop artist Sam Smith perform during the 42nd American Music Awards in Los Angeles, California in this combination photo from 23 Nov, 2014 file photos.**

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Bloom, said she grabs life with her eldest son Flynn with her ex-husband Orlando Bloom, said she grabs life by both hands and embraces everything that comes her way. The 31-year-old actress, who has four-year-old son Flynn with her estranged husband Orlando Bloom, said she grabs life by both hands and embraces all the ups and downs that come her way, reported Femalefirst.

“If I could say something to my younger self it would be, ‘It’s all part of an evolution. It doesn’t matter whether it’s positive or negative, it’s an evolution. Understand what the end goal is, knowing that every day you’re one step closer to getting there.’”

“Life is about enjoying yourself and trying to make the most of moments. It’s nothing to get nervous about.” Even though I am a mother and I have a business to run, I feel like sometimes you can get too serious. Then it loses the fun and you have to wonder, ‘Well, what am I doing this all for?’” she said.

The blonde beauty believes her positive outlook is down on her Australian mother Therese Kerr, who taught her to work hard and have a strategic business mind.

“The way I’ve learned so much about life.”

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**BB King heads home, ‘feeling better’ after hospital stint**

**US blues legend BB King performs during the 46th Jazz Festival in San Sebastian on 21 July, 2011.**

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LOS ANGELES, 8 April — Veteran blues guitarist BB King said he was “feeling much better” and heading home on Tuesday after being hospitalized for diabetes-related issues.

King, 89, was taken to hospital last Friday after suffering from dehydration as a complication of diabetes, his representative LaVernene Toney said.

On Tuesday, King thanked his fans for their “concern and good wishes” on his official Facebook page and said, “I’m feeling much better & am leaving the hospital today.”

Born in Mississippi, the musician is known as the “King of the Blues” and is considered one of the greatest guitarists of all time, with artists such as Eric Clapton citing him as an influence.

Last October, King was forced to cancel eight live performances after falling ill on stage in Chicago. He was diagnosed with dehydration and suffering from exhaustion, and has not been on the road performing since.—**Reuters**

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**First look of Shailene Woodley in ‘Snowden’ released**

**Woodley, 23, who plays Lindsay Mills, walks side by side with her on-screen boyfriend Joseph Gordon-Levitt.**

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LOS ANGELES, 8 April — Shailene Woodley’s first look from the upcoming Edward Snowden’s biopic has been released.

Woodley, 23, who plays Lindsay Mills, walks side by side with her on-screen boyfriend Joseph Gordon-Levitt, who takes the title role in the Edward Snowden movie, in the picture released, reported Aceshowbiz.

Other stars supporting this drama are Nicolas Cage, Scott Eastwood, Melissa Leo, Zachary Quinto, Tom Wilkinson, and Irish singer Hozier.

“Billboard magazine, which covers the music industry, said the finalists were based on fan interactions with music, including album and digital sales, touring, radio airplay, streaming and interactions on social media websites and other online sites for music.”

The awards will be broadcast live on 17 May from the MGM Grand Arena in Las Vegas on Walt Disney Co’s ABC network.

Other anticipated categories on the night include top hot 100 song, which includes Taylor Swift’s “All About That Bass,” Azalea’s “Fancy” and Oscar winner John Legend’s “All of Me.”

Perry, Timberlake, Lady Gaga, One Direction and The Rolling Stones will compete for top touring artist.

Rapper Ludacris, who will host the awards with supermodel Chrissy Teigen, announced nominations in five categories on ABC’s “Good Morning America” show with Fall Out Boy rocker Pete Wentz. The rest of the nominees were announced on Twitter.—**Reuters**

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**Rapper Kanye West settles lawsuit with photographer over scuffle**

**Kanye West performs with U2 during a surprise concert in support of World AIDS Day in Times Square in New York, on 1 Dec, 2014.**

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LOS ANGELES, 8 April — Kanye West settled on Tuesday with a photographer who had sued him a over a scuffle in 2013, with the rapper agreeing to terms that include an apology to avoid a trial over the lawsuit.

West, 37, settled the suit that celebrity attorney Gloria Allred had filed on behalf of Daniel Ramos, who was involved in an altercation with the Grammy-winning rapper outside of Los Angeles International Airport in July 2013.

Allred did not reveal the terms of the settlement, but said one of the requirements included West apologising to Ramos, who was captured in a photograph she put out with a message. Celebrities are sometimes you can get too serious. Then it loses the fun and you have to wonder, ‘Well, what am I doing this all for?’” she said.

The blonde beauty believes her positive outlook is down on her Australian mother Therese Kerr, who taught her to work hard and have a strategic business mind.

“The way I’ve learned so much about life.”

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**BB King heads home, ‘feeling better’ after hospital stint**

**US blues legend BB King performs during the 46th Jazz Festival in San Sebastian on 21 July, 2011.**

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Kansas becomes first state to ban a second trimester abortion procedure

TOPEKA, 8 April — Kansas became the first state to ban a common second trimester abortion procedure when Governor Sam Brownback, a Republican, on Tuesday signed into a law an act to halt what lawmakers said are “dismemberment abortions.”

The law that goes into effect on July 1 prohibits the use of dilation and evacuation, a procedure that is commonly used in the second trimester. The procedure can result in the fetus being partially removed during the procedure. — Reuters

Kids may be more likely to use customized playgrounds

AMSTERDAM, 8 April — Specially tailored playgrounds met their goals of increasing kids’ use and physical activity, in a new study from the Netherlands.

The Richard Krageke Foundation creates public playgrounds — known as Kragjeke playgrounds — in deprived neighbourhoods there. Each playground has a unique design based on the needs of the kids who are most likely to use it. Each playground is supervised during the busiest times, and coaches are responsible for organizing activities.

Given the positive findings of the new study, researchers say that in underprivileged neighbourhoods, adding supervised activities and equipment could increase use of regular playgrounds that are underused and often left deserted.

“Providing playgrounds that provide a motivating and socially safe play environment will increase physical activity and will have — little but relevant — impact on public health,” said lead author Evert Verhagen of VU University Medical Center in Amsterdam in an email to Reuters Health.

“The problem of inactivity and lifestyle related disorders is greatest in deprived neighbourhoods where safe play opportunities are limited,” Verhagen said. As reported in the Journal of Science and Medicine in Sport, the researchers randomly chose 10 of the 99 Kragjeke playgrounds and 10 typical playgrounds as comparisons.

Specially trained college students observed the playgrounds for four days to determine the number of children and their intensity of physical activity at the playground. — Reuters

Thousands of Australian to pay for pirate downloading

SYDNEY, 8 April — Some 5,000 Australians are expected to receive a letter from a Hollywood production company demanding payment for illegal downloads of its film Dallas Buyers Club, it was reported on Wednesday.

A landmark Federal Court ruling ordered several Australian internet service providers, including iiNet, to hand over the identities of thousands of account holders whose internet connections were allegedly used to share the Hollywood film, Fairfax Media reported. Dallas Buyers Club LLC and Voltage Pictures LLC targeted six Australian telcos — iiNet, Internode, Dodo, Amnet, Adam Internet and Wideband Networks — when they sought personal details associated with more than 4,700 IP addresses that were used to share the movie using BitTorrent.

Michael Bradley, the lawyer representing Dallas Buyers Club, starring Matthew McConaughey, in the precedent-setting piracy case, said the company will seek compensation.

“Ultimately for the owner of the film that’s what’s it’s about because they’ve lost a lot of money,” he told Australian Broadcasting Corporation on Wednesday.

The US companies sent letters to illegal downloaders claiming they were liable for damages of up to 150,000 US dollars unless settlement fees of up to 7,000 US dollars were paid. The chief executive of industry body, Intellectual Property Awareness Foundation, Lori Flekser, was pleased with the landmark piracy judgment.

“She hopes it will be a deterrent to piracy which affects the livelihood of Australia’s independent filmmakers.” — Xinhua

Republic-controlled Kansas has taken a leading role in imposing restrictions on abortions, with more than 20 measures being enacted since Brownback took office in 2011, according to the Guttmacher Institute, a research group that supports the right to abortion but whose research is cited by both sides in the debate.

The procedure is used in about 8 to 9 percent of abortions nationwide and similar bans are being considered in Oklahoma, Missouri and South Carolina, it said. Nearly 90 percent of US abortions take place in the first trimester. — Reuters

The researchers found Kragjeke playgrounds empty about 12 percent of the time. The regular playgrounds were empty about 29 percent of the time.

About 13 percent of the kids on the Kragjeke playgrounds were engaged in vigorous physical activity, compared to about 10 percent of kids on the regular playgrounds — a small difference. — Reuters

The law allows for the procedure to preserve the life of a pregnant woman or when the mother’s health is in serious jeopardy from the pregnancy.

An anti-abortion sign is seen as demonstrators march on Market Street during the Nineth Annual Walk for Life West Coast rally in San Francisco, California, on 26 Jan, 2013. — Reuters

Tom's T-shaped body is visible as he checks his phone. He is standing in front of a house in the background. The house has a large front yard with a big sign that says “Welcome.” The sky is clear and the sun is shining.
Training improves Myanmar hockey players

Yangon International Airport in the night of Monday after undergoing training at the hockey academy in Yangon, Myanmar.

Atletico hard on Real’s heels, Sevilla down Levante

Atletico Madrid made a typically aggressive start to lay the foundations for a 2-0 victory at home to mid-table Real Sociedad on Tuesday that lifted the champions to within two points of second-placed Real Madrid.

Diego Simeone’s men came roaring out of the blocks at the Calderon and, after Arda Turan had thumped a volley against the post in the second minute, Koke’s inswinging delivery from a corner moments later was headed into his own net by Sociedad defender Mikel Gonzalez.

Antoine Griezmann made it 2-0 in the 10th minute when he followed up Koke’s saved effort and made it 2-0 in the 10th minute when he followed up Koke’s saved effort and led to Sociedad, who have typically aggressive start to lay the foundations for a 2-0 victory at home to mid-table Real Sociedad on Tuesday that lifted the champions to within two points of second-placed Real Madrid.

Milan, 8 April — Treble-chasing Juventus, beaten 2-1 at home in the first leg of the Coppa Italia semi-final, hit back with an emphatic 3-0 victory at Fiorentina to reach the final on Tuesday. Alessandro Matri, Roberto Pereyra and Leonardo Bonucci scored the goals as Juventus made light of the absence of the injured Carlos Tevez, Andrea Pirlo, Paul Pogba and Stephan Lichtsteiner in a bad-tempered game. Juventus will face either Napoli or Lazio, who meet on Wednesday, in the final as they attempt to win the competition for the first time since 1995.

Massimiliano Allegri’s team also have a 14-point lead at the top of Serie A and have reached the Champions League quarter-finals where they face AS Monaco.

Juventus outclass Fiorentina to reach Coppa final

However, they will be without forward Alvaro Morata in the final after he was sent off in the 88th minute for a tackle from behind on Alessandro Diamanti. Six other players were booked.

Fiorentina, who haded Juventus their first home defeat for nearly two years in the final, had the ball in the net after two minutes but it was ruled out for pushing by Mohamed Salah. Matri put Juventus ahead in the 21st minute, firing home after an attempted pass rebounded straight to him, and reyra was first to the ball when Norberto Neto parried Alvaro Morata’s shot just before halftime.

Bonucci played home the third from a corner in the 59th minute after the Fiorentina defence lost concentration to seal a 4-2 aggregate win.—Reuters

Family man Woods still in the business of winning

Augusta, (Georgia), 8 April — Now ranked 111th, Tiger Woods appeared far more concerned about becoming the world’s number one dad on Tuesday than golf’s top player.

Surrounded by his two children and ski champion girlfriend Lindsey Vonn, an at ease Woods seemed oblivious to the thousands of spectators gathered around the Augusta National practice green and looked more prepared to head out on a family picnic than make a headline-grabbing comeback at this week’s Masters.

In many ways, the year’s first major will be a family outing for the Woods clan with the 14-time major winner scheduled to make a rare appearance in Wednesday’s practice round contest where young daughter Sam and son Charlie take on caddie duties.

Vonn will also be on hand to offer her support in the same way that Woods did for his dwindlingdarling Lindsey Vonn and Vail, Colorado earlier this year when she made her run at the alpine skiing record books.

Despite all the family friendly activities, this is very much a business trip for Woods and the former world number one made it clear his business is still winning golf tournaments.

“I want to win,” de.clared Woods. “The whole idea is to prepare and do that, and I feel like my game is finally ready to go and do that again.”

Substitute Kehl fires Dortmund into German Cup semis

Berlin, 8 April — Borussia Dortmund veteran Sebastian Kehl scored a sensational extra-time winner in a 3-2 victory over visitors Hoffenheim on Tuesday to advance to the German Cup semi-finals and keep alive their hopes of European football next season.

The 35-year-old, whoretires at the end of the campaign after 13 years at Dortmund, came on in the second half and fired home from 25 metres.

Without injured Mats Hummels and Marco Reus, Dortmund took the lead through central defender Neven Subotic in the 19th minute before Kevin Waldland’s superb volley levelled the match two minutes later.

Serbia international Subotic then gifted Hoffenheim their second goal when he lost possession to Roberto Firmino, who charged through and beautifully chipped keeper Mitch Langerak. Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang, however, made amends for his team mate’s mistake, heading in the equaliser early in the second half before Kehl’s superb winner in the 107th minute went in off the post.

Dortmund, last year’s beaten finalists, are looking to rescue an otherwise disappointing season by securing a Europa League spot after a dismal Bundesliga campaign.

VfL Wolfsburg dominated but needed a second-half penalty from defender Ricardo Rodriguez to edge past fellow Bundesliga club Freiburg 1-0 and advance.

The Swiss international, who also scored twice in the win over VfB Stuttgart at the weekend, converted a 72nd-minute spot-kick after Daniel Caligiuri was brought down by Julian Schieber.

Holders Bayern Munich, chasing a treble of titles, play Bayer Leverkusen in another all-Bundesliga clash on Wednesday with Borussia Moenchengladbach taking on third-tier Arminia Bielefeld.