President unveils stone plaque at Myanmar-Lao Friendship Bridge

MoU on construction of Myanmar-Lao Friendship Bridge was signed in 2012 and the bridge was completed on 25 April, 2015.

NAY PYI TAW, 9 May—President U Thein Sein on Saturday attended the opening of a bridge linking Tachileik in eastern Shan State with Laos, unveiling a stone plaque on the Myanmar side.

The bridge connects the town of Kenglat in Tachileik with the Laotian province of Luang Namtha.

The president, together with his entourage and representatives of local national races, had a documentary photo taken on the bridge as a token of the opening ceremony. (See page 3)

Gov’t, ethnic armed group and political party representatives attend peace and national reconciliation forum in Yangon

YANGON, 9 May—Representatives of the Myanmar government, ethnic armed groups and political parties gathered Saturday in Yangon for the first coordination meeting of signatories to the Deed of Commitment for Peace and National Reconciliation signed in February.

The forum, aimed at improving the draft of a National Ceasefire Agreement, also included some non-signatory ethnic armed organizations and political parties, as well as ethnic affairs ministers and civil society organizations.

In his welcome speech, Saw Mutu Sae Po, Chairman of the Karen National Union, a signatory to the Deed of Commitment and one of the organizers of the forum, said stakeholders must keep their promises and back up their words with action. The signatories must build a culture to realize the pledges and open the (See page 3)

Contemporary art exhibition features diverse range of work

By Khaing Thanda Lwin

YANGON, 9 May—An exhibition showcasing contemporary artwork from Kooe Art Studio, with a focus on Myanmar’s cultural heritage, opened Saturday at Yangon Gallery here.

“Kooe Diary” runs from 9 to 13 May, with nearly 50 acrylic paintings and one installation by nine artists. All artworks on display at the gallery are on sale, with prices ranging from US $500 to $7,000. Visitors can enjoy the diverse range of artworks.

“Around US $500 per painting is an affordable price for local collectors but Myanmar handiwork would be more expensive on the international market,” said artist Co Thiee, who creates colourful abstract paintings and sells works to buyers from England.

“Some of the proceeds from the paintings sold will go to the poor, elderly and orphans, but we have not discussed the details,” said artist Su Eaindra, whose works focus on the culture of Yangon and the lives of its residents during the rainy season.

This is the first time Kooe Art Studio has conducted an exhibition with the aim of gaining greater exposure for its artists. Some of them have plans to hold several exhibitions this year.

The gallery is located near Planetarium Museum on Alhone Road in Yangon.—GNLM

By Ye Myint

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**Mandalay Region to hold 1st Yadanabon Cup invitational men’s volleyball tournament**

Mandalay, 9 May — A meeting on holding the 1st Yadanabon Cup invitational men’s volleyball tournament was held at Oriental House in Mandalay on 8 May.

Principal of Mandalay Institute of Sports and Physical Education U Myo Myint Aung spoke on the occasion. Deputy Director of Mandalay Region Sports and Physical Education Department U Wai Zin reported on a plan to hold the tournament from 24 to 30 June while secretary of the Mandalay Region volleyball subcommittee submitted a report on activities of the committee.

U Aung of Aung Thamadi Goldsmith and Gold Refinery, Managing Director U Yan Naing of Dragon One Company and Thudhamma Dr Kyaw Win of Mann Myay Yazar Real Estate Service participated in the discussions on behalf of sponsors.

Well-wishers donated K21.3 million to the fund of the tournament.

*Tin Maung (Mandalay)*

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**Mandalay Region to hold 1st Yadanabon Cup invitational men’s volleyball tournament**

**Myanmar hockey supporters make donations for SEA Games trip**

Yangon, 9 May — Myanmar Hockey Federation officials and supporters donated cash Thursday at the sporting body’s headquarters to help send the national team to the 28th SEA Games later this year in Singapore.

President of the federation U Htin Zaw Win donated K5 million, vice presidents U Kyaw Kyaw Hlaing US $2,600 and U Zaw Win K3.5 million, U Saw Lu Lu Htaw K2.5 million, Chairman of Naing Group Co., Ltd. U Kyaw Naing Oo K20 million, general secretary U Khin Maung Latt K5 million, executives U Tin Myint Ni K5 million, U Kyaw Win, U Aung Than-1, U Ko Ko Latt and U Kyaw Ye Han K1 million each and U Aung Than-2, U Win Htoo, U Myo Ko Ko and U Kyaw Hay Thein K500,000 each.

Thun Swe (Pabedan)

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**Australian tourists travel Myanmar by motorcycle**

Nay Pyi Taw, 9 May — Under the supervision of the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism and arrangement of All Asia Exclusive Travels & Tours, three Australian tourists arrived in Myanmar by motorcycle through Myawady entrance on 29 April.

The tourists proceeded to Bago and spent the night at Hotel Aeroma. On 30 April, they visited Pyay. On 1 and 2 May, they went sightseeing in Bagan and left for Monywa.

On 3 May, they departed for Kalay and arrived in Tamu on 4 May. They proceeded to India from Tamu.—MNA

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**Journalists from Upper Myanmar visit Yazagyo multi-purpose dam project**

Kalay, 9 May — A team of journalists led by Vice Chairman of Upper Myanmar Journalist Association U Tin Hlaing (Tin Hlaing-Mektila) and U Khin Maung Nyein (Myan Gon Hsaung) visited the Yazagyo multi-purpose dam project in Kalay District, Sagaing Region, on 4 May.

Officials of the Irrigation Department spoke about implementation of the project.

The team made field trips to lakes and small dams in the area of the project. While in Kalay, Kalay District, electrical engineer U Yu Maw explained the process of supplying electricity to the region.

The journalists also visited Tayhsankyun Pagoda at the junction of Kalay, Kalewa and Tamu roads.

Shwe Lin Pyae Sone

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**Revenue officials explain taxation laws**

Mandalay, 9 May — A ceremony to clarify the taxation law and provisions with amendments was held at the General Administration Department in Pygyidagun Township, Mandalay Region on 6 May.

Township Administrator U Kyaw Swa Tun spoke on the occasion while Head of Township Internal Revenue Department U Aung Myint explained provisions with amendments of the taxation laws enacted in 2015. It was attended by Mandalay Region MPs, departmental officials and taxpayers.

*Tin Maung (Mandalay)*

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**MYANMAR NEWS SITES**
President unveils stone plaque at . . .

(From page 1)

He also paid homage to the Buddha Statue and presented offerings to members of the Sangha led by Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Dhammasiri and Sayadaw Maha Suddhamma Jotikadha-ja Bhaddanta Sanvara in a ceremony held on the bridge.

President U Thein Sein cordially greeted Lao- tian President Mr Chou- mauly Sayasone before the opening ceremony.

Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin described the 8.5-metre-wide, 700-me- tre-long steel bridge as a product of bilateral coop- eration, with each country having built roughly half, adding that the opening ceremony coincided with the 60th anniversary of diplomatic relationships between the two countries.

The union minister pledged closer cooperation between the two regions and the international community in an effort to bring about sta- bility, peace and prosperity all over the world.

President U Thein Sein signed a memorandum of understanding on construction of the bridge during his visit to Laos in 2012. The project was completed on 25 April, 2015.

According to U Wunna Maung Lwin, the Me- kong sub-region countries will greatly benefit from the bridge, which is located on the North Economic Corridor linking the Port of Haphong in Vietnam and the Kyaukpyu deep-sea port in Myanmar through Laos.

Mr Thongloun Sisoulih, Deputy Prime Minis- ter as well as Minister for Foreign Affairs of Laos, addressed the opening ceremony.

While in Tachileik, the president visited Shwed- agon, where he presented offerings to members of the Sangha led by Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddan- ta Dhammasiri and applied gilding to the stone plaque of religious verses inscribed in the Gon Shan dialect.

Amyotha Hluttaw speaker hoists sacred umbrella to pagoda in Mandalay Region

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Aung Myint car- rying the diamond bud for Shwez- egon pagoda in Nyaung- yan.

President U Thein Sein shakes hands with Laotian President Mr Choummy Sayasone at a ceremony to open Myanmar-Lao Friendship Bridge.—MNA

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Aung Myint car- rying the diamond bud for Shwez- egon pagoda in Nyaung- yan. MNA

President General Min Aung Hlaing visits Pakistan Aeronautical Complex

ISLAMABAD, 9 May—Myanmar military dele- gation led by Command- er-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing on Fri- day visited the Pakistan Aeronautical Complex, situated in Kamra, Attock District.

In early morning, the senior general left Islama- bad for the headquarters of Special Services Group in Tarbela, which is a special operations force of the Pakistan Army.

General Min Aung Hlaing viewed the demonstration of rescuing victims by SSG before visit- ing the Heavy Industries Taxila in Taxila of Punjab province.

In the afternoon, My- anmar delegation looked around Taxila Museum and Sirkap, an ancient town of Taxila and important archaeological site in the province.

In the evening, the commander-in-chief met the families of Myanmar ambassador to Pakistan and military attaché.

On Saturday morning, Myanmar military chief ar- rived at Margalla Hill View Point, a mountain resort in Islamabad which is located at the foot of the hill and not too far from Murree and Karishma mountain ranges. Then, they proceeded to a popular mountain resort in Murree.

Gov’t, ethnic armed group . . .

(From page 1)

way for an inclusive and harmonious future for the good of the country,” the KNU chairman said.

Only the political course can achieve a dem- ocratic federal system that guarantees self-determi- nation for ethnic groups, as more than 60 years of armed struggle have created many losers and few winners, he said.

The Deed of Commit- ment calls for a preliminary rounds of political talks be- fore the 2015 general elec- tions, with all of the forum attendees agreeing on the need for such talks before and after the national poll and forming a Coordina- tion Team for Peace and Nation- al Reconciliation in order to realize the pledges in the deed of commitment.

Union Minister U Aung Min, the vice-chair- man of Union Peace-Mak- ing Work Committee, which represents the gov- ernment in peace talks with the ethnic armed groups’ Nationwide Ceasefire Coor- dination Team, stated Nay Pyi Taw’s commitment to implementing the pledges.

“It is undeniable that everyone’s wish is peace,” the Union minister said.

The forum was organ- ized by the KNU and the Restoration Council of the Shan State, political wing of Shan State Army, bringing government representatives led by the Union Ministers, ethnic affairs ministers, leaders and representatives from seven armed groups and 64 political parties and 27 responsible persons from CSOs.

The country’s peace process is progressing with the signing of the approved ceasefire deal draft between the government’s UPWC and NCCT of ethnic armed groups on 31 March.

Indicating its readiness to sign the accord as soon as possible, the government side says it is now waiting for the approval of ethnic leaders on the deal.

“NCCT’s Ethnic Confer- ence that will gather all ethnic group leaders includ- ing non-NCCT members to discuss and approve the draft deal will take place in the third week of this May at one of three tentative plac- es, and Lohkella is expected to host the conference”, said Pado Saw Kwe Htoo Win, one of the NCCT leaders.

Since August 2011, the government initiated peace talks with all non-state act- ors and had reached bilateral- al agreements with 14 while getting discussions under way with two. Following 16 months of peace negoti- ations, the UPWC and NCCT formed and signed the single text document for nationwide ceasefire.
Charities warn Modi that crackdown will hurt the poor

NEW DELHI, 9 May — Charities in India on Friday appealed to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to stop a government crackdown on thousands of foreign-funded non-profit groups saying it would hurt the lives of poor and marginalised people.

Since Modi swept to power almost a year ago, his right-wing nationalist government has tightened surveillance on foreign-funded charities.

If some have violated the law by disclosing details of their operations or used overseas money to engage in “anti-national activities”, charities such as industrial projects affecting the poor and the environment.

“Funds are being frozen, intelligence reports are being selectively released to paint NGOs in poor light, dispersal of funds are being subjected to case-by-case clearance and their activities are reportedly being placed on ‘watch lists’,” said an open letter to Modi signed by 171 charities and activists.

“At the moment it seems that ‘compliance’ is serving as a garb to actually target those organizations and individuals whose views the government disagrees with, and indeed to monitor and stifle disagreement itself.”

The letter — signed by groups such as Oxfam India, Human Rights Law Centre and the Conservation Action Trust — said the clampdown was “arbitrary, non-transparent, and without any course of administrative redress”.

Charities reject the accusations, but admit there may be some groups which had unintended funding discrepancies. They say authorities are using an opaque, “draconian” law to target those organisations and individuals whose views the government disagrees with, and indeed to monitor and stifle disagreement itself.

Last month, the government cancelled the licenses of almost 9,000 charities and blocked the bank accounts of Greenpeace India, which has led campaigns against genetically modified crops, coal mining and nuclear power projects.

Greenpeace says it now faces closure within a month due to a shortage of funds and has accused the government of “strangulation by stealth”.

Big donors like the US-based Ford Foundation are also being investigated. Ford Foundation faces a probe of its funding of human rights organisations operating in India, but the government estimates there are at least two million non-profit groups working in areas from conservation, education and health to protecting the rights of minorities.

A 2013 report by the home ministry said that while more than 43,500 — around 2 percent — were registered as charities which receive foreign funds in 2011/12, only 22,700 had provided details of their donations.

Home ministry officials say they were now simply enforcing the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA), a law which bars overseas donations going to NGOs of a “political nature”.

A leaked intelligence report released in June 2014 said local branches of organizations such as Greenpeace, Amnesty International and ActionAid of charities funnelled funds to “damage the country’s economy with anti-industry campaigns”.

Modi’s Bharatiya Janata Party-led government has been involved in many campaigns in which it has supported indigenous companies and success fully mobilised against big mining firms such as Vedanta and Essar.

Modi’s Prime Minister Narendra Modi told diplomats last month that his government was “keen in raising investment in infrastructure and make it easier for businesses to buy land for booster growth”. This jogs with NGOs who oppose what they say is economic development at the cost of the poor and the environment.

Vietnam strengthens transport connectivity with regional bloc

HANOI, 9 May — Vietnamese Prime Minister has approved a plan on strengthening transport connectivity with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) by 2020 and linking such transport infrastructure construction, border transport connectivity, development of human resource, and as well as enhance capacity in ensuring road traffic, aviation and maritime safety, among others, according to the website of Vietnamese government on Friday.

Specifically, in order to improve quality of road transportation service, the plan encourage enterprises to modernize road vehicles and increase technical standards over road transport in line with those of other ASEAN members.

Thousands evacuated in Philippines as powerful typhoon nears

MANILA, 9 May — The Philippines on Saturday evacuated thousands of people in the northeastern part of its main island of Luzon on Saturday, less than 24 hours before a powerful typhoon was expected to make landfall.

Typhoon Noul, a category 4 storm with winds of 160 kph (99 mph) and gusts of up to 195 kph, was about 210 kms (130 miles) north northeast of Catanduanes island in the central Philippines.

It was expected to hit the rice-producing provinces of Cagayan and Isabela at around 5 am [2100 GMT] on Sunday before weakening as it moved across the Sierra Madre mountains and into northeastern Luzon.

The weather bureau raised storm alerts in 19 areas on Luzon, warning that strong winds and intense rain could produce a 2.5 metre storm surge along the coast areas and landslides in mountainous areas.

Raben Dinamo, a disaster official in Sorsogon province, said more than 11,000 people were moved to temporary shelters in two towns around Mount Bulusan, a volcano which erupted twice this week, because of the danger of mud flows.

Alexander Pama, head of national disaster risk reduction and management council, said Noul’s intensity rainfall within a 300-km diameter area could topple power lines, uproot trees, blow roofs off thatched houses and damage crops like rice and corn in the region.

N Korea test-fires ballistic missile from submarine

BEIJING, 9 May — North Korea said on Saturday it has successfully test-fired a new, locally developed ballistic missile from an underwater submarine, the latest sign of its aggressive efforts to improve its military capabilities.

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un himself oversaw the test and praised it as paving the way for the country to possess “a world-level strategic weapon,” the official Korean Central News Agency said.

This is the first time that North Korea has announced the testing-firing of a submarine-launched ballistic missile. The KCNA report did not disclose the date and the location of the missile test, described by Kim as an “eye-opening success” that will make it possible for North Korea to have a weapon capable of “striking and wiping out in any waters the hostile forces infringing upon the sovereignty and dignity of the country.”

Diplomatic sources have said North Korea conducted an underwater missile test on 22 April near its eastern coastal city of Sinpo. It is unclear whether the test reported by the official media is the same.

A separate KCNA report on Saturday said Kim has given field guidance to a fishery complex in the coastal city, where it is known to have a submarine base and related facilities nearby.

North Korea’s efforts to develop a submarine-launched ballistic missile, which can carry a nuclear warhead, had previously been confirmed by US intelligence and South Korea’s intelligence officials.

The advancement of the development would increase security threats to Japan, South Korea and the United States. But a common view among US officials is that North Korea still has a long way to go to make the missile system fully operational.

Three patients die after surgeries in Indonesia involving Japan hospital

KOBEL, 9 May — All three patients who underwent liver transplant surgeries in Indonesia died in cooperation with a hospital in Kobe, Japan, died about one month later, sources close to the matter said on Friday.

The surgeries in Indonesia were led by Kochi Tanaka, professor emeritus at Kyoto University and a veteran liver transplant surgeon. They were conducted in cooperation with two local hospitals that receive assistance from Kobe International Frontier Medical Centre in training doctors and nurses.

Four of seven patients who received liver transplants from living donors in Indonesia died between December and March at Kobe International Frontier Medical Centre itself also died within one month of the surgery. The hospital opened just last November.

The liver transplant operations in Indonesia were part of a project backed by Japan’s Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry. Neither the ministry nor Tanaka has disclosed many details about the surgeries involving living donors or the patients.

But Tanaka did tell Kyodo News, “Multiple factors including infection led to the deaths. There were no problems with the surgeries.” Liver transplants from living donors involve removing part of a healthy person’s liver and transplanting it into a recipient, often the donor’s relative, who suffers from conditions such as liver cancer or biliary atresia — inflammation of the bile ducts causing liver damage.

Kyodo News
**Obama wants continued cooperation with Britain**

WASHINGTON, 9 May—US President Barack Obama on Friday called for continued cooperation with Britain, expressing hope for further progress in addressing the challenges facing the world.

“President Obama reiterated his strong commitment to the special relationship between the United States and the United Kingdom and told the prime minister that he looks forward to building on their already close relationship to continue to address a range of shared interests and the challenges we face together,” the White House said in the statement.

It said the two leaders “look forward to meeting with each other” in June when they have a summit in Germany with leaders of the other five industrialized nations—Canada, France, Germany, Italy and Japan.

Cameron became prime minister in 2010 and will serve another term. Ahead of the polls in Britain, The Washington Post lamented a US ally that is “growing weaker, more inwardly focused and less willing or able to join in common endeavors.”

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**France says nuclear powers preserving disarmament goals despite rows**

NEW YORK, 9 May—France will continue working with the four other declared nuclear powers toward the goal of nuclear disarmament despite hot-button issues dividing them such as the Ukraine conflict, the French envoy to nuclear nonproliferation talks said in a recent interview with Kyodo News.

“Even in this difficult strategic context, we are doing our best to preserve the long-term trends towards disarmament. In particular, nuclear disarmament and to preserve the mechanism,” Ambassador Jean-Hugues Simon-Michel said on the sidelines of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty review conference, held once every five years.

The head of the French delegation emphasized how France, Britain, China, Russia and the United States, which are also permanent UN Security Council members, remain largely united on the nuclear-nonproliferation front.

Even at the height of tensions last May as Russia’s annexation of the Ukrainian region of Crimea led to emergency sessions of the Security Council, the five powers were able to sign the protocol to the Asian Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone, he noted.

“You can always find something at one single moment where you can put your efforts and concentrate your efforts,” he said, adding that even when Washington and Moscow are at loggerheads, progress can be made multilaterally.

Just after the NPT review conference opened on 27 April, the five powers—the only nuclear-weapon states that are party to the NPT—issued a joint statement saying a gradual approach to nuclear disarmament is the “only practical option.”

“We continue to believe that an incremental, step-by-step approach is the only practical option for making progress towards nuclear disarmament, while upholding global strategic security and stability,” the statement said. But 45 years after the landmark NPT came into force, frustration is evident among non-nuclear weapon states, which want the “nukes” to make greater strides in keeping up their end of the bargain ultimately giving up the decentralized production protocols—in exchange for the promise that others do not acquire them.

Along with the disappointment among non-nuclear countries over what they see as a lack of tangible progress in nuclear disarmament, a so-called humanitarian perspective has also been taking shape in recent years becoming an increasingly common theme mentioned at the review conference.

This has drawn attention to the catastrophic consequences of nuclear weapons and linked the argument to calls for a convention to ban nuclear weapons.

The French envoy took issue with the initiative, saying the weapons’ devastating effect is “the very essence of deterrence” and that they are for self-defence only “under extreme circumstances” and not for use as battleground weapons. He said that the humanitarian argument is made by those who want to outlaw nuclear weapons without proposing in concrete terms what should follow.—Kyodo News

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**Australian police thwart imminent bomb attack, teen charged**

PERTH, 9 May—Australian police said on Saturday they had thwarted an imminent terror attack after discovering explosives at a Melbourne home and arresting a 17-year-old boy, in the latest example of the threat posed by radicalized teenagers in the country.

Acting on a tip-off from the national security phone line, police and security agencies began investigating the youth and later raided his home in Greenvale, 20 kms (12 miles) north of Melbourne, on Friday when the threat was “imminent.”

The bomb squad moved three improvised explosive devices to a nearby park where they were “rendered safe” and said there was no longer a threat to the community, police told a news conference.

The teen, who cannot be identified due to his age, was charged with terrorism-related offences and remanded in custody to appear before the Children’s Court in a closed sitting on Monday, police said.

The boy’s family were described by police as “carrying” and “very, very distraught” over the arrest.

“These are extremely serious offences and they did involve the use of improvised explosive devices,” federal police deputy commissioner Paul人气 said.

“We had not intervened, there was a real threat of action being taken.” Police said an investigation was under way and declined to say whether the incident had any links to Islamic extremism.

They didconfirm, however, that there was no link to last month’s terror raids in Melbourne and the subsequent arrest of five teenagers over the planning of an Islamic State-inspired terrorist attack against police officers on the national ANZAC day holiday.

Local media reported that the teen had become more active on Facebook in recent weeks, commenting on the war in Syria and that he was planning to take place during the Mother’s Day Classic fun run on Sunday, which attracts tens of thousands of participants in cities around Australia.

“It is deeply troubling to police that such young people in our community are becoming deranged with the way in which they are and considering endangering the lives of many Australians,” Phelan said.

Australia, a staunch ally of the United States and its action against the Islamic State group in Syria and Iraq, raised the national terror threat level to “high” for the first time last September.

“We know that we face a very serious terror threat,” Prime Minister Tony Abbott told reporters in Darwin on Saturday.

“It’s important that we don’t underestimate the terror threat but it’s also important that we keep it in perspective,” Abbott said.

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**US, Gulf allies seek agreement on new security measures**

PARIS, 9 May—The United States and its Gulf allies will try to agree on new security measures at a summit in Washington next week to guard against destabilising actions by Iran in the region, the US Secretary of State John Kerry said on Friday.

The West hopes to secure a new deal with Tehran by an end-of-June deadline and this has stirred anxiety among Washing- ton’s Gulf allies who fear Shia ‘te Islamic State-inspired terrorist attack against police officers on the national ANZAC day holiday.
Russia stages WW2 victory parade, draws rebuke from Ukraine

**Moscow, 9 May** — Thousands of troops marched across Moscow’s Red Square on Saturday and tanks rumbled through streets to mark the 70th anniversary of victory over Nazi Germany, an event boycotted by Western leaders over Russia’s role in the Ukraine crisis.

Russia’s Vladimir Putin has used the anniversary to whip up patriotism and fuel anti-Western sentiment, and at a parade in Kiev President Petro Poroshenko said Moscow was trying to hog the credit for the World War Two victory at Ukraine’s expense.

Though Western leaders stayed away, Putin was joined under the Kremlin’s walls by about 30 foreign leaders, including Chinese President Xi Jinping, sitting on his right-hand side.

In a sign of closer ties between the two, a column of Chinese troops took part. United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon was also among those watching.

Defeated by the Soviet Union’s victory over the Nazis in 1945, Western leaders have ignored more often in the past Moscow’s claims to victory day as an apology for its fascist sympathies.

French Mistral-class protection and command (BPC) ship Dixmude arrives at the Wasong naval port in Shanghai, East China, on 9 May, 2015. A French naval taskforce consisting of the BPC ship Dixmude and the frigate Aconit arrived in Shanghai on Saturday for a 7-day visit.—**Xinhua**

Putin has warned that fascism could be on the rise again and is suggesting other countries are rewriting history to play down Moscow’s role in winning the war. “The basic principles of international cooperation have been ignored more often in the last decades. The principles which were hard won by human kind following the gloabal hardships of the war,” he told rows of soldiers standing to attention.

“We’ve seen attempts to create a unipolar world,” he said, echoing a 2007 speech when he lambasted the West’s world view.

Many Russians saw the West’s boycotting of the parade as disrespect. An estimated 27 million Soviet citizens were killed in the 1941-45 war. Ukraine says it lost between 8-10 million of its citizens, including 3.5 million in the Soviet forces.

Poroshenko rebuked Moscow for accusing Kiev of using “fascist” methods to oust Moscow-backed President Viktor Yanukovych in February last year which triggered the confrontation and centralization of logistical supplies to hard hit areas.

put food supplies to hard hit areas.

**Washington, 9 May** — President Barack Obama pressed his case for a US-led Pacific free trade pact on Friday, telling an event in Oregon that a deal would help American exporters to countries such as Japan by removing tariffs and simplifying customs.

Obama made his pitch for sealing the Trans-Pacific Partnership involving Japan and 10 other countries as uncertainty remains about the fate of a bill aimed at speeding up the TPP negotiations, with some influential Democrats opposed to the legislation.

Speaking at the headquar ters of sporting goods giant Nike Inc, Obama said the TPP would strengthen the US hand overseas by giving it the tools to open other markets.

“Beef is really expensive in Japan. Let’s make sure they try some Oregon steaks,” Obama said.

Beef is one of the agricultur al products for which Japan says it will keep exceptional tariffs even under the free trade pact. Japan categorizes rice, beef and pork, wheat, dairy products and sugar as “sensitive” items in bilateral talks with the United States on market access under the TPP.

“I want to make sure Japa nese consumers have the opportunity to partake … in our excellent Oregon wine” under the envisioned deal, Obama also said.

“There are high tariffs on American wine in (Japan). Under this trade partnership, those tariffs would be eliminated,” he said.

Obama also said the TPP will help save many US traders the bother of doing onerous customs work in transactions with Japan, complaining the logistics of exporting to the country are “too complicated.” “Products end up being held up for months at the border. This agreement would help solve some of those problems,” Obama said.

On Wednesday evening, the US reports said Obama is struggling to persuade Democratic opponents to back granting the president fast-track authority to sign trade deals including TPP with the legislature only asked to vote yes or no without amendments.

The bill for so-called Trade Promotion Authority cleared rel evant committees of both Senate and House of Representatives last month but full house deliberations have yet to start.

Mitch McConnell, the Republ can majority leader in the Senate, said on Thursday they could begin full discussions about the TPA bill in the upper house next week, increasing pressure on senators who are opposed to it cit ing the impact on domestic jobs and a lack of information disclo sure about the deal’s text.

**United Nations, 9 May** — A UN coordinator for Nepal urged relief work in hard-to-reach areas ahead of rainy season.

The World Food Programme on Saturday said 288,798 private and 10,790 public houses were totally destroyed in the quake.

The World Food Program (WFP) is warning that food is an increasing ly urgent need in some of the hardest-hit areas, and it has distributed food for 300,000 people since the quake hit.

It also reported that logistical challenges has hindered its operation on the ground and said it was bringing in more helicop ters and engaging multiple fleets of small trucks to get supplies to hard-hit areas.

**United Nations, 9 May** — The UN’s Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs believes that improved airlift capacity and the de centralization of logistical support helped to speed up the flow of relief goods, according to UN Spokesperson Stephane Dujarric.

Nepal’s monsoon season is expected to begin in June and last through August. McCollordg urged the relief teams to quicken the pace so as to beat the onset of the forthcoming monsoon season, which will add a logistical challenge to relief efforts.

Dujarric told a daily briefing that some relief teams were traveling on foot to impacted areas while goods were being dropped off at agreed loca tions with communities so they can be picked up.

Two weeks into the devastating earthquake which hit Nepal on 25 April, the country’s Minis try of Home Affairs report ed on Friday that the death toll from the earthquake climbed to 7,885. A total number of 288,798 private and 10,790 public houses were totally destroyed in the quake.

The World Food Program (WFP) is warning that food is an increasing ly urgent need in some of the hardest-hit areas, and it has distributed food for 300,000 people since the quake hit.

In addition to logistical challenges that has hindered its operation on the ground and said it was bringing in more helicopters and engaging multiple fleets of small trucks to get supplies to hard-hit areas.

**Kyodo News**

**Kyodo News**
Pakistan declared a day of mourning and Sharif has ordered cabinet ministers to accompany the bodies of the four foreign victims to their countries.

The government said 17 people were on board and among the injured were the ambassadors of Poland and the Netherlands. Gilgit, about 250 km (150 miles) north of Islamabad, is not a militant stronghold and the Taleban often claim responsibility for incidents that they had nothing to do with.

Witnesses on the ground, and in other helicopters on the trip, reported nothing to indicate any firing. The Mi-17 is considered a reliable, no-frills helicopter, first built by the Russians for use in hot and high conditions in Asia. The Pakistan military is generally seen as maintaining its equipment well though media have reported four other Mi-17 crashes in Pakistan in the last 11 years. A military team is investigating the crash.

Staff members help a man who was injured during a helicopter crash, at the Combined Military Hospital (CMH) in Pakistan on 8 May, 2015. REUTERS

Bodies of Pakistan crash victims brought to capital

More than 100 Saudi-led air strikes hit Yemen

BAQUBA, Iraq — Up to 43 inmates escaped a prison in Iraq’s eastern province of Diyala amid a riot that killed 33 inmates and 11 policemen, and wounded 17 others, a provincial security source said on Saturday.

Nine of the escaped prisoners were held for terror charges and the rest were accused of criminal charges, the source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

The attempt started when a group of detainees took the gun of a guard during his tour late Friday night in the jail of the police headquarters in the city of Khalis, just west of the provincial capital city of Baquba, some 65 km northeast of the capital Baghdad, the source said.

The inmates later seized more departments of the jail, gained more weapons and clashed with the security forces for more than four hours after reinforcement troops arrived at the scene and retook control of the situation at dawn, the source added.

Earlier, the source put the toll at more than 20 detainees and 10 police officers killed and 15 more policemen wounded by the riot in the prison which held more than 150 detainees.

Prison breaks frequently occurred in Iraq, including the prison break of Abu Ghraib prison in 2013 when hundreds of inmates escaped, including the mass break out of some 500 al-Qaeda militants.

CAIRO, 9 May — An Egyptian court sentenced former president Hosni Mubarak and his two sons to three years in jail without parole on Saturday in the retrial of a corruption case.

Mubarak was sentenced to three years in prison last May for diverting public funds earmarked to renovate presidential palaces and using the money to upgrade family properties. His two sons were given four-year jail terms in the same case.

However, in January, Egypt’s high court overturned the convictions.

Mubarak, who ruled Egypt with an iron fist for 30 years, and his sons Gamal and Alaa may not have to serve any jail time for those corruption charges because they already spent that amount of time in prison.

Egypt court sentences Mubarak, sons to three years in jail

43 prisoners escape, 44 killed in jail break in Iraq’s Diyala

Ousted Egyptian president Hosni Mubarak waves to his supporters outside the area where he is hospitalized during his birthday at Maadi military hospital on the outskirts of Cairo on 4 May, 2015.—Reuters on in other cases.

“The ruling of the court is three years in prison without parole for Mohamed Hosni Mubarak and Gamal Mohamed Hosni Mubarak and Alaa Mohamed Hosni Mubarak,” announced judge Hassan Hassanein.

Mubarak was toppled during the Arab Spring uprisings which swept the region in 2011 and raised hopes of democracy.

But a court decision to drop charges against Mubarak of conspiring to kill protesters in the uprisings focused in Cairo’s Tahrir Square and the release from jail of some of his associates has cast doubt over Egypt’s political transformation.

Reuters

A man rides a motorcycle past a headquarters of the Houthis group, which was destroyed after an air strike by a Saudi-led coalition, in Yemen’s northwesten city of Saada on 26 April, 2015.—Reuters

Cairo, 9 May — A Saudi-led coalition struck northern provinces of Yemen on Saturday in a third consecutive night of heavy air strikes, the Houthis rebels said, following their shellfire this week of Saudi border areas.

More than 100 air strikes hit areas of Saada and Hajjah provinces, including the districts of Haradh, Maid and Bakil al-Mir, the Houthis said. It was not possible to independently verify the number or location of strikes.

Other strikes target the Houthi-occupied Sanaa airport’s runway, an official there said, and Houthi targets in the al-Sadda district of Ibb in central Yemen, residents there said.

The coalition has bombarded the Houthis and army units loyal to former president Ali Abdullah Saleh since 26 March, but had eased back on the strikes in late April and on Friday offered a five-day truce starting on 12 May if other parties agreed.

The Saudis and nine other Arab countries, backed by the United States, Britain and France, hoped to force the Houthis back to their northern heartland and restore the exiled government of President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi, who is in Riyadh.

The Houthis are mainly drawn from the Zaydi sect of Shi’ite Islam that predominates in Yemen’s northern highlands and took advantage of political chaos to seize the capital Sanaa and then advance further south over the past year, aided by Saleh.

Riyadh fears the Houthis will act as a proxy for their main regional rival, Shi’ite Iran, to undermine Saudi security, and that their advance into Sunni regions will add a sectarian edge to the civil war, strengthening an al-Qaeda group in Yemen.

Iran and the Houthis deny there are funding, arming or training efforts by Tehran, and regional analysts say the rebel group is unlikely ever to become an all-out proxy for the Islamic Republic in the mould of Lebanon’s Hezbollah.

Iran’s President Hassan Rouhani on Saturday said the campaign was the work of an “inexperienced” government that did not understand the region’s politics.

“It is not a war but an unfair bombing attack on a neighbour,” state news agency IRNA quoted him as saying in an address to members of the Red Crescent relief agency. —Reuters
Those at grassroots level vulnerable to hike in commodity prices

By Aung Khin

Commodity prices have reason markedly in recent weeks, causing housewives to grumble about household costs. Nobody wants to take responsibility for the price hike and it appears to be a chicken-and-egg problem.

Global oil prices have climbed above US $68 per barrel for the first time since December. Is it a reason for increasing commodity prices? When the crude oil market dwindled and global consumer prices were declining in 2014, Myanmar merchants and businesspeople gave a variety of reasons for sustaining price increases. Ordinary people could not enjoy the fall of crude oil prices, while businesses were enjoying lower production and transportation costs.

A salary increase for government employees was announced in March, with the new rate only taking effect on April 1, the beginning of fiscal 2015-2016. The pay raise was aimed at slightly raising the standard of living of approximately 1.5 million government staff.

However, the salary hike has coincided with an increase in commodity prices. The Asian Development Bank has estimated that Myanmar’s current inflation of 6 percent is likely to increase to 8.4 percent in the upcoming fiscal year due to GDP growth and expected higher wages.

Myanmar is still experiencing electricity shortages in a year when water levels decline in dams and reservoirs. The government of a neighbouring country recently announced a small cut in power bills for the hot season to reflect the lower cost of fuel used for power generation.

Only when commodity prices can be managed can the inflation rate be brought under the control. Otherwise, ordinary people will suffer imbalances between income and expenditure.

All of these factors—increasing global oil prices, electricity shortages and salary increases—might contribute to the hike in commodity prices. Authorities must find appropriate solutions to solve these problems urgently so as not to have a serious impact at the grassroots level.

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

Flibbertigibbets, sybarites, loafers, pessimists, rumor-mongers, nincompoops and drug addicts never contribute to the good of society

By: Tommy Pauk

Making the best use of human resources is important for any society. If a society faces a shortage of human resources, the all-round development of such society will be severely hampered. Fundamentally, man is born to be busy to serve his society in a vigorous and relentless way. Ought to serve not only his society but also the entire mankind. Individuals earn their livelihoods as specific professions according to their capabilities, attitude and skills in the human society. The individual earnings may be different. Nevertheless, man is obliged to serve his society with his capacity. If a person who does not contribute to the good of human society, he or she would become a useless person. Human life is for the service of the earth. However, if a person does not behave or practice humanely, he or she is considered a subhuman person.

These days, some of the people spend time doing nothing and having no purpose or basis for their nations. Due to their malpractice, negative attitude and stupid mindsets, such nations lose the quantity of manpower. On the other hand, these types of people reduce the number of people in manpower for the nations. Unless the volume of manpower is great, the nation cannot build its socio-economic development by itself.

Flibbertigibbets are sort of persons who are serious enough or talk a lot about silly things which reflect their silly mindsets indeed. They usually talk in haphazard and undisciplined manner. Their habit and behavior are almost unbeneficial to their society. Their words are of nothing valuable for their associates and their society. They do not support their society or associations. The sensible and considerate people do not trust whatever flibbertigibbets have talked to them. Since flibbertigibbets are in the habit of bluffling, nobody will want to work together or do business.

Sybarites is a person devoted to pleasure and luxury. His or her devotion to the pleasure and luxury is so extreme that he or she fails to contribute to the good of mankind. This type of person never even makes effort to contribute assistance to others who are in trouble. Instead, he or she exists only in pleasure and luxury only, nothing more. Sybarites do not do anything beneficial and prosperous for their society. They do not cooperate or associate with others for the interests and benefits of their society. May be they possess aptitude for the work. Sybarites usually give priority to pleasure and luxury rather than social welfare tasks as well as charity. Thus, such persons cannot be enlisted into manpower of a society.

Loafers have no aims, no objectives and no expectations for their life and their society as well. They aimlessly loaf around outside. In fact, they spend their time doing nothing, especially when they should be working. In other words, loafers waste their time rather than working. They do not learn any subjects for vocation or profession or suitable callings. They do not even think about their future prospects. It obviously reveals that they reduce the manpower of a certain society and their behavior impact on the society concerned. The more loafers in the society, the worse situations prevail in the society. If the volume of manpower is low, the human capital becomes less in the society. Thus, the negative impact follows in politics, economy and social activities for the society indeed.

Pessimists are the ones who always expect bad things to happen. Their negative views, speculations and perspective do not support or share the interest to the fellow citizens. Actually, they are interested only in doing things for the benefit or interests of the society concerned. However, they never give constructive advice and better idea even if they find the flaw or fault in doing some tasks done by others. So this practice shows that they are totally selfish and they cannot serve their society. Probably, they must be educated persons, but they are not wise enough to deal with others consistently and harmoniously. Due to their lopsided views, loafers lose their importance because they do not contribute to the good of the society. Although they do not make contributions to others, they disturb the nation building tasks deliberately. Therefore, the persons suffering for all-round development of the society ostracize the pessimists in nation building tasks. Otherwise, they will work against those who are optimists and the nation building tasks cannot be successful. It is very obvious that the pessimists do not do any good things for their society. They do not become as a part of the human resources of the society. Their way of thinking is quite useless for politics, economy and social activities for the society concerned.

Rumor-mongers tend to spread rumors to the public in order to disrupt the peacefull situation into mayhem or panic. For example: ‘a rumor about the likelihood of the storm’. Normally, the general public are not aware of the unreliable news and they believe it as true news or story. The rumor-mongers maliciously spread rumors about the others who they hate. For example: ‘character assassination on a public figure’. Undoubtedly, most of the rumors spread by rumor-mongers have evil-intention. Their evil-intention, malice and conspiratorial scheme can be vividly seen on the rumors they spread. The rumor-mongers sometimes spread rumor to defame or discredit the reputation of the individuals or dignitaries or dignified persons. Their acts are almost unacceptable, unbelievable and inexcusable. They may have insignificant effect on the ordinary people or innocent people in the society concerned. Besides, the rumor-mongers attack some organizations, governments, companies and institutions by creating rumors. They aim to damage or tarnish the images of these governments, companies and institutions. The rumor-mongers are fabricating or creating rumors to achieve their personal gains indeed. Absolutely, they are not serving for the sake of the general public or fellow-citizens. They spread rumor to trick or deceive people who are pretty gullible to fall for that trick. To analyze the acts of rumor-mongers, we find them with evil-scheme, shear-mal-levolence and wickedness. We, therefore should be alert to scrutinize the stories or news whether they are true or not in our society.

Nincompoops cannot be recruited into manpower as they are not capable of doing things properly. Since they are silly or foolish, they cannot work together with normal people. They are also useless and cannot be assigned duties to carry out nation building tasks or endeavors. They are classified as idle persons.

Drug addicts give a lot of trouble to their families, relatives and ordinary people. They are influenced by narcotic drugs which affect their minds in harmful way. They become abnormal persons and do not have sound minds. The drug addicts lose normal conscience due to excessive use of narcotic drugs. They get addicted to the drug and its sensation extremely. They dare to commit any crimes in order to get drugs whenever the drugs are in shortage. The drug addicts as well as drug users are unable to stop taking harmful drugs. As a result, the drug addicts are out of list of the manpower for the society. They are wasting their lives and doing nothing for the good of the society. They cannot resist the overwhelming drug addiction and eventually they fall into an abyss of troublesome life.

The governments concerned should set up more and more Drug Rehabilitation Centers in order to help the drug addicts to have normal or useful life again. Also, public should be educated on the dangers of drug-taking or drug abuse. Availability of human resources, manpower and human capital make the strong workforce for a society. Either a shortage or decrease in the workforce can affect the prosperity of society. If the inefficient persons outnumber the efficient persons, the development of society will lag far behind other societies. We, humans need more and more capable persons in order to fulfill the benefits and interest of our society. We should emphasize how much we have contributed to the welfare of the society and mankind!!!.
Singapore University of Technology and Design (SUTD)

By Sayar Mya

There are six universities in Singapore. When I checked the recent articles that I have already written in the Global New Light of Myanmar, it was found that I have inadvertently needed to write to two universities.

Universities in Singapore

- National University of Singapore
- Nanyang Technological University
- Singapore Management University
- Singapore Institute of Technology
- Singapore University of Technology and Design
- SIM University

I have already contributed the first four universities, and this time I have taken up the fifth university.

The Singapore University of Technology and Design (SUTD)

The university is the fourth autonomous university of the Republic of Singapore. SUTD’s mission is to advance knowledge and nurture technically grounded leaders and innovators to serve societal needs. At SUTD, design as a discipline cuts across the curriculum and provides a novel frame work for the research and educational programmes.

SUTD undergraduate students are granted either a Bachelor of Engineering or Bachelor of Science degrees with a major in (1) Architecture and Sustainable Design (ASD), (2) Engineering Product Development (EPD), (3) Engineering Systems Design (ESD) and (4) Information Systems, Supply Chain, and Technology Design (ISTD). It also offers an MIT-SUTD (the Singapore University of Technology and Design) Dual Masters’ Program.

A two-year full-time MIT-SUTD Dual Masters’ Degree Programme will be offered in collaboration with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) to talented graduates with a keen interest in research in one of the following areas: Civil and Environmental Engineering; Supply Chain Management Programme; Master of Engineering in Manufacturing. Graduate opportunities also include the SUTD PhD Programme. Candidates will spend up to one year in USA, and the other year in Singapore, receiving master’s degrees from both MIT and SUTD.

ACADIA/PAE ASIA

Master of Engineering in Manufacturing. Graduate opportunities also include the SUTD PhD Programme. Candidates will spend up to one year in USA, and the other year in Singapore, receiving master’s degrees from both MIT and SUTD.

ACADEMY OF ARCHITECTURE AND SUSTAINABLE DESIGN (ASD)

ASD prepares students for the immediate present and future role of architecture and sustainable design through an innovative approach that concentrates on technology and design, design creativity and cultural sensitivity. Students will be trained to deal with the important issues of future cities, such as the rapid urbanization, digitalization of technology, and transformation of design through collaboration (a set of rules that must be followed when solving a particular problem). ASD prepares students for positions in architectural design, construction, and real estate management and development, as well as for various graduate programmes.

Engineering Product Development (EPD)

EPD covers the conception, design analysis, and implementation of technology-intensive systems and products in the fields of electronics, chemical systems, defence, energy, machine robotics, aerospace, transportation, and bio-engineering. It prepares students for leadership, entrepreneurship, and industrial positions in engineering and product development, as well as for various graduate programmes.

Engineering Systems Design (ESD)

ESD focuses on the modeling, design, optimization and management of large scale complex systems whose performance and function depend both on their technological aspects and the socio-economic context within which they operate. Examples include supply chains and logistics, financial systems, health care delivery systems, transportation systems, security and defence systems as well as energy production and distribution systems. It prepares students for positions as system analysts or project leaders in a wide range of private and public sectors, for careers in consulting, and for various graduate programmes.

Information Systems Technology and Design (ISTD):

ISTD focuses on “Information Systems Technology and Design” which includes all areas of computer science and computer engineering, particularly the design and interaction of information systems for the physical world that includes humans and machines. It prepares students for positions as software engineers adept at designing, building, and testing complex software and software/hardware systems in all areas of human endeavors including social media, banking and finance, health care, and games. ISTD prepares students for challenging jobs that advance technology for human benefit, graduate programmes and research opportunities in education and research.

Research Initiatives

SUTD-MIT International Design Centre (IDC):

The IDC is engaged to become the world’s premier scholarly hub for technologically-intensive design. It is a multi-million dollar centre based both in Singapore at SUTD and at MIT, with academic and industrial partners from around the world. IDC faculty, researchers and students work together to design devices, products, systems, and the broader environment that address strategic needs of Singapore, the greater Asian region, the US, and the global community. At the same time, the IDC studies and advances the design process and design science, seeking to develop new tools and methods for design practice and education. The IDC has more than 100 projects that involve approximately 270 faculty, researchers, and students.

ICD is part of a collaborative agreement between SUTD and MIT.

Lee Kwan Yew Centre for Innovative Cities (CIC)

LK Y CIC is one of the first centres of excellence that focus on the integrated use of technology and design to derive solutions for urban planning, design, development and management. The Centre will study the confluence of governance, social management frameworks and technology and design innovations. It is one of five research centers in the Singapore-MIT Alliance for Technology and Design (SUTD). The pioneering model of SUTD, a university without boundaries extends to new forms of organization and collaboration, cross disciplines, and the research strengths of LKY CIC is drawn from the multi-disciplinary faculty working closely with a core team of research fellows at the Centre.

SUTD-JTC Industrial Infrastructure Innovation Centre (I3 Center)

The SUTD-JTC 1 3 Centre is set up to spearhead research efforts in design, architecture, engineering, and social science that will create value for industry, investors and Singapore. This new partnership platform aims to forge closer collaboration to scale up the industry’s innovation, facilitate the development of the next big idea, and build new local capabilities in the field of industrial infrastructure development.

“iTrust” Research Centre

The focus of iTrust is on cybersecurity. Systems of interest include large infrastructures of national importance (such as power grid, water treatment, oil refineries) as well as cyber-devices used in health care, examples being the pacemakers, defibrillators, insulin pumps, and VNS (Vagus Nerve Stimulation) implants.

O-Lab

Through academic research O-Lab is developing and validating effective approaches to collaborative design across Asia. O-Lab comprises academics and practitioners interested in understanding and enhancing design practices. They work with local and international partners including NGOs, Government Agencies, Academica Institutes and Community Bodies to develop and run participatory Projects. These participatory projects are conducted as action research where O-Lab members, project partners and other stakeholders come together to study their problems scientifically in order to guide, correct, and evaluate their decisions and actions.

Temasek Labs (TL) at SUTD

TL at SUTD undertakes cutting-edge research and development while building up both technical and human talent capabilities in vital areas such as healthcare, cybersecurity, and the digital economy. TL at SUTD harnesses the potential of science, technology and design for Singapore’s defence, and complements the work that is currently undertaken at the National Laboratories, National University of Singapore, Nanyang Technological University and other Singaporean research institutions.

Campuses

The interim campus for Singapore University of Technology and Design from April 2012 was at Dover. The permanent campus recently opened in January 2015 at Changi, near Changi Business Park. SUTD has appointed DP Architects Pte Company to design the academic building cluster of its permanent campus in Upper Changi, and in collaboration with UN Studio from Amsterdam, through an open competitive design

Conclusion

In the space of just a few generations, Singapore has transformed itself from an impoverished colonial outpost into a country with a higher per capita gross domestic product than the US. Something similar appears to be happening to its academic sphere. Singapore’s two strong private research universities have leapt from the “Fourth Division to the Champions League” over the past decade. I think it was the view of that Singapore’s university system is explicitly planned by the government to serve the needs of the economy in a way that would be unthinkable in the UK.

Another educational observer opined that one current concern for policy-makers is that the city state’s graduates too often get stuck in the middle ranks of multinational corporations because they are seen – or are stereotyped. They are hard-working graduates yet lacking in creativity.

Education has evolved into more than the lessons and assignments given in the classroom, instead it can be life-long experience of engaging the world and communicating with it in order to broaden the horizons. There may be moytey associations between us and other students from different angle and perspective.

However, the aim and purpose of the author is to present about the recently opened SUTD in a short and simple form to the esteemed readers of the Global New Light of Myanmar and to the interested professionals in the field of education.
**LONDON, May —** The European Union’s banking watchdog called on lenders on Friday to back up their complaints that a blanket application of the bloc’s bonus rules will harm the single market.

The European Banking Authority (EBA) is updating guidance on banker pay, such as when part of a bonus should be deferred or what constitutes fixed and variable pay. It also reflects the bloc’s new cap on bonuses of top earners.

Lenders want the revised rules, set to be in place from the end of 2015, to be applied “proportionately” with exemptions for less risky banks or staff getting modest payouts.

EBA Chairman Andrea Enria said at a hearing on Friday that lawyers have advised there cannot be waivers from minimum requirements such as bonus deferrals.

The watchdog has asked the EU to amend the law to make it easier to apply proportionality but this could take years.

In the meantime EBA wants lenders to provide proof that the bloc’s single market would suffer under blanket rules.

The German savings banks association told the hearing that more than half of staff in the sector have bonuses of less than 1,000 euros (£726), creating an administrative headache for deferring relatively small sums. "It is nonsense to implement these rules... The principle of proportionality must lead to exemptions in some cases at the extreme lower end,” a representative told the hearing.

While the bonus cap is binding, some elements are applied by national supervisors on a ‘comply or explain’ basis, meaning the supervisor has some flexibility.

Isabelle Vaillant, an EBA director, said some countries may end up using this as a way of introducing proportionality.

**Liberia declared Ebol-free, but outbreak continues over border**

MONROVIA, May — Liberia was declared free from Ebola on Saturday after 42 days without a new case, the medical charity Medecins Sans Frontieres said, but it urged vigilance because the virus was extinguished in neighbouring Guinea and Sierra Leone.

A total of 11,005 people have died from Ebola in Liberia, neighbouring Guinea and Sierra Leone since the outbreak began in December 2013, according to the World Health Organization (WHO). Nearly half of those deaths have been in Liberia, where the outbreak peaked between August and October, with hundreds of cases a week, sparking international alarm.

The United States sent in hundreds of troops to help build treatment clinics in a country founded by freed US slaves.

Helped by the visible US military presence, President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf’s government launched a national awareness campaign to stem the infectious disease, which is spread by physical contact with sick people. MSF said that Liberia’s completion of the WHO’s benchmark for the end of an Ebola epidemic — 42 days without a new case, marking twice the maximum incubation period of the virus — should not lead to complacency. "We can’t take our foot off the gas until all three countries record 42 days with no cases," said Mariatessa Cacciaquisto, MSF’s head of mission in Liberia. She urged Liberia to step up cross-border surveillance to prevent Ebola slipping back into the country.

The UN Special Envoy on Ebola, David Nabarro, said this week that Liberian authorities had pledged to maintain heightened surveillance for at least a year after being declared Ebola-free on Saturday.

Liberia’s last known Ebola patient Beatrice Yardolo sits in the exit portion of a Chinese Ebola treatment unit, where she was treated, in Monrovia, Liberia on 5 March, 2015.—Reuters

Nabarro suggested that, even though fewer than 20 new cases were reported in Guinea and Sierra Leone last week, it could take months to get to zero.

International aid organizations were forced to step in as the Ebola outbreak ravaged the region’s poorly equipped and understaffed healthcare systems.

MSF, which was highly critical of the slow response by the United Nations and western governments — opened the world’s largest Ebola management centre in Monrovia, with a capacity of 400 beds.

According to the WHO, a total of 30,000 health workers have caught the virus in Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone since the start of the outbreak, of whom 307 died.

**Healthy lifestyle may help improve bowel cancer survival**

It has been suggested that lifestyle factors before and after diagnosis of bowel cancer can influence survival rates. To investigate this further, a group of researchers led by a team from Imperial College London analyzed the data of 52,000 participants from 10 countries in the European Prospective Investigation into Cancer and Nutrition (EPIC) cohort study. During the study period of an average of 6.4 years, 3,292 participants were diagnosed with bowel cancer.

The researchers developed a scoring system based on guidelines for both cancer prevention and cancer survival. A six-point score was constructed for men based on recommendations in the guidelines about body weight, physical activity, diet, physical activity and maintaining a healthy lifestyle.

Women had a seven-point score, which included the factor of breastfeeding, according to the study. Researchers found that for both groups, the higher the score, the lower the risk of mortality after bowel cancer.

When the individual recommendations were studied, findings were that having a healthy weight and high fruit and vegetable consumption had the strongest survival rates, according to the researchers.

There was also a link between women who breastfed and their survival of bowel cancer, researchers said.

Lead researcher, Dora Romaguera said the results show that a healthy lifestyle not only prevents developing bowel cancer but also, in those who eventually develop it, it improves survival.

Lead researcher, Dora Romaguera said the results show that a healthy lifestyle not only prevents developing bowel cancer but also, in those who eventually develop it, it improves survival.

Xinhua

**EU watchdog, bankers spar over new bonus rules**

LONDON, 9 May — The US military presence, President Obama brought back up their complaints that a blanket application of the bloc’s bonus rules will harm the single market.

The European Banking Authority (EBA) is updating guidance on banker pay, such as when part of a bonus should be deferred or what constitutes fixed and variable pay. It also reflects the bloc’s new cap on bonuses of top earners. The rules are aimed at stopping bankers taking excessive risks to earn big bonuses.

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While the bonus cap is binding, some elements are applied by national supervisors on a ‘comply or explain’ basis, meaning the supervisor has some flexibility. Isabelle Vaillant, an EBA director, said some countries may end up using this as a way of introducing proportionality.

Asset managers, who are part of banking groups argued at the hearing that they should be exempted as they don’t pose the same kind of threat to the financial system as a bank.

But EBA officials rejected that argument, saying asset managers can present reputational and operational risks that can harm the parent company.—Reuters

**Toyota, Mazda in talks on expanding partnership — sources**

The Toyota Mirai, Toyota Motor Corporation’s first commercially available, mid-sized hydrogen fuel cell sedan, is seen at a press preview in Newport Beach, California on 17 Nov, 2014.—Reuters

Japan’s Toyota Motor Corp and Mazda Motor Corp (7203.T) are in talks to expand their technology partnership, sources said on Saturday, as global automakers face rising costs to comply with regulations.

The two Japanese automakers already have a technology and production tie-up, and Toyota was now considering providing fuel-cell and plug-in-hybrid technology to Mazda, said the sources, who were not authorized to discuss the matter publicly.

Mazda, in return, was considering offering its partner fuel-efficient gasoline and diesel engine technology under its proprietary SkyActiv series, the sources said.

Mazda has been trying to develop FCVs on its own, but it has decided to team up with Toyota, which produces the Mirai, the world’s only mass-market fuel-cell car, the sources said.

Toyota has said hydrogen FCVs offer the most promising zero-emission alternative to conventional cars since they have a similar driving range and refuelling time.

Toyota has already decided to share some of its patents concerning fuel cell technology for free, hoping this will speed up the development of the infrastructure.

The Nikkei business daily reported the two companies intended to reach an agreement on the partnership soon.

Toyota and Mazda officials said nothing has been decided.—Reuters

The Canary Wharf financial district is seen in east London March 12, 2014.—Reuters

The Toyota Mirai, Toyota Motor Corporation’s first commercially available, mid-sized hydrogen fuel cell sedan is seen at a press preview in Newport Beach, California on 17 Nov, 2014.—Reuters

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Mercury’s magnetic field nearly 4 billion years old

WASHINGTON, 9 May — New data from the US MESSENGER spacecraft, which crash-landed into Mercury last week, showed that the planet’s magnetic field is almost 4 billion years old, researchers said on Thursday.

The discovery, published in the US journal Science, provided “critical information on Mercury’s interior thermal and dynamic evolution,” wrote the researchers led by Catherine Johnson of the University of British Columbia.

Scientists have known for some time that Mercury, the closest planet to the Sun, has a magnetic field similar to the Earth’s, but much weaker. The motion of liquid iron deep inside the planet’s core generates the field. The MESSENGER probe left the Earth in 2004, reached Mercury in 2008 and had orbited the planet since 2011, sending valuable data back to the Earth. In recent months, it flew incredibly close to the planet’s surface — at altitudes as low as 15 kilometres, before crashing into its surface on 30 April.

When MESSENGER flew close to the planet, its magnetometer collected data on the magnetism of rocks in Mercury’s surface, the researchers said. Those tiny signals revealed that Mercury’s magnetic field is very ancient, between 3.7 and 3.9 billion years old. The planet itself formed around the same time as the Earth, just over 4.5 billion years ago.

“If we didn’t have these recent observations, we would never have known how Mercury’s magnetic field evolved over time,” said Johnson, a scientist at the US-based Planetary Science Institute. “It’s just been waiting to tell us its story.”

Mercury is the only other planet beside the Earth in the inner solar system with such a magnetic field. There is evidence that Mars once had a magnetic field but it disappeared at some point over 3 billion years ago. —Xinhua

Seeing and believing: Virtual reality set to conquer living rooms

NEW YORK, 9 May — It sounded so promising. Anyone would have been able to strap on a headset in their living room and be able to experience events anywhere in the world — or outside of it — as if they were really there.

Virtual reality (VR) technology was long seen as the next big thing. But reality always seemed to get in the way.

For years, it was the costly and bulky equipment. More recently, the sparse investment in software because of a lack of consumer-ready headgear. Now, that could change.

Oculus, the VR business bought for $2 billion by Facebook Inc (FB.O) last year, said this week it would start shipping a consumer version of its Rift headset in early 2016, rasing hopes that investment in VR software will finally take off.

“I have been waiting to launch consumer-versions, total VR sales are expected to jump to 39 million in 2018, helping soft-ware companies alone rake in $4.6 billion — up from a projected $129 million this year. “We believe that many very deep-pocketed companies will be in this space soon,” Schachter said.

Sony Corp (6758.T) and Taiwan’s HTC Corp (2498.TW) are among the big hardware makers planning to launch consumer

Ericsson extends patent suits against Apple to Europe

STOCKHOLM, 9 May — Swedish telecom equipment manufacturer Ericsson (ERICb.ST) has filed lawsuits in Germany, Britain and the Netherlands against Apple (AAPL.O) over technology licence payments, Ericsson said on Friday, extending a US battle between the firms to Europe.

Ericsson said it had offered to enter into arbitration with Apple to reach a global licensing agreement for its patents, but that offer had now expired.

“Apple continues to profit from Ericsson’s technology without having a valid licence in place,” said Kasim Alfalahi, Chief Intellectual Property Officer at Ericsson.

“Our technology is used in many features and functionality of today’s communication devices. We are confident the courts in Germany, the UK and the Netherlands will be able to help us resolve this matter in a fair manner,” he added.

An Apple spokeswoman declined to comment on the legal action in the three European countries, which relates to 2G and 4G LTE mobile communications standards and non-standar-dized technology, but referred to its statement in January.

“Unfortunately, we have not been able to agree with Apple on a fair rate for their patents so, as a last resort, we are asking the courts for help,” part of that statement said.

Ericsson had already filed a complaint in mid-January in the United States against Apple, responding to a lawsuit from the iPhone maker.

An attendee tries an Oculus-powered Samsung Gear VR headset during the French telecom Orange annual company’s innovations show in Paris on 2 October, 2014. —Reuters

The Apple logo is seen at the flagship Apple retail store in San Francisco, California on 27 April, 2015. —Reuters

Last year, smartphone maker Samsung Electronics Co (005930.KS) agreed to pay Ericsson $650 million ($421.7 million) alone with years of royalties to end a licence dispute. If the dispute with Apple also went Ericsson’s way, the US firm would have to pay it between 2.6 billion Swedish crowns ($156.6 million — £470 million) annually, analysts said, based on estimates of levels of handset sales and royalty payments per phone.

Reuters
Nepal pledges to rebuild schools and roads within two years of quake

KATHMANDU, 9 May — Nepal’s prime minister pledged on Friday to repair public buildings, schools and infrastructure within two years of the 7.8 earthquake that struck the country last month.

“The government will reconstruct damaged public buildings, roads, schools, hospitals, telecom facilities, power houses, and colleges in two years,” Prime Minister Sushil Koirala said in an address to parliament.

He also said the government would provide loans of up to $25,000 (16,166 pounds) at an interest rate of 2 percent for the reconstruction of private homes.

The announcement comes after the country’s worst earthquake in more than 80 years, shortly before noon on 25 April.

At least 7,903 people were killed, nearly 18,000 injured, and more than 54,000 buildings damaged.

The government said the cost of the first phase of reconstruction would be $2 billion and it had set aside $200 million towards that.

For the balance, the government has appealed for donations from foreign countries, aid agencies and Nepali people themselves.

Koirala said authorities would prepare estimates of the full cost of reconstruction once the extent of the damage has been ascertained. Nepal is planning a donor’s meeting shortly to request aid for reconstruction.

On Friday, aid groups were still trying to reach many remote communities with relief supplies by air and by road to ensure food and shelter as the year-long monsoon approaches. Authorities will provide temporary shelter in public buildings to people who do not want to return to their homes, the prime minister said. Religious and historic sites and monuments will be rebuilt in the next five years.—Reuters

Okinawa governor calls defence minister “high-handed”

NAHA, (Japan), 9 May — The central and Okinawa governments failed to narrow their differences over a controversial relocation plan for a US military base on Saturday, as the Okinawa governor criticized the defence minister for having been “high-handed.”

“There have been high-handed remarks, which fell far short of the (central) government’s policy of working together with Okinawa,” Gov Takeshi Onaga told Defence Minister Gen Nakatani during their first meeting in touching on the minister’s past words and deeds over the relocation issue. Nakatani had once refused to hold talks with the governor.

Onaga said it is “impossible” to build a replacement facility in a coastal area of Nago for the US Marine Corps’ Futenma Air Station in Ginowan, adding, “I will continue to definitely oppose the relocation plan.”

Nakatani told Onaga that Tokyo and Washington reaffirmed the need to ease Okinawa’s base-hosting burdens at their “two-plus-two” security talks in New York last month between foreign and defence ministers.

But Onaga, who became governor in December with a pledge to block the relocation plan, again urged the central government to abort it.

After the meeting at the prefectural government office, Nakatani told reporters that the central government wants to proceed with the existing plan and start this summer to reclaim the coastal area to build the replacement facility.

Abe and US President Barack Obama confirmed the need for relocating the Futenma base at their summit late last month in Washington, which led Onaga to voice his “strong resentment.”

Before Abe’s US visit, Onaga met with the prime minister in Tokyo, following his talks with Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga in Okinawa in early April, but the two sides have remained apart on the relocation issue. —Kyodo News

German government to speed up asylum process but puts off aid decision

BERLIN, 9 May — Chancellor Angela Merkel’s government and leaders of Germany’s powerful regions agreed on Friday to speed up processing of asylum applications but put off a decision on increasing support for towns and cities struggling with a surge in refugees.

The government expects the number of people seeking asylum to double this year to 400,000 — a record high for Germany — and has promised states and communities 1 billion euros in support in 2015 and 2016. State leaders want Merkel to double the aid.

A decision on that was postponed until 18 June.

Interior Minister Thomas de Maiziere told reporters officials would create 2,000 jobs to speed up the processing of asylum applications and said those from regions generally deemed ineligible such as the Balkans should be sent home faster.

“We want to speed up the process so that decisions can be made and executed within weeks,” he said. Those from more troubled regions such as Syria who are likely to be granted asylum should get integration assistance faster.

Merkel said it was not clear how measures would be financed.

The influx of refugees, many of whom are fleeing conflicts in Syria and Iraq, has led to tensions in some regions of Germany that have occasionally erupted into violence against immigrants by suspected neo-Nazis.

Earlier this year thousands of Germans took to the streets in marches organised by anti-Islam and anti-immigration group PEGIDA in Dresden but its support has since waned.

Germany’s states, which are obliged to take in a certain percentage of refugees based on their populations, have criticised the federal government’s earlier estimate for the number of asylum seekers as too low.

Separately, a German naval ship “Hessen” rescued about 200 refugees in a wooden boat on Friday in the Mediterranean about 250 km south of Lampedusa, a Defence Ministry spokesman in Berlin said. They were taken to a port in Italy.—Reuters

Contaminated milk pulled from shelves in Finland

HELSINKI, 9 May — A Finnish dairy company has recalled all milk produced on Thursday, due to bacterial contamination. Finnish media reported on Friday.

Some of the milk produced on 7 May by Satamaito, a dairy company in Pori, western Finland, was found containing enterobacter, a kind of bacteria found in human and animal faeces. The bacteria can cause digestive problems and infections.

Some 50,000 to 100,000 liters of milk were pulled from shelves in grocery stores in Finland on Friday.

Satamaito’s CEO Jar- moo Oksman was quoted as saying that the bacteria was found in the company’s production line.

According to Oksman, all production of the company was suspended on Friday for investigation. Founded in 1982, Satamaito is a Pori-based co-operative company owned by 210 dairy farmers. Its annual production capacity is 45 million liters of liquid dairy products and turnover is over 40 million euros (44.9 million US dollars). —Xinhua

Local residents walk past collapsed houses after the 25 April earthquake in Bhaktapur, Nepal, on 8 May.  —Reuters

Berlin, Germany, 9 May — More than 200 refugees disembarked from the German naval ship “Hessen” on Monday, 18 May. —Reuters
CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV FRISIA ALSTER VOY NO (1525)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV FRISIA ALSTER VOY NO (1525) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 10.5.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T.M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority
Agent for: M/S Interasia Lines
Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV MATHU BHUM VOY NO ( )
Consignees of cargo carried on MV MATHU BHUM VOY NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 10.5.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority
Agent for: M/S MCC Transport
Phone No: 2301185

US Attorney General launches probe of Baltimore police

WASHINGTON, 9 May — US Attorney General Loretta Lynch announced this Friday that the Justice Department is launching a probe into the Baltimore police to determine whether the department violated constitutional and civil rights in the case of an African American’s death.

“Sordid relations between the police and the communities they serve is one of the most challenging issues of our time,” Lynch said in a press conference, adding that there has been “a serious erosion of public trust.”

Lynch, who took office last week, has visited Balti more and met with city and community leaders in the aftermath of riots and unrest. The announcement came nearly a month after the death of Freddie Gray, an African American man in police custody who had a 25-year-old’ death sparked protests and riots in the State of Maryland’s largest city.

Lynch said that her department’s wider investigation is not specifically tied to Gray’s case.

“This investigation will begin immediately and will focus on allegations that Baltimore Police Department officers use excessive force, including deadly force, conduct unlawful Searches, sei zures and arrests, and engage in discriminatory policing,” Lynch said.

Baltimore Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake on Wednesday requested the Justice Department to investigate the city’s police department for civil rights violations after Gray’s death to see whether street stops of suspects and arrests violated the US Constitution.

On 19 April, Gray, died of a spinal injury believed to have been sustained during or after his arrest the previous week by police. Baltimore’s chief prosecutor has brought criminal charges, including one murder charge, against six officer involved in the arrest. Lynch

Cambodia reports 502 dengue fever cases in 4 months, up 67 pct

PHNOM PENH, 9 May — Cambodia registered 502 dengue fever in the last four months of 2015, a 67 percent rise from 300 cases over the same period last year, a health official said in a statement on Saturday.

“The incident rate is 3.1 cases out of 100,000 people,” Huy Rekol, director of the National Centre for Parasitology, Entomology and Malaria Control, said in the statement. Despite the increase in cases, the mosquito-borne disease killed only one kid during the January-April period this year — the same number as last year. The official attributed the decline in fatality rate to the improvement of treatment quality at public health centers. “This result shows that Cambodian people are well-aware of how to prevent themselves from dengue fever and timely send their sick children to hospitals for medical treatments,” he said.

Dengue fever is a viral disease transmitted by Aedes mosquitoes. The disease causes an acute illness of sudden onset that usually follows symptoms such as headache, fever, exhaustion, muscle pain, swollen glands, vomiting and rash. In Cambodia, the outbreak of dengue fever usually begins at the onset of the rainy season in May and lasts until October.

Int’l zoo, aquarium body suspends Japan membership over dolphins

Tokyo, 9 May — The World Association of Zoos and Aquariums has suspended its Japanese member due to Japanese aquariums’ taking of dolphins caught in drive hunt fisheries at Taiji in western Japan, which have drawn international criticism.

The decision dated on 22 April was taken with a unanimous vote at a council meeting, according to a statement on the WAZA website.

“The basis for the suspension is a determination that JAZA has violated the WAZA Code of Ethics and Animal Welfare. Moreover, WAZA Council re-affirmed its position that members of WAZA must confirm that they will not acquire dolphins from the Taiji fishery,” the statement said. Taiji, a small fishery town in Wakayama Prefecture, is known for its centuries-old whaling culture and its dolphin hunting practices, which critics allege are cruel.

Last year, US Ambassador to Japan Caroline Kennedy expressed concern in a letter about the dolphin hunting in Taiji. The town came into the spotlight through the Oscar-winning 2009 US documentary “The Cove,” which depicted the slaughter of dolphins during a traditional hunt off the coast.

WAZA held talks with the Japanese Association of Zoos and Aquariums last year in Tokyo, but JAZA rejected a proposed two-year moratorium on taking animals from the drive hunt fisheries, the statement said. The issue was discussed again in November at WAZA’s international conference, where the Japanese side failed to agree to restrict taking animals from such hunting practices, the statement said.

“WAZA’s mission is to serve as the voice of a worldwide community of zoos and aquariums and a catalyst for their joint conservation action,” it said.

Kyodo News
Taylor Swift to premiere ‘Bad Blood’ video at Billboard Music awards

LOS ANGELES, 9 May — Pop star Taylor Swift has announced that she will debut an official music video for her latest single “Bad Blood” at Billboard Music awards.

“Bad Blood” is taken off Swift’s newest studio album “1989”, reported AceShowbiz. The accompanying music video is directed by Joseph Khan and produced by the singer herself. As a teaser, she posted a picture of her as Catastrophe wearing a leather jacket.

This year, Swift, 25, leads BMA nominations with 14 nods including Top Artist which pits her against Ariana Grande, One Direction, Sam Smith, and Katy Perry. She will perform her single at the live telecast on 17 May at the MGM Grand Garden Arena in Paradise, Nevada.

Chrissy Teigen and Ludacris serve as hosts.—PTI

Diane Keaton has crush on Channing Tatum

LOS ANGELES, 9 May — Oscar-winning actress Diane Keaton has admitted to having a crush on almost half her age actor Channing Tatum.

Keaton, 69, said in an interview with Ellen DeGeneres on “The Ellen DeGeneres Show” her dream husband is the ‘Magic Mike’ XXL star, 35, who is married to Jenna Dewan, reported AceShowbiz.

Before mentioning Tatum, Keaton said, “I’ve never been married.” She continued, “So, the fact that somebody could live for 40 years with someone and be devoted to that person is something that moves me and I’m profoundly affected by it.” DeGeneres cut her off to tell her that it is never too late for love and marriage. “It’s not too late! It’s not too late!” she said. The actress and author insisted saying “to Channing Tatum,” though she knew that the hunk is taken.

Keaton was on the talk show to promote her new film “5 Flights Up”, which is set for a release on 8 May in the States.—PTI

Maroon 5 to release new single later this month

LOS ANGELES, 9 May — Rock band Maroon 5 to launch its latest single ‘This Summer’s Gonna Hurt’ on 26 May.

The new song will reportedly lead a reissue of Adam Levine and Co’s fifth studio album, last year’s ‘V’, reported AceShowbiz. Maroon 5 is currently taking a break from their world tour launched in support of their 2014 album which peaked at number 1 on Billboard 200.

They will continue the tour with a string of shows in Europe later this month before visiting Asia and Australia in September until early October.—PTI

Jennifer Lawrence loved my mother: Melissa Rivers

LOS ANGELES, 9 May — Comedienne Joan River’s daughter Melissa has revealed Oscar-winning actress Jennifer Lawrence adored her late mother.

Melissa said though Lawrence was not fond of Joan’s style TV show “Fashion Police”, she was an admirer of her sense of humour. Joan died last August. She was 81, reported AceShowbiz.

“I just had an amazing experience with Jennifer Lawrence who at the end was quite publicly against ‘Fashion Police’ and something that had been said,” the 47-year-old said.

“She comes up to me and she says ‘I know your mom and I had some differences at the end’ and it wasn’t even over something that she said – ‘but I got to tell you I loved her and she was funny.’” Melissa said.—PTI

Actress Charlize Theron urges women to stand up for equal pay

NEW YORK, 9 May — After negotiating a salary equal to her male co-star for her upcoming movie, Hollywood actress Charlize Theron has called on other women to take a stand when it comes to equal pay.

Theron said she was outraged when leaked Sony emails showed a gap in what male and female actors were paid for the film “American Hustle” and she insisted on being paid on par with co-star Chris Hemsworth for the Snow White sequel “The Huntsman”. “I have to give them credit, because once I asked, they said yes,” Theron said in an interview with British magazine Elle UK.

“They did not fight it. And maybe that’s the message: that we just need to put our foot down.”

Her call for equal pay echoes Hillary Clinton, the frontrunner for the Democratic presidential nomination, who has also lamented the pay gap between men and women. A report by the United Nations’ International Labour Organization (ILO) this year warned that the income of women workers globally will lag behind men for another 70 years if the gender pay gap continues to narrow at the present rate.

Women globally earn 77 percent of the amount paid to men, a figure that has improved by only three percentage points in the past 20 years, the ILO said.

South African-born Theron, 39, who won an Oscar for her portrayal of a serial killer in the 2003 film “Monster”, said women needed to stand up for equality and be proud to be feminists.

“This is a good time for us to bring this to a place of fairness, and girls need to know that being a feminist is a good thing,” said Theron, who will be on the big screen in this month’s action movie “Mad Max: Fury Road”.

“It doesn’t mean that you hate men. It means equal rights.”

—Reuters

Kristen Stewart compares plastic surgery to vandalism

LOS ANGELES, 9 May — “Twilight” star Kristen Stewart has no desire to go under the knife and says plastic surgery is like vandalism.

The 25-year-old “Clouds of Sils Maria” star says she does not want to change anything about herself, reported E! online.

“No, never. Never. I am so freaked out by the idea of doing anything. And maybe that’s completely arrogant but I don’t want to change anything about myself. I think the women who do are losing their minds. It’s vandalism,” Stewart said.

The actress said she loves mineral-based make-up products.

“l’m not great at applying make-up myself. My mom never taught me anything, she doesn’t wear make-up… I like mineral make-up. You can’t screw it up and it’s not bad for your skin,” she added.—PTI

—Reuters

Glamour Global Light on MYANMAR

ENTERTAINMENT
Food wastage an ‘enormous’ global concern, G20 says

Istanbul, 9 May — Food wasted by consumers is an enormous economic problem and nations should ensure excess food is given to the hungry instead of being thrown away, agriculture ministers said from the Group of 20 leading countries.

The two-day meeting in Istanbul has focused on problems of food security and nutrition, including the impact of climate change. A reduction in the amount of food wasted would improve food security, the ministers said in their final communiqué.

“We note with great concern the significant extent of food loss and waste — and their negative consequences for food security, nutrition, use of natural resources and the environment,” the ministers said.

“It’s about making sure people understand precisely when food is no longer good for human consumption,” US Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack told Reuters in an interview late on Thursday ahead of the meeting.

“I think there’s a tendency to throw things away more quickly than need be.”

Food is the single largest component of solid waste in US landfills and is a large producer of methane gas, Vilsack said.

“Over the years, wild-...” the ministers said.

Government has focused on a raft of initiatives to ensure excess food is given to the hungry instead of being thrown away, agriculture ministers said on Friday.

Group of 20 leading countries, including the United States, food is lost because of improper storage or transport, while it often just wasted in rich nations.

“We highlight this as a global problem of enormous economic, environmental and societal significance.”

An estimated 1.3 billion tonnes of food, or roughly 30 percent of global production, is lost or wasted annually, the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) said last year.

Food wasted by consumers poses new threats to the world’s 800 million hungry.

A woman picks up vegetables discarded by food vendors at a garbage dump site of a wholesale market in Xi’an, Shaanxi province on 7 July, 2014.—Reuters

Kenya is among African countries that have grappled with illegal trade in wildlife products. Wakhungu noted that besides poaching, habitat loss and rapid urbanization poses new threats to the country’s wildlife heritage.

The application of DNA analysis will enhance fast and efficient prosecution of transnational criminals behind the slaughter of big mammals like elephants and rhinos.

The CS noted the launch of the lab marked a significant milestone in the implementation of wildlife conservation and management act, especially in tracing the origin of confiscated wildlife products and pursue offenders. “In addition to the laboratory, we have implemented a raft of initiatives to ensure wildlife security. We have also partnered with bilateral and conservation groups to develop feasible wildlife law enforcement strategies,” she said.

The CS also revealed Kenya is collaborating with South Africa to develop the rhinoceros DNA indexing system that will enhance monitoring of the mammals through establishment of a data bank.

Acting Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) Director General, William Kiprono said the lab will also boost animal health through improved diagnoses on disease causing pathogens. The wildlife forensic and genetics laboratory will inject new impetus in our efforts to reverse loss of species through illegal trade,” he said.—Xinhua

First deaf restaurant of Canada opens in Vancouver

Vancouver, 9 May — A restaurant called DeaFined has opened in downtown Vancouver, becoming the city’s first restaurant staffed by deaf people.

The restaurant opened on Thursday in a posh corner of Vancouver. The Eastern Mediterranean restaurant is staffed almost entirely by deaf and hard of hearing wait staff. It’s one of only two restaurants in North America that focus on hiring staff with hearing disabilities.

Moe Alameddine, the owner of the restaurant, told Xinhua that the business not only aimed at providing jobs to those who are hearing impaired, but also at closing the gap between those who can hear and those who can’t.

Kenya launches forensic lab to boost war on wildlife crimes

Nairobi, 9 May — The Kenyan government on Friday commissioned an ultra-modern wildlife forensic laboratory as part of a long-term strategy to combat poaching of iconic mammals.

Wildlife officials said Kenya became the second country in Africa after South Africa to launch such a lab that will enhance investigation and prosecution of wildlife crimes.

“Over the years, wildlife crime has become sophisticated and highly organized in nature hence the need to adopt technology to boost forensic investigations,” En...
Nadal looks strong as he progresses to Madrid Open semis

MADRID, 9 May — Home favourite Rafael Nadal eased into the semi-finals of the Mutua Madrid Masters on Friday with a 6-3, 6-4 victory over Bulgarian number 10 seed, Grigor Dimitrov.

Cheered on by a partisan crowd in the Caja Magica, Nadal looked to be returning to his best form and Dimitrov was unable to trouble him and the Bulgarian’s frustration grew as the match continued to such an extent that he smashed one of his racquets in frustration during the second set.

Nadal will face number 6 seed Tomas Berdych who had to fight back from a set down against John Isner before finally winning through 3-6, 7-6 (7), 7-6 (1).

Andy Murray also confirmed his progress into the last 4. The number two seed who has had to endure some strange time-tabling this week defeated number 5 seed Milos Raonic 6-4, 7-5. In the women’s tournament Petra Kvitkova will face Svetlana Kuznetsova in the final of the women’s singles in the Mutua Madrid Open.

Unseeded Kuznetsova defeated number 3 seed and reigning Champion, Maria Sharapova 6-2, 6-4.

Sharapova never found her rhythm against her powerful rival, her first serve was again disappointing and her game liltered with too many unforced errors. Number 4 seed Kvitkova then produced to inflict the first defeat of the year on an out of sorts, Serena Williams, 6-2, 6-3.

Williams appeared to suffering from a slight leg injury, while Kvitkova, who defeated Williams in Madrid last year, was aggressive and confident.

After a struggle, Kvitkova showed her grit in the second set, breaking Kvitkova’s serve as the Czech served for the match, but her lack of form continued as Kvitkova then broke back directly to take the match and book her place in the final.

Nadal close in on Ligue 1 title with Cavani treble

PARIS, 9 May — Paris St Germain took a big step towards the Ligue 1 title when Edinson Cavani’s hat-trick inspired them to a 6-0 home win against mid-table En Avant Guingamp on Friday.

Fellow PSG striker Zlatan Ibrahimovic grabbed a double, including a last-gasp penalty, and set up two others as PSG steamrollered past Guingamp.

With two games left, PSG have 77 points and lead second-placed Olympique Lyonnais, who have a game in hand, by six points with a better goal difference (+45 to +41).

Cavani made it 3-0 seven minutes into the second half from close range after being set up by Ibrahimovic’s deflection.

Ibrahimovic then set up Maxwell for the fourth with a cross for the Brazilian to score with a header in the 57th.

In the 27th minute, Pastore unleashed a fierce shot that was deflected on to the post by keeper Jonas Loesl.

Cavani then scored his 16th league goal of the season, and his eighth in the last six games, when he volleyed home from Raffin’s free kick 20 minutes from time.

Ibrahimovic wrapped up the victory with a penalty in the 90th after being foiled by Jeremy Sorbon for his 19th league goal this term.

Sunday could prove decisive in the race for third place when Olympique de Marseille, in fourth spot, host Monaco who are three points ahead of their opponents in third (1900 GMT).

Fifth-placed St Etienne, who are level on points with Marseille, are also in the mix for the last Champions League spot. They host Nice on Sunday (1500 GMT).

Na, Kelly share top spot, Woods makes cut

PONTE VEDRA BEACH, (Florida), 9 May — Americans Kevin Na and Jerry Kelly pushed their way to the lead and Tiger Woods sank a clutch birdie putt on his last hole to make the cut during the second round of the Players Championship on Friday.

Na backed up his opening round 67 with a three-under par 69 to move to eight under 136 at TPC Sawgrass.

Veteran Kelly, 48, surprised with an impressive 65 to join Na at the top while Americans Rickie Fowler (69) and Chris Kirk (68) plus South African Brenden Grace (67) and Canadian David Hearn (71) shared third, two shots back at six under. Na held the 54-hole lead at the 2012 Players before fading into a tie for seventh. The 31-year-old said he was much better equipped this time. “I had the yips. It’s pretty hard to play golf when you can’t take the club back,” Na said.

“But I’m definitely a better golfer (now) … ‘I like this golf course. I always feel like when I come here that it’s like, maybe this is my year again.’ Kel- ly said he had some breaks on the back side, some of which he created. “I chipped in out of a tough little lie on the edge for par, hit a ball in the trees and had a nice little two-foot gap to hit through and hit a beautiful shot,” said the three time Tour winner.

Woods slammed home a nine-foot par on the ninth green, his final hole, to card a round of 71 and get him in at even par, right on the cut line. The 14-time major champion was loose at times as he battled his new swing, nothing five bogeys but counteracting with six birdies.

“I feel like I’m playing well enough to get myself up there. I just need one good round and narrow up that gap between myself and the lead, and I feel like I can do that.”

World number one Rory McIlroy failed to bring his A game but scratched out a 71 to be four-under, just four off the pace.