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Buddha Day which is also known as Vesak Day brings throngs of Buddhist devotees to Shwedagon Pagoda on Fullmoon Day of Kason.—MNA

ASEAN vows to transform the bloc into "Truly people-oriented ASEAN"

NAY PYI TAW, 13 May—The Chairman's Statement of the 24th ASEAN Summit which includes seven chapters and 84 points was issued on 11 May.

The chapter, *"Towards a Peaceful and Prosperous ASEAN Community"* states "We take note of the progress of discussions by our officials on the proposal to extend our support to ASEAN Member States that do not have permanent representation in third countries to help their respective nationals in need of consular assistance."

In the chapter *"Towards a Resilient and Vibrant ASEAN Community"*, it states. "We recognised the importance of the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) as a platform for achieving equitable economic development in the region and narrowing the development gap between ASEAN-6 and CLMV countries."

The chapter *"ASEAN for its Peoples"* says "We re-emphasized our continued efforts to move towards a people-oriented ASEAN Community which would ensure the well-being of the peoples of ASEAN. In this regard, we are committed to creating an environment which would allow our peoples to participate in and benefit from the process of ASEAN Community building."

The chapter *"ASEAN in the Regional and Global Context"*, says "We expressed serious concerns over the on-going developments in the South China Sea. We reaffirmed the importance of maintaining peace and stability, maritime security, freedom of navigation in and overflight above the South China Sea."

The chapter *"External Relations"* stipulates "We welcomed commemorative activities to mark the anniversary of relations with our Dialogue Partners, including, the 40th Anniversary of ASEAN-Australia Dialogue Relations and the 25th Anniversary of ASEAN-ROK Dialogue Relations. We looked forward to the ASEAN-New Zealand Commemorative Summit in 2015 in Malaysia to mark the 40th Anniversary of ASEAN-New Zealand Dialogue Relations. We also looked forward to the 10th Anniversary of the East Asia Summit (EAS) in 2015."

(See page 4)

UPWC, KIO agree to form conflict mediation team as part of first phase of implementing joint monitoring mechanism

MYITKYINA, 13 May—Union Peace-Making Work Committee and KIO delegation agreed to form a conflict mediation team after holding peace talks at Majwel Hall in Myitkyina on Tuesday.

In his greetings at the meeting, U Thein Zaw, vice-chairman of the work committee and chairman of People's Parliament national race affairs, improvement in rural affairs and internal peace-making committee, expressed hope for bringing fruitful outcomes of the meeting to all national races in Kachin State, vowing that Parliament will do the best it can.

U Swan Lut Gam, leader of KIO delegation, voiced an escalation of

(See page 4)

Two soldiers shaking hands before the start of peace talks between UPWC and KIO delegation in Myitkyina.—STATE IPRD

Census data come under close scrutiny for registration

NAY PYI TAW, 13 May—A nation-wide census took place between 30 March and 10 April this year, with 41 questions for each household and 11 for each organization. The Myanmar Census 2014 have collected data from over ten million households, and preparations through coordination are under way for remaining areas, media reports said.

Officials said packs of completed census data have now come under close scrutiny for registration at the Ministry of Immigration and Population here, with ministry staff working hard on them in shifts day in, day out.

MNA

Myanmar, Thai wellwishers offer alms to monks

MYAWADY, 13 May— Jointly-organized by responsible persons of Myawady district of Myanmar and Tak Province of Thailand, an alm-offering ceremony took place on Myanmar-Thailand Friendship Bridge linking between Myawady and Miesot on Tuesday, Full-moon Day of Kason.

Myanmar and Thai wellwishers led by U Lwin Ko Oo, Myawady district commissioner, and officials of Tat province offered provisions to 199 monks at the ceremony.

The ceremony was aimed at cementing bilateral friendship and promoting understanding of cultural and religious relations between the people of the two countries.

Tun Tun Oo-Myawady Border Town

Mohnyin hospital offers care, treatment for HIV/AIDS patients

MOHNYIN, 13 May— As of the first week of May, patients with HIV/AIDS will be given healthcare delivery at Mohnyin district hospital on every Tuesdays, said Dr Win Win Htay, medical superintend of the hospital, on 5 May.

"Mohnyin township has about 500 HIV-infected patients. Some of them are unwilling to mention their names and declare their positive status. Moreover, most of them are unwilling to undergo HIV testing and receive medical care in Myitkyina as they are poor and cannot afford to spend money on one night's stay at Myitkyina.

So, Christian association council in Mohnyin have to cover the trip expense. Now, it will be convenient for them who will be provided with healthcare delivery at Mohnyin hospital.", Dr Rolan who is leading Mitta Foundation helping positive patients in the township.

NLM 001

Rural people, urban residents enjoy water facilities in Ngazun Township

NGAZUN, 13 May—A ceremony to mark completion of building water facilities for villages in Ngazun Township of Mandalay Region was held at Nyaungbin-yoe village on Sunday.

The ceremony took place with U Aung Zan, Minister for Planning and Economy of Mandalay Region government, elaborating on ongoing works for construction of tube wells and reservoirs that are crucial for local people to have access to drinking water and farm water. Thanks to cooperation and collaboration between the region government and departments concerned, four reservoirs and 19 tube wells have been put into service in Ngazun Township.

Zaw Min Naing-Myingyan

Kalay to promise 24-hour power supply to dwellers

KALAY, 13 May—The Ministry of Electric Power is taking necessary measures for ensuring 24-hour power supply in Kalay Township of Sagaing Region following a submission of proposal for electrification at a session of Sagaing Region Parliament, said U Tin Hlaing. People's Parliament representative.

He continued that K80 million from 2014 Union Budget have been allocated for installation of power line from Gangaw district of Magway Region to Kalay district of Sagaing Region.

U Nyi, a townselder, voiced Kalay saw many paved roads but electricity but the town has no grid electricity. Kalay dwellers have been waiting for long time to have access to grid electricity. Only distribution of electric power from the national grid will be the best way for ensuring 24-hour power supply, he added. Urban wards in Kalay have only one hour of power supply a day as Zee creek hydropower plant on which the town relies for power supply is facing water shortage during this summer. Power supply covers 15 out of 19 urban wards and only 4000 dwellers have access to electricity.

A local called for quick implementation of power supply works for Kalay where there are three universities, one industrial zone, one 200-bed hospital and one 100-bed military hospital, one prison and three basic education high schools.

Lin Lat Kyalsin

101-year-old Debayin woman shares keys to living a long life

MOHNYIN, 13 May—Daw Thein Mi, 101 years old woman in Debayin Township, shared two keys to living a long life—eating local-grown fruit and vegetables and keeping the practice of loving-kindness.

The living oldest person in the township was born on 14th Waning of Tagu, 1275 ME in Naga-bo village of Debayin Township. Daw Thein Mi, mother of five children, is now living together with her siblings— Daw Thein Shi, 92, and Daw Thein Ei, 82— at the same village.

The 101-year-old Debayin woman celebrated her 101st birthday party recently, offering provisions to 66 monks at her house in the village.—*Aung Lin-IPRD*

Buffalo-like creature killed after attacking residents

MOHNYIN, KACHIN, 13 May— A buffalo-like creature was killed after attacking the residents in Mohnyin Township of Kachin State on 6 May.

The wild animal attacked a bullock cart of a resident from Ywathit village. After the latter fought against with a hoe, the animal ran away.

The male creature then attacked residents and animals on the road to the Mehnyin college, and the locals fought back with knives and spears. The dangerous aggressive animal was killed by villagers after it could not be prevented entering eaglewood plot.

A villager said: "Man-made deforestation has caused the narrow habitats for wildlife. This animal penetrated into the residential areas as it was wandering to search for foods."

NLM-001

Vice-President inspects disaster management preparedness programmes in delta areas

NAY PYI TAW, 13 May — Vice-President U Nyan Tun visited the Ayeyawady delta region on Tuesday, and inspected the preparedness measures for disaster management programmes.

U Nyan Tun arrived at sub-township hospital opened at a cyclone shelter in Pyinsalu Township, inspected warehouse of rescue materials and medical wards, and witnessed the disaster-preparedness rehearsal and other preventive measures.

The Vice-President handed life jackets and solar lamps for emergency needs to the locals.

He then visited Kyeinchaunggyi village of Bogale Township, and explained the importance of disaster management programmes to the residents.

U Nyan Tun then inspected mangrove forest rehabilitation in Kadon Kani village.

He also arrived at the Daminseik cyclone shelter in Pyapon Township, and provide the gifts of President U Thein Sein.—*MNA*

***Vice-President U Nyan Tun explains importance of disaster management programmes to residents in Kyeinchaunggyi village of Bogale Township.*—MNA**

Arts and Crafts Exhibition packed with visitors

NAY PYI TAW, 13 May — Myanmar Traditional Arts and Crafts Exhibition, which is now taking place at Mani Yadana Hall here, has drawn visits from interested people from all walks of life.

The exhibition today also saw visits from teachers and students from national culture and arts universities who performed entertainment both at the dinner hosted in honour of ASEAN Summit and its opening ceremony.

Today's visits to the exhibition were from government employees, diplomats and tourists. The exhibition will continue tomorrow from 9 am to 8 pm, and admission is free.—*MNA*

Myanmar medical doctors provide free medical treatments in Tachilek

TACHILEK, 13 May— A group of Myanmar medical doctors in Tachilek Township, eastern Shan State, provided free medical treatments here on Monday.

They give health care services to five monks, 10 novices and 50 childern at the Buddhist monestic school of Aung Mingalar Forest Retreat Monastery.

The head of monastery said he, on behalf of loal people, thanks to the group of doctors for their free medical treatments.

The doctors also made diagnosis of malaria and other common diseases to the head monk and 24 novices of Mahagandayon Zedi Tharmakyaw Monastery.

Mawgyi

YARZAR MIN EXPRESS ACCIDENT CLAIMS 14 LIVES: *Yarzar Min Express on 12-5-2014 met a fatal accident at milepost 197/6 on Nay Pyi Taw-Yangon expressway. The accident claimed 14 lives of passengers who were among 46 on board. Min Khant, the driver, was among the injured and was admitted to Nay Pyi Taw 1000-bed hospital. Police station concerned has filed a lawsuit against him.*

MYO ZEYAR

Job cum trade fair in biggest industrial city

NAY PYI TAW, 13 May—A jobs fair in conjunction with a trade fair was conducted at the stadium in Hlinethaya of Yangon Region on 9 May, sources said.

The event aims to help create job opportunities for people out of work as well as for talented people with a taste for foreign firms, an organizer said.

Supervised by the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Welfare and organized by the management committee of Hlinethaya Industrial City, the event drew 28 factories and companies with 39 booths.

Along with its highest labour strength, Hlinethaya Industrial City is the biggest of all industrial zones across the country.

MNA

Fifth All Order Sangha Meeting ends successfully

YANGON, 13 May— The Fifth All Order Sangha Meeting was successfully concluded at Thiri Mingala Kaba Aye Hillock here this evening, reports said.

Motions tabled and seconded at the meeting included scrutiny on the publication and distribution of Buddhism-related books, audios and other means of visuals; efforts into propagation and promotion of Nikaya Sasana; changes for examinations on Buddhist Scriptures; the formation of a committee for foreign affairs at the State Sangha Nayaka Commitee; the propogation of Sasana in border hilly regions; the issue of directives in connection with the need of religious associations and organizations to seek guidance from Sangha bodies; and the help by responsible bodies with religious matters.

Responsible Sayadaws approved of decisions made and agreements reached at the meeting.

The meeting was followed by a donation ceremony, where union ministers, high-ranking officials, departmental officials and wellwishers donated rice and other offerings to Sayadaws.

Shwe Thanlwin Co Ltd sponsored the Fifth All Order Sangha Meeting at a cost of K 2,300 million.

MNA

***A Sayadaw gives a certificate of honour to a wellwisher at the Fifth All Order Sangha Meeting.*—MNA**

***Representatives from United Nations, the People's Republic of China, NCCT, UNFC and other national race armed groups and PCG members seen at peace talks between UPWC and KIO delegation.*—STATE IPRD**

ASEAN vows to transform the bloc into...

(from page 1)

The chapter "*ASEAN Institutions for ASEAN Community*" says ". We underscored the important role played by the ASEAN Secretary General and the ASEAN Secretariat in moving towards an ASEAN Community. In this regard, we encouraged further strengthening of the role of ASEAN Secretary General and the ASEAN Secretariat."

The chapter "*Vision for ASEAN's Future*" says "We further stressed the need to develop a post-2015 ASEAN Vision, which maintains the future relevance, credibility and centrality of our organization among the global community of nations. We also re-emphasised our commitment to transform our organisation into a truly people-oriented ASEAN."

The full text of the Chairman's Statement of the 24th ASEAN Summit both in Myanmar and English version can be browsed at www.moi.gov.mm and www.moi.gov.mm/npe/.—MNA

UPWC, KIO agree to form conflict mediation team...

(from page 1)

fightings is due to both sides that lacked sense of responsibility to maintain agreements, saying that building a mutual and shared understanding between the two sides has stayed weak.

In his speech, Union Minister U Aung Min, vice-chairman of the work committee, stressed the need to take a simultaneous action on signing of nationwide ceasefire agreement and peace process between the government and KIO.

He proposed a mechanism for finding solution to the problem before going to a higher degree. Both sides have to follow and implement the already-achieved agreements including an agreement to establish a joint-monitoring committee, he added. He called on both sides to protect the civilian population in Kachin State, listening to the voice of concerns for both Shan and Kachin national races. It is required to start a pilot project for resettlement of IDPs in their villages and reopening of roads used by the people, he said.

He highlighted the importance of a ceasefire between the government and KIO, calling for a restoration of trust for reaching it. This meeting is aimed at seeing no more clashes and effective implementation of the agreements both sides have, he added. He stressed the need to build a mechanism to produce solutions and proposed pilot projects for formation of a joint-monitoring committee and resettlement of IDPs.

Next, those present held discussions on matters occurred after the 2013 October meeting and works to be done regarding the agreements brought by May and October meetings.

Then, U Aung Min, U Swan Lut Gam, U Thein Zaw and Maj-Gen Gwan Maw signed agreements and exchanged notes.

After the meeting, Union Peace-Making Work Committee and KIO delegation issued a joint statement. It is as follows:-

(1) Union Peace-Making Work Committee led by Vice-Chairman of the work committee Union Minister U Aung Min and a KIO delegation led by U Swan Lut Gam held talks on peace process at Majwel Hall in Myitkyina from 9 am to 4 pm on 13 May. It was also attended by Ms. Mariann Hagen of the Office of UN Secretary-General's Special Advisor on Myanmar, Mr. Wang Ying Fan, special envoy on Asian Affairs from the People's Republic of China, 39 representatives from NCCT, UNFC and other national race armed groups and PCG members as observers.

(2) Both sides had a frank discussion about the incidents occurred after the meetings in May and October, 2013 and focused on the avoidance of incidents that can hinder ongoing peace process, upholding the realization of the peace process.

(3) Both sides agreed to form a "conflict mediation team" as part of the first phase of implementing a joint monitoring mechanism agreed on 10 October, 2013.

(4) Matters related to false reports of some media that disrupted mutual understanding were also discussed at the meeting.

(5) Both sides agreed to make coordination between the representatives of two sides for holding next meeting.

Also present at the meeting were Union Ministers U Khin Yi, U Ohn Myint and U Khin Maung Soe, Kachin State Chief Minister U La John Ngan Sai, Commander of Northern Command Maj-Gen Tun Tun Naung, state minister Col Than Aung, MPC members and observers.

Kachin State IPRD

US would welcome Modi as India leader despite past visa ban

WASHINGTON, 13 May — President Barack Obama faces the prospect this week of having to offer his congratulations to a new Indian leader who was barred from the United States less than 10 years ago over massacres of Muslims in 2002. As voting concluded in India's general election on Monday, four major exit polls showed Hindu nationalist Narendra Modi set to become prime minister, with his opposition party and its allies forecast to sweep to a parliamentary majority.

A Modi victory would be a blow for campaigners who have long maintained he is an autocratic Hindu supremacist responsible for an outbreak of religious riots in his home state of Gujarat in 2002 in which more than 1,000 people, mostly Muslims, died.

Hindu nationalist Narendra Modi

Modi was shunned by Western nations for years after the bloodshed in Gujarat, where he has been chief minister since 2001. He was denied a US visa in 2005 under the terms of a 1998 US law which bars entry to foreigners who have committed "particularly severe violations of religious freedom."

Modi's rise on the national stage, however, and the importance of relations with India, which the United States sees as a key counterbalance to China in Asia, have forced a rethink.

Ambassadors of the European Union and the United States have met Modi to patch up relations.

Modi has denied any wrongdoing in 2002 and, in 2010, India's Supreme Court ruled that he had no case to answer. The US State Department has repeatedly declined to spell out whether it will issue a visa to Modi as prime minister, but analysts say it is all but certain he will be given one because of the "strategic" nature of the US-India relationship, which Obama has called "one of the defining partnerships of the 21st century."

On Monday the State Department described the Indian elections, which were spread over five weeks, as "an inspiring example of the power of the democratic process in action" and stressed their peaceful nature — in spite of the killing of 41 Muslims in the state of Assam.

"We view our relationship with India as one that's vitally important for economic, strategic reasons," spokeswoman Jen Psaki said. "We look forward to working with the leaders chosen by the Indian people to advance this important partnership and to set an ambitious agenda."

Members of the US Congress campaigned against a visa for Modi in 2005 under the International Religious Freedom Act, but the strength of the anti-Modi lobby has since dwindled.

Reuters

Iran and IAEA end talks, unclear if progress made

VIENNA, 13 May — The UN nuclear watchdog and Iran ended a three-hour meeting on Monday without announcing any new action to allay concerns about Teheran's atomic activities, leaving it unclear whether headway was achieved. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) indicated after the talks that some more work was still needed for the full implementation of a series of nuclear transparency steps that Iran had agreed to take by 15 May. It did not give details.

Reuters last week cited diplomatic sources as saying the IAEA is seeking further clarification from Iran about one of those measures — information about fast-acting detonators that have civilian and military uses, including setting off an atomic explosive device. The meeting took place a day before the Iran and six world powers start a new round of negotiations in Vienna on a broad diplomatic settlement of the decade-old nuclear dispute.

Under a transparency and cooperation agreement reached with the IAEA in November, Iran was to take seven measures by 15 May in a phased process to shed more light on a nuclear programme the West fears may be aimed at developing atomic bomb capability.

The IAEA statement said the two sides had reviewed progress on implementation of the steps.

Reuters

Tension between Vietnam, China continues in South China Sea

HANOI, 13 May — Tension between Vietnam and China over a disputed area of the South China Sea continued on Tuesday with the Vietnamese side accusing a Chinese coast guard ship of firing water cannon at a Vietnamese ship the previous day. According to the *Vietnam News Agency*, the incident occurred at 8:40 am on Monday, about seven nautical miles south of a giant deep-water drilling rig installed by China earlier this month near one of the disputed Paracel Islands, in an area Vietnam regards as its exclusive economic zone.

"This was part of ongoing activities taken by China's vessels, including military ships, and jets escorting its drilling rig preventing Vietnamese law enforcement forces from performing their mission at Vietnam's waters," the report said. Vietnam has said Chinese armed vessels have been aggressively firing high-power water cannons at and intentionally ramming Vietnamese ships in the area since early this month, damaging many of them and injuring many people on board. China, for its part, has accused Vietnam of sending dozens of vessels, including warships, into waters near the oil rig to harass the drilling operation by deliberately ramming into Chinese ships and placing broken fishing nets and large obstacles in the waters.

Beijing has also accused Hanoi of tarnishing the image of China in the Southeast Asian community and the world at large.

Hanoi argues that the Chinese drilling rig was "brazenly" installed deep in its continental shelf and exclusive economic zone in violation of international law, including the 1982 UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, while Beijing insists the area in question is its "inherent territory."

On Monday, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying told reporters in Beijing that China is aware of the protests and has called on Vietnamese authorities "to take all measures necessary to safeguard the security and legitimate rights and interests of Chinese citizens and organizations" there. In 1974, the naval forces of China and what was then South Vietnam fought a sea battle that left the Chinese side in control of the Paracel Islands, while five years later, Vietnam and China fought a brief but bloody land war. They normalized relations in 1991.—*Kyodo News*

Pressure builds on Thai Senate as crisis drags on

BANGKOK, 13 May — Thailand's Senate was due to meet on Tuesday to try to find a solution to protracted political turmoil, with both sides putting pressure on the only legislative assembly still operating in the polarised country. The deadlock, the result of anti-government protests that began in November, has largely crippled government, threatens to tip Thailand into recession and has even raised fears of civil war.

Last week the Constitutional Court ousted Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra and nine of her cabinet ministers for abuse of power, but her caretaker government has remained in office, clinging to hope for a 20 July election which would probably see its returned to power.

The crisis is the latest phase in nearly 10 years of rivalry between the royalist establishment and Yingluck's brother, former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, who was deposed by the army in a 2006 coup. With the military declining to get involved this time, the anti-government side has called on the Senate to step in and force what is left of Yingluck's administration to stand down.

The upper house met on Monday to try to draft a "road map" but came to no conclusions. It will met again on Tuesday.

"We will stay here until we get a solution from the Senate about a way to end the country's crisis," Suthep Thaugsuban, leader of the anti-government protests, told his supporters outside parliament late on Monday.

Yingluck dissolved the lower house, the House of Representatives, in December for an election but the royalist opposition boycotted the vote and their activists disrupted it. It was later declared void.

Reuters

Anti-government protesters hold flags as they gather outside the parliament building during a senate session in Bangkok on 12 May, 2014.
REUTERS

UK Cameron's party in poll lead for first time in over two years

LONDON, 13 May — British Prime Minister David Cameron's Conservative party took the lead in two opinion polls ahead of European elections, the first time it has led the opposition Labour party in a national opinion poll for more than two years.

Two polls put the Conservatives ahead of Labour on Monday, giving the right-leaning party an unexpected morale boost before European elections later this month and a national election next year.

The surveys are likely to cause unease in Labour's ranks about its election strategy as the same polls show that Ed Miliband, the party's leader, is struggling to score well when it comes to voter approval despite being credited with coming up with some popular policies. One poll, carried out last week, put Conservative support at 34 percent, 2 percentage points ahead of Labor, who have enjoyed a lead of up to 10 percentage points since March 2012, the last time the Conservatives topped a similar poll. The survey, based on a phone poll of 1,001 adults, was funded by Michael Ashcroft, a Conservative peer and a former deputy chairman of Cameron's party. A long-time funder of such polls, he said in a statement that his polling was apolitical and pointed out "uncomfortable truths" to all parties.

Britain's Prime Minister David Cameron speaks as part of the Conservative Party's European and Local Election campaign at HL Plastics in Denby, central England on 9 May, 2014. — REUTERS

A second poll, from Guardian/ICM, put the Conservatives on 33 percent, 2 percentage points ahead of Labour whose support it showed had fallen by 6 percent since April.

It was based on responses from a random sample of 1,000 adults. The left-leaning *Guardian* newspaper, which published the results, said it showed that support for the Labour party was draining away.

Despite the Conservatives' new slim poll lead, experts said that Britain's voting system meant the results would still mean that Labour would win a few more parliamentary seats than Cameron's party if an election was held today.

The Conservatives will have to increase their support still further if they are to win more seats that Labour, they said.

The polls come at a time when the British economy has exited a prolonged recession and begun to grow at a clip which means it is likely to expand faster than any other Group of Seven economy this year.

The last time the Conservatives enjoyed a lead in a national opinion poll was in a March 2012 Guardian/ICM survey which put them on 39 percent against Labour's 36 percent.

Despite the polls, the outlook for Cameron's Conservatives in elections to the European Parliament later this month is mixed with most opinion polls showing it will be beaten into third place behind Labour and the anti-EU UK Independence Party (UKIP). — *Reuters*

Nearly half of people around world fear torture in custody

BERLIN, 13 May — Nearly half of people around the world fear becoming a victim of torture if taken into custody, a poll for human rights organization Amnesty International showed on Tuesday.

Concern about torture is highest in Brazil and Mexico, where 80 percent and 64 percent of people respectively said they would not feel safe from torture if arrested, and lowest in Australia and Britain, at 16 and 15 percent each, the poll showed.

"Although governments have prohibited this dehumanizing practice in law and have recognized global disgust at its existence, many of them are carrying out torture or facilitating it in practice", Amnesty said in a new report.

Of the more than 21,000 people in 21 countries surveyed for Amnesty by GlobeScan, 44 percent said they would not feel safe from torture if arrested in their home country.

Four out of five wanted clear laws to prevent torture and 60 percent overall supported the idea that torture is not justified under any circumstances — though a majority of people surveyed in China and India felt it could sometimes be justified.

Amnesty said 155 countries have ratified the 30-year-old United Nation Convention Against Torture which was started 30 years ago but many governments were still "betraying their responsibility".

Reuters

United Nations names first female peacekeeping mission commander

Major General Kristin Lund of Norway (C) meets with UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon (R) and UN Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations Herve Ladsous (L) after Lund was appointed as the new Force Commander of the United Nations Peace Keeping Force in Cyprus at United Nations headquarters in New York, on 12 May, 2014.
REUTERS

UNITED NATIONS, 13 May — The United Nations appointed on Monday the first woman to command one of the world body's peacekeeping operations.

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon named Major General Kristin Lund, of Norway, as the force commander for the UN peacekeeping operation in Cyprus. She will replace Major General Chao Liu, of China, on 13 August.

"Major General Lund has had a distinguished military career, with over 34 years of military command and staff experience at national and international levels," Ban said in a statement.

Lund will command some 900 troops and police that monitor a 112-mile (180-km) buffer zone that has separated Greek and Turkish Cypriots for decades. Turkey invaded Cyprus's north in 1974 after a Greek-inspired coup. It provides political and financial support to a breakaway Turkish Cypriot state there.

Reuters

Canada prosecutors charge driver in Lac-Megantic railway crash

TORONTO/OTTAWA, 13 May — Canadian authorities on Monday charged Montreal, Maine and Atlantic Railway Ltd (MM&A) and three employees with criminal negligence following last summer's train derailment in Lac-Megantic, Quebec, that killed 47 people.

Thomas Harding, Jean Demaitre, Richard Labrie — all employees of the railway — and the company itself were charged with 47 counts of criminal negligence causing death, according to Rene Verret, spokesman for the public prosecutor's office.

He said Harding was the driver of the train, while Labrie was a controller at MM&A, and Demaitre was director of operations.

Representatives for the three men and railway could not immediately be reached for comment.

Verret said the three were placed under arrest on Monday and will appear in court on Tuesday afternoon in Lac-Megantic.

The derailment occurred after a single engineer, Harding, parked his train for the night on a main line uphill from the small town. The train of oil tankers started rolling and eventually derailed, exploding into balls of fire and flattening the centre of the town.

US-based MM&A filed for bankruptcy protection in the wake of the disaster. MM&A Chairman Edward Burkhardt, who was not charged, told *Reuters* in March he had been in touch with investigators "from time to time" to provide requested information.

The accident put North America's thriving crude-by-rail business under a regulatory microscope. Shipping crude oil via rails has soared in recent years, propelled by increased production in Western Canada and North Dakota without an accompanying boost in pipeline capacity. The railway initially blamed the catastrophe on the failure of the train's pneumatic airbrakes after an engine fire. Burkhardt later said the train's engineer did not apply an adequate number of handbrakes to hold the train in place. — *Reuters*

Workers work on the site of the train wreck in Lac Megantic, on 16 July, 2013. — REUTERS

WORLD

Rebels appeal to join Russia after East Ukraine vote

DONETSK/SLAVIANSK(Ukraine), 13 May — Pro-Moscow rebel leaders in eastern Ukraine called on Monday for their region to become part of Russia, the day after staging a referendum on self-rule, although Moscow stopped short of endorsing their bid for annexation.

Announcing the result of the vote in one of the two provinces where it was held, a leader of the "People's Republic of Donetsk", Denis Pushilin, said it was now an independent state and would appeal to join the Russian Federation.

"The people of Donetsk have always been part of the Russian world. For us, the history of Russia is our history," he said. "Based on the will of the people and on the restoration of historic justice, we ask the Russian Federation to consider the absorption of the Donetsk People's Republic into the Russian Federation," he told a news conference.

There and in neighbouring Luhansk, some officials said they might now hold a second referendum on joining Russia, like one held in Crimea, a Ukrainian region Moscow seized and annexed in March after protesters ousted Ukraine's pro-Russian president.

Donetsk and Luhansk together are home to 6.5 million people and represent around a third of Ukraine's industrial output. Their declarations create the biggest new self-proclaimed independent states in Europe since Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia and the Soviet Union itself broke up more than 20 years ago.

The separatist rebellion leadership, led by Denis Pushilin (C), attend a news conference in Donetsk, on 12 May, 2014.—REUTERS

Donetsk separatists said that more than 80 percent of voters had supported independence. Those in Luhansk said more than 96 percent did. The government in Kiev and its Western supporters say the exercise was absurd, with no legal basis, insecure polling stations, old voter lists, ballots that could be easily reproduced and self-proclaimed election officials openly promoting secession. They say many residents support a united Ukraine but would have stayed home, both out of fear of rebel gunmen and to avoid lending the vote credibility.

Unlike in Crimea, Moscow has not recognized the two regions as independent from Kiev and has said nothing to suggest it would endorse their absorption into Russia. President Vladimir Putin even called last week for the referendum to be postponed.

But Moscow indicated clearly on Monday that it intends to use the results of the referendums to put more pressure on the government in Kiev to recognise the rebels in the east as a legitimate side in talks.

"We believe that the results of the referendum should be brought to life within the framework of dialogue between Kiev, Donetsk and Luhansk," the Russian Foreign Ministry said. It accused the Kiev government of a "criminal lack of readiness for dialogue with their own people".

The Russian stance appears calculated to entrench Moscow's allies in control of Ukraine's industrial heartland without taking the sort of overt steps — sending in ground forces or formally recognising the regions' split from Kiev — that might invite tough sanctions from the West.

The mayor of Slaviansk, a small city in the Donetsk region that has become the most heavily fortified rebel redoubt, said Ukrainian troops were now occupiers, and Russian troops should be invited to help defend the area.

"They should go," Vyacheslav Ponomaryov said of Ukrainian forces. "We're going to defend our territory." As for bringing in Russian forces: "I support this. We need Russian troops to provide stability and a peaceful life in the region's future."The European Union added the names of 13 people and two Crimean firms on Monday to a list of those facing asset freezes and travel bans, measures Moscow has mocked as pointless.

The new names include Putin's first deputy chief of staff, Vyacheslav Volodin, but notably exclude bosses of big Russian companies. Earlier US lists have included the head of Russia's biggest oil company and the co-founder of a big oil trader, but not the firms themselves, which say operations are unaffected.

But both Brussels and Washington have so far eschewed wider "sectoral sanctions" on Russian industry designed to hurt Russia's economy more broadly, despite repeatedly threatening to impose them. The EU does more than 10 times as much trade with Russia as the United States, and big companies have lobbied against sanctions that would hurt their business.

The United States and European Union both said they would not recognise the results of the "illegal" referendum.

"We will not recognise the so-called referendums of yesterday. They are illegal, illegitimate and incredible," Herman Van Rompuy, president of the European Council of EU leaders, told a news conference in the Ukrainian capital.

However, in the latest sign that the West is not ready to impose more serious economic measures, diplomatic sources said France would press ahead with a 1.2 billion-euro ($1.7 billion) contract to sell helicopter carrier ships to Russia because cancelling it would hurt Paris more than Moscow.—*Reuters*

US deploys surveillance aircraft over Nigeria to find girls

WASHINGTON, 13 May — The United States has deployed manned surveillance aircraft over Nigeria and is sharing satellite imagery with the Nigerian government to find more than 200 schoolgirls abducted by Islamist insurgents, a senior Obama administration official said on Monday. Washington has sent military, law-enforcement and development experts to Nigeria to help search for the missing girls who were kidnapped by Boko Haram militants from a secondary school in Chibok in remote northeastern Nigeria on 14 April.

"We have shared commercial satellite imagery with the Nigerians and are flying manned ISR (intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance) assets over Nigeria with the government's permission," the US official said. State Department spokeswoman Jen Psaki told a news briefing on Monday that the US was providing intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance support. She said US teams on the ground "are digging in on the search and coordinating closely with the Nigerian government as well as international partners and allies." Two US officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the United States was also considering deploying unmanned, drone aircraft to aid the search.

People hold signs during a protest for the release of the abducted secondary school girls in the remote village of Chibok, along a road in Lagos on 12 May, 2014.—REUTERS

One of the US officials told *Reuters* the United States had been carrying out the manned surveillance flights "for a few days" but did not elaborate. Last week, US Undersecretary for Africa Linda Thomas-Greenfield told *Reuters* in an interview that Nigeria had requested surveillance and intelligence from the United States.

Nigerian President Goodluck Jonathan has said he believes the girls are still in Nigeria. The leader of Boko Haram has offered to release them in exchange for members of its group being detained, according to a video posted on YouTube on Monday.—*Reuters*

China detains man for selling "false" reports to foreign website

BEIJING, 13 May — Police in Beijing have detained a man for selling and posting "fabricated information" to a foreign website, state media said on Tuesday, as China tightens its grip on the Internet ahead of the 25th anniversary of the Tiananmen Square crackdown on pro-democracy protests. Xiang Nanfu, 62, published "lots of false stories" on the website of the US-based Chinese news portal Boxun since 2009, the official *Xinhua* news agency said. These included stories about the Chinese government having harvested organs from living people and burying them alive and police beating a pregnant woman to death in a land dispute, *Xinhua* said, citing police in the Chinese capital.

"Xiang's actions were instigated, and highly paid with US dollars, by a man surnamed Wei, who was in charge of the website," the agency said. "The false information has seriously misled the public and Internet users and denigrated the image of the state," it added, quoting police. The *People's Daily* said Xiang was taken into custody on 3 May, but had confessed to breaking the law and felt "deep penitence" for his crimes. Xiang had asked for clemency, it added, but said the case needed further investigation, implying he could be jailed. Neither report said what punishment he could be given.—*Reuters*

PERSPECTIVES

Wednesday, 14 May, 2014

Mutual Mistrust Mires Myanmar in the Misery

By Aung Khin

Ethnic conflict in Myanmar is the world's longest running problem. No fix solution has been made to cease this long-drawn conflict. Inclusion and participation of all ethnic groups of the country play a vital role to liberate from the decades-old misery.

Despite hopes of a nationwide ceasefire agreement, the mutual trust among the national brethren needed for lasting peace remains a long way off. What a shame the country has not made a complete deal for unity.

Nationwide ceasefire agreement is still pending. The lives of ordinary men and women have been overshadowed by conflicts and uncertainty. For them, the future is getting dim. The prospects are little better in the country which is already groaning under the poverty.

The key stakeholders should spend more time cooperating in the common interest for the people, rather than trying to advance their own special interests on the ground of race. Racial hatred should be left behind in the past. Confrontation should be avoided in the controversial matters of races, religions and beliefs. Instead, the leaders of ethnic groups and the government should take advantage of its diversity in the country.

Disunity among the national races seems to favour the neighbouring countries. They have been benefitted from underdevelopment of the country such as illegal trades from porous borders, exporting their substandard foods and more demands of migrant workers from Myanmar.

The final sufferers of civil conflicts are the people. Peace is an urgent need for them. Without having their livelihoods, they could not consider about national or racial spirit, but just listening to and obeying orders of nearest influential leaders. Racial hatred out of ideological differences and grievances are the cruelties of life for our national brethren.

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.

Agreeing to differ, Modus Vivendi and Peaceful Co-existence

Kin Mg Oo

With today's developing technologies, we all are enjoying fruits of its success. And we are now getting world news simultaneously, just lying on our couch without waiting for the newspapers to which we always subscribe, thanks to information technology. Naturally, bad ones accompany good things. Out of watching scenic views, wonders of the world, happy & interesting lives of different peoples/races around the world, war victims and scourges of wars, we get vicarious joys, thrills, sorrows and fears, as a fait accompli. Once we begin using internet, mosaic of news, views and information are coming into our sight. As per human's nature, we would like to accept only crème de la crème out of all news. Very often, a childish idea occurred to me whether it would be better for us to have never seen any bad news. How impossible!

Our planet is not a Utopia, an imaginary place that exists only in mind. People live in different parts of the world, and they live different lives. Each and every one of us has woes, difficulties and sufferings each. In this regard, I suddenly remembered a paragraph which appeared in the introduction of the reader 9, titled "Looking at the children of other lands" when I was in the standard 8. It reads: Can you imagine what it would be like if the climate were the same all over the world? All the flowers and the trees would be the same. Then, the animals might be the same, and the same crops would be grown in the ground. This would mean that the people would all be alike. They would look alike and dress alike and they would all eat the same food. What a dull world this would be! Fortunately this is not so. Because of the change of climate on the earth, the people change too. Their habits change and their ways of living are different. Oh, quite right in saying so! We are in favor of nature, having places of pleasure to live, abundance of edible foods, fruits and vegetables, enormous natural resources to exploit and use. So our natural world is a pleasant and lovable place per se for all beings to peacefully dwell together.

Now there raced through my mind, such a thought that the world surely would be ruined all of a sudden, in case our likes and dislikes are the same with each other stereotypically. We can guess why it is. Being self-centered creatures, human-beings will never let others have what they want very much by making concessions. If so, our living world will never come into existence. Nature creates different climates and different people/ races. In my opinion nature changes climates, which govern men's mentalities, characters and behaviors in some way or another. Severe weathers cause drought and famine, which beget starvation and hunger. These arouse anger and impatience in us. If and when we get into trouble, we are not above lying, cheating and harming others. At that time we are ready to commit any offences for our survival: homicide, massacre and genocide. This can be said to be a priori knowledge. But we need to control ourselves by our conscience and reasonable judgment. Our fellows in the community will also persuade us not to do the wrong.

The law and legislation made for the betterment of the world will never allow any violence and anarchism to grow bigger. Here I would like to say that I am neither a theologian nor an anthropologist. Plus I belong to none of the human rights or political activists. But I am a pacifist who believes that war and violence are unjustifiable and that all disputes should be settled by peaceful means. To put it simply, I am a Buddhist, actually still trying myself to be a devout one. In our theory we, all believers, will never accept and encourage blasphemy. We all know that out of all dangers, the one caused by arguments on religious doctrines and blasphemous writings are the worst. Each and every one of us has the right to choose a religion or a belief of our own accord and to profess it. Intrinsically, a belief never intends to harm people.

Only a small minority of dishonest and mischievous guys behind locked doors may try to beguile us into campaigning for their dubious cause and benefits. Every individual is responsible for hindering such evil deeds. Our world is like a huge household which is comprised of different kinds of family members holding different views and ideas. We must accept that we have different opinions and we must decide not to discuss it any longer. This way of living—agreeing to differ—is effective for us. Sometimes we have a time when we must go to the same destination, but the ways we choose to go there may be different. Our respective ways are right for us from our sides of views. At that time, we should not give up our aims and objectives, arranging to find a smooth way to go on. This way of settling a difficulty to be accepted by both sides—modus Vivendi—is also effective. The main purpose of all human-beings is to be able to peacefully live in this lovely world, the Gift of Nature. Here we need to explain about the key to peaceful co-existence, "Metta".

We all are gregarious. To be exact, we cannot live alone. We feel that living in a society rather than in solitude is safer. Eros initially creates a nuclear family. Then we get an extended family. Combination of these families becomes a society. In this colorful world which is comprised of the lovable societies, we can see, "LOVE", defined in various ways, namely—paternal, maternal and parental loves, filial love, familial love, fraternal love, avuncular love, romantic love, agape, and Christian affection. Whatever it is, all of these bonding can help us to build a peaceful world. But they are attributed to attachments, hence the inclusion of a hint of impurity in them. Above all, our Lord Buddha points out that "Loving Kindness" [Metta] is the most powerful weapon which can bring about well-being of all living things by getting rid of all evils and ill-willed beings. Though it carries only two words, its meaning is deep and sober.

As a lay-person, it will be difficult for me to convey its vivid meaning to my readers. First of all, there needs to be a feeling of that sense deep in our souls. Just out of our mere knowledge, it will not become our own possession. Loving Kindness is endowed with abilities of great virtue and merits, and those abilities must be cultivated to develop in our minds. This must be kept only in our minds as our ultimate goal. As a matter of fact, there will be able to exist just in our imagination, the unique world completely covered with "Metta". Because the nature gave us different characteristics separately, hence the need for us to keep our dwelling globe in order. So let us remove grief, grudge, greed, doubt, revenge and retaliation that were embedded in our hearts so that we can lead our peaceful lives. In brief, the ways of living- agreeing to differ, modus vivendi and peaceful co-existence will surely lead us to our paradise.

May all beings live in peace and tranquility.

GOLD PRICE, FE RATE (13-5-2014)

Yangon Gold Price
Buying K 662,600 per tical: Selling K 663,300
Mandalay Gold Price
Buying K 662,500 per tical: Selling K 663,200

FE RATE

USD Buying	K 962	-	Selling	K 966
SGD Buying	K 762	-	Selling	K 772
Euro Buying	K 1310	-	Selling	K 1330

FULLMOON DAY OF KASON

Buddhists celebrate Buddha's Birthday (Buddha Day which is also known as Vesak Day) at Botahtaung Kyaik-dae-at Hsandaw-shin Pagoda in Yangon.
PHOTO: YE MYINT

Mother and daughter pouring water over Buddha statue at Botahtaung Kyaik-dae-at Hsandawshin Pagoda in Yangon on Fullmoon Day of Kason.
PHOTO: YE MYINT

Buddhists pouring water over Bodhi tree at Sule Pagoda in Yangon on Fullmoon Day of Kason.—**PHOTO: THANT ZIN WIN**

Well-wishers preparing for water pots to donate water at Botahtaung Kyaik-dae-at Hsandawshin Pagoda in Yangon on Fullmoon Day of Kason.
PHOTO: AUNG KHIN

Young men pouring water over Bodhi tree at Botahtaung Kyaik-dae-at Hsandawshin Pagoda in Yangon on Fullmoon Day of Kason.
PHOTO: AUNG KHIN

Wine compound not tied to improved health

NEW YORK, 13 May — A compound found in wine and chocolate may not be linked to improved health as was once claimed, according to a new study.

The compound resveratrol was not associated with less inflammation, cardiovascular disease or cancer or with increased longevity among a group of elderly Italians, researchers found.

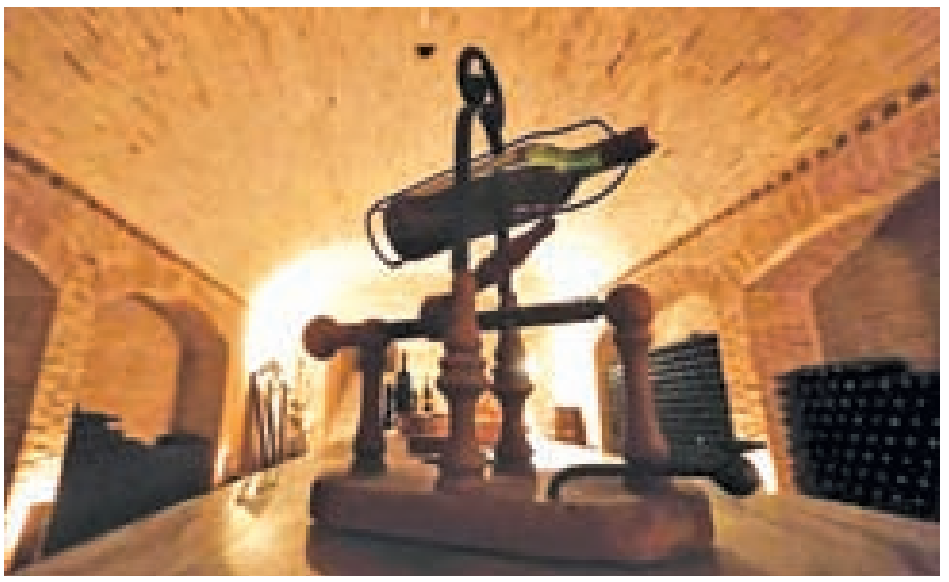
"This is contradictory to all the hype that we typically hear from the popular arena," said Dr Richard Semba, the study's lead author from the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine in Baltimore, Maryland.

Past studies had found that resveratrol, a compound naturally present in certain fruits and vegetables, has properties that may benefit people's health, Semba and his colleagues write in *JAMA Internal Medicine.*

But there was little evidence on the compound's effect on a large population, they add. Research on resveratrol hit a snag in 2012, when one of the field's leading researchers was accused of fabricating data.

For the new study, Semba and his colleagues used data from 783 Italians who were tracked starting in 1998, when they were at least 65 years old. All were still living within their communities at that time.

The participants were examined and asked to complete a questionnaire about their diets. Urine samples were also collected from people in the study to measure levels of broken-down resveratrol.



A wine bottle is seen on display in a cellar at the winery of Vassilis Panagiotou in the city of Markopoulo, east of Athens on 12 Oct, 2013.—REUTERS

Just over one-third of the participants died during the next nine years. About five percent were diagnosed with cancer and 27 percent of those that didn't initially have heart disease developed it during the study.

The researchers found there were no differences in rates of death, heart disease or cancer or in amount of inflammation between people who started out with high and low levels of broken-down resveratrol in their urine.

Although resveratrol levels were only measured once, Semba said diet was assessed every three years via questionnaire and didn't change much during the study - so the researchers assume resveratrol in the urine stayed somewhat consistent as well.

"This study suggests that dietary resveratrol from Western diets in community-dwelling older adults does not have a substantial influence on inflammation, cardiovascular disease, cancer, or longevity," they write.—*Reuters*

BlackBerry aims to reverse emerging market slump with budget handset

A sign is seen at the Blackberry campus in Waterloo, on 23 Sept, 2013. — REUTERS

JAKARTA / TORONTO, 13 May — BlackBerry Ltd launched a low-cost touchscreen device in Jakarta, the Z3, as the embattled smartphone maker looks to revive sales in emerging markets like Indonesia where its once-fervent following has shriveled. The handset, to be presented at a glitzy launch event in the Indonesian capital on Tuesday, is the first in a line of devices being made with FIH Mobile Ltd, a unit of the giant Taiwanese Foxconn Technology Group best known for assembling gadgets like iPhones and iPads for Apple Inc.

The success of the handset retailing for less than $200 could well decide the outcome of both BlackBerry's tie-up with the contract manufacturing giant and its own future in smartphones.

The Z3 Jakarta Edition will hit store shelves on 15 May.

"If this device allows them to grow again, even if it's just small, steady growth, that's a success in itself. That says there is still room for BlackBerry in Indonesia," said Ryan Lai, market analyst at consultancy IDC.

The Z3 is the first phone to be launched by BlackBerry since new Chief Executive John Chen took the helm late last year. It's initially being launched in Indonesia, but will be gradually introduced in other markets as well.

Waterloo, Ontario-based BlackBerry hopes that the device and others to follow will help it claw back some of the collapse in its market share, ceded to Apple's iPhone and Samsung Electronics Co's line of Galaxy devices powered by Google Inc's Android operating system.—*Reuters*

Airbus first-quarter core profit falls 5 percent, confirms targets

The logo of Airbus Group is seen during the first public flight of an E-Fan aircraft during the e-Aircraft Day at the Bordeaux Merignac airport, southwestern France, on 25 April, 2014. —REUTERS

PARIS, 13 May — Airbus Group (AIR.PA) posted a narrower-than-expected drop in core earnings on Tuesday, after dodging the impact of lower aircraft deliveries and higher research and development spending, and reaffirmed its financial goals for the year.

The world's second-largest aerospace group after US rival Boeing (BA.N) said first-quarter operating income before one-off items fell 4.6 percent to 700 million euros ($963 million) as revenue rose 5 percent to 12.6 billion. Analysts were on average expecting underlying quarterly operating income to fall 13.1 percent to 644 million euros on broadly flat revenue of 12.4 billion, according to a poll carried out for *Reuters*.

Confirming recent comments by Europe's aviation regulator, Airbus Group said its latest jetliner, the *A350*, was "progressing towards certification" in the third quarter in time for first delivery by the end of the year, as planned.

Analysts say completing Europe's answer to the lightweight carbon-composite *Boeing 787 Dreamliner* is the biggest issue facing the Franco-German group as it aims to boost margins and avoid technical problems and delays experienced by its rival.

The head of the European Aviation Safety Agency told *Reuters* last week the *A350*'s safety certification, the key milestone before any new aircraft's delivery, appeared to be on track for the end of the summer barring any new hiccups.

Industry sources say it could come as soon as end-August. Airbus struck a more cautious note on its flagship jetliner, the double-decker *A380* superjumbo, however, saying it was "acting on the lessons" learned from tests and experience as it comes up for six-year maintenance checks. It

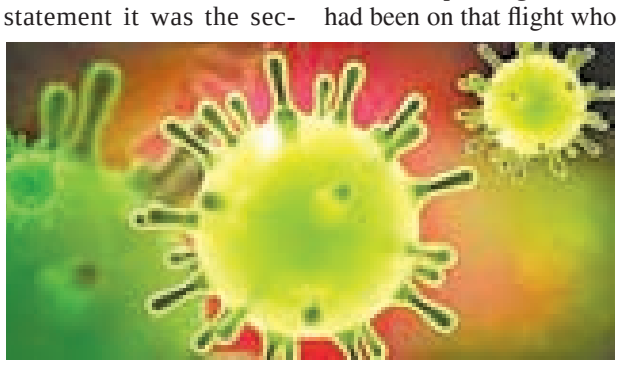
UK health authorities say second US MERS case flew via London

LONDON, 13 May — British health authorities said on Monday they had found a second case of the deadly Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) virus in a person transiting through London, who flew from Jeddah in Saudi Arabia to the United States on 1 May.

The passenger, who is the second known MERS infected patient to have flown to the United States, was on Saudi Airlines Flight 113 from Jeddah to London, and transferred at Heathrow for onward travel, Public Health England (PHE) said in statement.

The MERS virus first emerged in September 2012 and has since infected almost 500 people in Saudi Arabia. There have also been sporadic cases across the Middle East, as well as in Europe, Asia, and now the United States.

The US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) confirmed the presence of MERS with health officials from Florida. The CDC said in a statement it was the second "imported" instance of MERS, meaning a traveller contracted the virus in another country and brought it to US shores. The first such imported case involved a man who flew from Saudi Arabia and travelled to Indiana earlier this month. Nick Phin, head of respiratory diseases for PHE, said any UK-based passengers who had been on that flight who become unwell with a fever, cough or shortness of breath within 14 days of being in the Middle East "should make sure they call their doctor and tell them where they have travelled".



"Risk of transmission is considered extremely low but, as a precautionary measure, PHE is working with the airline to be able to contact UK passengers who were sitting in the vicinity of the affected passenger to provide health information," the PHE said.

Saudi Arabia is still the focal point of the outbreak, and health officials there are dealing with an upsurge in the number of detected cases over the past month.

Reuters

Haitian orphan gets nation's first 3-D printer prosthesis

PORT-AU-PRINCE, 13 May — A 12-year-old orphan boy handicapped from birth became the first recipient of a 3-D printer prosthesis in Haiti last month, thanks to a British-born software engineer in California.

Born without fingers on either hand, Stevenson Joseph had little hope of treatment in a country where programmes for the disabled are rare apart from a handful of charities.

Now the 3-D prosthesis fitted to his left hand has given him a whole new range of dexterity, including being able to play catch with his friends for the first time and maybe even enabling him to write one day, according to staff at the home for disabled orphans where he lives.

In 2010, Stevenson was brought to Bernard Mevs hospital in the capital, Port-au-Prince, where an orthopedic team was working to fit prosthetic limbs after a devastating earthquake caused injuries that required amputations.

"We couldn't do anything for him here," recalled Thomas Iwalla, a Kenyan orthopedic technician at hospital.

"Some congenital conditions, like Stevenson's, are pretty hard to tackle. Not even surgery could repair his missing fingers," he said.

On a mission trip to Haiti for Florida-based Food for the Poor last year, John Marshall and his wife Lisa, met Stevenson at the Little Children of Jesus orphanage where he has lived since he was abandoned when he was 3 years old.

Back in California, Marshall read an article about Richard van As, a South African man who developed a plastic prosthetic "Robohand" using a 3-D printer after losing his fingers in an woodwork accident in 2011.

Marshall and van As worked for months to design a 3-D print prosthesis for the Haitian boy.

"Stevenson is handicapped in a small way, in a way that's not as bad as some of the other children, yet his hands are holding him back. He can do so much more. He has the potential," said Marshall.

After three attempts, the skeleton-looking prosthesis was ready and shipped to Haiti where Bernard Mevs hospital medical team fit Stevenson with it last month.

"A printed prosthesis is more anatomical and it allows more motion than the one that is usually custom-made," said Iwalla, an orthopedic technician at the hospital. Also, once the model is designed, printing the prosthesis cost only around $300.

Reuters

Handicapped Haitian boy Stevenson Joseph, learns to use a 3D-printed prosthetic hand to open a door at the orphanage where he lives in Santo, near Port-au-Prince, on 28 April, 2014.—REUTERS

Seafloor quake study off New Zealand to unlock tsunami mysteries

WELLINGTON, 13 May — An international group of scientists have begun the biggest ever study of seafloor earthquakes in the ocean east of New Zealand's North Island, in a bid to better understand earthquake and tsunami threats around the world.

Thirty-two seismic monitoring devices, from the United States and Japan, would be set on the seafloor near Poverty Bay for one year recording slow-slip earthquakes and any upwards or downwards movement of the seafloor, New Zealand's Institute of Geological and Nuclear Sciences (GNS Science) announced on Monday.

The deployments, part of a joint project involving New Zealand, Japan and the United States, would take place between 25 km and 100 km east of Gisborne in water depths ranging from 100 to 4,000 metres.

The project was designed to give valuable insights into the earthquake and tsunami potential of the Hikurangi subduction zone, where the Pacific tectonic plate is being thrust under or " subducted" beneath the Australian tectonic plate, in slow-slip quakes. Occurring roughly every 18 month intervals in the area, slow- slip quakes involve large parts of the region moving eastward by up to two cm over one or two weeks.

If the movement occurred on land in seconds rather than weeks, like a normal earthquake, it would be equivalent to a magnitude 6 to 7 jolt, said a GNS Science statement.

The area was one of about a dozen worldwide where the events occurred regularly, but was unique in that they occurred at depths ranging from 5 km to 15 km under the seafloor.

In most other places in the world they occurred 20 km to 40 km under the surface.

The study would lead to a better appreciation of the earthquake and tsunami potential of this undersea fault system, GNS Science seismologist Bill Fry said in the statement

"Subduction zones, such as the one offshore the North Island, are responsible for generating the world's largest earthquakes, sometimes called megathrust quakes," Fry said. "Recent examples are the magnitude 9 Tohoku quake in Japan in April 2011 and the magnitude 9.1 Sumatran quake in 2004."—*Xinhua*

Apple tries to lift online sales by cutting refund times in half

SAN FRANCISCO, 13 May —Apple Inc has cut in half the time it takes to give refunds to online store customers who want to return their iPhones and other gadgets, a small but crucial step to try to get more people to buy direct from its website.

The move is a big upfront expense on Apple's part, but could pay off in the long run if the company can lure online customers away from retailers such as Amazon.com Inc and Best Buy Inc, industry experts say.

According to retail-intelligence firm StellaService, customers who buy a product from Apple's online store can get a refund in under a week, versus 10 days previously.

Apple is processing refunds at a faster rate because the company now uses an expedited service, FedEx 2Day, to let customers ship returned items with prepaid labels to its warehouse in three days.

StellaService researchers first noted the improvement in refund processing times in November, but chalked it up to a temporary measure for the busy holiday season. The company, which orders items from Apple's website several times a day for research purposes, also discovered that packages were stamped with FedEx 2Day, rather than a Newgistics prepaid label.

A source with knowledge of the new procedure confirmed that customers will incur no additional cost.

"This is the first time we're seeing an investment like this on the returns side," Kevon Hills, StellaService's vice president of research, told *Reuters*.

StellaService does business with Amazon-owned Zappos, but declined to disclose whether its customer base included Apple, Amazon or eBay.

Amazon remains the frontrunner in online retail, but the race is heating up. Trade publication Internet Retailer estimated that Apple recently took the No 2 spot from Staples in worldwide sales. These rankings do not include sales by third parties.

Apple experienced a 24 percent increase in online sales to $18.3 billion in 2013, Internet Retailer estimated.

E-commerce experts say Apple prides itself on its customer service and believes in controlling every aspect of its business.

"Speed is becoming a significant competitive weapon" in the e-commerce wars, said Marc Wulfraat, president of MWPVL International, a logistics and supply chain consulting firm. But most e-commerce firms do not invest in making the returns process more efficient, as it does not serve the bottom line.

"Returns are viewed as a hidden cost, so many e-commerce companies make the process very difficult," he added. "Returns are the first place to cut corners."

Apple rival Amazon offers instant refunds in some cases. However, this puts the company at risk for fraud, as some customers may not actually return the item. By cutting down on the days an item is in transit, Apple can offer a speedier refund and avoid fraud.

Amazon spokeswoman Julie Law said the company does not comment on its competitors.

Apple spokeswoman Amy Bessette said the company had no comment at this time.

FedEx declined to speak publicly on customer agreements.

Reuters

A shattered large glass panel, part of Apple's cube store on Fifth Avenue, damaged from the results of the snowstorm on Tuesday is seen in New York, on 22 Jan, 2014.— REUTERS

Space junk problem discussed

BEIJING, 13 May — Experts from the US Department of Defence, Federal Aviation Authority and many others presented their argument before the US House of Representatives on the problem of orbital debris or space junk lately. They discussed the growing threat of space junks, which totals to almost half a million, surrounding Earth. Dealing with the increase in orbital debris will not be easy. Some astronauts shared how the space junks interfered with their previous missions.

"During my two spaceflights, we flew upside down and backwards to prevent our space shuttle windows from being hit by debris strikes," former NASA astronaut George Zamka said. The Joint Functional Component Command for Space (JFCC-Space) which monitors the debris estimated 23,000 debris on the low-orbit and 500,000 pieces of space junks travelling at a speed of 17,000 mph. Such speed is capable of damaging a satellite or spacecraft.—*Xinhua*

Abe to announce stance on collective self-defence Thursday

TOKYO, 13 May — Prime Minister Shinzo Abe will announce on Thursday his government's basic stance on whether Japan should lift its self-imposed ban on using the right to collective self-defence, Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga said on Tuesday.

The announcement will be made after a panel submits a report on early Thursday calling for the removal of the ban and the National Security Council holds a meeting to discuss the issue, the top government spokesman said.

"The prime minister is planning to explain the government's basic policy and how we are going to move forward," Suga said at a Press conference. "If we decide to change the interpretation of the Constitution after consultations with the ruling bloc, we will seek Cabinet approval before Diet debate."

*Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe holds a news conference upon the conclusion of his tour to Europe in Brussels on 7 May, 2014.—*REUTERS

Abe is expected to present specific examples that would require Japan to defend its allies under armed attack as part of collective self-defence, and urge the ruling bloc to conduct a review of the current legal framework at a Press conference slated for Thursday, government sources said.

The issue of whether Japan should be allowed to exercise the right is still divisive, as the New Komeito party, the junior coalition partner of the Liberal Democratic Party, remains unconvinced about Abe's move.

New Komeito party leader Natsuo Yamaguchi on Tuesday questioned Abe's push to allow Japan to play a greater security role, saying the first priority for the ruling parties should be to deliver on the promises they made to the public when the current coalition government was formed in December 2012.

"I doubt that the public expects us to devote our energy to a political theme that is not included in the agreement for the coalition government," Yamaguchi told reporters.

LDP Secretary General Shigeru Ishiba said the same day that the ruling bloc will likely start talks on collective self-defence next week in search of common ground.

Japan has maintained it has the right to collective self-defence under international law, but cannot exercise it due to the limits imposed by Article 9 of the charter that bans the use of force to settle international disputes. Headed by former Ambassador to the United States Shunji Yanai, the panel is also expected to propose Japan engage in UN collective security operations, and dispatch the Self-Defence Forces to cope with "gray zone" incidents that stop short of full-fledged military attacks on the country.

Such gray zone incidents might include a group of armed people disguised as fishermen taking control of a remote Japanese island.

Japan and China are at loggerheads over the sovereignty of the Senkaku Islands, called Diaoyu in China, with Beijing sending patrol ships to waters around the uninhabited islands in the East China Sea to protest Tokyo's control over them.—*Kyodo News*

Kerry, Abbas to meet in London on Thursday, US says

US Secretary of State John Kerry

WASHINGTON, 13 May — US Secretary of State John Kerry and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas will meet in London on Thursday, the US State Department said, less than a month after a US effort to broker an Israeli-Palestinian peace deal collapsed.

The focus of the talks is the US-Palestinian relationship, the State Department said, a possible reference to whether Washington can keep funding the Palestinian Authority if it carries out a unity agreement with the Islamist Hamas faction.

"While the door remains open to a peace process, the purpose of the meeting is to discuss our ongoing relationship with the Palestinians," State Department spokeswoman Jen Psaki said in a brief statement on Monday.

"As he has throughout the process, Secretary Kerry will reiterate a call he has made to both sides to maintain restraint and refrain from steps that would be unhelpful," she added.

Offering his first public account of Kerry's failed nine-month effort to strike a peace deal by 29 April, US special envoy Martin Indyk last week made clear there was blame on both sides, citing Israeli settlement-building as well as the Palestinians' signing of 15 international conventions.

Israel suspended the talks on 24 April after Abbas's unexpected unity pact with Hamas, a step that appeared to be the final nail in the coffin of the US-sponsored negotiations.

Reuters

Arson suspected in bus fire that killed one, injured 77 in China

BEIJING, 13 May — Arson is suspected in a fire on a commuter bus in southwest China's Sichuan Province that left one person dead and dozens injured, official media reported on Tuesday.

Xinhua News Agency quoted local government sources as saying the arson suspect is the one who died in the incident at 4:50 pm on Nanmen Bridge in the city of Yibin in southern Sichuan.

The suspected was identified as 51-year-old Yu Yuehai, 51, whose intention is still under investigation. Earlier local media reports had suggested the person killed was a student.

The *China Daily* quoted Hu Jingwen, a 12-year-old girl who was sitting in the last row of the bus, as saying she smelled gasoline before the fire suddenly broke out. She managed to escape from the back window with two classmates and is being treated in hospital.

It said that among 77 people injured, including both passengers and rescuers, 12 were in intensive care.—*Kyodo News*

Chinese, Turkmen presidents attend horse festival

*Chinese President Xi Jinping (2nd R, front) receives an Akhal-Teke horse presented by his Turkmenistan counterpart Gurbanguly Berdymukhamedov (3rd R, front) during the opening ceremony of the International Akhal-Teke Horses Association Special Conference and China Horse Culture Festival in Beijing, capital of China, on 12 May, 2014. Akhal-Teke, nicknamed "blood-sweating horse" in China, is one of the world's oldest and most unique breeds from Turkmenistan.—*XINHUA

BEIJING, 13 May — Chinese President Xi Jinping and his Turkmen counterpart Gurbanguly Berdymukhamedov attended a World Association of Ferghana Horse special conference and the Chinese horse culture festival in Beijing on Monday.

Hailing the Ferghana horse as a world renowned type and pride of Turkmenistan, Xi said the Chinese people loved the horse.

The Ferghana horse first came to China more than 2,000 years ago and has been given as a state gift to China twice by Turkmenistan since the two countries established ties in 1992.

Xi said the horse is a symbol of enduring hardship. 2014 is the year of the horse in China's lunar calendar. The Chinese people are striving to realize their Chinese dream of great rejuvenation of the nation.

Berdymukhamedov said the Ferghana horse has a unique place in Turkmenistan history and hopes the conference can further boost understanding among the two peoples.

The World Association of Ferghana Horse was established in Turkmenistan in 2011 with Berdymukhamedov as chairman. The association is holding a special conference in China from Monday to Wednesday.

Xinhua

Former Israeli PM sentenced to six years in prison for bribery

TEL AVIV, 14 May — Former Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert was sentenced to 6 years in prison for bribery at the Tel Aviv District Court on Tuesday.

Olmert was found guilty of accepting 560,000 shekels (160,000 US dollars) from contractors while he was the mayor of Jerusalem (between 1993 and 2003) in order to expedite proceedings of construction complexes including the Holyland residential complex in the city.—*Xinhua*

West Antarctic glaciers in "irreversible" thaw, raising seas

Oslo, 13 May—Vast glaciers in West Antarctica seem to be locked in an irreversible thaw linked to global warming that may push up sea levels for centuries, scientists said on Monday.

Six glaciers, eaten away from below by a warming of sea waters around the frozen continent, were flowing fast into the Amundsen Sea, according to the report based partly on satellite radar measurements from 1992 to 2011.

Evidence shows "a large sector of the West Antarctic ice sheet has gone into a state of irreversible retreat", said lead author Eric Rignot of the University of California, Irvine, and NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California.

The coastal ends of the glaciers rest on bedrock below sea level, holding back a vast weight of ice and making them vulnerable to melt, he said. He likened the process to uncorking a full bottle of wine while it was lying on its side.

This part of Antarctica would be a major contributor to sea level rise in coming decades and centuries since the glaciers hold enough ice to raise sea levels by 1.2 metres (4 feet).

"It's passed the point of no return," he told a telephone news conference.

*The Thwaites Glacier in Antarctica is seen in this undated NASA image. Vast glaciers in West Antarctica seem to be locked in an irreversible thaw linked to global warming that may push up sea levels for centuries, scientists said on 12 May, 2014.—*Reuters

Ice-penetrating radars showed no mountain ranges entombed under the ice, for instance, that could halt the flow. The fastest retreat was 34-37 km (21-23 miles) over the period in the Smith/Kohler glacier.

Even so, cuts in greenhouse gas emissions, part of efforts to rein in global warming, could at least slow the slide of the Pine Island, Thwaites, Haynes, Pope, Smith and Kohler glaciers.

"We do think this is related to climate warming," Rignot said. The scientists believed that a build-up of man-made greenhouse gases in the atmosphere was affecting wind patterns around Antarctica, driving warmer waters towards the continent.

Almost 200 nations have agreed to work out a UN pact by the end of 2015 to combat global warming, which the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) says will cause more floods, droughts, heat waves and higher seas.

Monday's findings may also mean that scenarios by the IPCC for sea level rise are too low. The IPCC said last year that sea levels are likely to rise by between 26 and 82 cm (10 and 32 inches) by the late 21st century, after a 19 cm (7 inch) rise since 1900.

"The major ice sheets of this planet will have a larger and larger role in sea level rise in the decades ahead," said Sridhar Anandakrishnan, professor of geosciences at Pennsylvania State University, who was not involved in the study.

Last week, another study also suggested a part of the far bigger ice sheet in East Antarctica may also be more vulnerable than expected to thaw. The IPCC says it is at least 95 percent probable that warming is caused by human activities, led by the burning of fossil fuels. Monday's study, to be published in the journal *Geophysical Research Letters*, adds to signs of climate change under way.

On 6 May, the Obama administration issued a study saying that warming "once considered an issue for a distant future has moved firmly into the present."

And the IPCC said in March there were signs of irreversible changes to tropical coral reefs and to the Arctic. A separate study of the Thwaites glacier by the University of Washington in the journal *Science* also said it may have begun an unstoppable collapse that could last from 200 to 1,000 years.

A disappearance of the Thwaites alone would raise world sea levels by 60 cm (1.96 feet) but the "glacier also acts as a linchpin on the rest of the ice sheet, which contains enough ice to cause another three to four metres of sea level rise", it said.

The findings contrast with a paradoxical expansion of the extent of ice floating on the sea around Antarctica in recent winters that the scientists said may be part of natural variations. "The changes in the glacier reflect much longer-term processes," Tom Wagner, a scientist with NASA's Science Mission Directorate in Washington, said in the telephone briefing.—*Reuters*

Beijing plans new $14 billion airport to ease congestion

Beijing, 13 May—Beijing plans to build a new 86 billion yuan ($14 billion) airport in the south of the Chinese capital as congestion continues to clog runways and gates at Beijing Capital International Airport. The new facility, which will border on Hebei Province, is planned to handle 72 million passengers and 2 million tons of cargo annually, according to a document posted on the website of Ministry of Environmental Protection late last week.

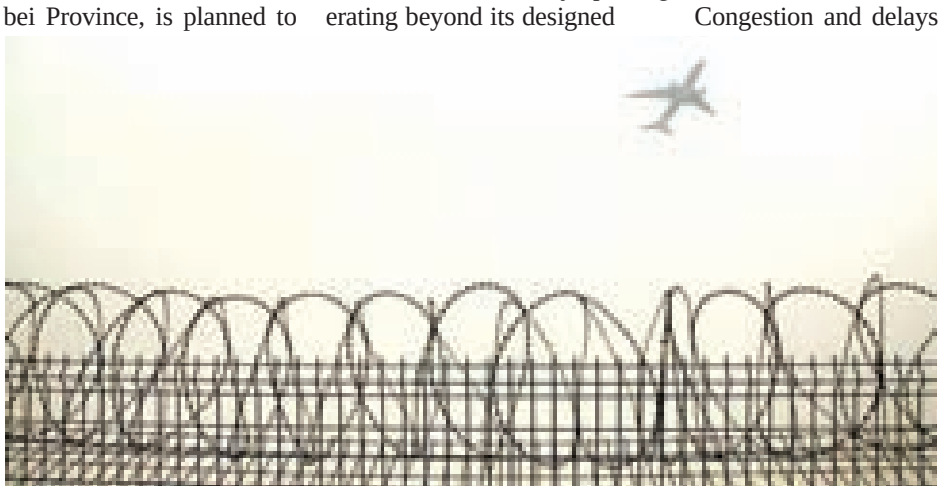
Beijing's Capital International Airport, which was built in 1958, is already operating beyond its designed capacity of 80 million passengers per year. In 2013, the airport handled 83 million visitors.

China's airports in total handled more than 754 million passengers last year, up 11 percent from 2012 and 86 percent from five years ago, official data shows.

Congestion and delays are only set to worsen as manufacturers estimate one new plane will take to China's skies every other day for the next two decades.

By 2015, Beijing alone is expected to see 113 million air passengers each year, rising to 142 million by 2020, according to the document. A shortage of slots at major airports in Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou, along with China's restricted air corridors, cause constant delays at Chinese airports which sometimes lead to riots.

In February, angry passengers protesting a long delay smashed computers and chairs at Xinzheng International airport. One passenger even managed to get into the airport's control room and beat up airport staff, according to local media report.—*Reuters*



*A plane flies in the polluted air above the airport fences in Beijing on 22 Feb, 2012.—*Reuters

US indicts Okinawa air force base employee over sexual assault

Washington, 13 May — The US Justice Department said Monday it has indicted an employee at a US military base in Japan's Okinawa Prefecture over involvement in sexual abuse as well as the production and possession of child pornography.

Ricky Isiah Sherwood, 18, a student and part-time lifeguard living with his Marine uncle at the US Air Force's Kadena base, sexually assaulted a minor on the base in February and filmed parts of the assault using his mobile phone, according to the department and local media reports.—*Kyodo News*

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Fox cuts 'American Idol' hours, unveils Batman show

Los Angeles, 13 May — Fox TV's lineup for the upcoming television season will include a high-profile Batman show called "Gotham" while the network scales back on air time for its aging "American Idol."

The televised singing contest, now 13 years old and dragging on ratings for the network owned by Twenty-First Century Fox FOXA.O, will start the season at two nights a week during the auditions phase. But "it's quite likely it'll end up being a two-hour show on one night through most of its run," Fox Broadcasting Entertainment Chairman Kevin Reilly said on a conference call on Monday.

The move will cut Idol's hours to 37 from roughly 50 hours for the season. The show reigned for several years as the highest-rated programme on US television but has suffered a sharp audience decline, down 19 percent this season to 12.2 million viewers on average, according to Nielsen.

Overall, Fox ranks second among viewers 18 to 49, the group most prized by advertisers, and fourth in total viewers.

Fox, along with its broadcast rivals, is announcing its new shows in an annual spring presentation this week known as the upfronts, when networks try to persuade advertisers to buy billions of dollars worth of commercial time for the TV season that starts in the fall.

Fox's "Gotham," featuring Jada Pinkett Smith, follows a police officer in the world of Batman and charts the origins of the D C Comics superhero.

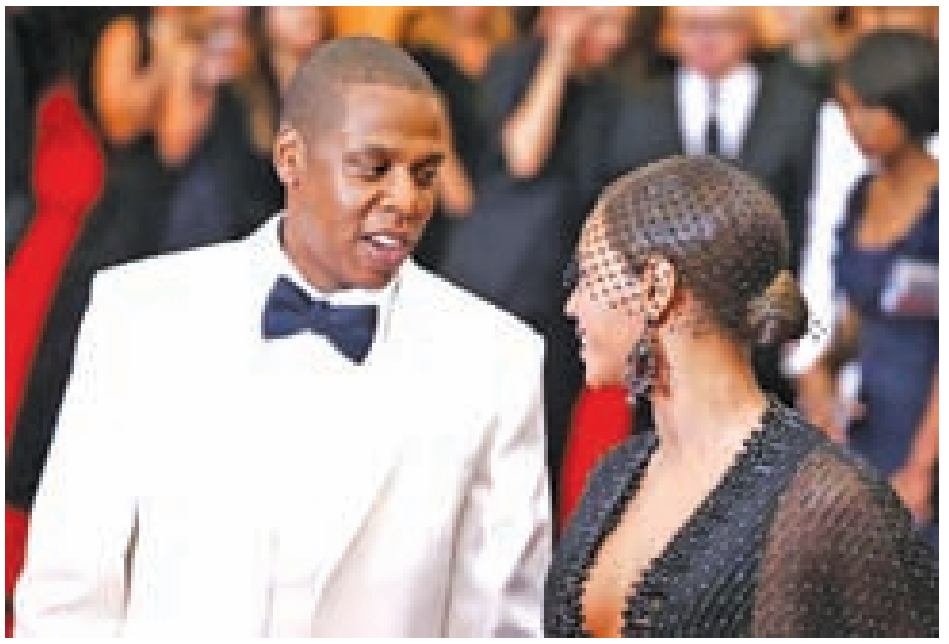
Last year, ABC brought a comic book movie franchise to TV with "Marvel's Agents of SHIELD," a spin off from "The Avengers" movie. The show debuted strong with 12 million viewers, but ratings fell and it now averages 5.9 million viewers, according to Nielsen.

The ABC show is centered around SHIELD Agent Phil Coulson but does not feature the superheroes that starred in "Avengers" on the big screen. With Gotham, "the real selling point here is that these are actual franchise characters," Reilly said, such as Batman regulars, Bruce Wayne, the Penguin and the Riddler.

Rival NBC, during its pitch to advertisers on Monday, highlighted several dramas involving cops and espionage, including "Allegiance", a series about Russian spies, "Odyssey," which centres on a global military conspiracy, and "State of Affairs" starring movie actress Katherine Heigel as a CIA analyst.—*Reuters*

Singers and judges Keith Urban (L), Jennifer Lopez and Harry Connick, Jr (C) pose with host Ryan Seacrest (2nd R) and producer Randy Jackson at the party for the finalists of "American Idol XIII" in West Hollywood, California on 20 Feb, 2014.—Reuters

New York hotel probes video leak of apparent Jay Z family fracas



Jay Z and Beyonce Knowles arrive at the Metropolitan Museum of Art Costume Institute Gala Benefit celebrating the opening of "Charles James: Beyond Fashion" in Upper Manhattan, New York, on 5 May , 2014.—Reuters

New York, 13 May — A New York boutique hotel on Monday said it was investigating how a recording of a security video that purportedly shows rapper Jay Z being attacked by his sister-in-law, R&B singer Solange Knowles, was leaked to a website.

The video posted by celebrity website TMZ.com appears to show the 27-year-old Knowles, younger sister of Beyonce, charging and striking Jay Z several times in an elevator at the Standard Hotel in New York's Meatpacking District before being restrained.

Beyonce looks on in the three-and-a-half-minute video without audio, which quickly became an Internet sensation, sparking several parody videos and photos.

The three are seen dressed in clothing that they had worn to the Met Gala benefit on the night of 5 May. But representatives for all three did not immediately respond to requests for confirmation of the incident.

The hotel, the venue for a post-gala party, promised to prosecute whoever was behind the recording, calling it a breach of security and guest confidentiality.

"We are investigating with the utmost urgency the circumstances surrounding the situation and, as is our customary practice, will discipline and prosecute the individuals involved to our fullest capacity," the hotel said in a statement without naming Jay Z, Beyonce or Solange Knowles.

The Standard Hotel, which has locations in Los Angeles and Miami Beach, Florida, is controlled by hotelier Andre Balazs' Standard International management company.

Reuters

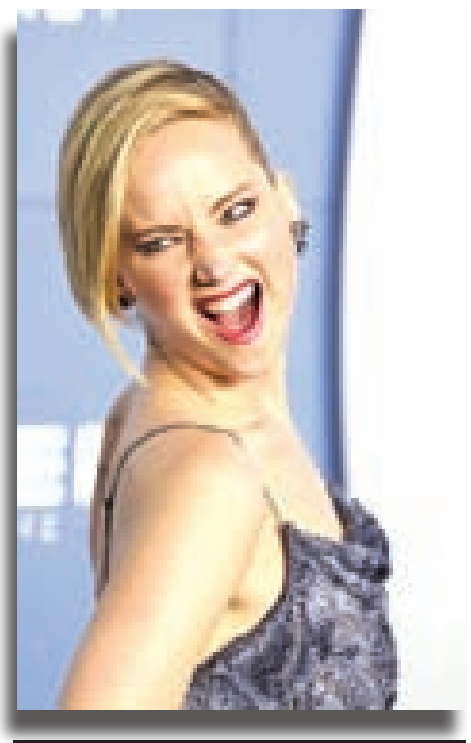
Jennifer Lawrence saved from hat trick fall at X-Men: Days of Future Past premiere

Los Angeles, 13 May — Actress Jennifer Lawrence almost repeated her back-to-back Oscars falls at the X-Men: Days of Future Past premiere as she teetered while walking up some stairs.

The 23-year-old Oscar-winner, who dazzled in a shimmering blue dress, needed some help from a few assistants as she nearly took a tumble while walking up a flight of stairs at the X-Men: Days of Future Past premiere in New York on 10 May, reported E! Online.

After her infamous tumble at last year's Oscars, the actress took everyone by surprise when she slipped again on the red carpet at the 86th Academy Awards.

PTI



Jennifer Lawrence

If Lindsay Lohan is lying about miscarriage, she could go to jail

Lindsay Lohan

Los Angeles, 13 May — Lindsay Lohan has reportedly sworn under penalty of perjury that she suffered a miscarriage. If it comes out that she has lied in the documents, she could end up in jail.

Lindsay had made the declaration in new court documents in a $5 million lawsuit over her clothing line 6126, reports TMZ.com.

She was given a reprieve from responding to the lawsuit while she was in rehab last year, but even after getting out, she failed to respond, so she lost the case.

Now, it seems Lindsay wants to undo the damage and she's using her miscarriage as an excuse.

In the new court documents, she writes, "I have been overwhelmed since leaving rehab and dealing with my sobriety and a miscarriage." Speculation is rife that Lindsay made up the miscarriage story to garner buzz for her Oprah Winfrey show — or maybe just to get sympathy votes, but these are legal documents, which means she's under oath. —*PTI*

Female members of the guard of honour receive an inspection in Beijing, capital of China, on 12 May, 2014. The first group of 13 female members of the People's Liberation Army Guard of Honour made their debut on Monday.— XINHUA

Israel holds man suspected by US of breaking Iran arms embargo

JERUSALEM,13 May — Israel on Monday detained a citizen suspected by the United States of illegally selling military hardware to Iran and a Jerusalem judge has initially ordered him held for two days, according to court papers.

Eli Cohen, 65, was held at Ben Gurion Airport near Tel Aviv before boarding a flight for London. A state prosecutor told Jerusalem Magistrates Court that the United States had issued an arrest warrant for him and would soon deliver an extradition request.

US authorities have charged Cohen on a number of counts and he is alleged to have illegally sold military spare parts to Iran between 2002-2004 and in 2012 and 2013. The Jerusalem court will rule on Wednesday whether to extend Cohen's remand.

Israel and Western powers suspect Iran of trying to develop a nuclear weapons capability and have for decades imposed an embargo on arms sales to the Islamic Republic. Iran insists its nuclear activities are for peaceful purposes. Cohen's attorneys, Boaz Ben Zur and Walid Kabub, said the charges against their client were baseless. "We are certain that when the issues are examined in detail by the courts, it will be decided that there was no impediment in the actions of Mr Eli Cohen and that there is no basis for his detention or his extradition," they said in a statement.—*Reuters*

MYANMAR TV

(14-5-2014, Wednesday)

6:00 am
1. Paritta by Venerable Mingun Sayadaw

6:40 am
2. Documentary

7:00 am
3. News / Weather Report

7:20 am
4. Myanmar Language

8:00 am
5. News/ International News

8:30 am
6. India Drama Series

9:30 am
7. Documentary (ASEAN)

10:45 am
8 . Teleplay

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

12:30 pm
10. Myanmar Movie

2:40 pm
11. Music Programme

3:00 pm
12. News

3:20 pm
13. Teleplay

4:00 pm
14. News/ Weather Report

4:25pm
15. University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) Second Year (Botany)

5:00 pm
16. News

5:30 pm
17. India Drama Series

6:00 pm
18. News/ Weather Report

6:20 pm
19. Shwe Yin Khone Than

7:20 pm
20. TV Drama Series

8:00 pm
21. News/ International News/ Weather Report

8:35 pm
22. Documentary

8:50 pm
23. People Talks

9:00 pm
24. News/ Weather Report

9:30 pm
25. Fine Arts Bosom of Dramatic Performance
26. Close Down.

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(14-5-14 07:00am~ 15-5-14 07:00am) MST

* Local News
* Product of Myanmar - Pictures Decorated with Seashells and Gemstones
* World News
* Ywar Thit's Monhinkhar
* Local News
* Lampi Marine National Park
* World News
* Htan Taw Drums (Part-II) "Dobat"
* Local News
* 19 Hours
* World News
* Distinguished Myanmar Lady "Kyin Po"
* Local News
* Travelling in Shan Mountain Ranges (Htan San Cave & Mwetaw Kakku)
* World News
* Writer
* Local News
* A Merry Bo Tree Watering Festival: Shwe Kyet Yat Village
* World News
* Myanmar Movie Review "Maryar: A Well Planned Trap"
* Local News
* Pagoda Forest in Pa-O Land
* World News
* In the Studio : Ja Som (The Myth)
* Local News
* Myanmar Puppet Show
* World News
* Welcome to the Southern most part of Myanmar
* Local News
* To The Land of Countless Temples — Bagan Trip (Episode-1)
* World News
* Dhamma School

Manchester United's Shinji Kagawa speaks with reporters at Tokyo's Haneda airport on 12 May , 2014, after being named in the national squad for the soccer World Cup finals in Brazil. — KYODO NEWS

Kagawa learns of World Cup selection from flight cabin attendant

TOKYO, 13 May — After a deeply frustrating second season with Manchester United, attacking midfielder Shinji Kagawa admitted he was both delighted and relieved to be named to Japan's 23-man squad for the World Cup finals in Brazil on Monday — after learning of the news from a cabin attendant on his flight into Tokyo. "It wasn't announced on the plane, a regular cabin attendant gave me the message (via the pilot)," Kagawa told reporters after landing in at Haneda airport. "Quite simply I am relieved. But (just) being a member of the team is not my goal. My aim is to deliver results."

"I was really disappointed about missing out (on a place in the squad four years ago) in South Africa and went to Germany (to join Borussia Dortmund) to improve myself," said Kagawa, who was among a handful of young non-squad players that traveled with the team to the 2010 finals to gain experience. "Over these past four years my goal has been Brazil and I think I am here now (in this position) because I fought and believed in myself. Hopefully I can express that on the pitch." The 25-year-old Kagawa suffered from a serious lack of playing time with United this season under recently sacked manager David Moyes and finished the campaign without a single goal. "I have experienced a lot in Europe over these four years, especially this year. I had won the league the previous three years (twice with Dortmund and once with United).

This year the manager changed and it has been a really hard year in many ways but I think it has been really good for me to experience both good times and bad times at the top level in Europe." "There have been times when I thought my spirit would break and I just thought I have to believe in myself. In the end it has been a really disappointing season what with not scoring a single goal but I was never slacked off in training or matches."

Now Kagawa says he is determined to make up for the disappointment on a World Cup stage he has dreamed of playing on since his childhood.

"I can play on a World Cup stage that I have dreamed about since I was little. I am not only going to enjoy it, I want to attach my mind to getting results." Japan open their Group C campaign in Brazil against Ivory Coast on 14 June, then play Greece on 19 June and Colombia on 24 June.— *Kyodo News*

Three Myanmar students to win $5500 opportunity to train under Manchester United Football Programme

YANGON, 13 May — Manchester United Soccer Schools has joined forces with Myanmar-Singapore company Asia Tours Ltd. to offer summer camp packages allowing Myanmar students to study football in England.

To celebrate the launch of the programme, they will be offering three fully sponsored camp trips, valued at over $5500 each, through a public raffle held on Saturday, 4pm 17th May at the Park Royal Hotel.

The eligible winners, aged between 12-18, will receive an all-expense paid trip to England where they will study football in a two-week intensive course designed by the world-renowned Manchester United Football Club.

Members from Myanmar's National Football team will attend the event on Saturday 17th May, which is celebrating the first partnership of its kind in Myanmar.

As the country's most popular sport, football has been a focal point in reintroducing Myanmar to the international community. Once dubbed a football powerhouse in Asia, the sport suffered under military isolation, but is re-emerging following Myanmar's successful hosting of the 2013 SEA games. The Asia Tours Ltd — Manchester United Football Camp partnership aims to help Myanmar's young players develop international-standard skills.

The winners of the Manchester United Camp trips will spend two weeks among other players from over 60 countries. They will be trained by international coaches and have the opportunity to visit Manchester United's home field Old Trafford.

About Manchester United Football Camps: The Manchester United Football camp is the official education and development branch of the world famous Manchester United Football club. Offering summer football camp experiences to youth from England and around the world children participate in a once in a lifetime experience; living, learning and playing the Man U way.

The event is open to the public, and all Myanmar children between the ages of 12-18 are eligible to enter on arrival. 4pm Saturday May 17th, Park Royal Hotel, Yangon. For further information please contact: Arkar Thet Tin on 095148366, or email *asiatours.atm@gmail.com.—NLM*

Lerner seeks buyer for Premier League Villa

Aston Villa's owner, businessman Randy Lerner of the US (L)

LONDON, 13 May — American owner Randy Lerner has put English Premier League football club Aston Villa up for sale after another disappointing season for the former European champions. Lerner, former owner of the Cleveland Browns NFL team, took over Villa in 2006 but said he had grown tired of the side's struggles with injuries and recent rumours that he planned to sell up.

"Now is the time for me to look for new ownership and thus new leadership," said Lerner, adding that Bank of America Merrill Lynch had been hired to advise on the sale. "I owe it to Villa to move on, and look for fresh, invigorated leadership, if in my heart I feel I can no longer do the job," he added.

The asking price is likely to be somewhere in the region of 150-200 million pounds and the sale process will test how much appetite there is among investors for mid-ranking teams in the Premier League. There was speculation on social media that billionaire Oracle owner Larry Ellison could buy the club but the hiring of a bank indicated that Lerner would be casting the net wide for a potential purchaser.

Villa, based in the city of Birmingham, finished 15th in the 20-team Premier League after the final round of matches on Sunday. The club lost more than 50 million pounds in 2012-13 but said its finances had improved over the past year as the Premier League enjoys lucrative new television contracts.

The club is forecasting revenues of around 116 million pounds for the year to the end of May 2014 and operating profit of about 17 million pounds.

Villa have won the English title seven times but the last of those triumphs came in 1981. They won the European Cup in the following season and their last major trophy was the League Cup in 1996. Lerner is one of a number of Americans who own Premier League soccer clubs.

Investors like the Glazer family at Manchester United, Arsenal's Stan Kroenke and John W Henry at Liverpool have been attracted by the League's ability to generate TV cash and support from fans all over the world. However, Fulham, owned by US businessman Shahid Khan, have just been relegated from the Premier League and will have to live with lower revenues in the second tier. *—Reuters*

England call-up for Saints trio momentous, says Lambert

SOUTHAMPTON, (England), 13 May — The England World Cup call-up for three Southampton players marks a momentous occasion in the history of the English Premier League club, Brazil-bound striker Rickie Lambert said on Monday.

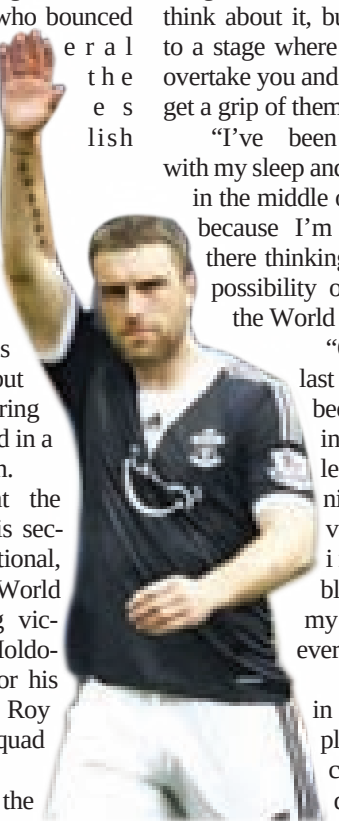
The forward, who along with Southampton team mates Adam Lallana and Luke Shaw was named in Roy Hodgson's 23-man squad for the finals, said it was an occasion to be treasured.

"There have been a lot of proud moments over the last five years, but I think today has topped it all off," the 32-year-old told the south coast club's website.

"To finally get the call is more than I could have ever dreamed of because I could never have expected this two years ago, let alone 10 years ago. This is more than a dream.

"There's elation, pride, joy — everything."

Lambert, who bounced around several clubs in the lower reaches of English soccer before joining Southampton in 2009 when they were in the third tier, made his England debut last year, scoring against Scotland in a 3-2 friendly win.



Southampton's Ricky Lambert

He caught the eye again in his second international, scoring in a World Cup qualifying victory over Moldova, and calls for his inclusion in Roy Hodgson's squad began to grow.

"Through the last few months, the best thing to do was to try not to think about it, but it comes to a stage where the nerves overtake you and it's hard to get a grip of them," he said.

"I've been suffering with my sleep and getting up in the middle of the night because I'm just lying there thinking about the possibility of going to the World Cup.

"Over the last week, I've been sleeping less and less and last night it was virtually impossible because my head was everywhere.

"I wasn't in a good place because I was dreading the phone call, so when I finally got told today it was a dream come true."

Turning his focus on his club team mates Lallana and Shaw, Lambert added: "I was more than confident that Adz (Lallana) was going to get in because he fully, fully deserved to.

"I think he's fighting for a starting place with how well he's done. "At first I wasn't too sure about Luke Shaw because (Chelsea's) Ashley Cole was obviously the best left-back over the last 10 years, as Luke has said himself.

"When we heard the news last night that (Cole) had been dropped, our first thought was that Luke had to be in.

"What he has done is frightening, and his mental strength is second to none for a young lad. He's not going to be overwhelmed by anything that comes his way." *—Reuters*

FIFA tells World Cup fans: "Just enjoy Brazil"

RIO DE JANEIRO, 13 May — FIFA secretary-general Jerome Valcke has denied claims football fans face a greater security threat during this year's World Cup in Brazil than at previous tournaments.

Media reports have cited rising street crime and civil unrest as concerns for fans attending the 12 June - 13 July tournament.

But in an interview published on FIFA.com on Monday, Valcke urged traveling supporters not to let safety fears detract from the excitement of the World Cup.

"Security is an issue everywhere in the world. It also depends on the way you behave," Valcke said.

"Make sure that you just enjoy Brazil as Brazil is. If you are told in certain cities that you should not walk in certain zones, you should follow that. There are zones and parts of cities where you don't go. It's not only in Brazil, all over the world it's like this."

According to official figures, there were 37,412 muggings in Rio de Janeiro in 2013, up 19% on the previous year

Brazil's image has been further tarnished by recent clashes between police and drug traffickers in Rio's slums and sometimes violent anti-government protests that began during the Confederations Cup last June.

Valcke said FIFA has done all it can to guarantee fan safety in each of Brazil's 12 World Cup host cities.

"The security in and around the stadiums is no issue. Everything is organized here, the same goes for the fan fests," he said.

"It' s a time to enjoy yourself. The security in general is good. Brazil is regularly organizing major events. Generally speaking, you are a guest of the country and you should always respect the country where you are."

Despite ongoing construction work at three World Cup stadiums, Valcke insists the country will be ready before the first match between Brazil and Croatia in Sao Paulo on 12 June .

"We will do our homework, installing all our systems in the stadiums," Valcke said, "That's also an important part of the structure of a World Cup. You feel that the competition is coming, so there is an excitement."*—Xinhua*

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