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Myanmar Peace Centre hosts 88 Generation Peace and Open Society, KNU delegation

Pado Naw Zipporrah Sein discusses the peace process with Union Minister U Aung Min at Myanmar Peace Centre.—PHOTO: YE MYINT

By *Ye Myint*

The Myanmar Peace Centre hosted two separate meetings regarding the ongoing peace process at its building on Shweli Road in Kamayut Township, Yangon on Tuesday.

A meeting between the Myanmar Peace Centre headed by the Union Minister at the President Office U Aung Min and The 88 Generation Peace and Open Society took place at 10.15 a.m., with officials saying the talks focused on cooperation between the two organizations and the ongoing peace process and that both sides agreed to hold monthly meetings.

According to the social website of The 88 Generation Peace and Open Society, U Ko Ko Gyi, U Jimmy,

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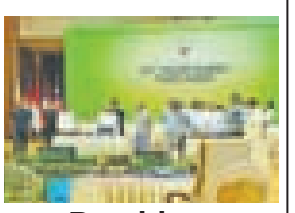

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Ground lease for Thilawa SEZ's class A development area has started as land grading nearly completed

By *Ye Myint*

Advertisements regarding the lease of land plots in the Thilawa Special Economic Zone will appear in daily newspapers soon, as the lease of land there has already started, an official of the Myanmar-Japan Thilawa Development company told The New Light of Myanmar in a phone conversation on Tuesday, saying that the company has received lots of property enquiries from foreign investors.

Construction work of the first phase for the class A development area of the Thilawa Special Economic Zone project has been completed by 19 percent, the official said on condition of anonymity. Grading the land surface for the 2,400-hectare zone is almost finished, while the building of a drainage network has been completed 15 percent, with road work completed 5 percent, according to the official.

Zamani Dam will play a role in distributing thousands of gallons of water to Thilawa SEZ and arrangements for power supply have been made with the Ministry of Electric Power. Power supply will begin in the next dry season, the official added.

Penta-Suntac, a joint venture company, is now in charge of building basic infrastructure for the Thilawa SEZ Project. The project, jointly owned by Myanmar and Japan on a 51/49 per cent ownership ratio, is Japan's largest investment in Myanmar. Myanmar-Japan Thilawa Development Limited, established to develop the project, started its operation last November.

NLM

The site for building a retention pond in Thilawa SEZ's class A development area.—PHOTO: YE MYINT

ASEAN to make uniform aviation laws, rules and regulations for ASEAN Single Aviation Market

By *Aye Min Soe*

Myanmar began hosting the 29th ASEAN Air Transport Working Group Meeting on Tuesday, which will focus on making aviation laws, rules and regulations uniformity in the ASEAN region as part of efforts to createan ASEAN Single Aviation Market-ASAM.

Officials from ASEAN countries and from ASEAN's dialogue partners China, Japan, Korea, India and the EU will also discuss matters related to cooperation and relaxation in the aviation sector during the four-day meeting in Yangon.

The 29th ATWG is the very first meeting to be chaired by Myanmar which is the current chair of ASEAN.

To support the establishment of the ASEAN Economic Community which aims at transforming ASEAN into a single market, the ATWG has been working diligently

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Myanmar, Japan to promote rail, road transport sectors

Myanmar delegation of Railway Transport Ministry observing railway and road transport sector.—MNA

Nay Pyi Taw, 6 May—A Myanmar delegation led by the Union Minister for Rail Transportation paid a visit to Tokyo of Japan from 27 April to 2 May to observe railway and road transport sector of Japan at the invitation of Akihiro Ohta, Japanese Minister of Rail Transportation.

The Union minister and party viewed registration of vehicles at Samezu Vehicle Registration and Inspection Department on 28 April. They also visited Tokyo Freight Terminal Station that transported 20.5 million tons of containers in 2012 fiscal year. They viewed handling of container transport.

On 29 April, they took Shinkansen (E7 Series) bullet train that was launched in March 2014.

The Union minister met Yohei Sasakawa, Chairman of Nippon Foundation on 30 April morning and discussed cooperation in rail transportation between the two countries.

At JICA headquarters, he held talks on soonest completion of JICA projects in Myanmar and upgrading of Yangon-Mandalay railroad.

On 1 May, he met Watanabe, Chairman of Japan-Myanmar Friendship Association.

The Union minister also observed run of BRT of Keisei BRT Bus Company, and Automated Guideway Transit train system of Yurikamome region. The Union minister met Japanese Minister of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism Akihiro Ohta and discussed promotion of rail and road transport sectors between Myanmar and Japan.—*MNA*

Parliament set to resume on 28 May

Nay Pyi Taw, 6 May— The tenth sessions of the first People's Parliament and Union Parliament are set to resume on 28 May here.

Speaker of the People's Parliament and Union Parliament Thura U Shwe Mann announced the resumption of the People's Parliament for 10 a.m and the Union Parliament at 1 p.m.

The Speaker has urged MPs to arrive on time in Nay Pyi Taw, and said that they are to report their arrival at Parliament Office on 26 and 27 May.

The resumption of Parliament will coincide with the 15th Waning of Kason 1376 ME.

MNA

Union S & T minister attends meeting for vocational education

Union Minister for Science and Technology Dr. Ko Ko Oo discussing implementation and promotion of technology and vocational education.—MNA

Nay Pyi Taw, 6 May — Union Minister for Science and Technology Dr. Ko Ko Oo on Sunday attended the meeting of special working committee for implementation and promotion of technology and vocational education.

The meeting was held in Technical and Vocational Education Department (Yangon South District Office) on Natmauk Road, Yangon.

Union Minister said: "Nurturing experts, technical expertise and skillful persons are important for development of human resources. Plans should be made and policies should be adopted, centring on the needs of public, by organizing working groups to enact laws for implementation of long and short-term projects for technology and vocational education sectors. The results from the discussions are also to be presented to task forces of the projects."

U Soe Tint, deputy minister for construction, and Dr. Aung Kyaw Myat, deputy minister for science and technology, discussed the plans to organize working groups and nurture skilled persons.

MNA

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for the establishment of an ASEAN Single Aviation Market-ASAM under the guidance of ASEAN Senior Transport Officials and the ASEAN Transport Ministers, and has made progress on Implementing the Framework of the ASEAN, particularly the adoption of the Economic and Technical Work Plans 2014-2015, said U Tin Naing Tun, the Director-General of the Department of Civil Aviation, in opening remarks of the meeting.

NLM

Yan Myo Aye, Zaw Zaw Latt leading in Myanmar Golf Tour (Yangon)

Yangon, 6 May—The Second Myanmar Golf Tour (Yangon) 2014 kicked off at Yangon Golf Club in Insein Township of Yangon on Tuesday morning.

After the first round, Yan Myo Aye and Zaw Zaw Latt (Han Golf Academy) led the professional level with 70 each, followed by Myo Win Aung, 71.

In Amateur level, Ye Htet Aung and Thein Naing Soe stood joint first with 72 each and Kyaw Thet Oo, 75.

The golf tour was sponsored by United Amara Bank.—*Po Thaw Zin*

Organizers and golfers pose for photo at Yangon Golf Club in Insein.—Photo: Po Thaw Zin

Myanmar Peace Centre hosts 88...

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U Mya Aye, U Arnt Bwe Kyaw and Ma Hnin Saw attended the meeting which lasted for more than two hours.

U Nyo Ohn Myint from MPC who was present at the meeting told The NLM that the meeting was aimed at narrowing the information gap between the two organizations.

In his welcome speech in the evening meeting with a delegation of the Karen National Union (KNU), Vice-Chairman of Union Peace-Making Work Committee U Aung Min acknowledged the role of KNU's Vice-President Pado Naw Zipporrah Sein, who was the general secretary of the organization and released a statement calling for the participation of all ethnic armed groups in the Government's peace plan.

The KNU Vice-Chairman elaborated on her delegation's tour of Ayeyawady Region, highlighting the importance of Karen Unity and Peace at the meeting.

"No fighting with KNU during the days of census-taking in Kayin State, as a result of trust-building, U Aung Min said during a media briefing."

"Genuine Peace is critical for reaching a nation-wide ceasefire deal and for creating a participatory environment that includes the government and all non-state armed groups as well as political parties, civil society organizations," Pado Naw Zipporrah Sein voiced, stressing the need of taking a step-by-step plan paving the way for reaching lasting peace that guarantees the right to equality.

The Myanmar Peace Centre was opened on 3 November, 2012 to assist the Union Peace-making Central Committee and the Union Peace-making Work Committee for the peace process, to coordinate all peace initiatives, to act as a one-stop service center for donor governments and INGOs that want to support the peace process and serve as a platform for government officials, ethnic armed groups, civil society organizations, international donors and INGOs to meet and negotiate.

Ye Myint

President oversees ASEAN Summit preparations

President U Thein Sein overviews preparations for hosting ASEAN Summit at Myanmar International Convention Centre-MICC in Nay Pyi Taw.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 6 May—Myanmar is in the final stages of preparing-to host the 24th ASEAN Summit and other related meetings, which are set to take place at the Myanmar International Convention Centre in Nay Pyi Taw on 10-11 May, according to sources close to the government.

U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, on Tuesday morning inspected preparatory measures being taken there. The president looked over arrangements the welcoming parties have made, including hotel accommodations for delegates, dinners, opening and closing ceremonies, and get-togethers for the heads of the ASEAN countries, parliamentarians from ASEAN countries, delegates from social organizations, and ASEAN youth delegations. He viewed round display of Myanmar Traditional Arts and Crafts Exhibition at Mount Pleasant Hotel and Mani Yadana Jade Hall.

U Thein Sein also visited the VIP rooms in hotels and the halls where the summit and other related meetings will be hosted.

MNA

Vice-President Dr. Sai Mauk Kham inspects rural development programmes in northern Shan State

Vice-President Dr. Sai Mauk Kham views power-tillers purchased through loans.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 6 May—Vice-President Dr. Sai Mauk Kham on Tuesday visited Lashio township during his tour of northern Shan State to inspect rural development programmes.

"The Ministry of Co-operatives is now giving agricultural loans and selling agricultural machinery to rural residents and members of township co-operative groups," he said.

Dr. Sai Mauk Kham joined a ceremony for promoting rural development plans during which a loan of K 3686 million for the cultivation of monsoon crops this year was handed out, as well as 174 units of agricultural machinery worth K 442 million, 26 units of sewing machines and three-wheeled tuk-tuks worth 50 million.

The loans from the Ministry of Cooperatives are financed with money from the state, foreign financial firms, local monetary firms and CB Bank.

President U Thein Sein introduced programmes for rural development and poverty alleviation, including small loan programmes, just months after the government took office. —*MNA*

Vice-President U Nyan Tun discusses development of SMEs

NAY PYI TAW, 6 May — Vice-President U Nyan Tun on Tuesday urged the working groups for the development of small and medium-sized enterprises to pull their weight behind the mission, at a meeting hall of Ministry of Industry here.

"Small and medium-sized enterprises are the driving force behind the development of the country. They are important for manufacturing products and developing services on the market."

The Vice-President continued to say that the infrastructural developments in the sectors of energy, water supply and transportation were vital, as well as the supply of finance for national entrepreneurs.

He also suggested reviewing the needs of industrial zones and creating opportunities for foreign investments.

Deputy Minister U Thein Aung of the Ministry of Industry elaborated on the plans for setting up offices and agencies for SMEs, and allocation of land.

MNA

China, Myanmar pledge to boost military cooperation

BEIJING, 6 May—Xu Qiliang, vice chairman of China's Central Military Commission, met with Myanmar's air force commander-in-chief General Khin Aung Myint on Tuesday, pledging to boost cooperation between the two militaries.

Hailing the traditional friendship between China and Myanmar, Xu said the two militaries have cooperated on high-level interactions, technology and personnel training in past years. "Looking ahead, we should continue strategic communication, further practical cooperation, strengthen coordination on multilateral occasions, and work together to safeguard tranquility and stability in border areas to contribute to the development of bilateral relationship," said the Chinese general. Khin Aung Myint voiced his gratitude for China's enduring support for the Myanmar armed forces, and said that Myanmar will continue to enhance cooperation with China to advance military-to-military ties.—*Xinhua*

Automotive Products Working Group meets

YANGON, 6 May—Automobile Products Working Group (APWG) had its 19th meeting at Park Royal Hotel in Yangon this morning, focusing on strengthening the ASEAN market and penetrating the global market, sources close to business circles said.

The meeting drew officials of No.1 Heavy Industry of Ministry of Industry and delegates from ASEAN countries. The meeting is considered a vital step toward the successful establishment of ASEAN Economic Community, which is expected to happen in 2015. The 12th Meeting of Task Force for MRA on Type Approval of Automotive Product took place at the same venue. Both meetings will continue up to 8 May. The meetings are held twice a year in ASEAN counties alternately.—*MNA*

Fire brigade day marked in Magway

MAGWAY, 6 May—A ceremony to mark the 68th Anniversary Myanmar Fire Brigade Day took place at the township fire station in Magway of Magway Region on Monday.

Magway Region Minister for Security and Border Affairs Col Zaw Lin Aung presented awards to three outstanding members of fire brigade.

Members of fire brigade demonstrated their skills in fire drill.

The ceremony was attended by local authorities, departmental personnel and members of social organizations.

From 2004 to 2013 FY, a total of 656 times of fire broke out in the region, and it lost K1039.45 million.

From 1 January to 31 December 2013, a total of 152 outbreaks of fire caused loss of K79.10 million in property in the region.

Kaung Thuta (Minbu)

Squall destroys houses, trees in NyaungU Township

NYAUNGU, 6 May—Squalls and untimely rains hit NyaungU Township of Mandalay Region on Monday evening.

The strong winds fell toddy plants and trees in Auknyint Village and one tree fell down on a house.

Roofs of the clinic were blown off by the strong winds in Thagaungtikyun Village. In addition, a tree fell on NyaungU-Myingyan Road. Therefore, the local people removed the tree from the road to be regular transport of vehicles.

No one human and animal was injured in the incident, said a local.

Kyaw Htay

Youths of Thanlyin donate drinking water to rural people

THANLYIN, 6 May—Youths of the funeral service association (Thanlyin) donated drinking water to the local people from the regions which face shortage of water.

The youths donated water for the people at YwaU monastery in Thilawa on 28 April, Thahtaygon-Thayetgon in Kyauktan Township on 29 April, Ward 7 in Thongwa on 2 May, western part of Thongwa on 3 May, Peinnegon Village in Thongwa Township on Sunday and Ward 3 in Thongwa on Monday.

They donated 6400 gallons of drinking water to the local people.—*Tin Maung Ngwe (Thanlyin)*

New trainees recruited for Combined Sports and Education School of SPEI (Mandalay)

MEIKTILA, 6 May—Combined Sports and Education School of Sports and Physical Education Institute of the Ministry of Sports recruited new trainees for 2014-15 academic year at the district sports ground in Meiktila, Mandalay Region, on Tuesday.

"A total of 93 youths from Meiktila, Mahlaing, Wundwin, Thazi, Myingyan, Taungtha, Pyawbwe and Yamethin townships of Mandalay Region for 2014-15 academic year. As the institute will give priority to select the trainees at eighth and ninth standards, there remain 65 youths for the trials. Principal of the institute U Thein Tun Latt and officials will select new trainees," said U Win Maung, head of District Sports and Physical Education Department.

The selected trainees will have the opportunity to learn education as well as take training sports events at the Combined Sports and Education Training School in Upper Myanmar.

Chan Tha (Meiktila)

SIM cards distributed to locals in South Dagon Tsp

YANGON, 6 May—A ceremony to allot SIM cards to the locals was held through draw lot system in Ward 57 of South Dagon Township of Yangon on Tuesday.

A total of 50 CDMA-800 SIM cards were distributed to the local people for May and it was for the 13th time.

It was supervised by townselders and ward administrator U Tin Maung Win.

Myint Than (Oxygen)

Thai court to rule Wednesday in abuse of power case against PM

BANGKOK, 6 May— Thailand's Constitutional Court said it will rule in an abuse of power case against Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra on Wednesday, with a guilty verdict likely to force her from office and possibly bring her supporters on to the streets.

That could lead to confrontation with anti-government groups who have been protesting in the capital, Bangkok, for six months in a bid to topple Yingluck and who disrupted a general election in February that she had been expected to win.

The crisis broadly pits Bangkok's middle class and royalist establishment against the mainly poor, rural supporters of Yingluck and her brother, ex-premier Thaksin Shinawatra, who was ousted by the military in 2006 and now lives in exile to avoid a jail term handed down in 2008 for abuse of power.

*Thailand's Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra gives a traditional greeting as she arrives at the Constitutional Court in Bangkok on 6 May, 2014.—*REUTERS

Yingluck defended herself in court on Tuesday against a charge relating to her transfer of National Security Council chief Thawil Pliensri in 2011, which opponents say was designed to benefit her Puea Thai Party and a family member.

She said the decision to transfer the security chief was made by a committee of ministers.

"I did not interfere in the decision process ... which should be for the benefit of the land," Yingluck told the court. "I have never benefited from any transfer of civil servants." Some legal experts say her entire government will have to go if she is forced to step down, but her party rejects that. She has led a caretaker administration with limited powers since dissolving parliament in December ahead of the election.

"We believe cabinet must continue its caretaker duties until a new cabinet replaces it. There is no reason why the whole cabinet should go with her," Noppadon Pattama, a legal adviser to Thaksin, told *Reuters*.

"That would be like carrying out a double execution."

The months of street protests have undermined Yingluck's government but she has clung on and the number of protesters has dwindled.

However, tension is rising again as she faces a series of court cases to be heard by what her supporters say is a politicised judiciary. Both her "red shirt" supporters and the anti-government protesters plan large rallies in or around Bangkok next week.

Yingluck's ousting would be the latest twist in nearly a decade of confrontation between supporters of Thaksin and the Bangkok-based royalist establishment who see Thaksin, a former telecoms tycoon, as a threat to their interests and accuse him of corruption and nepotism.

Security chief Thawil was transferred to the post of adviser to the prime minister in 2011 and has since argued that his transfer was to benefit the Shinawatras and their extended family.

He was replaced by then national police chief Wichien Podposri, whose position as police chief was later given to Priewpan Damapong, a brother-in-law of Thaksin. Thawil was reinstated in March but the Constitutional Court accepted the abuse of power case brought against Yingluck by 27 senators.

Amongst other charges Yingluck faces is one of dereliction of duty over a state rice-buying scheme that critics say is riddled with corruption and has run up huge losses.—*Reuters*

Cambodian court resumes trial of 23 detained labour activists

PHNOM PENH, 6 May— The Phnom Penh Municipal Court on Tuesday resumed trial of 23 labour activists and garment workers arrested in the January clashes, after a 10-day adjournment.

The detainees, who are accused of intentionally conducting violence and destroying property, were brought to courtroom under tight security as dozens of union activists and relatives rallied outside the court to call for the detainees' release. Government critic Von Pov, president of the Independent Democratic Association of Informal Economy, is among the detainees. Twenty-three people were apprehended during the clashes between anti-riot police and protesters in Phnom Penh during violent protests to demand higher minimum monthly wage for the garment factory workers. The clashes at that time left 4 people dead and dozens injured, and cost garment factories millions of US dollars.—*Xinhua*

*Protestors gather outside the Phnom Penh Municipal Court to demand the release of 23 labour activists and garment workers in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, on 6 May, 2014.—*XINHUA

Vietnam detains four railway officials over kickbacks from Japanese firm

HANOI, 6 May —Four Vietnam Railways Corp have been detained in connection with the kickbacks a Japanese company allegedly paid for a Vietnamese project financed by Japan's official development assistance, the *Tien Phong* newspaper reported online Monday, quoting sources at the railway operator. The action by Vietnamese investigative authorities is an indication of a widening probe into Japan Transportation Consultants Inc's suspected bribing of foreign officials that has drawn the close attention of Japanese investigators.

A special squad of the Tokyo District Public Prosecutors Office is thought have questioned officials of the Japanese company earlier over the alleged kickbacks. Bribing a foreign official constitutes a violation of the law to stem unfair competition. Among the four detained Saturday is deputy general director Tran Quoc Dong, who was involved in the Hanoi city urban railway construction project, funded by Japanese aid, as an official in charge of the railway company's project management division, according to Tien Phong. The three others are also executives of the same division. The project was ordered by Vietnam Railways. JTC, based in Tokyo, said 25 April that a report by an independent panel found that the company paid a total of 160 million yen in kickbacks to officials involved in projects in Vietnam, Indonesia and Uzbekistan between 2009 and 2014. Its payments in Vietnam were estimated at 66 million yen.—*Kyodo News*

Philippine gov't, MILF create normalization bodies

MANILA, 6 May — The Philippine government and the rebel Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) announced on Tuesday the creation of different bodies that will oversee the peace process. In a statement, the Philippine government and the MILF said they have agreed on the composition of the International Decommissioning Body (IDB), the Joint Normalization Committee (JNC) , and the Transitional Justice and Reconciliation Commission (TJRC) .

The IDB will take the lead in the gradual decommissioning of MILF forces and weapons. It will be composed of three foreign experts and four local experts nominated by the Philippine government and MILF. The Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (OPAPP) said the JNC will coordinate all components of the normalization process.

The Philippine government and the MILF have also agreed to invite Switzerland to provide an expert who would lead the TJRC. The commission was tasked to study and recommend mechanisms to address the grievances of the Bangsamoro people.

The composition of the normalization bodies was taken up during the recent meeting between the two parties in the Malaysian capital of Kuala Lumpur. The creation of these bodies was indicated in the final peace pact known as the Comprehensive Agreement on the Bangsamoro (CAB) signed by the Philippine government and MILF on 27 March that both sides said would put an end to the decades-old conflict in Mindanao in southern Philippines.—*Xinhua*

Japan, France to start talks on joint defence equipment development

*French President Francois Hollande (R) and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe shake hands after a joint Press conference in Paris on 5 May, 2014.—*KYODO NEWS

PARIS, 6 May — Japan and France agreed on Monday to start negotiating a deal to jointly develop defense equipment, while confirming plans to strengthen cooperation on nuclear energy technology and foster dialogue between their economic ministers.

In addition to joint development of equipment such as unmanned submersibles for surveillance, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and French President Francois Hollande reached accord on holding a summit meeting every year to the extent possible, according to a joint paper released after their talks in Paris.

"As the security situation in Europe and East Asia becomes increasingly severe, close coordination between the two countries has never been more necessary," Abe said as he met the press together with Hollande.

The French president expressed his willingness to hold security dialogue with Japan on many occasions.

Abe has been hoping to forge stronger ties with France at a time when China is expanding its economic coordination with the European country.

Japan and France will hold the next round of "two-plus-two" security talks between their defence and foreign ministers in Tokyo next year.

Apparently with Russia's annexation of Crimea and China's increasing presence in regional waters in mind, Abe and Hollande voiced their opposition to a country acquiring, or asserting its claims to, an area of another country through the use of force in violation of international law, according to the joint paper.

On civil nuclear power, Tokyo and Paris agreed to cooperate under the policy of giving priority to ensuring the highest level of safety in the world. In connection with this, officials of the two countries signed on Monday a document aimed at developing fast-breeder technology designed primarily to reduce radioactive waste.

On a free trade deal being negotiated between Japan and the European Union, the two leaders shared the view that it would be an opportunity to promote growth and employment on both sides and reaffirmed their plans to reach an agreement on the pact in the near future.

Abe has so far visited Germany, Britain, Portugal, Spain and France during his latest swing through Europe. He is scheduled to visit Belgium before returning to Tokyo on Thursday.—*Kyodo News*

India's Gandhi family faces threat to party leadership, says opponent Modi

NEW DELHI, 6 May — Narendra Modi of India's major opposition Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has reportedly said Nehru- Gandhi family could face a serious threat to their leadership of the ruling Congress party. Modi, BJP's prime ministerial candidates, told the *Times of India* in an interview that the Congress party is unlikely to get more than 100 parliament seats in the general elections.

"The fight is now for the relevance of the Gandhi family as unquestioned leaders of Congress party," the newspaper, published on Tuesday, quoted Modi as saying.

"I see all possibility of Congress falling below 100 seats, and if that happens, there will be a serious churning within the Congress party over the issue of leadership," Modi said. When asked about the possibility of younger sister Priyanka replacing Nehru-Gandhi scion Rahul Gandhi, Modi said, "It is for the Congress to take these decisions post the election results. However, it seems odd that a national party like the Congress should not be able to think beyond the Gandhi family." India is in the midst of general elections, which began on 7 April and will end on 12 May, with results due to be announced on 16 May.

Opinion polls have suggested that the BJP will form the next government, with Modi as the prime minister.

The ruling Congress party is facing criticism due to its inability to tackle corruption and inflation.—*Xinhua*

Bomb in Syria's Idlib kills 30 government fighters

BEIRUT, 6 May — About 30 Syrian government fighters were killed when rebels set off a bomb in a tunnel beneath a checkpoint in a northwestern province, activists said on Tuesday. Videos and images posted by opposition supporters online showed a massive plume of smoke and earth shooting into the air near a small town as men shouted "Allahu akbar" (God is greatest).

Rebels fighting to overthrow President Bashar al-Assad regularly carry out guerrilla attacks against his forces, but the size of the blast, which occurred on Monday, was unusual. The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a Britain-based monitoring group, said the blast took place outside the town of Ma'arat al-Nu'man in the northwestern Idlib Province. At least two officers were among those killed when insurgents from the Islamic Front and the Shields of the Revolution Council set off tons of explosives in a tunnel running from the road to the checkpoint, the group said.—*Reuters*

Both sides bury dead as Ukraine slides towards war

KRAMATORSK/ ODESSA, (Ukraine), 6 May — Both sides have been burying their dead as Ukraine slides further towards war, with supporters of Russia and of a united Ukraine each accusing the other side of tearing the country apart.

Tuesday morning was quiet in eastern and southern Ukraine, but the deadliest few days since the separatist uprising began have transformed the conflict, hardening positions and leaving little room for peaceful resolution.

In Kramatorsk, a separatist-held town in the east that saw an advance by Ukrainian troops at the weekend, the coffin of 21-year-old nurse Yulia Izotova was carried through streets stilled by barricades of tires and tree trunks. Scattered red carnations traced the route.

At the Holy Trinity Church, seven priests led mourners in prayer for a woman killed by large caliber bullets, which the townsfolk believe were fired by Ukrainian troops.

"They shoot at us. Why? Because we don't want to live with fascists?" asked 58-year-old passport photographer Sergei Fominsky, standing with his wife among the mourners. "We're not slaves. We kneel to no one."

In Odessa, a previously peaceful, multi-ethnic Black Sea port where more than 40 people were killed on Friday in the worst day of violence since a February revolt toppled Ukraine's pro-Russian president, pall-bearers carried the open casket of Andrey Biryukov from a van to the street corner where he was shot.

*Pro-Russian armed men ride on top of an armoured personnel carrier near the town of Slaviansk, eastern Ukraine, on 5 May, 2014.—*REUTERS

A pro-Ukrainian activist, Biryukov, 35, was killed during a day that began with hundreds of pro-Russian sympathizers armed with axes, chains and guns attacking a Ukrainian march, and ended later that night with the pro-Russians barricaded inside a building that was set on fire, killing dozens.

A small crowd of about 50 stood around the body, covering it with carnations and roses. A Ukrainian flag fluttered in the wind, and a patriotic song about dead heroes was played from a sound system.—*Reuters*

WORLD

Nigeria's Boko Haram threatens to sell kidnapped schoolgirls

ABUJA, 6 May — The leader of Boko Haram on Monday threatened to sell more than 200 schoolgirls his Islamist militant group kidnapped in northeastern Nigeria last month.

Boko Haram militants stormed an all-girl secondary school in the village of Chibok, in Borno state, on 14 April and packed the teenagers, who had been taking exams, onto trucks and disappeared into a remote area along the border with Cameroon.

The attack shocked Nigerians, who have been growing accustomed to hearing about atrocities in an increasingly bloody five-year-old Islamist insurgency in the north.

"I abducted your girls. I will sell them in the market, by Allah," Boko Haram leader Abubakar Shekau says in a video, chuckling as he stands in front of an armored personnel carrier with two masked militants wielding AK-47s on either side of him.

A woman holds a sign during a protest demanding the release of abducted secondary school girls from the remote village of Chibok, in Lagos on 5 May, 2014.—REUTERS

"Allah has instructed me to sell them. They are his property and I will carry out his instructions," he says.

Boko Haram, seen as the main security threat to Nigeria, Africa's leading energy producer, is growing bolder and extending its reach. The kidnapping occurred on the day a bomb blast, also blamed on Boko Haram, killed 75 people on the edge of Abuja, the first attack on the capital in two years.

The group's name means "Western education is sinful" and Shekau in the video makes reference to the fact that the girls were undergoing Western education.

The militants, who say they are fighting to reinstate a medieval Islamic caliphate in northern Nigeria, carried out a second bomb attack more than two weeks later in the same area, killing 19 people and wounding 34 in the suburb of Nyanya.

The girls' abduction has been hugely embarrassing for the government and threatens to overshadow its first hosting of the World Economic Forum (WEF) for Africa on 7-9 May.

Nigerian officials had hoped the event would highlight their country's potential as an investment destination since it became Africa's biggest economy after a GDP recalculation in March.

The apparent powerlessness of the military to prevent the attack or find the girls in three weeks has led to protests in the northeast and in Abuja and Lagos.—*Reuters*

Zimbabwe says to continue diamond sale in Dubai despite hiccup

HARARE, 6 May — The Dubai Diamond Exchange (DDE) is a lucrative market for Zimbabwean gems and the country does not intend to stop marketing its gems there despite a delay in the remittance of funds from a recent diamond auction, Mines Minister Walter Chidhakwa said on Monday.

He told journalists that a team from the Zimbabwean government was conducting evaluations to ascertain why the facilitating company, Global Diamond Tenders, delayed to remit the funds.

If proven that the company was to blame, Zimbabwe will simply find a new facilitator and continue to sell on the DDE rather than completely abandon the market, the minister said.

"The issue is that of the facilitator. It is a lucrative market. That we had a facilitator who did not do according to expectation does not take away the fact that we still have an opportunity to continue to sell in Dubai," the minister said.

Zimbabwe sold about 400,000 carats of diamonds at the DDE in March this year and generated 30 million US dollars which it was expecting in the first week of April.

But a month later, the facilitator is yet to remit all the money to Zimbabwe and has made partial payments to some of the companies.

This led Finance Minister Patrick Chinamasa to say at the weekend that the DDE had failed to be a trustworthy market for Zimbabwean gems.

However, Chidhakwa said Zimbabwe will not abandon the DDE if it is proven that the bungling was only on the part of the facilitator.

He said in light of this delay, there was also need for the country to put in place some bridging finance to cater for the needs of exporting diamond firms. The minister said he was pleased with the steady rise in the price of Zimbabwean gems on the international market and hoped the trend would continue.

"If we can break the 100-US-dollar average price level, I think we will be talking serious business," he said.—*Xinhua*

Yemeni authorities were warned ahead of AQAP prison raid

SANAA, 6 May — Yemeni prison and interior ministry authorities had information as early as two months beforehand that al-Qaeda militants were planning a prison break in the capital's main prison, documents seen by *Reuters* showed. The warnings apparently went unheeded.

On 14 February, armed attackers mounted a coordinated bomb, grenade and gun assault at Sanaa's central prison to free al-Qaeda-linked inmates.

At least 19 suspected militants fled in the ensuing chaos. In late March a video surfaced online showing the top leader of al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) greeting escaped inmates in open celebration and vowing to attack America.

The documents related to the jail break highlight one of the biggest challenges facing Yemen in its fight against AQAP —namely a weak, disjointed and underquipped security force, which unless radically overhauled is likely to drop the ball on more major security incidents that could threaten Western interests.

Instability in US ally Yemen also threatens neighbouring oil power Saudi Arabia. The two countries share a long, porous border, and many AQAP militants are Saudi nationals bent on toppling the ruling al-Saud family.

In a handwritten document dated 7 December, 2013, titled "Top Secret" and "Urgent and Important Message", the manager of Sanaa's central prison, Mohammed al-Kowl, addressed a letter to the head of Yemen's rehabilitation and reform department, which falls under the Interior Ministry.

"We have received information which indicates that elements of al Qaeda inside the (prison) are planning with the rest of the group outside the (prison) to try and storm the prison and release them, especially after the defence ministry was stormed," said the letter, written on the interior ministry's letterhead.

Reuters

Egypt's Sisi says Muslim Brotherhood is finished

CAIRO, 6 May — Egyptian presidential frontrunner Abdel Fattah al-Sisi on Monday appeared to rule out reconciliation with the Muslim Brotherhood movement, raising the specter of a prolonged conflict with a group he said was finished.

Sisi, who ousted the Brotherhood's Mohamed Mursi from the presidency last July after mass protests against Mursi's rule, accused the Brotherhood of links to violent militant groups, adding that two plots to assassinate him had been uncovered.

Egypt's Army Chief General Abdel Fattah al-Sisi

"I want to tell you that it is not me that finished (the Brotherhood). You, the Egyptians, are the ones who finished it,"

Sisi said in a joint interview with Egypt's privately owned CBC and ONTV television channels broadcast on Monday.

Asked whether the Brotherhood would cease to exist during his presidency, Sisi answered: "Yes. That's right."

Sisi is expected to easily win the 26-27 May presidential election. The only other candidate is leftist politician Hamdeen Sabahi, who came third in the 2012 election won by Mursi.

Sisi's supporters view him as a decisive figure who can stabilize a country plagued by street protests and political violence since an army-backed popular uprising toppled President Hosni Mubarak in 2011.

Reuters

PERSPECTIVES

Wednesday, 7 May, 2014

How to form a good character

By Kyaw Thura

Researchers have assumed that any action, when repeated, turns into a habit. Therefore, every action demands proper care. Needless to say, a good action produces positive effects while a bad action triggers negative effects. Once contracted, bad habits are always followed by bad consequences.

World-famous Greek philosopher, Aristotle (348-322 BC) described innate character as 'first nature' and acquired character as 'second nature'.

Character is what makes a man. Much of our character comes from the people around us. In other words, it is acquired character that matters most. People tend to judge us by what we do rather than by what we possess. What we do decides our reputation or our true self. When our character falls, everything is in vain.

It is undeniable that bad habits are easier to acquire but harder to kill than good ones. As scholars have pointed out, it is critical and analytical skills that can put under control the tendency of bad habits. As long as these skills are sharp, physical and mental actions will definitely become flawless.Under such circumstances, people with good manners will earn a good reputation, thereby establishing a dynamic relationship both in economic and social settings and enjoying a successful life.

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.

MFB urged to reduce number of fires and losses

NAY PYI TAW, 6 May— The union minister for home affairs urged Myanmar Fire Brigade to reduce the number of fire incidents and losses at the 68th anniversary of the MFB.

"In 2013, a total of 1,637 fires broke out in Myanmar, causing K 4.254 billion of estimated losses. Members of Myanmar Fire Brigade are required to study the causes of fire and reduce the number of fires and amount of losses in 2014," Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Ko Ko told members of MFB.

The minister said at the event that the ministry provided the MFB with 228 modern fire engines in 2013-14 FY and sent members of the MFB to fire and natural disaster prevention workshops and trainings abroad. —*MNA*

***Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Ko Ko speaking at ceremony to mark 68th Anniversary Myanmar Fire Brigade Day.*—MNA**

95th birthday of renowned Myanmar writer Dagon Tayar to be held on 10 May

***Photo shows construction site for monument of late renowned writer Saya Dagon Tayar.*—PHOTO: KHAING THANDA LWIN**

By *Khaing Thanda Lwin*

To mark the 95th birthday of Writer Dagon Taya, a paper-reading section will be held on 10 May from 9 a.m. to 12 noon at the town hall of Aungban Township in Taunggyi Township in Southern Shan State.

It will be organized by the Saya Dagon Taryar's monument construction committee.

"Twelve papers have already been submitted to the committee. These papers depicted the life of Saya Dagon Taya and his peaceful ambition," said Writer Ko Kha (Kungyangon) at a press conference at the office of Myanmar Journalist Network-MJN in Yangon.

The committee has a plan to unveil the monument on the Saya Dagon Taya's birthday but the work has only over 30 per cent completed. Therefore, the committee has decided to open the monument in the 1st Anniversary of Saya Dagon Taya in mid-October.

According to the clarification of the committee member Daw Yoe Yoe, the monument is situated on the right side of Mekho Hill at the entrance of Aungban and the construction of the monument was funded by Daw Thanda Win, daughter of Myanmar famous actor Collegian Nay Win and niece of Saya Dagon Tayar. It is also expected to cost around K3 million.

Dagon Tayar, the well-known politician, artist, writer and editor, was born at Htaiku Myittan Village in Kyaiklat Township in Ayeyawady Region on 10 May 1919. And, he passed away at his residence in Aungban, Shan State in the afternoon of 19 August 2013.

The late writer was a close friend of Myanmar freedom fighters including the independence architect General Aung San. He is one of the fathers of the new-age Myanmar literature and people call him "history book of Myanmar".

Private media announes literary award winners

YANGON 6 May — Local private media Swe Sone Media Group on Sunday announced the literary award winners chosen by its publication house.

U Khin Maung Lay (Saya Po Thauk Kyar-Khit+Moe) won the life-time achievement literary award of Thuta Swe Sone House.

The titles of books, award winners and genres are; 'Journey of Myanmar Independence and U Nu' by Tekkatho Sein Tin for Biography, 'Democracy Paradigm' by Tin Nyunt for Politics, 'To Success' by Dr. Khin Maung Nyo for Youths, 'Experiences of Extraordinary Persons' by Tin Naing Toe for Belle-letter, 'Experiences of Medical Specialists' by Dr. Win (Say-Man) for Translation, and 'Reducing spectacles lens power and other articles about glasses' by Dr. Min Thein for Applied Science.

The cash award for life-time achievement literary award was K1.5 million, and for the book in each genre is K 800,000 for each writer.

The prize giving ceremony will be held at the Strand Hotel on 10 May, and the award winners may contact phone numbers 01-392739, 385293 and 374400.

This is the ninth awarding ceremony of Thuta Swe Sone House since 2006 and this year's selections were chosen from the books published in 2012.—*MNA*

GOLD PRICE, FE RATE (6-5-2014)

Yangon Gold Price
Buying K 663,500 per tical: Selling K 664,200

FE RATE

USD Buying	K 958	-	Selling	K 963
SGD Buying	K 759	-	Selling	K 769
Euro Buying	K 1315	-	Selling	K 1335

Alms donated to monks and nuns in Bago Region

NAY PYI TAW, 6 May —A ceremony to mark the successful donation of alms and robes to monks and nuns was held in conjunction with the school stationery donation for orphan students at Famous Restaurant at Bawnatgyi bus station on the Yangon-Nay Pyi Taw Expressway in Bago Region on Monday morning.

Donors from Famous Restaurant have donated alms and robes to 55,550 monks and nuns from 1994 to date.

Aye Kyaw Htay

Software Engineering Laboratory donated to YUCS

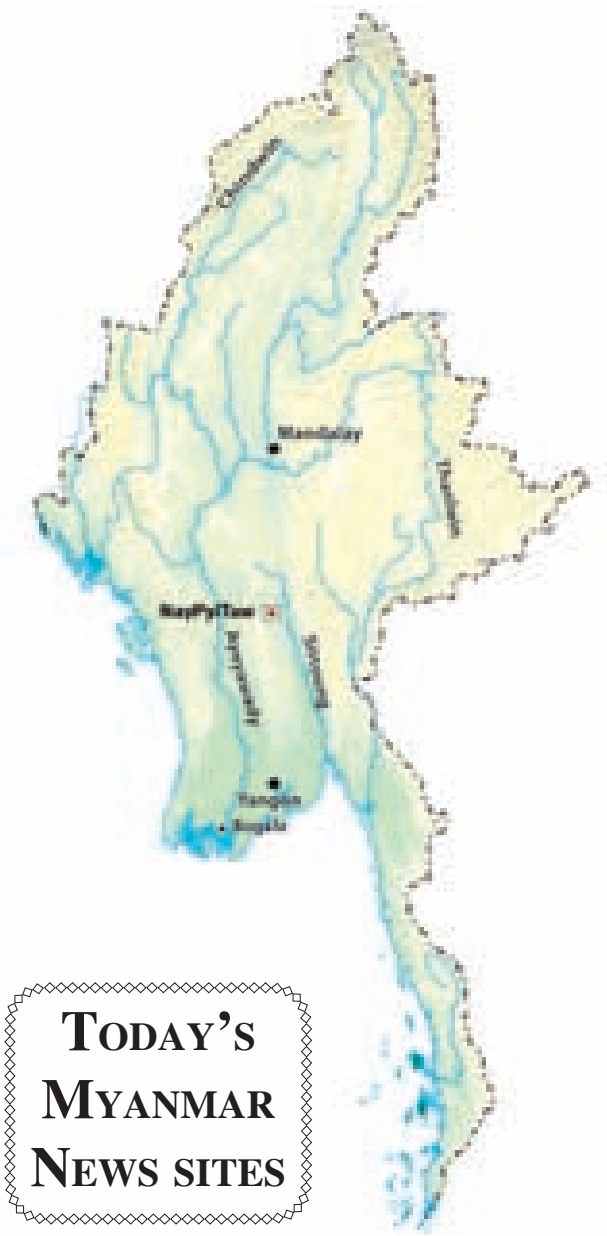
YANGON, 6 May— OAS Corporation of Japan donated a Software Engineering Laboratory to the University of Computer Studies (Bahan) on Monday.

Mr Hiroyuki Tomita, CEO of OAS Corporation of Japan donated computer , training aids, software, among other items to Pro-Rector Daw Saw Sanda Aye.

OAS based in Tokyo of Japan has been producing software for 40 years. It creates computer systems for banks, ministries and stores, call-centres for cloud computing and e-commerce systems.

The donation ceremony was attended by Deputy Minister for Science and Technology Dr Aung Kyaw Myat.

Yan Soe



TODAY'S MYANMAR NEWS SITES

International Day of the Midwife marked

YANGON, 6 May— The Myanmar Nurses and Midwives Association and UNFPA held a ceremony to mark International Day of the Midwife at Yangon University of Nursing, here, on Saturday morning.

Among the topics discussed before and after the ceremony by Dr Mya Yadana Thaik of Nestle Co Ltd were the benefits of breastfeeding and milk substitutes for infants. Officials presented delivery kits to some of the midwives, with officials saying that similar ceremonies took place in other regions and states.—*MNA*

Myanmar salted fish profitable in China and Malaysia

BOGALE, 6 May— Nga Sin Pya and Spanish mackerel have been sold for good profit to Malaysia and China, and are being transported in large quantities from coastal valley regions to bigger markets, according to dried fish merchants in Bogale.

During the late fishing season, salt, instead of ice, is mostly used in preserving fish in Bogale, Labutta, Pyinsalu and Hainggyikyun. Fish preserved with ice, known as Pomfret and Hilsa, are rarely caught in the late season, with most of the fish caught now known as Nga Sin Pya and Spanish Mackerel. Those fish species have traditionally been preserved with salt in the past, but fishery companies have taught local fishermen how to professionally preserve them with salt in order to export the fish to China and Malaysia.

The preservation process sees salt placed in the stomach of fish after removing its gills and intestines.

Min Thit Sa Hlaing (Kadon Kani)

New schedule for Kuala Lumpur International Airport 2

KUALA LUMPUR, 6 May — Kuala Lumpur International Airport 2, which is situated near the former Kuala Lumpur International Airport in Sepang Township in Selengor State, opened for a trial on 1 May, according to the Malaysia Airports Holding BHD.

Some flights planes will have to land at and take off from the KLIA2 starting 8 May, including AirAsia flight AK 503. However, those who are flying from KL to Yangon on AirAsia's morning and evening flights will leave Malaysia from KLIA.

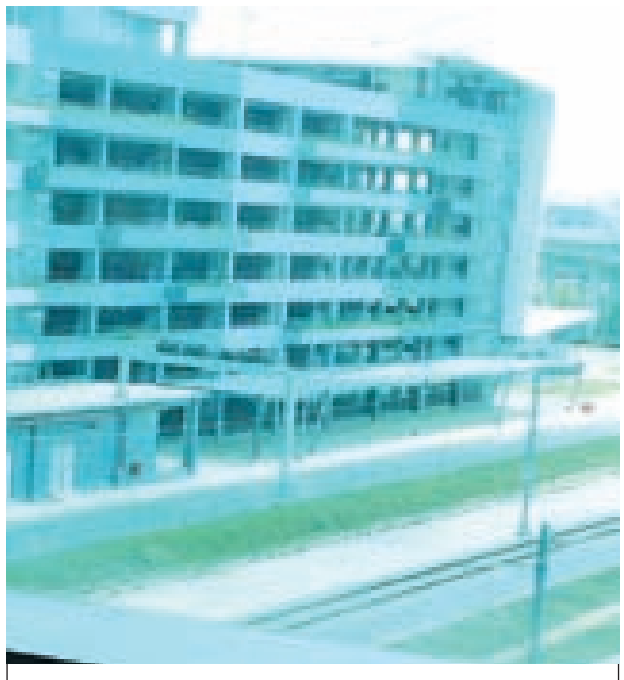
Taxis from KLIA 2 to KL Central are available at the level 1 of the KLIA 2. Free shuttle buses from KLIA 2 to KLIA will also be available from 1 May to 15 May.

These arrangements will not affect the flights of Myanmar Airways International and Malaysia Airways International.

Other airlines including AirAsia, Lion Air, Tiger Airways Singapore, Cebu Pacific Air (Philippines Airline, Malindo Air, Indonesia Mandala Airline are leaving and landing at the KLIA 2.

Malaysia local flights are landing at KLIA 2. Passengers who take Malaysian domestic airlines to go to Yangon will land at KLIA 2 and will have to take shuttle buses to the KLIA.

Soe Win-MLA



Completed Kuala Lumpur International Airport-2 located near the Kuala Lumpur International Airport in Sepang Township in Selengor State, Malaysia.

Mothers can hold newborns before umbilical cord is clamped

NEW YORK, 6 May — Newborn babies don't need to be held down around their mother's vagina while the last of the placental blood makes its way through the umbilical cord, according to a new study. Waiting a couple of minutes after a baby is born to clamp and cut the umbilical cord is generally considered a good idea, and some authorities have recommended holding the newborn level with the vagina so gravity can help draw extra blood from the placenta.

But babies held that way didn't seem to get any more placental blood than babies held in their mother's arms instead, the new study found.

"The fantasy that gravity plays a role was based on very old studies," Dr Nestor E Vain told *Reuters Health*.

Vain worked on the study at the Foundation for Maternal and Child Health in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

The uterus continues to contract after the baby is born, and those contractions are what push blood through the umbilical cord, not gravity, he said. Between 2011 and 2012, Vain and his team recruited about 400 women in labor at three hospitals in Argentina. With hospital cooperation, half of their babies were held at the level of the vagina after birth and the other half were placed on their mother's abdomen or chest for two minutes before the umbilical cord was clamped.

The babies were weighed immediately after birth and again after the cords were clamped.

Based on their weights, babies in both groups seemed to gain about the same amount of blood regardless of where they were held, according to results published in *The Lancet*. In the abdomen/chest group, babies gained an average of

53 grams, or about a tenth of a pound, compared to 56 grams in the vagina-level group.

"At any time during pregnancy in the last trimester, one third of the fetal blood in the baby is circulating in the placenta, which is where the baby's blood goes to get oxygen and sugar from the maternal blood and eliminate carbon dioxide like the kidney of an adult," Vain said.

That blood needs to get to the baby before the cord is clamped or cut, he said. Waiting one to four minutes to clamp decreases the baby's risk of iron-deficiency anemia and neurodevelopmental problems, which are a concern in Western as well as developing countries, he said.

"In preterm infants, we know that more blood improves baby's blood pressure, reduces the need for blood transfusions, reduces the risk for having intracranial bleeding, and helps in the smooth transition between fetal and neonatal cardiovascular adaptation," said Dr Tonse NK Raju.

Raju, from the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Maryland, wrote an editorial accompanying the study.

Most doctors know that delaying clamping the cord is important, but recommendations that a doctor or nurse hold the baby down low for gravity's sake mean it doesn't always happen, Vain said.

"Two minutes, that's a long time to stay holding a baby who is kicking, screaming and slippery," he said.

Hopefully delayed cord clamping will happen more often now that researchers know giving the baby to its mother, which has other benefits, is okay, he said.

"Many studies have shown that infant-and-mother attachment and bonding improves by direct physical contact soon after birth between mom and her infant," Raju told *Reuters Health* in an email. "More importantly, keeping the infant on mom's chest helps the infant to immediately begin to latch on to mom's nipple, begin sucking, and establish early on a successful pattern for breastfeeding," he said.

Latching on helps release more of the hormone oxytocin, which can help contract the now-empty uterus and deliver the placenta, he added.

"Many believe that this is the evolutionary basis for a relatively long umbilical cord," Raju said.

"That is, this enables the mom to grab her newly born baby, put the baby on her chest to help the baby to begin to suckle, which has a dual advantage of helping the delivery of the placenta."

Reuters

Morocco's Maroc Telecom to purchase UAE Etisalat affiliates in Africa

RABAT, 6 May—Morocco's telecom operator Maroc Telecom announced on Monday that it has reached an agreement with the United Arab Emirates telecom firm Etisalat to buy over its units in Africa for 650 million US dollars.

Maroc Telecom will buy the Atlantique Telecom, Etisalat's wholly-owned West African subsidiary, which has mobile operations in Benin, Central African Republic, Gabon, Ivory Coast, Niger and Togo as well as Prestige Telecom in Cote d'Ivoire, said Maroc telecom in a released statement.

The deal is subject to several conditions, particularly the conclusion of Etisalat's purchase of Vivendi's participation in Maroc Telecom and the approval of the African countries' authorities, said the statement.

Etisalat agreed in November to acquire Vivendi's 53 percent stake in Maroc Telecom for 4.2 billion Euros (5.8 billion dollars).

Xinhua

China April data to show growth stabilizing, for now

BEIJING, 6 May— Growth in China's factory output and investment likely stabilized in April as the government uses targeted policy measures to underpin growth, while the pace of declines in exports and imports may have eased, a *Reuters* poll showed.

However, the world's second-largest economy may only get a temporary boost from such policy support, as growth will inevitably slow while the government seeks to tackle high debt levels and excessive factory capacity.

China's industrial output may have grown 8.9 percent in April from a year earlier, slightly ahead of the 8.8 percent rise in March, according to the poll of 18 economists. Fixed-asset investment growth likely grew 17.7 percent in the first four months from a year earlier, also slightly firmer than the 17.6 percent pace seen in the first three months. The government only publishes cumulative investment data.

*A forklift transfers a shipping container for export at a port in Lianyungang, Jiangsu province on 5 May, 2014.—*REUTERS

The government has in recent weeks hastened construction of railways and affordable housing and cut taxes for small firms to support the slowing economy, but top leaders ruled out any forceful policy measures in favor of reforms. "Economic growth is stabilizing but it's hard to see a rebound because policies that help stabilize growth are limited," Peng Wensheng, chief economist at CICC said in a research note. "The economy still faces downward pressures in the future." The government is trying to restructure the economy so it is driven more by consumption than the traditional engines of exports and investment, but wants to avoid a sharp slowdown that could fuel job losses and threaten social stability.

Reuters

Recent official and pri-

Asia shares ride Wall Street gains, Europe seen up too

An office worker talks on his phone as he looks the stock board at the Australian Securities Exchange (ASX) building in central Sydney on 15 June, 2012.
REUTERS

SYDNEY, 6 May—Asian share markets shuffled higher on Tuesday after promising US economic news helped Wall Street to a firmer finish, though activity was again light with Tokyo still on holiday. Stock markets in India .BSESN and China .SSEC led the way with modest gains, while MSCI's broadest index of Asia-Pacific shares outside Japan .MIAPJ0000PUS added 0.2 percent.

European stocks were also seen inching higher, reversing the previous session's dip. Financial spreadbetters expected Britain's FTSE 100 .FTSE to open 5 to 7 points higher, or up 0.12 percent, Germany's DAX .GDAXI to open around 15 points higher, or up 0.16 percent, and France's CAC 40 .FCHI to open 7 to 8 points higher, or up 0.18 percent. S&P futures also pointed to a slightly firmer open.

The Australian central bank's policy meeting was the only notable economic event in Asia, and the Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA) kept the cash rate at a record low of 2.5 percent, just as markets had priced in.

Australia's main stock index .AXJO trimmed gains while the Australian dollar firmed a quarter of a US cent after the RBA announced its decision, and said the local currency was high historically, but refrained from calling for it to fall.

"The RBA is trying to be desperately neutral," said Annette Beacher, head of Asia-Pacific research at TD Securities.—*Reuters*

China's polar-orbiting meteorological satellite now operational

BEIJING, 6 May — China's third *Fengyun-III* satellite, a polar orbiting meteorological satellite, was put into operation on Monday, according to a news release posted on the website of the China Meteorological Administration (CMA).

The satellite was handed over by the China Aerospace Science and Technology Corporation to the CMA.

The third *Fengyun-III* satellite, together with the second *Fengyun-III* satellite, will form a monitoring network capable of constant three-dimensional, multiple-spectrum and remote-sensing observation of the earth.

The network of satellites will provide more and better monitoring data for global environmental surveillance, disaster reduction and the fight against climate change.

The third Fengyun-III satellite was tested and shown to function well after being launched on 23 September last year. It is expected to raise China's precision in weather forecasting by around 3.0 percent.

Its launch and start of operations signaled the transition of China's second generation of polar orbiting meteorological satellites from the laboratory to application stages.

The first and second *Fengyun-III* were launched in May 2008 and November 2010, respectively.

The network of Fengyun-III satellites now boasts over 20,000 subscribers at home and abroad.

Xinhua

AMD expands low-power chip technology licensing deal

SAN FRANCISCO, 6 May — Chipmaker Advanced Micro Devices has expanded its licensing technology agreement with Britain's ARM Holdings as the US company seeks growth outside the slowing personal computer industry.

AMD said on Monday it has acquired an architectural license from ARM, the Cambridge, England-based company. ARM's low-power technology is widely used in smartphones and tablets and is also behind an upcoming crop of energy-efficient server chips.

The new license provides more room for AMD to customize its chip architecture and differentiate its products from others based on ARM technology.

The Sunnyvale, California, company is planning this year to launch low-power server chips based on ARM technology to compete in data centers against Intel Corp's high-end Xeon processors. Those chips will use off-the-shelf technology licensed from ARM in a previous agreement.

"We're well on our way to developing our own ARM cores," AMD Senior Vice President Lisa Su said at a news conference. With PC shipments falling for eight straight quarters as consumers shift toward tablets and smartphones, AMD aims to get half of its revenue from new, fast-growing businesses such as game consoles and microservers by the end of 2015.

Reuters

Jury leaves damages Samsung must pay Apple unchanged at $119.6 million

SAN JOSE, (California), 6 May — A US jury on Monday left the total damages Samsung Electronics Co Ltd must pay Apple Inc unchanged at $119.6 million, after additional deliberations in a trial where the South Korean smartphone maker was found to have infringed three Apple patents.

During the month-long trial in a San Jose, California federal court, Apple accused Samsung of violating patents on smartphone features including universal search, while Samsung denied wrongdoing.

On Friday, the jury ordered Samsung to pay Apple $119.6 million for infringing the iPhone maker's patents. But Apple attorneys argued at the time that the jurors made a technical mistake in awarding Apple damages on a patent covering one of Samsung's phones. The jury was ordered back to court Monday to resolve that issue.

Juror Margarita Palmada, a 69-year-old retired high-school Spanish teacher, said she wished the two sides had been able to work out their issues without resorting to litigation.

"It would have been so much simpler for all involved," she said in an interview after the jury wrapped. Some of the jurors had initially been in favor of awarding Apple more but eventually arrived at the consensus verdict, she said, but declined to offer more details.

Apple and Samsung have been litigating around the world for three years. Jurors awarded the iPhone maker about $930 million after a 2012 trial in San Jose, but Apple failed to persuade US District Judge Lucy Koh to issue a permanent injunction against the sale of Samsung phones in the United States. The current case involves five Apple patents that were not in the 2012 trial and that cover iPhone features such as slide-to-unlock and search technology.

Apple is seeking to ban sales of several Samsung phones, including the Galaxy S III, as well as monetary damages. It will now be up to Judge Koh to decide whether a sales injunction is warranted, though legal experts deem that unlikely.

A man walks out of Samsung Electronics' headquarters in Seoul on 6 Jan, 2014.— REUTERS

In the San Jose trial, the jury found that Samsung had infringed two patents, and the judge had ruled before trial that Samsung had infringed a third.—*Reuters*

Intel hires Staples executive to shake up marketing

A woman walks past an Intel logo at the 2012 Computex in Taipei on 5 June, 2012.— REUTERS

SAN FRANCISCO, 6 May — Intel Corp has hired senior Staples executive Steven Fund to oversee its global marketing, a novel pick that the chipmaker hopes will improve its profile in an industry where laptops have become blasé compared to tablets and smartphones. As chief marketing officer, Fund will report directly to Chief Executive Brian Krzanich, in line with other changes Krzanich has made to have more senior executives report directly to him since taking over the top management post last year.

Intel's previous CMO, Deborah Conrad, reported to the general manager of sales and marketing, Tom Kilroy, who is currently on medical leave. Fund is Krzanich's first senior hire but only his latest shakeup at the chipmaker, which has been struggling with a shrinking PC industry and a lack of progress selling its products to makers of smartphones and tablets.

"As our industry and our business is changing, we need to change the way we develop, build, and market our products, and Steve is going to be a key asset for us as we move forward," Krzanich said in a statement on Monday.

Fund, who was senior vice president of global marketing at Staples, also helped build brands at Procter & Gamble and at Pepsi-Cola, according to the statement.

Reuters

Apple on medical tech hiring spree, a possible hint of iWatch plans

SAN FRANCISCO, 6 May — Apple Inc is building a team of senior medical technology executives, raising hackles in the biotechnology community and offering a hint of what the iPhone maker may be planning for its widely expected iWatch and other wearable technology.

Over the past year, Apple has snapped up at least half a dozen prominent experts in biomedicine, according to LinkedIn profile changes. One prominent researcher moved two weeks ago, and Apple is recruiting other medical professionals and hardware experts, although the number of hires is not clear, said two people familiar with the hiring, who declined to be named.

Much of the hiring is in sensor technology, an area Chief Executive Tim Cook singled out last year as primed "to explode." Industry insiders say the moves telegraph a vision of monitoring everything from blood-sugar levels to nutrition, beyond the fitness-oriented devices now on the market.

"This is a very specific play in the bio-sensing space," said Malay Gandhi, chief strategy officer at Rock Health, a San Francisco venture capital firm that has backed prominent wearable-tech startups, such as Augmedix and Spire. He was aware of several of the moves. Apple is under pressure to deliver on Cook's promise of new product categories this year. The company has not introduced a new type of product since the iPad in 2010, a fact that weighs on investors' minds: its stock remains well off its highs despite a series of buybacks and dividend payouts.

Investor Carl Icahn tweeted his approval of Apple quarterly results and buyback plans on 23 April. "Believe we'll also be happy when we see new products," he added.

Apple has registered the trademark "iWatch" in Japan. Several Apple patents point to wrist-worn devices, and in February, Apple filed a patent for a smart earbud patent that could track steps and detect gestures of the head.—*Reuters*

China, Australia, Malaysia map out expanded search phase for flight MH370

BEIJING, 6 May — Senior officials from China, Australia and Malaysia met in the Australian capital Canberra on Monday to hash out the details of the next steps in the search for the missing Malaysia Airlines plane.

A new phase of search for the missing Malaysia Airlines flight MH370. The focus has shifted to an expanded undersea search, in the depths of the Indian Ocean. China, Malaysia and Australia decided at a high level meeting in Canberra to strengthen cooperation for the forthcoming search operations.

"As for the new phase of underwater search, we assure that the search will not be interrupted, suspended, given up, or slackened. And with these principles, China will further proactive cooperation and participate in the search in the new phase." Chinese Transport Minister Yang Chuantang said. Starting Wednesday, all satellite and radar data will be re-analyzed and added to the information gathered so far in the search, that has already covered more than 4.6 million square kilometers of ocean. More detailed oceanographic mapping of the search area will be another key element in the next stage of search.

Xinhua

Vietnamese veterans pay homage to soldiers who were killed during the Dien Bien Phu Battle in a Vietnamese martyrs cemetery in Dien Bien Phu, Vietnam, on 5 May, 2014. Vietnam is to hold series of celebrations to mark the upcoming 60th anniversary of Dien Bien Phu victory over French forces, which falls on 7 May.—XINHUA

Gerry Adams 'received death threat' after release

DUBLIN, 6 May — Police warned the family of Irish republican leader Gerry Adams a threat had been made to his life following his release from detention, his party said on Monday.

The Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) released Adams on Sunday after questioning him over the 1972 abduction and murder of Jean McConville, a killing he says he had no part in.

After his release, police went to Adams' house and told his wife Collette that criminals had made a serious threat against her husband's life, Sinn Fein said.

"I can confirm that the PSNI visited the homes of Gerry Adams and (fellow Irish republican) Bobby Storey last night to warn them of a credible threat against their lives," Sinn Fein Justice spokesperson Raymond McCartney said in a statement.

Sinn Fein President Gerry Adams holds a news conference after he was released from police detention, in Belfast, on 4 May, 2014.
REUTERS

No comment was immediately available from the PSNI. Catholic and Protestant Northern Irish leaders, including the province's first and deputy first ministers Peter Robinson and Martin McGuinness, have received death threats in the past over their support of the peace process.

Three decades of sectarian conflict between mainly Catholic nationalists seeking Irish union and pro-British Protestants wishing to stay in the United Kingdom was mostly ended by a 1998 peace deal, but sporadic violence has grown in recent years.

Reuters

US: Russian planes flew near California, Guam, in upped activity

WASHINGTON, 6 May — The head of US air forces in the Pacific said on Monday that Russia's intervention in Ukraine had been accompanied by a significant increase in Russian air activity in the Asia-Pacific region in a show of strength and to gather intelligence.

General Herbert "Hawk" Carlisle said the activity had included Russian flights to the coast of California, and around the US Pacific island of Guam.

Carlisle said the number of long-range Russian patrols around the Japanese islands and Korea had increased "drastically." He said there had also been "a lot more ship activity as well." Speaking at Washington's Centre for Strategic and International Studies think tank, Carlisle showed a slide of a US *F-15* fighter jet intercepting a Russian "Bear" aircraft over Guam. He used the Cold War NATO name for Russia's *Tupolov Tu-95* strategic bomber. "Certainly what's going on in Ukraine and Crimea is a challenge for us and it's a challenge for us in Asia Pacific as well as Europe," Carlisle said.

He said there had been "a significant" increase in Russian activity in the Asia Pacific "and we relate a lot of that to what's going on in the Ukraine."

Reuters

Five smuggled gold bullions are displayed during a Press briefing at the Thai Customs headquarters in Bangkok, Thailand, on 6 May, 2014. Thai customs officials seized five (five kilograms) smuggled gold bullions, worthing about 7.5 million Thai baht.—XINHUA

Vietnam police arrest blogger for 'ugly' content

HO CHI MINH CITY, 6 May — Vietnamese police have arrested a prominent blogger and his associate for posting "ugly content" about the communist state, the latest incident in a crackdown on dissent that is testing US efforts to bolster ties with its former foe.

Former policeman and private detective Nguyen Huu Vinh, 58, known locally for gathering and posting political and social comments from the public, was arrested on Monday with Nguyen Thi Minh Thuy, 34, for publishing "wrongful information".

The Ministry of Public Security, which oversees police, said the blog postings had made the public lose faith in the state apparatus, according to its website. They are charged with abusing their democratic freedoms.

Vietnam's zero-tolerance approach to criticism of its rulers has drawn international condemnation and the latest arrests come ahead of United States negotiations in Ho Chi Minh City this month over a Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) trade deal. Three political dissidents were freed from jail last month as pressure mounts on Vietnam to halt the intimidation, arrest and imprisonment of activists that rights groups say is at a similar level to China.

Among those released was lawyer Cu Huy Ha Vu, whose father was a former minister and associate of late revolutionary Ho Chi Minh. Vinh's profile grew because he, too, is the son of a former minister, top ruling party member and ambassador to what was once the Soviet Union, a key ally of Vietnam.

Reuters

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(9/2014)

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Sr.No	Tender No	Description	Remark
(1)	IFB -006(14-15)	100KW Diesel Engine Driven Generating Set	US$
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(3)	IFB -008(14-15)	Double Row Radial Spherical (Self Alignment) Roller Bearing	US$
(4)	IFB -009(14-15)	Spares for SAFE Compressor	US$
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Europe to toughen black box rules after MH370

PARIS, 6 May—The European Aviation Safety Agency has drawn up proposals to make it easier to find black boxes from missing aircraft, in the strongest official reaction so far to the disappearance of a Malaysia Airlines jet, sources familiar with the matter said.

The proposals will bring into force some recommendations that were put forward by France after the loss of an Air France jet in the Atlantic in 2009, but which were never implemented.

These include the addition of a new pinger frequency, making it easier to locate the recording devices under water.

An opinion due to be published by the agency also calls for an increase in the minimum amount of recording time on cockpit voice recorders to make it easier to understand plane crashes. Flight MH370 is believed to have crashed in the southern Indian Ocean some seven hours after it went missing on March 8, meaning the standard two-hour recording loop would not cover conversations during the crucial early stages of the flight.

Reuters

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Ugandan police issue terror alert after attacks in Kenya

KAMPALA, 6 May—The Ugandan Police on Monday issued a fresh terror alert after a series of bomb blasts in neighboring Kenya that left some people killed and scores injured.

Police spokesperson Fred Enanga told Xinhua by telephone that police have increased vigilance and presence in the capital Kampala and other major towns in the country.

"We issued a terror alert today. This follows the Saturday attacks in our neighborhood Kenya. We know Al-Shabaab terrorists continue to target us," said Enanga.— *Xinhua*

Hole in One

YANGON, 6 May—Mr. Ido Mitsuo, General Manager, Yangon Branch of Mitsubishi Corporation, scored an ace while striking Kasco (Kira-5) golf ball with Bridgestone Iron 6 from 173 yards at No 3 hole at Pun Hlaing Golf Course in Hlinethaya Township of Yangon at 8.05 am on 3 May (Saturday). He was playing together with Mr. Shigeo Hana (Managing Director, Mingaladon Industrial Park Co., Ltd.); Mr. Kobayashi Ken (Deputy General Manager, Yangon Branch, Mitsubishi Corporation); and Mr. Hattori Tomonori (Deputy General Manager, Yangon Branch, Mitsubishi Corporation.—*NLM*

A woman writes a message on a board for family members of passengers onboard the missing Malaysia Airlines Flight MH370 at the Malaysian Chinese Association (MCA) headquarters in Kuala Lumpur on 6 April, 2014. Reuters

Vietnamese jet fails to take off due to engine fault in Melbourne

MELBOURNE, 6 May—A Vietnam Airlines flight en route from Melbourne to Ho Chi Minh City abandoned take-off Tuesday morning due to an engine failure, leaving other flights disrupted at the airport.According to witnesses at the terminal, the *Airbus A330* aircraft suffered from an engine problem at 10:50 am local time, when its nose lifted off at the runway, with debris and small fires were thrown from the engine. The plane stopped at a cross road of two runways for about 30 minutes and then was towed away to the terminal.

A spokeswoman said the plane itself was not on fire and all passengers were safe and "no one was in any danger" in the incident. Other flights at Melbourne airport were disrupted for around 40 minutes until all debris were cleared and the airport has restored normalcy.

Xinhua

Visitors to Tokyo Skytree fall short of operator's forecast

TOKYO, 6 May—The number of visitors to the observation deck of Tokyo Skytree, the world's tallest broadcasting tower, fell short of its operator's projection in fiscal year 2013 due to an increase in weather-related closures, officials said.

Visitors to the observation deck totaled 6.19 million in the year ended March, short of 6.44 million expected by Tobu Tower Skytree Co.

While the number still exceeded the 5.54 million in fiscal 2012, the deck was closed on more days due to a sudden deterioration in weather conditions, the officials said.

The total number of visitors, including those to Tokyo Solamachi the adjacent commercial facilities, came to 39.27 million in the year through last March, about 730,000 short of the projection made at the start of the year.

In fiscal 2014, the operator expects 35 million visitors including 5.97 million to the observation deck.

The 634-meter tower and the adjacent facilities opened to the public in May 2012.—*Kyodo News*

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LatAm countries have widest wealth gap: UN official

LIMA, 6 May—Latin America and the Caribbean have the widest wealth gap of any region on the planet, a UN official said on Monday.

"This is the most unequal region in the world. Not the poorest, but the most unequal," Alicia Barcena, executive secretary of the UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), told *Xinhua.*

"This situation is the result of great wealth concentrated in few hands, and the large number of the poor that live in these countries," said Barcena, who held a seminar on sustainable development.

ECLAC advocates creating more jobs with better pay and raising awareness among workers of the need to fight politically for better conditions.

On the other hand, according to ECLAC, strides have been made in both poverty reduction and job creation in the region. Figures show poverty in the region reduced from 44 percent in 2002 to 28 percent in 2013, while the unemployment rate dropped from 11 percent in 2002 to 6 percent in 2012.

Growth forecasts show countries in the region will see an average economic growth of 2.7 percent in 2014, compared with 2.5 percent in 2013.

Xinhua

'American Idol' Scott McCreery victim of home invasion robbery

RALEIGH, (North Carolina) 6 May — Country music singer and "American Idol" winner Scotty McCreery was among several people robbed at gunpoint by intruders in a home in Raleigh, North Carolina early on Monday, but no one was hurt, police said.

Three gunmen — two armed with pistols and one with a rifle — entered the dwelling near the North Carolina State University campus shortly before 2 am, took wallets, cash and electronic items then fled, police spokesman Jim Sughrue said.

McCreery, 20, a former grocery clerk who is reported to be a student at North Carolina State, was visiting the home at the time and was one of several people who was robbed, Sughrue said.

After the gunmen fled the residence, believed to be a rental apartment or condominium, someone from the home called police, who have yet to identify the perpetrators, Sughrue said. He added that there was no apparent connection between the robbers and the victims.

McCreery, the cherubic-faced baritone from Garner, North Carolina, near Raleigh, won the 10th season of Fox television's hit "American Idol" pop singing contest in May 2011. He went on to see his debut country album, "Clear as Day," open at the top of the Billboard charts in October of that year.—*Reuters*

Want to be known as an actor, not businesswoman: Shilpa Shetty

NEW DELHI, 6 May — Shilpa Shetty's film career may have taken a back seat at the moment but the Bollywood beauty says she still wants to be known as an actress rather than as a businesswoman. Shilpa, 38, who is busy promoting her business ventures with husband Raj Kundra and IPL team, said family has taken a precedence over showbiz.

"I will be ever known as an actor first than a businesswoman. I am an actor first who ventured into other segments after marriage. I haven't bid adieu to showbiz. I am doing TV shows and advertisements.

"I feel guilty as any mother about leaving the house or child or family to go out for shoot for a long time. Business is a different ball game altogether as you have many people working under you. But in acting you have to do the job because there is no substitute for you," Shilpa told *PTI*. The 'Life In a Metro' star was in the Capital to receive an award 'Spalicious Mom' at an event organised by Asia Spa. Shilpa's own spa and wellness chain IOSIS is branching out to many cities but the actress said that she is not a spa person.

"Despite owning a chain of spas, I call the lady home to get whatever beauty treatment I need. I am like a chef who prepares food for others but does not get time for himself to eat. I do take massages at home to relax," she said. Like any mother, Shilpa also feels that being with Viaan, who who will turn two later this month, is more important.

"Viaan is all set to go to school from July and taking care of him is my utmost priority. I love to spend time with my family and consciously took project like 'Nach Baliye' because they are less time consuming and give me a break also from my daily life," she said.—*PTI*

Shilpa Shetty

Chinese actress Gong Li

Actress Gong Li appointed film festival jury president

SHANGHAI, 6 May — Chinese actress Gong Li has been named president of the jury for the main award at the 17th Shanghai International Film Festival (SIFF), the festival's commission announced on Monday.

It is the first time a female will head the jury.

"I am honoured to be the president of the jury for the Golden Goblet Award and to be able to work with elites from the international film industry," Gong told the commission following her appointment.

The actress said she will lead the jury members to try and find films that "touch people's heart".

Gong, who has previously been president at the Berlin International Film Festival and the Venice International Film Festival, was the first Chinese actress to win the top prize at the latter event.

Founded in 1993, the SIFF is one of China's top international film events. Previous jury presidents include Luc Besson, John Woo and Jean-Jacques Annaud. This year's film festival is scheduled from 14 to 22 June.—*Xinhua*

Conductor Charles Dutoit (3rd R) looks at a group photo on Ipad after a rehearsal at Shanghai Oriental Art Centre, in Shanghai, east China, on 4 May, 2014. The Boston Symphony Orchestra (BSO) made a performance in Shanghai on Sunday. The BSO, the first American orchestra that visited China in 1979 after the two countries established diplomatic ties, made its long-awaited return to the country this May. The BSO is an American orchestra based in Boston, Massachusetts. It is one of the country's five major symphony orchestras commonly referred to as the "Big Five".—XINHUA

Son of Picasso cries foul over Paris museum delay

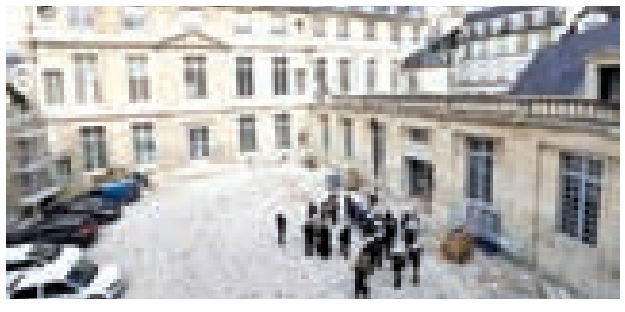
PARIS, 6 May — French authorities are trying to make peace with the son of Pablo Picasso after he accused them of dishonouring his father by delaying the re-opening of the Picasso Museum in Paris.

The refurbished 17th century mansion housing the collection had been due to reopen in June, after a five-year, 52 million euro ($72 million) refurbishment. But the Culture Ministry said it would not now open until mid-September, missing the tourist season's summer peak.

"I am outraged and deeply concerned," Claude Picasso, the 66-year-old son of the painter seen as one of the 20th century's most influential artists, told *Le Figaro* newspaper. "I get the impression that France couldn't give a damn about my father or me," he said in the interview, published on Friday just before the Culture Ministry confirmed in a statement its decision to wait until September.

Inaugurated in 1985, the Picasso Museum includes nearly 300 paintings including "Self-portrait" from his early Blue period through to "Matador" and others completed in the years before his 1973 death. It also includes some 250 sculptures, relief paintings and other works.

Reuters



A general view shows journalists attending a Press visit during the renovation of the Hotel Sale known as the Picasso Museum in the Marais district of Paris, on 4 March, 2014.—REUTERS

In Memory of One Month
7.4.2014 – 7.5.2014
Sally San Lin @ Daw Soe Soe

In Loving memory of Sally San Lin (Daw Soe Soe), daughter of (Sithu U Tin) and (Daw Khin Thet Tin), beloved wife of (U San Lin), loving mother of (Hmi Hmi Lin-Valerie), Douglas Soe Lin- Myadali and grandmother of Wyn Soe Lin- Amara Thiri Myaing. We miss you.

Your loving family and friends.

Frenchman shot dead in Yemeni capital, two wounded

People look at a damaged car where a French man was assassinated, in Sanaa on May, 2014.
REUTERS

SANAA, 6 May — Gunmen shot dead a Frenchman working as a security agent for the EU mission in the Yemeni capital Sanaa on Monday, France announced, as the army waged an offensive against al Qaeda in the south of the country.

Westerners have frequently been attacked in Yemen, an impoverished US-allied country fighting Islamist militancy, southern secessionists, tribal conflicts and a Shi'ite Muslim rebellion in the north.

Yemen's Interior Ministry confirmed Monday's attack, but said only that a "foreigner" had been killed in the capital and two other people wounded in the shooting.

"The president condemns in the strongest terms the attack today in Sanaa, Yemen against two of our countrymen, which cost one his life and very seriously injured the second," French President Francois Hollande's office said in a statement.

Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius added the victim was "on mission for the European Union delegation in Yemen."

The European Union's foreign policy chief Catherine Ashton called the killing "evil and senseless" and urged the Yemeni government to restore security in the country.

"The EU's presence in Yemen aims only to assist the country in its transition to democracy and in its economic development. To target persons engaged in this effort is evil and senseless," she said in a statement.

Yemeni security sources said the unidentified gunmen, who had been driving a four-by-four car without licence plates, blocked the diplomatic vehicle in which the Frenchman was travelling in the centre of Sanaa and opened fire.

They identified the wounded as a Frenchman and a Yemeni. No further details were immediately available and there was no immediate claim of responsibility for the attack.

Last month a German diplomat was wounded during an apparent kidnapping attempt by unidentified gunmen.

Reuters

Froome ahead of schedule as Tour de France looms

Race leader jersey holder Team Sky rider Christopher Froome of Britain cycles during the 204.5 km stage of the centenary Tour de France cycling race from Bourg d'Oisans to Le Grand Bornand, in the French Alps, 19 July, 2013. — REUTER

PARIS, 6 May — Although his preparations have been hampered by a back injury and a chest infection, Chris Froome claims he is ahead of schedule as the Briton gears up for his Tour de France defence.

The Team Sky rider retained his Tour de Romandie title on Sunday after shrugging off Tour rival Vincenzo Nibali of Italy in the queen mountain stage and winning the final individual time trial.

"I am ahead of where I was last year at the same time," Froome was quoted as saying in French sports daily L'Equipe on Monday.

"But I still have a lot of work. I am going back to Tenerife to... gain power and lose weight."

Froome's coach Tony Kerrison agreed with the rider's assessment of his fitness compared to the same stage 12 months ago.

"He is at least as well as last year. In the last training camp, he was at a higher level," Kerrison told the paper.

Froome sat out of last month's Liege-Bastogne-Liege classic with a chest infection after also skipping the Tirreno-Adriatico stage race in March because of back problems.

His only remaining race before the Tour de France will be the Criterium du Dauphine from June 8-15.The Tour starts in Leeds, England on 5 July.

Reuters

MYANMAR TV

(7-5-2014, Wednesday)

6:00 am
1. Paritta by Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw

6:45 am
2. Documentary

7:00 am
3. News / Weather Report

7:20 am
4. Pyi Thu Ni Ti

8:00 am
5. News/ International News

8:30 am
6. India Drama Series

9:00 am
7. News/ International News

9:30 am
8. Documentary

10:00 am
9. News

10:30 am
10 . TV Drama Series

12:00 pm
10. News/International News/Weather Report

12:25 pm
11. Myanmar Movie

3:00 pm
12. News

3:15 pm
13. Teleplay

4:00 pm
14. News/ Weather Report

4:15 pm
15. University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) Second Year (Law)

5:00 pm
16. News

5:30 pm
17. India Drama Series

6:00 pm
18. News/Weather Report

7:00 pm
19. News

8:50 pm
20. People Talks

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(7-5-14 07:00am~ 8-5-14 07:00am) MST

* Local News
* Product Of Myanmar - Myanmar Circular Stone Slab
* World News
* The Beauty of Stylish Myanmar Dress
* Local News
* Beauties Of Makyee Island - Island of Tamarind Tree
* World News
* My Life & My Art
* Local News
* Jeyyanandi (A Day in the Life of a Nun)
* World News
* Inspiration
* Local News
* Ruili City With Mon Yee
* World News
* Crocodile Keeper
* Local News
* The Rising Glory of Myanmar Arts
* World News
* In the Studio "Khin Su Shin"
* Local News
* The Treasures in a Small Village
* World News
* Creations of a Designer: Fashion
* Local News
* Myanmar Performing Arts-Puppet
* World News
* Short Cut "Naga Land"
* Local News
* Travels In Monywa-Moe Hnyin Sambuddhe Pagoda
* World News
* Sagaing: Youth Leader

Chinese Premier Li Keqiang, accompanied by Ethiopian Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn, visits the Oriental Industrial Park on 5 May, 2014. The park, constructed and invested by China, has provided more than 5,000 jobs for the local people.—XINHUA

The New Light of Myanmar

Naive Liverpool blow title after self-destructing at Palace

LONDON, 6 May — Liverpool blew a 3-0 lead in the final 11 minutes to draw 3-3 at Crystal Palace on Monday as their desperate search for more goals left them exposed at the back and handed the Premier League title initiative firmly back to Manchester City.

Liverpool's naivety, allied to woeful mistakes and decision-making when victory seemed assured, almost certainly ended their hopes of a first title for 24 years and although they returned to top spot, Manchester City are now odds-on favourites to win their second title in three seasons.

Liverpool have 81 points with one match to play while City have 80 points with two matches left and a nine-goal better goal difference.

City host Aston Villa on Wednesday and West Ham United on Sunday while Liverpool's remaining game is at home to Newcastle United.

Liverpool were coasting to victory and a three-point lead after goals from Joe Allen, Daniel Sturridge and Suarez, who was named Footballer of the Year earlier in the day.

But Palace stormed back with two goals from substitute Dwight Gayle and one from Damien Delaney who brought Palace back into the game with a screamer in the 79th minute before Gayle's second two minutes from time forced the draw.

IN DESPAIR

The Liverpool players slumped to the ground in despair at the end with Suarez and others in tears as they left the field.

Liverpool's title hopes, already receding after last week's 2-0 home defeat by Chelsea and City's 3-2 win at Everton on Saturday, are now hanging by an even slenderer thread and manager Brendan Rodgers conceded their challenge was over.

Liverpool's Steven Gerrard (L) and Luis Suarez react following their English Premier League soccer match against Crystal Palace at Selhurst Park in London on 5 May, 2014.—REUTERS

"The title race is over now, Manchester City will go on and win it. We had to win this match tonight to keep the pressure on City. I think they will go on and win the two games and be champions," he told reporters.

"For 75 minutes it was an outstanding performance. The important thing was to win the game tonight to put some sort of pressure on City but it's very disappointing to concede those three goals.

"It was really poor defending. Poor decision-making. We should have managed the game much better when we were 3-0 up," he said.

"But Palace showed great spirit to come back into it,"

PALACE FIGHT-BACK

Palace's fightback typified their own recovery under coach Tony Pulis this season.

Seemingly headed for relegation with just one win in their first 12 games when he took over in November, they will finish in a comfortable mid-table spot. There was no hint of the devastation to hit Liverpool, however, as they controlled the game until the final drama unfolded.

"At halftime I really believed if we could keep it tight for 10 minutes then we could get back in the game but we didn't manage that," Pulis said.

"Liverpool are a team you can score goals against but they will always back themselves to score more than you so I always felt we would score.

"The first goal knocked them back a bit and our supporters were just amazing and they played their part. "The big test was keeping their forwards quiet, we didn't manage to do that but we did score goals."

Reuters

Uncertain over return, Tiger says recovery 'very slow'

NEW YORK, 6 May — World number one Tiger Woods says his recovery from back surgery has been a "very slow process" and he remains unsure over when he can return to competitive golf.

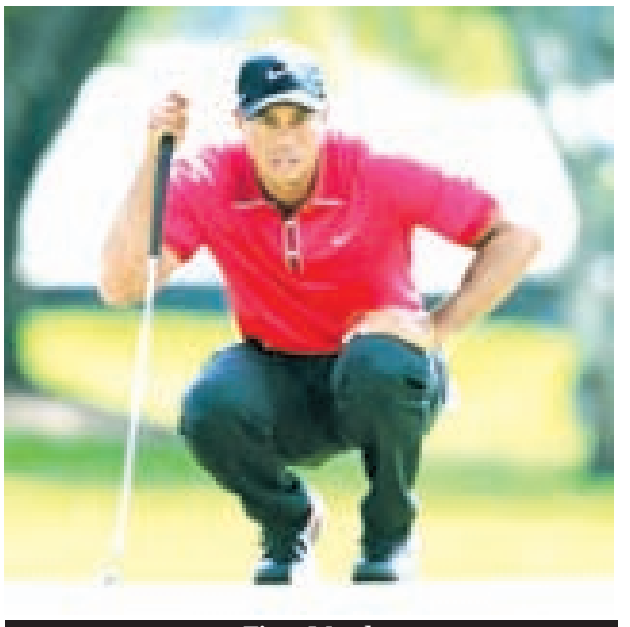
Woods, who has won 14 majors, has been sidelined since going under the knife for a pinched nerve in his back at the end of March, forcing him to miss last month's Masters tournament for the first time in 20 years.

"I made the decision to have surgery because physically I just couldn't make a golf swing. That pretty much sums it up," Woods wrote in a blog on his website. "Some people heal up in three months, some people take four, some people take longer.

"As for my return to golf, I really don't know. I'm doing everything I can and listening to my doctors." The slow recovery could also force Woods to sit out the US Open at Pinehurst, which begins on 12 June, and the British Open at Royal Liverpool in July, denying him a chance to end his six-year major drought anytime soon.

"I haven't used a sand wedge yet. I've just done putting and chip-and-runs using the same length of motion. I haven't really rotated yet," Woods, who is second only to Jack Nicklaus (18) on the list of major winners, continued.

"As far as taking a full swing, I have conference calls with my doctors every couple of weeks to see how my progress is and just kind of chart it out from there.



Tiger Woods

"As I've said several times, I hope to be back sometime this summer, but I just don't know when."

Reuters

Li Na into third round in Madrid Open

MADRID, 6 May — China's Li Na beat Belgian Kristen Flipkens 6-1, 7-6 (8) to qualify for the third round of the WTA Madrid Open on Monday.

Playing in the early session, the No 2 seed looked to be completely in control in the first set, which she took comfortably 6-1.

Li Na also looked to be on course to take the second set with ease, but then ran into problems on her serve allowing the Belgian to make two service breaks to force a tie break.

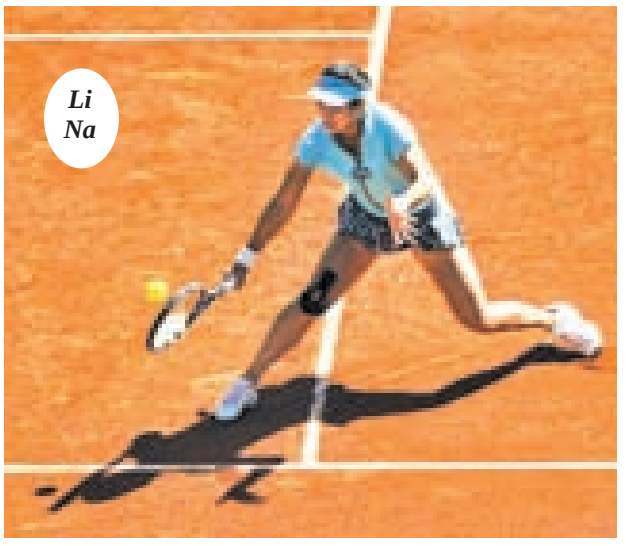
Li Na's victory means that she will now face her another Chinese player, Jie Zheng who beat Mariana Duque-Marino of Colombia 7-6(5), 6-2 on Sunday in order to book her place inthe third round.

China's Shuai Peng is also into the last 32, where she will face reigning Champions and number one seed, Serene Williams, who is once again favourite for the tournament after winning in Madrid for the last two years.

Zhang Shuai's Madrid adventure, ended on Monday, however, as she was beaten in straight sets by the wildcard Rumanian, Irina Begu.

Other players who have already qualified for the last 32 include Maria Sharapova, who is ranked eighth in Madrid this year, number 11 seed Ana Ivanovich, number 5 seed, Petra Kvitova and the consistant Italian, Sara Errani.

Xinhua



Juventus celebrate third successive title with win over Atalanta

ROME, 6 May — The Juventus fans were in a mood to party and their team lived up to expectations as they celebrated winning a third successive Serie A title with a 1-0 victory over Atalanta on Monday. A second-half Simone Padoin strike enabled the champions to enjoy the moment in front of their supporters by maintaining their 100 per cent home record.

Antonio Conte's side, handed their 30th championship thanks to AS Roma's 4-1 defeat at relegation-threatened Catania on Sunday, are on 96 points, 11 ahead of Roma and only a point away from equalling the all-time record set by Inter Milan in 2007.

"Winning the league three times in a row after finishing seventh twice and making a bit of a mark in Europe, with a quarter-final finish the Champions League and the semi-finals of the Europa League... I don't think Juventus could have done any better," Conte told Sky Italia.

"Tonight is the latest confirmation of what my team is made of, both as a team and as men. I think my greatest satisfaction in is having transmitted a exceptional mentality."

Padion's powerful 72nd-minute strike which careered in off the post following a nifty flick from Paul Pogba secured Juve's 18th straight home league win and they only have to beat Cagliari to finish the season unbeaten at the Juventus Stadium.

Conte made eight changes to the side which failed to overturn a 2-1 deficit in their Europa League semi-final with Benfica and they were rarely troubled by an Atalanta team who stayed in 11th on 47 points and now have no chance of European football.

Reuters

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