

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker and wife attend novitiation of 577 boys in Zeyathiri Township

NAY PYI TAW, 5 April — With the donations of Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann and wife Daw Khin Lay Thet and wellwishers, a ceremony to novitiate 577 boys with eight pre-requisites is being held from 3 to 6 April in Zeyathiri Township. A total of 167 boys were novitiated in Ky- itaungkan Village on 3 April, 97 boys in (See page 3)

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker lays wreath at memorial of Thura Ma Chit Po in PyinOoLwin

NAY PYI TAW, 5 April — A delegation of Amyotha Hluttaw led by Speaker U Khin Aung Myint laid a wreath at a memorial of Thura Ma Chit Po in PyinOoLwin on Sunday, according to officials. At the local military hospital, the speaker and MPs spoke words of encouragement to soldiers wounded in clashes of Laukkai and presented gifts to them. At a ceremony held in honour of fallen and wounded army members, the speaker said their visit was a salute to front-line military forces who risk life and limb to defend the country, medics, Red Cross members, and media persons. The remains of soldiers killed in Laukkai clashes were cremated, with their ashes brought back for burial at the Memorial to Fallen Heroes in Lashio, according to him. The speaker spoke of some people who fancy speaking ill of the defence services without understanding its gratitude, stressing that they do not realize the fact that only when the Tatmadaw is strong will the nation be strong. He recounted that Ma Chit Po was the wife of Corporal Hla Maung of No.1 Military Engineer Battalion. The government (See page 3)

UMTA, ILO organize talk on labour dispute in Mandalay



Official of International Labour Organization and representative of Union of Myanmar Travel Association give talks on labour disputes in Mandalay.

MANDALAY, 5 April — An educative talk on labour dispute was given at Swan Hotel in Mandalay on Saturday, according to Mandalay's Union of Myanmar Travel Association (UMTA). employees are required to commit themselves to their work. Participants welcomed the move and expressed their desire for similar talks in the future. "The event has armed us with knowledge about how to settle disputes through legal channels," said a tourist guide from Myanmar Travels and Tours.

The talk attracted employers and employees from hotel and tourism services, automobile services, shipping services and foods and beverages services. The talk focused on how to improve the relations between employees and employers and negotiate conflicts arising from misunderstanding between them. "Most workers here have no idea of their rights and no knowledge of laws." U Myo Yi, chairman of UMTA in Mandalay, said employers are responsible for helping their staff enhance their capacity and

Suzuki to build second plant in Myanmar, report

YANGON, 5 April — Japanese automaker Suzuki plans to invest tens of millions of dollars to build its second plant in Myanmar, according to media report on Saturday. According to the Nikkei business daily, the Japanese has already received about 50 acre (around 20 hectare) land plot for the new plant at the Thilawa Special Economic Zone, southeast of Yangon.

Amid growing auto market of the Southeast Asian country, Suzuki has sought ways for expansion of its market. Suzuki has expected 2017 for operation of facility, with construction (See page 3)

MoE invites EOIs to refine crude oil from traditional wells

NAY PYI TAW, 5 April — The Ministry of Energy has invited Myanmar nationals or citizen-owned companies to submit expressions of interest to refine crude oil produced from traditional wells from local oil fields. oil produced from legal traditional oil wells. Besides, the announcement also stated that they must be follow instructions for environmental conservation, preventive measures for fire and rules for storage, transportation and distribution of oil set by the Ministry of Energy.

A combined team comprised with officials of the Ministry of Energy and Ministry of Mines will issue the permits for refining crude oil from traditional wells to qualified companies.—GNLM

According to the announcement, refineries are restricted to use only crude

OCBC receives final approval to open branch in Myanmar

OCBC Bank is one of the first three foreign banks to receive final approval to open a branch in Myanmar, and will offer corporate internet banking in the country.

SINGAPORE, 5 April — OCBC Bank is one of the first three foreign banks to have received final regulatory approval from the Central Bank of Myanmar to open a branch in Myanmar, the bank announced in a news release on Thursday (Apr 2).

The approval follows the award of provisional banking licenses on Oct 1, 2014 to nine foreign banks, including Singapore's UOB.

OCBC's Yangon branch will start operations on Apr 23. It will offer banking services such as

cash management, project financing, and trade finance. It will also offer treasury and capital markets advisory and services to foreign companies and joint ventures, as well as domestic banks in Myanmar.

Customers will be able to open current and savings accounts denominated in Myanmar Kyat, US Dollar and Singapore Dollar, take up loans and apply for trade and foreign exchange facilities.

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Weirawsana Pagoda will be largest jade pagoda throughout the world



MANDALAY, 5 April — Weirawsana Pagoda, made of jade, is being built on a five-acre plot in Hsinywa Myinhmu village, Amarapura Township, Mandalay Region. The pagoda is located nine feet higher than Yanguon-Mandalay Expressway. The 133.5 feet by 133.5 feet platform and the

pagoda are under construction with the design of jade ware expert U Soe Naing (Aye Aye Khaing Jewellery Company) and party. Except a value of jade

pieces and slabs, construction of the pagoda costs more than K400 million. The structure of the pagoda has been decorated with jade pieces and slabs worth US\$15 million.

The walls of the pagoda are in 95 percent completion. According to the schedules, an umbrella would be hoisted atop pagoda before fullmoon day of Nayon, (1 June 2015).

Upon completion, the jade pagoda will be largest jade pagoda across the nation as well as the world and it will be a tourist designation in the nation.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)

Myanmar students show Myanmar culture, tradition at Mae Fah Lauang University

TACHILEK, 5 April — The Myanmar Culture Day and Exhibition was staged at Mae Fah Lauang University, Chaing Rai District, northern Thailand, on 3 April afternoon.

All attendees saluted the State Flags of both countries, which after President Associate Professor Dr Vanchai Sirichana presented prizes to outstanding Myanmar students.

On behalf of international students, Mr Muhammad Khalid Wardana of Malaysia read out the paper on reviewing atti-

tude over Myanmar while a female Myanmar student spoke about Myanmar's Maha Thingyan festival.

Myanmar students presented traditional dances and chorus dances in Thingyan festival. The guests were served with Myanmar traditional snacks and foods namely Monhinga, Montlonypaw, Montlehsaung and so on. They all enjoyed water-throwing festival.

More than 300 Myanmar students are pursuing education at Mae Fah Lauang University.

Maung Yin Kyay

Rural concrete road improves transport of residents

NYAUNGDON, 5 April — A ceremony to inaugurate a four-mile-long concrete road was held in Chaunggyi Village, Nyaungdon Township, Ayeyawady Region, in the last week of March. Township Rural De-

velopment Department allotted K284 million in 2014-15 fiscal year and assigned duty to Kay Khaing Oo Company for construction of a four-mile-long and 12-foot-wide road.

Thanks to the concrete

road, local residents from Chaunggyi, Zibyugon, Barlin and Chaungphyia villages will enjoy improvement of transport all the year round.

Win Myint Kyaw (Nyaungdon)



Tatkon Township conducts sports training for local youths

TATKON, 5 April — The summer sports course wrapped up at Tatkon Township Sports Ground on Saturday.

The course jointly organized by Township Sports and Physical Educa-

tion Department and Sports Subcommittee gave training to local youths in football, volleyball and Sepak Takraw events.

Officials presented prizes to outstanding trainees. Township Administra-

tor U Kan Saw Hlaing gave prize to the team that stood first in football tournament during the training period.

Altogether 87 youths attended the summer sports course.

Zin Bo

37 pandals to attract Maha Thingyan revelers in Mandalay

MANDALAY, 5 April — Mandalay Mayor's Pandal Maha Thingyan Festival will be held on a grand scale with 23 water throwing pandals around moats, nine at downtown and five at Kandawgyi Lake.

A total of 3,000 basic education students will join the festival at the Mayor's Pandal to the accompaniment of local music bands. Famous vocalists will also perform entertainment on songs and music from Akyo to Aket days of the festival, an official of Information De-

partment under Mandalay City Development Committee told media.

Mandalay's festival will be crowded with audiences and revelers as the whole city has been arranged with entertainment programmes and presentation of decorated floats.

The Three Band will perform entertainment at Alpine pandal on the southern moat of the city while the SIR band will present songs and music on the northern moat.—*Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-printing House)*



NATIONAL



Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann and wife Daw Khin Lay Thet offer provisions to a venerable abbot.—MNA

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker and wife . . .

(from page 1)
Kyaukchet Village on 4 April and 195 boys in Yez-in Village on 5 April.

On Monday, a ceremony to novitiate 118 boys will take place at Weikza

Theikpan monastery in Nan-Aw Village.

From 3 to 6 April, meals were offered to Buddhist monks and served to local people.

The ceremonies were

also attended by Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann, wife Daw Khin Lay Thet, well-wishers and officials of Hluttaw Office together with local residents.

MNA

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, wife enjoy entertainment of Laotian cultural troupe

NAY PYI TAW, 5 April — Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla enjoyed entertainments of a goodwill cultural troupe led by Colonel Saisamone Salapseng of the Lao People's Armed Forces at the hall of Zeyathiri Beikman,

here, on Sunday evening.

Members of the Lao cultural troupe presented traditional dances and songs, military songs of Lao People's Armed Forces and ASEAN songs in addition some Myanmar songs.

Among the audiences were Deputy Command-

er-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win and wife Daw Than Than Nwe, senior military officers and their wives, and Laotian Ambassador Mr Lyying Sayaxang and wife.

After the entertainments, the senior general and wife and the Laotian

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker lays . . .

(from page 1)
troops were forced to retreat as multicoloured insurgents launched a surprise attack on PyinOoLwin on 23 February 1949. She, on her own volition, gathered information about the locations of enemy bases and locations of their heavy guns. Her information enabled the army to launch effective offensives. In a fight, she was seriously wounded in the abdomen. While receiving medical

treatment in PyinOoLwin, she was caught as a traitor informed her location of the enemy.

She suffered gruesome tortures in her captivity and became unconscious. The insurgents threw her into a well and piled bricks over her. She lost her life to the country on 8 April 1949. She died at the age of 42. She was awarded Thura, a medal for bravery. She was the one and only woman to have received such a military title.

Speaker U Khin Aung Myint presented K50 million for fallen soldiers, an MP K20 million for wounded soldiers, and the Amyotha Hluttaw Office K10 million for female soldiers.

On 4 April, artistes entertained wounded soldiers at the military hospital in PyinOoLwin. Speaker U Khin Aung Myint sang "Village Convention" in honour of the wounded soldiers.—MNA



Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint lays a wreath at tomb of Thura Ma Chit Po in PyinOoLwin.—MNA

Ambassador and wife presented flower baskets to the cultural troupe.

Similar entertainments will be performed at Hsin-

byushin Hall of Transit Centre in Nay Pyi Taw on 7 April and the Royal City of Mandalay on 9 April.

Myawady

Suzuki to build second plant in Myanmar, . . .

(from page 1)
starting later this year, by hiring about 300 employees and investment of several billion yen, according to the report.

The possible manufacturing capacity of the new plant is about 10,000 units of car annually by assembling imported parts. Immediate confirmation of the report was not available.

Suzuki initially stepped into Myanmar in 1999 through a local joint venture, but withdrew in 2010. It reentered the country in 2013 due to democratic reform process.

Myanmar relaxed vehicle import regulation between 2010 and 2011 by making easier the import of commercial vehicles, and more auto industries from China, India and South Korea are also eyeing the Myanmar market.—GNLM



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla pose for documentary photo with cultural troupe of Lao People's Armed Forces.—MYAWADY

OCBC receives . . .

(from page 1)
OCBC said it will be among the first foreign banks to offer internet banking facilities to corporate customers in Myanmar.

The new OCBC Yangon Branch has a registered capital of US\$75

million (S\$102 million) and is staffed with over 20 employees, more than half of whom are Myanmar nationals.

OCBC has had a presence in Myanmar for six decades, having first operated as a branch there from 1923 to 1963, and subse-

quently as a representative office in Yangon for the past 20 years.

Mr Linus Goh, Head of Global Commercial Banking at OCBC said the return of its branch is a "significant addition" to the bank's regional footprint, because of strong interest in Myanmar from customers across Southeast Asia and Greater China.—CNA

Progress of Myanmar-Laos Friendship bridge inspected

YANGON, 5 April — Union Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lwin on Wednesday visited Shan State to inspect progress of regional development projects including construction of border control facilities (CBF) at Myanmar-Laos

Friendship bridge.

During his visit, U Kyaw Lwin inspected up-grading of a 35-mile-long Tahley-Pahlyio-Kenglak road and installation of town entry signs at the entrance to Kenglak Town of the region.—MNA

Onion, garlic producers, growers seek proper market



MANDALAY, 5 April — A workshop on seeking market for onion and market development at the city hall in Chanayethazan Township, Mandalay, on Saturday, with Mandalay Region Minister for Planning and Economy U Aung

Zan in attendance.

Deputy Director-General U Myint Soe of Trade Promotion Department spoke on the occasion while Chairman of Myanmar Onion, Garlic and Kitchen Crops Producers Association U Khin Han explained purpose of staging the workshop.

Chairmen of Mandalay, Sagaing and Magway Region associations discussed markets of onion and garlic in their regions.

On behalf of local farmers, U Kyaw Moe Lin, onion grower from Natogyi Township, explained needs of farmers and seeking the proper market of crops.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)

Police in Myanaung distribute pamphlets on traffic rules to road users in front of Naychi market in Myanaung, Ayeyawady Region, on 5 April for reducing traffic accidents during Maha Thingyan festival 1376 ME.

WIN BO
(TOWNSHIP IPRD)



Trains on Mandalay-Bagan not take holidays during Maha Thingyan festival period



NATOGYI, 5 April — The trains running along Mandalay-Bagan railroad regularly, an RBE train running along Myingyan-Myohta section will take holidays during Maha Thingyan festival period.

This year, Maha Thingyan festival will be held from 13 to 16 April.

Htay Myint Maung

Emerald green project member households achieve success in businesses

ZALUN, 5 April — Thaphangon Village is one of eight villages included in Emerald Green Project area

in Zalun Township, Ayeyawady Region.

Local residents from 263 households borrowed

loans from the Township Rural Development Department to implement the project. Officials of Township

Project Supervisory Committee inspected agriculture, livestock breeding, trade and production on a manageable scale. Most of project member households achieve success in their businesses.

Township RDD



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REGIONAL

Cambodia to pass bill governing NGOs

PHNOM PENH, 5 April — Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen said on Sunday that his government will pass a law governing the non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and associations by May.

“It is necessary to make the law on Non-Governmental Organizations (and Associations). Without it, the government does not know the sources of funding where those NGOs are getting from,” he said during a visit to dumb, deaf and blind children at an organization.

“The government will approve the draft law by May, and then send it to the National Assembly for adoption,” he said, adding that the adoption of the law will need a 50 percent plus one majority vote, or 63 votes only, in the National

Assembly.

The prime minister said the law will require NGOs to register their nationalities with the Cambodian government in order to have legal standing and those NGOs will be required to file annual reports on their activities and finances. The law is aimed at improving NGOs’ accountability and transparency, as well as fighting against terrorism financing, money laundering, and creation of illegal armed forces, he said. “We do not make the law to prevent the activities of NGOs, but we want to see them operate transparently,” he said.

According to the figures of the Ministry of Interior, currently, there are 2,672 NGOs and 1,706 associations in Cambodia.

Xinhua

Japan, S Korea to resume security dialogue later this month

TOKYO, 5 April — Japan and South Korea have broadly agreed to resume a long-suspended security dialogue later this month to discuss the current situation on the Korean Peninsula and other East Asian region, bilateral diplomatic sources said on Saturday.

The two countries’ dialogue involving senior foreign affairs and defence officials has not been held since December 2009 due to deteriorating bilateral ties over history-related issues, including “comfort women” recruited to work in wartime brothels for the

Japanese military during Japan’s colonial rule from 1910 to 1945.

Foreign ministers of both nations agreed in their meeting in Seoul last month to hold the dialogue at the earliest convenient time.

Despite chilled ties between Tokyo and Seoul over historical and territorial disputes, both sides judged “it is necessary to first hold the security consultations that build trust” before attending to other issues in the face of North Korea’s nuclear development, one of the sources said.—Kyodo News

Bangladesh opposition leader Zia granted bail in graft cases

DHAKA, 5 April — Bangladesh’s former premier and main opposition leader Khaleda Zia was granted bail in two graft cases on Sunday after she appeared before a special court, a potential sign of easing tension in the politically unstable South Asian country.

Zia appeared amid tight security before a special anti-graft court in the capital, Dhaka, to request bail more than a month after warrants for her arrest were issued, her lawyers said.

Zia’s Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) has intensified protests this year in a bid to force Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to step down and hold a new vote

under a neutral caretaker administration after a disputed 2014 poll. The BNP refused to take part in the 2014 general election, saying it was rigged.

Zia’s lawyer, Sanaullah Miah, told reporters she had been unable to appear for previous court hearings “for health and security reasons”. Her next court appearance was set for 5 May.

The 69-year-old former leader has been staying in her office in Dhaka’s diplomatic enclave since she was prevented from holding a mass rally on 5 January, the first anniversary of the disputed election.

Zia waved to dozens of chanting supporters as she left the court to return to her



Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia

home. The court’s decision to grant her bail could be a sign of easing tension.

More than 120 people have been killed and hundreds injured in political violence, most in petrol bomb attacks on vehicles, amid transport blockades

and strikes by the opposition aimed at toppling the government.

Zia is accused of embezzling \$650,000 in two corruption cases involving charitable funds during her last term as prime minister, from 2001 to 2006. She and leaders of her party have denied the charges, saying they are politically motivated.

She is also facing charges of instigating the violence.

Bangladeshi politics have been mired for years in rivalry between Hasina and Zia. Both women are related to former national leaders, and they have alternated as prime minister for most of the past two decades.

Reuters

Hundreds of people return home in Philippines as typhoon weakens

MANILA, 5 April — Hundreds of people in the north of the main Philippine island of Luzon left evacuation centres and returned home on Sunday after a typhoon weakened significantly as it made landfall, although officials still warned of heavy rain and rough seas.

Once described as super typhoon Maysak as it bore down on the Philippines in recent days, the storm was carrying winds of 55 km ph (35 mph) and was rated as a tropical depression as it made landfall on Sunday morning.

“We thank God,” said Alexander Pama, executive director of the Nation-

al Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council. “From a super typhoon a week ago, we now have a tropical depression. We are spared once more from a disaster.”

Pama said no reports of casualties had been received as residents in coastal towns in the Luzon provinces of Isabela and Aurora emerged from shelters to return home.

However, he warned people in low-lying areas and near mountain slopes to remain vigilant because the storm could still bring heavy rains, flash floods and landslides.

Fishing boats and small ferries were still prohibited



Stranded passengers take a break near a ticketing booth at a port in Marinduque Island, central Philippines on 4 April, 2015 after ferry services were stopped in preparation for an approaching storm.—REUTERS

from returning to sea.

While there were still some travel restrictions, the weakening of the storm was generally good news as millions of Filipinos began returning to the capital from beaches and mountain resorts after the four-day Easter holiday.

Maysak, which carried winds of about 250 kph (155 mph) at its peak, killed nine people as it barreled through the sparsely populated Federated States of Micronesia east of the Philippines, smashing houses and destroying crops.—Reuters



The long exposure photograph taken before dawn on 4 April, 2015 shows scorching lava flow and giant ash clouds released from the crater during the eruption of Mount Sinabung volcano seen from Kuta Tengah Village in Karo district of Indonesia’s North Sumatra province. 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.—XINHUA

Malaysian helicopter crash kills PM’s senior aide and former envoy to US

KUALA LUMPUR, 5 April — Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak’s chief of staff and a former ambassador to the United States, who was also a senior member of Najib’s party, were among six people killed in a helicopter crash near the capital, officials said on Sunday.

Witnesses told state news agency Bernama they saw the helicopter explode in mid-air before it crashed into the ground in the town of Semenyih outside Kuala Lumpur late on

Saturday.

The Prime Minister’s Office said the helicopter was carrying guests back from a wedding reception for Najib’s daughter.

Malaysian officials also confirmed that Najib’s chief of staff, Azlin Alias, and lawmaker Jamaluddin Jarjis, a former Malaysian ambassador to the United States, were among those killed in the crash.

A grief-stricken Najib told a news conference late on Saturday “no stone will be left unturned” by inves-

tigators determining the cause of the crash.

“We have lost two figures who had made great contributions to the government, party and country in this tragedy,” Bernama quoted a tearful Najib as saying.

He said Jamaluddin had played a significant role in building close ties between Malaysia and the United States. Jamaluddin was also a senior member of Najib’s United Malays National Organization, the party that has led the coali-

tion that has ruled Malaysia since independence in 1957.

“His loss is a big tragedy to me and I am deeply saddened by what has happened,” Najib said.

The other four killed were identified as businessman Tan Huat Seang, the pilot, co-pilot and a bodyguard. All six bodies were recovered from the wreckage on Saturday night, officials said. Malaysia’s civil aviation department has begun an investigation.—Reuters

Suga, Okinawa governor remain apart over Futenma relocation

NAHA, 5 April — Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga and Okinawa Gov Takeshi Onaga remained apart in a meeting on Sunday in Naha amid a confrontation between the central and Okinawa governments over the planned relocation of a US air base within the island prefecture.

The talks were the first between Suga, the right-hand man of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, and Onaga since he became governor in December with a pledge to block the plan to build a replacement facility in a coastal area of Nago for the US Marine Corps' Futenma Air Station in Ginowan.

During the meeting, a portion of which was open to reporters, Suga reiterated the central government's position that the current relocation plan is the "only solution" when considering several factors, including Japan's alliance with the



Okinawa Gov Takeshi Onaga (L) and Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga hold talks at a hotel in Naha in Japan's southernmost island Prefecture Okinawa on 5 April, 2015. They remained apart amid a confrontation between the central and Okinawa governments over the planned relocation of a US air base within the prefecture. —KYODO NEWS

United States and the need to alleviate the risk of accidents posed by the existing base.

Onaga, for his part, held firm to his position, saying that he was "convinced that the new base in Henoko can never be built." "You say we

should shoulder (the burden) because (Futenma) is the most dangerous (base) in the world and its risks need to be removed, all the while causing the people of this prefecture great pain. Your saying that it-self shows the decadence of politics in Japan."

Suga, who doubles as minister in charge of reducing the burden on Okinawa from hosting the bulk of US forces in Japan, said he hopes to regain trust from the people of Okinawa by working with the prefectural government, while reducing their burden one

step at a time.

The planned relocation of the Futenma base to the less populated Henoko district of Nago is part of a broader realignment of the US military presence in Okinawa.

Tensions rose last month when Onaga, who in the November gubernatorial election beat the then governor who gave the go-ahead to the base relocation plan, ordered the local office of the Defence Ministry to stop undersea work ahead of land reclamation at the relocation site.

While calling for a frank exchange of views with Onaga, the top government spokesman was aware of the difficulties ahead, telling reporters Thursday in Tokyo, "I don't think a single round of talks will solve the problem."

On Saturday, Suga and Onaga attended a ceremony in Ginowan to mark

the return to Okinawa of a housing area used by the US military, agreed on by the Japanese and US governments in 2013 as part of efforts to ease the hosting burden of the prefecture.

The West Futenma Housing Area in Ginowan encompasses 51 hectares — 11 times the size of Tokyo Dome.

Vowing to reduce the burden on Okinawa "step by step" and in a "visible form," Suga said the government will also make utmost efforts to promote the economy in Okinawa.

The central government will cooperate with local authorities in realizing the Okinawa people's request to transform the site of the West Futenma Housing Area into an international medical center and a plan by the operator of Universal Studios Japan to open a theme park in Okinawa, he said.

Kyodo News

Zarif stresses benefits to Iran of framework nuclear deal



Iran's Foreign Minister Javad Zarif

DUBAI/BEIRUT, 5 April — All United Nations Security Council resolutions related to Iran's nuclear programme will be lifted immediately if a final deal is agreed, Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said on Saturday, stressing the benefits to Iran of this week's negotiations. After leading Iranian negotiators to a preliminary deal with world powers in Switzerland, Zarif must now convince a domestic audience that the talks are heading toward a final deal that is in Iran's interest.

He disputed a "fact sheet" released by the United States shortly after the deal that emphasised Iranian concessions and referred to sanctions being suspended rather than lifted and only after confirmation that Teheran has complied with the terms of the agreement.

"The Americans put what they wanted in the fact sheet... I even protested this issue with (US Secretary of State John) Kerry himself," he said in a television interview cited by the *Fars* news agency, adding that UN Security Council would oversee any deal.

"Either side in this agreement can, in the case of the other side violating the agreement, cease its own steps," Zarif said. He mirrored earlier comments by US President Barack Obama that sanctions could be reapplied if Iran did not stick to its word. "Whatever work we have on the nuclear programme can be

restored... Our knowledge is local and no one can take that away from us," he added.

Iran's lead negotiator, who was welcomed back to Teheran by cheering crowds on Friday, insisted that Iran had negotiated from a position of strength to secure a good preliminary deal.

He pointed to the changes in the demands of the P5+1 group of countries — the United States, France, Britain, Germany, Russia and China — as evidence of the success of negotiations that began two years ago. "They realized they can't shut down Iran's nuclear programme."

Zarif said Iran would keep its promises so long as the West also did so, and suggested a deal could open the door to more productive relations with the international community, echoing comments on Friday by President Hassan Rouhani.

"We don't want anything more than our rights," he said. "We've never pursued a bomb in the past or now. We're also not looking for regional hegemony. We want good relations with our neighbours in the region."

US officials have insisted that a detailed list of specific items agreed at the Lausanne talks, which the US side released on Thursday, was not open to further negotiation and would be part of the final overall agreement to be worked out by end-June.

A senior US official told reporters on Friday that Iran and the six nations had agreed they could release their own interpretations of the deal, but there were not to be any discrepancies about facts.

"We understood we would have different narratives, but we wouldn't contradict each other," the official said.

The US fact sheet described its contents as "the key parameters" of a final deal to be agreed by 30 June. It said key details were subject to further negotiation, adding that "nothing is agreed until everything is agreed." —Reuters

Modi advocates use of modern technology in India's judicial system

NEW DELHI, 5 April — Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday advocated the need for implementation of modern technology in the country's judicial system to bring about a qualitative change. "The quicker we get technology in this field, the easier it is to bring about a qualitative change. Judiciary should be both powerful and perfect. This is the place that is trusted by the common people," he said.

The prime minister was addressing a joint conference of chief justices and chief ministers of all states in the national capital. Stating that what the people in the judicial system do is divine, he told the judges: "Yours is an extraordinary responsibility and people of nation have high expectations from you." The last such conference on administration of justice was held two years back. —Xinhua

Hashimoto to expel lawmaker who skipped Diet vote on budget

TOKYO, 5 April — Osaka Mayor Toru Hashimoto said on Saturday he will expel from his political group a lower house lawmaker who had skipped a vote on the state budget while being found to have dined out or traveled before and after it.

Sayuri Uenishi, 31, a member of the House of Representatives from the Japan Innovation Party, will be expelled from the party's Osaka affiliate, which is represented by Hashimoto. It is uncertain whether she will leave the opposition party itself of which Hashimoto is co-leader.

"I've judged comprehensively from a series of her words and deeds," Hashimoto said in a stump speech in Osaka, adding he cannot accept the account



Undated photo shows Sayuri Uenishi, a member of the House of Representatives from the opposition Japan Innovation Party. KYODO NEWS

of Uenishi.

Uenishi, who is in her second term, was absent from the lower chamber's plenary session on 13 March when a vote was held on the country's fis-

cal 2015 budget, citing ill health.

Uenishi said she had been seen in a hospital in Tokyo the previous day for vomiting and diarrhea but felt better soon and dined out with another lawmaker that night.

She has also acknowledged she visited Kyoto on 15 March with her secretary and stayed overnight, while saying it was a business trip. "Voting on budgets is the most important job for Diet members. It's unacceptable she skipped it," Hashimoto said.

On Friday, Hashimoto said he believes Uenishi should resign as a Diet member, at a press conference where she apologized and pledged a "sincere response" to prevent any recurrence.

Kyodo News

SNP leader denies saying she prefers Cameron as PM to rival

LONDON, 5 April — The leader of the Scottish National Party, which could help decide who governs Britain after May's election, denied on Saturday that she had said privately she wanted David Cameron to remain prime minister rather than his main rival.

Nicola Sturgeon, whose personal status has soared since an assured appearance in a major TV debate on Thursday, was said to have told the French ambassador to Britain in February that she would rather see Cameron remain in power over Labour leader Ed Miliband, the *Daily Telegraph* newspaper reported.

She was also reported to have said she did not see Miliband as prime minister material.

The issue is politically sensitive because the allegations could help Labour, whose vote in Scotland has slumped in the wake of an SNP onslaught, with its argu-

ment that voting SNP could lead to another Conservative-led government.

The Telegraph's assertion was based on a leaked memo written last month by a British civil servant who had spoken to the French Consul-General to get his account of the meeting between Sturgeon and the ambassador. However, French officials involved and Sturgeon, Scotland's First Minister, have said the claims were incorrect.

"I'm saying these comments weren't made. The French Ambassador who I was talking to said these comments weren't made," Sturgeon told BBC TV.

"The French Consul-General who is reported to have said I said these things said he didn't say that, then the question of whether or not I said this should actually be put to one side."

Britain's most senior civil servant later said there would be



Nicola Sturgeon, the leader of Scottish National Party (SNP), speaks at a CND Scotland anti-trident rally in Glasgow, Scotland, on 4 April, 2015.

REUTERS

an inquiry into the source of the leak at Sturgeon's request.

Cameron's Conservatives are running neck and neck in the polls with Labour, and commentators predict that Sturgeon's surging SNP will win capture many Labour seats

in Scotland meaning it could hold the balance of power in Westminster.

The Telegraph said the memo appeared to confirm speculation that the SNP wanted another Conservative-led government in London as that could boost support for her party's campaign for independence.

Last September, Scots rejected voted 55-45 percent to stay part of the United Kingdom but there has been a surge of nationalism since then. "I think these are damning revelations," Miliband told Sky News. "What it shows is that while in public the SNP are saying they don't want to see a Conservative government, in private they are actually saying they do want a Conservative government." Sturgeon has ruled out propping up a minority Conservative government but said her party could support a Labour administration.—*Reuters*

Pope tells Catholics at Easter vigil: seek truth, beauty and love



Pope Francis

ROME, 5 April — Pope Francis led the world's 1.2 billion Roman Catholics into Easter on Saturday night, urging them at a vigil Mass to shun indifference and boldly live their faith. Marking the third Easter since his election in 2013, the pope maintained an Easter vigil tradition by baptising late entries into the Church. He administered the sacrament to a 13-year-old Cambodian girl and nine adults, including a 66-year-old woman from Kenya, the country where al Shabaab Islamist militants killed 148 people at a university, apparently singling out Christians to kill while letting some Muslims escape. At his Good Friday service a day earlier, he prayed for persecuted Christians. One of the adults newly welcomed into the Church was a 29-year-old Italian citizen of Egyptian origin, whose name indicated he may have been born into a Muslim family. He chose Paul as his new Christian name.

The Vatican gave no details of their previous religious backgrounds. In his homily, Francis called on Catholics to learn how to "enter the mystery" of Easter, the commemoration of the Christian belief that Jesus rose from the dead three days after his crucifixion.

"To enter into the mystery means going beyond our own comfort zone, beyond the laziness and indifference which hold us back, and going out in search of truth, beauty and love," Francis said. "It is seeking a deeper meaning, an answer, and not an easy one, to the questions which challenge our faith, our fidelity and our very existence," he said. St Peter's Basilica was in darkness for the start of the service to signify the darkness in Jesus' tomb between his death and resurrection. The faithful held lit candles as the pope walked up the main aisle, and then the basilica's lights were turned on in a blaze. Signifying the end of the penitential season of Lent, which began on 18 February with Ash Wednesday, the basilica's great bells rang out at the midpoint of the Mass. On Sunday, the pope will say another Mass in St Peter's Square and then deliver his twice yearly "Urbi et Orbi" (to the city and the world) blessing and message from the basilica's central balcony.—*Reuters*

France halts search for bodies at Germanwings crash site

MARSEILLE, 5 April — French investigators have ended their search for bodies in the Alps where a Germanwings passenger jet crashed last month, killing all 150 people on board, a local official said on Saturday.

Prosecutors believe German co-pilot Andreas Lubitz deliberately flew the *Airbus A320* jet into the mountainside during a flight from Barcelona to Dusseldorf, pulverising the aircraft and making recovery efforts extremely complicated.

"The search for bodies is over, but the search for the victims' personal belongings is continuing," a spokesman for the local government authority in the Alpes-de-Haute-Provence region told *Reuters*.

"Lufthansa has also hired a specialist firm to remove the debris of the aircraft, under the authority of the French public prosecutor and an expert in charge of environmental supervision of the operations," he said.

Lufthansa (LHAG.DE) is the

parent company of the lowcost Germanwings carrier.

The identification of victims will now continue through the analysis of 150 sets of DNA found at site, which could take several weeks. The prosecutor leading the French legal probe has cautioned that the number of DNA sets does not necessarily mean all the victims have been found.

As soon as a DNA set is matched to one of the victims, the family will immediately be

informed.

Work to remove aircraft debris and clean up the site will start next week and could take up to two months, said General David Galtier, a regional French police commander in charge of the operation.

Cockpit audio recordings from the first black box, recovered hours after the 24 March crash, led prosecutors to believe that Lubitz locked the captain out of the cockpit and put the plane into a steep descent.

This version of events appeared to be further corroborated by data from the second 'black box' recorder that was recovered earlier this week.

A separate German legal inquiry has pointed to mental health problems affecting the 27-year-old Lubitz.

German prosecutors said on Thursday that the co-pilot had made Internet searches on ways to commit suicide in the days ahead of the crash, as well as searches about cockpit doors and safety precautions.

According to *Der Spiegel* magazine on Friday, the prosecutors searched the offices of five doctors whose help Lubitz had sought.

Lufthansa has said Lubitz told its flight school in 2009 he had gone through a period of severe depression.

Reuters



An aerial photo taken from a helicopter shows the crash site of the Germanwings Airbus A320 and its debris on the mountainside near e Seyne-les-Alpes on 3 April, 2015.—REUTERS

PERSPECTIVES

Monday, 6 April, 2015

A mature society will never accept hate speech

By Myint Win Thein

Any act which is intended or is likely to promote feelings of hatred, enmity or discord between racial or religious communities or sects is contrary to this Constitution, according to section 364 of the state constitution.

It is not just a provision of the constitution but also a basic social norm that should be abided by every human being in every part of the world.

However, there are many humans who are instigating hatred among humans. Such acts will never lead to peace even if their hate speeches are supported by many others. One should not think one is successful because one has many followers who spread hatred. They are the people who will destroy a harmonious and peaceful society sooner or later.

The one who is really successful in his or her life is a person who can bring about genuine peace for a society by getting rid of all hatred that existed for many years. It doesn't matter how many supporters they have, those who create new ha-

tred are just destructionists for a society. People who really love a society will never destroy it but some people who say they love their society may destroy it. A mature society will never accept hate speech.

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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.

What parents should expect from for-profit education

By Myo Myint

With the aim of diversifying the education sector in Myanmar, the private sector was permitted to establish schools that teach according to the curriculum and regulations prescribed by the Ministry of Education in 2012 after the enactment of the private school law. This initiative has resulted in three positive outcomes. It has expanded parents' choice regarding the education of their children, raised competition among schools enhancing education quality, and enabled the government to concentrate its resources on the section of the population that genuinely needs assistance with education.

This opening up of the education sector to the private sector has attracted many investors with various motives. From a financial point of view, the education sector is a growth area for profit generation as many parents living in urban areas and some affluent parents living in rural areas are in search of top-quality education for their offspring and are willing to spend a large portion of their income on it. From a social perspective, the education sector is an extremely attractive one for those with a strong desire to contribute to the intellectual, moral and physical developments of young people. From the faith dimension, education institutions create opportunity to strengthen religious faith from a young age and also win new converts. Hence, the opportunity to establish private schools has been taken up by many and the

number is growing annually with private schools even spreading to smaller towns in the country. Just as good government schools have their advantages, such as, the low cost of schooling, experienced teachers, effective discipline, egalitarian atmosphere and spacious grounds, so also good private schools have their advantages. They possess skilled teachers, effective heads and modern facilities, and can provide individual attention as they can limit the number of students.

Due to the high school fees charged by private schools, parents expect better results and better facilities. Busy parents who send their offspring off to private boarding schools, located in the town or city where they live or in a different town or city, also expect private schools to only take care of their children's academic development, but also their social, moral and physical developments on their behalf. Some well-established private schools are able to live up to the parents' high expectations and provide all-round development to their students, while others serve more as cram schools and are more concerned about examination results, as they serve as one of the main attractions for most parents.

With the new academic year about to begin, parents ponder on which school they should send their children to in the coming academic year and owners of private schools are advertising their schools drawing attention to their advantages. Some of the ads centre on the cre-

dentials of the school owners. Some focus attention on the number of distinctions gained by the previous year's matriculation students, some make the claim that students do not need to take tuition because of the good and comprehensive instruction they provide, some emphasize the qualifications of teachers, some point to the good facilities they have, and some stress on character and all-round development being instilled by their schools.

It must be acknowledged that all parents want their children to be outstanding in their education and to be able to gain high marks in their matriculation exam so that they can choose the subject they want to specialize in when they attend the university. We also know that parents are willing to spend as much as they can on the education of their children, even to the extent of undergoing great deprivations to do so. But, should gaining high marks in the matriculation exam be the be-all and end-all of providing basic education to children? Education after all is not just to prepare young people to study for a profession at a university. Among others, education also trains students on promoting health, thinking skills, creativity, communication and social skills, making use of what they have learnt as a basis to carry out lifelong learning, asserting rights and recognizing obligations to society, living harmoniously with others in society, appreciating and accepting diversity, sharing and caring, being able to work together with others as a team

and endeavouring for the progress of mankind and the protection of their environment. Hence, parents need to carefully observe whether the school they decide for their children are endeavouring to provide all the different types of training or just academic success, so that they grow up to be not just academically outstanding but also to be persons of good health, sound character, able to live in perfect harmony with their society and who can make positive contributions to its development. Moreover, parents and schools must provide young people with enough time for leisure, so that there is a good balance among work, play and pursuits of their interest in their young life.

Consequently, it is important for parents to consider the following points and not just how many distinctions the previous batch of students of a school got before deciding on which private school they should send their child to.

The first point is location. Whether the school is located in a good clean environment and not next to factories belching out thick smoke, or behind smelly markets, and whether it is close enough to the student's home so that the child does not have to spend half the day travelling to and from school in order that he/she will have some time to relax are points to consider. So also, parents should definitely consider whether the school has a modern outlook and has set visions, mission and goals appropriate to the time, aims of the education sector and the needs of society, and

see what they are doing to achieve them and whether they coincide with the parent's priorities.

The next factor for parents to think about is the facilities the school provides. In this connection, parents must ensure that both they and their children are getting their money's worth. The school they choose for their child should provide children with modern facilities necessary to widen their general knowledge, carry out in-depth and practical studies of their school subjects, and develop their physical and intellectual capacities. Private schools should possess the standard facilities of a school such as, playground, gym, library, science labs, language labs, computer labs and assembly hall. Parents must demand that the school look like a school, be like a school, must have space enough to carry out the activities of a proper school, and fit for active, growing children. They must not be located in cramped rooms, apartment building or a series of unconnected apartments as they are schools and not tuition classes.

The next point for parents to consider is the academic programmes and extracurricular activities the school provides. Parents should try to find out if the school covers the whole prescribed syllabus and not just the bits they consider important so that students thoroughly master the subjects they study and not merely those portions important for the exam. Moreover, as private schools are permitted to offer a few subjects in addition to the subjects prescribed by the Education Ministry, par-

ents should find out if the additional subjects will be useful to their children in their future life, have a systematic syllabus and are taught by qualified teachers. In addition to the academic programmes, a school that seeks to offer comprehensive education should take their students outside the confines of classrooms and connect what they are learning with the real world. They need to hold sports activities, and competitions that promote communication, artistic and other abilities, and take children on school outings to learn about their surroundings, nature, people, culture, history, the work people do, etc. Parents should also find out if the school also produces students who are outstanding in other spheres apart from the academic area such as sports, art, music, dancing and community service as these talents will play an important role at some point in the life of their children.

The next factor for parents to consider is the qualifications and experience of the teachers and the methodology they use to instruct. While there is no doubt that all teachers who are appointed in private schools will have the necessary qualifications and certificates, it must be pointed out that they must also have the understanding, skill and vision to impart knowledge and develop thinking skills from the lowest to the highest class using active student-centred methodology and relevant techniques while creating a joyful environment for learning, creating, innovating, observing, (See page 9)

China-Myanmar Friendship Association donates painting to Shwedagon Pagoda



China-Myanmar Friendship Association officials present painting to Shwedagon Pagoda's Board of Trustees.—ZAW MIN LATT

YANGON, 5 April — ship Association donated million depicting Maha China-Myanmar Friend- a painting worth US\$ 1.5 Parinibbana of the Lord

Buddha to Shwedagon Pagoda on Sunday.

Mr Geng Zhiyuan of the association presented a painting to Chairman of Myanmar-Japan Friendship Association and member of the pagoda board of trustees U Sein Win Aung and party.

Principal Mr Gao Feng of the Dunhuang Academy of Painting and Calligraphy took two years in creation of the painting.

In commemoration of the 65th anniversary of Myanmar and China diplomatic relations, the China-Myanmar Friendship Association donated the painting to Shwedagon Pagoda in Yangon.

Zaw Min Latt

Fire alarm control system being installed at departmental buildings in Nay Pyi Taw

NAY PYI TAW, 5 April — Dr Kan Zaw, Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development, on Saturday visited Central Equipment Statistics and Inspection Department as well as National Archives here to inspect progress of the work.

Before starting his inspection tours to the Fire Command Centre of the department, the Union minister heard reports of director-general who clarified installation of fire alarm control system and construction of ground tank and pump houses at the au-

tomotive garages.

Dr Kan Zaw then inspected the demonstration of fire drill at the garage No. 3, urging his officers to maintain the fire alarm control system and to provide trainings to staff.

During his visit to the National Archives (Nay Pyi Taw) which is under construction, he also urged the staff to put more efforts to soonest open the building which is one of the most important national buildings that help people provide reference services on the records.

MNA

Local national races stage demonstration for peace in Mon State

THATON, 5 April — Local national races in Thaton in Mon State who wish for peace took to the street to finalize the nationwide ceasefire agreement at the end of April on Sunday. They staged a demonstration for 45 minutes at 7 am.

"We are staging the demonstration because we wish for peace and our country has always been in armed conflicts between national races since I was

born," one of the Kayin national demonstrators said.

About 1,150 Kayin, Pa-O and Mon nationals participated in the demonstration, holding placards that read "We all wish for peace" and chanting slogans for peace. Another demonstration for peace took place in Mudon, Mon State. The demonstrators marched round the town with placards and shouted slogans for peace.

On 5 April, demonstration demanding the signing of the NCA at the end of April took place in three towns in Mon State including Thaton, Mudon and Kyaikmaraw, according to sources.—*Thaton District and Mon State IPRD*

Ethnics and local residents express wish to finalize nationwide ceasefire agreement.
THATON TOWNSHIP IPRD



What parents should . . .

(from page 8)

imitating, practising and playing and refraining from using rote learning as much as possible and turning their classes in cram schools. Schools must also ensure that the knowledge, skill and methodology of teachers are constantly updated so that they are in touch with new developments. In addition, for teachers to serve as good role models to their students they must be innovators and lifelong learners themselves, respected for their knowledge, sincerity, honesty and high moral principles and loved for their dedication and service to their students and their community.

Another aspect that parents should be interested in is student performance. For parents to be able to judge for them-

selves whether the majority of students in the school are outstanding in both academic and other fields or only just a few, school must provide information to parents regarding the number of students taking exams, or participating competitions and their performance rather than just the number of those who have gained distinctions or won prizes.

The next factor that parents need to think carefully is the school fees. Parents must make sure that schools are charging fees in commensurate with the quality of teachers, instruction and the facilities they provide. Parents must also see that the fees are affordable to them in the long run as it is a financial commitment concerning not just a few months but many years.

Another important fac-

tor that parents must not forget to assess is the school atmosphere, as their child will spend about half of their waking hours at school and it is vital that their school provide a warm, friendly, happy, relaxed and supportive environment. There are two main groups of school citizens – students and teachers. It is important that teachers be kept happy and contented with an appropriate salary and various incentives as they are the driving force in not only providing knowledge but also in influencing the disposition of students. Happy unbiased teachers will nurture students to become happy and balanced human beings and happy students will desist from bullying and tormenting fellow students and this will encourage all students to be happy at school.

Apart from the school

atmosphere, it is also necessary for parents to find out about the character and behavior of students as they will have an important influence on the formation of the character of one's child. Parents should observe whether students in the chosen school are well behaved, disciplined, obedient, polite, cultured, considerate, well-integrated, maintain their national characters, etc., or are spoilt, arrogant, boastful, disrespectful to their teachers, are inconsiderate and selfish, possess bad habits, have alien mannerisms, etc.

The final factor in measuring the quality of a school is the administration. By looking at the outer appearance of the school and the grounds, one can get a rough idea of the quality of a school and the persons administering it. A look at the facilities and classrooms, the furniture

and the teaching aids installed will give a better idea, and close observation of the teaching methodology of the teachers, students' academic performance and the behaviour of the students both within and outside the classroom will give a better insight. All education institutions advance and decline depending on the calibre of the school administration, and together with it the quality of teaching and learning also rise and fall. Hence, parents need to judge the quality of the school head in order to ensure that they have enrolled their child in a school that is advancing and not declining.

Certainly, the establishment of private schools is to be welcomed as it promotes quality, choice, change, creativity and competition. To enhance the positive side of private schools and restrain their

negative aspects, education authorities must ensure that parents and children are not being deceived through misleading advertisements by those whose sole aim is to make money, and that private schools strictly abide by set rules and regulations, and are inspected systematically and regularly to ensure their quality. On the other hand, parents must also try to learn as much as possible about the school they intend to send their children to, and find out if the sole motive of the school they choose is profit, or for other more altruistic reasons. The kind of private school that parents should look for is one that is dedicated to raising its reputation, enhancing the potential of its students and making the society and the world a better, fairer, happier and more secure place to live while charging school fees that are reasonable.

After Islamist attack, armed guards shield Kenyan churches

GARUSSA, Kenya, 5 April — Kenyan churches used armed guards to protect their Easter congregations on Sunday, days after gunmen from the Islamist al Shabaab group killed nearly 150 people at a Kenyan university.

Kenyan priests, who have been frequently targeted by Islamists, said they feared churches could be targeted on Easter Sunday, the main liturgical feast in the Christian calendar.

“We are very concerned about the security of our churches and worshippers, especially this Easter period, and also because it is clear that these attackers are targeting Christians,”

Willybard Lagho, a Mombasa-based Catholic priest and chairman of the Coast Interfaith Council of Clerics (CICC), told *Reuters*.

He said churches in the Indian Ocean port city of Mombasa were hiring armed police and private security guards for mass on Easter Sunday. Christians make up 83 percent of Kenya’s 44 million population.

Four masked militants from the Somali Islamist group stormed a university campus in Garissa on Thursday, seeking out Christian students to kill while sparing some Muslims.

Al Shabaab group said the assault on Gar-



A policeman controls issued orders to his juniors when people rescued from the Garissa University attack meet their relatives at Nyayo stadium in Kenya’s capital Nairobi on 4 April, 2015.—REUTERS

issa, some 200km (120 miles) from the Somali border, was revenge for Kenya sending troops into Somalia to fight alongside African Union peacekeep-

ers against the al-Qae-da-aligned group.

The militants have threatened to turn Kenyan cities “red with blood” with more attacks. Police

have stepped up security at shopping malls and public buildings in the capital Nairobi, and in the eastern coastal region which has been prone to al Shabaab attacks.

In Nairobi’s Holy Family Basilica cathedral, nestled between the City Hall and Kenya’s parliament, two uniformed police officers armed with AK-47 rifles manned the entrance gate. One officer said more plain clothes officers were inside.

Three private security guards frisked churchgoers with hand-held metal detectors, while a fourth guard used a mirror to check for explosives underneath cars.

“Everyone is anxious and you never know what will happen next, but we believe the biggest protector is God and we are praying,” said Samuel Wanje, 27, a youth member at the church.

In Garissa, where masked gunmen in 2012 killed more than a dozen people in simultaneous gun and grenade raids on two churches, six soldiers guarded the town’s main Christian church and about 100 worshippers ahead of Sunday mass.

“Nowhere is safe, but here at church you can be with God and console yourself,” said Meli Muasya at Garissa’s walled Catholic Church.—*Reuters*

Investigators sent to Turkey to probe killings of Japanese hostages

TOKYO, 5 April — A team of police investigators were sent to Turkey on Sunday to look into the cases of two Japanese hostages killed by Islamic State militants, police officials said.

The police are seeking cooperation from Turkish authorities, with plans to question a local guide who assisted one of

the hostages, Kenji Goto, when he entered Syria last October.

Goto and the other hostage, Haruna Yukawa, are believed to have entered Syria via Turkey. Yukawa was captured in northern Syria last August.

The Islamic State group demanded a ransom of \$200 million on the

Internet on 20 January, threatening to kill the two. In subsequent Internet postings, footage purporting to show the killings of both men was released.

The police in Tokyo and Chiba Prefecture, which have jurisdiction over the victims’ residences, are investigating their cases.

Kyodo News

Shi’ite fighters leave Tikrit after looting — Iraqi officials

BAGHDAD, 5 April — Almost all Shi’ite paramilitaries had left Tikrit on Saturday after locals complained that some fighters had spent several days looting the Sunni city after helping retake it from Islamic State.

“Most of the (paramilitaries) were removed from the city,” said Ahmed al-Kraim, the head of the council of Tikrit and its province Salahuddin.

The rampage of theft and burning began on Wednesday, within hours of the Iraqi government declaring that security forces and Shi’ite paramilitaries had recaptured the city from Islamic State (IS) after a month-long battle. IS had held Tikrit since last June.

Local officials said the mayhem left hundreds of homes and shops looted or torched. The violence had threatened to cast a pall over the government victory in the city, home

of the late dictator Saddam Hussein.

Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi, a Shi’ite Islamist, met officials from Salahuddin province and took the decision that the paramilitaries had to leave Tikrit.

Kraim called the talks with Abadi “very positive”.

The Sunni politician said that the looting and burning had stopped on Saturday after “the federal and local police along with (counter-terrorism) troops became responsible for Tikrit’s security.”

A spokesman for the Shi’ite paramilitary fighters, Karim al-Noori, confirmed that 80 percent of the Shi’ite volunteer fighters had left Tikrit.

“The situation now is calm,” said a police major in Tikrit, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Some eyewitnesses and government officials also blamed local Sunnis

for the looting.

Abadi, a moderate Shi’ite Islamist, has insisted that he will not tolerate rights abuses by any group in the war against IS, which has massacred thousands of Iraqi Shi’ites and members of other groups.

Iraqi troops, working in tandem with Shi’ite militias, secured Tikrit on Wednesday, but as the government declared victories, paramilitary fighters started ransacking buildings, according to local officials and witnesses.

On Friday, Abadi had ordered security forces to arrest anyone breaking the law and then convened his meeting on Saturday with Salahuddin’s governor and key officials.

“It sent a clear message to everyone. Although it is very challenging, the prime minister is on the top of situation,” said Rafid Jaboori, Abadi’s spokesman.

Reuters

Houthis make gains in Yemen’s Aden, approach port

ADEN, 5 April — Yemen’s Houthi militiamen, supported by army units, gained ground in the southern city of Aden on Sunday, pushing back loyalists of the Saudi-backed President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi.

Residents took refuge in their homes and reported hearing sporadic gunfire and blasts of rocket-propelled grenades, and one witness saw a Houthi tank in the downtown Mualla district, which sits astride Aden’s main commercial port.

Houthi forces have inched forward in street-fighting in the city despite an 11-day nationwide bombing campaign by a Saudi-led coalition aimed at halting the Iran-allied group and protecting Hadi’s last bastion of support in the country.

Saudi planes parachuted weapons to Hadi’s armed supporters there on Friday, helping them temporarily beat back Houthi advances.

The crates of light weapons, telecommunications equipment and rocket-propelled grenades were



Tribesmen stand on a tank they took from an army base in Shihr city of Yemen’s eastern Hadramawt Province on 4 April, 2015.—REUTERS

parachuted into Aden’s Tawahi district, on the far end of the Aden peninsula which is still held by Hadi loyalists, fighters told *Reuters*.

Saudi Arabia has said defending Aden’s government is a “main objective” of its mission and Hadi’s administration has called for a foreign ground intervention into the beleaguered city.

Adel al-Jubeir, Saudi ambassador to the United States, said sending ground troops remained “on the table” and the operation’s spokesman Brigadier Gen-

eral Ahmed Asseri declined to comment on media reports of Saudi special forces there.

In six months of fighting, the Shi’ite Muslim Houthis have seized much of Yemen’s north and center but have faced stiff resistance in the country’s Sunni south, raising fears of a sectarian civil war.

In the city of Lawdar about 200km east of Aden, 10 Houthi fighters and allied soldiers were killed in clashes which also killed four local tribesmen on Sunday, residents said.

Reuters

Bomb explodes in Cairo, leaving crater

CAIRO, 5 April — A bomb exploded on a bridge in the upscale Cairo district of Zamalek on Sunday, se-

curity sources said.

There were no immediate reports of casualties, but the force of the explosion

left a crater in the ground and destroyed a nearby car, the sources said.

Reuters

Four killed in suicide bombing near Libya’s Misrata

TRIPOLI, 5 April — Four people were killed

and more than 20 wounded by a suicide bomb attack

on security checkpoint east of the Libyan city of Misrata, a local official news agency reported on Sunday.

Reuters

BUSINESS & HEALTH

China to develop city clusters along middle reaches of Yangtze

BEIJING, 5 April — China on Sunday unveiled a plan to develop city clusters along the middle reaches of the Yangtze River in a move to create a new economic growth engine and promote new urbanization.

They will mainly consist of urban clusters around Wuhan in Hubei Province, the Changsha-Zhuzhou-Xiangtan city group in Hunan Province and clusters around Poyang Lake in Jiangxi Province, said the State Council, China's cabinet.

The clusters cover a total area of 317,000 square kilometres and are a pillar of the Yangtze River Economic Belt. They will also be key areas to implement the "Rise of central China" strategy, deepen reform and opening-up and promote a new type of urban-

ization, the State Council said in a statement on the government website.

Priority will be given to coordinated development between urban and rural areas and connectivity of infrastructure, such as construction of important transportation, water conservation and energy projects, noted the statement.

China put forward its "Rise of central China" strategy in 2004 amid efforts to achieve more balanced development. China last year began creating an economic belt along the Yangtze to promote better coordination in industrial development and more efficient allocation of resources among provincial regions traversed by the Yangtze, China's longest river.

Xinhua

Chinese airports see 10% rise in passenger trips last year

BEIJING, 5 April — Passenger arrivals and departures recorded at Chinese airports hit 831.5 million in 2014, representing a rise of 10.2 percent year on year, official data has revealed.

More than 760.6 million trips were recorded for domestic routes, up 10.1 percent year on year; this was compared to 70.9 million trips for international routes, up 11.7 percent, according to data released by the Civil Aviation Administration of China on Friday.

Airports in the three megacities of Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou accounted for 28.3 percent of all those trips last year, the data revealed.



The Beijing Capital International Airport became the nation's busiest airport, registering more than 86.1 million trips in 2014, up 2.9 percent.

Meanwhile, total cargo throughput at Chinese airports hit 13.6 million tonnes, up 7.8 percent year on year.

The CAAC data also

showed the number of airports based in the mainland hit 202 as of the end of 2014, with 200 offering regular flights.—*Xinhua*

Listeria fear spreads as Blue Bell closes Oklahoma ice cream plant

SAN ANTONIO, (Texas), 5 April — US health officials have warned consumers against eating any products from a Blue Bell Creameries' Oklahoma ice cream plant, which has temporarily closed because of possible Listeriosis contamination.

On Saturday the Texas grocery chain H-E-B, which is one of the largest retailers of Blue Bell ice cream, announced it was pulling all of the company's products from its shelves indefinitely in the wake of the US Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) warning.

Earlier this month, Kansas health officials said three people died between January 2014 and January 2015 after being sickened by Listeriosis at a hospital where Blue Bell products were served.

They were in the hospital for other reasons.

Blue Bell is voluntarily suspending operations at its plant in Broken Arrow, Oklahoma, the company said in a statement.

"We will thoroughly inspect the facility for any possible problems that may have led to the contamination of some of our ice cream products over the past few weeks," the company said.

Blue Bell said its other facilities will continue to operate and supply products to retail stores and institutional customers.

But H-E-B, which has 340 stores, said it will remove all Blue Bell products as a precaution due to food safety concerns, according to company spokeswoman Dya Campos in San Antonio.

Blue Bell said its two voluntary recalls in the past three weeks are the first in the company's more than 100-year history.

According to the CDC, Listeriosis is a serious infection caused by eating food contaminated with the bacterium *Listeria*. It primarily affects older adults, pregnant women, newborns and those with compromised immune systems and can lead to death.

Reuters

Sierra Leone's Kailahun district records first Ebola case in months

FREETOWN, 5 April — Sierra Leone's eastern district of Kailahun, once a hotbed of Ebola, has recorded its first case in nearly four months, threatening progress made to stamp out the disease, officials said on Saturday. A 9-month-old boy tested positive for Ebola after dying in Kailahun, the district on Guinea's border that recorded Sierra Leone's first Ebola case last May and was for months the epicenter of the crisis.

Kailahun went from recording up to 80 infections per week in June to zero cases at the end of last year. Nearly 3,800 people have died of Ebola in Sierra Leone but numbers of weekly cases

are falling as steps to control the disease take hold.

However, Winnie Romeril, a spokeswoman for the World Health Organization, said local and foreign experts had been dispatched to investigate the case after the positive test result.

Kenema and Kono, two other eastern districts, have recorded a handful of cases in recent months but Kailahun's successes had been cited as examples for other areas to follow.

Alex Bonapha, the Kailahun district council chairman, said it was not clear how the boy may have contracted Ebola as both his parents were healthy.

He said the boy may have gotten the disease during a blood transfusion

or there may have been a problem with the sample that was tested.

Sources at the Nixon Hospital in Kailahun District confirmed that the boy underwent a blood transfusion before dying.

"I am aware of the weakness in the health system which means that the blood transfused into the baby could well not have been the blood that had been donated by his uncle," Bonapha said.

A ministry of health official expressed serious concern over the case, which came as the focus of local and international health officials is on the north and west of the country, the latest areas affected by Ebola.

Liberia, once the hard-

est hit of all the countries in West Africa, has detected no Ebola cases after the last confirmed patient died at the end of March.

However, Guinea has imposed a 45-day state of health emergency to tackle a spike of cases in the country where the outbreak was first confirmed last year.

As part of these measures, authorities closed all private medical clinics in Kindia, 135 km (84 miles) from the capital Conakry, after a new case of Ebola was recorded there. The worst Ebola outbreak on record has now killed nearly 10,500 people, mainly in Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea.—*Reuters*

Lock-up shares worth 68.3 bln yuan become tradable

BEIJING, 5 April — Lock-up shares worth around 68.3 billion yuan (11.13 billion US dollars) will become eligible for trade on China's stock market in the coming week.

Approximately 1.35 billion shares from 14 companies will become trad-

able on the Shanghai and Shenzhen stock exchanges from Tuesday to Friday, data compiled by Southwest Securities showed on Sunday.

Under China's market rules, major shareholders of non-tradable stocks are subject to one or two years

of lock-up before they are permitted to trade the shares.

BOE Technology Group Co, Ltd, a Beijing-based display device manufacturer, will see 49.17 billion yuan of non-tradable shares unlocked on Wednesday, the

largest volume to be released next week.

China's stock markets will remain closed on Monday on account of the three-day holiday ending Monday to mark the traditional Tomb-Sweeping Day which falls on 5 April this year.—*Xinhua*

Japanese man, ten others questioned over Taiwan military base visit

TAIPEI, 5 April — Taiwan prosecutors investigating an alleged breach of military security on Sunday questioned a Japanese man and 10 Taiwanese over a visit to a facility where US-made Apache attack helicopters are based.

The Central News Agency and other local media said prosecutors summoned 11 people for questioning about their visit last week to a restricted military base in Taoyuan, northern Taiwan.

The group was escorted by Lt Col Lao Nai-cheng, the head information security officer at the military facility.

Lao, a pilot-instructor trained in the United States to fly Apache helicopters, reportedly took a group of 20 people to the base last week.

The visit came to light when one of the visitors, an entertainer named Janet Lee, posted photographs of the visit on so-

cial media.

One of the photographs showed her sitting at the controls of an Apache helicopter, with the instrument panel clearly visible. Another photo showed her husband wearing a pilot's helmet inside the cockpit.

Lao was initially reprimanded by his superiors for what he did, but later received harsher punishment and was removed from his post following a public outcry. The Taoyuan District Prosecutors' Office is investigating the case.

Investigators have also learned that Lao wore a helicopter pilot's helmet and full flight suit to a Halloween party last October. Lao's wife hosted the Halloween party and most of the guests joined the controversial visit to the Taoyuan base last week, according to media reports.

Kyodo News



Survivors and relatives of victims of Nanjing Massacre take part in a ceremony to mourn the Nanjing Massacre victims in front of a wall inscribed the name list of victims at the Memorial Hall of the Victims in Nanjing Massacre by Japanese Invaders on the Qingming Festival in Nanjing, capital of east China's Jiangsu Province, on 5 April, 2015. Japanese troops captured Nanjing, then China's capital, on 13 December of 1937 and started a 40-odd-day slaughter. More than 300,000 Chinese soldiers who had laid down their arms and civilians were murdered, and over 20,000 women were raped.—XINHUA

Thousands visit site of first nuclear bomb test 70 years on

SAN ANTONIO, (New Mexico), 5 April — Cars, trucks, trailers and motorcycles, with license plates from numerous states, crawled in line miles long early Saturday as people flocked to the site where the world's first atomic bomb was detonated in southern New Mexico's Tularosa Basin.

The wait to visit the Trinity Site was longer than expected but worth it, said Julia Broussard, a visitor from Arlington, Texas.

"It's only open occasionally, so to come and see the history that you read about and to actually be at the place where it happened...and to know the science is very interesting to me," the 68-year-old said.

The Trinity Site, located at the US Army's White Sands Missile Range, is open to the public twice this year, on Saturday and 3 Oct. For the past three years, it

has only been open to the public once a year due to budget cuts.

A White Sands public affairs officer said the day's visitor numbers broke all records, at 5,534 people, compared with 3,000-4,000 a year on average.

The plutonium bomb, designed and built as part of the United States' secret Manhattan Project, was tested just before 5:30 am on 16 July, 1945.

This year marks the 70th anniversary of the test, which ultimately led to the creation of the bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in August 1945.

Alabama resident Kenny Reynolds, 37, said that while it was a shame the United States had to use the bomb, he believes it saved many lives.

"Had we not used the bomb, think of how history may have changed, think of what it would have taken, the lives lost,

to convince Japan to end the war," he said.

Visitors to the site walk around the blast's ground zero, marked by a black lava obelisk and remnants of one of the footings from the steel tower the bomb was mounted on. The rest of the tower was vaporized by the blast.

A replica of the "Fat Man" bomb that was dropped on Nagasaki and a low structure protecting part of the blast's original crater, as well as historical photos of the site and blast, are also on display at ground zero.

Two miles away, visitors can walk through the McDonald ranch house where the bomb's plutonium core was assembled.

"The only reason I'm standing here is because of the bomb," said Ben Pate, another visitor. The 63-year-old had traveled to the site for the first time with friend Julia Broussard.

Pate said his father fought in the European theater in World War II and returned to the United States in June 1945 for a three-month layover before he was to be shipped out again to fight in Japan.

"He had only gotten out of Europe by the skin of his teeth — many in his unit had died — so (his chance of) eventually making it out of the Pacific, I think, was probably not very good," Pate said.

A small contingent of protesters with the Tularosa Basin Downwinders Consortium, a group dedicated to gaining recognition and compensation for those affected by the fallout from the Trinity test, gathered at the Stallion Gate entrance and other nearby areas to inform visitors of their plight.

Luisa Lopez, 66, who lives in the small town of Luis Lopez about 35 miles from the site, said she believes many families liv-

ing in the towns and cities surrounding the test site, including her own, were affected by fallout from the test.

Lopez's husband Richard is a cancer survivor, having suffered from mantle cell lymphoma. Lopez also said there have been entire or near-entire families that have died of

illnesses believed to have been caused by nuclear radiation from the bomb.

"There's a lot of people who don't know this, but not only do we have a high incidence of cancer, we also have a high incidence of sterility," she said. "What people don't realize is the suffering we go through."—Kyodo News



Visitors take a photograph in front of a black lava obelisk showing the ground zero of the first atomic bomb test at the Trinity Site at the US Army's White Sands Missile Range in southern New Mexico's Tularosa Basin on 4 April, 2015, which opened to the public the same day. The plutonium bomb was tested just before 5:30 am on 16 July, 1945.—KYODO NEWS



Red full moon observed in Miyagi Prefecture

Photo shows a total lunar eclipse and cherry blossoms seen in Shirosaki, Miyagi Prefecture, in northeastern Japan on 4 April, 2015.
KYODO NEWS

Japan researchers eye conference for Syria heritage site protection

TOKYO, 5 April — Hoping to restore and protect Syrian heritage sites damaged by the civil war and robbery, Japanese researchers say they are making arrangements to hold an international conference on the issue in Beirut possibly in December.

They hope to bring together experts to share re-

sults of surveys conducted before the civil war on heritage sites such as Palmyra and determine the extent of damage.

Kiyohide Saito, head of the Japanese Society for West Asian Archaeology, has proposed the conference, hoping to bring up to 200 experts from around the world to join 30 to 40

Syrian archaeologists.

By sharing information on damage done to Syria's cultural heritage including remains from the ancient Mesopotamian and Roman periods, Japanese researchers aim to provide guidelines for future restoration work, they said.

Kyodo News

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THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR

MINISTRY OF ENERGY

MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE

(INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER)

(6/2015)

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(2)	IFB-002(15-16)	Electrical Spares for USS Oil Well Rig (26) Items	US\$
(3)	DMP/L-001(15-16)	PGGO 140 Gear Oil (1) Lot	KS
(4)	DMP/L-002(15-16)	Hydraulic Oil (H.O.L) (1) Lot	KS
(5)	DMP/L-003(15-16)	Cooling Fan Motor, Water Pump & Motor, Oil Pump & Motor for CNG Compressor (4) Items	KS

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Tender Document shall be available during office hours commencing from 6th April, 2015 at the Finance Department, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, No(44) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

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Northeast Chinese government fined for destroying family tombs

SHENYANG, 5 April —

A district government in northeast China's Liaoning Province lost a lawsuit and has been ordered to pay compensation for levelling the family tombs of a resident, a court told *Xinhua* on Sunday. The government of Hunnan District in Shenyang City must pay 81,600 yuan (13,000 US dollars) in compensation to 73-year-old Zhang Heyuan, according to the verdict issued earlier this week by the Shenyang Intermediate People's Court.

Zhang sued the district government for destroying 28 tombs belonging to his ancestors, relatives and friends on a mountain marked as a tourist spot in 2007. The government claimed the burials were "unauthorized" and removed the tombs after issuing an ultimatum.

The verdict recognized the tombs as historical legacies and Zhang's property. The government was ordered to pay compensation for 17 of the destroyed tombs that belonged to Zhang's family.

Shrinking land resources have prompted local Chinese governments to launch campaigns to clear burial mounds in the countryside and transfer the remains to public cemeteries, often triggering controversy. In 2012, a voluntary tomb-clearing campaign that saw 2 million burial mounds removed in Zhoukou City, Henan Province drew criticism after some officials reportedly forced the removal of graves.

Xinhua

Two killed in light aircraft crash in western Scotland

EDINBURGH, 5 April — Two people were killed when a light aircraft crashed in western Scotland on Saturday, Police Scotland confirmed on Sunday.

Search teams found late Saturday the remains of the two people on board

and the wreckage of the plane, believed to have been travelling from central Scotland to Tiree and crashed near Oban, said the police.

Radar contact with the aircraft was lost on Saturday afternoon, and an emergency call had been

received when the plane was near Beinn Nan Lus, near Glen Kinglass.

A multi-agency search was launched later in the Loch Etive area, involving the police service, ambulance and coastguard, as well as the Oban lifeboat.—*Xinhua*

Pilots to be warned over icing after 2014 Mali air crash

PARIS, 5 April — Aviation regulators are expected to issue new advice to pilots after investigations into the crash of an Air Algerie jet in Mali last July found it went out of control after being hit by ice as an anti-icing system remained switched off.

France's BEA crash investigation agency, which is helping Mali to investigate the crash that killed 116 people, said the MD-83 jet appeared to have run into trouble after vital probes that measure pressure on the engine inlets blocked up with ice.

Properly working probes are needed to help the McDonnell-Douglas aircraft measure the thrust of its engines.

With the probes iced up as the Algiers-bound jet



Debris is seen at the crash site of Air Algerie flight AH5017 near the northern Mali town of Gossi on 24 July, 2014.—REUTERS

skirted a storm, the plane's autopilot thought the power was too high and slowed the engines below the level needed to maintain cruise height, starting a chain of events that sent it out of control, BEA said on its website.

The statement explained some of the causes of the crash and said it had notified US and European regulators who would issue the new guidance. Investigators have been hindered by damage to "black box" cockpit audio recordings,

which were unusable, but have spent months reconstructing engine settings from the data recorder of the MD-83 jet which was operated by Spain's Swiftair. Data analyzed suggested the crew had not activated a de-icing system designed to protect the engine inlet probes. The icing over of the pressure sensors is the first possible cause of the crash to be put forward by the investigators.

As it fell towards the ground, the jet rolled suddenly to the left and pointed almost straight down, the BEA said. The crash is one of several accidents in which an aircraft is thought to have lost control at high altitude, putting the spotlight partly on training to help pilots identify and then deal with an aerody-

namic stall, or loss of lift.

The BEA said black box data did not provide any indication the crew had used stall recovery maneuvers, but said the investigation was continuing, with a final report expected in December. It said a similar situation had started to unfold on a similar plane operated by Swiftair less than two months before the Mali crash, but without serious consequences.

In June 2002, a McDonnell Douglas MD-82 jet operated by US carrier Spirit Airlines suffered a loss of thrust on both engines. The BEA said it had shared information on all these incidents with the regulators who would soon issue the guidance to help pilots identify similar problems.—*Reuters*

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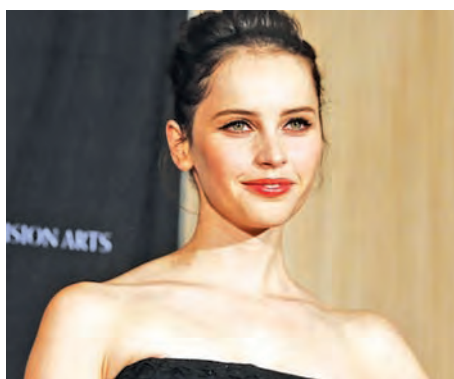
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WEATHER REPORT

BAY INFERENCE: Weather is partly cloudy in the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal. **FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 6th April, 2015:** Rain or thunder-showers are likely to be isolated in Sagaing, Mandalay and Taninthayi Regions, Kachin, Shan, Chin, Rakhine, Kayin 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.



I'm more than just a movie wife: Felicity Jones

NEW YORK, 5 April — Playing the long-suffering wife or girlfriend can be a thankless role in Hollywood, but British actress Felicity Jones has gotten plenty of gratitude.

She received Oscar, Golden Globe and BAFTA nominations earlier this year for her turn as Stephen Hawking's spouse in "The Theory of Everything", reported the *New York Post*.

"I feel like 'wife' or 'girlfriend' has this terrible reputation (as roles for women), but I think she absolutely has to be just as interesting as the male charac-

ter, she has to be a vital person," Jones, 31, said.

"Even if you're doing a supporting role and you're not on-screen all the time, I think it's important (the audience) feels that person has a life beyond the screen," she said.

In her next film, "True Story", out on 17 April, she plays another spouse with a challenging partner. The film is indeed based on a true story about journalist Mike Finkel (Jonah Hill), who struck up an unlikely friendship with convicted murderer Christian Longo (James Franco).—PTI

2015 Miss Kyrgyz beauty pageant concluded



Winner Dayan Omuralieva (C) poses in the 2015 Miss Kyrgyz beauty pageant in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, on 5 April, 2015.—XINHUA

Wanted girls to feel empowered through film 'Home': Rihanna

LOS ANGELES, 5 April — R&B star Rihanna says makers kept her character in animated film "Home" close to her real self to make "little girls feel empowered."

Rihanna, 26, who stars as Gratuity 'Tip' Tucci in the movie, said she and the makers wanted the movie to be as realistic as possible, reported *People* magazine.

"We wanted little girls to feel empowered. Little girls of



any size, shape, colour, race it didn't matter. We wanted girls to just feel strong and brave, empowered, beautiful and that they can do anything.

"They can take charge of their life or situation, no matter what. I think we were really, really careful especially with the animation to make sure that she wore the right things. That her body was not unrealistic, you know and I think for kids, that's really special for young girls," she said.—PTI

'Guardians of the Galaxy 2' to start shooting in February 2016



James Gunn has shared updates on the sequel to his Marvel movie "Guardians of the Galaxy".—PTI

LOS ANGELES, 5 April — James Gunn has shared updates on the sequel to his Marvel movie "Guardians of the Galaxy".

During a question and answer on Periscope, the director reveals that he has submitted draft for "Guardians of the Galaxy 2" and eyes an early 2016 start date, reported *Ace Showbiz*.

"I turned in my treatment. I'm going in to meet about it Friday and we will start working on the screenplay next week," Gunn said.

He plans to start filming the second movie in February 2016 at Pinewood Atlanta Studios for 5 May, 2017 release.

Chris Pratt, Zoe Saldana, Dave Bautista, Vin Diesel, and Bradley Cooper are expected to return as the band of misfits in the cosmic side of Marvel Cin-

ematic Universe.

Karen Gillan is also set to reprise her role as Nebula.

While continuing his work with Marvel, James Gunn is developing a passion project outside comic book. He writes and produces a movie called "The BelcoExperiment" with Greg McLean ("Wolf Creek") as a director.

Production will start in June, in Bogota, Columbia.

Gunn wrote on Facebook, "The story revolves around the American Belco company in South America which is mysteriously sealed off at the beginning of a work day, and its employees are ordered to kill each other or be killed themselves. This starts an escalation of violence, where we discover the true nature of each and every Belco employee."—PTI

Chris Brown remixes Beyonce's song 'Jealous'

LOS ANGELES, 5 April — Singer Chris Brown has remixed R&B star Beyonce's track "Jealous", for her collaboration album.

Beyonce, 33, said Brown did the remix 'some months ago', reported *Aceshowbiz*.

Brown, 25, adds a new verse on the track originally featured on Beyonce's 2013 self-titled surprise album. His vocals appear midway through the song as he talks about his insecurities. "Queen B, I'm trippin' 'cause I'm a little insecure when your phone go off," he sings. "So mad I'm drunk texting/ Now I'm reminiscing how we fell in love in Texas/ Girl, I'm jealous."

"I did the jealous remix some months ago for the Beyonce collaboration album but it was never used. Glad you guys get to hear it," wrote Brown.—PTI

Katy Perry cuts hair

LOS ANGELES, 5 April — Pop star Katy Perry has cut her hair into a dark pixie cut to look like showbiz matriarch Kris Jenner.

The 'Roar' hitmaker debuted the drastic dark pixie cut on her Instagram page, revealing she asked her hairdresser to make her look like the 59-year-old showbiz matriarch.

Alongside a snap of her new hairdo and emojis of scissors and baseball caps, she simply wrote: "I asked for the Kris Jenner."

Her new hairstyle has even gained the approval of the 'Keeping Up with the Kardashians' star, who Katy was spotted hanging out with at a Karl Lagerfeld boat party in New York.

Kris reposted the photo on her own account, calling her a "gorgeous beautiful girl".—PTI



GENERAL

Adam scores 59-metre wonder goal v Chelsea

LONDON, 5 April — Stoke City's Charlie Adam scored a wonder goal from well inside his own half against Chelsea at Stamford Bridge on Saturday that earned comparisons with the all-time great strikes.

The Scotland midfielder stunned the Premier League leaders by sending a remarkable 59-metre lob over Belgium keeper Thibaut Courtois in the first half. "I never knew I had that much power, to beat a quality goalkeeper like that is something special," Adam told the BBC after his side's 2-1 defeat.

"Once in a lifetime this can happen to you."

With Chelsea leading 1-0 thanks to an Eden Hazard penalty, Adam took control of the ball outside the centre circle in the 44th minute before looking up and pinging it beyond the back-peddalling Courtois who got a touch but could not keep it out.

It was reminiscent of



Chelsea's Juan Cuadrado in action with Stoke's Charlie Adam.—REUTERS

David Beckham's famous goal for Manchester United from the halfway line against Wimbledon in 1996. Adam snatched the 'goal of the day' award away from Wayne Rooney who swivelled before ripping home a sublime strike in Manchester United's 3-1 win over Aston Villa. Chelsea manager Jose Mourinho rated Adam's effort among the best of the season. "I didn't enjoy it but it's a goal

that every top player in the world would love to score," Mourinho told reporters.

"It is a goal for his history. Probably the best goal of the season in the Premier League," Mourinho said. Courtois was in the "best position" but added that his goalkeeper should have anticipated the shot better.

The Chelsea boss also said Stoke goalkeeper Asmir Begovic was far busier than Courtois.

Despite making a big mistake for Loic Remy's winning goal, Begovic pulled off several spectacular saves to keep Stoke in the game.

Adam's strike was one of only two shots on target the Potters managed all afternoon. The 29-year-old midfielder makes up for what he lacks in pace with a notoriously powerful left foot that once earned him a move to Liverpool.

After a successful spell in the Premier League with Blackpool, a high-profile transfer to Merseyside in 2011 ended in disappointment but Adam has re-established himself as a regular at Stoke.

"He has the ability to do that. He does attempt similar things in training," his manager Mark Hughes said of the wonder strike.

"I don't think he's actually been able to replicate it in training but it's always better to do it in a game."

Reuters

Atletico leapfrog Valencia in battle for third

MADRID, 5 April — Atletico Madrid turned up the heat on Valencia in the battle for La Liga's third automatic Champions League berth when club top scorer Antoine Griezmann set them on the way to a 2-0 stroll at bottom side Cordoba on Saturday.

The victory for the champions at Cordoba's El Arcangel stadium in balmy Andalusia lifted Atletico above Valencia and onto 62 points from 29 matches. Valencia have 60 points in fourth and can reclaim third spot with a win at home to sixth-placed Villarreal on Sunday. France forward Griezmann struck his 15th league goal of the campaign in the fifth minute after

stealing the ball, surging forward from midfield and cracking a precise low shot into the bottom corner.

Midfielder Saul Niguez, returning from injury, nodded a second in the 39th before Cordoba had a couple of decent efforts in the second half but could not avoid slipping to a 10th successive reverse.

One more loss at Deportivo La Coruna on Wednesday and they will equal the worst run in Spain's top flight of 11 defeats suffered by Las Palmas in 1960. "It was not an easy game at all and the rhythm was slow because of the heat," Saul said in an interview with Spanish television. "But it was a good



win for us which we needed," added the 20-year-old, who has not played since sustaining a painful blow to the kidneys in the Champions League game at Bayer Leverkusen at the end of February.—Reuters

Atletico Madrid's Mario Mandzukic (L) and Cordoba's Rene Krhin fights for the ball during their Spanish First Division soccer match at El Arcangel stadium in Cordoba on 4 April, 2015. — REUTERS

Serena strolls to eighth Miami title



Serena Williams celebrates with the Butch Buchholz Trophy after her match against Carla Suarez Navarro in the women's singles final on day thirteen of the Miami Open at Crandon Park Tennis Centre, Key Biscayne, FL, USA on 4 April, 2015.

REUTERS

MIAMI, 5 April — Serena Williams won her eighth Miami Open title with little trouble, enjoying a 6-2, 6-0 win over Spain's Carla Suarez Navarro in just 56 minutes on Saturday.

The victory was the world number one's third consecutive title at Miami and she becomes just the fourth woman in the open era to win the same tournament eight times, joining Martina Navratilova, Chris Evert and Steffi Graf.

"It feels really good to have eight under my belt. I can't say I thought I would win eight, especially in the

beginning of the week," Williams told reporters.

The American had to pull out of Indian Wells before her semi-final due to a knee injury and there had been doubt over her participation at Miami.

"It just feels really weird," said Williams, "and I'm happy to be able to get through it." In bright sunshine at Key Biscayne, the 12th seeded Suarez Navarro started with determination but Williams broke to go 4-2 up in the first and never looked back as she went on to win 10 straight games. Williams broke again at the

end of the first set and the second was barely a contest with the Spaniard winning just five points. The American, a 19-times grand slam champion, produced some magnificent winners, 27 in all, and her powerful serve delivered seven aces.

The win also extended Williams' winning streak at premier mandatory level matches to 46.

The most titles won at a single event is 12 by Navratilova at Chicago but Williams, 33, appeared horrified at the suggestion she might manage four more in Miami.—Reuters

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- * ID Show (Episode-II) (Oil & Gas)
- * Thingyan Dance "Thingyan"
- * News
- * A Trip to Mon State "Mawlamyaing"
- * Orchid Lover
- * News
- * Products of Myanmar — Pictures Decorated With Seashells And Gemstones
- * Thingyan Dance: Thingyan in Four Eras
- * Mogok: The Colourful Land of Rubies

MRTV News Channel in Brief

(6-4-2015, Monday)

- 6:00 am**
 - Paritta by Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw
- 6:30 am**
 - Physical Exercise
- 7:35 am**
 - Weekly Entertainment
- 8:00 am**
 - News / International News
- 8:35 am**
 - Documentary (Women in Myanmar Society)
- 9:30 am**
 - Head Line News
- 10:50 am**
 - Songs of Thingyan Festival
- 11:35 am**
 - MRTV's Youth Programme
- 12:00 noon**
 - News / International News / Weather Report
- 12:35 pm**
 - Tasty Trip
- 1:05 pm**
 - Gitadagale Phwintbarohn
- 3:35 pm**
 - People's Talks
- 4:45 pm**
 - University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) — Second Year (Law)
- 5:00 pm**
 - News/Weather Report
- 6:35 pm**
 - Socio Economic Scences
- 7:35pm**
 - Documentary
- 8:00 pm**
 - News / International News / Weather Report
- 9:00 pm**
 - News / International News / Weather Report
 - Hluttaw Image
 - TV Drama Series

MRTV Entertainment Channel

(6-4-2015, Monday)

- 6:00 am**
 - Mono Classic Songs
- 6:15 am**
 - Pyi Thu Ni Ti
- 6:35 am**
 - Song and Dance of Thingyan Festival
- 6:50 am**
 - Myanmar Series
- 7:15 am**
 - TV Drama Series
- 8:00 am**
 - TV Drama Series
- 8:40 am**
 - Musical Programme
- 8:55 am**
 - Pyi Thu Ni Ti
- 9:05 am**
 - Teleplay
- 10:05 am**
 - Song and Dance of Thingyan Festival
- 10:15 am**
 - Myanmar Video
- 12:15 noon**
 - Close Down

MFF to arrange fixtures of General Aung San Shield 2015 football tournament

YANGON, 5 April—The pre-match coordination meeting for General Aung San Shield 2015 will take place at the office of Myanmar Football Federation, here, on 8 April.

The meeting will be held at 11 am after arranging the fixtures of the tournament.

Media persons are invited to attend the pre-match press conference for the tournament to be organized by MFF.—MFF



Six countries to compete Myanmar in Chinlone in SEA Games

YANGON, 5 April—Altogether six countries will join Myanmar to compete in its traditional Chinlone event in the 28th SEA Games to be hosted by Singapore, sports circle said. The Southeast Asian contestant countries — host Singapore, Myanmar, Thailand, Malaysia, Cambodia and Laos will compete in the men category of Chinlone sports.

A 10-member Myanmar Chinlone team is at the training camp in Nay Pyi Taw and they are expecting to grab the gold medal at the SEA Games. Chinlone sports for both men and women was added in the 27th SEA Games hosted by Myanmar in 2013. The 28th SEA Games will be hosted by Singapore on June 5 to 16.

The Manila Times

Centenarian completes 1,500-metre swim for 1st time in world



Mieko Nagaoka

MATSUYAMA, (Japan), 5 April — A 100-year-old Japanese swimmer successfully completed on Saturday a 1,500-metre swim in the women's freestyle competition in a 25-metre pool, becoming the first in the world to do so in the 100 to 104 age category.

Mieko Nagaoka finished the race held in Matsuyama, Ehime Prefecture, in a world-record time of 1 hour, 15 minutes and 54 seconds, according to the Japan Masters Swimming Association.

Her time in the masters swimming competition is expected to be recognized as the official record by Guinness World Records following a planned application to the international swimming federation.

Nagaoka, the only swimmer competing in the category Saturday, swam on her back.

Starting swimming at the age of 80, the resident of Tabuse in the western Japanese prefecture of Yamaguchi said, "I want to swim until I turn 105 if I can live that long." With her latest achievement, Nagaoka will hold world records in 25 swimming events.

Kyodo News

Arsenal turn on the style to crush Liverpool 4-1

LONDON, 5 April — Arsenal delivered a brutal lesson in fast-paced Premier League football to beat Liverpool 4-1 on Saturday, maintaining their faint title aspirations and almost certainly dashing their opponents' hopes of a top-four finish.

While Liverpool's defending was catastrophic at times, Arsenal fizzed with intent and three goals in eight first-half minutes from Hector Bellerin, Mesut Ozil and Alexis Sanchez and a late curler from Olivier Giroud secured a 10th Premier League win in 11 matches.

That moved them above Manchester City into second place on 63 points, four behind leaders Chelsea, who will be looking over their shoulders at their in-form London rivals even though Jose Mourinho's side have two games in hand.

Fifth-placed Liverpool, who netted a penalty through Jordan Henderson before Giroud's effort, now look out of the running in

the battle for Champions League qualification after a second consecutive defeat.

A miserable afternoon for the visitors was capped off by a late red card for Emre Can and the result meant the gap to fourth place could be extended to eight points if Manchester United beat Aston Villa later on Saturday.

While much of the pre-match debate had focussed on Liverpool forward Raheem Sterling's on-going contract impasse, within minutes of kickoff it was clear that more pressing issues lay with the visitors' defence.

Liverpool's back-three spent the opening minutes regularly gifting the ball to the hosts in dangerous areas and their only chance of the half was inexplicably wasted by Lazar Markovic, who tried and failed to pass to Sterling when through on goal.

The breakthrough came after 37 minutes when Bellerin was allowed time to cut inside the Liverpool



Olivier Giroud scores the fourth goal for Arsenal.—REUTERS

box before curling a superb finish past Simon Mignolet.

Given their defending on the day it seemed remarkable that it was the first goal Liverpool had conceded on the road in more than nine hours after keeping six successive clean sheets.

Arsenal doubled the lead two minutes later when Ozil stepped up to curl a free kick around the

wall and into the net and Sanchez smashed home from outside the box to make it 3-0.

The hosts would have increased their lead but for a stunning save from Mignolet to deny Giroud's header at the start of the second half before Liverpool were given a faint lifeline when Sterling was felled in the box.

Henderson squeezed his penalty past David Ospina with 14 minutes remaining. Any hope of a comeback was extinguished, however, when Can received a second yellow card for a foul on substitute Danny Welbeck and Giroud added a coat of gloss when he curled in from 20 metres in stoppage time.—Reuters

Herrera's Manchester United double is sealed with a kiss

LONDON, 5 April — Ander Herrera got a kiss from his manager Louis van Gaal after his goal late in the first half sent Manchester United towards a 3-1 Premier League victory over Aston Villa on Saturday.

The Spanish midfielder scored with a low finish in the 43rd minute and struck again near the end after a Wayne Rooney special to take his tally for the season to a healthy seven.

Dutchman Van Gaal was delighted with Herrera's improved composure

when finishing, so much so that he rewarded him with a halftime show of affection.

"(Ander) has a very good kicking technique and he should only be more composed," Van Gaal told the club's website.

"I said to him 'you have to control the ball before you shoot'. 'I said that to him again in yesterday's training session, and then I kissed him at halftime because he had controlled the ball for the first time in his life and then he shot.' Van Gaal, whose often quirky

post-match interviews have been a feature of his first season at Old Trafford, was clearly in a good mood as his side moved above champions Manchester City for the first time this season.

With 62 points from 31 games, one less than second-placed Arsenal and five behind Chelsea, who were in later action, United are in a strong position to gain a top-four finish and return to the lucrative Champions League. But despite a four-match winning sequence, Van Gaal said there is plen-

ty of work to do — starting with a home derby against City next week.

"I have heard that Southampton lost, Liverpool lost and now we have to wait for Tottenham Hotspur. But we already have a big gap," the former Barcelona and Bayern Munich coach said.

"We can look up in the table. The next match is for the second position or the third, I think." "But we have to still play the first three (teams) in the league so it's still a rat race."—Reuters



Ander Herrera celebrates with Ashley Young after scoring the first goal for Manchester United during their Barclays Premier League at Old Trafford on 4 April, 2015.—REUTERS