

Nationwide ceasefire agreement is expected to be formally signed soon

NAY PYI TAW, 3 April—The following is the full text of the monthly radio address delivered by President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein.

My Fellow Citizens

As I have done previously, I would like to give you the monthly update on the work of my government, and the developments that have taken place in our country.

Looking back on the last four years of my government's administration, one of the most important developments has been the increased public participation in politics. It is undeniable that this positive outcome is a result of our joint efforts. We

must build on this to move closer to a vibrant democratic society that is desired by the people. In so doing, we must accept and trust that the only correct way ahead is through building a firm foundation of

(See page 2)



President U Thein Sein visits Myanmar Software Showcase 2015

NAY PYI TAW, 3 April — President U Thein Sein on Friday morning visited the Myanmar Software Showcase 2015 in Nay Pyi Taw and viewed booths displaying locally developed software and projects of technological universities.

The expo at Myanmar International Convention Centre is being jointly organized by the Myanmar Computer Science Development Council and Myanmar Computer Federation.

Booths visited by the president included a drone research display by Myanmar Aviation and Aerospace University.

In a speech at the showcase, the president said today is an age of technological wonders, adding that technological development is essential for national development.

Technological backwardness hinders national



**President
U Thein
Sein
convers-
es with
students
at
Myanmar
Software
Showcase
2015.
MNA**

development, he said, urging students to make innovations not only for Myanmar nationals but also for

citizens of the world.

Afterwards, local information technology experts U Thaug Su Nyein,

U Zaw Min Oo, U Thar Htet, U Ye Myat Thu and Dr Tun Thura Thet held discussions under the top-

ic “Youths and Opportunities.” Union Ministers Dr Daw Khin San Yi, (See page 3)

Eight new members added to UEC

NAY PYI TAW, 3 April—Eight new members of the Union Election Commission were appointed on Friday.

The new UEC members include U N Zaw Naw, U Sai Kham Win, U Saw Ba Hlaing, U Harki, Dr Maung Maung Kyi, U Sai Nwan Tawng, U Sai Tun Thein and Dr Sai San Win and they were appointed under Sub-section (a) of Section 398 of Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Para (viii) of Sub-section (b) of Section 16 of Union Government Law and Section 3 of UEC Law, according to Order No 1/2015 of the President Office.

MNA

By Ye Myint

YANGON, 3 April— After a months-long hiatus to upgrade is fleet, Air Mandalay has resumed charter services and will restart scheduled flights on 1 May with newly purchased Embraer jets, Myanmar's first privately owned airline said Friday.

“We are back in business with a sense of new Air Mandalay offering better services to passengers and aiming to regain our place of leadership in Myanmar's aviation market,” CEO Sai Kham Park Hpa told The Global New Light of Myanmar.

To celebrate the resumption of its flight services, Air Mandalay flew local media to Ngapali

beach in western Myanmar on the new Embraer jets, which replace its old ATR fleet.

With two 50-seat Embraer ERJ 145s, Yangon-based Air Mandalay will recommence daily services to Sittwe, NyaungU and Heho while operating flights to Mandalay and Myitkyina three times a week, on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday.

It will also offer direct flights to Nay Pyi Taw three times a week, on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Yangon-Dawei and Dawei-Kawthoung services are scheduled on Wednesday, Friday and Sunday.

The airline, founded in 1994, also plans to add new ATR aircraft to the fleet, the CEO said. He also

Air Mandalay resumes flight services after upgrading planes



revealed the airline's 2018 remission of expanding its fleet with the introduction

of up to ten Mitsubishi Regional Jets seating 70-90 passengers. —GNLM

Air Mandalay shows off new Embraer fleet to press with a special flight to Ngapali on Friday.—PHOTO: YE MYINT

Nationwide ceasefire...*(from page 1)*

democratic elections and institutions. Holding elections is just the start in the process of building democratic institutions. Since the election period is near, we must strive to ensure that during this period political participation is not harmed, and not to lose sight of our aim to build a healthy democratic society. Every country undergoing democratic transition must overcome challenges, so let us find practical solutions to our challenges and ensure a smooth transition.

Since independence in 1948, our nation has faced the world's longest and most complex internal armed conflicts. The road to finding sustainable peace has been long and difficult.

However, the Union Peace Working Committee and Nationwide Ceasefire Coordination Team have now agreed on the draft text of nationwide ceasefire agreement — an important milestone for ending armed conflict and initiating political dialogue. I personally attended the signing ceremony. I congratulate and praise the delegates from the government, Tatmadaw, and ethnic armed groups for resolving issues during the peace talks with patience, mutual understanding and respect. My message to the public that so desires peace is that the nationwide ceasefire agreement is expected to be formally signed soon, paving the way for solving issues through political

dialogue.

On a related note, my government is working to restore peace and stability in Kokang Self-Administered Zone. Since we are striving to build a nation that respects and protects ethnic and minority rights, our efforts must be to bring political, economic, and social stability and development to the Kokang Region.

The stability of our border is of utmost importance and we will not allow this conflict in one part of country effect our broader strategic interest - which is to have the best possible relations with all our neighbors and all the great powers of the world."

I was saddened by the events surrounding the protests to change the education law. The one lesson we should take away from these events is the consequence of straying away from the democratic practice of tolerance. All the parties involved must in the future act consistently with democratic norms, balancing the right of freedom of expression with respect for prevailing laws and rules.

I offer my condolences to the families that lost their loved ones in the sinking of the Aung Takon 3 ferry. The accident is being investigated to ensure that in the future, precious lives will not be lost to accidents due to negligence, administrative oversight or lack of equipment maintenance. Public travel and transport should be safe and secure, and any failures must be corrected.

In March, events marking the 70th anniversary of the

founding of the Tatmadaw were held in Naypyidaw. As world events prove, it is important for a nation like ours, small but strategically situated, to have a strong and professional armed forces. I urge the public to welcome and support efforts by the Tatmadaw to modernize, and carry out its duties of safeguarding national unity, protecting sovereignty, and providing humanitarian relief work.

Our aim is to build a modern nation with a vibrant democracy. I urge everyone not to lose sight of this goal.

Solar energy is now widely held as a practical and sustainable solution to solve mankind's energy needs. In March, the Solar Impulse 2, a plane solely powered by solar energy, made its South-East Asian stop in Mandalay. I am honored that Myanmar was able to help promote this leading-edge technology to citizens of the world. I traveled to Mandalay to offer my support, and was especially delighted to see youths from Mandalay Region and beyond given the opportunity to study this world-class technology.

Soon, the people of the nation will be celebrating the Myanmar New Year Thingyan festival. I wish everyone fulfillment and contentment in the New Year. I urge everyone to celebrate responsibly so as to promote friendship and the nation's image.

I would like to conclude by reaffirming my commitment to achieving peace, promoting economic development and building a better future for future generations.

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw**Pyidaungsu Hluttaw approves more appointees to UEC**

NAY PYI TAW, 3 April—The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw on Friday approved the appointment of more members to the Union Election Commission and the Myanma Port Authority bill, on which the Pyithu Hluttaw and the Amyotha Hluttaw held differing views.

Brig-Gen Tint Hsan, defence services personnel representative, urged the parliament to honour and put on record all stakeholders and organizations en-

gaged in the signing of the draft nationwide ceasefire agreement, a move he described as priceless for national solidarity.

The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw welcomed the successful signing of the draft nationwide ceasefire agreement between the Union Peacemaking Working Committee (UPWC) and the Nationwide Ceasefire Coordination Team (NCCT), he added, citing President U Thein Sein as

saying that the desire for peace is a goal shared by all citizens and organizations.

The successful implementation of internal peace processes will quicken the establishment of national consolidation and reconciliation, the army officer noted.

Foreign embassies and UN agencies congratulated on the signing of the draft ceasefire agreement and pledged continuous support and cooperation. —MNA

Amyotha Hluttaw**MoH rejects hospital upgrading in Pakokku: Amyotha Hluttaw**

NAY PYI TAW, 3 April—U Thaw Zin Oo of the Magway Region constituency No. 9 proposed a motion at the Amyotha Hluttaw on Friday calling for upgrading a hospital in Pakokku township, with Deputy Minister for Health Dr Daw Thein Thein Htay rejecting the proposal and explaining that the facility does not need upgrading considering the number of hospital admissions.

Regarding a question of the publication of Unique Constructions as references, Deputy Minister for Construction U Soe Tint responded that his ministry will publish



Deputy Minister for Construction U Soe Tint.
MNA

construction references in volumes in 2015-2016 financial year.

Maj Aung Kyaw Zaw, defence services personnel representative, called for the reformation of the Pub-

lic Works under the Ministry of Construction. The deputy minister responded that the Public Works has been restructured into three— road, bridge and building departments— as of 1 April this year. The ministry has hired foreign consultant teams for supervision and quality control at construction projects implemented with foreign loans from Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and Asian Development Bank (ADB).

The Amyotha Hluttaw approved the inland waterways bill, which was resent with some changes by the Pyithu Hluttaw.—MNA



Representatives of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw discuss appointment of more members for Union Election Commission.—MNA

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw welcomes signing of draft agreement for nationwide ceasefire

NAY PYI TAW, 3 April—The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw on Friday issued the statement welcoming the signing of draft agreement for nationwide ceasefire between the Union

Peace-Making Work Committee and the Nationwide Ceasefire Coordination Team.

The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw fully supports and is proud of the all the stake-

holder individuals and organizations who participated in the process for signing the draft agreement, according to the statement.

GNLM

Pyithu Hluttaw**Tender issues dominate Pyithu Hluttaw**

NAY PYI TAW, 3 April—Local authorities invite tenders through mass media for construction of roads and bridges with government funds, Deputy Minister at President Office U Aung Thein told the Pyithu Hluttaw on Friday.

He explained the role of responsible committees in selecting highest bid-

ders, setting floor prices, supervising quality control, and making contracts.

An MP proposed more flight services in the airport in Mawlamyine, Mon State, with Deputy Minister U Zin Yaw rejecting the proposal by citing a small number of passengers as economic disadvantage.

Currently, the Depart-

ment of Civil Aviation has invited register of interest (ROI) from interested private airlines in a bid to encourage the private sector in aviation.

The deputy minister spoke of the possibility of upgrading the airport in Thaton in the future, given its convenient location.

MNA

NATIONAL

President U Thein Sein visits...

(from page 1)

U Soe Thane, U Myat Hein, U Hla Tun, U Ye Htut and Dr Ko Ko Oo made speeches.

The discussions concluded with remarks by

the president, in which he discussed measures being taken by the government to encourage students to help build a peaceful, modern and developed democratic nation. He also described

goals of the government including restoration of sustainable peace by 2020 and graduating from less-developed to middle-income country status. The president then posed for documentary photographs with faculty members and students be-

fore watching the flight of a UAV drone developed by the MAAU.

Local information technology experts spoke about mobile communications, social networking media and job opportunities in ICT.

Myanmar Software

Showcase 2015 is being organized with the aims of promoting the ICT industry to raise GDP and make Myanmar into a software-exporting country that can provide applied IT services to other nations.

A total of 39 Myanmar

entrepreneur teams and 21 IT companies are displaying their services for various sectors including health, education, finance and e-commerce. The exhibition also aims to turn youth participants into successful entrepreneurs.—MNA

Vice President U Nyan Tun wraps up Laos and Cambodia tours



Vice President U Nyan Tun and wife visit museum of traditional Mekong-Ganga textiles in Cambodia.—MNA

YANGON, 3 April — A Myanmar delegation led by Vice President U Nyan Tun arrived back in the country Friday evening after visiting Laos and Cambodia, respectively, at the invitations of Laotian Vice President Mr Bounnhang Vorachith and Cambodian Prime Minister Mr Samdech Hun Sen.

The delegation led by the vice president and wife Daw Khin Aye Myint arrived at the Office of the Angkor Wat Temple and Siem Reap Region Development and Cultural Authority on Thursday.

The delegation was welcomed at the office by the deputy prime minister,

the minister at the Prime Minister's Office and the chairman of the authority.

The Cambodian officials explained that the authority was formed in 1995 to conserve the areas and cultural heritages around the temple, to develop cultural tourism, to reduce poverty and to cooperate with INGOs and institutions for regional development.

The authority was able to remove the heritage site from the endangered list of UNESCO in 2004.

To create job opportunities for locals, a village of traditional culture and local handicraft was established on a 1,000-hectre area and it

is attracting foreign tourists, according to the Cambodian officials.

With the funds of international cooperation agencies, four zones have been allocated for a green area project, the Great Angkor Project, a project for living with cultures and a project for cultural management, the Cambodian officials said.

As a result, the area has become not only a cultural heritage site but also an eco-tourism destination, the Cambodian officials added.

In the evening, the vice president and delegation attended a dinner hosted by the chairman of the author-

ity and his wife.

On Friday morning, the vice president and delegation visited Bayon Temple, Ta Prohm Temple and a museum of traditional Mekong-Ganga textiles.

The vice president and delegation arrived back in Myanmar via Thailand in the evening.

The delegation was greeted at Yangon International Airport by Chief Minister of Yangon Region U Myint Swe and wife, region ministers, the

Advisory Commission to review laws, rules and regulations and tasks related to the temporary identity cards formed

NAY PYI TAW, 3 April — In accord with the Notification No. (19/2015) dated 11 February 2015 issued by the President Office regarding the formation of The Advisory Commission to review laws, rules and regulations and tasks related to the temporary identity cards, "The Advisory Commission for Reviewing Laws, Rules, Regulations and Tasks Relating to Temporary Identity Cards" has been formed with nine members under the Notification No. (31/2015) dated 3 April 2015 issued by the President Office.—MNA

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and wife hoist umbrella, diamond orb, pennant shape vane atop pagodas

NAY PYI TAW, 3 April —Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and wife Dwa Kyu Kyu Hla together with wellwishers conveyed diamond orb, pennant shape vane and tiers of umbrella round-Mogaung MyoU Pagoda and Aryuponnya Pagoda in Alar, Lewe Township on Friday.

They hoisted these

Cambodian ambassador to Myanmar, the charge de affaires of Laos to Myanmar, departmental heads and officials.

The delegation com-

religious objects atop the pagoda.

After the ceremony they offered provisions to 96 years old venerable abbot Bhaddanta Kovida.

Also present on the occasion were Union Minister for Defence Lt-Gen Wai Lwin, Chief of the General Staff (Army, Navy and Air) General Hla Htay Win and wife and senior military officers.—Myawady

prised deputy ministers U Thant Kyaw, U Kyaw Kyaw Win, U Maw Thar Htwe, Shan State Transportation Minister U Sai Naw Kham and officials.—MNA

2 Japanese banks to open branches in Myanmar in late April

TOKYO, 3 April —The Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi UFJ and Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corp. said Thursday they will set up branches in Myanmar later this month as the country's central bank has issued permission for foreign banks to begin operations.

BTMU and SMBC will open the branches April 22 and 23 respective-

ly in Yangon, Myanmar's largest city, to begin offering loan, settlement and deposit services to Japanese companies operating there.

The two banks as well as Mizuho Bank are among nine foreign banks that Myanmar approved last October for opening branches in the country, opening up its banking sector to overseas banks for the first time in

more than five decades.

Mizuho Bank is also preparing to open a branch in the country.

Japan's investment in the country accounts for less than 1 percent of the total foreign investment, leaving much room for the three banks to help Japanese firms launch projects through their financial services.—Kyodo

NDF, UMFCFI welcome draft nationwide ceasefire agreement

YANGON, 3 April — A political party and a trade organization have welcomed the recent draft nationwide ceasefire agreement between the government and ethnic armed groups.

The Union Peace-making Working Committee (UPWC) and the Nationwide Ceasefire Coordination Team (NCCT) signed the draft nationwide ceasefire agreement before President U Thein Sein on 31 March.

National Democratic Force (NDF) called the move a historic step toward peace, unity and national reconciliation. The political party expressed its earnest support for NCCT's announcement that it would publicize the draft agreement before the nationwide ceasefire agreement is signed. NDF welcomed the initiative, saying that internal peace is concerned with the entire people rather than both sides engaged in armed conflict. It urged

both UPWC and NCCT to keep up their good work and walk their talk in unison till peace is secured.

The Republic of Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCFI) praised UPWC and NCCT for their historic achievement, describing the signing of the draft nationwide ceasefire agreement as a ray of hope for lasting peace.

MNA

NRC hands over office to INRD in Dawei



DAWEI, 3 April—A ceremony to hand over a record office of Taninthayi Region Immigration and National Registration Department was held at the Dawei District INRD on 2 April.

Mr Christopher Bleers of the Norwegian Refugee Council handed over documents related to the building, valued at K 38.2 million, to Deputy Director U Tin Htwe of the district INRD.

*Po Shwe Thun
(Dawei)*



**TODAY'S
MYANMAR
NEWS SITES**

New airline launches domestic services

DAWEI, 3 April—Apex Airlines, a new carrier entering the domestic aviation market, held its launch ceremony at Dawei Airport, Taninthayi Region, on 2 April.

Taninthayi Region Chief Minister U Myat Ko, Speaker of Region Hluttaw U Htin Aung Kyaw and Chairman of Apex Airlines U Khin Soe formally launched the carrier.

Chairman U Khin Soe spoke about the services of the airline, which will fly from Nay Pyi Taw to Yangon, Dawei, Myeik and Kawthoung as of 7 April.

Po Shwe Thun (Dawei)



ADPC stages national disaster reduction workshop in Mandalay

MANDALAY, 3 April—The Asian Disaster Preparedness Center has been assessing natural disaster response plans in Mandalay City since 2011, Mandalay Mayor U Aung Moun told a workshop at the Swan Hotel on 1 April.

The mayor said the ADPC surveyed soil information in cooperation with the Myanmar Geologists

Association after drawing the integrated hazard action plan.

Instructors of the MCDC, Relief and Resettlement Department, and ADPC gave lectures on connectivity between development tasks and natural disasters, solutions to natural disasters, and the possible impact of disasters.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)



Departmental officials and staff of MCDC join workshop on natural disaster response plans.

58 midwives graduate from Hpa-an course

HPA-AN, 3 April—A graduation ceremony for midwifery course No 3 took place at Hpa-an Nursing and Midwifery Training School in Hpa-an, Kayin State, on 30 March.

Chief Minister of the state U Zaw Min spoke on the occasion. Officials pre-

sented the graduates with nursing caps.

The chief minister and the state minister for social affairs presented awards to outstanding trainees.

The midwifery course, attended by 58 trainees, started in November 2014.

Nay Myo Lwin (IPRD)



Police Lt-Col Moe Nyo gives lectures on prevention of sales of hormone and stimulant drugs during Maha Thingyan festival as part of efforts to reduce crimes in Myawady Township, Kayin State, on 3 April.

TUN TUN OO

REGIONAL

Indonesia's political elite 'plotting to cripple anti-graft agency'

JAKARTA, 3 April — Indonesia's political elite have closed ranks to undermine the country's anti-graft commission, which has already been weakened by a bitter dispute over the president's choice for police chief, a senior official of the agency said. Johan Budi, acting deputy chairman of the Corruption Eradication Commission (KPK), also took a swipe at President Joko Widodo, who was elected last year amid hopes that he would confront the corruption that plagues Indonesia, for dithering over the row and allowing the commission's work to be derailed.

"I think the KPK is now a common enemy for high-ranking politicians," he told *Reuters* in an interview in his Jakarta office late on Thursday. "I don't know what the future holds for the KPK, but it will depend on the president and the legislature." Some members of

parliament were pressing for the laws empowering the KPK to be watered down, he added. The KPK is popular among ordinary Indonesians for being a thorn in the side of the establishment in a country that Transparency International's corruption perception index ranks below China and Niger.

The attack on the KPK started in January, when the agency declared police general Budi Gunawan a corruption suspect, just days after he was named the president's choice for police chief. The police, the attorney general's office and members of President Widodo's administration sharply criticized the KPK for that decision, saying it was politically motivated.

Gunawan is close to former President Megawati Sukarnoputri, Widodo's chief patron and head of his party, the Indonesian Democratic Party-Struggle (PDI-P).

Widodo, widely known to Indonesians by his nickname "Jokowi", eventually withdrew Gunawan's candidacy in February after weeks of public outcry. But the president also suspended two KPK leaders, who were named as suspects by police in separate criminal cases, a move many saw as a compromise to appease both rival law enforcement agencies. Dozens of KPK investigations have since stalled and fewer witnesses want to cooperate with the agency, Budi said. "We have 36 big cases that have slowed down, including ones looking into oil and gas," Budi said. "Jokowi was a bit too slow and the case looked like it was hanging in the air. I think there was someone in his inner circle that made him take longer to decide on the KPK-police case."

He said Widodo's predecessor, Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, was quicker to defend the KPK in squab-



Indonesia's President
Joko Widodo

bles with the police.

Widodo's handling of the case has led many to question the president's determination to fight corruption and take on powerful vested interests in Southeast Asia's largest economy. Although attacks from the police have eased, Budi said the KPK was now being targeted by lawmakers.

Parliament, which along with the police has been one of the most frequent subjects of KPK investigations, is reviewing the law governing the agency.

"The elite politicians don't like the KPK," Budi said. "They have long wanted to revise the law. This can be another tool to attack the KPK again." — *Reuters*

Syrian journalist Mazen Darwish winner of UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize

PARIS, 3 April—The winner of the 2015 UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize is Syrian journalist and human rights activist, Mazen Darwish, currently imprisoned. The Prize will be awarded during the celebration of World Press Freedom Day, 3 May, which will this year be hosted by Latvia (National Library, Riga, 6 pm).

An independent International Jury of media professionals recommended Mazen Darwish in recognition of the work he has carried out in Syria for more than ten years at great personal sacrifice, enduring a travel ban, harassment, as well as repeated detention and torture. Led by Ko-ko U (Myanmar), chairman of the Yangon Media Group and publisher of the *Yangon Times*, the International Jury stressed the need to remember Mr Darwish, currently in prison, along with so many other human rights defenders and journalists.

Darwish, a lawyer and press freedom advocate, is the president of the Syrian Centre for Media and Freedom of Expression (CMFE), founded in 2004, and one of the founders of the *Voice* newspaper and *syriaview.net*, an independent news site banned by the Syrian authorities. In 2011, Darwish established *Media Club*, the first Syrian magazine about media affairs. He has been detained since February 2012, when he was arrested with colleagues Hani Al-Zitani and Hussein Ghareer.

Numerous human rights and press organizations around the world have issued calls for the release of Darwish and his fellow journalists.

On 15 May, 2013 the UN General Assembly adopted Resolution 67/262 demanding that "the Syrian authorities immediately release all persons arbitrarily detained, including the members of the Syrian Centre for Media and Freedom of Expression." In January 2014, the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention (WGAD) addressed a communication to the Syrian authorities denouncing the arbitrary detention of Darwish and his Media Centre colleagues and called for their immediate release.

Created by UNESCO's Executive Board in 1997, the annual UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize honours a person, organization or institution that has made an outstanding contribution to the defence and, or promotion of press freedom anywhere in the world, and especially when this has been achieved in the face of danger.

The \$25,000 Prize is named in honour of Guillermo Cano Isaza, a Colombian journalist who was assassinated in front of the offices of his newspaper, *El Espectador*, in Bogotá, on 17 December 1986. It is funded by the Cano Foundation (Colombia) and the Helsingin Sanomat Foundation (Finland).

UNESCO

Indian PM may expand Cabinet next week

NEW DELHI, 3 April — Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi is likely to expand his Cabinet next week, for the second time since his Bharatiya Janata Party swept to power in general elections in May last year, media reports said on Friday.

The Cabinet expansion may take place on 8 April, where at least two ministers

are likely to be inducted and one junior minister to be elevated while the senior most minister may be shown the door, the reports said, quoting sources as saying on Thursday. The two new ministers likely to be inducted are Indian-controlled Kashmir's ruling coalition partner PDP's leader Mehbooba Mufti and western state of

Maharashtra's regional party Shiv Sena's lawmaker Anil Desai, according to the reports. A junior minister in Modi's Cabinet, Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi, may be elevated while 75-year-old Minority Affairs Minister Najma Heptulla could be dropped, the reports said.

However, there has been no official confirmation

from the government on the Cabinet expansion yet.

The last Cabinet expansion took place in November last year, in which former Chief Minister of the western state of Goa, Manohar Parrikar, was made the country's Defence Minister and Suresh Prabhu the Railway Minister.

Xinhua

China condemns terrorist attack on Kenyan university

BEIJING, 3 April — China has condemned Thursday's terrorist attack on Garissa University College in Kenya, which has claimed 147 lives.

"We are against terrorist attacks in any form, and

condemn the terrorists in the strongest terms," Foreign Ministry spokesperson Hua Chunying said on Friday.

Gunmen stormed into Garissa University College before dawn Thursday, shooting students and tak-

ing hostages in a terrorist attack that has left 147 people dead, according to Kenyan officials.

"China extends heartfelt condolences to the victims and expresses deep sympathy to the wounded and

the families of the victims," Hua said. Stressing that China opposes terrorism in any form, Hua said China will continue to support Kenya's efforts to counter terrorism and safeguard national and regional stability. — *Xinhua*

Volcano erupts in Indonesia's Sumatra, triggering evacuation

JAKARTA, 3 April — Mount Sinabung volcano in Karo District of Indonesia's North Sumatra Province erupted on Thursday afternoon, spewing a column of ash by up to 2 km to the sky and triggering small-scale evacuation, official said here earlier on Friday.

Powerful burst of hot ash was spread from the rumbling volcano, heading 4 km away to the south of the crater and 1 km away to the southeast, Sutopo Purwo Nugroho, spokesman of national disaster management

agency said. Some of villagers living near the volcano have been evacuated to the safe places, Sutopo disclosed. "Some of residents of Sibintun village have to be evacuated by force by officials to other places," he told *Xinhua* via phone.

Others villagers at Sigrang Garang, Kutagunggung, and Sukanalu villages located 3 km from the craters were panic and scared as they prepared for evacuation, said Sutopo. "The officials keep conducting patrol and monitoring at the

field," he revealed.

Lava floods also hit the district and damaged roads, said Sutopo.

The 2,475-metre Mount Sinabung erupted on 29 June after erupting on and off from September 2013 to February 2014, which left 15 people dead and more than 30,000 other internally displaced. Mount Sinabung is among more than 120 active volcanoes in Indonesia, which is prone to seismic upheaval due to its location on the "Pacific Ring of Fire." — *Xinhua*



A visitor looks at a Shanghai Sunlong Bus at the Seoul Motor Show in Seoul, South Korea, on 2 April, 2015. Shanghai Sunlong Bus, a Chinese automaker, showcases its strategic model CT Boo for the first time at this year's Seoul Motor Show. — *XINHUA*

China evacuates foreign nationals from Yemen in unprecedented move



Soldiers of the Chinese People's Liberation Army stand on the deck before a fleet sets out for Aden, Yemen, from Zhoushan, Zhejiang Province, on 3 April, 2015.

REUTERS

BEIJING, 3 April — A Chinese naval frigate has evacuated 225 foreign citizens from strife-torn Yemen, its foreign ministry said, marking the first time that China's military has helped other countries evacuate their people during an international crisis.

Ten different nationalities were among the evacuees picked up on Thursday afternoon from Aden, Yemen's second city, and transported to Djibouti, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said in a statement on its website late Thursday.

The ministry said foreign governments — Paki-

stan, Ethiopia, Singapore, Italy, Germany, Poland, Ireland, Britain, Canada and Yemen — had requested China's help. A spokeswoman said it was the first time China had carried out a specific evacuation of foreign nationals from a danger zone.

A diplomatic source familiar with the operation said it was "very risky" and that fighting had come close to the Chinese warship.

"The Chinese ship was in the right place at the right time," the source said.

Violence has been spreading across Yemen since last year, when Iran-

backed Shi'ite Houthi fighters seized the capital, Sanaa, and effectively removed President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi. A Saudi-led coalition has hit the rebels with air strikes over the past week.

A state television report on Friday showed evacuees, who were mostly Pakistani, arriving in Djibouti.

"We are really thankful to the Chinese government, who really helped us, and took us out (with) the school children," one woman told China Central Television.

The broadcaster showed footage young children stepping off a Chinese warship waving Chinese flags, and in one case, kissing a seaman on the cheek.

The evacuation of foreigners bolsters China's image at home and abroad, according to Shen Dingli, an international relations professor at Fudan University in Shanghai.

"We wouldn't look very good if we have the capacity to help others but no heart to do it," Shen said.

"Now we look really good," he added.

China had earlier evacuated 571 of its own

nationals, along with eight foreigners who worked for Chinese companies.

Once-reclusive China has become increasingly active in disaster relief and humanitarian aid abroad as its global economic interests widen.

"China has been keen to learn from the experience of other countries on how to evacuate people, especially after Libya," said one senior Western diplomat in Beijing. "It's good to see China taking more of an interest in this."

A low-key diplomatic player in the Middle East despite its reliance on oil from the region, China has voiced concern at the surge in violence in Yemen and called for a political solution.

Beijing drew international praise last year when it sent elite troops to help Ebola-hit Liberia by building a treatment centre and help transport medical supplies.

China also sent a state-of-the-art hospital ship to the Philippines in 2013 after one of the world's biggest typhoons killed thousands.

Reuters

France sees 'reasonable hope' Germanwings black box data intact



French prosecutor of Marseille, Brice Robin (L) and French Gendarmerie General David Galtier (R), who holds an image of the black box data flight recorder, attend a news conference in Marseille on 2 April, 2015.—REUTERS

PARIS, 3 April — French investigators believe there is a "reasonable hope" that a 'black box' data recorder recovered from the crash site of a Germanwings (LHAG. DE) jet can provide useful evidence despite suffering some damage, the lead French prosecutor said on Thursday.

Marseille prosecutor Brice Robin also said 150 sets of DNA had been found in the wreckage, corresponding

to the number of passengers and crew on board the Airbus A320 jet that crashed in the French Alps on 24 March.

He stressed, though, that the discovery of 150 DNA sets did not mean that all the victims had been found.

At each matching of a DNA set to a victims, families will immediately be informed, he said in a news briefing in Marseille, monitored on live television.—Reuters

Iran, world powers reach initial deal on reining in Teheran's nuclear programme

LAUSANNE, (Switzerland), 3 April — Iran and world powers reached a framework agreement on Thursday on curbing Iran's nuclear programme for at least a decade, a step towards a final pact that could end 12 years of brinkmanship, threats and confrontation.

The tentative agreement, after eight days of marathon talks in Switzerland, clears the way for negotiations on a settlement aimed at allaying Western fears that Iran was seeking to build an atomic bomb and in return lift economic sanctions on the Islamic Republic.

The framework is contingent on reaching an agreement by 30 June. All sanctions on Iran remain in place until a final deal.

Celebrations erupted in the Iranian capital Teheran. Videos and pictures posted on social media showed cars in Teheran honking horns as passengers clapped. In one video posted on Facebook, a group of women can be heard clapping and chanting "Thank you, Rouhani." in praise of President Hassan Rouhani.

President Barack Obama described the agreement as a "historic understanding with Iran" and compared it to nuclear arms control deals struck by his predecessors with the Soviet Union that "made our world safer" during the Cold War. He also cautioned, however, that "success is not guaranteed."

But US ally Israel said it was "vehemently opposed" to the agreement, with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu set to convene senior ministers on Friday to discuss a deal he said would threaten his country's existence.

Many details still need to be worked out. Diplomats close to the negotiations said the deal was fragile. It could not be ruled out that the understandings reached could collapse between now and 30 June. Experts believe it will be much harder to reach a final deal than it was to agree the framework accord.

Under the outline deal, Iran would shut more than two-thirds of its installed centrifuges capable of producing uranium that could be used to build a bomb, dismantle a reactor that could produce plutonium, and ac-

cept intrusive verification.

The negotiations between Iran and six powers — Britain, China, France, Germany, Russia and the United States — blew past a self-imposed 31 March deadline with no certainty that they would not end in failure.

The framework includes limits on Iran's enrichment of uranium for 10 years.

Iran agreed to significantly reduce the number of installed uranium enrichment centrifuges it has to 6,104 from 19,000 and will only operate 5,060 for 10 years under the future agreement with the six powers, according to a US fact sheet. Iran will only use first generation centrifuges during that time, it said. One of the most sensitive issues during the negotiations, Iran's research and development work, will also be limited.

"Iran has agreed to not conduct research and development associated with uranium enrichment at Fordow for 15 years," the US fact sheet said. It also noted that Iran will remove the 1,000 more advanced second-gen-

eration centrifuges currently installed at Natanz and place them in International Atomic Energy Agency-monitored storage for 10 years.

High enriched uranium can be used to make a weapon, which they aim to prevent, while low enriched uranium is used in power plants. Iran has insisted it wants it only for a peaceful nuclear energy programme and denies it aimed to build an atomic bomb.

Iran's breakout timeline — the time that it would take for it acquire enough fissile material for one weapon — would be extended to at least one year, for a duration of at least 10 years, under this framework. It is currently assessed to be two to three months, the US fact sheet said. Under Thursday's agreement, Iran will gradually receive relief from US and European Union nuclear sanctions if it complies with the terms of a final deal. Some UN Security Council sanctions would be gradually lifted, though others would remain in place, specifically those relating to proliferation.

"We're still some time

away from reaching where we want to be," said Iran's Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif.

Failure to comply with terms of the deal will cause the US and EU sanctions to "snap back into place", the US fact sheet said. It was less specific on UN sanctions, one of the main sticking points in the negotiations, saying only that they could be reimposed in the event of Iranian non-compliance.

Zarif indicated annoyance with the US decision to release its own fact sheet on the deal, saying on Twitter: "The solutions are good for all, as they stand. There is no need to spin using 'fact sheets' so early on."

The Iranian delegation regularly consulted with Teheran, the capital. "They were under tremendous pressure as the Leader's deadlines were not negotiable," said an official.

US Secretary of State John Kerry told reporters many technical details needed to be worked out, including the possible lifting of a UN arms embargo and the modernization of the Arak heavy-water reactor and

Fordow underground sites.

Officials of Gulf Arab states, traditionally wary of Iran, were silent about the deal.

A senior Gulf Arab official said any reaction would come in the days ahead, not from individual countries but from the Gulf Cooperation Council, an alliance of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Qatar, Oman and Bahrain.

Obama called Saudi Arabia's King Salman bin Abdulaziz al-Saud to discuss the deal and invited GCC leaders to Camp David for a summit this spring to discuss Iran.

French President Francois Hollande welcomed the framework but said France must remain "watchful" to ensure a final agreement prevents Iran from having access to nuclear arms, a comment echoed by British Foreign Secretary Philip Hammond.

Russia said the agreement would have a positive impact on the security situation in the Middle East, with Iran be able to take more active part in solving problems and conflicts.—Reuters

WORLD

China, Canada sign social security agreement

OTTAWA, 3 April — The Agreement on Social Security between China and Canada was signed here on Thursday.

Under the deal, Canadian companies and their employees sent to work temporarily in China will continue to contribute to Canada Pension Plan, while Chinese companies operating in Canada and their posted employees will continue contributing to China's pension programme.

Signed by Hu Xiaoyi, vice minister of China's Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security and Alice Wong, Canada's Minister of State, the agreement will eliminate situations in which individuals and their employers have to contribute to both Canada Pension Plan and the comparable pension

programme of China for the same work.

It will result in substantial savings and increase the economic competitiveness of Canadian companies operating in China. Chinese companies and their employees sent to work in Canada will benefit from the same advantages.

The agreement will enter into force once Canada and China have completed the approval procedures specified in their respective legislation.

"Our government is committed to creating an environment that will help facilitate increased trade between Canada and China. This social security agreement represents yet another step forward in strengthening the relationship and cooperation between our two countries," said Alice Wong.—Xinhua

Israel finds man reported missing, accuses him of staging abduction



Israeli soldiers stop a car as they search for a missing Israeli near the West Bank city of Hebron on 2 April, 2015.—REUTERS

JERUSALEM, 3 April — Israel poured troops into a Palestinian village in occupied land on Thursday in search for a man reported missing, then found him unscathed at a nearby Jew-

ish settlement and accused him of having staged an abduction, police and military spokesmen said.

Police spokeswoman Luba Samri said the man, Niv Asraf, and an uniden-

tified friend who sparked a crisis by telephoning police a phoney emergency call would face investigation.

The military launched hours of house-to-house searches in a village near

the West Bank city of Hebron where Asraf, 22, was said to have disappeared while looking for a wrench to fix a flat tyre.

"Initial indications of abduction were proven false," the army said later in a statement, after police said Asraf had been found camping in a riverbed in the Kiryat Arba settlement.

Israeli media said Asraf was from southern Israel.

The searches were the most widespread by Israeli forces in the territory since a June dragnet for three abducted Israeli teens whose bodies were found two weeks later in the same area, near the West Bank city of Hebron.

The teens' deaths and the revenge killing of a Palestinian youth in Jerusalem were part of a chain of events that led to last summer's 50-day Gaza war.

Reuters

California used 70 million gallons of water in fracking in 2014



A digital traffic sign usually used for commuter travel information informs travellers southbound on interstate highway 5 to conserve water as they pass through Del Mar, California on 10 Sept, 2014.—REUTERS

SAN FRANCISCO, 3 April — California oil producers used 214 acre-feet of water, equivalent to nearly 70 million gallons, in the process of fracking for oil and gas in the state last year, less than previously projected, state officials told Reuters on Thursday.

The practice of fracking has been criticized in the state, which is suffering from a drought so severe that Governor Jerry Brown announced the first-ever mandatory 25 percent

statewide reduction in water use on Wednesday.

Despite pressure from environmentalists, Brown has not called for a halt to fracking in the state, saying it is not a major drain on water supplies.

"Hydraulic fracturing uses a relatively small amount of water — the equivalent of 514 households annually" per well, said Steven Bohlen, the state oil and gas supervisor.

About 100,000 gallons of water is used on average per well, he said.

Previous industry estimates said that fracking used about 100 million gallons of water in California a year.

Hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, occurs when water and some chemicals are injected deep underground at high pressure to break up rock and release oil and gas into wells.

Environmentalists argue that fracking is an unwise use of water, given the state's ongoing, multi-year drought. They also say it has the potential to

contaminate fresh drinking water supplies.

Bohlen said that not all of the water used for fracking is fresh water. Some portion of it is "produced" water, or water that comes to the surface during oil drilling that is not suitable for drinking or agricultural use.

The industry brought 387,000 acre-feet of produced water to the surface last year, Bohlen said. Of that, two-thirds was put back into the aquifers from which it came or was used to produce more oil through drilling techniques including steam flooding and cyclic steam injection.

The remaining third was put into underground injection, evaporated in surface ponds, or cleaned up for beneficial use, he said.

About 25,000 acre-feet of produced water is used for beneficial use in the San Ardo, Cawelo, and Arvin water districts, he said. A law passed last year requires oil producers to report the sources of water used in all oil and gas extraction as well as where the water goes.

The first data report is due 31 April and will be made public soon after, Bohlen said.—Reuters

Al Shabaab kills at least 147 at Kenyan university; siege ends

GARISSA, (Kenya), 3 April — Gunmen from the Islamist militant group al Shabaab stormed a university in Kenya and killed at least 147 people on Thursday, in the worst attack on Kenyan soil since the US embassy was bombed in 1998. The siege ended nearly 15 hours after the Somali group's gunmen shot their way into the Garissa University College campus in a pre-dawn attack, sparing Muslim students and taking many Christians hostage.

Interior Minister Joseph Nkaissery said four gunmen strapped with explosives were behind the attack, the same number that killed 67 people during the 2013 bloodbath at a shopping mall in Nairobi. "The operation has ended successfully. Four terrorists have been killed," Nkaissery told Kenyan media. Kenyan police chief Joseph Boinet said the attackers had "shot indiscriminately" when they entered the university compound.

Police and soldiers surrounded the campus and exchanged gunfire with the attackers throughout the day but were repeatedly repelled. At least 79 people were injured and many airlifted to Nairobi, Kenya's national disaster body said. Al Shabaab, who carried out the deadly attack on the West-

gate shopping mall in Nairobi in 2013, claimed responsibility for the raid on the campus in Garissa, a town 200 km (120 miles) from the Somali border. The group has links to al-Qaeda and a record of raids on Kenyan soil in retaliation for Nairobi sending troops to fight it in its home state of Somalia. Al-Qaeda bombed the United States embassies in Kenya and Tanzania on the same day in 1998, killing 224 people and wounding thousands of people. The United States condemned the latest attack and offered Kenya help in fighting al Shabaab. One image provided by a local journalist showed a dozen blood-soaked bodies strewn across a single university classroom in Garissa. But some students managed to escape unaided. "We heard some gunshots and we were sleeping so it was around five and guys started jumping up and down running for their lives," an unnamed student told Reuters TV. Authorities offered a 20 million shilling (£145,042) reward for information leading to the arrest of a man called Mohamed Mohamud, described as "most wanted" and linked to the attack. Police chief Boinet said Kenya had imposed a dusk-to-dawn curfew on four regions near the Somalia border.—Reuters

PERSPECTIVES

Saturday, 4 April, 2015

Is it anachronistic to take to the street?

By Myint Win Thein

Some analysts and politicians think it is anachronistic for people of today to take to the street in order to voice their demands or protest. However, people around the world still choose to demonstrate publicly when they feel the need, whether they live in a communist state or in an advanced democracy.

Why would public demonstration be considered old-fashioned in this day and age? The answer may lie with social media, which allows people to express their wishes independent of their location. Although social media is another way to express the desire of the people, it still lacks the impact of a street demonstration. For ordinary people, taking to street still remains the easiest and most effective way to express their common desire. As a result, people around the world, however much their country has developed, still gather to protest. This practice may not change in the foreseeable future.

What is indeed anachronistic today is the use of violence in response to such public displays. Authorities in some countries still use violent means to disperse crowds, but most nations op-

pose such use of force, since it cannot solve the underlying problem and may worsen the situation. Such violence benefits neither the demonstrators nor the authorities. We can therefore say that while there is still place in the world for public demonstrations, the use of violence to suppress peaceful gatherings is truly anachronistic.

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

Food safety: from farm to PLATE make food SAFE

Dr. Aung Soe @ Aung Kyaw Moe
Retired State Medical Superintendent

The above mentioned theme is meant for World Health Day 2015 which falls on coming Tuesday 7th April, this is, on the birthday of World Health Organization (WHO), WHO constitution was adopted unanimously by UN member nations on 7th April 1948, and selected 7th April as World Health Day to be celebrated all over the world. As such, 7th April 2015 is 67th annual occasion. Today WHO has 193 member nations, including Myanmar. Myanmar joins WHO on first July 1948, soon after its existence, whose headquarters situate in Geneva, Switzerland.

Every year, the World Health Organization selects a priority area of global public health concern as the theme for World Health Day.

The theme for World Health Day 2015, Food Safety is a theme of high relevance to all people on the planet, and multiple stakeholders, including government, civil society, the private sector, an inter-governmental agencies, WHO states.

Safe food underpins but is distinct from food security. Food safety is an area of public health action to protect consumers from the risks of food poisoning and food-borne diseases, acute or chronic. Unsafe food can lead to range of health problems: diarrhoeal disease, viral disease (the first Ebola cases were linked to contaminated bush meat); reproductive and developmental prob-

lems, cancers. Food safety is thus a prerequisite for food security, WHO statement continues.

New threats to food safety are constantly emerging. Changes in food production, distribution and consumption (i.e. intensive agriculture, globalization of food trade, mass catering and street food), changes to the environment, new and emerging bacteria and toxins, antimicrobial resistance—all increase the risk that food becomes contaminated. Increases in travel and trade enhance the likelihood that contamination can spread, WHO noted.

The World Health Organization helps and encourages countries to prevent, detect and respond to food-borne disease outbreaks in line with the Codex Alimentarius, a collection of international food standards, guidelines and codes of practice covering all the main foods. Recognizing that food safety is a cross-cutting issue and shared responsibility, the World Health Organization welcomes the participation of non-public health sectors i.e. agriculture, trade and commerce, environment, standardization) in this campaign and seeks support of major international and regional agencies and organizations active in the fields of food, emergency aid, and education, it is learnt.

World Health Day 2015 is an opportunity to alert governments, manufacturers, retailers and the public to the importance of

food safety—and the part each can play in ensuring that the food on peoples' plates is safe to eat, it is believed.

Access to sufficient amounts of safe and nutritious food is key to sustaining life and promoting good health. Unsafe food—containing harmful bacteria, viruses, parasites or chemical substances—causes more than 200 diseases, ranging from diarrhea to cancers! Another alarming fact is Food-borne and waterborne diarrhoeal diseases kill an estimated 2 million people annually, including many children. Food safety, nutrition and food security are inextricably linked. Unsafe food creates a vicious cycle of disease and malnutrition, particularly affecting infants, young children, the elderly and the sick. Food-borne diseases impede socioeconomic development by straining health care systems, and harming national economies, tourism and trade. Food now crosses multiple national borders from where it is produced to where it is consumed. Good collaboration among governments, producers and consumers helps ensure food safety.

2015 World Health Day theme aims to spur governments to improve food safety through public awareness campaigns and highlight their ongoing actions in this area. Another aim is to encourage consumers to ensure the food on their plate is safe by asking questions, checking labels, following hygiene tips etc.

WHO has set a timeline for World Health Day 2015 as:

- (a) February – March: launch social media drive, including promotion of multimedia material (video and public service announcement)
- (b) 7 April: World Health Day
- (c) 1 May – 31 Oct: Milano EXPO 2015, with the theme of "Feeding the Planet, Energy for Life", offers a prime opportunity to reinforce the messages of this campaign. During this period, there will be as number of food safety related side events organized in Italy and elsewhere.
- (d) 6-7 July: Codex Alimentarius Commission (CICG, Geneva) enforcement.
- (e) October: Publication and launch of WHO global food-borne disease burden estimates which surely be of prime value for public health.

WHO proposes a guideline for policy makers as to make safe food a top priority and to integrate food safety into broader food policy, integrate food safety into nutrition and food security policies and programmes. So also to build trust through sound and transparent communications, ensure transparent communication between risk assessors, risk managers and risk communicators, promote awareness and understanding of food safety issues among the general public and to design educational campaigns targeting food handlers and the consumers.

Guideline calls for foster multi-sectoral collaboration to achieve sustainable and solid food systems, foster closer collaboration between the various sectors involved in food (agriculture, human health, animal health, trade, tourism, etc.) to strengthen prevention, control and response to food-borne diseases, to

promote the appropriate involvement of all interested parties and to build networks that are prepared to respond efficiently to food safety emergencies.

WHO suggests to think globally, act locally. Our food supply is global and food produced in one place may be sold on the other side of the world. A strengthened food safety system in one country positively impacts the safety of food in other countries. Utilizing global networks (e.g. INFOSAN) to efficiently communicate during international food safety emergencies should be considered.

Food control division of Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Department under Ministry of Health, Myanmar is mainly concerned with food safety and quality, pre-market assessment as well as post-market surveillance, source says. Food control activities are conducted in line with the National Food Law, regulations, orders and directives, complies with Codex guidelines and standards. Myanmar is an active participant in ASEAN Task Force on Codex Committee, it is learnt.

May all planet citizens, including Myanmar ever achieve positive food safety.

Myanmar scouts join international scout assembly in Thailand



YANGON, 3 April— At the invitation of Thailand's scout association, a delegation of Myanmar scouts left here for Thailand on Friday, with officials and families seeing them off at Yangon International Airport.

Thailand is organizing the 20th scouts gathering at Bajiravudh National Scout Camp in Chonburi, in hon-

our of the 60th anniversary year of HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhor's birth.

The assembly will last seven days from 4 to 10 April and draw more than 5,000 international scouts.

The Myanmar scout delegation comprises nine scouts from high schools and a teacher.

MNA

LOCAL NEWS

Mandalay Electricity Supply Board renamed Mandalay Electric Corporation



MANDALAY, 3 April—Mandalay Electric Corporation came into operation at the region electrical engineer office in Chanayethazan Township on 1 April morning.

Managing Director U Myint Aung of Electricity Supply Enterprise, retired chief engineer U Kyaw Nyein and retired chief engineer U Aung Myint cut the ribbon to open the

office while Mandalay Region Electricity and Industry U Kyaw Myint unveiled its signboard.

After the opening ceremony for the entity formerly known as the Mandalay Electricity Supply Board, the region minister met engineering staff and explained future tasks.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)

Dispensary, library put into service in YeU Tsp

YE U, 3 April—Under the auspices of the abbot of Aungzabu Tawya monastery in Hmawby, Yangon Region, a ceremony to open Aungzabu dispensary and library was held in Pangon Village in YeU Township, Saging Region, in the last week of March.

Chairman of Township Management Committee U Myo Chit, Maj Aung Kyaw Oo (Rtd) and Head

of Township Information and Public Relations Department Daw Aye Myint San formally opened the facilities. Well-wisher Major Aung Kyaw Oo-Daw Tin Tin Khaing and family donated a chest of drawers and books worth K500,000 and Township IPRD head Daw Aye Myint San copies of magazines and books to librarian U Soe Thein.

Than Htaik (YeU)



Officials seek best strategy for safe delivery of health care

MANDALAY, 3 April—The Ministry of Health, the Myanmar Red Cross Society and the International Committee of the Red Cross jointly organized a seminar on safe delivery of health care at the hall of the Mandalay Region Health

Department on 2 April.

Secretary of the MRCS Dr Aung Mon made a speech, after which Chairman of Mandalay Region Red Cross Society Dr Win Naing explained the vision of the seminar.

Also present at the

seminar were Mandalay Region Red Cross Brigade Staff Officer Grade-I U Phone Kyaw, officials of social organizations, medical superintendents and departmental officials.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)



Nine dead, three injured in traffic accident

NAY PYI TAW, 3 April—A Forland vehicle driven by Chan Aye of Kyundaw Village in Kyauktown Township violently hit a Hilux driven by an unknown person on the opposite way at Tadabyu Junction near mile post 110/0

on Yangon-Mawlamyine road in Taungthusu Ward, Kyauktown Township, on Thursday morning.

Three men, two women and four children totaling nine of nine men and three women on board the Hilux were dead on the

spot. One man and two children in serious conditions were referred by Kyauktown People's Hospital to Bago General Hospital.

Kyauktown Myoma police station filed a lawsuit against driver Chan Aye under the law.—MNA



An official lectures crime reduction, elimination of narcotic drugs, traffic enforcements and prevention of trafficking in persons at Mandalay city hall on 2 April.

TIN MAUNG (MANDALAY)

Supply of electricity extends to villages

TATKON, 3 April—A ceremony to launch the supply of solar electricity to Thanbayagon village in Tatkon Township took place at a local high school on 2 April.

Township Administrator U Kan Saw Hlaing handed over documents to the village administrator before Nay Pyi Taw Council members U Myint Shwe and U Phone Zaw Han and Nay Pyi Taw Deputy Chief Engineer U Than Tun

Aung switched on the supply of electrification.

Thanbayagon Village is located 25 miles northwest of Tatkon. Nay Pyi Taw Council allotted K85 million for installation of solar panels at 425 houses.

Thanks to solar panels, Htantabin, Aingkye, Thabyegon, Natmar and Kwantaw villages in Tatkon Township have a reliable electricity supply.

Tin Soe Lwin (Tatkon IPRD)

Yemen's Houthis seize central Aden district, presidential site

ADEN, 3 April — Yemeni Houthi fighters and their allies seized a central Aden district on Thursday, striking a heavy blow against the Saudi-led coalition that has waged a week of air strikes to try to stem advances by the Iran-allied Shi'ite group.

Hours after the Houthis took over Aden's central Crater neighbourhood, they marked another symbolic victory by fighting their way into a presidential residence overlooking the neighbourhood, residents said.

The southern city has been the last major holdout of fighters loyal to Saudi-backed President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi, who fled Aden a week ago and has watched from Riyadh as the vestiges of his authority have crumbled.

By nightfall the Iran-allied Shi'ite fighters had reached the edge of Aden's port district of Mualla, they



An armoured military vehicle is seen near the vicinity of the presidential palace in Sanaa on 2 April, 2015.—REUTERS

said.

The Houthis and their supporters swept into the heart of Aden despite an eight-day air campaign led by Riyadh trying to stem their advances and ultimately return Hadi to power.

Although the Saudi air

strikes have had little apparent impact on halting the Houthi advance, a senior US military official in Washington played down the possibility that Saudi Arabia would send in ground forces.

"I don't think they're going to do that. I think they

are arraying their forces along their border to prevent a Houthi incursion," the official told a group of reporters, speaking on condition of anonymity. "They're postured defensively."

By midday on Thursday the Houthis were in con-

trol of Aden's Crater neighbourhood, deploying tanks and foot patrols through its otherwise empty streets after heavy fighting in the morning.

It was the first time fighting on the ground had reached so deeply into central Aden. Crater is home to the local branch of Yemen's central bank and many commercial businesses.

"People are afraid and terrified by the bombardment," one resident, Farouq Abdu, told *Reuters* by telephone from Crater. "No one is on the streets — it's like a curfew". Hadi loyalists had few heavy weapons to halt the Houthi advance, although the remains of one smouldering tank in Crater showed they had put up a staunch defence in some places. Aden residents reported three air strikes against a Houthi position north of Crater on Thursday,

and a fourth at the presidential residence shortly after they took control of it.

Another resident said Houthi snipers deployed on a mountain overlooking Crater and fired on the streets below. Several houses caught fire after being struck by rockets, and messages relayed on loudspeakers urged residents to move out to safer parts of the city, he said.

After the advance in Crater, unidentified armed men disembarked from a vessel off Mualla. A port official said they were armed guards from a Chinese warship taking evacuees from the city. Yemeni and Saudi officials said there was no coalition ground operation in Aden. China's *Xinhua* news agency said a Chinese missile frigate evacuated 225 people, all non-Chinese nationals, from Aden on Thursday to Djibouti.

Reuters

After Tikrit, Iraqi forces may turn back to Baiji — US official



A view of Baiji oil refinery, north of Baghdad, on 8 Dec, 2014.—REUTERS

WASHINGTON, 3 April — After declaring victory in the city of Tikrit, the next significant operation for Iraqi forces will likely be clearing out Islamic State fighters from the refinery city of Baiji, a US military official said on Thursday.

"I just happen to think that's really the next significant military manoeuvre," the senior official said, speaking on condition of anonymity to a small group of reporters.

Last November, Iraqi security forces backed by Shi'ite paramilitary groups managed to break a months-long siege of the Baiji refinery that had forced it to shut down operations.

But parts of the city and surrounding area remain contested, the official said, and Iraqi forces were diverted from Baiji to bolster the

battle in nearby Tikrit.

"In order to do the Tikrit operation, the (Iraqi security forces) ... thinned the defence of Baiji and ISIL took advantage of that and has been pressuring them. But they're holding," the official said, using an acronym for Islamic State.

The Iraqi government claimed victory over Islamic State insurgents in Tikrit on Wednesday after a month-long battle for the city supported by Shi'ite militiamen and US-led air strikes, saying that only small pockets of resistance remained.

The militants captured the city, about 140 km (90 miles) north of Baghdad, last June as they swept through most of Iraq's Sunni Muslim territories.

The US official also acknowledged "that there are

pockets (of Islamic State fighters in Tikrit) that still have to be eliminated and they are working their way through those pockets."

Recapturing Tikrit could give Baghdad momentum for a pivotal stage of the campaign: recapturing Mosul, the largest city in the north.

Still, the official renewed US doubts that the battle for Mosul could happen before the fall, given the mid-June start of Ramadan, the Muslim fasting month, and the extreme summer heat.

"Given the pace of events as I see them now, and the environmental factors of Ramadan and the summer (heat), I think it's probably going to be a little longer than we thought," the official said.

Reuters

Syrian aircraft bomb area near captured Jordan crossing

AMMAN, 3 April — Syrian military aircraft bombed areas close to its main crossing into Jordan on Thursday, witnesses and a group monitoring the conflict said, hours after insurgents had captured the border post.

Insurgents fighting the government of President Bashar al-Assad said they had seized the Nasib crossing in southern Syria late on Wednesday, putting most of 370-km (230-mile) border area stretching up to Israel in the hands of the rebels.

"The aim is not the crossing as such but to weaken the regime's hold in the south and to increase the areas under our control," said Abu Hadi al-Aboud, head of Faloujat Houran brigade, which helped take over the crossing. "We dealt a blow to the last symbol of sovereignty of the regime along the border," he said.

The al-Qaeda-linked Nusra Front also said it had captured the crossing but rival rebels denied this and

accused them of looting after the crossing fell into rebel hands. Witnesses told *Reuters* that Nusra fighters had entered the customs area with hundreds of insurgents and civilians who looted dozens of Jordanian trucks and stole other vehicles.

The Southern Front, an alliance of rebel groups in southern Syria, said on Thursday that Nusra Front fighters had been told to leave the area and that the crossing was under their control. Jordan closed its side of the crossing on Wednesday. A Jordanian source said on Thursday the kingdom had stepped up security and re-deployed some troops to the border. The Syrian army, which accuses the staunch US ally of harbouring rebels on its soil, said the kingdom had deployed its troops inside the crossing after the rebels took control. Amman denies providing training and arms for the insurgents.

Syrian military helicopters dropped barrel bombs

on the area overnight, the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said. Witnesses counted at least six aerial strikes hitting the Nasib crossing. Plumes of grey smoke rose on the Syrian side and two rebels were killed, they said.

Rebels said the Syrian army had also escalated bombing raids on several insurgent-held towns a few miles (km) away in the southern province of Deraa, which offers a direct route to Damascus 90 km (55 miles) to the north. Jordan has pressured rebels in the past not to overrun the Nasib crossing so the highway could stay open to trade and traffic with Damascus. Before the Syrian uprising, billions of dollars in goods traded between the Gulf, Turkey and Europe passed through the crossing. Nasib, one of Syria's last official border crossings, is now crucial for importing goods into a country hit hard by Western sanctions.

Reuters



Smoke rises following an airstrike in Nasib in this picture taken from the Jordanian side near the main Jaber border crossing in the Jordanian city of Mafrqa on 2 April, 2015. REUTERS

BUSINESS & HEALTH

Nissan to launch self-driving car in Japan in 2016: CEO Ghosn

NEW YORK, 3 April — Nissan Motor Co will launch a car with self-driving technologies in Japan under its namesake division, CEO Carlos Ghosn



Carlos Ghosn, CEO of Nissan Motor Co

said on Thursday in New York.

"There will be a Nissan product in Japan, which will carry autonomous drive," Ghosn said at a Press conference on the sidelines of the second day of the annual New York International Auto Show. "Obviously when you have this kind of technology, you want also the Japanese market to enjoy it as soon as possible."

Ghosn said the automaker, which has a five-year partnership with NASA to develop the emerging technology, set a timeline of 2016 for when

it would launch its first self-driving car. Japan is the first market it has indicated that will have the car.

Nissan will first introduce self-driving features that allows the car to drive on highways and by 2020 the company wants the car to be able to navigate through complex city traffic autonomously.

"It's going to happen step by step, because we need to make sure that the regulators in the different countries feel comfortable," Ghosn said. "To persuade the regulators that you can take your hands off the wheel or your eyes

from the road is going to take a lot of demonstration."

Meanwhile, he said Nissan will continue its emphasis on "zero emission" technology, such as the Leaf electric car that will get a new battery with a longer range. But Ghosn said the main obstacle in overcoming consumer anxiety about the range of electric cars is to expand charging infrastructure.

"As long as you don't have charging infrastructure, we're not going to see a very strong development of the electric car," Ghosn said. "We need the

consumer to get confident and for this, the key area is going to be the infrastructure."

The CEO said he welcomes new entries into the electric car segment, such as media reports that Apple Inc is developing its own, because of the opportunities to develop infrastructure and reduce component costs.

"I consider anybody bringing electric cars as more an ally than a competitor, because today we have more opportunity into making the electric car mainstream," Ghosn said, adding that he is "very cu-

rious" about how the tech giant could transform the segment.

While Nissan has a goal to have 10 percent of its annual sales volume to come from electric cars by 2020, Ghosn said all automakers will have to have their own approach to reducing carbon emissions as governments tighten regulations.

"If (emission regulations) change, in my opinion, it's going to get tougher," Ghosn said. "Every car company is going to have to have a strategy in zero emission."

Kyodo News

Kenyan research agency says Ebola vaccine safe, effective

NAIROBI, 3 April — A candidate Ebola vaccine has demonstrated a high degree of efficacy, safety and could deal a final blow to the hemorrhagic fever that has killed some 10,000 people in West Africa.

Results from the phase one trial of the Ebola vaccine rVSV ZEBOV released by Kenya's Medical Research Institute (KEMRI) on Thursday revealed its capacity to protect humans from the killer disease.

"Our studies on 138 volunteers have shown the Ebola vaccine is safe and has potential to offer protection against the disease. The vaccine will be tested further in countries affected by the epidemic,"

KEMRI Director Solomon Mpoke said in a statement released in Nairobi.

The Phase one trial of the rVSV ZEBOV vaccine was carried out in the Kenyan coastal town of Kilifi and three other sites in Switzerland, Germany and Gabon.

Kenya was selected to be part of the World Health Organization (WHO) led consortium funded by Wellcome Trust to undertake in-depth trials on the Ebola vaccine.

Researchers said that 138 volunteers who received the jab did not reveal any side effects.

"The candidate vaccine was also able to raise antibody responses that neutralized Ebola like virus

particles in the laboratory. This is a milestone in the war against a killer disease," said Mpoke.

The research findings on the Ebola vaccine trials in Kenya, Germany, Gabon and Switzerland were published in the *New England Journal of Medicine*.

According to Kenyan researchers, the vaccine will undergo trial in Guinea to ascertain its capacity to protect individuals at risk of infection.

The WHO said Ebola has killed an estimated 10,000 people in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone. A consortium of public and private bodies has financed the development of an Ebola vaccine.

Xinhua

Cargo train links central China and Hamburg



WUHAN, 3 April — A cargo train with 41 containers will start its journey on Friday morning from Wuhan in central China's Hubei Province bound for Hamburg in Germany.

The train will depart at 6 am on Friday and is scheduled to arrive in Hamburg, the largest harbor in Germany after 15 days. The seventh Wuhan-Europe cargo train this year will carry electronic

products, electric vehicles and glass for the German market.

Previous trains all headed to Poland and the Czech Republic.

A number of mainland cities — including Chongqing and Chengdu in southwest China; Wuhan, Zhengzhou and Changsha in central China; and Shenyang in northeast China — have rail freight services to Europe. —Xinhua

Walking may help overweight people curb sugar cravings

IRVINE, (California), 3 April — Walking for 15 minutes may help overweight people at least temporarily reduce cravings for high-calorie, sugary snacks, a small study suggests.

"This study showed that brisk walking can be used as a strategy to reduce momentary food craving," said Adrian Meule, a psychologist at Ruhr University Bochum in Germany who wasn't involved in the research.

Exercise may provide some cognitive stimulation that interferes with thoughts about the craved food, and the discipline to regularly take walks to circumvent cravings might also im-

prove the ability to follow through with healthy food choices, Meule said in an email.

Globally, almost 2 billion adults are overweight or obese, according to the World Health Organization. This increases their risk of premature death, breathing difficulties, cardiovascular disease, diabetes, hypertension, fractures and mental health issues.

The study, by Larissa Ledochowski at the University of Innsbruck in Austria and colleagues, examined the impact of a 15-minute treadmill walk on sugar cravings in a group of 47 overweight people who were on average about 28 years old.

To elevate sugary

snack cravings, participants were asked to abstain from eating any sweets for three days at the start of the study. They were also asked to fast, drink nothing but water, and avoid any exercise for two hours prior to each assessment of cravings.

Then, in an exercise session, some participants warmed up for two minutes slowly on a treadmill then walked for 15 minutes at a pace fast enough to catch a bus, but not to the point of breathlessness.

For comparison, other participants, instead of exercise, were told to sit passively for 15 minutes without doing anything.

After exercising or sitting still, all of the partic-

ipants sat quietly for five minutes. Then, they did a computerized test designed to boost physiological arousal and stress. Next, they were asked to unwrap a piece of candy and hold it without eating it.

Throughout the process, participants were questioned seven different times about their food cravings and their feelings of arousal or stress.

Those who exercised reported significantly lower cravings for sweets midway through the experiment and at the end than the participants who didn't get on the treadmill.

Even when people unwrapped candy and held it in their hands, people who exercised first had fewer cravings than those who didn't.

The study is small, and its limitations include relying on people to tell the

truth about abstaining from sweets before the start of the experiment and a lack of measurements to track how much exertion was required by each participant to walk on the treadmill.

They were also exercising at a fairly low intensity, said Margaret Schneider, a researcher at the University of California, Irvine.

"The study only looks at the short-term impact, so we really shouldn't draw any conclusions about how one 15-minute exercise bout would impact eating behaviour throughout the day," Schneider, who wasn't involved in the study, said in an email.

Even so, exercise does have the ability to improve mood, and it's possible that this could result in reduced cravings among individuals who eat for emotional reasons, she said. At the

same time, mild exercise can also trigger metabolic processes that make more blood sugar available to the brain, reducing the craving for sugary foods.

And the study offers a reason to consider working at a treadmill desk, also known as walking work stations, Schneider said. "Presumably, remaining active at a low intensity throughout the day will result in less snacking and enhanced mood among the overweight."

Keeping healthy snacks on hand will also help exercise have the intended effect on food choices, Meule said. "Otherwise, temporarily reducing food craving by brisk walking will be ineffective. Even if people successfully manage to control their food cravings, they still have to eat something." —Reuters

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV EVER ABLE VOY NO (402N)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV EVER ABLE VOY NO (402N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 4.4.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S EVERGREEN SHIPPING
LINE**

Phone No: 2301185

Fuel tanks on fire at storage facility in Santos, Brazil

RIO DE JANEIRO, 3 April — Eighty firefighters were battling a fire at a fuel tank storage facility run by Ultracargo near Brazil's port of Santos, Latin America's largest, the local fire service said on Thursday.

The company said there had been no victims and the area had been evacuated. It was too early to say what had caused the fire, which was limited to four tanks and was now contained, it added in a statement.

Television footage showed large plumes of black smoke and fireballs coming from the site, near facilities run by Norway's Stolt-Nielsen Ltd and Transpetro, a subsidiary of state-run oil company Petrobras.

Transpetro said it had temporarily suspended operations and evacuated its personnel following instructions from the fire service, but that there was no risk to its facility. Stolt-Nielsen was not immediately available

for comment.

The fire started at around 10 am local time (1300 GMT), the fire service said on Twitter, adding that 22 fire trucks and one boat were involved in trying to control it.

The fire will take "a while" to put out, a fire official told local Globo TV. He added that so far they had focused on wetting down nearby tanks to stop the fire from spreading further.

The port of Santos said it had moved five ships docked at a nearby terminal due to the fire.

Ultracargo is Brazil's largest liquid bulk storage company and is owned by Grupo Ultra. Its Santos facility stores up to 301,300 cubic metres of fuels, chemicals, vegetable oils, ethanol and corrosive products, the company's website said.

Shares in Grupo Ultra were down 2.1 percent in afternoon trade in Sao Paulo.—Reuters

Sandstorm sweeps over UAE, other Gulf states



Photo taken on 2 April, 2015 shows the street view amid a sand storm in Abu Dhabi, capital of the United Arab Emirates (UAE). The sand storm originated from Kuwait and Saudi Arabia hit Abu Dhabi on Thursday. —XINHUA

DUBAI, 3 April — An intense sandstorm hit the United Arab Emirates

(UAE) and other Gulf flights.

Fuelled by strong winds, the sandstorm re-

duced visibility to less than 500 metres and snarled traffic in Abu Dhabi.

The hazy weather conditions are expected to continue through Friday, according to UAE's National Centre of Meteorology and Seismology.

Flight operations at Dubai and Al-Maktoum international airports were partially disrupted by the sandstorm.

The sandstorm was caused by a high pressure front from Saudi Arabia, which along with Qatar, has shut many of its schools in several parts of the country, citing "extreme weather conditions."

Flight delays also occurred in many other Gulf countries due to reduced visibility.—Xinhua

UN finds police peacekeepers shot dead three Mali protesters

UNITED NATIONS, 3 April — UN police peacekeepers "used unauthorised and excessive force" that killed three people and injured four others during a protest in the northern Malian town of Gao in January, the United Nations said on Thursday.

A UN inquiry found that members of a police unit shot the protesters during a demonstration on 27 January, UN peacekeeping chief Herve Ladsous told reporters after briefing the UN Security Council on the findings.

Ladsous said four police were involved, but he did not identify their nationality. Gao residents accuse Rwandan police from the peacekeeping operation of firing on the protesters.

The Rwandan UN mission was not immediately available for comment.

He said the police unit commander and police involved in the incident would be returned home.

"We trust that the individuals responsible will be held fully accountable for their actions and steps are being taken in this regard in full coordination with the authorities of Mali and the authorities of the police contributing country concerned," Ladsous said.

The protest was linked to attempts by the United Nations to broker peace between armed groups in the area. The UN mission said on 27 January that only warning shots had been fired.

"The inquiry also es-

tablished that some protesters and organizers of the demonstration bear responsibility for the violence of the protest, which included Molotov cocktails, stone throwing and attempts to breach the perimeter (of the UN regional headquarters)," UN spokesman Farhan Haq said earlier on Thursday.

Five UN police officers were injured during the protest. The inquiry found that UN peacekeepers "were left to face the protesters on their own" after Malian security forces departed from their positions around the UN base.

The UN peacekeeping force in Mali, known as MINUSMA, has been seeking to broker a peace deal between the northern rebels

and the government. The rebels have refused to sign and talks are deadlocked. UN peacekeepers have deployed across northern Mali to try to stabilize the vast region, which was occupied by separatist Tuareg rebels and al-Qaeda-linked Islamists in 2012 before a French intervention in 2013. United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon "profoundly regrets the casualties among civilians resulting from the excessive use of force during this event by the MINUSMA personnel concerned," Haq said.

"The Secretary-General is committed to ensuring that the responsible individuals are held fully accountable for their actions," he said.—Reuters

Greece says ready to make IMF payment on 9 April



People holding umbrellas make their way next to fluttering Greek national flags on the main Constitution (Syntagma) square during heavy rainfall in Athens on 13 March, 2015.—REUTERS

ATHENS, 3 April — Greece will pay a loan tranche due on 9 April to the International Monetary Fund on time, its deputy finance minister said on Friday, seeking to quell fears of default after a flurry of contradictory statements on the issue in recent days.

Greece is fast running out of cash and its euro zone and International Monetary Fund lenders have frozen bailout aid until the new leftist-led government reaches agreement on a package of reforms.

That prompted the interior minister to suggest this week that Athens would prioritise wages and pensions over the roughly 450 million euro (330

million pound) payment to the IMF, though the government denied that was its stance.

Euro zone officials then said Greece told them it will run out of money on 9 April, which the finance ministry denied saying.

"We strive to be able to pay our obligations on time, Dimitris Mardas told Greece's Skai TV. "We are ready to pay on 9 April."

Athens has not received bailout funds since August last year and has resorted to last-ditch measures such as borrowing from state entities via repo transactions to tide it through the cash crunch.

The government is hoping approval of its lat-

est reforms package will unlock remaining aid of 7.2 billion euros under its EU/IMF bailout and lead to the return of about 1.9 billion euros in profits made by the European Central Bank on Greek bonds.

Mardas said state revenue in March had topped targets without providing figures, adding that progress had been made in talks with the country's official international on its latest the reforms list.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel has said Greece would receive fresh funds only once its creditors approve the comprehensive list of reforms Athens has presented.

Reuters

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**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV THAI BINH BAY VOY NO (-)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV THAI BINH BAY VOY NO (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 4.4.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W(1) where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
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AGENT FOR: M/S G LINK EXPRESS PTE LTD**
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**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV HAN JIN SANTANA VOY NO (0043)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV HAN JIN SANTANA VOY NO (0043) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 4.4.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S CHUN AN SHIPPING PTE LTD**
Phone No: 2301186

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV JIN FENG VOY NO (001)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV JIN FENG VOY NO (001) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 5.4.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S COSCO SHIPPING CO LTD.**
Phone No: 2301186

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV YU MING VOY NO (1503S)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV YU MING VOY NO (150S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 5.4.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P.L where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S TRANSFAR SHIPPING CORPORATION LTD.**
Phone No: 2301186

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV CHANG AN VISTA/BSL003
VOY NO ()**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV CHANG AN VISTA/BSL003 VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 4.4.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S BRILLIANT SKY SHIPPING CO LTD.**
Phone No: 2301186

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV APOLLO LYNX VOY NO (082)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV APOLLO LYNX VOY NO (082) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 4.4.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.I.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S CHUN AN SHIPPING PTE LTD.**
Phone No: 2301186

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV MARCLOUD VOY NO (0003S)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MARCLOUD VOY NO (0003S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 4.4.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S CHINA SHIPPING LINES**
Phone No: 2301185

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV BC SANFRANCISCO VOY NO
(002W)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV BC SANFRANCISCO VOY NO (002W) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 4.4.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S ORINET OVERSEAS CONTAINER LINES**
Phone No: 2301185

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV ANAN BHUM VOY NO (127N)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ANAN BHUM VOY NO (127N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 4.4.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S MOL (S'PORE) PTE LTD**
Phone No: 2301185

WEATHER REPORT

BAY INFERENCE: Weather is partly cloudy in the Andaman Sea and South Bay and generally fair elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.
FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 4th April, 2015: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Kachin and Chin States, isolated in Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway, Bago and Taninthayi Regions, Shan, Rakhine and Mon States and weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining Regions and States. Degree of certainty is (60%).
STATE OF THE SEA: Seas will be moderate in Myanmar waters.

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**Poland expresses intention to become
AIIB founding member**

WARSAW, 3 April — Polish Deputy Minister of Finance Artur Radziwill on Thursday said that Poland intends to join the China-proposed Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) as a founding member.

According to the *Polish Press Agency*, Poland has sent a letter of intent

to the Multilateral Interim Secretariat for AIIB. Radziwill added that Poland's participation in the AIIB was part of the country's engagement in global policy.

31 March was the application deadline. More than 40 countries have expressed the will to participate. The number of

founding members will be confirmed on 15 April.

The AIIB will be an international financial institution aimed at funding infrastructure projects in Asia. The expected initial subscribed capital will be 50 billion US dollars with its headquarters to be located in Beijing.

Xinhua

Lauren Bacall memorabilia, art sell for \$3.6 million in two-day sale



Pieces from 'The Lauren Bacall Collection' are seen during a press preview at Bonhams' Madison Avenue gallery in New York, in this file photo taken on 24 March, 2015.—REUTERS

NEW YORK, 3 April — Art and memorabilia that belonged to the late Hollywood film star Lauren Bacall sold for \$3.6 million (2.4 million pounds) during a two-day sale, according

to Bonhams auction house.

Proceeds from the marathon auction which ended late Wednesday and two bronze sculptures by British artist Henry Moore that were sold earlier at an

Impressionist and Modern Art sale brought the total for the collection to \$5 million.

Bacall, the husky voiced actress who was married to and appeared with Humphrey Bogart in films such as "The Big Sleep" and "Key Largo," died in August in New York at the age of 89.

More than 1,500 bidders from 34 countries took part in the auction which included jewellery and furniture from her New York apartment.

"Bacall's legacy will live on in the homes of her countless admirers," Jon King, director and vice president of Bonham's who organised the sale.

A John James Audu-

bon 1846 hand-coloured engraving fetched \$173,000, nearly three times its pre-sale estimate, and two paintings by Albert York, "Landscape with Tree" and "A Country Fence," sold for \$161,000, a record for the artist.

Other highlights included Humphrey Bogart's Hartmann 'Turn Table' steamer trunk that fetched \$47,500 and a granite and wrought iron games table that brought in \$26,250.

Bacall appeared in more than 30 films and also starred on Broadway. She won Tonys for the musicals "Applause" in 1970 and for "Woman of the Year" in 1981. She was also awarded an honorary Oscar in 2009.—Reuters

Last director to have worked in silent movies dies aged 106

LISBON, 3 April — Manoel de Oliveira, patriarch of Portuguese film and the world's last active director to have started his career in silent pictures, died on Thursday aged 106, colleagues said.

De Oliveira had been making movies since 1931, and age had not slowed him down. He had shot about one film a year in the past two decades, more interested in movies as art than as commercial products but always finding audiences.

He died at home in his native Porto in northern Portugal.

"His age was old. But he was a young boy at heart, which gave him enchantment with life. His attitude of an ingenuous child was admirable in his work," said actress Gloria de Matos.

His last film, a short entitled Fountain of Virtues, was premiered in December 2014, the month he turned 106. In the same month he was awarded the National Order of the Legion of Honour by France, where he was arguably more well-known than at home.

With his contemplative manner and slow-moving camera, he won acclaim far beyond Portugal

and was an annual fixture at Europe's top festivals. His many awards included two Golden Lions in Venice, the Jury Prize and a Golden Palm in Cannes for lifetime achievement.

Many of De Oliveira's films were set in Porto, and the relative backwardness of the region and elements of superstition supplied the backdrops.

Manoel Candido Pinto de Oliveira was born into a family of affluent industrialists and originally trained as an actor. Lack of commercial success and censorship at home under Antonio Salazar's dictatorship held him back as a director of feature films until the 1970s.

One of his better known films, "The Convent" (1995), starred Catherine Deneuve and John Malkovich.

Oliveira also directed Italian legend Marcello Mastroianni's last screen outing, "Journey to the Beginning of the World", released in 1997.

Oliveira's many screen appearances ranged from Portugal's first talkie, "Cancao de Lisboa", made in 1933, to a cameo role in Wim Wenders' 1995 "Lisbon Story".

Reuters

'Boyhood' actress Patricia Arquette to write memoir

LOS ANGELES, 3 April — Oscar-winning actress Patricia Arquette will write a memoir about her family and her personal take on Hollywood. Random House publisher announced it has signed a book deal by Arquette, 46, who won an Academy Award for "Boyhood", reported *Us* magazine.

The memoir will deal with "her unconventional family, being a single mother at the age of 20, and her experience as a woman

in Hollywood," according to the publisher. No title or publication date revealed yet.

"Over the years, the public has come to know aspects of me through my roles in film and television. Writing a memoir will be a new and intimate artistic journey for me, and I hope to bring to it the same honesty I have always sought to bring to my work as an actor," Arquette said, in a statement released by the publisher.—PTI



Random House publisher announced it has signed a book deal by Patricia Arquette.—PTI

Fans push 'Furious' franchise to record-setting pace

LOS ANGELES, 3 April — Actor Vin Diesel admits he made a mistake turning down the second film in the "Fast & Furious" franchise because he didn't like the script. "I realized later the audience didn't give a shit about what I thought about the script. They wanted Dom Toretto," Diesel said of his character, the leader of a team of street racers.

It may seem like Diesel and his diverse crew drive Universal Pictures' longest-running and most lucrative franchise, now with its seventh film, but the action star chalks up its longevity to "the audience claiming it as its own."

As "Furious 7" opens Friday, its weekend haul could hit \$122 million in US and Canadian ticket sales, predicted Phil Contrino, chief analyst at Box-office.com.

That would set three box office records: biggest

debut for the franchise; for the month of April, and any movie so far in 2015. The first six movies earned \$2.4 billion combined.

The cast of the family friendly PG-13 franchise stoked interest on social media, posting photos from the set and taking fan feedback, Contrino said. The movie's Facebook page has 54 million likes, higher than any other active film franchise.

"It just listens to its fans and incorporates what they say into the movies," said Contrino. "In that sense, it is a very smart franchise."

"Furious 7" features the final performance of franchise star Paul Walker, who died in a car crash in November 2013 at age 40 before filming finished. The cast said the movie sends off Walker with a touching tribute. At a time when Hollywood is under

fire for lack of diversity, the franchise boasts one of the most diverse casts of any production — with blacks, whites, Hispanics, Asians and women all breaking stereotypes.

"It is such a multicultural cast that I think our fans and audience globally see themselves in us," said Jordana Brewster, who has played Dom's sister Mia since the first film.

There is also the thread of family and brotherhood among the street racers who fight evil in far corners of the world.

"Not just in the movies, but off camera, we are a real family and I think ... the whole world knows it to be true," said Tyrese Gibson, who plays Roman. Fans may love the over-the-top, car-heavy action, but "Furious 7" director James Wan said "it is the characters you keep coming back for."—Reuters

One Direction not looking for Zayn Malik's replacement



One Direction will continue to perform as four-member band after the surprise departure of Zayn Malik from the group.—PTI

LOS ANGELES, 3 April — One Direction will continue to perform as four-member band after the surprise departure of Zayn Malik from the group.

The British boyband is not planning to find a replacement for Malik, reported TMZ.

Sources close to Si-

mon Cowell and the record label said that there will be only Harry Styles, Liam Payne, Niall Horan and Louis Tomlinson on their next album.

Zayn quit One Direction in order to become "a normal 22-year-old who is able to relax and have some private time out of the spot-

light," so he said in a statement posted on Facebook last week.

He also denied any bad blood with his former bandmates, saying, "I know I have four friends for life in Louis, Liam, Harry and Niall. I know they will continue to be the best band in the world."—PTI

GENERAL

Rio mayor says Olympic Park on schedule despite firm's finances

RIO DE JANEIRO, 3 April — Work on the Deodoro Olympic Park in Brazil is on schedule and will not be affected by layoffs at the company building it, Rio de Janeiro Mayor Eduardo Paes said on Thursday.

The mayor told journalists the 2016 Olympic host city had put up money for the venue while engineering firm Queiroz Galvão SA waits for a loan from state-run lender Caixa Econômica Federal.

Queiroz Galvão is one of 29 companies being investigated in a price-fixing and kickback scandal at state-run oil company Petroleo Brasileiro SA that is stalling

infrastructure projects and slowing Brazil's economy.

On Thursday, local media reported that Queiroz Galvão, which leads the consortium building the Olympic Park, had fired 70 workers and put more than 1,000 on alert because of difficulty obtaining the loan.

The company declined to comment on the press reports but a spokesman said work at Deodoro was on schedule. The 800 million reais (172 million pounds) park has been a major headache for organizers of next year's Olympics.

During a visit to Rio de Janeiro in February, the



A view of construction works of the X-Park at Deodoro Sports Complex for the Rio 2016 Olympic Games, in Rio de Janeiro on 2 April, 2015.—REUTERS

Olympic Organizing Committee flagged delays in building a cross-country course for equestrian sports.

Deodoro will also host basketball, mountain biking and rugby competitions.

Reuters

4 burglars dead after mine collapsed in SE China

FUZHOU, 3 April — Four burglars were killed and another two were injured after an abandoned mine collapsed in Fuzhou city in southeast China's Fujian Province on Thursday night, city officials announced on Friday.

The mine collapsed at 9:05 pm Thursday when six burglars were stealing the famous Shoushan Stone by breaking through an abandoned mine in Shoushan village in the city's Jin'an district.

One was killed at the scene and two were injured. Another three who were trapped in the mine were found dead by rescuers six hours later, officials said.

The injured burglars were sent to the hospital and are in stable conditions. Police are investigating the case.

Shoushan Stone, also known as agalmatolite, is the material for Shoushan Stone Carving, an art originating in Fujian Province.

The use of the stone for carving can be traced back as far as the Southern Dynasties and have long been used to produce handicrafts and later on in the Ming Dynasty.

Xinhua



Corinthians' Paolo Guerrero (L) vies for the ball with Dabnubio's Matias de los Santos (R) during the Group 2 match of the 2015 Libertadores Cup at Arena Corinthians in Sao Paulo, Brazil, on 1 April, 2015. Corinthians won 4-0.

XINHUA

Ghana begins commercial gas production in China-built plant

ACCRA, 3 April — A Chinese bank-funded gas processing plant built for Ghana at Atuabo, some 218 km west of the capital Accra, saw its first full gas production on Wednesday, local media has reported.

This follows the success of the phased commissioning process that began in September under the supervision of the country's energy commission. The facility, which was built by China's SINOPEC Petroleum, consists of an offshore pipeline, the Atuabo Gas Processing Plant and an

onshore pipeline.

"It's important to note that commissioning completion does not necessarily imply that the Atuabo Gas Processing Plant will be operating at maximum capacity," Alfred Ogbamey-Tetteh, public affairs manager for Ghana Gas, told local media.

He said the maximum production of the various gas products in the plant could only be achieved if the downstream off-takers or power-generating companies are ready to utilize entire volumes produced.

From last Monday, the plant with a capacity to produce 150 million standard cubic feet of gas per day (150 mscfopgd), has started supplying about 80 mscfopgd to the Aboadze Thermal Plant.

The plant also supplies 300 tonnes of Liquefied Petroleum Gas daily out of its projected maximum capacity of 500 tonnes onto the domestic market, while 30 tonnes of condensates are produced daily for power generation in the eastern power enclave in Tema, some 38 km east of Accra.—Xinhua

Five killed in sea accident in S Philippines

MANILA, 3 April — At least five people died when a passenger boat capsized in Sulu Province, Philippines on Thursday night, the military said on Friday.

Armed Forces of

Philippine public affairs office chief Lt Col Harold Canunoc said the ill-fated MPB Wilayza was overloaded when it figured in the mishap at around 10 pm between Tapul and Pata islands. "(The)

said boat was reportedly overloaded with hundreds of bags of cement, iron bars and with more or less 50 passengers, excluding the crew," said Cabunoc. Cabunoc said Col. Allan Arrojado, com-

mander of the Joint Task Group Sulu, directed the Naval Task Unit to send a Navy boat to the area after learning of the incident involving unregistered boat, which was coming from Jun D Wharf in Zamboanga City.—Xinhua

mitv Myanmar International

(4-4-2015 07:00 am~ 5-4-2015 07:00 am) MST

- | | |
|--|---|
| * News | * News |
| * Great Shwedagon: The Repository of Buddhist Scriptures And Archives | * Food Trip (Ep-10) (Part -1) |
| * Visiting A Serene Village In The Northwest of Myanmar | * Today Myanmar "Myanma Quality Gold" |
| * News | * News |
| * Ar Khar New Year Festival | * Sai Htee Hseng or An Exceptional Music Star From Shan Plateaus (Ep-3) |
| * Products of Myanmar — Velvet Slipper | * Myanmar Masterclass: Cubism |
| * News | * News |
| * Ngapali Beach: Fishing Villages | * Enchanting Rakhine Land |
| * Yathe Taung Township In A Nut-Shell | * Image of The Monks |
| * News | * News |
| * Myanmar-China Friendship Association (M.C.F.A) Travel Journal (Part-1) | * Bago: A City of Famous Historic Pagoda |
| * Myanmar-China Friendship Association (M.C.F.A) Travel Journal (Part-2) | * Grow Back for Posterity "The dawn of development" |
| * Products of Myanmar — Myanmar Circular Stone Slab | * Thingyan Lover |
| * Distinguished Myanmar Ladies "Tin Moe Lwin" | * News |
| | * Wedding Planner "Aye ThidaWin Aung" |
| | * The Richly Blessed Gem Land |
| | * News |
| | * Ambassador's View: China — Myanmar Bilateral Ties |
| | * Come and Visit, no matter the distance (Pathein) |

MRTV News Channel in Brief

(4-4-2015, Saturday)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 6:00 am | 1:10 pm |
| • Paritta by Venerable Mingun Sayadaw | • Round up of The Week's TV News |
| 6:30 am | 2:10 pm |
| • Physical Exercise | • Round up of The Week's Hluttaw News |
| 7:35 am | 3:00 pm |
| • Hyper Sports | • News |
| 8:00 am | 4:35 pm |
| • News/ International News | • University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) — Third Year (History) |
| 8:50 am | 7:00pm |
| • Songs of Thingyan Festival | • News / Weather Report |
| 9:35 am | 7:35pm |
| • MRTV's Youth Programme | • Business News |
| 10:35 am | 8:00 pm |
| • Science and Technology Programme | • News / International News / Weather Report |
| 11:35 am | 9:00 pm |
| • Game for Children | • News |
| 12:00 noon | • Pyi Thu Ni Ti |
| • News / International News / Weather Report | • Gitadagale Phwintbarohn |

MRTV Entertainment Channel

(4-4-2015, Saturday)

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| 6:00 am | Thingyan Festival |
| • Honour Song for Alinka Kyaw Swar Myoma Nyein | 8:10 am |
| 6:25 am | • Dramatic Arts |
| • Myanmar Series | 9:25 am |
| 6:40 am | • Pyi Thu Ni Ti |
| • Classical Songs | 9:50 am |
| 7:00 am | • Song and Dance of Thingyan Festival |
| • Radio Teleplay | 10:05 am |
| 8:00 am | • Myanmar Video |
| • Song and Dance of | 12:00 noon |
| | • Close down |

Ai Miyazato 1 shot off lead after ANA Inspiration 1st round

RANCHO MIRAGE, (California), 3 April — Japan's Ai Miyazato fired a 4-under-par 68 to sit



Ai Miyazato tees off on the third hole during the opening round of the ANA Inspiration golf tournament, the first major of the year on the LPGA Tour, at Mission Hills Country Club in Rancho Mirage, the United States, on 2 April, 2015.

KYODO NEWS

in second place after the opening round of the ANA Inspiration, the first major of the season on the US LPGA Tour.

Former world No 1 Miyazato chipped in an eagle and had three birdies against one bogey to trail American Morgan Pressel by one shot.

"I want to say I was pretty happy with my round today because I had a good start on 11. I chipped in for my eagle and that kind of kept my round going after that, so it was a good start," said the 29-year-old Miyazato, a nine-time winner on the US tour. "But, overall, I hit the ball well, and I hit the fairway and made the greens and made some putts. There were not many mistakes out there, so I was very happy."

Also for Japan, Ayako Uehara was 26th, Sakura Yokomine was 39th, Mika Miyazato was 51st and Harukyo Nomura was 85th.—Kyodo News

Serena edges brave Halep, Suarez Navarro awaits

MIAMI, 3 April — World number one Serena Williams edged an enthralling battle with third-seed Simona Halep 6-2, 4-6, 7-5 to set up a Miami Open final showdown against Spain's Carla Suarez Navarro, who advanced in straight sets earlier on Thursday.

After the first set and with Williams in top form, it looked to be a straightforward night at Key Biscayne for the seven-times Miami champion but the contest turned into an 128-minute slugfest as Halep simply refused to fold.

The Romanian raised her game in the second set and handled Williams' serve superbly as both players held until the 23-year-old from Constanta broke for a 5-4 lead before serving out to force a deciding set.

Again Williams looked to have finished Halep off when she broke in the second game and raced out to a 3-0 lead but

the Romanian dug deep once more to extend the contest.

With the surprisingly large contingent of Romanian fans roaring her on, Halep broke back and then held to level at 5-5.

Halep was the last player to beat Williams on the WTA Tour and another upset appeared on the cards but the top-seed held and then broke to love to finish off the match. Earlier, Suarez Navarro completed a clinical 6-3, 6-3 victory over German ninth seed Andrea Petkovic to reach her maiden final in a premier-level event and will make her top-10 debut on Monday when the world rankings are released. Navarro will be the first Spanish woman to reach the top 10 since Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario in 2001.

The 12th seed delivered a masterclass on a sun-kissed stadium court, surrendering just 12 points on her serve the entire match while never facing a break point.

Reuters



Carla Suarez Navarro celebrates after her match against Andrea Petkovic in a women's singles semi-final on day eleven of the Miami Open at Crandon Park Tennis Centre, Key Biscayne, FL, USA on 2 April, 2015.

REUTERS

Rodgers says Liverpool won't be selling Sterling

LONDON, 3 April — England forward Raheem Sterling is not for sale and will not be leaving Liverpool at the end of the season despite media speculation over his future, manager Brendan Rodgers said on Thursday.

"I'm quite relaxed about it. It's part of the modern game. He has got two and a half years left on his contract and is going nowhere this summer," Rodgers told reporters ahead of Saturday's Premier League match with Arsenal.

Sterling, in a non-permissioned interview with the BBC, denied on Wednesday he was a "money-grabbing 20-year-old" but said he was in no rush to sign a new contract.

The forward has been offered an eye-watering 100,000 pounds (\$148,300)

a week to sign a fresh deal, according to media reports.

Rodgers, who has had to deal with rumours about Sterling for most of the season, said Liverpool did not need to let the player go.

"If the club isn't going to sell, it won't sell — it's as simple as that," he added.

"For us it's about continuing the nurturing and

developing of a young player who has made huge strides in the last couple of years and for me that is the only thing to concentrate on over the remaining games until the end of the season."

Rodgers confirmed a point made by Sterling in the BBC interview that a new contract would not be discussed until the end of



Raheem Sterling celebrates after scoring the second goal for Liverpool.—Reuters

the season at the earliest.

The manager also said the reported interest shown in the player by Arsenal did not detract from Liverpool's aspirations.

"His ambition is to win trophies and be successful and that's perfectly aligned with what we are trying to do," explained Rodgers.

"Arsenal are a fantastic football club but this is Liverpool, one of the great clubs of the footballing world and it is an honour for Raheem to be playing here in front of our great supporters.

"But he understands that. He has developments to make on and off the field and this is a great place for him to be."

It will be interesting to see what kind of reception he gets from Liverpool and Arsenal fans on Saturday.

Reuters

Djokovic through to face Isner in Miami semis

MIAMI, 3 April — World number one Novak Djokovic recovered from another slow start to beat Spain's David Ferrer 7-5, 7-5 and move into the last four of the Miami Open, where he will face big-hitting American John Isner.

Djokovic trailed 4-1 in the first set but then started playing with more controlled aggression and won six of the next seven games to take the set. The Serb opened up a 3-1 lead in the second but Ferrer, playing on his 33rd birthday, stuck to his task and broke Djokovic when he was serving for the match at 5-4. However, the top seed broke straight back to give himself another chance to wrap up the contest, which this time he made sure of.

"I had to earn my points. I had to fight for

everything that I got on the court because he wasn't going to give it to me," said Djokovic, who expected a close battle with Isner.

"John is probably the best server we have in the game currently. At his height he can hit any angle he wants with that serve. He is obviously very confident playing here. He played great against (Kei) Nishikori today." The six feet 10 inches (2.08 metres) tall Isner delighted home fans when he blasted his way to a 6-4, 6-3 win over Japan's fourth-seed Nishikori. Isner never faced a break point during a dominant display where he held a 33-5 edge in winners and blasted 13 aces past his fourth-seeded opponent, including a rocket to close out the one-sided contest in a shockingly quick 70 minutes.—Reuters

Messi's injured foot has improved, say Barcelona

BARCELONA, 3 April — Lionel Messi's injured foot has improved, his club Barcelona said on Thursday, suggesting the Argentina forward will be fit for Sunday's La Liga trip to Celta Vigo.

The top scorer in Spain's top flight with 32 goals did not feature in either of Argentina's friendlies during the international break after sustaining a blow to his right foot in last month's

'Clasico' against Real Madrid.

After arriving back in the Catalan capital on Thursday, Messi and international team mate Javier Mascherano did some light running and stretching at Barca's training ground despite not being due back until Friday, the league leaders said on their website.

"The inflammation of Messi's foot has improved and the player will attempt

to join the rest of the internationals tomorrow," they added.

Barca's 2-1 win at home to Real stretched the lead over their arch rivals to four points with 10 games left.

Second-placed Real, who host Granada on Sunday, have lost form in recent weeks and the reverse at the Nou Camp was the third defeat in their last four outings in all competitions.—Reuters



Barcelona's Lionel Messi ties his shoe laces during their Spanish first division "Clasico" soccer match against Real Madrid at Camp Nou stadium in Barcelona, on 22 March, 2015.—Reuters