

President U Thein Sein sends message of felicitations to South Africa

NAY PYI TAW, 27 April — U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr. Jacob Gedleyihlekisa Zuma, President of the Republic of South Africa, on the occasion of the Freedom Day of the Republic of South Africa, which falls on 27 April 2015.—MNA

President U Thein Sein sends message of condolence to Nepali President, PM

NAY PYI TAW, 27 April — His Excellency U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of condolence to His Excellency Dr. Ram Baran Yadav, President and His Excellency Mr. Sushil Koirala, Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal, respectively, on the loss of lives and property caused by the devastating earthquake which struck Nepal on 25 April.—MNA

President U Thein Sein delivers speech at 12th ASEAN Leadership Forum in Kuala Lumpur

KUALA LUMPUR, 26 April — At the invitation of Prime Minister of Malaysia Datuk Seri Mohammad Najib bin Tun Haji Abdul Razak, President U Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win left Yangon for Kuala Lumpur at 8 am on Sunday to attend the 26th ASEAN Summit and related meetings.

The president and wife were seen off at Yangon International Airport by Chief Minister of Yangon Region U Myint Swe, the ambassador of Malaysia to Myanmar and officials.

The president and wife were accompanied by Union Ministers U Tin Naing Thein, U Tint Hsan, Dr Kan Zaw and U Ye Htut, Deputy Minister Daw Sanda Khin, President of Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation Prof Dr Daw Khin Mar



Tun and officials. The president and party arrived at the Kuala Lumpur International Airport at 12 noon local time and were welcomed at the airport by Communication and Multimedia Minister of Malaysia

Chairman of ASEAN Leadership Forum Tan Sri Dato Michael Yeoh presents gifts to President U Thein Sein. IPRD

Dato's Seri Ahmad Shabery Cheek and officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Malaysia, Myanmar Ambassador to Malaysia U Zaw Myint, Military Attaché Brig-Gen Win Maung and embassy families.

The president took the salute of the Guard of Honour at the airport.

Then, the president and party continued to the Istana Hotel. Afterwards, the president attended the 12th ASEAN Leadership Forum together with Chairman of the forum, Sultan of Perak Darul Ridzuan, Sultan Narzain Muizzuddin Shah, who attended the forum on behalf of the prime minister of Malaysia, Prime Minister of Cambodia Samdech Hun Sen, Prime Minister of Laos Mr. Thongsing Thammavong, (See page 3)

MEPE awards SembCorp Utilities gas-fired power plant

YANGON, 26 April — Myanmar Electric Power Enterprise has awarded notice to Sembcorp Utilities to develop and operate the largest gas-fired independent power plant in Myanmar, according to the press release of the Singapore-based company.

The SembCorp will have at least an 80 percent stake in the project of Myanmar where electricity demand is estimated to increase at a compounded annual growth rate of 13 per-

cent over the next 15 years.

The US\$300 million worth power plant with 225-megawatt capacity will be constructed in the Myingyan district of the Mandalay region. The project is targeted to complete in 2017 and the new facility will help to ease the country's power deficit, with an estimated 500 megawatts during peak periods, the report said.

"Sembcorp is well-positioned to cater to Myanmar's increasing power needs and support its eco-

nomie growth," said Mr Tang Kin Fei, Group President and CEO of Sembcorp Industries. "The new facility will provide a reliable source of power which is integral to the country's economic development and electrification efforts."

SembCorp will sign an MoU with Ministry of Electrical Power for the investment, with \$300 million to be funded through a mix of limited recourse project financing and equity.

GNLM

Solar generator helps rural community in Dala with power supplies

By Khaing Thanda Lwin

YANGON, 26 April — A power supply project has been accomplished in a suburban area of Yangon in April, with Myanmar Red Cross Society saying that the project in Dala is designed to enable the rural community to have access to electricity.

Financed by Belgium-based Bright Foundation, a solar generator was installed in the village of Minywaseikgyi, MRCS said. The device is worth nearly US\$60,000, Dr

Maung Maung Hla, director of Health Department at MRCS, told The Global New Light of Myanmar on Sunday.

The solar generator called "Bright 150" is fully integrated and can produce up to 40 kWh of electricity a day. Prof Dr Tha Hla Shwe of MRCS said the machine will provide power to 150 households in the village day and night.

The generator contains stations for DC charging,

energy storage, AC inverter and water pumping. Its pumping stations and charging stations will generate income for the village.

It took the project three months to finish.

Another step the village will take is to rebuild an old bridge as part of ensuring smooth transportation in the area. Built more than 100 years ago, the quality of the 30-foot-long wooden bridge is now deteriorating. MRCS has pledged three-fourths of the construction cost, while locals will contribute the rest.—GNLM

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Specialists from Suksawat Hospital in Thailand gave health care services to more than 300 monks, nuns and laypersons free of charge with the use of ECG and Echo machines in the precinct of Nanda Aungmyay Monastery of Leikpyakan Kyaungtaik on Shwegondine Road in Bahan Township on 25 and 26 April.
MAUNG MAUNG THANT (KYEMON)

MEIKTILA, 26 April—Bridge Construction Special Group No 14 of Public Works is building the bridge across Meiktila Lake, with a 25-percent completion.

The government allotted more than K3.2 billion on construction of new concrete bridge to be paralleled with old bridge to give better transport service to the local residents.

The new bridge will be essential for the combine office and No 2 Basic Education High School in Meiktila. Upon completion, the new bridge will contribute towards easing traffic congestions at downtown Meiktila.

Htay Myint Maung

Concrete bridge across Meiktila Lake under construction



Mdy SPEI recruits new trainees for 2015-16 academic year

MANDALAY, 26 April—Sports and Physical Education Institute (Mandalay) recruits new trainees from regions and states for 2015-16 academic year as of 22 April.

The institute tentatively selected 134 trainees from Mandalay Region, 262 from Sagaing Region, 101 from Magway Re-

gion, 47 from Kachin State and 11 from Chin State totalling 555. Officials of the institute led by Deputy Director-General U Kyaw Hsan of Sports and Physical Education Department and Medical Director Dr Mya Lay Sein examined the new trainees in line with the standards.—*Tin Maung (Mandalay)*



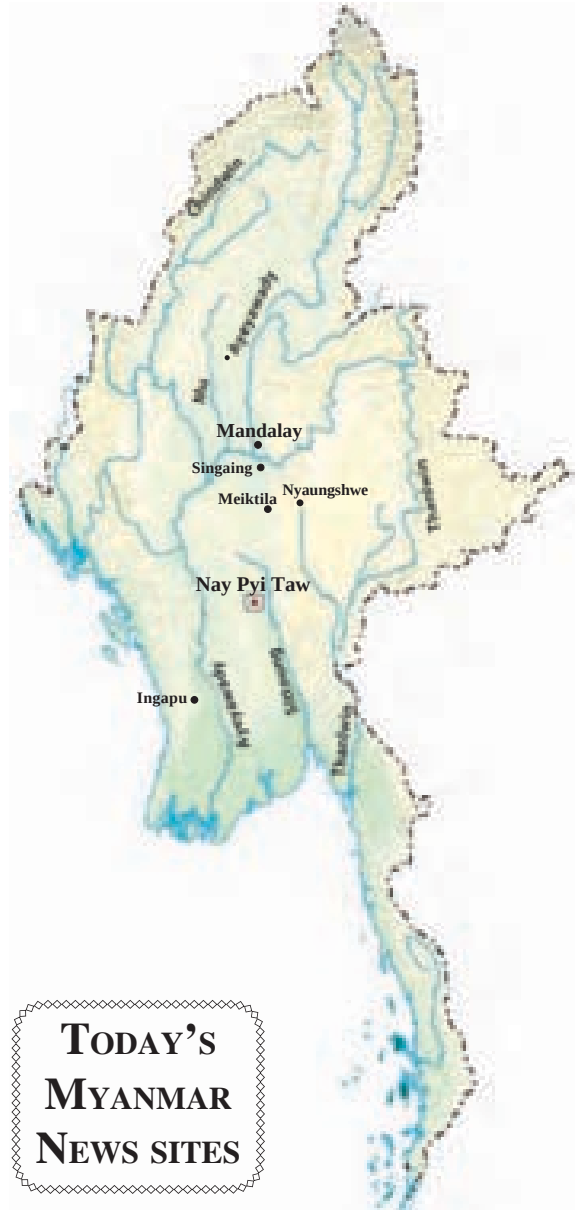
Myanmar's watermelon in high demand at Chinese market

MANDALAY, 26 April—Fertile soil and alluvial lands of Ayeyawady River in Mandalay, Amarapura, Singaing, Kyaukse and Myittha townships produce high yield production of watermelon. The organic fruits are marketable in China through Muse border trade.

Brokerages in Shangalekyun and Myitnge of Amarapura Township, Mandalay District export the fruits with the packages to Chinese market daily. The vendors sell watermelon ranging from K500 to K1,000 along the strand road and 86th street in Mandalay.

As of early April, watermelon is in high demand in the Chinese market, changing price of fruits daily.

Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)



Villagers participate in inter-village/ward football tournament

SINGAING, 26 April—Baleba village emerged champion in the final match with a 2-1 win over Epya village in the inter-village/ward football tournament at the sports ground in Epya village, Singaing Township, on 24 April.

A total of 40 football teams participated in the tournament from 1 March to 24 April.

Mandalay Region

Hluttaw MP U Nyi Nyi and U Sein Thaung and Deputy Director U Wai Zin of Sports and Physical Education Department presented cash awards to second to fourth prize winning teams.

Amyotha Hluttaw MP U Kyi Pyone awarded K400,000 to champion Baleba village team.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)



NATIONAL

President U Thein Sein delivers speech . . .

(from page 1)

the trade and industry minister of the Philippines, who attended the forum on behalf of the president of the Philippines and ministers and officials from the ASEAN.

The forum was formally opened with the ASEAN Anthem and Malaysian National Anthem.

At the forum, chairman of the ASEAN Leadership Forum Tan Sri Dato Michael Yeoh gave an opening speech and the sultan of Perak Darul Ridzuan extended greetings.

The chairman of the forum presented ASEAN Lifetime Achievement Awards to the sultan and participants posed for documentary photographs.

Then, the sultan for-

mally opened the forum and Minister at the Prime Minister's Office Dato's Sri Abdul Wahid Omar of Malaysia read out the message of the Malaysian prime minister.

Afterwards, the Cambodian prime minister, the Myanmar president, the Laotian prime minister, the chief executive of Hong Kong Special Administrative Region and the minister of trade and industry of Philippines delivered speeches.

Then, the chairman of the forum presented gifts to the leaders who delivered speeches at the forum before the sultan of Perak Darul gave honorary prizes to Malaysian business leaders who participated in the forum.

In his speech at the forum, President U Thein Sein said that the year 2015 is an important year for ASEAN and it will be a significant historic milestone of efforts for ASEAN integration under one vision and one community. It also is a year to finalize post-2015 programmes and objectives to strengthen ASEAN integration and the importance of the forum in the circumstance is recognized by ASEAN leaders, according to the president.

Then, the president continued to say that the forum, which has been organized for twelve years, is a regional leadership programme that enables ASEAN leaders, regional business leaders, civil society organizations, experts and scholars to meet one another. As the forum is scheduled to discuss



President U Thein Sein holds talks with Chief Executive of Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Mr Leung Chun-ying.—IPRD

post-2015 vision and programme of the ASEAN, the discussions will contribute to current and future tasks of the ASEAN community, the president added.

In conclusion, the president expressed his hope that development of a regional architecture to achieve objectives of ASEAN integration depends on cooperation of dialogue partners and other regional partners, and the yearly forum will

be able to develop useful trends to that end.

At 6 pm, President U Thein Sein received Chief Executive of Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Mr Leung Chun-ying at the Citrine Room of the Mandarin Oriental Hotel.

They discussed investment of Hong Kong in small and medium enterprises in Myanmar, promotion of cooperation in tourism industry, investment in infrastructure

sector on Myanmar and flights between Myanmar and Hong Kong.

Hong Kong is the fourth largest foreign investor in Myanmar.

At 8.30 pm, President U Thein Sein and wife attended the Gala Dinner hosted in honour of heads of states and governments by the Malaysian prime minister and wife at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre in Kuala Lumpur.

MNA

Myanmar, China to promote cooperation in politics, business, technology



Pyidaungsu and Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann meets Mr Hu Chunhua, Secretary of Guangdong Province's Communist Party of China.—MNA

GUANGZHOU, 26 April — At the invitation of the Communist Party of China (CPC), Pyidaungsu and Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann paid an official visit to China on 25 April.

The speaker was ac-

companied by U Soe Tha, Thura U Aye Myint, U Thein Zaw and U T Khun Myat, all of whom are chairs of Pyithu Hluttaw's committees.

He met Mr Hu Chunhua, Secretary of Guangdong Province's CPC at the latter's office on 25 April,

and they exchanged views on promotion of bilateral cooperation in politics, business and technology, followed by a dinner hosted in honour of the Myanmar delegation led by Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann.

MNA

Army arrests one armed man in Kyauktaw Tsp

NAY PYI TAW, 26 April — Military columns arrested Tun Tun Win, 31, son of U Tun Khaing along with M-22 designed gun, 30 bul-

lets, two magazines, two grenades and one equipment set in Sapaseik-Kalachang region, Kyauktaw Township on 25 April.

The military columns cooperate with local people in combing the armed men in Rakhine State.

Myawady

Union FM sends message of felicitations to South Africa

NAY PYI TAW, 27 April — U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a

message of felicitations to Her Excellency Ms. Maite M Nkoana-Mashabane, Minister of International Relations and Cooperation of the Republic of South

Africa, on the occasion of the Freedom Day of the Republic of South Africa, which falls on 27 April 2015.

MNA

Tatmadaw to continue its offensives for stability in Laukkai

NAY PYI TAW, 26 April — As Tatmadaw launched offensives and has controlled Kokang stronghold hills in Shinkhotehtan and Santaikshan, Kokang insurgents built a defence line on Point-2202 hill near border post 19 between Myanmar and China.

Tatmadaw columns

launched tough and brave offensives against the insurgent who held upper hand on the hill while trying to avoid strayed shell into the other countries.

As a result, some Tatmadaw officers and other ranks sacrificed their lives and were injuring in the fighting while some other

were lost in the area. Those who injured were sent to military hospitals for medical treatments.

Tatmadaw will bravely continue its offensive against the insurgents for the stability of Laukkai area without fear for losses of lives, according to sources.—Myawady

Expressway traffic accident kills 8, injuries 14

NAY PYI TAW, 26 April — A passenger bus bumped into a Toyota Hilux in front on the Yangon-Mandalay Expressway in the Nay Pyi Taw council area on 25 April, killing eight people

and injuring 14 aboard the small car.

The accident occurred between Mile Posts 239/7 and 240/0 in the township of Tatkon. The injured were taken to the hospital

in Nay Pyi Taw.

On Sunday afternoon, local authorities visited the hospital, where they comforted the patients and their families by fulfilling their requirements.—MNA

ASEAN, EU to revisit FTA talks

KUALA LUMPUR, 26 April — The Association of Southeast Asian Nations and the European Union will look into resuming their stalled free trade talks after a “stock-taking” meeting at the end of 2015, trade officials from both sides said on Sunday.

The matter was discussed during a meeting between ASEAN and EU trade ministers in the Malaysian capital where a series of ASEAN-related events are taking place.

“We agreed that by end of the year, at the senior officials level, there will be a stock-taking meeting to see where is the ASEAN integration process and where are we on the different bilateral FTA and where did we leave off the last time, identify the difficulties, challenges and priorities and then report to the ministers to see how we take that forward,” EU Trade Commissioner Cecilia Malmstrom said at a press conference at the end of the meeting.

ASEAN and the European Union had started negotiating for a free trade agreement in 2007. But the talks stalled in 2009 due to Europe’s unwillingness to include Myanmar in the discussion over the Southeast Asian country’s human rights violation issues as well as the difficulties posed by the developmental gaps among the 10 ASEAN member states.

Malmstrom avoided mentioning specifics about what could be the stumbling blocks to future FTA talks, merely saying, “Many things have changed in Europe and here (in the ASEAN region).”

ASEAN Deputy Secretary General for ASEAN Economic Community Lim Hong Hin said the year-end

timing is just right to relook at the regional trade pact.

“We have a lot on our plate,” he said at the joint press conference, noting that ASEAN had been preoccupied with various FTA negotiations with countries like China, Japan, South Korea, India, Australia and New Zealand as well as the ambitious Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership that covers these six countries and the 10 ASEAN members.

“A good timing to revisit the region-to-region FTA will be after the realization of the AEC at the end of 2015,” Lim said.

The AEC is envisaged to become an integrated market and production base with free flow of goods, services and investments, skilled labour and capital.

While ASEAN and the European Union were stuck in their FTA negotiations, the European Union has proceeded with bilateral FTA talks with individual ASEAN members like Malaysia, Vietnam, Thailand and Singapore. Of the four, it concluded an FTA with Singapore in 2012.

The European Union was the largest source of foreign direct investment into ASEAN in 2014 at \$29.1 billion, an increase of 30.5 percent from the year before.

Malaysian International Trade and Industry Minister Mustapa Mohamad, who chaired the ASEAN-EU meeting, said there are over 10,000 European companies operating in the ASEAN region. Bilateral trade between the two regions grew 0.8 percent in 2014 to \$248.2 billion. The European Union is ASEAN’s second largest trading partner while ASEAN is the European Union’s third largest partner outside Europe.—Kyodo News

Death toll from M7.8 Nepal quake rises to over 2,200

KATHMANDU, 26 April — The death toll from the magnitude 7.8 earthquake that struck Nepal on Saturday has risen to more than 2,200 in the Southeast Asian country and neighboring areas as of Sunday afternoon, with the disaster injuring thousands more and causing extensive damage in the region.

The number of people killed in Nepal has reached 2,152, Nepalese media reported on Sunday, citing a Nepal police official. A total of 53 people have died in India, 17 in China and three in Bangladesh, according to media reports.

While numerous aftershocks have followed the initial temblor, the biggest one yet with a magnitude of 6.7 shook the same region early Sunday afternoon. Reuters reported that the aftershock caused more avalanches on Mt Everest.

So far, 17 bodies have been recovered on Mt Everest after the first quake — the strongest to hit Nepal in

81 years — had also triggered avalanches as climbers from around the world were preparing to make their ascent on the world’s highest peak in May when the weather is favourable.

While the Nepalese government continues its search and rescue activities in Kathmandu and other affected areas, other countries have begun to offer assistance, with India, Pakistan and China sending relief goods and disaster assistance teams to Nepal.

Countries like Japan, the United States, South Korea, Australia and European nations have also decided to help through methods such as sending relief assistance and providing financial support.

UN Secretary General Ban Ki Moon said in a statement, “The United Nations is supporting the government of Nepal in coordinating international search and rescue operations and is preparing to mount a major relief



A man cries as he walks on the street while passing through a damaged statue of Lord Buddha a day after an earthquake in Bhaktapur, Nepal on 26 April, 2015.

REUTERS

effort.”

The Nepalese government on Saturday declared a state of emergency in districts affected by the quake, but the overall situation in Nepal remains unclear, with electricity having been cut and communication lines down in many parts of the country.

Rescue operations

have been hampered due to lack of equipment as victims remain buried under the debris of collapsed buildings. Many people, including government officials, have stayed outside since Saturday’s quake due to fear of aftershocks and further damage to buildings.

Kyodo News

UN chief appeals to Indonesia not to carry out executions



Julian McMahon (R), a lawyer for two Australian death row prisoners and an Australian embassy staff member shows self portraits made by death row inmate Myuran Sukumaran after they returned from a visit to the prison island of Nusakambangan in Central Java, Indonesia on 25 April, 2015 in this photo taken by Antara Foto. — REUTERS

UNITED NATIONS, 26 April — United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon appealed to In-

donesia on Saturday not to execute 10 prisoners, including two Australians, for drug-related crimes.

Indonesia has so far informed seven of the 10 death row inmates, including the Australians and one Nigerian, that they will be executed in a matter of days, possibly as soon as Tuesday. Nationals from Brazil, Ghana and the Philippines are also on Indonesia’s death row. A temporary reprieve was granted to a French citizen who will not be in the next round of executions.

The United Nations opposes the death penalty in all circumstances and in a statement, Ban’s spokesman said the Secretary-General urged Indonesian President Joko Widodo to “urgently consider declaring a moratorium on capital punishment in Indo-

nesia, with a view toward abolition.”

Indonesia has harsh punishments for drug crimes and resumed executions in 2013 after a five-year gap. Six executions have been carried out so far this year.

“Under international law, if the death penalty is to be used at all, it should only be imposed for the most serious crimes, namely those involving intentional killing, and only with appropriate safeguards,” Ban’s spokesman said in a statement.

“Drug-related offenses generally are not considered to fall under the category of ‘most serious crimes,’” he said.

Reuters

Malaysia snubs Philippine call for stronger ASEAN stand on S China Sea

KUALA LUMPUR, 26 April — Malaysia has rejected the Philippines’ proposal for the Association of Southeast Asian Nations to take a stronger stand against China over territorial disputes in the South China Sea, ASEAN sources said on Sunday.

Philippine Foreign Secretary Albert del Rosario tried to galvanize the support of ASEAN foreign ministers at their meeting on Sunday in Kuala Lumpur, asking the 10-member regional grouping to be more critical of

China’s land reclamations in the disputed waters.

“Is it not time for ASEAN to say to our northern neighbour that what it is doing is wrong and that the massive reclamations must be immediately stopped?” del Rosario told his counterparts, according to a Philippine official.

He warned that if China’s land reclamation activities persisted, it would render ASEAN’s efforts for the implementation of the Declaration on the Conduct

of Parties in the South China Sea “irrelevant” and undermine the establishment of a Code of Conduct.

The Philippines has been pushing for stronger words to be used on the South China Sea issue in the Chairman’s Statement to be issued by Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak at the ASEAN leaders’ summit to be held in Malaysia on Monday, the sources said.

Manila had suggested wording such as calling for “avoidance of destabilizing

activities such as massive reclamation.”

However, Malaysia, as this year’s ASEAN chair, rejected the Philippine proposal, the sources said.

Malaysia has instead come up with a draft of the statement that only says, “We share the concerns expressed by some leaders on the land reclamation being undertaken in the South China Sea, which has eroded trust and confidence and may undermine peace, security and stability in the South

China Sea.”

“In this regard we instructed our foreign ministers to address this matter constructively under the framework of ASEAN-China relations,” said Malaysia’s draft document circulated to ASEAN officials, which was obtained by Kyodo News.

Malaysia, which is also one of the claimant states in the South China Sea, has close economic ties with China and has so far kept a low profile on the issue. The

Malaysian government has said in recent days that it prefers a diplomatic approach in handling the issue at the ASEAN summit.

Aside from China, Malaysia and the Philippines, other claimants in the South China Sea territorial disputes are Brunei, Vietnam and Taiwan.

Among ASEAN claimants, the Philippines and Vietnam have been more vocal over the disputes, while Malaysia and Brunei have been quiet.—Kyodo News

Abe departs for 8-day US visit, to hold talks with Obama

TOKYO, 26 April — Prime Minister Shinzo Abe left Japan on Sunday for an eight-day official visit to the United States during which he will hold talks with President Barack Obama on Tuesday to reaffirm their countries' robust bilateral alliance.

One of the highlights of Abe's visit will be delivering a speech to a joint session of Congress, the first time for a Japanese prime minister to do so. The expected 40-minute speech will be closely watched as it is expected to foreshadow a statement he will issue in summer marking the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II.

During their summit talks, new Japan-US defence cooperation guidelines, negotiations on a US-led Pacific free trade initiative, and a proposed China-led development bank are likely to top the agenda, diplomatic sources and Japanese officials said.

"I hope to send a mes-

sage for the creation of peace and prosperity in the 21st century and opening a new era by taking advantage of the strong Japan-US bond," Abe told reporters at Tokyo's Haneda airport shortly before leaving for the United States, explaining the aim of the visit.

On his planned speech to the US Congress, he expressed hope to tell of a vision about what Japan is going to do with the United States and what kind of world it seeks to realize.

Abe also said he plans to affirm with Obama a plan to alleviate Okinawa's burden of hosting US bases, based on a trustworthy relationship between Japan and the United States.

The Abe-Obama talks will come a day after the "two-plus-two" meeting of the foreign and defence chiefs of Japan and the United States in New York on Monday to finalize the first revision in 18 years of the guidelines.

The guidelines, which set the roles and missions of the Japanese Self-Defence Forces and US military, are expected to be updated to expand the scope of SDF operations abroad amid China's growing maritime assertiveness. On the economic front, the leaders are expected to also reiterate the strategic importance of the US-led Trans-Pacific Partnership initiative, one of the Japanese officials said.

On Thursday, chief negotiators from the United States, Japan and 10 other countries in the TPP framework resumed their talks in Washington to narrow the remaining gaps in the Pacific free trade initiative, while a US House of Representatives committee passed a bipartisan bill that is expected to help lead to an early conclusion of the TPP. Abe has expressed optimism in moving forward with the deal.

During his US trip, Abe is scheduled to offer

flowers at Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia that honours US veterans, an accustomed practice for Japanese prime ministers and defence ministers, and visit the US Holocaust Memorial Museum.

Such schedules are widely seen as a way for Abe to fend off criticism from Asian neighbours — China and South Korea — that he is not remorseful of Japan's wartime past, observers say. While Japan's peace-related efforts since World War II have been recognized in the United States, Abe is viewed by some as having revisionist historical views, according to political analysts. Abe will also visit Boston, Los Angeles and San Francisco, and meet with business leaders and local communities. "It's a good thing to reaffirm Japan's ties at the local levels" through his visits to cities other than the US capital, a Japanese official said.—Kyodo News

Man arrested for flying drone onto PM's office sent to prosecutors



Yasuo Yamamoto (C), 40, is taken to public prosecutors from the Kojimachi Police Station in Tokyo on 26 April, 2015. Yamamoto was arrested the previous day for flying a small drone onto the prime minister's office. He had allegedly flown the drone, which bore a container holding sand with trace amounts of radioactive cesium, in protest at the government's energy policy. —KYODO NEWS

TOKYO, 26 April — Police sent to public prosecutors on Sunday a man arrested for flying a small drone onto the prime minister's office earlier in the week.

Yasuo Yamamoto, 40, was arrested on Saturday on suspicion of forcible obstruction of business and interfering with the operations of the office of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe.

Yamamoto turned himself in to the police on Friday and said he had flown the drone, which bore a container holding sand with trace amounts of radioactive cesium, in

protest at the government's energy policy.

The police also started searching his home on Sunday in the western Japanese city of Obama in Fukui Prefecture, where several nuclear plants are concentrated.

The government is pushing to restore nuclear power generation despite opposition from the majority of Japanese after the March 2011 earthquake and tsunami triggered the nuclear disaster in Fukushima. The drone was found on the roof of the prime minister's office last Tuesday.—Kyodo News

Malaysia foils attacks in capital by suspected militants

KUALA LUMPUR, 26 April — Malaysian police have arrested 12 people linked to the militant group Islamic State and seized explosives, foiling a plan to attack several locations in and around the capital city.

The male suspects, aged 17 to 41, were arrested on Saturday and Sunday from Ulu Langat and Cheras, suburbs near Kuala Lumpur, police chief Khalid Abu Baker said in a

statement on Sunday.

The men were suspected of plotting attacks on "strategic targets and governmental interests around the Klang Valley", he said.

The plans were in response to calls by Islamic State (IS) to launch terrorist attacks on secular Islamic countries seen as "enemies of IS". Authorities said previous arrests of suspected IS militants was another reason behind the intended attacks.

The explosives seized included 20 kg of ammonium nitrate and 20 kg of potassium nitrate, the statement added.

Security was heightened in Kuala Lumpur on Sunday as leaders of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) started arriving in Kuala Lumpur for the ASEAN summit, which opens officially on Monday.

But it was not clear

whether any of the planned attacks were linked to the summit.

At the summit, Malaysia aims to push for regional cooperation to fight terrorism. The Southeast Asian country has not seen any significant militant attacks but has arrested 92 citizens on suspicion of links to IS.

Authorities have identified 39 Malaysians in Syria and Iraq.

Reuters

N Korea requests "formal partnership" with ASEAN

KUALA LUMPUR, 26 April — North Korea has requested a formal partnership with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, a top Malaysian Foreign Ministry official said on Saturday. Othman Hashim, secretary general of the ministry, said North Korea, along with Norway, Ecuador and Mongolia, have applied for formal partnerships with the 10-member ASEAN.

He said there are different categories of partnership with the grouping and ASEAN is evaluating the requests to decide what category is suitable for each of these countries in their engagement with ASEAN.

The official made the remarks to reporters at the end of the first day of the meeting of ASEAN senior officials to prepare for the ASEAN summit that will be held in Kuala Lumpur and Langkawi on Monday.

North Korea's engagement with ASEAN so far has been through its membership to the ASEAN Regional Forum, a multilateral ministerial forum on security that is spearheaded by ASEAN and which is attended by the North Korean foreign minister. ASEAN already has a "dialogue partnership" with South Korea, a status that the grouping offers to countries that are its biggest economic partners, such as the United States, Japan and China.

Through this dialogue partnership, ASEAN has regular meetings with the top leaders and the trade and foreign ministers of these countries regularly on the sidelines of ASEAN meetings.

ASEAN groups Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.—Kyodo News



Soldiers of the local public security frontier corps give tourists free porridge at a checkpoint of Zhangmu Township in Nyalam County, on 25 April, 2015. More than 500 tourists stranded by a powerful earthquake in Nepal have been properly relocated at the Zhangmu checkpoint. XINHUA

Obama pokes fun at political friends and foes at White House dinner

WASHINGTON, 26 April — At the gathering he jokingly called “a night when Washington celebrates itself,” US President Barack Obama took light-hearted aim on Saturday at a range of political friends and foes, including the people running to succeed him.

Obama’s comedy routine at the annual White House Correspondents’ Dinner included a sly dig at Hillary Clinton, the current front-runner to be the Democratic candidate in the 2016 presidential election.

Noting that some Americans are living in a time of uncertainty, Obama said, “For example, I have one friend just a few weeks ago, she was making millions of dollars a year and she’s now living out of a van in Iowa.”

Clinton, who as a for-

mer secretary of state, former senator and former first lady is one of America’s best known figures, traveled around in a van this month in a deliberately low-key trip to the state that holds an early contest in the election primary season. Obama, now in office for six years, is a polished performer at an event that draws journalists, politicians and celebrities to a cavernous ballroom in the Washington Hilton.

Some of his jokes are stock, including a reference to how much his time as president has aged him. “I look so old,” he said this year, “that John Boehner has already invited Netanyahu to speak at my funeral.”

Obama was angered when Boehner, the Republican leader of the House



US President Barack Obama

of Representatives, invited Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to speak to Congress last month against a nuclear deal with Iran that the Obama administration was negotiating with other world powers.

The comedian at the dinner, Cecily Strong of NBC show “Saturday Night Live,” also fired freely around the audience. Taking a jab at some media coverage of women politicians, she had the au-

dience repeat after her, “I solemnly swear not to talk about Hillary’s appearance, because that is not journalism.”

Strong also took aim at the Secret Service that protects Obama, which has seen a slew of embarrassing recent bungles. Referring to a series of deaths of black men at the hands of law enforcement that have provoked protests around the country, she said, “They’re the only law enforcement agency that will get in trouble if a black man gets shot.”

On a serious note, Obama noted there were journalists around the world who were unjustly imprisoned, and cited the case of Jason Rezaian of the Washington Post, an American-Iranian who is in prison in Iran.

“For nine months, Jason has been imprisoned in Teheran for nothing more than writing about the hopes and the fears of the Iranian people,” Obama said, adding that he had told Rezaian’s brother Ali that he would not rest “until we bring him home to his family safe and sound.”

The case represents a point of friction with Iran at a time when the Obama administration is seeking with five other major powers to conclude a nuclear deal with Teheran after reaching a framework agreement earlier this month.

The dinner, a long-running tradition organized by the White House Correspondents’ Association, has morphed from being a relatively low-key gathering of journalists and their sources from around town.

In recent years, media organizations have invited not just sources but Hollywood stars and sports celebrities. Washington has a love-hate relationship with its annual spring party. Those who go tend to enjoy having dinner with the president, albeit along with more than 2,600 others, seeing sources in a semi-casual setting and mingling with celebrities.

But the dinner also draws an annual chorus of condemnation from critics who say that laughing and partying with sources is not conducive to hard-hitting journalism.

The dinner is actually a weekend of events — various media organizations host pre- and post-dinner parties that give the affair an echo of Hollywood at Oscar time.—Reuters

Google executive killed in Mount Everest avalanche after quake

KATHMANDU, 26 April — Dan Fredinburg, a Google Inc executive based in California, was among those killed on Saturday in an avalanche on Mount Everest caused by a devastating earthquake in Nepal, the company said.

Fredinburg was climbing the world’s tallest peak with three other Google employees when the avalanche struck. None of his colleagues were injured, Lawrence You, a company official, said in a statement.

Fredinburg, a Google veteran, was head of privacy at Google X, a research division at the Mountain View, California-based company. Fredinburg suffered a major head injury

during an avalanche, his sister Megan said on social media. “His soul and his spirit will live on in so many of us,” she said on an Instagram posting.

Fredinburg, an experienced climber, was making his ascent up Everest with Jagged Globe, a company that organizes mountain treks. In confirming Fredinburg’s death, the company said that two other team members suffered non-life threatening injuries in the avalanche that struck its base camp.

An Indian army mountaineering team found 18 bodies on Everest, an army official said.

Reuters

UK’s Labour rules out informal deal with Scots nationalists after May election

LONDON, 26 April — The leader of Britain’s opposition Labour Party on Sunday ruled out an informal deal with Scottish nationalists after a 7 May election if his party fails to win an overall majority, something he has previously declined to do.

When asked if left-wing Labour would negotiate with the Scottish nationalists after the election, Labour leader Ed Miliband told the BBC: “I’m not interested in deals no.”

Miliband had already ruled out a formal coalition with the Scottish National Party, but his failure to exclude a looser arrangement — known as a ‘confidence

and supply’ deal — had been seized upon by Prime Minister David Cameron’s Conservatives.

“I want to be clear about this. No coalition, no tie-ins. I’m not doing deals with the Scottish National Party,” said Miliband.

Opinion polls have consistently shown that neither the Conservatives nor Labour are likely to win an overall majority in the 650-seat Parliament.

Scots voted to preserve the United Kingdom in a 18 September referendum last year. But opinion polls indicate the once marginal pro-independence Scottish National Party (SNP) is on course to take the lion’s



Britain’s opposition Labour party leader Ed Miliband addresses an audience behind a teleprompter during a campaign event in London, Britain, on 24 April, 2015. —REUTERS

share of Labour’s Scottish seats.

If the polls are accurate, the rise of the SNP could dash Miliband’s dreams of winning the

election and thrust secessionist ‘kingmakers’ to the heart of British power.

Cameron’s Conservatives have warned that SNP support for a Labour minority government could shunt Britain leftwards and trigger a constitutional crisis by undermining the legitimacy of the United Kingdom’s government in the eyes of English voters.

If Miliband did try to rule with a minority government that had neither a formal coalition deal nor an informal support deal in the Westminster Parliament, its future could be much more uncertain than any British government since the 1970s.—Reuters

Russian hackers read Obama’s unclassified emails last year



WASHINGTON, 26 April — Russian hackers who penetrated sensitive parts of the White House computer system last year read President Barack Obama’s unclassified emails, the New York Times reported

on Saturday, quoting US officials.

“There is no evidence that the president’s email account itself was hacked, White House officials said. Still, the fact that some of Mr Obama’s communica-

tions were among those retrieved by hackers has been one of the most closely held findings of the inquiry,” the paper said.

A White House spokeswoman declined to comment on the report but the White House earlier this month confirmed the breach, saying it took place last year and that it did not affect classified information.

The New York Times said on Saturday the breach had been “far more intrusive and worrisome than has been publicly acknowledged.”

It said that although no classified networks had been compromised, of-

ficials conceded that the unclassified system still contains highly sensitive information such as email exchanges with diplomats, exchanges about personnel moves and legislation, presidential schedules and discussion about policy.

Officials did not disclose the number of Obama’s emails that were read by the hackers nor the sensitivity of their content, the New York Times said. It added that the president’s email account itself was apparently not hacked.

The paper said that Senior White House officials had known for months about the depth of the intrusion.—Reuters

China International Search and Rescue Team arrives in Nepal to carry out humanitarian mission

KATHMANDU, 26 April — The 62-strong China International Search and Rescue Team arrived in Nepal on Sunday to carry out humanitarian mission following a 7.9 magnitude quake struck the country.

Shankar Koirala, Nepal’s joint secretary of the Office of the Prime Minister and the Council of Ministers, warmly welcomed

the Chinese team at the Kathmandu airport, terming their arrival as a timely assistance.

The joint secretary said his country will do its best to facilitate the Chinese team so that they can rescue more Nepali people. Chinese Ambassador to Nepal Wu Chunlai wished the Chinese team success in carrying out their assignment.

Xinhua

Saudi-led air strikes hit Yemeni capital, ships shell Aden

ADEN, 26 April — At least five air strikes hit military sites and an area near the presidential palace compound in the Yemeni capital Sanaa at dawn on Sunday while warships pounded an area near the port of the southern city of Aden, residents said.

The bombings were the first raids on Sanaa since a Saudi-led alliance said last week it was scaling back a campaign against Iranian-allied Houthi militias, which control Sanaa and have powerful allies in Yemen's factionalized armed forces.

"The explosions were so big they shook the house, waking us and our kids up. Life has really



A girl runs for shelter during an air strike in Sanaa on 8 April, 2015.—REUTERS

become unbearable in this city," a Sanaa resident who gave his name as Jamal told Reuters.

Eyewitnesses in Aden said foreign warships pounded Houthi armed positions around the city's main commercial port and dockyard, the first time the port area has been shelled, residents said.

Aden residents reported heavy clashes between local armed militia and Houthi fighters backed up by army units, and sources in the militia said they were retaliating for the first time with tank and Katyusha rocket fire against the Houthi advance.

In the southern province of Dalea, the militia-

men said they had fought for hours to retake several rural districts with the help of Saudi-led air strikes, in fighting which left around 25 of the Houthi forces and six of their own men dead.

Saudi Arabia, the world's top oil exporter and arch regional adversary of Iran, is concerned about possible security threats posed by the Houthis' advance across Yemen since last September. It launched a month-long campaign of air raids against the group that has halted its battlefield progress but has yet to reverse their dominant position in the country or force them to return to peace talks.

Reuters

Egypt's trial of Mursi 'badly flawed' — Human Rights Watch

CAIRO, 26 April — The trial of former Egyptian President Mohamed Mursi, deposed by the army and sentenced to 20 years in jail, was "badly flawed" and appears to have been politically motivated, Human Rights Watch said on Sunday.

A court on 21 April convicted Mursi and 12 other Muslim Brotherhood members of violence, kidnapping and torture over the deaths of protesters in 2012. They were acquitted of murder, which carries the death sentence.

The rise to power of the Brotherhood, a decades-old Islamist movement, after the Arab Spring uprisings polarised Egypt's population and led to months of unrest.

The army ousted Mursi in mid-2013 after mass protests against his rule. Abdel Fattah al-Sisi, army chief at the time, went on to win presidential elections last year.

Human Rights Watch said Mursi's detention without charge for more than three weeks after his removal from office violated Egyptian law, and it criticised the prosecution's heavy reliance on the testimony of military and police officers.

"Whatever political responsibility (Mursi) may have, the prosecution didn't establish his criminal guilt in this case", the rights group said in a statement



Ousted Egyptian President Mohamed Mursi gestures after his trial behind bars at a court in the outskirts of Cairo, on 21 April, 2015.—REUTERS

entitled "Egypt: (Mursi) Trial Badly Flawed".

It also cited a spokesman for the defence team saying the lawyers were only allowed to visit Mursi once in November 2013. Another lawyer was cited as saying the defence did not call witnesses out of fear for their safety.

Reuters could not immediately reach a foreign ministry spokesman for comment on the report, but a government statement last week rejected criticism of the Mursi's sentencing as "unacceptable interference in (Egypt's) internal affairs, let alone disrespect of the rulings of the Egyptian judiciary."

Mursi and his co-defendants deny the charges against them and are expected to appeal. Their case is part of a wider crackdown on the Brotherhood launched after the army

overthrew the Islamist president.

Harsh rulings against thousands of Mursi supporters, including death sentences handed down in mass trials, have been widely condemned abroad, including by rights groups, the United States and the European Union.

HRW also said the authorities had not investigated the killings of Mursi supporters at the 2012 demonstrations, creating "an appearance that the case was politically motivated against the Brotherhood".

Mursi faces charges in four other cases including leaking secrets to Qatar, conspiring with the Palestinian militant group Hamas to destabilise Egypt, and organising a jailbreak during the 2011 uprising against Hosni Mubarak.

Reuters

Syrian TV says insurgents killed civilians after capturing town

BEIRUT, 26 April — Syrian television said on Sunday that Islamist insurgents who seized a key northwestern town had since slaughtered civilians, but monitors of the war said only government supporters had been detained and no one killed.

Rebels including al-Qaeda's Syria wing captured of Jisr al-Shughour for the first time in the four-year conflict on Saturday, edging closer to Latamkia, the coastal province of vital importance to President Bashar al-Assad.

"Terrorist groups committed a horrific massacre of civilians after entering Jisr al-Shughour," state television quoted a military source as saying. It said at least 30 civilians had been killed in the town close to the Turkish border. But the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, which monitors the grinding civil war, said combatants

had detained government backers and that there was no confirmation so far they had killed anyone.

"If we knew people were killed by them we would report it," the Observatory's founder Rami Abdulrahman said. "No women and children were captured."

His monitoring group, which says it collects information from all sides of the conflict, said at least 27 people, mainly insurgents, were killed after Syrian jets bombed Jisr al-Shughour. Heavy fighting continued south of the town.

The capture of the town of 50,000 people in Idlib province was the latest in a series of setbacks for government forces in the south and north of Syria. State media said on Saturday the army had redeployed to the town's surroundings "to avoid civilian casualties". It

said the army was battling "a large number of terrorists coming from the Turkish border". On Sunday, the state news agency SANA said the military had carried out night raids around Jisr al-Shughour and inflicted heavy losses on its enemies.

Insurgents have been trying to push the army out of the few remaining government areas in the province. Last month the Sunni Islamist rebels seized Idlib city, the provincial capital, after forming an alliance that includes Nusra, the hard-line Islamist Ahrar al-Sham movement and Jund al-Aqsa, but not the rival, ultra-radical Islamic State group which controls large tracts of Syria and Iraq.

The Islamist alliance calls itself the Army of Fatah, a reference to the conquests that spread Islam across the Middle East from the 7th century.—Reuters



Residents flee Jisr al-Shughour town after rebels took control of the area on 25 April, 2015.—REUTERS

PERSPECTIVES

Monday, 27 April, 2015

Ensure a fair competition through genuine capability

By Aung Khin

While Myanmar is advancing democratic society, every sector has opened up for skillful persons. There has been certain amount of rivalry among business firms and organizations.

Competition, however, should be fair, without letting any organization get a favour. Preparation for strength and capability is needed to ensure a fair competition. Rules and disciplines of relevant indus-

try must be observed in the competition. If a powerful organization tried to have a monopoly on a competition, for example, in business sector, it will have a bad reputation despite its success in profit.

A genuine success cannot be gauged with just profit. It is also concerned with dignity and reputation after a fair competition in term of capability in manpower and skill.

Competition is unavoidable in market economy, while monopoly and cronyism are not suitable for a democratic society. It can help bringing about benefits for the economy as a whole, with encouraging enterprises to become more efficient and innovative and ultimately to offer more diverse products and services.

The welfare of public should be prioritized in competition, and it is important that competition between enterprises should not be distorted. An atmosphere of fair competition must be developed by setting reasonable rules and regulations which the stakeholders can abide by.

It is important to ensure a fair competition by prohibiting restrictive agreements, abuses of a dominant position, and those state aids or subsidies which hinder competition to a certain extent of contrary to the common interest.

Moreover, clear regulation should be strengthened and monopolies or unfair competition should be harshly penalized.

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Time to accomplish unfinished pledges we made solemnly

By Kin Mg Oo

Little as their effort put in their work is, the ultimate goal of a student is to pass their exam and to be in a higher class in the new academic year to come. The ambitious and the un-ambitious usually want to live completely free from the great burden of school lessons just after their previous exams, keeping away from studies. Our Myanmar New Year Water Festival can be said to be the boundary of a brief relaxation between the period just before and just after releasing exam results. Now students passed that border line. Their happiness and sorrow flew into us vicariously. As per usual, it is satisfying to see a high success rate of normal school exams. Unlike previous years, final tests of 9th and 5th grades were examined by their respective exam boards. Compared to prior ones, pass rate was low, though some of the successful candidates got high passing grades As & Bs. There can be apparent difference seen between the past and the present. Why? We need to find out the solution.

I am a school-teacher manque by profession. I am not an educationist. But I want to say that I am interested in teaching, especially English. As a teacher at the chalk-face in my private class-room, I accumulated much knowledge about them. Based on my interviews with them, I came to know that many of them were found lacking in the subject and other ones. I have a grandchild learning at a famous State High School in Yangon. There seems to be an element of hyperbole in such a claim that her class teacher did not even know the value of zero number. To a math problem, "4 multiplied by zero+1, she gave the answer as 5. We cannot accept such an excuse even if the mistake was made in a careless way. Unless this case was untouched, the child would take what her teacher taught as the truth. "A stitch in time saves nine," as the saying goes. There was such and such news abroad that some affordable parents hired private teachers for their offspring. I am writing this for authorities of the Education Department just to know the real situation. I am not finding fault with teachers. I respect all teachers and I love teaching career. I wrote an article titled, "Female-dominated Noble Profession in Myanmar and A Teacher Is Many Things, in the Global New Light of Myanmar newspaper issued on 29th April 2014. In dictionaries, a teacher is defined as a person whose job is teaching [a subject] in a school. According to our religion, we rank our teachers as the same as our Lord Buddha, Dhamma [His Teachings], Sanghas [His Followers] and our parents. So we never thought a teacher as an ordinary salary man. Sayar, which we call a teacher in Myanmar, is a seemingly corrupted Pali word Saryar that means shade. We can take a shelter in the shade. Our teachers were ideals for us and we completely relied upon them about the subjects we had to learn. And they helped us solve our problems and difficulties. Had they overheard our wrong behaviors and immoral practices, they were never reluctant to call and reprimand us. As far as we know, they were mostly B Sc and BA degree holders. Some wrote BA.Ed/BA[DT] after their names. MA/MSc and MA/MSc[ABD] degree holders were then rare. I dare say that they were certified and qualified. They never tried to earn extra money by giving extramural private tuition, apart from teaching at school. They

did not need to do so. This is because nearly all government service-men could manage to live, without any worry, on their income. Being qualified, well-trained, given frequent refresher courses and examined or supervised by their Education Inspectors, their teachings were sufficient enough for us so as not to find another savior any longer. Some college and university students also helped us with our learning during their summer vacation at their Alma Mater. How lucky we were!

What I want to present here is none other than the difference between the past and the present, then and now. The Education Department, the Education University and colleges have been producing professional teachers on and on, as in the olden days. Yet, it is undeniable that the numbers of teachers we need for schools are not available to the full. To fill the blank of inadequacy of trained teachers, many who were subjected to inefficiency due to a bad system entered our noble teaching field. In consequence of such a disappointing situation, our children, grandchildren and their peers are now having a desperate education. We need lots and lots of educated people worthy of their degrees in our community in building up our nation into a developed one. I never intend to arouse a furore among our readers, especially scholars, academia and authorities concerned of the department. The initially said story is not an invented one. Such happenings can be seen in our surrounding if we spare time to take a glance at exercise books of our children. In olden days as well, there were ones who were weak in their studies, but I dare say they knew the very basic knowledge of the subjects—especially English and Math. I did not mean all students of today, but most that completed their higher class courses and degree courses were found possessing the remarkably miserable language skill level whereas few were excellent and some were under mediocre level. The proportion of the qualified and the unqualified can be said to be dramatic. If someone will ask me whether we cannot go to a developed nation without proper knowledge about foreign languages, my stock reply is "Yes". It is generally said that the standard of a country can be ranked by its education. Having spent nearly one and a half decades learning a foreign language, a graduate should not use Pidgin English any longer. They should have known how to write simple and correct English. Ungrammatically incorrect English found in face-book pages depicts the true situation of our children.

A teacher who will share his knowledge with pupils must have proficiency in their respective subjects. Being taught by unqualified teachers, any students will surely find it difficult to have an access to higher learning. If the burning issue goes unsolved urgently, most of the human resources of our country will become useless. I will never demand that the above-said unqualified teachers be sacked. In fact, they too were victims of a bad system, hence the need to revitalize their skills by giving them refresher training courses. As a layman, I firmly believe that the carrot and stick approach will be of great help for developing abilities and capacities of our teachers. It is appropriate to offer a reward to a teacher who tries and to give a punishment to the one who does not try. Anyone with low income will hope for a better life. To decide which kinds of incentive are fit for them is a matter for

the authorities concerned to consider. I think incentives such as promotion, bonus and fringe benefits will be carrots, and demotion & fine will be sticks.

All of us used to and still make 4 solemn pledges during our school days:—

We will try to build ourselves to do well.

We will try to build our class to do well.

We will try to build our school to do well.

We will try to build our nation to do well.

These are really good in meaning and essence. Good merits achieved throughout our school lives were assumed to have brightened the glamour of our classes and schools. We tried to fulfill our material needs, managing to do moral practices and abstaining ourselves from doing debauchery. Here we need to assess if we were dutiful ones to our country. In reality, we attained only infinitesimal part of what we pledged solemnly. It was for us, for our families and for our associates only. We claimed we would try to build our nation to do well, but we were absolutely selfish. Although we were out of school compound and university campus, our younger generation will still be in there. After that, they will get involved in their social environment. We want them to have the best. But if they were surrounded by the evil ones and the poor, they would never be happy. Would they be pleased if their world were full of corruption, malpractices, villains, terrorism, dictators, anarchists, and so on? Here I want to liken a teacher to a gardener, a student to a seed, a school to the soil of a garden. Why? A gardener needs to devote his time to nurturing delicate plants. Likewise, a teacher devotes his life into teaching his pupils and shaping them into morally and spiritually strong-built ones. Before growing a plant, he is required to make the soil into fertile land. In the same way, a teacher creates his school into a fertile preliminary institution for future career. A gardener must move an etiolated plant to a place that receives enough light. Thus, a teacher protects his pupils from ill-willed persons and encourages the weak-minded. The government is like the sky covering our planet. In this way, the government is overseeing us from above. The sky gives plants its phenomenon powers—sunlight, rain or water and wind. The government gives us good education, teaching aids, learning materials, sufficient budget and the most important thing—good teachers, in consultation with professional economists, scholars and academicians. Farming and gardening produce such as fruits, vegetables and flowers go to consumers and users—flowers to the high altar and heads of belles and girls; fruits and vegetables to kitchens and dining tables. Graduates and holders of different degrees that our schools produce, go to the ranks of our society. A high yield or a good harvest depends on the soil, good weather—rain, water, fertilizer—and the care or effort of a gardener. Leaders-to-be to lead our peaceful and prosperous land can be produced sustainably, subject to there being wholehearted cooperation between the government, scholars, teachers, parents, students and all interested people. Now is the time for us to accomplish unfinished pledges we made solemnly, free from fear, anger & grudge.

Last but not least, I would like to say, "Give me a better teacher and I will give you a better world."

May our youths have good teachers!

LOCAL NEWS

Outstanding youths join recreation camp (Inlay) in Khaungdaing Village, Inlay region

NYAUNGSHWE, 26 April — Outstanding students from ninth standard arrived at the youth recreation camp (Inlay) in Khaungdaing Village, Inlay region, Nyaungshwe Township, Shan State, on 25 April evening.

The youths were welcomed by Shan State Minister for Social Affairs Dr Myo Tun, Township Administrator U Kyaw Zaw Hla and officials together with ethnic

cultural troupes.

According to the schedules, the youths will attend the scout course and educative talks and make interviews with former outstanding students. They will visit PhaungdawU Pagoda and Alodawpauk pagodas in Inlay Lake, agricultural farms, silversmiths and weaving industries. Officials will send them to Pindaya, Taunggyi and Hopong on their excursion tours.—Myat Thu (IPRD)



Election commission to hold election for new members of MCDC



MANDALAY, 26 April — Mandalay Region Hluttaw has released the Mandalay City Development Committee Law and Mandalay City Development Committee election rules for choosing new members for the committee together with government-appointed members.

In line with the law and rules, the election for members of the committee

will be held at the respective polling station from 7 am to 4 pm on 3 May.

Chanayethazan Township Election Sub-commission conducted trainings on election rules and regulations for enabling voters to easily cast votes at Weizayanta Dhammayon in Maha Thakyaithiha Pagoda in West Aungmye Thar, No 15 Basic Educa-

tion High School and the Dhammayon of Wakhingon Pagoda on 25 April, attended by returning officers and members.

State Law and Order Restoration Council enacted the Mandalay City Development Law on 29 December 1992. The government assigned members of the MCDC.

Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)

MCDC builds offices, staff quarters, maintains buildings



MANDALAY, 26 April — Building and Warehouses Department under Mandalay City Development Committee places emphasis on construction of buildings in the city un-

der the plan.

The department has carried out maintenance of the roofs and gutters of Zaygyodaw Market, construction of a steel structure at Yanaung market, a

five-storey staff quarter and fencing of park and land plots of the committee.

The department also constructed staff quarters for general workers of the committee between 65th

Plan to implement Hsimeekhon Port at Myotha Industrial Park

MANDALAY, 26 April — Mandalay Region Minister for Electricity and Industry U Kyaw Myint on 24 April made an inspection tour of Myotha Industrial Park in Ngazun Township.

In meeting with officials, the minister said that according to the approval at the 5th regular session of Mandalay Region Hlut-

taw, region government assigned duty to Myotha Industrial Park Construction Public Company to implement the industrial city project.

As the phase 1 and phase 2B will be completed soon, arrangements are being made to import cranes and heavy machinery to be used in construction of

Hsimeekhon Port, he added. The minister explained Kokke and Ngamya villages will receive a 66KV Sub-power station for electrification.

The meeting was also attended by local authorities, departmental officials and local residents.

Maung Pyi Thu (Mandalay)



Residents enjoy smooth transport on laterite road in Ingapu Tsp

INGAPU, 26 April — Head of Department of Rural Development U Yin Min Oo and staff inspected progress in construc-

tion of a two-mile-long Htugyi-Ywathaya laterite road in Ingapu Township, Ayeyawady Region, on 22 April. The department assigned duty to Golden Icon Company with K106.4 million fund to construct the laterite road in 2014-15 fiscal year.

Thanks to the road, more than 10,000 local residents in Htugyi Town and seven villages enjoy smooth transport for their domestic products to the market in time.

Township RDD



Up to 150,000 Bangladesh workers lost jobs after Rana Plaza safety overhaul

DHAKA, 26 April — Some 220 garment factories have shut down in Bangladesh with the loss of up to 150,000 jobs after the collapse of Rana Plaza shone a light on unsafe working conditions in the ready-to-wear industry, triggering a wave of inspections, according to a report on Saturday.

More than 1,100 workers were killed when the building collapsed in 2013, creating urgent demands for global retailers to do more to ensure the safety of their workers in Bangladesh, the world's second biggest garment exporter after China.

Since then, the \$24 billion (16 billion pound) industry has been in the throes of a massive safety overhaul, with more than 2,000 of 3,500 exporting factories inspected by the government or as a result of retailer-led initiatives.

German-based NGO Transparency International Bangladesh

(TIB) said many factories had closed down because they failed to meet the stricter safety measures and better terms for their workers, or due to a fall in orders.

It carried out a research between April 2014 and March 2015 which revealed that the rate of factory closures was nearly four times that of the previous year, while job losses had tripled.

"The factories, especially small and medium-sized factories were closed during this time due to cancellation of work orders from the buyers and lack of compliance," TIB Executive Director Iftekhar Uzzaman told *Reuters*.

"It is feared that if the process continues, up to 700,000 workers may face loss of jobs."

The government has rejected the survey results, saying most of the closures were among the sub-contractors.

"A number of factories were shut down, but those are small factories and did not have direct



The remaining standing part of the collapsed Rana Plaza building collapses during a rescue operation by the army in Savar on 2 May, 2013.—REUTERS

buyers," Mikail Shipar, secretary at the Ministry of Labour and Employment, told *Reuters*.

"At the same time, the com-

pliant factories who have ISO certificates continued to expand due to good business," he said, adding these had absorbed some

of the workers who had lost their jobs.

Iftekhar said that while 95 percent of factories had implemented the new minimum wage requirements, there had been complaints of irregular payments and pressure on the workers to raise their productivity by 60 percent.

He also cited lack of accountability to monitor the activities of the inspectors, and lack of transparency in handling a \$19 million fund collected from buyers and international organisations to help towards worker compensations.

Fourteen brands, including JC Penney (JCP.N) and Carrefour (CARR.PA), which traded with factories based in Rana Plaza had not contributed to the fund, while Wal-Mart (WMT.N) had donated only \$1 million, much less than expected, Iftekhar said, quoting the TIB report.

Reuters

Ferdinand Piech resigns, ending an era at Volkswagen



Ferdinand Piech, chairman of the supervisory board of Volkswagen, is pictured during a welcoming ceremony at the plant of German carmaker Volkswagen in Wolfsburg on 23 April, 2012.—REUTERS

HAMBURG / FRANKFURT, 26 April — Ferdinand Piech, a towering figure at Volkswagen (VOWG_p.DE) for more than two decades, resigned as its chairman on Saturday after losing a showdown he had provoked with Chief Executive Martin Winterkorn, ending an era at the iconic German carmaker.

Piech, the 78-year-old grandson of the inventor of the Volkswagen Beetle Ferdinand Porsche, had previously seen off other executives

who crossed him, including his own hand-picked successor as CEO, Bernd Pischetsrieder.

But this time he was unexpectedly isolated in a five-to-one vote of Volkswagen's steering committee last week, as labour representatives, the state of Lower Saxony and even his own cousin Wolfgang Porsche stood firmly behind Winterkorn.

"The members of the steering committee came to a consensus that, in the

light of the past weeks, the mutual trust necessary for successful cooperation was no longer there," the six-member panel said in a statement after another meeting on Saturday.

Berthold Huber, the senior trade unionist who will take over until a new chairman is elected, said: "The uncertainty had to be ended today. The steering committee was and is conscious of its responsibility to Volkswagen and its many thousand staff."

Two sources with knowledge of the matter said Piech had resigned without forcing a vote of the committee at its second crisis gathering in 10 days.

Piech resigned with immediate effect from all his roles at Volkswagen including as an ordinary supervisory board member, as did his second wife Ursula, a former nanny who joined the supervisory board in 2012.

"Piech's departure represents a seismic shift in Volkswagen's power structure, and could foretell

drastic changes in how one of the world's largest automakers operates," wrote Karl Brauer, senior analyst at analysis firm Kelley Blue Book.

"VW has kept pace with General Motors (GM.N) and Toyota's (7203.T) growth in recent years, making it a very tight three-way race for the title of largest global automaker, but VW's struggles in markets like the US and Brazil, along with lower profit margins versus GM and Toyota, shows there's still much work to be done."

The leadership row burst into the open this month when news weekly *Der Spiegel* quoted family patriarch Piech as saying he had "distanced" himself from CEO Winterkorn.

The comment came at a time when VW is cutting billions of euros of costs and revamping structures, having struggled with chronic underperformance in the United States and declining profitability at its core autos division.

Reuters

Indiana HIV cases reach 142 in rural outbreak, more expected

NEW YORK, 26 April — The number of confirmed and presumed HIV cases stemming from abuse of intravenous prescription drugs has increased to 142 in a rural part of southeastern Indiana and more cases are being identified every day, a state health official said on Friday.

The HIV outbreak, the biggest in state history, is centered on Scott County near the Kentucky border and now includes at least five cases in neighbouring Jackson County, officials said.

"We likely haven't reached the peak of this outbreak, but we hope to soon through the continued comprehensive response made possible by the joint efforts of so many people and organizations," state Health Commissioner Jerome Adams said in a statement.

The 142 confirmed and preliminary positive cases

is up from 106 cases two weeks ago. Typically, Scott County has fewer than five new HIV cases in a year.

Indiana bans needle exchange programmes, but Indiana Governor Mike Pence, a Republican who opposes such programs, launched one in Scott County in early April to stem the outbreak. The programme was due to end Friday, but he extended it by 30 days.

Needle exchange programs provide drug users with sterile needles to try to stop infections from spreading through the sharing of contaminated needles.

Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), can cause AIDS, or Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome. More than 1.2 million people in the United States are living with HIV, according to the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Reuters

Int'l health experts hail China's role in fight against malaria

GENEVA, 26 April — On the occasion of World Malaria Day on 25 April, experts from the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Roll Back Malaria Partnership (RBM) hailed China's role in fighting against malaria.

China is the biggest producer of the drug artemisinin, which has benefit-

ed millions of people with malaria.

"China is very important for us for different reasons," Herve Verhoosel, the head of the RBM office at the United Nations in New York told *Xinhua*.

Artemisinin, also known as Qinghaosu was first isolated from the Chinese traditional plant arte-

misia by Chinese scientists. The drug registers the most rapid action of all current drugs against malaria.

Artemisinin-based combination therapies (ACTs) are often used to cure malaria, a global disease which caused 584,000 related deaths in 2013.

Verhoosel said: "ACTs is the only medicine

to work well and is the best one" in fighting malaria.

Richard Cibulskis, coordinator for strategy, economics and elimination at the WHO estimated that approximately 240 million people in Sub-Saharan Africa have benefited from ACT treatment since 2000.

Verhoosel said: "we have no excuse to have

more than 575,000 people dying every year, 95 percent of those cases are children under five and mostly in Africa."

He noted the number of deaths caused by malaria decreased 50 percent since 2000 and 64 of the 98 epidemic countries were on track to potentially meeting the UN Millennium De-

velopment Goals when it came to curbing malaria.

He also called for more money, commitment and political leadership as the "last push" to finish the job.

Founded in 1998, the Roll Back Malaria Partnership is a global framework for coordinated action against malaria.

Xinhua

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Ancient papers reveal how Egyptians cure drunken hangover

CAIRO, 24 April — Have you ever had a terrible memory of a drunken hangover? Most of those who do would certainly remember things like dizziness, stomach ache, nausea and vomiting.

Modern science and medicines have now provided heavy-drink-

ing crowds with a variety of cures to ease the pain of getting drunk. But can you imagine how ancient Egyptians brought back their sobriety?

Experts have recently translated and published a number of some 1,900-year-old pieces of papyrus with Greek writings that show

how Egyptians practiced their hangover cure. The translation has been part of a research into these centuries-old documents that has been underway at the University of Oxford and University College London.

These texts were unearthed a century ago along with a stash of over half a

million documents in the ancient Egyptian town of Oxyrhynchus.

According to the writings, Egyptians would string together leaves of the Alexandrian laurel shrub, and wear it just as a necklace. The plant in Greek and Roman times was used to crown distinguished ath-

letes, orators and poets. So far, whether the remedy works or not for the alcoholics has not been experimented or confirmed.

Besides the hangover treatment, the recent publication also contained some other 30 medical papyrus, which is “the largest single collection of medical papy-

ri,” Vivian Nutton, professor at University College London, wrote at the start of the published materials named as volume 80.

The latest collection encompasses medical cures for a host of illnesses, such as hemorrhoids, ulcers, tooth problems, and eye surgery.—Xinhua

Alibaba, China Telecom tie up to sell phones

SHANGHAI, 26 April — Chinese e-commerce leader Alibaba Group Holding Ltd and state-owned China Telecom Corp Ltd have tied up to sell inexpensive smartphones aimed at boosting mobile commerce in smaller cities and rural areas.

The phones, dubbed “Tianyi Taobao Shopping Handsets”, will come installed with either an app for easy access to Alibaba’s flagship Taobao online shopping platform or its home-grown YunOS mobile operating system, it said in a statement late on Friday. Buyers will be eligible for four months of free 2G data service.

The partnership is a bid to deepen Alibaba’s e-commerce base in less developed parts of the country and promote its mobile operating system in a shrinking, cut-throat handset market.

Six models produced by Coolpad, Hisense and TCL would come with the Mobile Taobao app pre-installed. Mobile Taobao is China’s most popular mobile shopping app with



A cleaner waters the flowers below a logo of Alibaba (China) Technology Co Ltd at the company’s headquarters on the outskirts of Hangzhou, Zhejiang province on 21 Nov, 2013. —REUTERS

more than 200 million monthly active users, it said. Another eight models, made by lesser-known brands including Uniscope, Ctyon and Kingsun, will run YunOS, providing buyers with an Alibaba account for shopping and cloud-based storage, and other preloaded services, it said.

Some 557 million people in China access the internet via mobile devices,

according to government data. But shipments in China were 389 million phones in 2014, down from 423 million the previous year, according to China’s Ministry of Industry and Information Technology.

Still, mobile shopping is on the rise. In January, Alibaba said the number of mobile monthly active users nearly doubled in the third quarter from the same period the previous year to

265 million. The proportion of gross merchandise volume derived from mobile also grew. Alibaba says it has an 86 percent share of China mobile commerce market.

In February, Alibaba announced that it was taking a \$590 million stake in Meizu, a relatively obscure domestic smartphone maker as it tests ways to expand its mobile operating system.—Reuters

First teeth of anatomically modern humans detected in Italy

MILAN, (Italy), 26 April — A team of researchers found that two teeth from prehistoric sites in northern Italy are the oldest modern human remains overlapping in time with the last Neandertals. The team, composed of Italian and German researchers, analyzed two deciduous teeth from the prehistoric sites of Riparo Bombrini in Western Ligurian Alps and Grotta di Fumane in Western Lessini Mountains, in northern Italy. The teeth, a deciduous incisor and an upper deciduous incisor, were respectively

found in 1976 and 1992 but so far it had been impossible to establish their origins. “Today it was possible thanks to new technologies and digital methods such as ancient DNA and high-resolution computed tomography as well as radiocarbon dating,” the team leader Stefano Benazzi, a physical anthropologist of the University of Bologna, told Xinhua on Friday. Benazzi said the state-of-the-art methods adopted in this

research attribute the teeth to anatomically modern humans. “They result to date back to 42,000-40,000 years ago, a period when interesting prehistoric cultures spread across Europe before the demise of Neandertals,” he explained. “In particular, we attribute the teeth to the Protoaurignacian culture, which was characterized by a remarkable set of technological innovations in stone knapping and bone tool industries, as well as by the large use of personal ornaments,” he said.

Since the Protoaurignacian overlapped in time with the last Neandertals, it is pivotal to identify the makers of this culture to shed light on the demise of Neandertals. “It means that the arrival of members of our species (Homo sapiens) in Europe belonging to the Protoaurignacian culture may have been the ultimate cause for the demise of Neandertals, which likely disappeared around 39,000 years ago,” Benazzi went on explaining to Xinhua.—Xinhua

High-school students participate Robotics Competition final in US



Contestants from Shanghai, China, participate in the Robotics Competition final for high-school students in St. Louis, the United States, on 23 April, 2015. 15,000 high-school students of 608 teams participated in the competition, one of the biggest in the world. Teams from China’s Beijing, Shanghai and Shenzhen have fought all the way to the final contest. — XINHUA

No plans for EU online regulator — officials

BRUSSELS, 26 April — Draft plans for a pan-European regulator for online businesses did not win backing and have been scrapped, EU officials said on Friday. An EU-wide strategy for the digital economy is due to be announced next month, reflecting concerns in Europe about the power of big US tech companies like Google and Amazon.

“It didn’t get any political backing,” one EU official said of the paper, which was at odds with pledges from the new EU executive to avoid heavy top-down regulation on business.

Prepared in February and seen by Reuters, the

paper spoke of a framework for supervising “systemic digital actors” by an “EU-wide body” with power to intervene in disputes.

But EU officials said the idea did not gain enough backing within the EU executive and an updated version of the European Commission’s strategy for creating a digital single market, also seen by Reuters and expected to be unveiled on 6 May, makes no mention of setting up a new EU regulator.

“All papers and notes produced to help prepare the Digital Single Market Strategy have by now been superseded,” Commission spokeswoman Mina

Andreeva said. “One of the aims is to create the right conditions and a level playing field for digital networks and innovative services to flourish. In this context, the Commission will look into the role of online platforms and detail any possible future actions.”

Brussels is under pressure from some politicians and European companies to be seen to be doing something to tame US online giants and nurture Europe’s own, limited, tech sector. The EU antitrust chief last week charged Google with abusing its power in Internet search in a long-running, high-profile case.—Reuters

UN chief hopes humanitarian calls will inspire disarmament resolve

NEW YORK, 26 April — UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon has highlighted international efforts over the past few years to draw attention to the inhumanity and severe consequences of the use of nuclear weapons, expressing hope that this approach “inspires governments with new resolves” to pursue a world free of nuclear weapons.

Ahead of a multilateral conference on nuclear disarmament, Ban also noted the advanced age of many of atomic bomb survivors in Japan, saying this fact should prompt the international community to take urgent action toward the abolition of nuclear weapons.

Ban made the remarks in a written interview with *Kyodo News* just days ahead of the UN review conference on the nuclear

non-proliferation treaty set to start on Monday in New York. Since the last review conference in 2010, the humanitarian dimension and catastrophic nature of the use of nuclear weapons has emerged as one of the focuses of UN discussions and statements. Three international conferences have been staged so far on the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons, with the last one in Vienna in December.

“The humanitarian approach has energized civil society and governments alike” Ban said. It has generated “a new sense of urgency” about the need for progress in disarmament, he added.

“All states share a common interest in preventing the catastrophic consequences that would result from any use of nu-

clear weapons,” he said. “I expect that discussions on the humanitarian aspect of nuclear disarmament will play a big role” in the just starting NPT review conference.

The meeting is held in the 70th anniversary year of the atomic bombings of the two Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

“As the only country to have experienced the use of nuclear weapons in war, Japan has a unique moral authority that it can bring to bear in guiding the international community’s efforts to ensure that nuclear weapons are never used again,” he said.

Given the advanced age of many atomic bomb survivors, “this may be one of the last major anniversaries where individuals with distinct memories of the bombings can pass on their

experience directly to future generations,” he said.

“I hope this fact can inspire new urgent action by the international community to achieve a nuclear-weapon-free world,” he added.

On calls for a treaty to outlaw nuclear arms by some non-nuclear weapon states, Ban touched on proposals he made in the past in urging states to start negotiations. “It does not matter which path is taken as long as it achieves our common objective of a world free of nuclear weapons,” he said.

He cited recent rising East-West tensions, perhaps with the Ukraine crisis in mind that has increased antagonism between Russia and the United States, the two powers that control over 90 percent of the world’s nuclear weapons

arsenal.

He expressed concerns that “the re-emergence” of such tensions is “jeopardizing prospects for further nuclear reduction.”

“During the Cold War, fear and public anxiety caused by the arms race once gave impetus to nuclear disarmament and arms reductions efforts,” he noted. “We need to return to a common understanding that international peace and security and the easing of international tension can best be pursued through progress in disarmament.”

The UN chief welcomed the continuous decline in the overall global stockpile of nuclear weapons since the last NPT review meeting in 2010. But he criticized nuclear weapon states for continuing to modernize their nuclear weapons and related infra-



UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon

structure over the same period. He also expressed apprehension about countries outside the NPT framework for having “actively expanded their arsenals, their options to conduct different types of nuclear strikes and their stockpiles of fissile materials.”

Kyodo News

Chile volcano ash cloud reaches Brazil; some flights canceled



A general view of Calbuco Volcano spewing ash and smoke is seen during sunset from Alerce town on 24 April, 2015.—REUTERS

SANTIAGO, 26 April — Ash from the Chilean volcano Calbuco, which erupted without warning this week, reached as far as southern Brazil on Saturday and prompted some airlines to cancel flights to the capitals of Chile, Argentina and Uruguay.

Calbuco, considered one of the most dangerous along Chile’s chain of around 2,000 volcanoes, erupted twice in 24 hours on Wednesday and Thursday, sending up a spectacular 17-km-high (11-mile) cloud and coating nearby towns in a thick layer of gray ash.

Authorities have set up a 20-km (12-mile) cordon around Calbuco, in the scenic Los Lagos region, around 1,000 km (620

miles) south of the capital Santiago, evacuating more than 6,500 people in the area.

“The dangerous nature of volcanic activity like this, plus the volcano’s current instability that could lead to more intense activity in the short term, indicates we should maintain the perimeter,” Chile’s national office of emergency said in its latest report.

Authorities allowed people who had been evacuated to return briefly on Saturday to check their houses and animals, and to pick up clothes and medication. Some houses and schools located close to the volcano have collapsed under the weight of the ash.

The ash also presents a

threat to air traffic, as particles in the atmosphere can cause problems for planes. With winds blowing the ash cloud northeast into Argentina, Argentine air traffic has been the worst affected so far. Delta Air Lines (DAL.N), Air France (AIRF.PA), American Airlines (AAL.O), Air Canada (AC.TO) and Qantas Airways (QAN.AX) have all suspended flights from and to the airports of Santiago, Buenos Aires and Montevideo as a precautionary measure.

But Chile’s LAN LAN. SN and Aerolineas Argentinas were operating flights as usual from those airports.

“The situation is much better than yesterday,” said a spokesman for Argenti-

na’s National Civil Aeronautic Administration.

“The airports (of Buenos Aires) are operating normally. The first ash cloud has already passed by and the second is on the move. American Airlines is not operating on their own accord, nor are Delta Air Lines, or United. They are evaluating the situation on a day-to-day basis.”

Some flights had also been canceled in southern Brazil, in Rio Grande do Sul, broadcaster O Globo reported. Officials from the Brazilian aviation agency Infraero were not immediately available for comment.

The head of Chile’s mining and geological service said on Friday the volcanic process could last for weeks.—Reuters

Chinese wingsuiter sets milestone for fly without oxygen

HOHHOT, CHINA, 26 April — Chinese wingsuiter Zhang Shupeng set a new benchmark for the wingsuit flying record when he leapt from a hot-air balloon from an altitude of 8,150 metres without wearing an oxygen mask on Sunday.

Zhang broke the world record for 8,000 metres jump set by a Swiss man Remo Lang last year.

At 5:17 am, he took off in a large hot-air balloon at

China’s well-known pastoral area Xilingol grassland of Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region.

After about one hour five minutes, he started his flying with a vertical dive for the first 100 metres and made a spiral fly, seldom used in wingsuit flyers, for over 2,000 metres.

Zhang adopted a vertical-fly style when he was below 6,000 metres in altitude and released the para-

sy in Islamabad also condemned the killing.

Mahmud had just hosted a seminar called “Unsilencing Baluchistan”, focusing on the disappearance of political activists in the southwestern Province.

Rights activists accuse the military security agencies of carrying out extra-judicial killings of separatists in the province. Hundreds of people have disappeared and later been found dead in recent years.

The military denies any role in the killings.

Mahmud was also a prominent critic of Islamist militant violence. The army has vowed to end the Baluchistan insurgency being waged by separatists who say their province’s mineral and gas resources are unfairly exploited by Pakistan’s richer provinces.—Reuters

chute at the height of 800 meters.

He successfully landed at 6:27:33 am after a five-kilometre fly.

Wearing a wingsuit, his freefall lasted three minutes 26 seconds and after that he slid with a parachute within one minute 12 seconds. “My success proved that Chinese wingsuiters have abilities to fulfill their dreams,” Zhang said.—Xinhua

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(INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER)
(7/2015)

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

Sr.No	Tender No	Description	Remark
(1)	IFB-003(15-16)	NDT Service for 10" Toe River Crossing Gas Pipe Line by HDD Rig (3200) Ft	US\$
(2)	IFB-004(15-16)	NDT Service for 12" Hlaing River Crossing Gas Pipe Line by HDD Rig (3200) Ft	US\$
(3)	IFB-005(15-16)	Electrical Spares for D ₃ T ₂ SR Rigs (29) Items	US\$
(4)	IFB-006(15-16)	Spares for Cummins KTA 2300 C 1050 Engine (7) Items	US\$
(5)	IFB-007(15-16)	Spares for GM 6V 71 Engine (4) Items	US\$
(6)	IFB-008(15-16)	Spares for GM 6V 53 Engine (4) Items	US\$

Tender Closing Date & Time - 25-5-2015, 16:30 Hr
Tender Document shall be available during office hours commencing from 27th April, 2015 at the Finance Department, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, No(44) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise
Ph.+9567 -411097/411206

Two Swedes abducted by Nusfra Front in Syria freed

STOCKHOLM, 26 April — Two Swedes who were abducted in 2013 by al-Qaeda's Nusra Front in Syria were released on Friday, news agency TT reported on Saturday, quoting Sweden's Foreign Ministry and Palestine's ambassador to Sweden.

The identities of the men were not disclosed

but TT said one of them belonged to a Pentecostal church.

Negotiations for their release had taken more than two months and were conducted by the Palestine security service, in cooperation with Jordanian and Swedish security services, Hala Husni Fariz, Palestinian ambassador to Swe-

den, told TT. In a written statement to TT, Sweden's Foreign Minister Margot Wallstrom extended her gratitude to countries involved in working for the release of the Swedes, including Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas.

A ministry spokesman declined to comment further.—Reuters

US official denies report of Islamic State plot in California



Phone banks dedicated to the Federal Bureau of Investigation are shown during a tour of the Multi-Agency Communications Center (MACC) at an undisclosed location in the Chicago suburbs on 17 May, 2012.—REUTERS

WASHINGTON, 26 April — CNN reported on Saturday that the FBI was investigating a possible Islamic State-inspired terrorism plot in California but a US law enforcement official in Los Angeles denied there was any such threat.

"There is no known or specific threat to Los Angeles or any airport in our territory," an official in

Los Angeles told Reuters. The official declined to be identified.

CNN had said earlier that an investigation had been initiated because of intercepted communication and other intelligence information and security was being enhanced in the state.

Homeland Security Department spokesman Peter Boogaard declined

to discuss specific intelligence, but said the authorities had made a number of "security adjustments" in the last few months "reflecting an evolving threat picture."

He said there was an increased law enforcement presence at US federal facilities in February and many extra security arrangements were still in place.

"We will make adjustments to this evolving environment as appropriate," he said.

The United States is engaged in a military campaign with allies in the Middle East to fight Islamic State militants who have taken over parts of Iraq and Syria and created cells in other countries racked by conflict in the region.

Reuters

Venezuelan president says to build new homes in cooperation with Chinese companies

CARACAS, 26 April — Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro said on Saturday the government will work with Chinese companies to build new housing units as part of an ambitious plan to provide homes for those without proper or adequate dwelling in the country.

During an event in the 23 de Enero slum in the west of Caracas, Maduro announced that his government has reached a preliminary agreement with Chinese

company Sany Heavy Industry Co for the latter to participate in the "Great Housing Mission" that aims to build three million homes in the Latin American country by 2019. The government will sign a contract with Sany, the world's sixth largest heavy machinery company, to import new equipment so as to accelerate the construction of at least 400,000 new apartments this year.

"We are going at a faster pace and we have to

install Chinese companies here in our country to double everything that we are bringing over from China," Maduro said.

The Venezuelan leader said that over 220 new cranes imported from China were already in use for the renovation of residential buildings in poor areas of the country, under a program called "Barrio Nuevo, Barrio Tricolor."

According to Ricardo Molina, Venezuela's minister of housing, Chinese companies have helped build over 14,000 homes in the country in the last three years and 15,000 more are now under construction.

Xinhua

Afghan province sees second police chief killed in six weeks

KANDAHAR, 26 April — The acting police chief of southern Afghan province was shot and killed by a fellow officer, about a month after his predecessor was also assassinated, authorities said on Sunday.

The death of the second police chief for Uruzgan province to be killed in six weeks appeared to be an insider attack, but it was unclear what motivated the junior police officer to open fire.

"The acting police chief, Gulab Khan, was in a meeting with a friend late last night when his colleague opened fire and killed both of them," pro-

vincial governor Amanullah Timori told Reuters.

"The policeman is detained and an investigation is ongoing."

The arrested officer was a member of the criminal investigation department in Uruzgan.

Gulab Khan had been acting police chief since his powerful predecessor, Matiullah Khan, was killed in a suicide attack while visiting the Afghan capital Kabul in mid-March.

Taliban insurgents claimed responsibility for the attack on Matihullah Khan. On Sunday, Taliban spokesman for southern Afghanistan Qari Yousef

Ahmadi, declined to comment on the Uruzgan shooting, saying he was still gathering information.

The Taliban have sometimes claimed that insider attacks reflect their ability to infiltrate the enemy, but Afghan and coalition forces say incidents more often arise over misunderstandings or arguments.

An Afghan soldier opened fire on US soldiers in eastern Nangarhar province in early April, killing one American. The shooter himself was also killed and two Afghan soldiers were wounded in the shootout.

Reuters

MYANMA RAILWAYS
Amendment of Tender Closing Date

With reference to advertisement of Invitation to Open Tender for Myanmar Railway in New Light of Myanmar Newspaper at 23.4.2015, Closing Date of Sr.No.(2)and (3) are amended as follow

Sr No	Tender No	Description	Tender Issuing Date	Tender Closing Date & Opening Date	Tender Document Fee(per set)
2	3/HR/INDIA(HI) 2015-2016	Major Parts and Spare Parts for Diesel Electric Locomotive (425) Items	27.4.2015	30.4.2015	US\$ 100
3	4/HR/INDIA(HI) 2015-2016	Spare Parts for Carriage & Wagons (41) Items	27.4.2015	30.4.2015	US\$ 100

Managing Director, Myanmar Railway,
Ministry of Rail Transportation, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar



A shogi, or Japanese chess, game with "human pieces" is played on 25 April, 2015, in the Japanese northeastern city of Tendo, Yamagata Prefecture, the largest producer in Japan of Shogi pieces. High school students in armor or kimono moved on a 15-metre square shogi board under instructions from two female professional shogi players. Some 100,000 people are expected to see the two-day event.—KYODO NEWS

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‘Everybody Loves Raymond’s child star Sawyer Sweeten commits suicide at 19



Sawyer Sweeten, the actor who starred as Ray Romano’s twin kid Geoffrey Barone on hit sitcom “Everybody Loves Raymond”, has committed suicide. He was 19.

PTI

LOS ANGELES, 26 April — Sawyer Sweeten, the actor who starred as Ray Romano’s twin kid Geoffrey Barone on hit sitcom “Everybody Loves Raymond”, has committed suicide. He was 19.

The former child star’s manager Dino May confirmed the sad news to *The Hollywood Reporter*.

A source said that Sawyer “was visiting family in Texas. He went on

the front porch and killed himself with a gunshot to his head.” The source added, “Sawyer’s entire family is absolutely devastated by this tragedy.”

Sawyer’s sister Madylin Sweeten, who played Ray’s other child Ally Barone on “Everybody Loves Raymond”, posted on Facebook, “At this time I would like to encourage everyone to reach out to the ones you love. Let them

have no doubt of what they mean to you.”

Sawyer’s twin brother Sullivan Sweeten starred as Michael Barone on the sitcom.

Sawyer and Sullivan joined the show when they were 16-month-old in 1996. They jointly played a character in a 2000 episode of Disney’s “Even Steven” and shared a small role in 2002’s “Frank McKlusky, C.I.”.—PTI

Kim Kardashian makes mental health awareness documentary



The ‘Keeping Up with the Kardashians’ star is executive producer for the TV documentary.—PTI

LOS ANGELES, 26 April — Reality TV star Kim Kardashian is making her production debut with a mental health awareness documentary called #RedFlag.

The ‘Keeping Up with the Kardashians’ star is executive producer for the TV documentary, which aims to spread awareness of how many people in America suffer from these types of illnesses, reported E!Online.

“Twenty-five percent

of adults in America will suffer from a mental illness in their lifetime, and many of them turn to social media to vent their depression, loneliness, and isolation,” she said.

Kardashian, 34, who is married to rapper Kanye West, with whom she has two-year-old daughter North West, added, “I am blessed to be surrounded by family and friends that are loving and nurturing, but not everyone has that kind of support.”—PTI

Justin Bieber settles lawsuit with Miami paparazzo

LOS ANGELES, 26 April — Pop sensation Justin Bieber has settled a lawsuit filed against him by a Miami photographer named Jeffrey Binion in 2013.

Jeffrey previously sued Bieber, 21, and his bodyguard Hugo Hesny, claiming Hugo and other bodyguards attacked him outside a recording studio in Miami in June 2013, reported Ace Showbiz.

Jeffrey’s attorney Mark DiCowden confirmed the settlement between his client and the “Never Say Never” singer but refused

to comment further.

He said the terms of the agreement were confidential.

It’s unknown when the agreement was reached or if it involved a financial agreement. Bieber’s lawyer Jeremiah Reynolds also confirmed the agreement.

While Jeffrey case has been settled, Bieber is still facing another lawsuit filed by another Florida photographer named Manuel Munoz back in 2014.

Manuel claimed in his suit that he was locked in a subway restaurant’s re-



While Jeffrey case has been settled, Bieber is still facing another lawsuit filed by another Florida photographer named Manuel Munoz back in 2014.

PTI

stroom and was beaten by Bieber’s bodyguard after he tried to take photos of the singer.—PTI

Salma Hayek stumbles during shopping trip



The 48-year-old actress was, however, quick to regain her balance and she avoided hitting the pavement.—PTI

with sunglasses.

The movie beauty was making her way out of a store in central London when the minor incident happened.

Some nearby builders ended up cheering on her for her quick save.—PTI

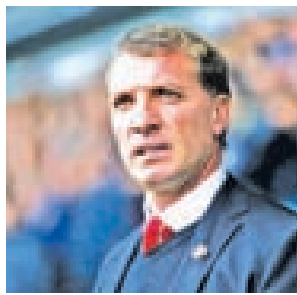
GENERAL

Rodgers hails 'outstanding' Liverpool after drab draw

LONDON, 26 April—Liverpool manager Brendan Rodgers described his side as "outstanding" despite a goalless draw away to West Bromwich Albion on Saturday which dents their hopes of a top-four Premier League finish.

"I thought the players were outstanding, their courage and play on the ball. Across the team there were some outstanding performances," Rodgers told the BBC.

There were few goalscoring chances in a match that only came alive in the second half, with Jordon Ibe hitting the post for Liverpool and James Morrison seeing a header cleared off the line for the



**Liverpool manager
Brendan Rodgers**

hosts. Liverpool's season now looks to be heading towards a disappointing conclusion with defeat to Aston Villa in the semi-final of the FA Cup last weekend at Wembley ending their hopes of winning silverware this season.

The FA Cup defeat ensured Rodgers became

the first Liverpool manager since the 1950s not to win a trophy in his first three seasons in charge.

Three points at the Hawthorns — on Steven Gerrard's 500th league appearance for the club — would certainly have boosted hopes of a top-four finish.

Rodgers's side are fifth, six points behind Manchester City, with Manuel Pellegrini's team hosting Aston Villa in Saturday's evening kickoff.

The Reds do have a midweek game in hand at relegation threatened Hull City, and Rodgers has insisted he has not given up hope of reaching the Champions League spots.

The Northern Irishman, however, said it will be "very difficult" to make the top four at the season's close.

"I felt that of the six games we needed to win five at least. We have now got five to go and we'll have to look to win them to give ourselves a chance," he told reporters.

"You never know what happens above you, that's the thing with football — you just never know. But what you have to do is make sure that you keep the pressure on.

"We have to rely on other teams, but we can only do our job and that is still the plan."

Reuters

Lavezzi hat-trick leads six-goal PSG to the top

PARIS, 26 April — Ezequiel Lavezzi rediscovered his scoring touch on Saturday, notching a hat-trick as Paris St Germain went to the top of Ligue 1 with a 6-1 demolition of Lille at the Parc des Princes.

The Argentine forward, who had previously netted four league goals this season, struck twice in the first half and again after the break. Edinson Cavani, with a double, and Maxwell completed the rout.

Lille, who grabbed a consolation goal through Marko Basa in the 59th minute, finished with 10 men after Sebastien Corchia was sent off in the 72nd. PSG have 68 points with five matches left, three ahead of second-placed Olympique Lyonnais who have played the same number of games and travel to



Paris Saint-Germain's Ezequiel Lavezzi (R) fights for the ball with Lille's Sebastien Corchia during their French Ligue 1 soccer match at Parc des Princes stadium in Paris, France, on 25 April, 2015.—REUTERS

Stade de Reims on Sunday.

Laurent Blanc's PSG, knocked out by Barcelona in the Champions League quarter-finals in midweek, were 2-0 up after four minutes. Italy international Thiago Motta was back after a long injury layoff and he made his presence

count, marshalling the midfield.

In the first minute full back Maxwell latched on to Serge Aurier's cross to open the scoring and three minutes later Cavani netted with a fine lob after being set up by Javier Pastore's defence-splitting pass.

Motta then played in Cavani in the 28th minute and the Uruguay striker crossed for Lavezzi to fire the ball under Vincent Enyeama's bar.

One minute before the interval Lavezzi was at it again, tapping in from close range after Blaise Matuidi's centre.

Defender Basa headed in a Lille corner in the 59th minute but the northerners, who are eighth on 50 points, had long given up hope.

Things got even worse for the visitors when Corchia held Lavezzi's shirt in the box and was shown a second yellow card. Cavani converted the resulting penalty.

Lavezzi wrapped it up in the 77th minute with a low cross-shot after being set up by Pastore.

Reuters

Neymar and Messi help 10-man Barca beat Espanyol



Referee Antonio Miguel Mateu (2nd L) talks to Barcelona's Lionel Messi, Neymar and Andres Iniesta (R) after showing the red card to Barcelona's Jordi Alba (not pictured) during their Spanish first division soccer match against Espanyol at Power8 stadium in Cornellà de Llobregat.—REUTERS

BARCELONA, 26 April — Neymar scored the opener to continue his rich vein of form as 10-man Barcelo-

na won a one-sided La Liga derby against Espanyol 2-0 on Saturday while Antoine Griezmann's double

helped Atletico Madrid beat Elche 3-0. Brazil's Neymar followed his two goals against Paris St Germain in the Champions League on Tuesday by slotting home after Luis Suarez dummied a cross after 17 minutes.

With Barca picking holes in Espanyol's defence, Lionel Messi doubled the lead from a tight angle after 25 minutes before Jordi Alba was sent off early in the second half.

The defender was shown two yellow cards in succession after 53 minutes for a lengthy protest with the referee but Espanyol failed to apply any concerted pressure on Barca in the remainder of the match.

Xavi came on for the

final three minutes for his 500th La Liga appearance for Barca who have moved five points ahead of Real Madrid at the top of the table. Deep in stoppage time Espanyol's Hector Moreno was also sent off after being given a second yellow card. Griezmann's two goals helped Atletico put their Champions League exit behind them in order to concentrate on winning third-place in La Liga.

The Frenchman now has 22 league goals in an impressive debut season at the Calderon after heading Atletico into the lead 10 minutes into the second half and then slotting home from close range 14 minutes from the end.—Reuters

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Korean pop music concert draws thousands of Japanese fans

SAITAMA, (Japan), 26 April — Thousands of fans have turned out near Tokyo to see their favorite "K-pop" stars in a display of how popular South Korean pop music is in Japan despite years of chilled relations between the two countries.

Groups such as INFINITE, Block B, GOT7, Supernova, SISTAR were among the musicians performing at the indoor Saitama Super Arena for their showcase concert "M Countdown".

Organizers expanded the musical event into a cultural and economic exhibition, with dozens of South Korean companies setting up booths to showcase food and other products outside the concert venue on Wednesday evening.

"I think they really care about us. I can feel it," 30-year-old Supernova fan Koyori Watanabe said of the K-pop stars.

Korean pop has made major strides in the Japanese music market, the world's second largest after the United States, in the last five years.

The structure of Korea's relatively small music market means the singers, known for their young, cool image and distinct dance choreography, search for success abroad.

Psy's "Gangnam Style", which became a global YouTube hit in 2012, fueled international interest in other Korean singers, who want to follow him onto the mainstream pop scene.

Reuters

Event "I Bike Budapest" held in Budapest



Thousands of bicycle lovers participate in the event named "I Bike Budapest" to demonstrate the importance and popularity of bicycle as a means of everyday city transportation in Budapest, Hungary on 25 April, 2015.—XINHUA

Myanmar Football Academy (Mandalay) recruits new trainees for first phase



MANDALAY, 26 April — Myanmar Football Academy (Mandalay) held a preliminary selection of new trainees for 2015-16 academic year on Saturday morning at its hall in Chanmyathazi Township.

Principal U Soe Nyunt and officials together with coaches conducted sports tests and examination for 75 trainees under the rules and regulations to be able to form

the U-11 and U-13 football teams. Youths from Mandalay, Madaya, Sagaing, Mawlu and Amarapura townships participated in the examinations of the academy.

The result of the trainees will be announced at the academy on 28 April morning.

At the same times, sports officials recruited tentative trainees in Thayet and Hpa-an on 25 April, Shwebo on 26 April, Maw-

lamyine, Lashio and Magway on 28 April, Monywa on 29 April, Bago, Chauk and Hinthada on 1 May, Taunggyi on 3 May, Pyay and Patheingyi on 4 May, Katha and Nay Pyi Taw on 5 April, Loikaw on 6 April, Aung San Stadium in Yangon on 7 May and Myitkyina on 8 May.

The second round selection of trainees will be held at the academy on 16 and 17 May.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)

Lacklustre Bayern win to close in on title

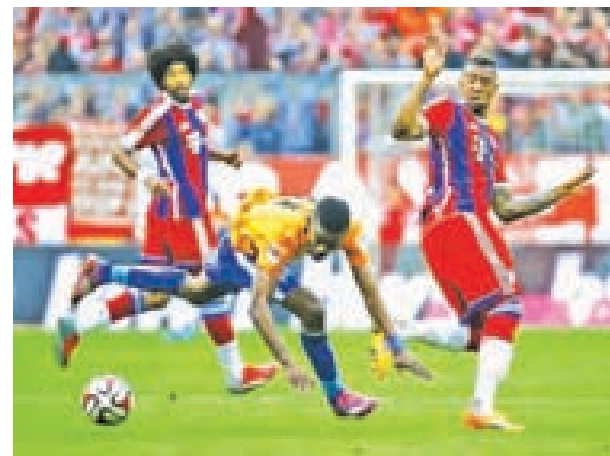
BERLIN, 26 April — Bayern Munich scraped past Hertha Berlin 1-0 on Saturday thanks to a late goal from Bastian Schweinsteiger and the Bundesliga title will belong to the Bavarians if VfL Wolfsburg fail to win on Sunday.

Pep Guardiola's league leaders are 15 points clear with four matches left and will celebrate their third successive domestic crown if second-placed Wolfsburg cannot manage a victory at Borussia Moenchengladbach on Sunday.

"We may not be champions mathematically but in theory we are," the Spaniard told reporters. "The title is almost ours, but we have to concentrate on other tasks. Our legs were a bit heavy today."

Guardiola rested several players who helped crush Porto 6-1 in midweek to advance to the Champions League semi-finals.

Treble-chasing Bayern had Schweinsteiger fit again and Spaniard Javi Martinez back on the bench for the first time since tearing knee liga-



Bayern Munich's Jerome Boateng watches as Hertha Berlin's Salomon Kalou (L) stumbles during their German Bundesliga first division soccer match in Munich on 25 April, 2015.—REUTERS

ments last year but never hit top form against the battling Berliners.

A fine run from Mitchell Weiser ended with him cutting the ball back for Schweinsteiger to score the only goal 10 minutes from time.

Borussia Dortmund winger Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang converted an audacious penalty and set up another goal in a 2-0 victory over Eintracht Frankfurt that kept their Europa League hopes alive.

The Gabon interna-

tional chipped a 24th-minute penalty down the middle of the goal as keeper Kevin Trapp dived too early.

Aubameyang then charged down the wing and crossed for Shinji Kagawa to score the second goal as Dortmund, last season's runners-up, moved up to eighth on 39 points, three behind sixth-placed Augsburg.

The top six qualify for European competition, or the top seven if Bayern or Wolfsburg win the German Cup.—Reuters

Leicester keep up Houdini-style escape, Man City win

LONDON, 26 April — Leicester City continued to do their best Houdini impression on Saturday as they escaped the Premier League drop zone for the first time since November while Manchester City went up to second spot with a thrilling win.

A battling 1-0 triumph at bottom club Burnley gave Leicester their fourth consecutive league victory and lifted Nigel Pearson's side into 17th position, one point above the bottom three.

Burnley's Matt Taylor slammed a 59th-minute penalty against the post. The visitors counter-attacked from the rebound and Jamie Vardy tapped the ball in to give his team their fourth straight win in the top-flight for the first time since 1966.

At the other end of the table champions Manchester City leapfrogged Arsenal and Manchester United, who both play home matches on Sunday, with a rollercoaster 3-2 home victory over Aston Villa after the hosts had let slip a two-goal lead.

Runaway leaders Chelsea, who are nine points in front of Manchester City with two games in hand, visit Arsenal on



Aston Villa's Christian Benteke goes through on goal against Manchester City's Joe Hart however is later adjudged to have been offside.—REUTERS

Sunday.

A goalless draw for Liverpool at West Bromwich Albion kept the five-times European champions in fifth place ahead of Tottenham Hotspur and Southampton who shared a 2-2 draw on the south coast as the battle for Europa League qualification intensified.

Liverpool captain Steven Gerrard made his 500th league appearance in his final season in England.

Leicester's recent rally represents a remarkable

reversal of fortunes. They were bottom for 140 days before climbing two places last week.

No team has avoided relegation having been bottom for that long since the Premier League began 23 years ago but their scintillating form suggests history could be made.

"You've got to find ways of winning games," Pearson told the BBC. "The players have deserved the breaks they've got through a lot of honesty, hard work

and ability."

Defeat plunged Burnley deep into the relegation mire, leaving them five points from the safety zone on 26 points with four games remaining.

It was another tale of a missed penalty in the bottom three as Queens Park Rangers remained 19th on 27 points after top scorer Charlie Austin failed to convert a first-half spot kick in a 0-0 home draw with West Ham United.

Sunderland are third



Leicester City's Jamie Vardy celebrates scoring their first goal against Burnley during their Barclays Premier League at Turf Moor on 25 April, 2015.—REUTERS

from bottom after a 1-1 draw at Stoke City.

The visitors took a first-minute lead through Connor Wickham but were pegged back by a superb drive from Charlie Adam midway through the first half.

Manchester City showed they were not ready to hand over the title just yet with a last-gasp win over Villa although Chelsea will be crowned champions if they triumph at Arsenal and again at Leicester City on

Wednesday. The league's top marksman Sergio Agueiro opened the scoring in the third minute with his 21st league goal this season after a miscued kick from Villa keeper Brad Guzan handed him an open goal.

Aleksandar Kolarov's second-half free kick made it 2-0. The visitors fought back with goals from Tom Cleverley and Carlos Sanchez before Ferdinand stabbed home the winner in the 89th minute.

Reuters