

Cyclone Nargis inflicts pain long after it hit

By Aye Min Soe

THAYET THON PIN, 1 May—Six years after Cyclone Nargis ravaged Thayet Thon Pin village in Kungyangon Township about 35 miles south of Yangon, the residents still struggle to make ends meet.

“The nightmare still haunts us. Nargis washed away everything we had. We have had to try rebuild our lives starting from zero. Every farmer is facing the same fate. Our economy is far from recovered,” U Hla Kyi, 47, told The New Light of Myanmar on Thursday.

U Hla Kyi lost his brother's family, his mother and his sister's family - 12 relatives in all - when the cyclone washed away the village, which has a population of more than 300, on 2 May, 2008.

More than 170 villagers died in the storm that also killed the villagers' cows and buffalo.

“The main problem we are facing today is lack of capital to grow rice. So, we

have to borrow money at 10 per cent interest from private money lenders,” U Hla Kyi said.

The farmers then struggle to pay off their debts after the harvest.

But if the harvest is not good enough, or produce prices high enough, the only option left is to borrow more money.

And at money-lender interest rates, debts and double every 14 to 15 months.

But even faced with usurious interest rates and heavy debts, farmers such as U Hla Kyi and others who own their own land consider themselves lucky because they can still find private money-lenders willing to make them loans. Daily-wage farmers, who have no personal land, cannot find money-lenders at any rate.

To try to help the farmers, the government increased its agricultural subsidy from K40,000 to K100,000 per acre last year and offers an interest rate of less than 1 percent, but most



UN estimates say Cyclone Nargis affected 2.4 million people and left more than 140,000 dead or missing across 37 townships in the aftermath of the massive storm.

still struggle.

Before Nargis, farmers in the area could afford to build their own homes and buy power tillers. They also could save from 150 to 200 baskets of rice to end with a healthy profit of K600,000 to K800,000 after harvest.

“Now, after we were

hit by Nargis, our interest payments have not eased. If we borrow K500,000 with 10 percent interest, we have to pay double after 14 to 15 months due to the high interest rate. There is no way for us to break our cycle of debts,” said U Pan Pan, 46, who farms 12 acres in the

village.

“Still,” said villager Ma Kyin Than, 46, “we always thank the donors (who helped after Nargis). We have our homes because of them. We could not have rebuilt our homes because we still struggle to make ends meet.”

Workers gather in Yangon for 2014 May Day

By Ye Myint

YANGON, 1 May — Workers from Yangon gathered at a sports ground in Hlinethaya Township to celebrate May Day, showing

ing solidarity with workers of the world on International Workers' Day on Thursday.

Union Minister at the President Office U Aung Min, Deputy Minister for

Labour, Employment and Social Security U Htin Aung and Shigeru Nakajima, director of the ITUC Myanmar Office, were among dignitaries joining more than 3,000 workers

wearing white T-shirts and depicting a line of workers holding high flags in various colors at the May Day celebration.

“My presence at this celebration was to support

workers of Myanmar”, said U Aung Min. Talking about the president's message for members of the federation, he said President U Thein Sein acknowledged the workforce is critical for the economic success of the nation.

U Aung Min pledged the government “will stand with workers” in Myanmar, but he stressed that demands must be within the framework of rules and regulations.

In his greeting at this year's May Day celebration, U Maung Maung, general secretary of the Federation of Trade Unions Myanmar, said workers need to have a thorough understanding of laws to enjoy benefits while struggling to reaching the salaries they seek. He called on leaders of basic unions to put more efforts in increasingly forming more unions to see membership grow in numbers. The aim of the celebration of the working class is to make Myanmar

workers know that International Workers' Day was born together with the struggle for an 8-hour working day for all workers, U Maung Maung said.

But workers in Myanmar are still require to work overtime to meet their basic needs, one of the leaders of a basic unions told the NLM. Without a decent salary for working an 8-hour day, we need to work beyond normal working hours, he said.

In his speech, Deputy Minister U Htin Aung called on Myanmar's workforce to put greater emphasis on building their capacities ahead of the start of the free trade among the 10-member states of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations in 2015.

The deputy minister also expressed disappointment that some factories had failed to close on May Day. He vowed to ensure all factories close for May Day next year.

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Hlinethaya Kayin don dance troupe performing dance at 2014 May Day celebration of working class in Yangon.—PHOTO: YE MYINT

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Myanmar-China friendship table tennis tourney kicks off

YANGON, 1 May — The first Chinese Traders' Cup table tennis for 2014 began under a programme for China-Myanmar friendship, at the office of Chinese Traders' Association in Yangon.

Chairman of the Myanmar Olympic Committee and Union Minister for Sports U Tint Hsan together with officials cut a ribbon to open the tournament, jointly organized by the association and the Myanmar Table Tennis Federation.

At the event were Myanmar-China Friendship Association Chairman U

Sein Win Aung, Chinese Traders' Association Chairman U Myint Shwe, Myanmar Table Tennis Federation President U Kyaw Kyaw, charge d'affaires Chen Chen from the Chinese Embassy and the Myanmar-Chinese Friendship Association secretary.

Union Minister U Tint Hsan and U Myint Shwe spoke and U Kyaw Kyaw explained the tournament.

About 260 athletes are participating in the tournament in which more than K6.5 million will be awarded for the winners.

MNA



Union Sports Minister U Tint Hsan enjoys the China-Myanmar friendship table tennis tournament.—MNA

Outstanding students take field trip around Shan State

NYAUNGSHWE, 1 May—Outstanding students at a recreation camp in Inlay began field trips

around the region on Tuesday from the campsite in Nyaungshwe Township in the Taunggyi District of

Shan State.

They visited traditional textile industry sites and Seintheamadi silversmiths



Outstanding students are observing the production process at an industry of Ayethaya Industrial Zone in Taunggyi of Shan State.—MNA

in Heya Village in the western part of the floating market where the silversmith's owner explained his production process to the students and presented gifts to them.

They also paid homage to the Alodawpouk and Inlay PhaungdawU pagodas in Nanpan Village after visiting the silk industry in Inpawkhon Village.

They also visited around Shan State's capital Taunggyi where resident and students warmly welcomed them.

At Nyaungshwe camp, they also enjoyed bonfires and entertainment programmes in the evening.

MNA

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According to the deputy minister, 1,034 basic-level unions have been formed so far in Myanmar since the Social Security Law came into force in April 2011 with the aim of improving lives of workers in the country and bringing more benefits to them.

With opening up in Myanmar, the country has experienced an increasing number of basic unions each year. Last year more than 330 were formed, far

ahead of the 66 formed the year prior. There are 70 Basic Unions in the Hlinethaya Industrial Zone alone.

The May Day celebration was the second in Myanmar. The FTUM convened the first ceremony last year.

FTUM with a membership of more than 30,000 workers is dedicated to democracy, human rights, social justice and trade unionism for the country and its people.

NLM

Media registration for 12th ASEAN Information Ministers' Meeting

NAY PYI TAW, 1 May—The 12th ASEAN Information Ministers' Meeting will be held at the Myanmar International Convention Centre in Nay Pyi Taw on 11-12 June.

Local and foreign correspondents who wish to cover the meeting are to click the registration link for the 12th ASEAN Ministers' Meeting Responsible for Information (AMRI) of Upcoming Events at the Home Page of www.asean2014.gov.mm to fill in the Media Registration Form. The registration must be made

not later than 25 May. The media accreditation cards will be issued at MICC on 10 June.

Foreign correspondents are to apply for visas to cover the meeting at respective Myanmar embassies.

Please dial 067-79443 at the Myanma Radio and Television for further information about the meeting and 067-412126 at the News and Periodicals Enterprise about news coverage by locally based foreign news agencies and local media.

MNA

Healthcare provided to over 8,000 patients in Rakhine State

NAY PYI TAW, 1 May—In line with the comprehensive development plan of Rakhine State, the Health Department has opened a health care centre at its state department office in Sittway to provide services to people in relief camps.

On Tuesday, several emergency response teams treated 616 patients at relief camps in Sittway Township. From 9 March to 29 April, 8,205 received medical treatment, with eight patients referred to Sittway General Hospital. No in-

fectious diseases were reported, according to officials.

Special teams were also sent to treat patients with HIV/AIDS and TB, with free medicine and checkups provided by the medics, officials said.

According to the ministry, officials cooperate with local and foreign partnership organizations to provide healthcare in Rakhine State in line with consultations by the Emergency Coordination Centre of Rakhine State.—MNA

Myanmar's trade deficit in FY2013 hits US\$ 2,555.54 million

NAY PYI TAW, 1 May—Myanmar's trade deficit in fiscal year 2013 reached US\$ 2555.54 million on exports of US\$ 11,203.96 million and imports of US\$ 13,759.50 million, according to the export-import report of the

Central Statistical Organization on Wednesday.

General exports in the fiscal year were worth US\$ 8,442.77 million, while simple cross-border exports totaled US\$ 2,761.19 million. Imports from simple cross-border

trade topped US\$ 1826.90 million and general imports reached US\$ 11,932.60 million.

In March 2014 alone, Myanmar's general export volume was US\$ 790.46 million and cross-border exports were US\$ 167.28

million. General imports were worth US\$ 1,050.18 million and cross-border imports topped US\$ 175.47 million for an overall trade deficit in March of US\$ 268.90 million.

MNA

President to invite scouts to Nay Pyi Taw



President U Thein Sein chats with scouts.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 1 May—President U Thein Sein on Thursday said he will invite outstanding youths, like members of the Red Cross Society and scouts, to the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw on 3 May. During his visit to a



Youths camping out in a forest.—MNA

Mandalay industrialists briefed on electricity price hike

MANDALAY, 1 May—Industrialists in the Mandalay Region were given a briefing on the increased electricity prices by the Ministry of Electric Power on 29 April.

The briefing took place at the regional electric engineering office and was attended by the managing director of Electricity Supply Enterprise under the ministry.

During the meeting,

Managing Director U Myint Aung said that all people, including industrialists and business people, are “enjoying round-the-clock supply of electricity”. Electricity charges had to be increased, he said, as the increasing costs of guaranteeing energy supply would otherwise burden the government.

He said the country’s electricity generation depended not only on the

state but also on independent power producers (IPP) from the private sector.

The ministry increased electricity prices from 1 April, but households using fewer than 100 units will pay the usual rate of K 35 per unit, while those using between 101 and 200 units will pay K 40, and those using 201 units and above will pay K 50.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)

scout camp in the National Kandawgyi Gardens of PyinOoLwin, Mandalay Region, the President said, “As the new generations are the future leaders of the State, the government

is now making plans to reward you with a grand ceremony in Nay Pyi Taw on Saturday.”

He stressed that scout activities do neither interfere with politics nor the

military and are just concerned with social matters.

U Thein Sein also quoted the worldwide scout motto, ‘Be Prepared’, used by millions of scouts around the world since 1907. At the meeting, the President took an oath for the chief of the Myanmar Scout Association.

The world’s first scout association was founded with 20 members by Lieutenant-General Robert Baden-Powell of the British Army in 1907.

The first scout association in Myanmar was founded in 1920, with a flurry of activities during the most active years from 1948 to 1962.

After the country regained independence, the first President Sao Shwe Thaik served as the patron of the association, and his successors Dr. Ba Oo, Mahn Win Maung and former prime minister U Nu were also patrons of the scout association. Myanmar was able to reorganize the scout association under the present government after a 50-year hiatus.

A total of 490 scouts from schools across the country and 80 supervisors have been in the camp since 29 April.—MNA

Union Parliament Speaker meets locals in Rakhine



Union Parliament Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann meets local residents.

MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 1 May—Because parliaments are to work on political, social and economic issues within the framework of the rules and regulations, efforts are underway to lay down laws that serve public interests,

Union Parliament Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann said on 30 April in a meeting with political parties and residents in Thandwe, Rakhine State.

Thura U Shwe Mann also went to Taungup, where he met with residents and

departmental officials and heard reports from them.

On his tour, the speaker visited the Yangon-Kyaukpau road construction project for an update on progress.

MNA

More mini book corners added in Tatkon Tsp

NAY PYI TAW, 1 May— The Information and Public Relations Department in Tatkon Township in Nay Pyi Taw added 10 mini book corners in the township on Wednesday to help promote reading habits among the people.

The new corners are at Byeinin Pagoda, four teashops near the bazaar, Thabyaychaung bus station, the township general administration department, Thanpaykon Dhammayon, Thadadika Clinic and the office of the Myanmar Ma-



ternal and Child Welfare Association.

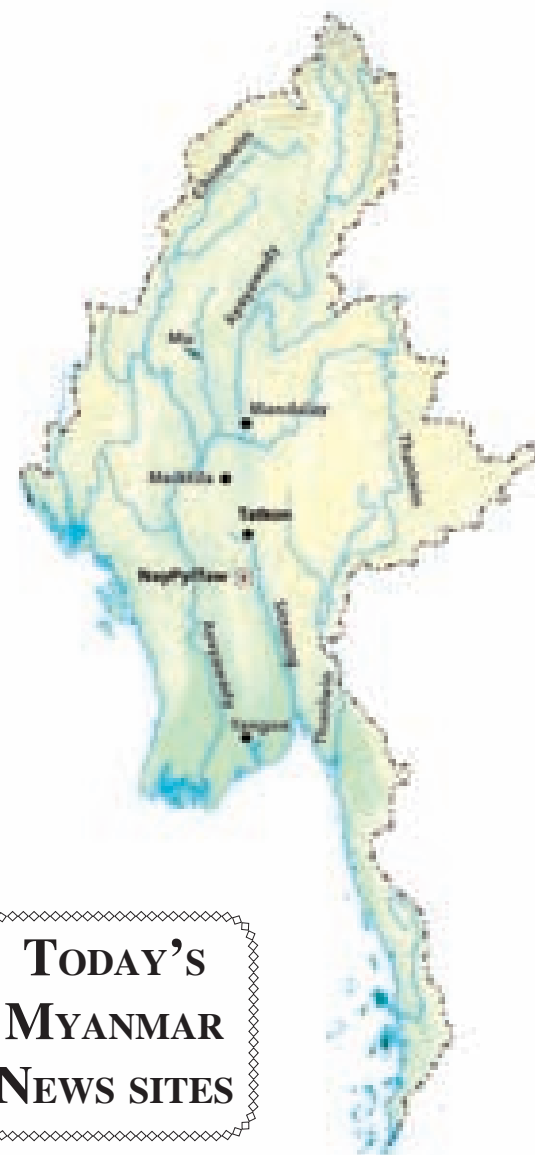
Previous reading cor-

ners were established at the bazaars, the railway station, Myanmar Economic

Bank, Township Court and

the 100-bed hospital.

Township IPRD



TODAY'S MYANMAR NEWS SITES

Meiktila residents complain about district official's lack of transparency on Thingyan finances

MEIKTILA, 1 May—Local residents in Meiktila have complained about the district chairman who is accused of failing to declare the account balance of the Thingyan Festival funds.

After forming a committee with members and advisors of the township development affairs committee and ward administration office, over K 14 million were collected from government departments, wards, private banks, companies and merchants for

the fund in order to hold the Thingyan Festival of Myanmar Era 1375 in Meiktila on a grand scale. Officials said the festival was a success, with several stars performing and free food for all. Following the festival, however, Meiktila District Deputy Commissioner U Tin Maung Soe, under a transfer order, moved to Haka without declaring the account balance, with locals suspecting him of embezzling a large amount of money.—NLM-018

Alumni of English major pose for documentary photo with faculty members of English Department of Dagon University after respect paying ceremony at Royal Rose Restaurant in Bahan Township, Yangon Region on Thursday.—NLM



Nearly all workers in dispute with Tawwin Wood Finished Products Factory compensated

By Aye Min Soe

YANGON, 1 May — Nearly all workers who were involved in the dispute between Tawwin Wood Finished Products Factory have received due compensation, according to the Factories and General Labour Law Inspection Department.

Out of 187 workers, 183 have already received compensation and the remaining four workers have been informed they will get their compensa-

tion, U Win Shein, director-general of the Factories and General Labour Law Inspection Department, said.

The workers from Tawwin Wood Finished Products Factory staged a protest demanding salary increases and labour rights in October 2012 and the dispute between the employer and the employees of the factory was settled at the Yangon Region Tribunal Council when the council ruled for compensation to the workers for the duration of the protest

from 12 to 26 November, 2012 at the rate of their daily wages.

However, the factory owner lodged an appeal with the Supreme Court of the Union in Nay Pyi Taw in February 2013, but the Supreme Court of the Union rejected the appeal.

As the factory failed to comply with the resolution of the tribunal council, Shwepyitha Township Factories and General labour Law Inspection Department filed a lawsuit against the owner of the factory on 13 November, 2013 at the

local police station, an official of the department said.

The owner of the factory paid on 24 December last year, the compensatory payment of more than K 6.6 million for 13 days of protest from 12 to 26 November, 2012, plus more than K 13.2 million for delay of 10 months in paying the 13-day compensatory payment to the bank account for the workers at the Myanma Economic Bank (Insein Township Branch).

Myanma Railways celebrates 137th Anniversary



MD U Thurein Win speaking at award presenting ceremony for outstanding staff to mark 137th anniversary of founding Myanma Railways.—MR

NAY PYI TAW, 1 May— The managing director and senior officials presented awards Thursday to outstanding staff members to celebrate the 137th anniversary of the founding of Myanma Railways.

Managing Director U Thurein Win also outlined the history of the railway that was established on 1 May, 1877 with the aim of

ensuring smooth transportation for the people and cargo. He urged the staff to try their best, actively take part in the implementation of the railway upgrading process, provide better services to the people, invite suggestions from them and fulfill the needs of customers.

U Thurein Win further called on them to study the

latest railway technology to contribute to creating a modern, fully developed rail transport system.

Among current Myanma Railways projects are the upgrading of the Yangon-Mandalay railroad, rolling stock and a planned massive redevelopment of Yangon Central Railway Station and environs.

Myanma Railways

WORLD

Thai PM, Election Commission agree new vote in July, opposition defiant



Thailand's Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra (R) and Deputy Prime Minister Surapong Tovichakchaikul arrive before a meeting with the Election Commission at the Royal Thai Air Force Academy in Bangkok on 30 April, 2014.
REUTERS

BANGKOK, 1 May — Thailand's Election Commission and the prime minister agreed on Wednesday to hold a general election in July, but anti-government protesters who disrupted a vote in February said they

still wanted to see electoral reforms before a new poll.

The protesters have been trying to oust Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra since November, part of a long-running crisis that broadly pits Bangkok's

middle class and royalist establishment against the mainly poor, rural supporters of Yingluck and her brother, former premier Thaksin Shinawatra.

"The prime minister and the Election Commis-

sion agree on a 20 July election," Puchong Nutrawong, secretary-general of the commission, told reporters after a meeting with Yingluck.

He said the commission would ask the government to issue a royal decree and get the king's endorsement for the vote. The cabinet, which must also sign off on an election, would probably consider the decree next week, he said.

The main opposition Democrat Party, which boycotted the vote in February, was noncommittal about its participation in a new election.

"Right now, we are not thinking about this. There is time still, let me propose an exit strategy for Thailand first," Democrat leader Abhisit Vejjajiva told Reuters, referring to his effort to steer the country out of nearly a decade of strife.

Abhisit, as part of his mediation effort, is calling for talks between the protagonists and for a political reform process to take place alongside a general election, although his efforts have met with skepticism. "I will outline a way out for Thailand and put it to the public. This will take one or two days," Abhisit told reporters earlier, adding he would be sending proposals to Yingluck and protest leader Suthep Thaugsuban.

The overriding aim of the anti-government protesters is to eliminate once and for all the influence of Thaksin, a former telecoms tycoon who swept to political power with populist policies such as free health care and loans for the poor.

His enemies say he is an authoritarian, corrupt crony capitalist and he was toppled by the military in 2006. He denies corruption

and lives in exile to avoid a jail sentence handed down in 2008 for abuse of power.

The protesters say he is the power behind his sister's government and they also accuse him of harboring republican sympathies, which he denies.

Parties led by or allied to Thaksin have won every election since 2001 and the protesters want reform of the electoral system to break what they see as his grip on a fragile democracy. Suthep, in a speech to supporters in a Bangkok park later on Wednesday, breathed defiance and said his position on an election had not changed.

"We refuse to bargain with the devil that is the Thaksin regime ... we reject the Yingluck administration," said Suthep vowing to launch a new round of protests on 14 May.

Reuters

Six powers meet in Brussels to fine-tune Iran talks strategy

BRUSSELS, 1 May — Senior diplomats from six world powers met in Brussels on Wednesday to fine-tune negotiating strategy towards Iran with talks on its contested nuclear programme entering a crunch stretch before a 20 July deadline.

The six — the United States, Russia, China, France, Britain and Germany — and Iran plan in mid-May to start drafting the key elements of a broad settlement to the nuclear dispute, with the hope of putting an end to a decade of tensions that have heightened the risk of a

wider Middle East war.

Diplomats have signaled some progress may have been made during three rounds of talks since February on one of the most thorny issues — the future of Iran's planned Arak heavy-water reactor, which Western states worry could prove a source of plutonium for nuclear bombs once operational.

But talks so far have made no headway on other major issues, with the sides laying out their broad positions rather than negotiating solutions. Western diplomats warn that gaps between the two sides

remain significant and possibly insurmountable.

The six nations now must decide what they want to achieve specifically in the next three months to allay their concerns that Iranian nuclear work has underlying military purposes.

Broadly, they want to ensure the programme is curtailed enough so that it would take Iran a long time to assemble nuclear bomb components if it chose to do so. The Islamic Republic denies having such intentions.

Iran's overriding goal in the talks is an end to

tough economic sanctions that have hammered its oil-based economy.

US Secretary of State John Kerry has said the current Western assessment of Iran's capability in this regard is two months, a time frame that is far short of what will likely be acceptable to the powers.

"We need to elaborate our positions ... on what ideas will be put forward at the next (negotiation) round," one diplomat with the six negotiating nations said. "It's an important meeting because we want to get more concrete."

Reuters

Global terrorism continues growing despite reduced al-Qaeda's influence



A boy looks at the wreckage of a car hit by an air strike in the central Yemeni province of al-Bayda on 19 April, 2014.—REUTERS

WASHINGTON, 1 May — The terrorist threat has continued to evolve rapidly though a massive global counter terrorism campaign has severely undermined al-Qaeda's core leadership, showed a report released by the US State Department on Wednesday.

In its annual report on 2013 terrorism, the State Department warned that an increasing number of groups around the world — including al-Qaeda affiliates and other terrorist organizations — still pose a threat to the United States, its allies, and interests.

According to the report, 9,707 terrorist attacks occurred worldwide last year, causing more than 17,800 deaths and 32,500 injuries. In addition, more than 2,990 people were kidnapped or taken

hostage.

Middle East and Africa saw a rise in increasingly aggressive and autonomous al-Qaeda affiliates and like-minded groups who took advantage of power vacuum or instability in the regions to entrench their operations.

Terrorist violence was fueled by sectarian motivations, in particular in Syria, Lebanon, and Pakistan, where victims of violence were primarily civilians, said the report.

Syria continued to be a major battleground for terrorism on both sides of the conflict, and its three-year-old civil war has attracted thousands of foreign fighters to join the fight against President Bashar al-Assad, with some joining extreme groups.

Xinhua

UN Security Council hails parliamentary elections in Iraq

UNITED NATIONS, 1 May — The UN Security Council on Wednesday welcomed the parliamentary elections in Iraq and called on all political entities in the Middle East to work together to form a new government that represents the will of all the Iraqi people.

"The members of the Security Council welcome the holding of timely parliamentary elections in Iraq on 30 April, and commend the people of Iraq for demonstrating their commitment to a peaceful, inclusive and democratic political

process," the Security Council said in a statement read out here by Nigerian permanent representative to the United Nations U Joy Ogwu, who holds the rotating council presidency for the month of April.

"The members look forward to the announcement of Iraq's Independent High Electoral Commission (IHEC) certifying the election results, and express their appreciation to the IHEC and the Government of Iraq, including the Iraqi Security Forces, for their dedicated work in preparing and conducting

these elections, supported by the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq

(UNAMI)," the statement said.

Reuters



A working staff shuts a ballots box exactly at 6 pm local time (GMT1500) in a polling station in Baghdad, Iraq, on 30 April, 2014.—REUTERS

US hopes for defence ministerial talks with Japan, S Korea

WASHINGTON, 1 May — A senior US Defence Department official expressed hope on Wednesday that the United States will hold trilateral defence ministerial talks with Japan and South Korea in Singapore.

Mark Lippert, chief of staff of the defence secretary, told a symposium that the three countries should build on their success in holding a summit and a senior working-level meeting earlier this year despite tense Tokyo-Seoul ties.

Lippert said he hopes the defence ministers from the three countries can “make sure that things were on track” by getting together on the sidelines of the Asian security forum planned from 30 May to 1 June in Singapore.

The trilateral defence meeting in Washington last month involving senior working-level officials was “very productive,” said Lippert, a former assistant secretary of defence for Asian and Pacific security affairs.

“I think we’re looking forward for even more progress heading into Shangri-La, where we traditionally do a trilateral meeting at the ministerial level,” he said. The annual security event is widely called the Shangri-La Dialogue.

Ties between Japan and South Korea, key US security allies in East Asia, have been strained due to disputes regarding the interpretation of history related to Japan’s 1910-1945 colonial rule of the Korean Peninsula and the sovereignty of islets in the Sea of Japan.—*Kyodo News*

Great potential lies among East Asian institutions on ranking

LONDON, 1 May — Young institutions in East Asia continue to show great potential, according to the “Times Higher Education 100 Under 50 2014” published Wednesday, an evaluation of the world’s top 100 universities under 50 years of ages. The ranking looks to the future by examining a new breed of global universities — those that have managed to join the world elite in a matter of decades rather than centuries, and those with the potential to become the next generation’s Harvard or Oxford.

East Asian institutions continue to lead the 100 Under 50, with universities from South Korea, China’s Hong Kong and Singapore claiming top-five positions. For the third year in a row, the ranking is headed by South Korea’s Pohang University of Science and Technology, while its national rival, the Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology, holds on to the third spot it gained last year. The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology stays in fourth, while Singapore’s Nanyang Technological University moves up to fifth from eighth.—*Xinhua*

Ukraine’s restive east slipping from government’s grasp

HORLIVKA, (Ukraine), 1 May — Pro-Moscow separatists seized government offices in more Ukrainian towns on Wednesday, in a further sign that authorities in Kiev are losing control of the country’s eastern industrial heartland bordering Russia. Gunmen who turned up at dawn took control of official buildings in Horlivka, a town of almost 300,000 people, said a *Reuters* photographer. They refused to be photographed.

The heavily armed men wore the same military uniforms without insignia as other unidentified “green men” who have joined pro-Russian protesters with clubs and chains in seizing control of towns across Ukraine’s Donbass coal and steel belt. Some 30 pro-Russian separatists also seized a city council building in Alchevsk, further east in Luhansk region, *Interfax-Ukraine* news agency said. They



Pro-Russian armed men stand at the entrance to the regional government headquarters in Luhansk, eastern Ukraine, on 30 April, 2014.—*REUTERS*

took down the Ukrainian flag and flew a city banner before allowing workers to leave. Attempts to contain the insurgency by the government in Kiev have proved largely unsuccessful, with security forces re-

peatedly outmaneuvered by the separatists. The West and the new Ukrainian government accuse Russia of being behind the unrest, a charge Moscow denies.

Daniel Baer, the US ambassador to the OSCE,

a European security watchdog which has monitors in the region, told reporters in Vienna: “I think it’s very clear that what is happening would not be happening without Russian involvement.”—*Reuters*

Afghan government says West holds prisoners illegally in south

KABUL, 1 May — Afghanistan has accused British and US forces of secretly holding Afghans in jail, saying one man had been held for more than two years while others had “disappeared”, further souring ties between Kabul and its Western allies at a sensitive time. The latest dispute could complicate relations as Washington seeks to implement a security agreement allowing a small force to stay in the country for counter-terrorism and training purposes, a pact incumbent leader Hamid Karzai refuses to sign.

The allegations, presented in a state-backed document obtained by *Reuters*, were made as Afghanistan prepares to induct a new president more than 12 years after US-led forces drove the Taliban from power.

Karzai established a fact-finding committee to investigate reports foreign forces were still operating detention facilities in breach of an agreement, which demands Afghan detainees must be handed over to Afghan authorities within 96 hours of capture.—*Reuters*



Civil Defence staff walk at Ain Jalout school that was hit by what activists said was an airstrike by forces loyal to Syria’s President Bashar al-Assad in Aleppo’s al-Ansari al-Sharqi neighbourhood on 30 April, 2014.

REUTERS

Syrian activists say air strike on Aleppo school kills 18

BEIRUT, 1 May — An air strike on a school in Syria’s northern city of Aleppo by President Bashar al-Assad’s forces killed at least 18 people on Wednesday, mainly children, a day after attacks on government-controlled cities killed more than 100 people, activists said.

The devastating strikes, which stand out for their ferocity even in a civil war which now kills be-

tween 200 and 300 people a day, come as Syria prepares for an election likely to extend Assad’s grip on power.

On Tuesday, a day after Assad nominated himself to run for a third term in a vote already derided as a sham by his opponents, two car bombs struck in a government-controlled part of Homs.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights monitoring group said on

Wednesday the death toll from those bombs had risen to 100. A mortar attack on a school, which authorities blamed on “terrorists” battling Assad, also killed at least 14 people.

Wednesday’s air strike on the Ain Jalout school in the Al-Ansari district of Aleppo appeared to be part of the sustained bombardment of the contested northern city by Assad’s forces.

Pictures from the

school showed blood on corridor walls and debris in classrooms, while video footage released by activists at the anti-Assad Aleppo Media Centre showed more than a dozen bodies which appeared to be children laid out on a tiled floor.

The Observatory put the death toll from the attack at 18, while the Aleppo Media Centre said 25 children had been killed.

Reuters

WORLD

India turns to Russia to help supply arms to Afghan forces

NEW DELHI, 1 May — India has signed an agreement under which it will pay Russia to supply arms and equipment to the Afghan military as foreign combat troops prepare to leave the country, in a move that risks infuriating Pakistan.

Under the deal, smaller arms such as light artillery and mortars will be sourced from Russia and moved to Afghanistan.

But it could eventually involve the transfer of heavy artillery, tanks and even combat helicopters that the Afghans have been asking India for since last year.

India has already been training military officers from Afghanistan, hosted a 60-member Special Forces group last year in the deserts of Rajasthan and supplied equipment such as combat vehicles and field medical support facilities.

But the decision to meet some of Afghanistan's military hardware demands — albeit sourcing them from Russia — points to a deepening role in Afghanistan aimed at preventing it from slipping back into the hands of the Taliban and other Islamist groups that are hostile to India.



An Afghan National Army officer stands among tanks before a military exercise on the outskirts of Kabul on 30 April, 2014.—REUTERS

It comes as China, another big player in the region which borders Afghanistan via a small, remote strip of land, is preparing for a more robust role in Afghanistan, also concerned that the withdrawal of NATO troops will leave a hotbed

of militancy on its doorstep.

Like China, India is unlikely to put boots on the ground to reinforce its strategy in Afghanistan.

“We can’t commit troops on the ground, we can’t give them the military equipment that they have been asking us for, for all sorts of reasons including the lack of surplus stocks,” said an Indian foreign ministry official, declining to be named because of the sensitivity of the issue.

“Involving a third party is the next best option,” the official said, referring to plans to source military

supplies from Russia for Afghan forces.

The lack of direct access to Afghanistan poses additional hurdles to arms transfers. An Indian team visited Moscow in February to firm up the deal, the official said.

The two countries will also help Afghanistan restart an old armaments factory near Kabul and prepare an inventory of Russian military equipment in Afghanistan that could be refitted for use. That dates back to the Soviet invasion of 1979-89, although much of the hardware is beyond repair.

Reuters

China ‘resolutely opposes’ US sanctions on missile parts supplier



Reuters and other foreign media are subject to Iranian restrictions on leaving the office to report, film or take pictures in Teheran. — REUTERS

BEIJING, 1 May — China said on Wednesday it “resolutely opposes” US sanctions that could harm non-proliferation work be-

tween the two countries after Washington laid charges against a Chinese businessman accused of allegedly procuring missile parts for

Iran. In a signal Washington would keep pressure on Iran over its nuclear program, the US State Department also offered up to \$5 million for information leading to businessman Li Fangwei’s arrest or conviction.

Federal prosecutors also seized \$6.9 million in funds that had been traced to Li. “China resolutely opposes the United States citing domestic law to unilaterally impose sanctions on Chinese companies or individuals. We believe that what the United States has done will not help resolve the issue and will harm bilateral cooperation

on counter proliferation,” China’s Foreign Ministry spokesman Qin Gang said.

China pays great attention to anti-proliferation export controls and will “seriously deal” with any violations of its laws, Qin told reporters at a regular press briefing. “China urges the United States to stop these wrong acts of putting sanctions on Chinese companies and individuals and return to the correct path of anti-proliferation cooperation,” Qin said.

Li has been the target of US sanctions in the past for his alleged role as a supplier to Iran’s ballistic missile programme.—Reuters

EU peacekeepers take charge at Central African Republic airport, violence rages



A woman passes her child on the top of a truck during a break from her journey towards Chad's border escorted by African Union operation in CAR (MISCA) a few kilometres after the northern town of Kaga Bandoro on 29 April, 2014. REUTERS

BRUSSELS/BANGUI, 1 May — European Union peacekeepers took charge of security at Central African Republic’s main airport on Wednesday in their first major operation to try and end months of sectarian slaughter.

Just ahead of the handover, four people were killed overnight and on Wednesday morning in the capital, the local branch of the Red Cross said. One of the dead, a Muslim, was decapitated, his heart ripped out and his body mutilated, a Reuters witness said.

The EU peacekeepers are meant to share the burden of around 2,000 French troops and 5,000 African peacekeepers already in the country who have so far failed to stop

the bloodshed.

Fighting surged when mostly Muslim Seleka rebels seized power a year ago in the majority Christian nation, launching a wave of killings and rights abuses, said UN and aid officials. Mainly Christian groups formed what they called “anti-balaka” self-defence militias who have also been accused of atrocities that have continued even though the rebels stepped aside in January.

French troops handed control of Bangui airport over to the EU peacekeepers, who are also commanded by a French officer, Major-General Philippe Ponties, at mid-day local time, the EU said in a statement.

Reuters

Egypt rejects criticism of Brotherhood mass death sentences

CAIRO, 1 May — Egypt has voiced rejection of criticism of recent mass death sentences against supporters of the Muslim Brotherhood, terming it “unacceptable interference in the judiciary affairs.”

“We reaffirm the independence of the Egyptian judiciary and reject any interference from anybody, whether it is a country or an organization,” Justice Minister Nayer Osman said in a Press conference on Wednesday.

Minya Criminal Court on Monday sentenced 683 Brotherhood supporters, including the group’s top leader Mohamed Badie, to



Nayer Osman (L), Egypt's Justice Minister, speaks at a press conference in Cairo, Egypt, on 30 April, 2014. XINHUA

death over assaulting and murdering policemen in Minya Province last year.

The same court sentenced 37 Brotherhood members and supporters to

death and ordered life imprisonment of 492 others in a similar case in the Upper Egyptian province.

“There are legal ways to appeal these verdicts,

and the judge is a human being who may make an unintentional mistake,” the minister explained, reaffirming that the death sentences are not final and that all defendants were being tried “before an ordinary court by a natural judge, not by an extraordinary court.”

The Egyptian justice minister also clarified that 608 of the defendants whose papers were referred to the Mufti to confirm their death sentences were tried “in absentia,” and they have the right to defend themselves when they show up as the court would re-start their trial.

Xinhua

Naval exercises “Open Spirit” to take place in Latvian waters

RIGA, 1 May — Naval exercises “Open Spirit 2014” will take place in Latvian territorial waters this year from 9 May to 22 May, Latvian news agency LETA

reported on Wednesday. Twenty-six ships from 13 countries have confirmed their participation in the exercises, according to LETA. The main goals of “Open

Spirit 2014” will be clearance and disposal of mines and other explosive ordnance remaining in the Baltic Sea from World War I and World War II. The multina-

tional naval exercises are to improve interoperability and understanding between the participants, as well as to improve their skills and procedures. — Xinhua

PERSPECTIVES

Friday, 2 May, 2014

Better to be yourself

By Kyaw Thura

Whatever profession you find yourself in, doing things in your own way invariably paves the way for self-improvement. World-famous people and successful businesses are excellent examples. One thing common to all of them is self-motivation. In other words, they have all worked on their own initiative. In this respect,

being yourself is of the essence in building a successful life.

World-famous painter, Pablo Picasso (1881-1973), once said that he put emphasis on being himself. He hated living under the influence of others. As he put it, it is natural that the combination of creation and imagination gives birth to a new form of art.

What he said cannot be more true. When it comes to success, innovative ideas are of great importance. It is the combination of imagination and hard work that leads to innovation.

In this age, when industrialization matters most, material development is rapidly expanding. It is quite common to hear people praise how great

today's automobiles are and how high the quality of today's products are. All in all, high quality results from working on one's own initiatives.

Unfortunately, there are some people ending up copying others. In the marketplace, fraudulent items have no guarantee as authentic ones do. It is therefore necessary for them to cut costs producing imitations. There is no better time than now in trying to be yourself.

Write for us

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

Awards presented to outstanding young Red Cross volunteers

YANGON, 1 May—An award ceremony for outstanding youths volunteering at the Red Cross Society took place at No.1 Transit Centre (BayintNaung) in Hlaing, Yangon, Wednesday evening, followed by a dinner. Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe attended the ceremony

with regional ministers, Myanmar Red Cross Society Chairman Dr Tha Hla Shwe and executive members, Ms. Donna at ICRC (Myanmar Office), Head of Delegate from IFRC (Myanmar Office) Mr Udaya Kumar Regmi, and officials.

In his address at the ceremony, U Myint Swe

called on the award-winning red cross youths to share their experiences, urging them to maintain and promote the good image and long tradition of MRCS. Around 150 Red Cross youths from 56 universities and colleges across the nation received awards.—MNA



Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe presents award to a volunteer of Myanmar Red Cross Society.—MNA

Chinese navy starts distant water training

BEIJING, 1 May—Chinese Navy training vessels Zhenghe and Weifang, left Dalian on Wednesday for 56 days of training in distant waters and will visit India, Myanmar, Indonesia and Vietnam.

The fleet, under command of Han Xiaohu, assistant to the Chinese chief of naval operations, is scheduled to cross the Miyako Strait, the Malacca Strait and Sund Strait, covering a total of 12,000 nautical miles. The sailors on the fleet will hold exchange programs with their counterparts from the countries they visit, which include inviting foreign military students on board to eat and live with the Chinese sailors for several days.

Along with crew, Zhenghe is carrying 171 students from Dalian Naval Academy, the Naval University of Engineering and the Naval Aeronautical Engineering Institute. Between April and September 2012, the training vessel completed a global voyage, paying calls to 14 countries and regions.

China's missile frigate, Weifang, with a displacement of 4,000 tonnes, mainly shoulders the responsibility of cooperative air defense, sea patrols and ocean convoys.—Xinhua

New insurance programme to aims to reduce losses after traffic accidents



Deputy Minister for Finance Dr. Maung Maung Thein.

YANGON, 1 May—The Ministry of Finance is promoting special insurance



Union Minister at the President's Office U Tin Naing Thein delivers speech meeting on economic reform plans.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 1 May—The Union Minister at the President's Office U Tin Naing Thein on Tuesday held a meeting on economic reform plans in order to promote the rank of Myanmar in the 'Doing Business 2014 Report' of the World Bank.

The global financial institution included the Southeast Asian country

in its Doing Business report for the first time, ranking Myanmar nearly at the bottom with place 182 out of 189 in the "ease of doing business" index.

The Union Minister said that the role of organised delivery units was crucial for the economic reform processes, and that cooperation and coordination must become more

effective.

He also urged that priorities are to be given to nationals who are doing business. The Union minister suggested to create a systematic plan to reform the private sector, with ministry officials discussing further action on how to improve the country's ranking in the report.

MNA

and comprehensive motor insurance. The premium is K 300.

The new insurance program is being sold through private insurance companies and is available not just bus passengers, but also those who travel in their own cars.

Aung Thura

GOLD PRICE, FE RATE (1-5-2014)

Yangon Gold Price

Buying K 659,400 per tical: Selling K 660,400

Mandalay Gold Price

Buying K 659,200 per tical: Selling K 660,200

FE RATE

USD Buying K 960 - Selling K 965

SGD Buying K 758 - Selling K 768

Euro Buying K 1315 - Selling K 1335

from May 1 for expressway travel as a measure to reduce personal losses in traffic accidents.

The programme was launched at the head office of Myanmar Insurance in Pabedan Township in Yangon on 29 April.

While prevention of traffic accidents on expressways is paramount, when they occur there was need for better protection, especially for bus passengers, because some express bus lines failed to buy insurance for their passengers, according to Deputy Minister for Finance Dr. Maung Maung Thein.

LOCAL NEWS

Over 200 members of region, district and township level women affairs organizations led by chairwoman Daw Htay Htay Aung of the regional organization clean the compound of the Kutho Daw Pagoda in Aungmyethazan Township, Mandalay Region, on 29 April.

TIN MAUNG
(MANDALAY)



Traffic police given green light to wear sunglasses



NAY PYI TAW, 1 May—Myanmar's traffic police working at junctions and crossroads are to be allowed to wear sunglasses as temperatures increase this summer.

The approval is part

of measures introduced to protect the traffic police from harmful ultraviolet rays and from eye complaints such as sore eyes and eye itchiness caused by the heat, says a member of Nay Pyi Taw Traffic

Police Force. It is reportedly the first time the Myanmar traffic police have been permitted to wear sunglasses. However, they are not to be allowed wearing "odd-looking" sunglasses.—Min Min Lat (Mandalay University)

Malaria course conducted in Mohnyin

MOHNYIN, 1 May—A two-day course on malaria was conducted from 29 to 30 April at Mohnyin District People's Hospital in Kachin State by experts from the Kachin State Malaria Control Team and

National Malaria Control Programme Team.

The course sponsored by the Global Fund was aimed at malaria prevention in rural areas.

The teams said they will also conduct data col-

lection on malaria risk factors from 12 to 20 May in eight villages in Mohnyin Township. The experts promised more lectures and free medical treatment in the coming weeks.

NLM-001



Workshop on interfaith friendship and peaceful coexistence among religious groups held in Meiktila

MEIKTILA, 1 May—A workshop on interfaith friendship and peaceful coexistence among different religious groups took place on Thursday in Poukchaung Ward of Meiktila Township in Mandalay Region and will be continued through Friday, officials said.

It was organized by the Yadana Myay Social Development Association

aimed at building trust among the main religious groups.

During the workshop, Buddhist, Christian, Hindu and Muslims leaders made speeches in their own languages, instructing followers on how to create a peaceful atmosphere.

The leaders also arranged visits to some religious sites.

NLM-018

Ruling party yet to decide whether it will compete for all vacant constituencies

MOHNYIN, 1 May—The ruling Union Solidarity and Development Party's central executive committee will soon decide whether the party will compete for all vacant constituencies or give a chance to ethnic parties in the upcoming by-election, said a party's CEC member.

U Kyaw Soe Lay was speaking to township, village and ward party members in Mohnyin District, Kachin State, on 28 April.

He said Kachin State has three vacant constituencies each in the people's parliament and national parliament.

During the meeting, U Kyaw Soe Lay also said it was not enough to express words only in canvassing for votes but needed to put them into action as people-centered canvassing is a delicate process.

It has been three years since three townships in Kachin State had vacant constituencies after the MPs had become regional cabinet members.

NLM-001



Seintalone mangoes fetch high prices early season Seintalone mangoes which were transported from Mandalay, Kyaukse and Han Myintmo to Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana fetch prices as high as K 300, K 400 and K 500 for each.—SHWE KOKKO

Traffic lights installed in Wundwin Township

WUNDWIN, 1 May—Four digital traffic lights have been installed at the junction of Meikti-

la-Mandalay Road and Thedaw-Leinbin Road in Wundwin Township, Mandalay Region, to improve

road safety.

The installation cost K 4.8 million.

Htay Hlaing (IPRD)



The President of Mexico Enrique Peña Nieto (front C) poses with guests for a group photo during the opening ceremony of the sixth Association of Caribbean States Summit in Merida, Yucatan, Mexico, on 30 April, 2014.
XINHUA

West Bank Hamas rally tests new Palestinian unity pact

RAMALLAH, 1 May — Over a thousand supporters of the Islamist group Hamas marched through the streets of a West Bank stronghold of its rival Fatah party on Wednesday, testing a surprise Palestinian unity pact the two signed last week.

The rally in Ramallah, the Palestinians' de facto capital in the Israeli-occupied territory, followed a funeral in the city's main mosque for Hamas militants killed by Israel in 1998. Their bodies were released from Israeli custody this week.

Wednesday's funeral was one of the largest gatherings by Hamas in the West Bank since the two parties came to blows in 2007, when the Islamists seized Gaza. Mutual suspicion between the two groups, and arrests, became commonplace thereafter.

"We've been under pressure and under surveillance for a long time. I hope this is the beginning of something new," said Muhammad, a mourner whose young son bounced in his arms waving Hamas's trademark green flag. "We just want to live

as one people. Peace talks with Israel have failed for decades, and I think we must maintain our option of (armed) resistance. But I support finding a way forward together," he added, wary of giving his full name.

Israel suspended US-backed peace talks it was having with Fatah chief and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas in the wake of his deal with Hamas, which is sworn to Israel's destruction. At the United Nations on Tuesday, Israeli and Palestinian envoys traded blame for

the talks' collapse. Hamas and Fatah agreed to form a unity government of independents within five weeks and hold a national election after at least six months, but the rapprochement looked tenuous given the persistence of deep political differences.

While Abbas has promised the new government will back his policy of seeking to revive peace talks to achieve a Palestinian state in Gaza, the West Bank and East Jerusalem alongside Israel, Hamas says it will never recognize the Jewish state.—Reuters

Leaders' personal power struggle destroying South Sudan

JUBA, 1 May — A personal power struggle between South Sudan's leaders is driving Africa's newest nation to "catastrophe", the UN rights chief said on Wednesday.

The visit by UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Navi Pillay was prompted by a rebel attack on the South Sudanese oil hub of Bentiu this month that left hundreds dead and a revenge assault by rivals on people sheltering in a UN base. The UN Security Council has called for an investigation into the killings and is considering sanctions against both sides, one led by President Salva Kiir, an ethnic Dinka, and the other commanded by his sacked deputy, Riek Machar, a Nuer.

"The country's leaders, instead of seizing their chance to steer their impoverished and war-battered young nation to stability and greater prosperity, have instead embarked on a personal power struggle that has brought their people to the verge of catastrophe," Pillay told a news conference in Juba.

The United Nations has accused rebels loyal to Machar of hunting down and butchering civilians in Bentiu, a strategic prize at the heart of one of South Sudan's main oil producing areas. Rebels deny the charge.

Pillay said she had also been sent to investigate the

killings days later in Bor, another flashpoint town during the more than four months of fighting, where residents in the predominantly Dinka area attacked a UN base where Nuer were sheltering. Dozens were killed.

Pillay, who met Kiir in Juba and Machar at his base in the bush in Upper Nile state during her visit, said the two attacks "have starkly underlined how close South Sudan is to calamity".

Many thousands have been killed in similar assaults, mostly involving rivals from the Dinka or Nuer killing their opponents. There has been little respite in the killings since fighting first erupted in mid-December, despite a January ceasefire.

A group of African and Western mediators met Machar last week to call for a face-to-face meeting with Kiir to halt the bloodshed and to demand a change of attitude to peace talks that have made no tangible change to fighting on the ground.

The mediators also warned Machar that both sides would be held to account for any rights abuses. Rights groups have said both parties may have carried out "war crimes", which could lead to prosecutions.

A new round of peace talks began in Addis Ababa on Monday.—Reuters

Senior army commander survives roadside bombing in SE Yemen

ADEN, (Yemen), 1 May — A senior army commander escaped a roadside bomb attack in Yemen's southeastern province of Hadramout on Wednesday, a government official told Xinhua.

"A roadside bomb went off near the convoy of Maj Gen Mohamed al-Somali, commander of the 1st military region in Hadramout Province, but he survived the apparent assassination," the local government official said on condition of anonymity.

The blast damaged one of the vehicles and wounded two of al-Somali's bodyguards, while the army general and two government officials in the convoy escaped unharmed, the source said.

A security official in Hadramout confirmed the incident to Xinhua, saying after the blast, masked men "sprayed automatic gunfire" on the car carrying al-Somali.

The Yemeni armed forces on Tuesday launched an all-out offensive against several al-Qaida hideouts in the country's southern regions of Abyan and Shabwa, a military official told Xinhua.

Suspected al-Qaeda gunmen decapitated six government soldiers captured during Tuesday's fighting in Shabwa, a pro-government tribal chief told Xinhua, also on condition of anonymity.

The Yemeni-based al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) has staged frequent revenge

attacks on local targets, including military ones, and foreign missions in the impoverished Arab country.

The AQAP, which emerged in January 2009, is considered the most serious strategic threat to the Yemeni government and neighbouring oil-rich Saudi Arabia.

Xinhua



Palestinian workers wait to cross the checkpoint between Bethlehem and Jerusalem on 1 May, 2014. On the International Labour Day, workers arrived here as early as two o'clock in the morning in order to cross into Israel in time to start their workday.
XINHUA

NATO Baltic Air Policing mission rotation ceremony held in Lithuania

VILNIUS, 1 May — Rotation ceremony of NATO's Baltic Air Policing mission was held in Lithuania's Air Base in Siauliai on Wednesday, which passed the baton to Britain, Poland and Denmark for the region's air security.

Lithuanian Prime Minister Algirdas Butkevicius said in the ceremony "For my country and for our Baltic neighbours the continuous presence of NATO fighters in our air bases and in our skies is of critical importance."

"It's a solid evidence of NATO's solidarity and responsibility over the security of all its members and Baltic nations in particular," he stressed.

A total of 14 allied nations have already flown missions in the Baltics since their joining of NATO in 2004, according to the prime minister.

Four Eurofighter Typhoons from Britain, and four Polish Mig-29s, located in Lithuania, will jointly patrol the Baltic region from 1 May, together with four Danish F-16 fighters.—Xinhua

HEALTH & BUSINESS

Are nail salon UV lamps a skin cancer risk?

NEW YORK, 1 May—The ultraviolet lamps used in some nail salons to dry and cure nail polish deliver the same hazardous rays as tanning beds, but it would take many manicures to actually cause damage, suggests a new study.

After testing 17 different lamps in nail salons, researchers calculated that it would take between eight and 208 visits—depending on the machine—to damage skin cells in a way that raises cancer risk.

“I wouldn’t tell a patient to stop going unless they were going multiple times a month,” lead author Dr Lyndsay Shipp from Georgia Regents University in Augusta told Reuters Health.

Exposure to ultraviolet (UV) radiation is a risk factor for most skin cancers, according to the American Cancer Society. Natural sunlight and UV lamps used for tanning give off the harmful rays, as do the small lamps used to speed drying in nail salons.

Previous studies have looked at the polish-drying UV lamps and suggested the rays may be powerful enough to cause damage, Shipp’s team notes in *JAMA Dermatology*, but those studies had flaws.

“They didn’t actually go out and measure the nail lamps themselves and measure the UV radiation they’re exposed to,” Shipp said.

For the new study, the researchers measured the UV-A rays produced by 17 different nail polish drying devices at 16 salons.

UV-A is one of three types of UV ray. It ages the skin to cause wrinkles and breaks DNA strands within skin cells, which can lead to cancer.

The lamps tested by the researchers differed in their power levels, but generally UV lamps with higher wattages put out higher levels of UV-A radiation.

Based on a calculation of how much UV-A radiation exposure is needed to damage DNA, the researchers

found that it would take—on average—11 uses for the devices to deliver enough UV-A to raise cancer risk.

They estimated that hands would be in the device for about eight minutes per manicure, and the risky total exposure times ranged from eight minutes to 208 minutes, depending on the machine.

Although the risk is low, Shipp’s team endorsed the idea of wearing sunscreen to protect hands from UV damage. Dr Alina Markova, who was not involved in the new study, told *Reuters Health* it’s also important to note that DNA damage doesn’t mean the person will develop cancer.

“Just one risk factor of DNA damage doesn’t mean you’ll have a clinical outcome of skin cancer or photoaging,” she said.

Markova, who works within the Boston University Department of Dermatology, has studied the UV rays put off by nail salon lamps. *Reuters*

Japan begins “Cool Biz” energy-saving casual wear campaign



Employees work in casual attire at the Environment Ministry in Tokyo on 1 May, 2014. Japan began its annual “Cool Biz” energy-saving campaign, encouraging workers to dress more casually to help reduce the use of air conditioners.

KYODO NEWS

TOKYO, 1 May—Japan began its annual “Cool Biz” energy-saving campaign on Thursday, encouraging workers to dress more casually to help reduce the use of air conditioners.

An increasing number of workers at companies and government agencies are wearing light clothing without ties as the Environment Ministry-led campaign

enters its 10th year.

Cool Biz will run until the end of October. Between June and September, the campaign will be stepped up to “Super Cool Biz,” which will allow workers to wear Hawaiian aloha shirts and polo shirts in the office.

The Environment Ministry introduced the casual dress code in 2005 to allow

office workers to work more comfortably with the air conditioning temperature set at 28 C to combat global warming.

Japan has brought forward the start of the campaign by a month to May since 2011 to cope with power shortages following the nuclear crisis at the Fukushima Daiichi plant triggered by a massive earthquake and subsequent tsunami.

“I didn’t expect this campaign to take root like this,” said Kenshi Hirokane, author of the popular comic book series *Kosaku Shima*.

Hirokane was involved in the selection of the catchphrase.

“Many political and business leaders stopped wearing ties, and that has helped the campaign spread,” he added. “It’s hot and humid in Japan. Even (businessman) Kosaku Shima, the main character of my comic book, wears fashionable shirts without ties.”

Kyodo News

Exelon to become top US power distributor with Pepco buy

WASHINGTON, 1 May—Exelon Corp said it would buy Pepco Holdings Inc for \$6.83 billion, helping it overtake Duke Energy Corp as the biggest power distribution company in the United States. The deal will allow Exelon to sell more power at stable rates set by regulators at a time when an abundance of cheap natural gas is dragging down power prices in the open market.

Exelon’s move to reduce its exposure to the vagaries of the wholesale power market comes as US utilities struggle with falling electricity demand in both the open and regulated markets due to increased energy efficiency and a weak economy.

However, Exelon’s stock fell as much as 5 percent to \$34.22.

“Some investors might question Exelon’s desire to increase the company’s regulated exposure at a time when power markets appear to be recovering,” said Wells Fargo analyst Neil Kalton.

The company defended the acquisition saying it was maintaining substantial exposure to the recovery in prices.

“The acquisition also supports our belief in the value of an integrated utility, with a balanced mix of regulated and non-regulated cash flows,” Exelon Chief Executive Chris Crane, who will lead the combined company, said on a conference



Experimental technique can regrow lost muscle in trauma victims

WASHINGTON, 1 May—US researchers said on Wednesday that it is possible to rebuild large amounts of muscles severely damaged in traumatic accidents or military wounds by implanted tissues of pig bladders. Researchers from the University of Pittsburgh tested the experimental technique on five male patients, who had lost between 58 and 90 percent of limb muscle, and found that three of them had a 25 percent improvement in function.

“This new study is the first to show replacement of new functional muscle tissue in humans, and we’re very excited by its potential,” Stephen Badylak, senior

investigator at the University of Pittsburgh.

“These are patients who can’t walk anymore, can’t get out of a car, can’t get up and down from a chair, can’t take steps without falling. Now we might have a way of helping them get better,” Badylak said.

Large amounts of muscle can be lost as a result of trauma, such as a car accident, a sports injury, or even an explosive device. There is no treatment for such volumetric muscle loss and native muscle is unable to regenerate to that extent, to fully recovery function and tissue volume. Instead, scar tissue can form to fill the gap.

Stem cells have been

shown to help damaged tissue regenerate, but in most cases, stem cells should be taken out, isolated and grown into the cell of choice, and then injected back into patients.

Badylak’s team, however, used the extracellular matrix (ECM) from pig bladders to attract stem cells to the site of injury to promote regrowth of muscle.

According to the researchers, pig bladder ECM has been used for many years as the basis for medical products for hernia repair and treatment of skin ulcers. It is the biologic scaffold that remains left behind after cells have been removed.

Xinhua

Exercising in the heat? Cool down for better performance

NEW YORK, 1 May—Using cold water, ice baths or ice vests before or during a workout in the heat helps athletes perform better, according to a new review. One way to think about it, said study author Dr Thijs M H Eijssvogels, would be that cooling techniques may reduce the amount of energy the body needs to use to stay cool, leaving more energy for the exercise itself.

“More blood will be available for oxygen transportation to the exercising muscles, which enables a better performance,” he told Reuters Health by email. “Thus less energy and effort is spilled for heat dissipating mechanisms.”

Eijssvogels, of the physiology department at Radboud University Medical Centre in The Netherlands, and his colleagues included 28 studies in their review of prior research on cooling techniques. All the studies focused on methods used by male athletes when temperatures were above 86 degrees Fahrenheit, and 20 of those looked at “precooling” techniques used before the workout began.—Reuters



A general view of the exterior of the Pepco Holdings Inc corporate headquarters in Washington, on 30 March, 2012.—REUTERS

Cost pressures mount as Malaysia Airlines search drags on

SYDNEY, 1 May — With the search for missing Malaysia Airlines Flight MH370 entering a new, much longer phase, the countries involved must decide how much they are prepared to spend on the operation and what they stand to lose if they hold back.

The search is already

set to be the most costly in aviation history and spending will rise significantly as underwater drones focus on a larger area of the seabed that Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott said on Monday could take six to eight months to search.

But despite US President Barack Obama publicly promising to commit

more assets, the United States appears keen to begin passing on the costs of providing sophisticated sonar equipment that will form the backbone of the expanded hunt.

That means Australia, China and Malaysia — the countries most closely involved in the operation — look set to bear the financial and logistical burden of a potentially lengthy and expensive search. “We’re already at tens of millions. Is it worth hundreds of millions?” a senior US defence official told *Reuters* last week. “I don’t know. That’s for them to decide.”

He made it clear that Washington was intent on spending less from now on, making it the first major donor country to scale back its financial commitment to the search.

“We’re not going to pay to perpetually use the equipment on an indefinite basis. Basically from

here on out — starting next week or so — they need to pick up the contract,” he said.

At least \$44 million was spent on the deployment of military ships and aircraft in the Indian Ocean and South China Sea in the first month of the search, about the same as was spent on the whole underwater search for Air France’s Flight AF447, which crashed into the Mid-Atlantic in 2009.

The Malaysian jetliner carrying 239 people disappeared en route from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing more than seven weeks ago, and huge surface and underwater searches have failed to solve the mystery of what happened.

That mystery has major implications for airline manufacturers such as Boeing, which builds the 777 model that crashed and is awaiting a verdict as to what went wrong.—*Reuters*

Blasts at India train station kill at least one, injure ten

MUMBAI, 1 May — Two blasts at a train station in the southern Indian city of Chennai on Thursday killed at least one person and injured 10 others, according to local reports.

The cause of the blasts at Chennai’s central station was not immediately known, according to local television station NDTV. NDTV said that

immediately after a train travelling from the north-eastern city of Guwahati to the southern city of Bangalore pulled into the station, the blasts ripped through the train.

Chennai is the capital of Tamil Nadu state, and a large share of the country’s car manufacturing industry is based in and around the city.—*Kyodo News*

China says premier’s Africa visit about more than just oil deals

BEIJING, 1 May — Chinese Premier Li Keqiang is to visit four African countries, including oil-rich Angola and Nigeria, but will not be going simply for energy deals as China increasingly aims to boost African living standards, officials said on Wednesday.

Trips by Chinese leaders to Africa are often marked by big natural resource deals, triggering criticism from some that China is only interested in the continent’s mineral and energy wealth.

Africans broadly see China as a healthy counterbalance to Western influence but, as ties mature, there are growing calls from policymakers and economists for more balanced trade relations.

China is also keen not to be perceived as an imperial master.

Li’s 4-11 May trip will also take in Ethiopia and Kenya and Assistant Minister of Commerce Zhang

Xiangchen told reporters there would be more than just oil agreements.

“During Premier Li Keqiang’s visit to the four African countries, all the relevant countries will sign some cooperation agreements between financial organizations and between companies, which are quite large in scope, not just on oil and natural resources,” Zhang said. “There are also many on agriculture, manufacturing, people’s livelihood and basic infrastructure,” he added, declining to provide details or financial figures.

Angola is China’s second-largest source of crude oil after Saudi Arabia.

Li’s delegation will sign agreements in the four countries which “will provide a solid foundation for future China-Africa trade and economic development”, Zhang said. He declined to say which company executives would accompany Li.—*Reuters*

Landmines kill nine Cambodians, injure 51 in Q1

PHNOM PENH, 1 May — Cambodia on Wednesday reported 60 landmine casualties in the first three months of this year, up 58 percent from 38 casualties over the same period last year.

The report of the Cambodian Mine Action and Victim Assistance Authority said that during the January-March period this year, nine people were killed, up from only three deaths at the same period last year.

In addition, 51 others were either injured or amputated during the first three months of this year, up from merely 35 at the same period last year.

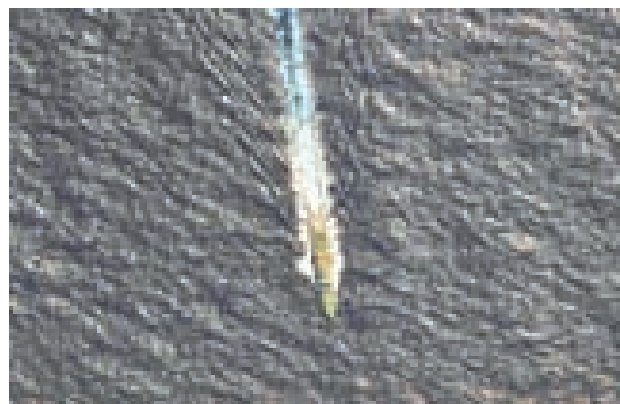
It said that 86 percent

of the victims were male.

According to the report, from 1979 to March 2014, landmines and unexploded ordnance had killed 19,693 people and either injured or amputated 44,681 others.

Cambodia is one of the world’s worst countries affected by mines as the result of three decades of war and internal conflicts from the mid-1960s to 1998.

The country is seeking around 50 million US dollars a year until 2020 to entirely get rid of all types of anti-personnel mines, according to Heng Ratana, director general of the Cambodian Mine Action Centre.—*Xinhua*



The Chinese Maritime Safety Administration (MSA) vessel Hai Xin 01 is seen from a Royal New Zealand Air Force (RNZAF) P-3K2 Orion aircraft in the southern Indian Ocean, as the search continues for missing Malaysia Airlines flight MH370 in this 13 April, 2014 file photo.—*REUTERS*

Punjab records 72 pct turnout in India’s general elections

AMRITSAR, (India), 1 May — An over 72 percent of turnout was recorded on Wednesday in the India’s general elections in the northern state of Punjab, officials said.

“The voter turnout was 72 percent and the polling by and large was peaceful throughout the state as no major incident was reported,” Raminder Singh, additional chief electoral officer, told media. “The poll percentage is likely to touch 73 to 74 percent.”

Reports said over two dozen brawls and clashes broke out at various places between supporters of Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD),

Congress Party and other parties at several places. About two dozen people are said to have suffered injuries in these clashes.

The turnout according to analysts is the highest so far in the history of Punjab in India’s general elections.

Long queues of voters including women were seen across the town and villages in the state despite a temperature soaring above 40 degrees Celsius.

Officials said there are 253 candidates in the fray across Punjab and more than 19.6 million people were expected to exercise their right to vote.

Officials had set up

22,022 polling booths across the state for the eligible voters.

Wednesday marked the seventh phase of polling in India.

Amritsar, the Sikh holy city, is witnessing a high-profile contest, with former Punjab chief minister Amarinder Singh, a Congress Party candidate pitted against Arun Jaitley, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) stalwart.

Analysts said the elections would be a turning point for Badal family’s Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD). The SAD has entered into a pre-poll alliance with the BJP. The

Passengers take a new metro line during a test run in Kunming, capital of southwest China’s Yunnan Province, on 30 April, 2014. Two metro lines in Kunming, Rail Transit Lines 1 and 2, have been undergone a test run on Wednesday. Both lines are vertical and are joined in one station, running 42.1 kilometers from north to south. A typical one-way trip from one end to the other costs 72.5 minutes.—*XINHUA*



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Dated: 2 May 2014

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MINISTRY OF ENERGY
MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE
(8/2014)

Open tenders are invited for supply of the following respective items in United States Dollars and Myanmar Kyats.

Sr.No	Tender No	Description	Remark
(1)	IFB -001(14-15)	Skid Mounted Water Transfer Pump with Motor Driven (700 gpm, 700 ft head)	US\$
(2)	IFB -002(14-15)	API Class 'G' Cemeny (1,000) Ton	US\$
(3)	IFB -003(14-15)	Spare for HDD Rig	US\$
(4)	IFB -004(14-15)	Spares for Rig Engine/Rig Pump Ex HDD Rig	US\$
(5)	IFB -005(14-15)	Assorted Sizes of Drilling Rock Bits	US\$
(6)	DMP/L-001(14-15)	B-40, B-60 & B-80 Shale Shaker Screens	KS
(7)	DMP/L-002(14-15)	CCTV Camera and Accessories	KS
(8)	DMP/L-003(14-15)	18R 22.5-20 PR Radial Tyre Complete Set and 20.5 x 25-24 Ply Tyre	KS
(9)	DMP/L-004(14-15)	6.0 Sqmm Wire Cable and Heat Shrink Tube	KS
(10)	DMP/L-005(14-15)	9 5/8" Float shoes and Collars (P-110, 53.5 lb/ft)	KS

-Tender Closing Date & Time - 26-5-2014, 16:30 Hr.

Tender Document shall be available during office hours commencing from 29th April, 2014 at the Finance Department, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, No (44) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.
Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise
Ph: +95 67 - 411097/411206

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV EVER ABLE VOY NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV EVER ABLE VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 2.5.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.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 Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

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

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Firefighters move towards a site where a forest fire reburned in Xiguan Town in the city of Dali in southwest China's Yunnan Province, on 30 April, 2014. A forest fire here was extinguished by 8:10 am yet reburned at 2:20 pm-Wednesday. A total of 1,120 firefighters tackled the blaze, which burned an area of more than 200 mu (about 13.3 hectares).—XINHUA

FTA between China, Switzerland to enter into force in July

GENEVA, 1 May — The free trade agreement (FTA) between China and Switzerland will enter into force on 1 July with internal approval procedures completed, the Swiss Federal Department of Economic Affairs, Education and Research (EAER) said on Wednesday.

This comprehensive bilateral FTA would "improve mutual access to markets for goods and services, strengthen legal certainty with regard to protecting intellectual property and bilateral economic exchanges in general," the EAER said.

It would "also remove customs duties in most areas of bilateral trade, either in full or in part (transitional periods will apply in some cases)," it added.

The Ministry of Commerce of China commended the pact as one of the most comprehensive FTAs between China and other economies, which would be a boost to Chinese-Swiss bilateral economic cooperation and pave the way for further exchange between China and Europe.

The FTA, signed in Beijing on 6 July, 2013, after nine rounds of negotiations of more than two years, is the first free trade pact inked between China and a country in continental Europe.

The agreement was ratified by the lower and upper houses of Swiss parliament in late 2013 and earlier this year respectively.—Xinhua

Sad feeling sweeps Canada's city of Nanaimo as shooting information trickles out

VANCOUVER, 1 May — Residents and authorities at Vancouver Island on Canada's west coast are trying to piece together why a man opened fire at a sawmill in the small city of Nanaimo, killing two men and sending two others to local hospitals early on Wednesday morning.

Local police said shots rang out shortly before 7 am (1400 GMT) in the parking lot of the Western Forest Products sawmill located on the shorefront of downtown Nanaimo, a city of about 80,000

people, located on the eastern coast of Vancouver Island in British Columbia (BC).

The 47-year-old suspect, who the company said was a former employee at the mill, went into the office of the sawmill and started to fire his gun.

Emergency phone calls started pouring in moments later, and when police officers arrived, they arrested the man and seized a shotgun at the scene.

"A lone male suspect was arrested without incident a few minutes later by

an Emergency Response Team member," Nanaimo Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) Commander Supt Mark Fisher told reporters. He said their early investigation suggests that the suspect acted alone.

"Police officers also quickly worked to search the entire building for additional threats, and injured victims," Fisher said, adding that no other suspects were found.

By midday, police had yet to comment on the motivation behind the shootings while friends

and relatives scrambled to get information about their loved ones who worked at the mill, which was operating on one shift and employed about 75 people.

The BC coroners service confirmed the deaths of the two victims, but had yet to identify them.

"Following an incident at the mill in south Nanaimo shortly after 7 am... two persons were transported by ambulance to Nanaimo Regional General Hospital," the service said in a release.

Xinhua

New Zealand to share disaster experience with Asia Development Bank

WELLINGTON, 1 May — New Zealand Revenue Minister Todd McClay will be sharing New Zealand's experience in recovering from natural disasters at the annual meeting of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) in Astana, Kazakhstan.

McClay said in a statement before leaving Thursday that the ADB annual meeting, which runs from 2 to 5 May this year, was New Zealand's major annual

engagement with the ADB. New Zealand contributed to the bank's ordinary capital reserves and was a regional donor country to the Asian Development Fund, which the ADB used for concessional lending programs and additional funding for other projects that New Zealand partnered with the ADB, particularly around the Pacific.

McClay said he would hold a number of bilateral

meetings, including with ADB President Takehiko Nakao, Australian Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasurer Steven Ciobo, and the head of the Chinese delegation.

"I have also been invited to participate in a session around disaster resilience in the Asia-Pacific region and share New Zealand's experiences in dealing with our recent natural disasters," he said.—Xinhua

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Argentine born Israeli Maestro Daniel Barenboim is pictured through a spyhole in a door as he conducts the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra during the New Year's Concert 2009 in Vienna's "Goldener Musikvereinsaal" on 1 Jan, 2009.—REUTERS

Spider-Man swings back to big screen, trapped in web of love

NEW YORK, 1 May — Spider-Man is having a blast, swinging, somersaulting and wise-cracking his way around the skyscrapers woman, a loved one — is a really big yearning for Peter that he struggles with in terms of the sacrifice he has to make as Spider-Man,”



A stunt man dressed as Spider-Man, poses during a photo call for the film “The Amazing Spider-Man 2”, at the Empire State Building in New York on 25 April, 2014.—REUTERS

and streets of New York, trouncing bullies and fighting crime.

Being Peter Parker however is much more difficult, especially when it comes to love. And it's Peter's conflicted, earth-bound romance with teen girlfriend Gwen Stacy that drives “The Amazing Spider-Man 2,” opening in US movie theaters on Friday. The film has already made \$132 million at the international box office.

“I didn't know how big a deal the love story aspect would be. But it is. It is the heart of Peter and the heart of his story,” said British-American actor Andrew Garfield, who dons the iconic super-hero's blue and red suit for a second time.

“It's his Kryptonite. Love — his desire to be an ordinary guy connected to a

the actor told *Reuters*.

Columbia Pictures' “The Amazing Spider-Man 2” reunites Garfield with Emma Stone as Gwen and director Marc Webb in another action-packed tale of the Marvel comic book crime fighter.

This time, Peter re-connects with old school chum Harry Osborn (Dane DeHaan) and takes on some of his most formidable foes — Electro (Jamie Foxx) and Harry's villainous alter-ego the Green Goblin — in his mission to protect New York from the evil designs of powerful conglomerate Oscorp.

“Spider-Man is really good at being Spider-Man,” Webb said. “In the last movie he was learning the ropes, and this time he has really embraced that part of himself.”—*Reuters*

Conductor Barenboim launches classical label with Universal

BERLIN, 1 May — Israeli pianist and conductor Daniel Barenboim announced on Wednesday the launch of a new classical music label in collaboration with Universal Music Group aimed at promoting high quality classical releases in digital space.

Barenboim, 71, said at a ceremony in Berlin that his new venture Peral Music was “the future of the digital world.”

The label will be run by Barenboim and will distribute classical music releases via iTunes for the first two months, after which the standard digital albums will become

available to other digital partners and streaming services.

“I have seen the changes to the place of music in society which is, in my view, much weaker than it was, say, 60 years ago,” Barenboim said in a statement.

“I didn't want to accept such a negative verdict and therefore I wanted to find a way to start something that might get through to the younger generation who are completely at home in the digital world, and might get interested in a project like this that is exclusively in the digital space.”

The releases, however,

will be aimed at the general public rather than just young people, Barenboim explained after the conference.

He said the project would serve as an important step to mark how the use of the new technology could help the recording industry that is “going through transitional period.” The first releases, already available at the label's website www.peralmusic.com/, consist of Anton Bruckner's symphonies 1-3 recorded by German's Staatskapelle Berlin. The upcoming releases will also include two piano recitals of Stravinsky's “Rite of Spring”.—*Reuters*

Riding hat worn by Empress Elisabeth fetches \$186,500 at Vienna auction

VIENNA, 1 May — A riding hat believed to have been worn by Austro-Hungarian Empress Elisabeth, called “Sisi” by family and friends, fetched 134,500 euros (\$186,500 / 110,550 pounds) at a Vienna auction, more than 50 times higher than expected.

Elisabeth was the wife of Emperor Franz Joseph I, a selection of whose personal items were also highly sought-after at Wednesday's sale of imperial memorabilia.

“The hat I think is the most interesting object, although we are not sure if it belonged to Sisi or her daughter,” said Georg

Ludwigstorff, the auction specialist in charge.

“There is always high interest in the Habsburgs' personal items — especially those of Elisabeth,” Ludwigstorff said. The auction at Austria's Dorotheum took place as Vienna prepares to mark 100 years since the 28 June, 1914 assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand, heir to the Austro-Hungarian throne, which lit the fuse for World War One. Katrin Unterreiner, curator of the Plachutta Kaiserhaussammlung, the biggest private Habsburg imperial collection, was thrilled to acquire Sisi's ermine muff for 3,750 euros.



A woman takes photographs in front of the entrance to the Sisi museum at Hofburg palace in Vienna on 16 April, 2014. —REUTERS



Former Austrian empress Elisabeth's blue Corfu gown, worn on Habsburg vacations to the Greek island, is on display at Sisi museum in Vienna on 23 April, 2014. —REUTERS

“I was very surprised. I actually expected it to go higher. But that's the exciting thing about auctions. You never know what will happen,” Unterreiner said.

Sisi, a beauty and free spirit who continues to intrigue biographers, novelists and film makers, was assassinated by an Italian anarchist in 1898.

Beyond her riding hat, a sketch that the 10-year-old future empress drew of a child hugging a dog sold for 11,000 euros, while her dinner bell fetched 15,000 euros. Elements of her wardrobe, including a collection of ermine garments,

are on display in Vienna at an exhibition commemorating the 10th year of the Sisi Museum. Personal items belonging to Emperor Franz Josef also commanded higher-than-estimated prices. Unterreiner bought for the Plachutta collection two of the emperor's imperial cigars for 34,500 euros, 16 times their expected price. A lock of his blond hair, taken from future emperor at the age of three, was hotly contested, reaching 15,000 euros. His monogrammed imperial underpants barely surpassed the reserve price at 2,500 euros.—*Reuters*

Josh Hartnett, the superhero who wasn't

LOS ANGELES, 1 May — Actor Josh Hartnett says that he turned down chances to play Spider-Man, Batman and Superman. Josh Hartnett was offered the trio of superhero roles during the early days of his career, but he saw ‘danger’ in those movies, reports femalefirst.co.uk.

“Spider-Man was something we talked about. Batman was another one. But I somehow knew those roles had potential to define me, and I didn't want that. I didn't want to be labelled as Superman for the rest of my career. I was maybe 22, but I saw the danger,” said the 35-year-old.

Josh Hartnett's next project will see him move to the small screen with supernatural drama *Penny Dreadful*.—*PTI*



GENERAL

OBITUARY

U Tin Pe (Aged 81)
Director General (Retd.)
Dept. of Basic Education
Ministry of Education

Son of U Ba Kyin+Daw Nyein Mya, beloved husband of Daw Kyin Kyin (SAT Retd.) No-19, Ma Kyi Kyi Road, Sanchaung, Yangon, father of U Thant Zin (M.D. Treasure Villa Gems Co., Ltd)+Daw Moe Thu Zar (35 Mart), U Zaw Aung (Director, Htut Aung Co., Ltd)+Daw Mo Mo Tin (35 Mart), (U Nyi Zin), Dr. Wai Mar Tin, passed away in Yangon General Hospital on 28.4.2014 at 6:45 pm. Cremation at Yayway Crematorium Yangon, on 2.5.2014 at 5:00 pm.

Bereaved Family



Members of labor union attend a rally at the Indonesia Stock Exchange for the upcoming May Day rally in Jakarta, Indonesia, on 30 April, 2014. Tens of thousands of workers will stage May Day rallies in Indonesia's capital of Jakarta on 1 May to demand a pay hike. —XINHUA

Top students awarded at Namibia's Confucius Institute

WINDHOEK, 1 May—Excellent learners of Chinese language from the Confucius Institute at University of Namibia (UNAM) were awarded the Chinese Ambassador Cup on Wednesday.

Initiated by the institute and the Chinese Embassy in Namibia, the award aims to encourage students to work harder in learning Chinese language and culture.

Professor Lazarus Hangula, Vice Chancellor of UNAM, called the first batch of students of Confucius Institute "pioneers" in his speech at the award ceremony.

"It is not easy for pioneers to do things. But you are making history. And I am sure you will not say that you have made a mistake in making this decision," said Hangula, encouraging the students to learn China's experience in development by starting to learn the language.

First-prize winner Idda A Shikangala, who gave herself the Chinese name Yiren, or beautiful lady, was able to deliver her speech in Chinese at the award ceremony after learning the language for merely ten months.

"I found the language more interesting when I learnt that 'long time no see' actually derived from Chinese," said Shikangala.

Shikangala said that she liked challenging herself by learning different languages. Besides Chinese, she is also learning French and Portuguese.

Her excellence in learning Chinese language has also won her the opportunity to join a summer camp in China this year, which will be sponsored by Hanban, the headquarters of Confucius Institute.

According to Zhang Sufang, Director of the Confucius Institute at UNAM, the institute has attracted over 100 learners since it was officially launched in August 2013 based on cooperation agreements between UNAM and China University of Geosciences (Beijing). It offers courses of basic and advanced standard Mandarin, and is preparing to become a certified center for testing Chinese Language proficiency.—Xinhua

MYANMAR TV

(2-5-2014, Friday)

- 6:00 am**
 1. Paritta by Venerable Mingun Sayadaw
6:30 am
 2. Physical Exercises
7:00 am
 3. News / Weather Report
7:25 am
 4. Hyper Sports
8:30 am
 5. India Drama Series
9:00 am
 6. News/ International News
10:20 am
 7. Documentary
11:00 am
 8. Clever
12:00 pm
 9. News/International News/Weather Report
3:15 pm
 10. Teleplay (Health)
4:00 pm
 11. News
3:45 pm
 12. Documentary
4:40 pm
 13. University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) Third Year (Physics)
5:00 pm
 14. News
5:30 pm
 15. India Drama Series
6:00 pm
 16. News/ Weather Report
6:20 pm
 17. Amazing World
7:00 pm
 18. News
8:00 pm
 19. News/International News/Weather Report
8:35 pm
 20. People Talks
9:00 pm
 21. News
 22. Documentary
 23. Hyper Sorts
 24. Teleplay

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(2-5-14 07:00am~
 3-5-14 07:00am) MST

- * Local News
- * A Day Life of Kayan Padaung Tribe
- * World News
- * A Girl Guide
- * Local News
- * A Way of Life: Karate-do
- * World News
- * Aesthetic Chinlone
- * Local News
- * Taking an Oath for Life
- * World News
- * Strolling Along a Memory Link — U Pein Bridge
- * Local News
- * Shop Shop Shop - Bogyoke Market
- * World News
- * Tea Leaves
- * Local News
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- * World News
- * Moving Meditation: Aikido
- * Local News
- * Me N My Travel (Wonderful Pagodas on The Mount Akauk)
- * World News
- * Famous Pagodas of Sagaing

New Zealand exporters adapting to global development

WELLINGTON, 1 May — New Zealand businesses are adapting rapidly to changes in global markets, particularly since the Global Financial Crisis, Economic Development Minister Steven Joyce said on Thursday on the release of two key business reports. "It is actually quite phenomenal how the New Zealand export sector has successfully adapted to the growth of Asia and the

strength of the New Zealand dollar," Joyce said in a statement.

"Less than 40 years ago the UK took approximately 50 percent of all New Zealand's exports; today it takes just 3 percent and China, Australia and the US are our biggest trading partners."

He was commenting on two reports released by the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment:

the New Zealand Sectors Report 2014, which gives a comprehensive overview of economic performance; and the Knowledge Intensive Services Report, which highlights the role of professional, scientific and technical services in facilitating growth, innovation and exports. "Australian businesses are responsible for 63 percent of all foreign direct investment in New Zealand,

while half of all our outward direct investment is in Australia. A growing number of New Zealand businesses are truly trans-Tasman in scale and reach," said Joyce.

"Dairy continues to be our biggest export industry, but other large New Zealand exports include technology products, oil and gas, processed foods, wine, education, and IT services."

Xinhua

City look to take advantage of Liverpool's slip

LONDON, 1 May — Having had their Premier League title charge reignited by Liverpool's loss to Chelsea on Sunday, Manchester City will be wary of letting the opportunity slip when they meet Everton in arguably their toughest remaining game of the season.



Manchester United's manager Ryan Giggs reacts after their English Premier League soccer match against Norwich City at Old Trafford in Manchester, northern England, on 26 April, 2014.—REUTERS

Manuel Pellegrini's men sit in third place with 77 points, three behind leaders Liverpool and one adrift of Chelsea, but with an extra match to play and a superior goal difference, three successive wins should secure the trophy.

Their final two games are at home to Aston Villa and West Ham United, both woefully out of form, and the 2011-12 champions would back themselves strongly to take six points against sides in the bottom half of the table. The trip to Goodison Park on Saturday 5:30 pm (1630 GMT) looks less straightforward, however, as Everton, who have lost two of their past three matches, still have an outside chance of finishing fourth for the first time since 2005.

City fought back from a goal down to win 3-1 when the sides last met, and Argentine right back Pablo Zabaleta said they could not waste the opportunity.

"The next game is Everton away and we know it is going to be tough. Everton away has been difficult for us. They are playing for fourth place so nothing is going to be easy and we need to show character, personality. We have got a big chance.

"We said before Crystal Palace we need Liverpool to drop some points. They have but nothing is settled. We need to continue working hard like we have done during the whole season and hopefully we can win the next three

games. "Now everything is in our hands again. We have three games to play, and everything is in our hands again. We know we must win those games if we are to win the title again but it's going to be very difficult."

Pellegrini may risk attacking midfielder David Silva, who missed the win over Crystal Palace with an ankle injury.

Everton find themselves in the awkward position of being able to hand local rivals Liverpool a boost in their challenge for the title should they win, and while the players are unlikely to fight for anything other than victory, some fans may not be too unhappy if they lose to City. Defeat by Southampton was a major blow to their hopes of qualifying for the Champions League and fourth-placed Arsenal need a home win over West Bromwich Albion on Sunday (1230) to secure a place in Europe's elite club competition for the 17th consecutive season.

Manchester United will be out to prove the 4-0 defeat of Norwich in Ryan Giggs' first match in charge since replacing David Moyes was more than just a one-off, but will come up against a rejuvenated Sunderland side on Saturday fighting for their Premier League life (1400).—Reuters

Atletico bathe in glory as Real await in final

LONDON, 1 May — Atletico Madrid enjoyed one of the most glorious nights in their 111-year history when they knocked Chelsea out of the Champions League on Wednesday to set up a final against mighty neighbours Real.

The Spanish sides will cross the border into Portugal for the final in Lisbon on 24 May after Atletico came from behind to beat Chelsea 3-1 with a superb display of counter-attacking football that left Jose Mourinho's side in tatters.

Former Atletico striker Fernando Torres put Chelsea ahead in the 36th minute but goals from Adrian Lopez a minute before halftime, a 60th-minute penalty from Diego Costa and a 72nd-minute goal by Arda Turan gave Atletico a 3-1 aggregate win after the first leg ended 0-0 in Madrid.

Atletico and Real, who knocked out champions Bayern Munich on Tuesday, will become the first two teams from the same city to contest any European final.

It will be the 17th



Atletico Madrid's Juanfran (centre, R) comforts Chelsea's John Terry (centre, L) after their Champions League semi-final second leg soccer match at Stamford Bridge stadium in London on 30 April, 2014.—REUTERS

final between two sides from the same country across all UEFA's various competitions, and the second all-Spanish final after Real beat Valencia in the 2000 Champions League showdown.

Atletico will be in the final for the first time since they lost to Bayern Munich

in a replay in 1974 and Real's path to a 10th European crown is now blocked by their local rivals looking to become European champions for the first time.

On this showing it is no foregone conclusion that illustrious, rich and powerful Real will have things all their own way at

the Stadium of Light.

Atletico coach Diego Simeone, who bounded down the touchline Mourinho-style to celebrate his team's decisive third goal, told reporters: "I don't see as either an advantage or a disadvantage playing against Real.

"The reality is we

know each very well and we will be playing against a powerful club used to these big nights. It's a long time since we were in this position so we are very excited to be there."

Chelsea coach Mourinho, beaten in the semi-finals for the fourth successive season, conceded that the better team had won.

"The first half was more ours than theirs, but the game turned when their goalkeeper made a very good save from John Terry and in the same minute they had a penalty and it was 2-1. After that there was only one team in it, and they had the game under control," he said.

Both teams set up with defensive formations and stayed very deep to counter each other's attacking breaks.

Mourinho sprung a surprise by drafting Ashley Cole into his back four and playing Cesar Azpilicueta in a midfield role, and while that worked initially, Atletico, set up with two tight banks of four across the back, gradually took control of the game.

Reuters

Former Japan striker to coach Brazilian club

RIO DE JANEIRO, 1 May — Former Japan international striker Wagner Lopes has been named coach of Brazilian Serie A club Criciuma.

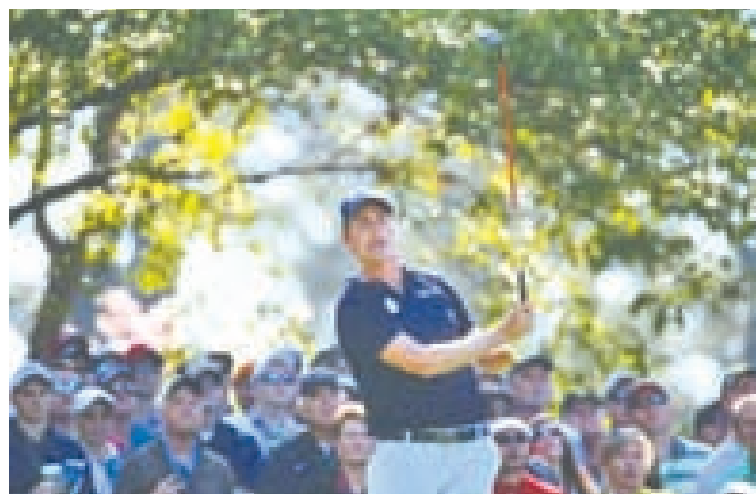
The 45-year-old was appointed less than a day after the sacking of Caio Junior, the club announced on Wednesday.

Lopes, who began his career for Sao Paulo, spent most of his playing career in Japan and, after being naturalized as a Japanese citizen, represented the Asian nation at the 1998 World Cup in France.

"I know this is going to be a big challenge but I've worked hard to get where I am and I'm ready," Lopes said during a Press conference.

Criciuma are languishing in 19th place in Brazil's top flight, having lost their first two matches of the season.—Xinhua

Simpson banking on home comforts at Quail Hollow



US golfer Webb Simpson reacts after hitting his tee shot on the fourth hole during the first round of the Masters golf tournament at the Augusta National Golf Club in Augusta, Georgia on 10 April, 2014. REUTERS

LOS ANGELES, 1 May — Former US Open champion Webb Simpson is banking on home advantage at this week's \$6.9 million Wells Fargo Championship in Charlotte, North Carolina to help him reverse a run of poor form in his last six PGA Tour starts. The 28-year-old American, who lives about a mile away from the clubhouse at Quail Hollow Club, made a barn-storming start to the 2013-14 season with four successive top-10s, including a victory at the Shriners Hospitals for Children Open.

However, Simpson has mainly struggled over the past three months, and has

missed two cuts in his last six appearances on the US circuit with a best stroke-play finish of joint 47th.

"I've got to tell myself all the time, it's a game where you go in waves," Simpson, whose best finish at Quail Hollow was in 2012 when he placed fourth, said while preparing for Thursday's opening round. "Jimmy Walker's super hot right now. He's playing incredible golf. Maybe the best of anybody in the world."

Fellow American Walker has won a season-high three times on the 2013-14 PGA Tour.

"Then you take a guy

like Tiger Woods who has been the best player forever, and he even goes through the low slumps," Simpson told reporters.

"So all that to say, I'm not too worried. I never get too down. It gets frustrating, but it's nice to be able to play every week. What we do is we get opportunities every week to start playing good again." Simpson, who clinched his fourth PGA Tour title at the Shriners Hospitals for Children Open in October by a commanding six shots, knows every inch of Quail Hollow where he spends a lot of time practising when he is back at home.—Reuters

Patience key to Valencia's comeback chances, says Pizzi

LONDON, 1 May — Patience and intensity will be crucial if Valencia are to overturn a 2-0 deficit in Thursday's Europa League semi-final, second leg at home to La Liga rivals Sevilla, coach Juan Antonio Pizzi said. First-half goals from Stephane Mbia and Carlos Bacca in last week's first leg at the Sanchez Pizjuan gave Sevilla a handy advantage ahead of the return at the Mestalla as the Spanish rivals seek a place in the final in Turin on 14 May.

Valencia will be looking for a performance to match their comeback from 3-0 down against Swiss side Basel in the quarter-finals and Pizzi urged his players not to let their anxiety get the better of them.

"I think that in Seville we deserved to score the odd goal with the opportunities we created," Pizzi told a news conference on Wednesday.

"The key to a comeback is to have patience and persevere, play with an intensity that is beyond our limits," added the Argentina-born former striker.

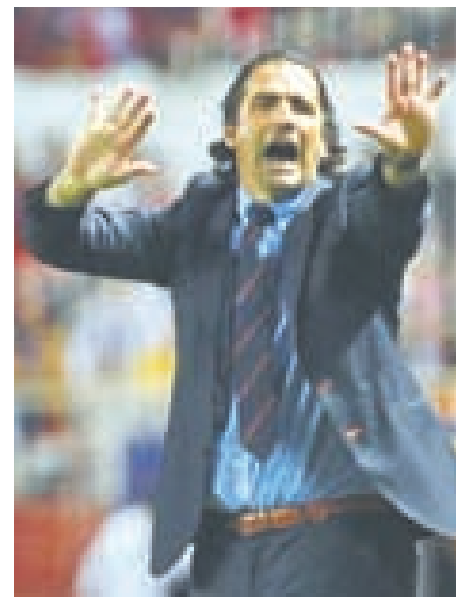
"If we do that there will come a moment in the

match when we will have chances and the certainty to take them. "But above all calm and patience, the goals can be scored in a very short space of time."

Sevilla, who won Europe's second-tier club competition in 2006 and 2007 when it was called the UEFA Cup, would be approaching Thursday's match as if it was still 0-0, according to goalkeeper Beto. "The worst thing we can do is relax because of the advantage we have," he said on Sevilla's website (www.sevillafc.es).

"We want to take the game to Valencia, look for a positive result and forget about what happened in the first leg," added the Portuguese. "We have to prepare well so there are no surprises, so we are very responsible, as we are a step away from something very nice and we have to seize the chance with everything we have."

The winners of the tie will play Turin-based Juventus or Benfica in the final. Benfica have a 2-1 advantage from the first leg in Portugal.—Reuters



Valencia's coach Juan Antonio Pizzi gestures during their Europa League semi-final first leg soccer match against Sevilla at Ramon Sanchez Pizjuan stadium in Seville, on 24 April, 2014. REUTERS