A TIME FOR ORDER
Yangon Chief Minister pledges crackdown on gangs

Ko Moe

THE Yangon Region government is set to focus on bringing about the full strength of the police force in order to guarantee the safety of the people, said Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein, pledging to end the gang threats against law enforcement officers in the city.

The Chief Minister gave his vow to curb organised gang violence and crimes in Yangon Region at a meeting on the regional government’s 100-day program that aims to ensure the rule of law and reduce crime in the commercial city of the country yesterday.

An effective administrative mechanism will be set up to combat gang presence in designated areas of the region, said the Chief Minister, adding that he is committed to rooting out gangs that threaten public safety and make death threats to police.

As gangs and crimes are a danger to the rule of law, it is imperative to ensure effectiveness of police services by increasing police strength, equipping them with modern devices and funding operations, said the Chief Minister.

During the meeting, Col Tin Aung Tun, Yangon Region Minister for Security and Border Affairs, called for mass participation in the 100-day plan in cooperation with authorities concerned.

A system of reward and punishment will be exercised, said the minister, adding that it is unacceptable to keep accepting bad members that can affect the whole organisation.

While the plan is put into effect, 70 per cent of the police strength of 5,780 officers in Yangon Region is set to be used for security measures together with 200 additional police members from police battalions, said Action Police Brig-Gen Win Naing of Myanmar Police Force.

According to the MFP, there is a rate of one police officer per 1,274 people in Myanmar due to a decline in police strength.

Since the start of the plan as of 1 May, a total of 495 cases including 51 cases of gambling and 63 cases of narcotics were filed and 70 suspects were arrested up until Monday according to the Yangon Region Police Force.

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw approves formation of State Counsellor’s Ministry

THE Pyidaungsu Hluttaw has agreed to ink an agreement for Myanmar-Russian military cooperation following discussion of the proposal put forward by President U Htin Kyaw.

U Saw Tun Mya Aung of Papun Constituency expressed support for the signing of the military cooperation agreement with the Russian Federation, recounting the situation in the country’s past in which Myanmar fell under the yoke of colonialism as it lagged behind the western imperial powers in industrial and defence technology.

In his discussion, U Tun Wai of Phaunggyin Constituency stressed the need for building up the Myanmar Tatmadaw to become a standardised, modern and effective defence force for the country.

Brig-Gen Than Lwin, Defence Services personnel Hluttaw representative, echoed the sentiment that the agreement will help transform the Myanmar Tatmadaw into a standardised Army through better understanding of modern military tactics and practices which can be learned through the proposed bilateral military programme with Russia.

The deal to be signed with Russia is the result of recent Russian outreach to the ASEAN community and Myanmar in particular on matters relating to military defence, national security and counter-terrorism with Russian Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu stating on 26 April,

“We are focused on expanding contact with ASEAN countries in a bilateral format. For this purpose, a series of meetings with the defence ministers of...”

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THE Pyidaungsu Hluttaw yesterday approved the proposal of President U Htin Kyaw to form a ministry of the State Counsellor.

The decision came about at the parliament yesterday with the unanimous approval of attending MPs.

The ministry will become the 22nd ministry in the cabinet of the new government.

President U Htin Kyaw said in his proposal to form the ministry of the state counsellor on 4 May that it is a measure intended to speed up the government’s efforts at national reconciliation, internal peace, national development and the rule of law.

The constitution vests the president with the power to designate ministries as necessary and make changes and additions to the number of ministries with the approval of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

The new government took office on 1 April with 21 ministries run by 18 ministers, cutting the number down from the previous government’s 36.—Thein Ko Lwin
US will not interfere with peace process: US Ambassador

THE United States will neither interfere with the internal peace process of Myanmar nor give pressure but provide technical assistance, said the US Ambassador to Myanmar at a meeting held at 10 am yesterday at the American Centre.

Ambassador Scot Marciel said America has always given its support to the ceasefire effort and peace process of Myanmar and it lays special emphasis on the peace process.

As a foreign government, the US has no plans to interfere with the peace process of Myanmar and it does not intend to influence or pressure Myanmar either, he added.

He continued to say that Myanmar’s peace process is something that Myanmar people have to decide on, and on its part, the US are willing to provide whatever is necessary in addition to technical assistance, said the US ambassador.

The ambassador, during his meeting with representatives from Civil Service Organisations, local entrepreneurs, people from the education sector, government officials and the media said that there are still many challenges in regard to the reformation process and that the US is willing and ready to cooperate with the new government, Civil Society Organisation and private sector.

Concerning bilateral cooperation in trade and education sectors, the ambassador said the United States is promoting bilateral trade. As an education exchange programme promoter, we will make arrangements for Myanmar students to be able to study in the US. At the moment, the US is building a new American Center in Yangon and it is ready to enable Myanmar citizens to the US. At the moment, the US is building a new American Center in Yangon and it is ready to enable Myanmar citizens to

Hail storm destroys Shan tea plantations

A SPAT of hail storms which hit upper Myanmar last month have had unforeseen side effects on the tea plantations of the Nam-Shan township village of Mahlon, Shan State, which started to wither and die during the end of April, according to plantation owners.

“Our whole village makes a living off the tea plantations on this mountain side. We were still picking tea leaves in the few days after the hail storms. It was only after that when the tea crops slowly started drying out, to the point whereby the whole plantation has now withered up with nothing left to pick,” said U Thein Zaw, a tea plantation owner from Mahlon village.

He continued by stating that the drying up of tea plants during the start of May, the time when tea leaves are soft and ripe for picking, has effectively ended the 2016-17 tea picking season, rendering local tea pickers in dire straits for whom tea picking is their sole form of employment.

U Mya Kyaw, head of the Department of Agriculture for Lashio, explained the wilting up of tea crops is likely the combined result of the velocity with which the hail stone impacted the tea plants, bacteria in present within the hail stones themselves, together swelling summer temperatures.

“Our homes were destroyed by the gale force winds. Now without a place to live and the death of our tea crops, I don’t know how we’re going to survive anymore. I’m just going to have to order my sons and daughter to go seek work in China,” said Daw Dipogyein, a local tea picker. A local youth charity group has made it known tea crops were not the only victims of the hail storms, with approximately fifty households in the village tract, together with a local primary school, flattened by the storm’s ferocious winds. —Myitmakha News Agency

Rakhine State needs local industry to reboot trade development: UMFFCCI

THE implementation of an Industrial Trade Zone within Rakhine State could see development in the region rise again within a five year period, according to the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFFCCI) for Rakhine State.

The implementation of an Industrial Trade Zone would help to restart the development of trade in the region that declined in the wake of communal violence which broke out in the region back in 2012, only to take another hit last year by severe flooding which swept through region, “Trade between India and Bangladesh, which share a boarder with Rakhine State, became sluggish because of both sectors an violence and natural disasters. There’s a need for the development of industry within the state to be able to once again have a hold over trade with neighbouring countries,” said a fish and shrimp entrepreneur and member of Rakhine State’s UMFFCCI.

Trade between Myanmar’s Rakhine State and the neighbouring countries of India and Bangladesh consists of the export of local fishery products and importation of foreign clothes, textiles and household appliances, it is known. “Rakhine State has fallen behind it’s neighbours. The primary factor is the need to find business solutions for residents. There’s pretty much no other industries in the region except for fishing.” said U Win Bo, a fisheries entrepreneur from Rakhine State.

The new government’s three-fold export increase policy has meant the current trade situation within Rakhine State is ripe for development, but there is still a real need for the creation of job opportunities within the region, according to fishery entrepreneurs. —Myitmakha News Agency

US Ambassador Mr Scot Marciel talks to journalists at American Centre in Yangon, PHOTO: PHO HTAUNG

Myanmar students leave for scholarship programme in China

AN initial batch of 36 students from universities, colleges and schools under Myanmar’s Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries left for China on Sunday for further studies under a scholarship programme between Myanmar and China.

The programme is co-ordinated by the Myanmar’s Ministry of Education, the Education Department of China’s Jiangsu Province, the Myanmar-China Friendship Association (Central) and the Myanmar-China Friendship Association (Beijing).

Under the programme, Myanmar students were selected to pursue higher learning at the Nanjing Institute of Industrial Technology, Yangzhou Poly-technic Institute, Changzhoi Vocational Institute of Engineering and Jiangsu Agri- animal Husbandry Vocational College in China.

Following the first batch of 36 students, the second batch of 51 students left for China today. —Myanmar News Agency

MFF instructed by Ministry of Health to develop football in schools

THE Ministry of Health has instructed the Myanmar Football Federation (MFF) to draw up a program for the development of football within government schools across the country.

“We’ve yet to receive any kind of instruction as to what we’re supposed to do. We’ve just been told to put together a program for the development of football within basic education schools,” said U Than Zaw, general secretary and CEO of the MFF.

Football is the most loved sport in Myanmar but with no funding provided by the previ- ous government, the game within the country currently relies solely on the combined financial support of MFF and the world football governing body (FIFA).

“The success of football as a sport is dependant upon the extent of the interest of the Department of Health,” said U Tin Myint Aung, technical director of MFF. The Myanmar national team’s FIFA world ranking is currently on the decline, with a present ranking of 167, compared to the country’s average position since FIFA’s world ranking was established of 141.—Myitmakha News Agency

Snakebite death rate remains high

ABOUT 10,000 snakebite incidences occur every year across the country, especially in rural areas, with a mortality rate of 10 per cent, doctors say.

“Although varieties of measures against snakebites have been carried out, annual snakebite morbidity and mortality show no apparent decrease during last decade,” said former deputy health minister Dr Win Myint.

“The cause may be multi-factorial. One of the reasons is victims’ delaying in receiving anti-venom, as well as the limited availability of safe and potent anti-venom in our country.”

With the aim of bringing down the country’s high rate of snakebite fatalities, the govern- ment-owned Myanmar Pharmaceutical Factory (Insein) has increased its anti-venom production.

According to the factory’s deputy manager Dr Moe Moe Hlaing, the factory manufactured approximately 80,000 doses of both liquid and freeze-dried venom for cobras and vipers last fiscal year.

It produced 70,000 doses of anti-venom in the 2014-2015 fiscal year and over 30,000 in 2012-2013.

The freeze-dried form is better than liquid in storage and transportation. The former sells for K390,000 per dose, and the liquid goes for K31,000 per bottle. —Zar Zar

Snakebite death rate remains high

School children receive soccer skills in summer in Yangon. PHOTO: MYITMAKHA NEWS AGENCY

US will not interfere with peace process: US Ambassador
Handover of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi Park in Norway set for Saturday

THE HANDOVER ceremony of a park that was named after Nobel Laureate State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi will take place on Saturday in Froland, Norway, according to sources.

As the necessary procedures for naming the park after Daw Aung San Suu Kyi have been completed Froland Mayor Ove Gunderson will officially hand over the park to the new park organising committee.

Froland Verk Park is situated in the centre of Froland and was chosen to be renamed to Daw Aung San Suu Kyi Park by officials including the mayor about two weeks ago.

Torgeir Oveland of International Caffe-Froland which is organising the establishment of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi Park in Norway said that the centuries-old park was chosen among three or four other possible locations.

A statue of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and memorial stone plaques from Myanmar people in Denmark are set to be installed at the park, he added.

According to sources, a wax statue of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi made by U Nge Zaw who is living in Norway is set to be unveiled on the occasion of the opening of the park on her birthday which falls on 19 June.

Later, a bronze statue which will be similar to the Bronze Statue of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi at the Nobel Peace Centre in Oslo will be installed at the park.

The new bronze monument will be sculpted by Norwegian architect and artist Magnus Kjeldsno. Former Norwegian Prime Minister Kjell Magne Bondevik, who is also the current chairman of the Noble Peace Prize Committee, will be present together with Norwegian MP Kjell Ingolf Ropstad and diplomats at the opening ceremony of the park, according to sources.— Ko Nyo (Oslo)

Builders who overstep road boundaries to be penalised

THE Ministry of Construction has announced that legal action, in accordance with road laws, will be taken against building contractors in the Taninthayi Region district of Dawei who build buildings that overstep road boundaries.

However, it is known that this does not apply to buildings that were built prior to the enactment of amendments to road laws.

“Buildings constructed before the amended legislation will be put aside for the moment. The buildings over which legal action will be taken are those built in the wake of amended and enacted road legislation,” said U Ko Ko Naing from the office of the deputy director of the Road Transportation Administration Department.

A total of four formal reminders will be made towards those involved in on-going building construction and newly constructed buildings on the new legislation. Failure to adhere to the warnings will result in legal charges being pressed, while it is known that the burying of telecommunication cables will also not be permitted along road boundaries.

“We are also informing those involved in burying telecommunication cables beneath the road to refrain from continuation such activities. This also goes for those constructing buildings beyond road boundaries. It won’t be good for either side should construction continue after they’ve been informed to stop,” added U Ko Ko Naing.

Violators of the newly amended road legislation will face fines between K100,000 and K500,000, and repeat offenders will face a one-year prison sentence as well as a fine ranging from K100,000 to K1 million.

Road legislation was first enacted on 17 November 2000, and amendments were made in 2014 before being signed off by then-president Thein Sein on 17 November 2015.— Myitmakha News Agency

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw approves Myanmar-Russia military cooperation

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw approves Myanmar-Russia military cooperation

In his clarification of the President’s message, Maj-Gen Aung Soe, Deputy Minister for Home Affairs, said that Myanmar, Bhutan and Nepal have not ratified the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) while Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka, Thailand have ratified it. Myanmar joined the BIMSTEC on 22 December, 1997.

Laws necessary for the ratification of the BIMSTEC Convention have been enacted in Myanmar, said the deputy minister, adding that the convention is not legally binding and is not in contradiction with the country’s laws or regional agreements.—Myanmar News Agency

Union Information Minister meets French Ambassador

UNION Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint received French Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Olivier Richard at his office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

They held discussions on ongoing cooperation between the countries in information and the movie industry and opportunities for further cooperation in those sectors.—Myanmar News Agency

Dredging makes for easier access to Yangon Port

The dredging project was completed in the wake of amended and enacted road legislation, said U Mya Than, chief engineer of the Myanma Port Authority.

“Dredging was mainly conducted at the entrance of Yangon Port because the port is silted up in the open season. We can cut down on the time needed for dredging with the assistance of dredgers. Sometimes, the ships cannot enter and exit as the river is too shallow. We need to remove concerns over the breakdown of ships which can be attributed to blocked propellers due to refuse in the waters.

The dredging project has increased the draft by 1.5 metres, or from 3.5 to 5 metres at Monkey Point.

This project can effectuate the development of the economy with more vessels able to get in and out of Yangon Port, said U Phone Khine Shwe, the general manager of Starhigh Asia Pacific Pte Ltd.

Notably, Yangon River was too shallow and vessels could enter and exit only at high tide. Now there will be no delay for ships wishing to pass through the port waters. The extended river’s depth will allow more vessels to enter and exit in addition to reducing the overall traffic.— Zar Zar
Loom training courses to create job opportunities

WEAVING training courses are being opened at the weaving training school in Loikaw, Kayah state with the objective of creating job opportunities for locals.

At the training school, the trainees can learn free of charge as the government is providing funds for the running of the courses. There were 13 registered trainees in the first batch during the 2015-2016 fiscal year while there were four students in the second batch. The next training course will start on 1 July for 2016-2017 fiscal year.

The training school, established in 1951, under the name of the basic government weaving training school. In 2014-2015 the name was changed into the loom and livelihood training school to create more opportunities for local youth. The centre is now conducting two kinds of training, namely Myanmar traditional loom and ethnic traditional loom. –Ye Naung (Loikaw)

Crime

Hand-grenades, landmines destroyed in Hpakant

THREE hand grenades were found at a police outpost near Uruyadana Kyauk Sein Taung Bridge, Myoma Ward, Hpakant Township, Moeinyl District, Kachin State on Monday.

One hand-grenade was found one foot away from No 26 police outpost, while another hand-grenade was found eight feet away from the front of police outpost and the third hand-grenade was found 30 feet away from the police outpost.

Similarly, a motorcyclist with two others on board threw two six-inch long hand-grenades at a two-storey building inside the Myoma Police Station compound. Another motorcyclist with one passenger on-board threw a hand-grenade into police outpost near the Kyauk Sein Taung Bridge. The explosive, however, failed to explode.

One woman was injured by the explosion of landmines in Seikmu village on 8 May. —064

Vehicle turns over on Yangon-Mandalay Highway

A VEHICLE turned over between mileposts 278/1 and 278/2, on the Yangon-Mandalay Highway on Monday leaving nine passengers injured.

According to an investigation, a vehicle with ten passengers on board which was en route to Mandalay from Yangon and being driven by one U San Paw, 50, turned over when the driver lost control because of a burst tyre.

The accident injured one man and eight women.

The driver has been charged by police. —Chan Tha (Myitkina)

Vehicle catches fire on Inya Road, Kamayut Township

A VEHICLE exploded without warning in front of the Myanmar Rowing and Canoeing Federation building on Inya Road, Kamayut township, Yangon at about 7 pm on 8 May.

According to an investigation, the accident was caused by fuel leaking onto the exhaust pipe.

The fire was brought under control by firefighters from Sanchaung Fire Station. The vehicle was owned by one U Khin Maung Thein, 63, en route from 7th mile to Kamayut.

Police have filed charges against the owner. —Ko Gyi Tin

Fire destroys three houses in Pyin Oo Lwin

A FIRE reportedly broke out at about quarter to one in the morning in Pyin Oo Lwin on Monday and quickly spread to surrounding homes.

According to an investigation the fire was due to electric short circuiting at the Sein Chai Gas shop owned by one U Sai Wunna, 38.

Fire fighters rushed to the scene and extinguished the blaze at 2 am. No one was injured in the accident.

The blaze destroyed the Sein Chai Gas shop, a 20 feet high, 30x50 one-storeyed pucca building, a 20x40x50 two-storied building owned by one Daw Nan Ngwe Kyi, the proprietress of the Sabai Byu Sweater Business, and a 20x25x50 one-storeyed building.

Police are still investigating the case. —Thet Naing (Pyin Oo Lwin)
Green gram growers expand cultivation to fulfill demand from China, Thailand

TO fulfill the rising demand from China and Thailand farmers from Yinnabun, Salinngyi, Pale and Kani townships, planning to cultivate more green grams for export.

“We export green grams to China and Thailand. The green gram growers are doing well currently with a high price offered”, said Ma San Khine, a green gram brokerage owner.

Green grams are normally cultivated in March and sent to Monywa, Mandalay and Yangon. The growers from four townships of Yinnabun District, Sagaing Region cultivate green grams on 700 acres of land even up to the end of April, hoping to cash in on what is currently a handsome rate for the plant.

The price of green grams was only K40,000 per basket in 2015 while the price rose up to over K50,000 per basket in April. The export volume of green grams reached 1,000 baskets and this year it is expected to reach 1,500 baskets.—Chan Chan

Bison Expands myNEWS.com To Myanmar

PRESS and convenience retail group Bison Consolidated Bhd (Bison), via its wholly-owned subsidiary, Bison Stores, will begin the operation of two press and convenience retail outlets in Myanmar under its main brand name myNEWS.com, according to the Bernama News Agency.

The group has entered into a management agreement with SMI Retail Pte Ltd (SMI Retail), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Singapore-based Myanmar Investco Ltd, a company listed on the Singapore Stock Exchange(SGX).

“This exciting collaboration kick starts our first business venture outside of Malaysia,” said Group Managing Director Dang Tai Luk in a statement.

He said the collaboration project would enable the two entities to make use of each other’s expertise and resources in the press and convenience retail industry of Myanmar. Under the agreement, Bison Stores would be appointed an independent consultant to provide management services and advisory support in relation to business in Myanmar for five years, according to a statement announced by Bison on Monday.

In return, Bison Stores will be paid a percentage of the gross revenue or a monthly management fee, whichever is higher.—GNLM with BERNAMA

Fishing quota set at one hundred thousand tonnes

AN official estimate of the national fishing quota is set at 100,000 tonnes according to a survey of fish resources in Myanmar water territory, said an official from the Department of Fisheries.

The fisheries department will continue to conduct research projects in order to estimate the acceptable level of commercial fishing that can be allowed without causing animal endangerment or extinction. The department will further explore Myanmar aquatic resources among the ASEAN partners.

Surveys have been conducted in 1979, 1980, 2013 and 2015. The volume of fish floating above water dropped from 1 million tonnes to 110,000 tonnes according to the 1979-1980 and 2013 surveys, with a decline of 90 per cent while the volume at the seabed dropped from from 750,000 tonnes to 280,000 tonnes, with a decrease of 75 per cent.

There might be a gap between the mooson and post rainy season numbers because of possible changes in aquatic species and the ecosystem. For this reason, the survey was conducted again in 2015 and similar surveys will continue to be conducted.

The decline in Myanmar fish resources has resulted from the increased number of fishing enterprises and the growing number of fishing boats on the seas and rivers, increasing from 700 to 2,500-2,600, said U Myint Thu, deputy director of the Department of Fisheries. “There are fishermen who do not abide by the prescribed rules. One reason for the decline might be the net-fishing, which sometimes captures fingerlings. Myanmar still sits at the top of the list in terms of fish numbers with the highest possession of aquatic resources among the ASEAN partners. However, there is a large gap in fish exports compared to Thailand and Viet Nam as Myanmar suffers from weak investment, manufacturing processes and technical know-how.

Myanmar aquatic resources such as sea fish, freshwater fish, prawns, crabs, eels, dried prawns and other fishery products are exported to 30 countries including China, Japan, South Korea, America and various European nations.—Zar Zar
Philippines’ election victor Duterte plans government overhaul

DAVAO. (Philippines) — The Philippines’ president-elect, rough-talking city mayor Rodrigo Duterte, announced plans on Tuesday for an overhaul of the country’s system of government that would devolve power from “imperial Manila” to long-neglected provinces.

Duterte’s win in Monday’s poll has not been confirmed, but an unofficial count of votes by an election commission-accredited watchdog showed he had a huge lead over his two closest rivals, both of whom conceded defeat.

By Tuesday afternoon, the ballot count showed Duterte had almost 39 per cent of votes cast. He was more than 6 million votes ahead of the second-placed candidate with 29 per cent of votes counted, an electorate of 54 million.

It is not clear when Duterte’s victory will be officially declared but he is expected to take office on 30 June.

Votes were also cast on Monday for vice-president. One day on, counting showed the outgoing administration’s candidate, Maria Leonor Robredo, ahead of the son and namesake of late dictator Ferdinand Marcos.

Duterte’s spokesman said he would also seek peace agreements with rebel groups in the south of the archipelago, where the outgoing government has been using force to quell militancy.

The 71-year-old’s truculent defiance of political tradition has drawn comparisons with US Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump, as have his references to his libido.

That tapped into popular disgust with the ruling class over its failure to reduce poverty and inequality, despite several years of robust economic growth.

Duterte’s vows to restore law and order also resonated with voters. But his incendiary rhetoric and advocacy of extrajudicial killings to stamp out crime and drugs have alarmed many who hear echoes of the country’s authoritarian past.

Philippines’ election victor Duterte plans government overhaul

BEIJING — China, fighting to stamp out poverty, will this year move more than two million of its poorest citizens from remote, inland regions to more developed areas, an official of the cabinet, or State Council, said on Tuesday.

The mass relocation of people is a strategy targeted at lifting 10 million citizens out of poverty by 2020, state news agency Xinhua has said.

Some of the villagers will move to areas with better social services, such as schools and hospitals, while others in remote areas will move to places with better roads and water supply, the official, Liu Yongfu, told a briefing.

The numbers would be stepped up gradually and may eventually hit 3 million, he added.

“Only time will tell how the voters are being counted,”— Reuters

South Korea will never accept DPRK as nuclear state: FM

SEOUL — South Korea will never recognise Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK) as a nuclear-weapons state, the foreign ministry said on Tuesday.

During the 7th congress of the Workers’ Party of Korea (WPK) that ended Monday, DPRK’s leader Kim Jong-un reaffirmed that the country would push forward economic growth and nuclear development at the same time.

“Our government and the international community will never accept the North as a nuclear power,”— Reuters

China to relocate 2 million people this year in struggle to banish poverty

China’s poor, who make up about 5 per cent of a population of nearly 1.4 billion, live mostly in the countryside, and earn less than 2,300 yuan ($362) a year, government and state media say.

In March Premier Li Keqiang promised a boost of 4.5 per cent in funding for poverty relief programmes. Last October, the cabinet said China aimed to lift all its 570 million poor out of poverty by 2020. In December, Li urged local authorities to provide housing, healthcare, schooling and employment for re-located citizens.— Reuters

Photo taken on May 6, 2016 shows the April 25 House of Culture, where the 7th Congress of the Workers’ Party of Korea (WPK) is held in Pyongyang, capital of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK). PHOTO: XINHUA
KATHMANDU — Climbers on Mount Everest are on the brink of the first attempts in three years to make the final ascent to the world’s tallest peak, after fatal avalanches cut short the 2014 and 2015 campaigns.

Teams at forward camps are looking for a weather “window” to open in the next few days, clearing the way to the 8,850 metre (29,035 foot) summit along the Southeast Ridge first climbed by New Zealand’s Sir Edmund Hillary and Sherpa Tenzing Norgay in 1953.

The southern route, on the Nepali side of the mountain, has suffered tragedy over the past two years, with 16 sherpa guides killed by an avalanche in the treacherous Khumbu Icefall in 2014.

Last year, an earthquake that killed 9,000 people across Nepal sent a massive snowslide crashing into Base Camp, killing at least 18 climbers and guides and putting an end to that year’s campaign.

At least 289 climbers and their guides are in different high camps waiting for a weather window and jostling to become the first to scale the peak. Nearly 700 people summited in 2013.

Tourism Department official Gyanendra Shrestha said climbers had fixed ropes up to the South Col, the final camp, at about 8,000 metres (26,246 feet), and were stocking it with supplies.

“Climbers have begun to move from the base camp to higher camps for the summit,” Shrestha told Reuters from Base Camp.

Ang Tshering Sherpa, chief of the Nepal Mountaineering Association, who is in touch with climbers at Base Camp, said in Kathmandu that, weather permitting, the route from the South Col to the summit would be fixed on Wednesday.

“Climbers will then start making summit attempts from Thursday,” Sherpa told Reuters.

Veteran mountaineer and blogger Alan Arnette, tracking the campaign, said in a post eight teams had slept at Camp 3 — at 7,162 metres (23,497 feet).

Unpredictable weather remains a challenge though this year’s campaign has been free of incident.

Climbers from around the world spend tens of thousands of dollars to try to climb Everest every year though none reached the summit last year’s spring campaign.

Last September, Japan’s Nobukazu Kuriki, 33, had to call off his solo attempt when he was beaten back by wind and snow at 8,150 metres (26,738 feet).

Wang Jing, a 40-year-old Chinese woman, was the only person to climb Everest in 2014 but her ascent sparked controversy amid reports she took a helicopter over the Khumbu Icefall, in what many Everest climbers saw as a violation of their code.—Reuters

PHNOM PENH — Cambodia released eight protesters hours after police detained them for demonstrating against what activists described as the politically motivated imprisonment of a group of rights workers and an election official.

Two of the protesters were foreign men, one Swedish and one German.

They were freed on Monday night after being questioned for supporting rights activists who were jailed over an ongoing sex scandal investigation involving opposition politician Kem Sokha.

“They released us after over 10-hour detention,” Ee Sarom, one of those detained, told Reuters on Tuesday.

A series of legal cases filed against prominent members of the main opposition party have raised tensions in Cambodia, where self-styled strong man Prime Minister Hun Sen has held power for 30 years.

Rights groups have accused the government of using the legal system to neutralise the opposition to give Hun Sen an advantage in the run up to the next general election in 2018.

Sam Rainsy, the leader of the opposition Cambodia National Rescue Party (CNRP), is in exile to avoid prison charges that were reactivated last year and for which he had previously received a royal pardon.

Kem Sokha, the party’s acting president in Rainsy’s absence, is facing charges for defamation and procurement of prostitution after recordings of a telephone conversation purportedly between Sokha and a woman were leaked.

Six other people — including a United Nations employee — allegedly paid the woman to deny she had a relationship with Sokha, and are facing trial on bribery charges.

The UN worker has not been detained.—Reuter

BANGKOK — A group of Thai officials on Tuesday test-rove a new Japan-made train in the first full trial run of the Purple Line, set to begin service between Bangkok and Nonthaburi Province in August.

A free-of-charge test run for the public will take place from 13 June to 22 July on the 23-kilometer-long line with 16 stations, including Bangkok’s Tao Poon and Nonthaburi’s Klong Bang Phai, prior to the official opening scheduled for 6 August.

“The purpose of the test run is to make sure that the trains can be completely operated according to the work plan,” said Gen. Yodyuth Boonyathikam, president of Mass Rapid Transit Authority of Thailand.

The Purple Line, with 21 trains made by Yokohama-based train manufacturer Japan Transport Engineering Co., is expected to serve 120,000 commuters daily and help mitigate traffic congestion in Bangkok.

The project marked the first time for Japan to export train technology to the Thai market, with the aid of Japan’s development cooperation program.

Thai officials test-ride Japan-made train

WASHINGTON — US President Barack Obama is considering whether to lift a three-decade-old arms embargo on Viet Nam, US officials say, as he weighs calls to forge closer military ties with Hanoi against concerns over its poor human rights record.

The debate within the US administration is coming to a head amid preparations for Obama’s trip to Viet Nam this month to bolster ties between Washington and Hanoi, former wartime enemies who are increasingly partners against China’s growing territorial assertiveness in the South China Sea.

The full removal of the embargo — something Vietnam has long sought — would sweep away one of the last major vestiges of the Viet Nam War era and advance the normalisation of relations begun 21 years ago.

It would also likely anger Beijing, which condemned Obama’s partial lifting of the arms ban in 2014 as an interference in the region’s balance of power.

On one side of the internal debate, some White House and State Department aides say it would be premature to completely end restrictions on lethal military assistance before Viet Nam’s communist government has made more progress on human rights.

They are at odds with other officials, including many at the Pentagon, who argue bolstering Viet Nam’s ability to counter a rising China should take priority, according to people with knowledge of the discussions.

Boosting the security of allies and partners has been a major thrust of Obama’s strategic “pivot” toward the Asia-Pacific region, a centrepiece of his foreign policy.

Even as Viet Nam seeks warmer relations with the United States, though, US officials are mindful that suspicions linger among Communist Party conservatives that Washington wants to undermine their country’s one-party system.—Reuters

PHOTO: REUTERS

Oppoents of the Viet Nam War era are mindful that suspicions linger about America’s motives in the region, a centrepiece of his foreign policy.

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Oppoents of the Viet Nam War era are mindful that suspicions linger about America’s motives in the region, a centrepiece of his foreign policy. — Cambodia
What counts is the heads of departments

Khin Maung Aye

The governments have one thing in common with their public service personnel be they military or civilian—i.e., working for the country and the countrymen. However, what makes governments different from the public service personnel is the fact that the governments can stay in power only for one term whereas the public service personnel can remain in the workforce until they retire from service. This being so, it is the public service personnel who are running the administrative machinery for about four decades or so of they start to join the service in late teens or early twenties and continue to work until retirement with superannuation. Despite changes in cabinet members, the government servants remain unchanged.

Such being the case, it is the public service personnel who know better the laws, rules, regulations, procedures and directives than the cabinet members, who are more concerned with policy making. Thus, they do not need to know the technical details like service personnel who are well-versed in the dos and the don’ts, the procedures and processes, the rules and regulations. In this regard, the most responsible officials are the managing directors of enterprises and trading, the directors-general of the departments and the chairmen of the boards who are directly appointed by the president with recommendations from the cabinet ministers.

Obviously, the success of the administrative machinery is totally dependent upon the expertise, experience and egocentrism. As long as these heads of departments are not egocentric, using their expertise and experience rightfully in the interest of their country and countrymen, the administrative machinery can be run smoothly with the result that the people can be best served.

This being so, the Global New Light of Myanmar would like to urge the heads of departments/enterprises/boards to recommend to the cabinet ministers the best suggestions, options and operational procedures in order that the policy makers can make the ideal decisions in the interests of the nation and the people for whom they are accountable.

Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR)

Dr. Khine Khine Win

Since 1945, the scope of human rights has been elaborated and the concept now permeates the fabric of international society. Now a day it is bandwagon in all over the world. Human rights are basic rights and freedoms that belong all of us from birth until death. However, due to having divergent views on human rights there is no precise meaning and the meaning of human rights is still controversial.

Different people see human rights in different way. Very basic thing is that you have human rights and fundamental freedom because you are human being. If you talk about human rights you must know the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, UDHR.

The United Nations came into existence on October 24, 1945. Human rights movement developed in the aftermath of Second World War and the atrocities of the Holocaust culminating the adoption UDHR. In June 1946, the UN Economic and Social Council established the Commission on Human rights and this commission established a special Universal Declaration of Human Rights Drafting Committee. Eleanor Roosevelt, wife of US President Franklin D. Roosevelt is the Chair to write the articles of declaration. The UN had numerous discussions (187 official meeting, 1400 discussions) and consultations that took into consideration political, social, culture and religious backgrounds in order to declare as the universal standard of the international community. During drafting process, more than 1700 times for voting on practically on every word and every clause of the text.

On 10 December, 1948 three year after the forming of United Nations, UDHR was adopted by the United General Assembly in Paris by a vote of 48 in favor, 8 abstentions and 2 failed to vote or abstain. Since Myanmar became the member States of UN in 1948 April, Myanmar had a chance to vote and voted in favor for UDHR. This is the milestone and I feel very proud being a Myanmar in this regard.

UDHR is the milestone and important document in the history of human rights and is the world’s first declaration that recognizes that all human being must enjoy their human rights and fundamental freedom whenever they are. It explicitly stipulates individual freedoms and rights. The Declaration consists of thirty articles and it enumerates civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights. If you classified those 30 articles from human rights perspectives, there you can see that article 1 and 2 are the foundation blocks and fundamental of all human being, article 3 to 21 are civil and political rights, article 22 to 27 are economic, social and cultural rights and article 28 to 30 are responsibilities of all human being.

Here it is noteworthy that, UDHR set a world record in 2009 for being the most translated document in the world. At present there are 467 different languages available in HTML and/or pdf format according to OHCHR. In this regard Myanmar National Human Commission has translated the text of UDHR from English and Myanmar in 2013 and also from Myanmar to Kachin, Shan and Mon languages in 2015.

Nevertheless UDHR regarded as binding on all member States of the United Nations, it is just declaration and non-binding resolution. UDHR constructed the foundation for international human rights law, and its ideology and content have been incorporated into the constitutions and part of customary laws of many countries.

In comparison with Universal Declaration of Human Rights and Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar (2008), I am proud to say that Constitution (2008) is directly or indirectly related with UDHR. Here are the some examples. Chapter I, Basic Principles of the Union of Constitution (2008) have 48 articles. Among them 10 articles fully or partially reflected with UDHR. Moreover there are 46 articles in Chapter VIII, Citizen, Fundamental Rights and Duties of the Citizens and almost all articles fully or partially reflected with UDHR either. Here are the some examples, article 4 of UDHR states “No one shall be held in slavery or servitude; slavery and the slave trade shall be prohibited in all their forms” while article 358 of Constitution (2008) states “The Union prohibits the enslaving and trafficking in persons”,

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Union Minister U Aung Thu meets mission of WCS

UNION Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Dr Aung Thu received a mission from the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) at his office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

At the meeting both sides discussed Oceanic research works and the works of forest conservation to be carried out by the WCS after signing a Letter of Agreement (LoA).

WCS have been conducting research projects as well as Ayeyawady Dolphins conservation works in Ayeyawady Dolphin conservation areas in line with instructions from the Department of Fisheries.—GNLM

US ambassador meets entrepreneurs in Mandalay

A GROUP of entrepreneurs led by the vice chairman and the secretary of the Mandalay Region Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MRCCI) in Mandalay met US ambassador to Myanmar Mr Scot A Marciel and embassy officials David Galbraith and Sairajit Sardar at the Mingalar Restaurant in Mandalay on Saturday 7 May.

At the meeting, the participants exchanged views on the impact of Myanmar’s democratic transition on business in Myanmar. The ambassador said the US will be a partner in the country’s reform process, which is expected to bring economic development to the country. The MRCCI vice chairman and the entrepreneurs presented gifts to the ambassador and his party.—Thihart Ko Ko

Water distributed to villages in drought-stricken Mon State

GROUNDWATER resources are facing depletion throughout the country as the effect of El Niño set in across the country.

Members of the Myanmar Police Force donated 7300 gallons of water for drinking and bathing to residents in drought-hit areas in Bilin and Paung Townships, Mon State on 9 May.

The Myanmar Police Force already donated a total of 280,556 gallons of drinking and bathing water between 24 April and Monday.—Ye Zarni

Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR)

Since 1950, human rights day is celebrated annually across the world on 10 December. The date was chosen to honor the United Nations General Assembly’s adoption and proclamation, on 10 December 1948, of the Universal Declaration of Human rights. Human rights day promote awareness of human rights issues around the world and high light the efforts of the United Nations in improving global human rights conditions for all.

Let me conclude the article by expressing article 29 (b) of the UDHR which states “In the exercise of his rights and freedoms, everyone shall be subject only to such limitations as are determined by law solely for the purpose of securing due recognition and respect for the rights and freedoms of others and of meeting the just requirements of morality, public order and the general welfare in a democratic society”. This article shows the responsibility of every human being whenever they are. Bear in mind that two side of the same coin is rights and responsibility.

.POINTS TO PONDER

U Ba Than

Poet Zawgyi hath said,
Your land where you are born,
Should prosper and thrive;
Your knowledge, your integrity
Shall forever glitter in glory…
Now may you ponder
On this precious moment,
The third stage of life,
Passing the octogenarian mark,
Of what you have done,
The good, the bad and the ugly:
How have you lived
Through all these years?
What have you learnt
From Arts, Sciences, and Humanity
To benefit mankind?
What have you given
To the world at large,
For your loved ones,
And yourself,
Along present and future existences
In the unending Samsara?
What will you leave for posterity?
An honorable virtuous life,
Of service to humanity,
Charity, knowledge and wisdom,
Tender-loving and compassionate,
Recognition, and worthy legacy,
Which you may proudly bequeath,
To the next generations?
What will you take
To your after-life?
Charity and contemplation,
Mindfulness and Meditation,
Finally spiritual courage,
To look death in the Face
Without fear,
Beyond this frail body and soul!

May you be blessed with peace of mind.

>> from page 8

article 5 of the UDHR states “No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment” while article 44 of Constitution (2008) states “No penalty shall be prescribed that violates human dignity” and article 7 of UDHR states “All are equal before the law and are entitled without any discrimination to equal protection” while article 21 (d) and 347 of Constitution (2008) states “Necessary law shall be enacted to make citizens’ freedom, rights, benefits, responsibilities and restrictions effective, steadfast and complete” and “The Union shall guarantee any person to enjoy equal rights before the law and shall equally provide legal protection” respectively.

UDHR is worldwide document and it has come to be regarded as the single most important document. Indeed International Bill of Human Rights consists of Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the international Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (IC- CPR) and the international Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR).

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>From Arts, Sciences, and Humanity
To benefit mankind?
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To the world at large,
For your loved ones,
And yourself,
Along present and future existences
In the unending Samsara?
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An honorable virtuous life,
Of service to humanity,
Charity, knowledge and wisdom,
Tender-loving and compassionate,
Recognition, and worthy legacy,
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To your after-life?
Charity and contemplation,
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Finally spiritual courage,
To look death in the Face
Without fear,
Beyond this frail body and soul!

May you be blessed with peace of mind.
Clinton and Sanders face off in West Virginia as Trump looks on

WASHINGTON — Bernie Sanders has another chance on Tuesday to slow Hillary Clinton’s march to the Democratic presidential nomination as West Virginians vote in their state’s primary. A week after Donald Trump became the presumptive Republican nominee, Clinton, a former secretary of state and US senator from New York, has a commanding lead in the pledged delegates needed to clinch her party’s nomination for the November election to succeed Democratic President Barack Obama.

The outcome in West Virginia, where only 29 delegates are at stake, is likely to alter the course of the Democratic race.

But Clinton’s battle with Sanders, who defied pollsters to win in Indiana last week, has become a source of gloating for Trump. The New York real estate developer has taunted Clinton in recent days by saying she “can’t close the deal” with Sanders, her only rival since 1 February.

Clinton has said she will ignore Trump’s personal insults and instead criticize his policy pronouncements.

Clinton apologized in West Virginia last week after being confronted by angry voters for her remark in March that she would “put a lot of coal miners and coal companies out of business” with her plans to increase renewable energy sources.

She said her comment had been taken out of context and that she wanted to help retain people who worked in the industry, one of the state’s biggest employers.

Sanders, a US senator from Vermont, has reminded his supporters at crowded rallies that most polls show him beating Trump by a larger margin than does Clinton.

A win on Tuesday would boost his decision to keep fighting for votes through 7 June, when nearly 700 delegates are at stake in Trump’s personal insulin and instead criticize his policy pronouncements.

Clinton, who has been embraced in particular by younger, more left-leaning Democratic voters, has vowed to take his campaign to the party’s nominating convention in Philadelphia at the end of July, and wants a say in shaping the party’s platform.

Although Trump is the last man standing in what was once a 17-candidate Republican field, Republican voters in West Virginia and Nebraska will get a chance to register their preferences on Tuesday, with the names of most of his vanquished rivals still appearing on ballots.—Reuters

US, Afghan forces free kidnapped son of Pakistani ex-premier

ISLAMABAD — The kidnapped son of a former Pakistani prime minister has been rescued in Afghanistan in a joint operation by Afghan and US security forces in Ghazni, Afghanistan, the Pakistani foreign office said in a statement.

It added that he would be transferred to Pakistan after a medical check-up.

In a separate statement posted on Facebook, Afghan ambassa-

dor to Pakistan, Omar Zakhilwal, said Ali Haider Gilani was freed “in an operation by Afghan Special Forces in Ghazni Province this (Tuesday) morning”. His statement made no mention of US forces’ involvement in the rescue. The US-led NATO mission in Afghani-

stan said it was aware of the reports, but had no immediate comment.

Local media reported that the freed captive had been shifted to Bagram airport in Afghanistan and would reach Pakistan in a few hours.—Reuters

Two killed, 10 injured as blast hits SW Pakistan

ISLAMABAD — At least 2 policemen were killed and 10 others injured when a blast hit a police check post in Pakistan’s southwest city of Quetta on Tuesday afternoon, reported local Urdu TV channel Samna.

The nature of the blast is yet to be determined.—Xinhua

Iran denies recent test of ballistic missile

TEHRAN — Iran’s Defence Minister Brigadier General Hossein Dehghan denied that the country has recently tested a 2,000-km range of ballistic missile, Tasnim news agency reported on Tuesday.

On Monday, Deputy Chief of Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces, Brigadier General Ali Abdollahi, said that the Islamic republic tested a ballistic missile two weeks ago with an “insignificant error margin,” Tasnim news agency reported.

“We test-fired a missile with the range of 2,000 km two weeks ago, which had an error margin of eight metres,” Abdollahi was quoted as saying. “An eight-metre error margin means no error, means without error,” Abdollahi said. “This missile can be guided to hit the target with accuracy.” “We had no missile test recently with the range published in media on Monday,” Dehghan said according to Tasnim news agency.—Xinhua

Clinton seeking injunction against German media executive

ANKARA — Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan is seeking a pre-

liminary injunction against Ger-

man publisher Axel Springer’s chief executive Mathias Doepf-

ner, Erdogan’s lawyer said on Tuesday.

Ralf Hoecker, the lawyer, told Reuters the Turkish leader wanted the injunction due to Doepfner’s support for a poem read out by comedian Jan Boehmer-

mann, saying he had laughed “wholeheartedly” supported what the comedian had said.

Hoecker said he would recom-

mend that Erdogan pursue his case with a higher German court if the preliminary injunction was rejected, as expected. He said he expected a quick de-

cision.

Erdogan’s office was not immediately available for com-

ment when contacted by Reu-

ters.

A spokesman for Springer-

er said: “We do not yet have any information about this at all. It’s important to note that Mr Doepf-

ner wanted to defend the free-

dom of art and satire in his open letter — that was the reason for his letter.”

Hoecker’s law firm pub-

lished a statement on its website on Monday saying it had suc-

ceeded in getting a preliminary injunction against German di-

rector and producer Uwe Boll, who in a video posted online, defended Boehmerrmann’s poem and said Erdogan should be shot.

“Mr Erdogan is a human be-

ing and human dignity is invio-

lable,” Hoecker said in that statement, adding that this was placed above the freedom of press, art and opinion in the Ger-

man constitution.

Erdogan is known for his sensitivity to criticism and Turk-

ish prosecutors have opened over 1,800 cases against people for insulting him since he be-

came president in 2014.

Chancellor Angela Merk-

el drew heavy criticism for allow-

ing German prosecutors to pur-

sue a case against Boehmerr-

mann.—Reuters

Italy arrests two people suspected of planning attacks in Rome, London

ROME — Italian police on Tuesday arrested two people as part of an investigation into a militant cell suspected of planning attacks in Rome and London, an investigative source said on Tuesday.

The cell had been established in Puglia, in southeastern Italy, “to carry out violent attacks with the purpose of international terrorism, in Italy and abroad”, the arrest warrant read.

In all, the warrant calls for the arrest of five people, four Afghans and a Pakistani, three of whom are still at large. They are all officially resident near Bari, the main city in Puglia, but two are currently in Afghanistan, the source said.

Three of the suspects are accused of international terrorism and two of aiding illegal immigration.—Reuters

At least two confirmed dead as tornadoes touch

HOUSTON — At least two people were killed and several others hurt as tornadoes hit near Oklahoma City, capital of the US state of Oklahoma, and the rolling hills south of the city Monday afternoon.

According to the local daily The Oklahoman, one man died at his home in Garvin County, where hailstones as large as golf balls came pounding down. Another person died after being trapped in the rubble near Connerville.

Several people were injured, and major damages to a radio sta-

tion and several buildings were reported in counties. Television im-

ages showed that houses were destroyed, several vehicles over-

turned and trees uprooted.

The National Weather Service earlier on Monday issued five tornado warnings, four of which have been confirmed.—Xinhua
Air strikes kill 10 in Syria’s Idlib Province — monitoring group

BEIRUT — Air strikes on a town in Idlib Province in Syria’s northwest killed at least 10 people on Tuesday, monitoring group the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights reported.

Low-level fighting also appeared to continue inside the city of Aleppo, 50 km (30 miles) from Idlib city, and there were heavier clashes around Aleppo, the British-based group said.

The Syrian army announced the extension of a ceasefire in Aleppo late on Monday.

The air raids, by either Syrian or Russian warplanes, struck the town of Binnish, 6 km (4 miles) from the provincial capital Idlib. They wounded a number of others, the Observatory said.

It said a local insurgent commander was among those killed. There were no immediate details about other casualties.

Idlib Province, which borders Turkey, is almost completely controlled by insurgent groups, including the al Qaeda-affiliated Nusra Front and powerful Islamist group Ahrar al-Sham.—Reuters

Aleppo fighting rages as US, Russia try to revive Syria truce

BEIRUT/PARIS — Syrian government forces and their allies fought insurgents near Aleppo on Monday and jets conducted raids around a nearby town seized by Islamist rebels, a monitoring group said, as Syria’s military said a ceasefire in Aleppo would be extended by 48 hours starting on Tuesday.

A recent surge in bloodshed in Aleppo, Syria’s largest city before the war, wrecked the 10-week-old, partial truce sponsored by Washington and Moscow that had allowed UN-brokered peace talks to convene in Geneva.

The United States and Russia, which support rival sides in the civil war, said they would work to revive the February “cessation of hostilities” agreement that reduced fighting in parts of the country for several weeks.

US Secretary of State John Kerry said all parties had to press the sides back to turn “words on a piece of paper” into actions to reimpose the truce.

Syria’s military high command was quoted by state news agency SANA as saying the Aleppo ceasefire would be extended by 48 hours in the northern city beginning at 1 a.m. local time on Tuesday (2200 GMT on Monday).

A number of short-term local truces have been in place since 29 April first around Damascus and northern Latakia and then in Aleppo, but there has still been fighting between rebels and government forces.

The cessation of hostilities and local truces do not include Islamic State or al Qaeda’s Syrian branch, the Nusra Front.

Asad al Zoubi, the chief negotiator for the main Syrian opposition at the Geneva talks, criticised the extended Aleppo truce, telling Al Jazeera television that such measures served only to allow thousands of reinforcing troops to be sent from Iran, which is supporting Syrian President Bashar al-Assad.

Warplanes struck the town of Khan Touman, southwest of Aleppo, the British-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said.

Insurgents also fought government forces east of Damascus, and jets hit the rebel-held towns of Maarat al-Numan and Idlib. Russia and the United States said in a joint statement they would step up efforts to persuade the warring parties to abide by the ceasefire agreement.

“Have we decided to reconfirm our commitment to the (ceasefire) in Syria and to intensify efforts to ensure its nation-wide implementation,” they said. “We demand that parties cease any indiscriminate attacks on civilians, including civilian infrastructure and medical facilities.”

Paris, Kerry said a reduction of violence in line with the US-Russian joint statement depended on field commanders as well as interested parties including the United States.

“The are words on a piece of paper. They are not actions,” he said. “We have a responsibility to make certain that the opposition lives up to this, and Russia and Iran have a responsibility to make sure the Assad regime lives up to this.”

Basma Kodmani, a member of the opposition High Negotiations Committee, expressed hope of a return to the Geneva peace talks if the US-Russian agreement is swiftly implemented.

Russia’s military intervention last September helped Assad reverse some rebel gains in the west of the country, including in Aleppo Province. But insurgents captured the town of Khan Touman last week, inflicting a rare setback on government forces and allied Iranian troops who suffered heavy losses in the fighting.

Several Syrian soldiers were captured in the clashes, a senior Iranian lawmaker said on Monday. The city of Aleppo is one of the biggest strategic prizes in a war now in its sixth year, and has been divided into government and rebel-held zones through much of the conflict. The Observatory said warplanes struck rebel-held areas of the city early on Monday, and rebel fired shells into government-held neighbourhoods.

Al Manar, the television channel of Damascus’s Lebanese ally Hezbollah, quoted US officials as saying the eastern outskirts of Damascus, government forces and their allies shelled rebel areas and clashed with insurgents, the Observatory and the rebel force Jaish al-Islam said. Three people were killed and 13 wounded in air strikes on Idlib, it said.

Jaish al-Islam agreed with a rival rebel group, Failaq al-Rahman, that both would vacate a town they have been fighting for over almost two weeks, the Observatory said.

The groups, two of the strongest operating in the east, agreed to make no more attempts to occupy the town of Misraba in the Eastern Ghouta suburb of Damascus, and return it to civilian rule. After 13 days of heavy artillery exchanges, Jaish al Islam took control of the town over the weekend, capturing around 50 rival fighters.—Reuters

Saudi intercepts missile from Yemen but truce holds

RIYADH — Saudi Arabia intercepted a ballistic missile fired from Yemen on Monday, but a Saudi-led military coalition said it would maintain a shaky truce despite the “serious escalation” by the Houthi militia and its allies, state news agency SPA said.

The Iran-allied Houthis and Yemen’s Saudi-backed exile government are trying to reach a peace agreement in talks in Kuwait aimed at ending the year-long war and easing a humanitarian crisis in the Arabian Peninsula’s poorest country.

The Saudi-led coalition intervened in Yemen a year ago saying that its enemies had fired missiles targeting its border posts and shelled civilian areas where the Houthis were fighting pro-Saudi forces.

On Monday, representatives of the Yemeni government and Houthis met in Kuwait and a United Nations special envoy urged them to make more progress to end a war which has killed more than 6,200 people and displaced some 2.5 million others.—Reuters

Residents and civil defense members look for survivors at site damaged by an airstrike in Hafsharja, in the insurgent stronghold of Idlib Province, Syria, on 9 May 2016. Photo: Reuters
Repair crews assess Canada wildfire damage, oil firms plan restart

FORT MCMURRAY, (Alberta) — Repair crews were expected to assess wildfire damage to the Canadian energy boomtown of Fort McMurray on Tuesday as the oil sands companies surrounding the ravaged city looked at bringing production back on line.

Political leaders got their first glimpse of the city on Monday since wildfire forced 86,000 residents to flee for safety. Alberta Premier Rachel Notley said they were encouraged by how much of it escaped destruction, estimating almost 90 per cent of its buildings were saved.

But the tour also revealed scenes of utter devastation, with blocks of homes reduced to blackened foundations, front steps and metal barbecues.

Notley said 2,400 structures had burned within the city while almost 25,000 were saved.

The fire, expected to grow further on Tuesday, ravaged some 204,000 hectares (504,000 acres) of Alberta. But it also moved far enough away from the evacuated town to allow an official delegation to visit on Monday.

Officials warned it was not safe for residents to return, with parts still smoldering and large areas without power, water and gas. Notley said repair crews will have weeks of work ahead of them to make the city safe. The assessment by officials came a few hours after insurance experts revised sharply downward their estimates of the cost of damage from the blaze, which began on 1 May. Cooler weather, which has helped firefighters battling the blaze, was expected to linger through Thursday, according to Environment Canada. Still, much of Alberta is tinder-box dry after a mild winter and warm spring.

Fort McMurray is the center of Canada’s oil sands region.

About half of its crude output, or 1 million barrels per day, has been taken offline, according to a Reuters estimate.

Oil sands companies, which have high fixed costs, are expected to work as quickly as possible to get production back online, but face the challenge of many staff and suppliers being displaced by the evacuation. In one encouraging sign for industry, Royal Dutch Shell Plc said on Monday it restarted production at a reduced rate at its Albian oil sands mining operation in Alberta, adding it plans to fly staff in and out.

But Imperial Oil said late on Monday it completed a controlled shutdown of its Kearl oil sands mining project, blaming the uncertainties associated with logistics.—Reuters

Knife attacker kills one at Munich train station

MUNICH — A German national stabbed four passengers at a train station near Munich early on Tuesday, killing one man and injuring three, in an attack police said appeared to have an Islamist motive.

Witnesses said the assailant, a 27-year-old man, shouted “Allahu Akbar” (“God is Greatest” in Arabic), according to police.

“The perpetrator made remarks during the attack which point to there being a political motive,” Bavarian police said in a statement, adding he had been arrested and there were no further suspects.

A 50-year-old died of stab wounds in hospital shortly after the attack. The other stabbed men, aged between 43 and 58, sustained lighter injuries, police said.

The attack took place at about 5am local time (0300 GMT) at the train station at Grafing, a commuter town about 32 km (20 miles) southeast of the Bavarian capital in southern Germany.

Germany, which is playing a supporting role in the fight against Islamic State, has not suffered a major attack by Islamic militants on the scale of those that have hit neighboring France and Belgium.

But ministers have repeatedly warned an attack is possible and German security services are on alert.

Over 800 home-grown radicals have left Germany to join jihadist groups in Syria and Iraq and about 260 have returned.

Germany has also been a transit country for militants who carried out attacks in Belgium this year and Paris last year. There are concerns that some of the more than 1 million migrants who arrived in the country last year have slipped off officials’ radar.—Reuters

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV WEST SCENT VOY NO (113N)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV WEST SCENT VOY NO (113N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 11.5.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T 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 Claim’s 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 FABULOUS SW VOY NO (32)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV FABULOUS SW VOY NO (32) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 11.5.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W-4 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 Claim’s 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 TOKO KAIUN KAISHA LTD.
Phone No: 2301191/2301178

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV IRRRAWADDY STAR VOY NO ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV IRRRAWADDY STAR VOY NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 11.5.2016 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 Claim’s 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.

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UN to campaign against xenophobia, racism in dealing with refugees

UNITED NATIONS — The United Nations on Monday proposed that its member countries create and agree upon a system to share responsibility more fairly for the hundreds of millions of refugees and migrants around the world. The global compact would be accompanied by a UN-led campaign to combat the xenophobia and racism that have tainted discussions of the refugees and migrants. UN officials said at a briefing to release a report on the global migration crisis.

The UN estimates there are 20 million refugees worldwide and another 40 million people displaced inside their own countries. Of the refugees, 86 per cent live in developing countries, often near the countries they came from, it says.

Added to those figures are 244 million migrants who live and work in countries where they were not born, it says.

The campaign would attempt to counter an increasingly negative attitude and tone in debates over how to deal with the crisis, the UN said.

“I am concerned at the increasing trend of member states to erect fences and walls,” UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said in the report.

“Xenophobic and racist responses to refugees and migrants seem to be reaching new levels of stridency, frequency and public acceptance.”

The proposals come ahead of a summit meeting planned at the UN in September to address the global refugee crisis.

The UN-led campaign will promote such steps as more direct, personal contact between refugees, migrants and people in their host countries, said Karen AbuZayd, UN special adviser on the summit.

Also, nations will be called upon to develop plans for including refugees and migrants in education, language and skills training and employment opportunities.

The global compact would require nations to share responsibility in a variety of ways so that a few nations do not shoulder much of the burden while others do far less, the UN said.

It might include resetting policies, financing arrangements, aid to host countries and technical assistance, AbuZayd said.

“States will share responsibility for refugees more fairly. Host countries will receive immediate support for their development needs. International migration will be governed better,” she said.

Amnesty International called the plan a potential “game changer”, but said its success depends upon nations agreeing on a permanent system for sharing responsibility.

“World leaders cannot go on lurching from crisis to crisis, bickering over numbers and fiddling while parts of the world burn,” Amnes- ty said.—Reuters

Venezuela extends two-day workweek for state employees to save energy

CARACAS: Venezuela’s socialist government has extended a two-day workweek for public sector employees for another two weeks because of a drought that has sapped hydroelectric power generation in the OPEC country.

The South American country’s 2.8 million employees already have Fridays off during April and May. President Nicolas Maduro in late April gave them Wednesdays and Thursdays off too, and canceled school on Fridays.

Maduro’s rivals have called the shortened workweek foolhardy, arguing that sending employees home for two weeks would be as outrageous as sending employees home for two days of a drought that has sapped water levels at Venezuela’s main dam and hydroelectric plant in Guri, which covers about two-thirds of the country’s energy needs, to near-critical levels.

Water shortages and electricity cuts have added to the hardships of Venezuela’s 30 million people, already enduring a brutal economic slowdown, shortages of basics from milk to medicines, soaring prices and long lines at shops.

Officials have blamed the El Niño weather phenomenon for Venezuela’s electricity woes and said they have avoided painful measures such as hiking hugely-subsidized energy bills to protect the poor.

But critics say the blame lies with inadequate government investment, corruption, inefficiency and a failure to diversify energy sources.

Maduro has changed the clocks so there is half an hour more daylight in the evening, while also urging women to reduce use of appliances like hair dryers and ordering malls to provide their own power generators.

The opposition, which won control of the National Assembly in a December election, is pursuing a multi-pronged approach to remove Maduro from office this year.—Reuters

La Niña eyed, as Pacific cooling signals El Niño nearly over: Australia

SYDNEY — The Pacific Ocean has cooled to near neutral levels over the past two weeks, the Australian Bureau of Meteorology said on Tuesday, as the end of the strongest El Niño weather patterns in nearly 20 years creeps closer.

El Niño’s are associated with hot, drier conditions, especially across Australia’s east coast and Southeast Asia, but can produce higher precipitation on the west coast of South America.

As the El Niño draws to an end, the bureau said there remains a 50 per cent chance of the opposite La Niña pattern emerging during 2016.

The La Niña weather phenomenon is a cooling of the Pacific Ocean waters off the coast of South America that tends to follow the El Niño pattern, a warming of those waters.

La Nina events are associated with the increased probability of wetter conditions over much of Australia, particularly over the eastern and northern areas, and increased numbers of tropical cyclones.—Reuters

Migrants and refugees walk through a field to block the road during a protest near the Greek-Macedonian border, near the town of Polykastro, Greece, on 2 April 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

TRADEMARK CAUTION

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Date: 11.5.2016
Selena Gomez throws away ‘Marry Justin Please’ sign during concert

LOS ANGELES — Pop star Selena Gomez has been captured crushing and throwing a “Marry Justin Please” sign during her concert in California.

Gomez and singer Justin Bieber dated on-and-off from 2011, before finally calling it quits in 2014. Videos that have surfaced online show Gomez, 23, asking a fan to hand over the sign during a show on May 8, reported Aceshowbiz.

She then crushed it and threw it on the ground before resuming the show.—PTI

AC/DC’s first concert with new member Axl Rose

LISBON — Guns N’ Roses front man Axl Rose made his debut with AC/DC while standing in for lead singer Brian Johnson at a concert in Lisbon on Saturday, as a part of the band’s world tour.

AC/DC, known for songs such as “Highway to Hell” and “Back in Black”, had to reschedule dates on the US leg of the “Rock or Bust” tour in March after Johnson, 68, was advised by doctors to stop touring “or risk total hearing loss”. — Reuters

Rihanna launches college scholarship programme

LOS ANGELES — R&B superstar Rihanna has announced a college scholarship programme, where she will be offering scholarships of up to USD 50,000 for students who need financial support.

The “Work” hitmaker is offering scholarships for students on a need basis through her Clara Lionel Foundation, reported USA Today.

“To be able to give the gift of an education is actually an honour. Higher education will help provide perspective, opportunities, and learning to a group of kids who really deserve it... I am thrilled to be able to do this,” Rihanna said.

Students have a chance of receiving USD 50,000 to USD 50,000 of financial support towards their studying for a four-year course in a college based in the United States.

 Applicants for the bursary must be a resident of either the United States, Barbados, Cuba, Brazil, Jamaica, Guyana or Haiti and the fate of the top 50 will be decided by a committee, who are looking for “academic performance, demonstrated leadership and participation in school and community activities, work experience and a personal essay”.

A post on the charity’s official website read: “The Clara Lionel Foundation Global Scholarship Program awards full scholarships to highly motivated youth in Barbados, Brazil, Cuba, Haiti, Guyana, Jamaica and the United States.”

“Designed to assist students who are aspiring to reach their full potential, the program will provide recipients with the opportunity to receive an education anywhere in the United States. The goal is to create a cyber-clinical effect with CLF Scholars eventually being able to help others become thriving professionals, educators, and philanthropists.”—PTI

Richard Gere to star in Jon Avnet’s ‘Three Christs’

LOS ANGELES — Actor Richard Gere will star in Jon Avnet’s “Three Christs”, in the role of a doctor treating three paranoid schizophrenic patients who all believe they are Jesus Christ.

“Three Christs” marks Gere and Avnet’s second collaboration. The first was “Red Corner” in 1997, a film that led to Chinese star Bai Ling having her Chinese citizenship revoked.

Based on a biographical novel by Milton Rokeach titled, “Rokeach’s Christs of Ypsilanti: A Narrative Study of Three Lost Men”, the film has been adapted by Eric Nazarian and Avnet, said The Hollywood Reporter.

Avnet is producing alongside Brooklyn Films’ Aaron Stern and Highland’s Arianne Fraser and Delphine Perrier. Molly Haskell (Terminal) also is producing.

The doctor treated the trio of patients at the Ypsilanti State Hospital in Michigan, and what transpired is both comic and deeply moving.—PTI

Eurovision Song Contest kicks off with opening ceremony

STOCKHOLM — Contestants from 41 European countries and Australia walked the red carpet outside Stockholm’s Royal Palace on Sunday, kicking-off Eurovision Song Contest week, which culminates in the grand finale on Saturday.

Sweden is hosting the competition after Mans Zelmerlow won last year’s contest in Vienna with the electro-pop ballad “Heavn”. Hundreds of fans gathered outside the palace to catch a glimpse of the contestants as they arrived to the EuroClub which has been set up just in front of the palace, especially for the contest.

The draw to determine in which half of the grand finale the Big Five and Sweden will perform in also took place. The so-called Big Five - Italy, France, Germany, Great Britain, Spain - as well as hosting country, Sweden - qualify for the final automatically and do not compete in the semi-finals.

Only 26 countries will compete in the final.—Reuters
Syrian refugee brings his art to Lithuania

VILNIUS — A faceless skull with a crown of spikes and blood pouring from its wounds, symbolizing a Syrian caught in the horror of civil war, stares out from a student theater in the Lithuanian capital Vilnius.

“This is just one image by artist and refugee Majd Kara, now holding his first exhibition in his adopted home, where he arrived just a month ago.

“I can draw anywhere. I was drawing in Homs, in the middle of the war. It’s not hard,” said Kara, who fled the civil war with his girlfriend just two weeks after they met and fell in love.

Kara, a 29-year-old Christian, and his Muslim girlfriend Farah Mohammed, 27, left their homes last August as the fighting became unbearable, paying $600 each to board an overcrowded lifeboat with a faulty engine to make the crossing to Greece.

“I decided to get out from Syria not just because of the war. Before the war we had difficulties to deal with our society, and of course the war became more reason to just get out,” Kara said.

They then submitted themselves to a legal resettlement scheme which sent them to Lithuania, of which they knew nothing but the name. Lithuania has agreed with the European Union to accept 1,105 refugees from Syria and Iraq, although so far only a handful have been willing to settle there.

Painting has been one of very few ways to fill the time in the refugee center in a tiny village where Kara lives, in the middle of a wood. Learning languages — Lithuanian, Italian, German and English — and cooking and practicing yoga take up the rest of the time.

In the month since he arrived, he has produced 26 paintings, some on canvases he brought from Syria.

“Back home I was very nervous to speak about my art, but after the journey, after living in Istanbul and Athens, I became more open, I can discuss it freely”, Kara said.

But after his long journey he said it was hard to adjust to life in such a quiet corner of the country, and the couple are hoping to move on to somewhere else in Lithuania.

“You can’t hear any sound, there is just silence. After living in Istanbul and Athens, after all its crowds and traffic, we were a little bit afraid. But then we visited Vilnius, and Vilnius is much better,” he said.

“We don’t have any plans for now, we want just to discover Lithuania,”— Reuters

Youth orchestra plucks oasis out of gangland El Salvador

SAN SALVADOR — The sweet sounds of classical music float across a sunny courtyard as a group of teenagers pluck the strings of violins and cellos.

But beyond the high gates enclosing the courtyard of the Don Bosco Industrial Polygon Centre, home to El Salvador’s first and only youth orchestra, the sounds most likely to be heard are guns.

The centre on the eastern side of the capital San Salvador is surrounded by gang-infested areas where daily turf wars have made the small Central American nation among the worl’s most deadliest.

On the road leading to the center stands a teenage girl with red hair, a sign she is a gang member, a mobile phone glued to her ear, checking every person and car that enters.

But inside the building, there are no such controls.

The orchestra has become a safe haven from the surrounding violence for hundreds of children who live in gang-controlled neighbourhoods.

The Don Bosco Youth Symphony Orchestra and Chorus aims to keep teenagers off the streets and away from the gangs by offering them an alternative to gang life and culture.

Through music and being part of an orchestra, teenagers find a sense of identity and purpose, countering some of the push factors that cause young people to join gangs.

“There are few spaces and options for children in poor neighborhoods dominated by gangs,” music coordinator Daniel Ayala told the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

“The levels of violence we have reached is absurd. It’s senseless. For me violence is also about having a child stuck at home because it’s too dangerous for them to be on the street. And the street means gangs,”—Reuters

A photographer takes a picture of a painting by Syrian artist Majd Kara, who fled his country, in Vilnius, Lithuania, on 5 May 2016. Photo: Reuters

Myanmar International

(11-5-2016, Wednesday)

6:00 am • Parita By Venerable Mingun Sayadaw
7:35 am • Money Talks Myanmar (Part-3)
8:35 am • Travelogue
9:35 am • Documentary
10:35 am • Teleplay
11:35 am • MRTV Education
12:50 pm • TV Drama Series
1:35 pm • TV Drama Series
2:15 pm • Kyae Pwint Myaye Yin

Note: Hourly News Bulletins (Local + International)
Milestone for Ronaldo but another Pichichi unlikely

MADRID — Cristiano Ronaldo achieved another milestone in his Real Madrid career when he scored his 200th goal at the Bernabeu on Sunday but he looks like failing in his bid to become La Liga’s top scorer for the third season in a row.

The prolific Portuguese striker twice in Real’s 3-2 win over Valencia to move on to 33 league goals this season, four behind Barcelona’s Luis Suarez with one match left.

“Knowing him, he’ll keep fighting until the end,” Real coach Zinedine Zidane told the club’s website on Monday.

“Not for the Pichichi (leading scorers’ trophy), but because he wants to score in every game, to score more and more,” the Frenchman added.

“As always, it’s the team that reaps the benefits of this,” Ronaldo has been prolific at Real’s home stadium, averaging 1.16 goals a game since joining the Madrid side from Manchester United in 2009. —Reuters

Murray splits with coach Mauresmo

LONDON — Andy Murray and his coach Amelie Mauresmo have agreed to end their two-year working relationship, the British world number three said on Monday.

Twice grand slam winner Murray lost the Madrid Open final to Novak Djokovic on Sunday.

“I’ve learned a lot from Amelie over the past two years,” Murray said in a statement.

“She’s been a calming influence in the team and we’ll miss having her around.

“I’ll take some time to consider the next steps and how we progress from here, but I’d like to thank her for everything she has done, she’s been an invaluable member of the team.”

Mauresmo described working with Murray as being a fantastic experience.

“We’ve thoroughly enjoyed being part of the great team of people he has around him,” she said.

“Dedicating enough time along with the travel has been a challenge for me. I wish him and the team well and I hope he goes on to win any more titles.”

The partnership between the two Wimbledon champions — Murray won the men’s singles in 2013 and French former world number one Mauresmo triumphed at the All England Club in 2006 — seemed a surprise alliance when it was announced after the 2014 French Open.

Yet the pair have enjoyed plenty of success with the 36-year-old Mauresmo helping guide the Scot to seven titles and to two Australian Open finals.

However, the 28-year-old Murray has not been able to quite reach the peaks he climbed when Ivan Lendl was his mentor, winning Olympic gold in 2012 as well as the US Open later that summer before his historic Wimbledon success.

Mauresmo has not been regularly on the circuit with Murray since giving birth to her son Aaron last August and had indicated then that she would have to see how she could cope with being both a parent and a globe-trotting coach. —Reuters

Ranieri could one day win World Cup for Italy — Tavecchio

ROME — Leicester City’s triumphant coach Claudio Ranieri could one day win a World Cup for his native country, Italian Football Federation president Carlo Tavecchio said on Monday.

The 64-year-old coach has led unseeded Leicester, 5,000-1 outsiders at the start of the campaign, to the Premier League title this season, the first top-flight crown in the club’s 132-year history.

“I hope Ranieri can win a World Cup with Italy, that would be the best,” Tavecchio told reporters.

“I’m speaking in an abstract way, of course, and not necessarily about the next World Cup (in 2018). Claudio is still young and will have time on his side.”

Italy will be coached by Antonio Conte at next month’s European Championship in France before the former Juventus supremo leaves to take charge of Chelsea, Ranieri’s old club.

“The World Cup is the most important tournament a club can win,” the Frenchman added.

“I’ll take some time to consider the next steps and how we progress from here, but to be honest if possible I’d like a club, and analyse and think what’s best for my career and to be back with everything I have,” he said.

Mourinho was sacked by Chelsea in December after the Premier League champions started the season with nine defeats in their first 16 matches.

The 53-year-old, who has also coached Real Madrid, Inter Milan and Porto, has been strongly tipped in media reports to take over from Louis van Gaal at Manchester United next season.

Indonesia wants ‘Special One’ to train national team

JAKARTA — Indonesia wants former Chelsea coach Jose Mourinho to train its beleaguered national football team, the country’s sports minister said on Tuesday.

Minister Imam Nahrawi said he had discussed the idea with President Joko Widodo, who is trying to revive Indonesian football after years of underperformance.

“This idea has been discussed... even though it’s not easy,” Nahrawi said, according to state news agency Antara.

He added the government had also discussed hiring interim Chelsea manager Guus Hiddink.

FIFA last year banned Indonesia from international football, citing government interference in the sport.

The government had refused to withdraw their demands that local football association (PSSI) block two clubs from taking part in the top flight domestic league, because of concerns about their ownership.

The PSSI stood firm but the league was halted after two rounds and eventually cancelled after the government stepped in.

One of the world’s most successful coaches, Mourinho could cope with being both a parent and a globe-trotting coach. —Reuters

“I’m in a position to be open to any club, to any national team, but to be honest if possible I’d like a club, and analyse and think what’s best for my career and to be back with everything I have,” he said.

Mourinho was sacked by Chelsea in December after the Premier League champions started the season with nine defeats in their first 16 matches.

The 53-year-old, who has also coached Real Madrid, Inter Milan and Porto, has been strongly tipped in media reports to take over from Louis van Gaal at Manchester United next season.

Indonesia, ranked 185th in the FIFA world rankings, are one of four countries vying to host the 2023 Asian Cup. —Reuters