

Thura U Shwe Mann returns from China trip with Myanmar delegation

BEIJING, 29 April—Speaker of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann

returned to Myanmar on Wednesday following his visit to China.

The trip included a

visit to the Lingguang Temple, where the speaker paid homage to the Buddha Tooth Relic Stupa.

The 1,200-year-old Buddhist temple is situated at the foot of the capitals Western Hills, and it fea-

tures eight Buddhist temples and monasteries scattered across the slopes.

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PGM praises and supports reform efforts of government

NAY PYI TAW, 29 April—The Myanmar delegation led by the Union Minister at the President's Office U Soe Thane attended the meeting of the Partnership Group for Peace, Development and Democracy in Myanmar at the UN headquarters in New York

on 24 April.

Present at the meeting were United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, Special Advisor to the UNSG for Myanmar VJ Nambia, 10 permanent representatives and four deputy permanent representatives of the PGM and US

Deputy-Assistant Secretary of State Mr Scot Marciel.

At the meeting, Mr Ban Ki-moon said the reform process initiated by the government of President U Thein Sein continued to progress steadily and the result of the first census conducted in 30 years

would be available soon despite some controversies.

The secretary-general continued to say that the general election due to be held by year's end would be an important milestone and conducting it in a credible, transparent and inclusive manner would be impor-

tant. He said President U Thein Sein's efforts to engage in political dialogue with other leaders on key issues including constitutional reform had been encouraging.

Mr Ban said that after 16 months of intermittent (See page 2)

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Meat, fish prices remain stable despite civil servant pay rise

By Ye Myint

YANGON, 29 April—Civil servant pay rises instituted this month have yet to impact commodity prices, with no significant change to the cost of meat and fish products before and after Myanmar's New Year Festival, vendors at a suburban market in Yangon said Wednesday.

Market observers predicted an increase in consumer prices following the government's announcement that it would increase salaries for civil servants across the country.

"Since the end of the water festival, fish and meat have been selling at the usual prices...moving up and down slightly based on stocks available in the market," said a fish and meat vendor at a market in Insein, in the northern part of the city.

U Win Kyaing, gener-



A chicken vendor at a market in Yangon's suburbs. With an increase in chicken consumption domestically, production has seen a 20-percent increase since two years ago, Myanmar Livestock Federation says.

PHOTO: YE MYINT

al secretary of the Myanmar Fisheries Federation at the body's weekly meeting

Tuesday said fish production levels and exchange rates would have a greater

impact on prices than the salary increase.

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YWH to provide workers with free medical checkups on May Day

By Aye Min Soe

YANGON, 29 April—Yangon Workers' Hospital will provide free medical checkups for workers during a May Day celebration at a sports ground in Hline-thaya Industrial Zone, the Confederation of Trade Unions Myanmar said Wednesday.

As part of the medical screening, YWH will focus on providing ovarian and breast cancer checks for women, who make up a majority of the workforce

but often have no time to undergo examination at a hospital, CTUM President U Maung Maung told the Global New Light of Myanmar.

The hospital performed medical checkups for workers during the International Women's Day celebration at the same industrial zone on 8 March and also taught women workers how to examine themselves for breast cancer.

The program also includes free treatment for workers at the hospital if

they are diagnosed with diseases.

During the previous free medical services program, it was found that many Myanmar women felt ashamed to receive checkups for ovarian cancer and a majority mistakenly believed only mothers and married women needed to undergo screening for the disease, according to the CTUM.

The statistics of the previous medical service program showed that out of 39 women who received

tests for ovarian cancer, nine were found to be in the early stages of the disease.

More than 3,000 workers are expected to gather at the celebration which is slated to be held on 1 May at a sports ground in Hline-thaya Industrial Zone.

High-ranking officials including the Union Minister for Labour, Employment and Social Security will attend the celebration on May Day, while President U Thein Sein will send a message to the celebration.—GNLM

Children draw dream cars for art contest

By Khaing Thanda Lwin

YANGON, 29 April—Nine children from Myanmar are in the running for a trip to Japan after being selected as local prizewinners Wednesday in an international art contest organized by Toyota Motor Corporation.

This is the second time Myanmar has been included in the Toyota Dream Car Art Contest, with the number of participants increasing three-fold from last year, said U Aye Zaw, Chairman of TTAS Co Ltd, the Japanese automotive giant's first authorized dealer in Myanmar.

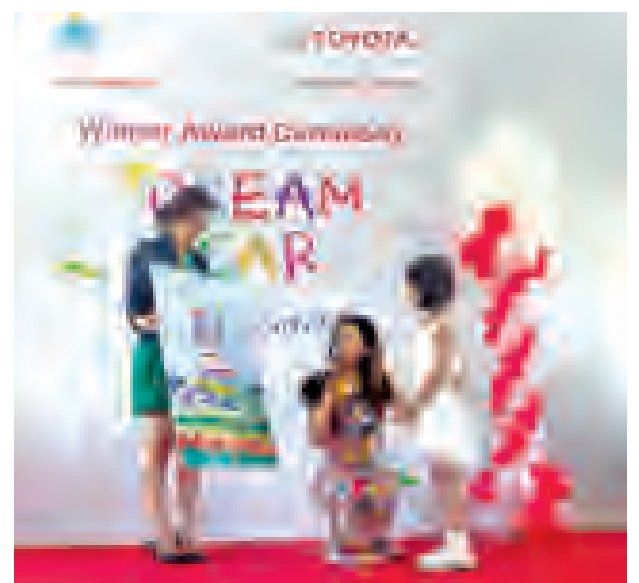
Toyota, the world's largest automaker, has since 2004 organized the international art contest which encourages children to paint or draw their dream car.

"Myanmar children can create a high-quality painting but the idea is totally different from those of foreign countries who have more creative skills than Myanmar," Artist Nyein Chan Su, a judge of the contest, said at a prize presentation ceremony in Yangon on that day.

"This is linked to my knowledge, only a handful of Myanmar children can think freely," added the artist, who said he suspected most participants created their works under the influence of parents and teachers.

He advised those thinking of entering next year's contest to follow the rules precisely and create their own artworks using any standard medium.

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Chuu Thantha Kyaw, 7, receives a second-place prize in the seven and under category of the Toyota Dream Car Art Contest.—PHOTO: KHAING THANDA LWIN

Union FM receives Pakistani military delegation



U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs, holds talks with Pakistani military delegation led by Brigadier Muhammad Aneeq Ur Rehman Malik.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 29 April — U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, received a 17-member del-

egation from the National Security and War Course, the National Defence University of Pakistan headed by Brigadier Muhammad Aneeq Ur Rehman Malik,

at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, here, Wednesday afternoon.

They exchanged views on Myanmar foreign policy, developments in inter-

national relations, we well as enhancing the friendly bilateral relations and co-operation between Myanmar and Pakistan in a cordial manner.—MNA

PGM praises and supports...

(from page 1)

negotiations, the government and the ethnic armed groups reached agreement on the test of a nationwide ceasefire accord on 31 March to end more than 60 years of armed conflicts, and said it was important for the accord to be signed as soon as possible.

Leader of the Myanmar delegation Union Minister U Soe Thane later said the government had succeeded in reaching some significant benchmarks during the four years of the president's term, and has been making relentless efforts to build a new Myanmar that is peaceful, democratic and inclusive, with sustainable economic development.

The union minister added that since democratisation processes are very difficult, the goal has been pursued with the utmost care to ensure a smooth transition.

The union minister later said the government would greatly appreciate and welcome insight and reasonable consideration from different perspectives, asking the participants for understanding.

The union minister pointed out that Myanmar lagged behind other countries in the regions

in health, education and social protection due to sanctions.

In conclusion, the union minister said the government had committed to developing a multiparty democracy, and significant developments were visible in Myanmar.

Union Minister U Khin Yi later explained issues related to white cards and Union Attorney-Gen-

eral Dr Tun Shin spoke about four bills for health and population control.

Representatives from 15 member countries also engaged in discussions and praised the success in political, economic and social reforms and urged the government to make efforts regarding the situation in Rakhine State and the important 2015 elections.—MNA



Union Minister U Soe Thane attends the meeting of Partnership Group for Peace, Development and Democracy in Myanmar at UN Hq.—MNA

Meat, fish prices remain stable . . .

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"Low production in coastal and freshwater fisheries, higher local consumption, increased tourist numbers, export levels, and the upcoming closed fishing season, from June to August, are likely to affect fish prices," he said.

However, farmed fish stocks could satisfy the

market demand, keeping prices stable, he added.

In order to maintain fish price stability, the general secretary called for relaxation of fishing control during the annual three-month fishing ban and called for exchange rate stability.

The Myanmar Livestock Federation said

chicken, pork and beef prices remain stable, as there has been more breeding of poultry this year due to the prevention of avian influenza outbreaks last year that caused heavy losses to breeders.

An MLF official said buying and selling may keep chicken prices stable thanks to the establishment of more foreign and locally backed feed mills

in conjunction with broiler farms.

At market, chicken cuts are priced at K 6,000 per viss while pork and beef are selling at K 5,500 and K 10,000 respectively, according to meat retailers.

According to sources, the difference in chicken price between the farm and the vendors is around K 2,500 as farm price is at K 3,600 while vendor price

MYANMAR GAZETTE

NAY PYI TAW, 29 April — The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has transferred the following heads of service organizations to the ministries shown against each from the date they assume charge of their duties.

Name	Appointment
(a) U Zaw Hein Managing Director No 3 Heavy Industries Enterprise Ministry of Industry	Ministry of Sports
(b) U Yi Mon Managing Director Paper and Household Wares Industries Ministry of Industry	Ministry of Hotels and Tourism

The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has confirmed the appointments of the following heads of service organizations on expiry of the one-year probationary period.

Name	Appointment
(a) U Khin Maung Tint	Managing Director Textile Industries Ministry of Industry
(b) U Thant Sin	Director-General Industrial Supervision and Inspection Department Ministry of Industry
(c) Daw Naing Thet Oo	Director-General Inspection Department Office of the Auditor-General of the Union

METI to contribute towards industrial policy of Myanmar

NAY PYI TAW, 29 April — Union Minister for Industry U Maung Myint met with Deputy Director General Mr Yasuhiko Yoshida and party of Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) of Japan at the ministry, here, on Wednesday to discuss a five-year term Myanmar Industrial Development Vision being drawn by METI for contributing to the industrial

policy of the Myanmar's Ministry of Industry.

They focused on human resources development, manufacturing of value-added products in agriculture, meat and fish and forestry sectors, development of industrial-based buildings, and laying down of effective law and policies for industrial development.

MNA

is at K6, 000 and more per viss.

Regarding the price gap from farms to the markets, another MLF official stressed the need of establishing processing plants that could help breeders generate more capacities and reduce production cost.

"Efforts to narrow the gap are reaching a favourable stage at the moment," added the official.

Fishery producers and exporters at the meeting said the fall in the country's fishery exports that earned only US\$420 mil-

lion in the previous fiscal, roughly \$100 million less than a year earlier, was due to higher local consumption, not because of lower demand from the foreign market.

"Surplus is sold for export after local consumption has been satisfied," said U Myo Nyunt, joint secretary of a Myanmar fishery product processors and exporters association. Consumption of foreign visitors to the country was also another reason for a fall in fishery exports, he added.

GNLM

Thura U Shwe Mann returns from China trip with Myanmar...

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The speaker met Liu Yunshan, the current member of the Politburo Standing Committee of the Communist Party, at the People's Great Hall in Beijing, and discussed development programmes and promotion of bilateral relation.

Thura U Shwe Mann also visited Kunming, cap-

ital and largest city of Yunnan Province, Southwest China.

Along with Communist Party of China International Department Vice-Minister Chen Fengxiang, the Myanmar delegation visited an employment agency and modern agricultural firm in Chenggong district.

MNA

Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann offers donations to Ven. Shin Chan Zang at Lingguang Temple where sacred Buddha tooth relic is being kept.

MNA



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing receives representatives to 5th ACMMC



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing poses for documentary photo with chiefs of military medicine from ASEAN countries.—MYAWADY

NAY PYI TAW, 29 April— Military medical units are most closely in touch with the people, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing

said Wednesday at the 5th ASEAN Chiefs of Military Medicine Conference.

The senior general received the representatives of the 5th ACMMC at Zeyathiri Beikman in Nay

Pyi Taw today.

Also present were Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services and Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win and senior

officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army).

Heads of military corps from ASEAN countries included Col Awang Mohd Hafizul bin Awg Mohd Hassan of Brunei, Brig-Gen Sao Sidona of Cambodia, Maj-Gen Daniel Tjen of Indonesia, Lt-Col Khamphai Phansily of Laos, Lt-Gen Datuk (Dr) Hj Abd Razak bin Md Yusoff of Malaysia, Col Joseph M Acosta of the Philippines, Air Vice Marshal Lerpong Tanakijaronpat of Thailand and Maj-Gen Vu Quoc Binh of Vietnam.

In his speech at the meeting, the senior general said that since ASEAN is an economically strong regional organization of 600 million people, the international community must respect its unity.

Medical science is always developing and it is beneficial for ASEAN countries to share medical knowledge and experience, he added.

The senior general pointed out that medical corps of ASEAN have to cooperate during natural disasters and are required to provide healthcare not only to members of defence services but also to civilians.

In conclusion, he urged the attendees at the meeting to strive toward building medical corps that can be relied upon not only by the defence services but also by the people.

Afterwards, Leaders of ASEAN medical corps, Lt-Gen Datuk (Dr) HjAbd Razak bin Md Yusoff of Malaysia, Maj-Gen Vu Quoc Binh of Vietnam and Col Joseph M Acosta of the Philippines spoke words of thanks.

Under the agreement of the 7th ACDFIM, the ACMMC has been held

since 2011. Myanmar hosted the 5th ACMMC and the Philippines will host the 6th ACMMC in 2016.

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing also received General Tan Sri Raja Mohamed Affandi bin Raja Mohamed Noor, Chief of Malaysian Army at Zeyathiri Beikman, in Nay Pyi Taw on Wednesday.

The meeting was attended by Myanmar senior military officials, as well as Malaysian Defence Attaché in Myanmar Colonel Mohd Yasin Usop, and Malaysian delegation.

Both sides discussed military ties of the two defence services and anti-terrorism acts, as well as cooperation in other issues as the two countries have common experiences of the past. The Senior General asked the Malaysian delegation to protect Myanmar citizens, which is a part of 'Army to Army' effort in accordance with the law.

Myawady

Deputy Commander-in-Chief receives Malaysian military delegation

NAY PYI TAW, 29 April — Vice-Senior General Soe Win, the deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services and Commander-in-Chief (Army), received a Malaysian defence delegation led by General Tan Sri Raja Mohamed Affandi bin Raja Mohamed Noor, Chief of Army, at Zeyathiri Beikman, here on Wednesday.

The army chiefs took the salute of the guard of

honour before the meeting which was attended by senior military officers and Defence Attaché of Malaysia to Myanmar Colonel Mohd Yasin Bin Usop.

The meeting focused on promotion of bilateral military ties, cooperation of defence academies in research works, holding workshops, anti-terrorism efforts and information exchange.

Myawady



Vice-Senior General Soe Win and General Tan Sri Raja Mohamed Affandi bin Raja Mohamed Noor, Chief of Army of Malaysia take salute of Guard of Honour.—MYAWADY

Preparations under way for performing arts competitions



MANDALAY, 29 April — Organizers of Mandalay Region's upcoming 21st Performing Arts Competitions met at a region government office here on 27 April.

Region Minister for Finance Dr Myint Kyu and work committee chairman of the region U Than Lwin reported on preparations for the competitions.

Experts in singing, dancing, composing and music events submitted reports on plans to train contestants.

After hearing the reports, Chief Minister of

Mandalay Region U Ye Myint stressed the need to review strong and weak points of contestants in previous competitions.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)

Local residents receive free health examinations



NAY PYI TAW, 29 April — Local residents received free health care at the hall of No 97 Basic Education Primary School in Mingala Dipa Ward, Pobbathiri Township, on 27 April.

Head of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area Health Department Dr Daw Hla Hla Kyi gave a talk, while the medical team led by Head of Township Health Department Dr Nang Kyawt Khaing together with members of the Maternal and Child Welfare Association provided healthcare to 120 patients.

The medical team plans to tour wards and villages in Pobbathiri Township.—*Shwe Ye Yint*

Police attend talks on election security measures

MEIKTILA, 29 April — Fifty police officers stationed in Meiktila, Wundwin, Thazi and Mahlaing townships will finish at-

tending a four-day course here on April 30 covering security measures for the upcoming general elections.

Commander of Township Police Force Police Captain Maung Shwe and Chairman of Township Election Sub-commission

U Than Win gave talks on the opening day of the course at Meiktila Myoma police station.

Officials gave talks on security measures at the polling booth, election laws and areas needing improvement from past ballots.—*GNLM-018*



Farmers plant saplings of Palethwe hybrid paddy on 200-acre farm in Nyaungbingyisu Village in Pobbathiri Township on 28 April. The farmland produced 135 baskets of summer Palethwe paddy per acre in previous cultivation season.—KO PAUK (OKKAR MYAY)



Residents receive citizenship scrutiny cards



Personnel of Immigration and National Registration Department explain process of issuing citizenship scrutiny cards to residents in Helon Village.

MOHNYIN, 29 April — Recipients of citizenship scrutiny cards distributed under the special Moe Pwint Plan must ensure they are stored safely, Assistant Director U Hla Myint of Mohnyin District Immigration and National Registration Department told local residents in Helon Village, Mohnyin Township, Kachin State,

on 24 April.

Township Staff Officer U M Zaw Naw and staff issued cards to local people aged 18 and over as of 1 January 2015.

On 24 April, they presented cards to 72 citizens in Helon Village.

The Special Moe Pwint Project will be implemented up to 30 June, 2015.—*GNLM-001*

LOCAL NEWS



Commander of Township Police Force Police Major Kyee Myint gives lectures on electoral security to 30 police officers at Myoma police station in Nyaungshwe, Shan State, on 27 April. The course will run till 1 May.

MYAT THU (IPRD)

Storm victims, needy families receive rice, detergent

TATKON, 29 April — A ceremony to provide bags of rice and packets of detergent powder to storm victims and needy families was held in Ayechantha village, Tatkon Township, on Wednesday.

Well-wisher U Soe Tint-Daw Aye Nyunt and family of Ayechantha village donated 16 bags of rice and packets of detergent

powder to 106 storm victim families and 15 needy families.

Ayechantha Village was reestablished with villagers displaced by the construction of the Hsinthay Dam. The villagers were affected by storm-related destruction before they could resettle.—*Tin Soe Lwin (Township IPRD)*

Chief Minister of Mandalay Region observes literacy campaign

YAMETHIN, 29 April — Chief Minister of Mandalay Region U Ye Myint observed reading and writing classes for local residents, conducted as part of a literacy campaign, at village schools in Meiktila Town-

ship on 26 April.

The campaign is being implemented across the nation from 1 April to 15 May.

The chief minister watched classes at No 206 and No 42 basic education

primary schools in Okpo and Padaukpin villages.

He spoke with supervisors and students of Meiktila University at the teaching sessions and presented foodstuffs and gifts.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)



Myawady Bank Ltd. opens new branch in Meiktila

MEIKTILA, 29 April—Myawady Bank Ltd opened a new branch at the highway bus terminal near Yangon-Mandalay Highway in Aungzeya Ward, Meiktila, Mandalay Region, on 28 April.

Managing Director U Yu Lwin and officials do-

nated provisions to Buddhist monks to mark the bank's opening.

The branch is the bank's the 41st in the country. The bank disburses loans to entrepreneurs at 13-percent interest with property as collateral.

GNLM-018

Well-wisher U Soe Tint-Daw Aye Nyunt and family present rice to storm victims and needy families in Tatkon Township.

More than 250,000 people listed on electoral roll in Meiktila Tsp

MANDALAY, 29 April — The Ministry of Energy-controlled Myanmar Petroleum Product Enterprise has been reducing fuel prices at its stations since the beginning of April.

While the global price rose to US \$64.83 per barrel on 28 April, the enterprise was selling petroleum for K2,900 (\$2.70) per gallon, down from K3,350 per gallon, fuel station operator U Soe Win Myint said.

The enterprise distributed 9,600 gallons of petroleum to each fuel station to reduce the price,

he said.

Before the Maha Thingyan period, businessmen sold K138,000 per 50-gallon barrel of octane, K129,000 for diesel and K148,000 for petroleum in Mandalay. However, as of 28 April, prices were K152,000 per barrel of octane, K140,000 for diesel and K149,000 for petroleum.

More than 40 fuel stations in Mandalay have been supplying customers with octane at K2,900 per barrel, diesel for K3,150 and petroleum for K3,600.

Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-printing House)

Government intervention pushes down fuel prices in Mandalay



MEIKTILA, 29 April — Meiktila Township Election Sub-commission has collected voter lists from 14 wards and 379 villages in the township for the 2015 general elections.

More than 250,000 people aged 18 and over will be eligible to vote at 278 polling stations across the township.

People whose names have been wrongly omitted from voter lists must notify their respective ward and village election sub-commissions, according to the Township Election Sub-commission.

GNLM-018



Staff members and visitors pose for a group photo with a ferris wheel on its last running day at Shijingshan amusement park in Beijing, capital of China, on 29 April, 2015. The ferris wheel, which has received around 9 million visitors since 1986, will be shut down and kept as a view spot from 30 April.—XINHUA

Mekong anti-human trafficking officials finalize action plan

PHNOM PENH, 29 April — The 10th Coordinated Mekong Ministerial Initiative against Trafficking (COMMIT) Senior Officials' meeting concluded here Wednesday with a three-year action plan for regional cooperation in the fight against all forms of human trafficking.

"The one-and-a-half day meeting has agreed and passed the 4th COMMIT Sub-Regional Plan of Action for the period 2015 to 2018, focusing on policy and cooperation, prevention, protection, punishment, and follow-up and assessment," Cambodia's Women's Affairs Ministry Secretary of State San Arun said at the closing ceremony.

"The meeting has also finalized the 3rd COMMIT Joint Declaration, which is aimed to take all means and measures to eradicate all forms of human trafficking in the six Greater Mekong Sub-region (GMS) countries," she said.

According to Arun, the ministers from the GMS countries, including Cambodia, China, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam, will gather here, the capital of Cambodia, on Thursday to officially endorse the action plan and the joint declaration.—Xinhua

Australia welcomes new Japan-US defence cooperation guidelines

SYDNEY, 29 April — Australia on Wednesday welcomed the new defence cooperation guidelines announced by Japan and the United States earlier this week.

"Defence cooperation between Japan and the United States has made a positive contribution to security and prosperity in our region for decades," Defence Minister Kevin Andrews said in a statement.

Andrews said the new guidelines recognize "Japan's growing contribution to promoting a peaceful and stable international security environment, and reflect the changing nature of defence engagement to include cyber, space and global cooperation."

"In particular, I welcome the United States and Japan's commitment to expanded multilateral and trilateral cooperation with Australia, and for closer cooperation with Australia on capacity-building activities in Southeast Asia," he added.

Japan and the United States announced the revision to their defence cooperation guidelines on Monday. The revision enables Japanese troops to come to the aid of US and other allied forces in collective self-defence.

Australia is a long-time ally of the United States. It has also developed a close defence relationship with Japan in recent years.—Kyodo News

Indonesia executes drug traffickers, sparks anger from Australia, Brazil

CILACAP, (Indonesia), 29 April — An Indonesian firing squad executed eight drug traffickers, including seven foreigners, in the early hours of Wednesday, sparking condemnation from Australia and Brazil who had made final, desperate pleas to save their nationals.

The mass execution cements the hard line on enforcing the death penalty adopted by Indonesian President Joko Widodo as part of his war on drugs, an approach criticized by the United Nations as applying double-standards.

Four Nigerians, two Australians, a Brazilian and an Indonesian were executed in a forest clearing near the prison, as family members held a candle-light vigil within earshot of the firing range. "All eight were executed at the same second at 0035 hours," Indonesian Attorney General HM Prasetyo told reporters in Calicap, off the prison island of Nusakambangan in Central Java.

One prisoner was spared at the last minute. Philippines housemaid Mary Jane Veloso, who was arrested in 2010 after she arrived in Indonesia with 2.6 kg of heroin, was withdrawn from the group after a request from Manila. The Indonesian Attorney General's Office said Veloso would be permitted to give evidence after a woman suspected of planting the drugs gave herself up to police in the Philippines on Tuesday.

Both Australia and

BEIJING, 29 April — China urged the US and Japan not to drag the Diaoyu Islands into a bilateral security treaty on Wednesday.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Hong Lei was responding to a question on US President Barack Obama's remarks at a joint Press conference that the Diaoyu Islands were contained in a US-Japan security treaty. The Press conference was held after Obama's talks at the White House with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on Tuesday.

"No matter what others say or do, the fact that the

Diaoyu Islands belong to China can not be changed," Hong said. He reaffirmed that the Diaoyu Islands are China's inherent territory.

The Chinese government and people will firmly uphold their national sovereignty and territorial integrity, Hong said.

Hong urged the US to take a responsible attitude and keep its promise of a neutral position on the territorial sovereignty issue. He said the US should act in a prudent manner to play a constructive role on peace and stability in the region.

The US and Japan are not the parties concerned in the South China Sea

disputes and should keep a neutral position on the issue.

Hong said China's construction on the islands and reefs of Nansha is within China's sovereignty as well as lawful and justified.

When asked to comment on the new guidelines for defence cooperation between the US and Japan, Hong said the US-Japan alliance, a bilateral arrangement forged during the Cold War, should not undermine the interests of third parties or the peace and stability of the Asia-Pacific region.

Xinhua



A police vehicle escorts an ambulance carrying the coffin of a death row prisoner as it arrives at Wijayapura port after returning from the prison island of Nusakambangan in Cilacap, Central Java, Indonesia on 29 April, 2015.—REUTERS

Brazil oppose capital punishment and have railed against Widodo's move to step up the pace of executions, after a five-year moratorium, since coming to office last July.

Australia said it was recalling its ambassador to Jakarta, a step already taken by Brazil over the execution of another prisoner in January. The south American country is now considering what further action it will take.

Indonesia shrugged off Australia's diplomatic response. "It is just for a while, a month or two, to signify protest," Vice President Jusuf Kalla told reporters.

Australia has deep commercial and political ties with its big neighbour, but has said the executions would not impact trade relations. Brazil,

too, will be wary of jeopardizing valuable defence contracts.

Widodo's steadfastness on the executions, which has strong public support at home, stands in contrast to a series of policy flip-flops since he took office six months ago. Palace insiders and government officials portray him as sometimes out of his depth and struggling to get around entrenched vested interests.

Charlie Burrows, religious counsellor to the Brazilian convict who was with the prisoners before their execution, said all eight had refused blindfolds before they were shot.

Their families lit candles as they watched the procession of cars taking the prisoners to the execution site, the Sydney

Morning Herald reported, adding many became hysterical when gunshots rang out a short time later.

"The good thing is all prisoners were executed together while praying and singing. Before that they hugged each other, saying goodbye," Christina Widianarti, a lawyer for the Brazilian convict and a witness to the execution, said.

Rupert Colville, UN human rights spokesman in Geneva, criticized Jakarta's use of the death penalty.

"Indonesia appeals for clemency when its own nationals face execution in other countries, so it is incomprehensible why it absolutely refuses to grant clemency for lesser crimes on its own territory," he said.

Reuters

Japan, US agree to boost global alliance reach in security, trade

WASHINGTON, 29 April — Japan and the United States agreed on Tuesday to boost their alliance through increased defence cooperation to contribute to peace and prosperity beyond the Asia-Pacific region at a time of growing Chinese military might and the looming threat of a nuclear North Korea.

“We recognize that the security and prosperity of our two countries in the 21st century is intertwined, inseparable, and not defined solely by national borders,” according to a joint statement released after a summit between Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and US President Barack Obama at the White House. The two nations were also on the same page on the importance of swiftly concluding a US-led Pacific free trade framework, apparently in the face of the growing influence of China. “Today, we turn a new page in the history of the Japan-US alliance,” Abe said at a joint press conference following the summit, which took place a day after the two countries updated their bilateral defence cooperation guidelines for the first time in 18 years.

Standing alongside Abe, Obama said that with the new guidelines, Japanese and US forces will be “more flexible and better prepared to cooperate on a range of challenges from maritime security to disaster response” in the Asia-Pacific region.

Abe said the guidelines are expected to “heighten deterrence” in contributing

to regional peace and stability. Updated at a time when China’s growing assertiveness at sea and in the air is fanning concerns in the region, the new guidelines expand the scope of Japanese Self-Defence Forces’ operations in the framework of the alliance.

“As we strengthen an alliance that has become global in reach, the United States stands resolute and unwavering in all of its commitments under the US-Japan Security Treaty,” the joint statement said.

The US pledge to defend Japanese-administered territories including the Senkaku Islands, in line with Article 5 of the treaty, was reiterated by Obama at the joint press conference.

The Senkakus — which China claims and calls the Diaoyus — in the East China Sea have been a lingering source of tensions, as has China’s recent muscle flexing in the South China Sea. “State actions that undermine respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity by attempting to unilaterally change the status quo by force or coercion pose challenges to the international order,” the joint statement said in a veiled reference to China.

Obama said the United States and Japan “share a concern about China’s land reclamation and construction activities in the South China Sea” and both are committed to “freedom of navigation, respect for international law, and the peaceful resolution of disputes without coercion.”

Turning to the US-led



Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe (L) and US President Barack Obama hold a meeting at the White House on 28 April, 2015.—KYODO NEWS

Trans-Pacific Partnership initiative, the two nations vowed to “work together to achieve a swift and successful conclusion to the broader agreement,” according to the statement.

Abe welcomed the “significant progress” made so far in bilateral negotiations on the TPP framework, and said Japan and the United States will “lead the final-stage negotiations” toward an early conclusion of the TPP.

They also issued a separate statement on the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and called for a nuclear weapon-free world, mindful of the 1945 US atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki which they said “will be forever engraved in the world’s memory.”

The statement also said the two countries “remain committed to a diplomatic process to achieve North Korea’s complete, verifiable and irreversible denuclearization.”

Referring to Japan and the United States as former foes that have turned into strong allies, cooperating on a range of issues including fighting terrorism and climate change, the joint statement said Japan-US ties are a “model of the power of reconciliation.”

With Abe’s trip to the United States coming ahead of the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II this summer, attention is focused on his address on Wednesday to a joint session of the US Congress, the first by a Japanese prime minister.

The speech by Abe, who is regarded by some as a history revisionist, is widely expected to foreshadow the wording of a statement he is to release marking the anniversary, and attention is focused on whether there will be an apology for Japan’s wartime past.

The first Japanese leader to make an official visit to the United States since Junichiro Koizumi in June 2006, Abe was greeted in a ceremony on the White House South Lawn with a gun salute before their summit and treated to a state dinner.

Abe said at the press conference in reference to so-called “comfort women” in wartime Japanese military brothels that it is “heart-wrenching” to consider women who became

victims of human trafficking. Abe said he upholds a 1993 statement of apology issued by former Chief Cabinet Secretary Yohei Kono to comfort women.

South Korea has criticized Japan for not doing enough to atone for the suffering it caused to those women, including those from the Korean Peninsula under Japan’s 1910-1945 colonial rule.

The comfort women issue is partly the reason why South Korean President Park Geun Hye has avoided holding one-on-one talks with Abe since the two leaders took office in 2013 and 2012, respectively. The United States, which has alliances with both Japan and South Korea, is keen for the two countries to improve their relationship.

Timed to coincide with Abe’s visit, 130 people including South Koreans based in the United States staged a protest in front of Capitol Hill, urging the Japanese government to make an official apology over the comfort women issue. Touching on the long-stalled plan to relocate the US Marine Corps’ Futenma Air Station within Okinawa Prefecture — a key part of the broader realignment process of the US military — Abe mentioned Okinawa Gov Takeshi Onaga’s opposition to the plan, a Japanese official said.

Onaga, who held his first talks with Abe prior to the premier’s US trip, had asked the premier to tell Obama about his position.

Kyodo News

Obama urges ‘soul searching’ after Baltimore custody death and riot

WASHINGTON, 29 April — For President Barack Obama, the riots in Baltimore marked the return of a recurring nightmare that continues to bedevil him: How to stop deadly encounters between police and African-Americans and the resulting race-related violence. The first African-American president has declared again and again that Americans have more work to do to bridge the racial divide and carry on the civil rights struggle of Martin Luther King Jr.

And Tuesday was no different. A day after riots in Baltimore, Obama gave a thoughtful diagnosis of the problem but announced no

new initiatives and declared there is a limit to what he can do. The violence followed the funeral of Freddie Gray, a 25-year-old black man who died 19 April a week after sustaining a broken spine in police custody.

“I think there are police departments that have to do some soul searching. I think there’s some communities that have to do some soul searching. But I think we as a country have to do some soul searching. This is not new. It’s been going on for decades,” Obama said.

Obama has been struggling with the issue since protests erupted last year over the death of Michael Brown, a black teenager

who was shot dead by a white police officer in Ferguson, Missouri. A grand jury decided not to indict the police officer, Darren Wilson.

A task force ordered by the president recommended a series of measures in March aimed at building confidence between police departments and the minority neighbourhoods they patrol. The recommendations, which included having police shootings investigated by independent prosecutors, have yet to be put in place and there are questions about how to pay for them, with the Democrat Obama facing a Republican Congress in no mood to approve

much new spending.

Obama’s proposal for \$263 million to help purchase 50,000 body-worn cameras for police and pay for expanded training has stalled in Congress.

With rioting against police and arson and looting erupting in Baltimore, Obama found himself again offering condolences to the families of victims and sympathy to injured police officers. But he made a point of bemoaning Americans’ tendency to focus on violence while it rages on their TV screens but pay little attention to helping find ways to help lift up impoverished communities.

Reuters

S Korea opposes Japan’s bid to become UNSC permanent member

SEOUL, 29 April — A South Korean Foreign Ministry official on Wednesday reiterated his country’s opposition to Japan’s bid to secure a permanent seat on the UN Security Council, according to *Yonhap News Agency*.

“It is our government’s judgment that it is only necessary to expand the number of nonpermanent members in the interest of democracy, representation and efficiency of the Security Council,” the unidentified official was quoted as saying.

The UN Security Council is currently made up of five permanent members with veto

powers — Britain, China, France, Russia and the United States — and 10 nonpermanent members who are elected from regional groupings for two-year terms. Japan has so far served as a nonpermanent member 10 times, with its last stint in 2009-2010. Many UN member states share the view that the council should have an expanded roster, but there are differences among them on how it should be expanded.

Japan, Germany, India and Brazil, known as the G-4, are seeking to increase both permanent and nonpermanent membership. —*Kyodo News*



Thursday, 30 April, 2015

Uncontrolled hatred should not harm dignity of others

By Aung Khin

Deeds and words spring from thoughts. It is important to keep away evil thoughts to avoid misconduct. Aside from themselves, humans intrinsically prioritize their respective society, race, or community. However, it should be kept in mind that everybody has their dignity.

If any person or society feels they have been insulted, assaulted or defeated, anger will grow within them. If this imaginary hatred is maintained, the desire for revenge grows even more.

It is impossible to erase one's history. Those who have been wronged may choose not to dwell on the insult, but hurtful actions will not be forgotten. Therefore any insult to another's community, heart or dignity must be avoided. Such insults can motivate victims to seek revenge.

People, regardless of race or class, do not like to lose their dignity. They expect humane treatment from others. To create a peaceful community, humane actions and respect for others' dignity are crucial.

When someone treats others badly, unpleasant results inevitably follow. No matter their

wealth, race or social class, everybody deserves a certain amount of dignity.

Every human being deserves enough space to grow, to develop and to be independent. Life will be meaningless if someone does not have the basic rights of family, country, justice and human dignity.

Write for us

We appreciate your feedback and contributions. If you have any comments or would like to submit editorials, analyses or reports please email wallace.tun@gmail.com with your name and title.

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

Learning queer English words, phrases and sentences

By Tommy Pauk

It is goodfun to learn queer English words, phrases and sentences which are used or expressed for different purposes or coined according to situational conversations, innovations and inventions in the English speaking society. Originally, English words come not only from Anglo-Saxon, Latin and French but also from a variety of more recent sources. Sometimes, even native speakers of English do not understand the meanings of specific words or phrases or sentences. There are many English speaking people in the world, but they continue to learn new words and phrases for smoother and better communications among themselves.

We, Myanmar use English as a second language and regard it as a very helpful and useful language for communicating with both English native speakers and English speaking people across the world. Besides, we can acquire any knowledge written or taught in English. Nowadays, the private-owned international schools are mushrooming in Myanmar especially in Yangon such as ILBC, PISM, ISY and ILBC etc. Myanmar students from those schools can get benefit of constant exposure to English speaking environment. Those who want to improve English can join the classes at the English language centers such as British Council and American center in Yangon.

A person who is proficient in English language can take advantage in pursuing academic studies because the academic subjects are taught in English. Apart from learning some knowledge, we use very unusual English words and phrases in colloquial language known as informal language. English speakers are already familiar with the current English usage and common usage. Some usages are used in spoken English and some are used in written English. Since English is a living language, we have to learn it and use it simultaneously so that we can differentiate between archaic English and modern English. The following collection may be helpful for the readers to some degree.

Pun. A pun is a humorous use of a word with two different meanings or two similar sounding words with different meanings. Puns are often used in advertisements and newspaper headlines. They are also used in jokes.

Where's that girl from?

Alaska.

It's O.K. I'll ask her myself.

Where do you go to weigh a whale?

A whale-weigh station.

My wife's gone to the Caribbean.

Jamaica?

No, she wanted to go.

Here are some puns in advertisements.

We're always pleased to meat you. (chains of butchers' shops)

Rest assured. (bed manufacturers)

Your views are re-

flected in the Mirror. (Mirror newspaper)

The Meteorologists can't guarantee an Indian Summer, but we can. (Indian Tourist Office)

Next Time you want to be at your best for a special occasion, consider the products of the aromatic company (It makes lots of scents). (perfume company)

Palindrome: A word or phrase that reads the same backwards as forwards, for example; madam, dad, kayak, radar, deed, mum, toot, sexes, redder

Nurses run, too hot to hoot, never odd or even

'Madam, I'm Adam'

'A man, a plan, a canal-Panama'

Was it a cat I saw?

Letter-Phrase

Have you got an A to Z? I'll have to watch my p's and q's.

She drops her h's. We were taught the three R's.

Letter-Words: The first part of each of the following words consists of a single letter.

A-bomb, T-shirt,

U-turn, E-mail, V-neck,

T-junction, V-formation,

X-ray,

A-line

Innovations: Social and technological innovations have brought new words into the language.

Mountain bikes, cosmetic surgery, air miles, wheel-clamping, bottle-banks, Jacuzzis, microwave ovens, cash-dispensers, phone cards, smart bombs, modems, electronic tagging, flexi-time, CD-roms

Life Trends : New technology and social trends have brought inno-

vations into modern life and new expressions into the language.

Women's liberation, organ transplants, teleshopping, hair implants, audio books (for the blind), animal rights groups etc.

Street English: Native speakers do not always speak the kind of careful, clear English that you might expect. Someone who says, 'wozzat?' means 'What's that?'. A sound like 'kew' means 'thank you'.

'dunno (I don't know), 'assokay (That's O.K.), 'wotcher'dooin? (What are you doing ?), 'eeryiz (Here he is), 'oozat? (Who's that)

Politically Correct English: Nowadays people are very sensitive not to offend women, poor people, the old and various minority groups. The careful language used to refer to such people is called, ironically, 'politically correct'. Here are some 'politically correct' expressions with their meaning in the brackets.

non-wage-earner (unemployed), financially underprivileged (poor), substance abuser (drug addict), overseas visitor (foreign tourist), vertically disadvantaged (short person), personkind (mankind), guest of the correctional system (prison convict), she-ro (hero) etc.

Non-words: People in different parts of the world use different sounds (not words, just sounds) in different situations. In English-speaking countries, people often say 'mmm' when something tastes delicious, 'ouch!' if they are

hurt, 'wow' if they are impressed, 'ssh!' if they want someone to be quiet and 'ah!' if they suddenly see or understand something.

Foreign words and phrases: Most of them are now so absorbed into English that they are no longer thought of as foreign. However, they have retained their original spelling, pronunciation and foreign identity.

French words; bon voyage, grand prix, chic, rendezvous, debut, carte blanche, coup, avant-garde, gourmet etc.

Latin words; status quo, ego, bona fide, vice versa, curriculum vitae, persona non grata etc.

Spanish words; siesta, macho, patio, machismo etc.

German words; blitz, kaput, kindergarten etc.

Italian words; incognito, bravo, graffiti etc.

Chinese words; kowtow, sam pan etc.

'Sauna' is a Finnish word and 'Ombudsman' is a Swedish word.

Sex equality and the English Language: The increasing demand for sex equality had an effect on English grammar and vocabulary. We used to say, of a mixed class, 'Every student must make sure he has his student card'. Many people didn't accept this. It is rather a mouthful to say 'he or she', 'his or her' all the time, so we use 'they', 'their'. 'Every student must make sure they

have their student card.'

The title, 'Ms', for both married and unmarried women means that they, like men, need not advertise their marital status. Some people, in fact, are so determined to avoid male dominance in language that they use adapted words like 'personkind', and 'herstory'.

Actresses now call themselves 'actors'. Words like 'salesman' and 'chairman' are disappearing, to be replaced by 'salesperson', 'chairperson' or simply 'chair'.

Literary or Poetic Words: A certain class of words is mainly found in old-fashioned English or poetry. However, it is worth paying attention to them because they are still used in jokes and ironic language. For example; 'You've been imbibing' (drinking) or 'He's my deadly foe' (enemy)

Here is a short list.

Toil (work), tidings (news), betwixt (between), behold (see), fare (food), penurious (poor), swift (fast), peruse (read), slumber (sleep), demise (death), scribe (writer), thoroughfare (street), attire (clothes), hale (healthy), converse (talk) etc.

The fascinating words, phrases and sentences in English language are often heard in conversations and used in writing according to the situations as well.

Tommy Pauk is the pseudonym of U Thein Swe, who is B.A (English) and (Registered Law) R.L.I. degrees holder. He has English Teaching experience at Yangon University English Department and Workers' college in Yangon, and now is working as freelance writer and English Teacher cum Translator/Interpreter for foreign firms.

Myanmar Scouts Federation Office commissioned

YANGON, 29 April —Youths are the largest force of the country, Union Minister at the President's Office U Soe Thane said Wednesday at the opening ceremony of the Myanmar Scouts Federation Office in Mingala Taungnyunt Township.

Union Minister U Soe Thane, Chief Minister of Yangon Region U Myint Swe, Chairman of Myanmar's Temporary Scout Committee Dr Tin Nyo, Chief Commissioner of Myanmar Girl Guides Daw Tin Hla Kyi and Chairman of Taw Win Development Foundation U Ko Ko Htwe formally opened the building.

Myanmar's scout



federation has more than 37,000 members at over 200 basic education schools across the nation.—MNA

Union Minister U Soe Thane opens office of Myanmar Scouts Federation.

MNA

Clampdown on illegal trade adds US \$28.1 bil. to national revenue

NAY PYI TAW, 29 April — Myanmar's clampdown on illegal trade delivered an additional US \$28.1 billion in national revenue in fiscal 2014-2015, Union Minister for Commerce U Win Myint said Tuesday.

The minister revealed the staggering figure as the Central Committee for Control of Illegal Trade held its 12th meeting via videoconference at the ministry here.

According to the union minister, the committee's

efforts have dramatically decreased the volume of illegal trade, bringing in more revenues for the country. He stressed the need to provide full legal protection for his staff against false accusations and defamation by illegal traders.

From November 2012 to March 2015, the committee's mobile teams exposed over 6,000 cases worth K35 billion and destroyed unwholesome foodstuffs worth K14 billion.—MNA

Union Minister U Win Myint highlights clampdown on illegal trade.—MNA

Myanmar, Australia to strengthen bilateral relations and cooperation

NAY PYI TAW, 29 April — The 1st Myanmar-Australia Foreign Ministry Consultations Meeting was held at the Lake Garden Hotel, Nay Pyi Taw on 29th April 2015. The meeting was led by U Thant Kyaw, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs, representatives from Ministries and

Mr. Craig Chittick, First Assistant Secretary from South East Asia Regional Division, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Australia.

During the meeting, the two sides exchanged views on strengthening of bilateral relations and cooperation between Myanmar

and Australia, regional and international affairs and matters related to mutual interests.

In the evening, U Thant Kyaw, Deputy Minister hosted a dinner to Mr. Craig Chittick and members of the Australian delegation at the Lake Garden Hotel.—MNA



Deputy Minister U Thant Kyaw poses for documentary photo with Australian delegation.—MNA

Children draw dream . . .

(from page 1)

The nine Myanmar prizewinners, six girls and three boys, were selected from a field of more than 1000 entrants. Their artwork will be exhibited in Japan with national winners from across the globe. Worldwide winners will be chosen from the field of national winners and flown to Japan with their parents or guardians.

In the 7 and under cat-

egory, first prize went to Thet Hsu, second to Chuu Thanthan Kyaw, and third to Thanzin Nadi, all aged 7. In the 8-11 division, first prize went to Min Thiha, 11, second to Thet Htar, 10, and third to Paing Pyae Kyaw, 8. In the 12-15 field, first prize went to Eaint Phyu Sin, 14, second to Ngwe Kyae Mone, 14, and third to Kyaw Phone Wai, 12.

GNLM

Scout course concludes for outstanding students in Bagan camp

BAGAN, 29 April — The scout course for outstanding students of eighth standard concluded at the hall of Bagan Basic Education High School, Mandalay Region, on Wednesday, with a speech by Head of Bagan recreation camp Director Dr Soe Myint Tun.

Officials presented prizes to first, second and third prizes to winners in the boy scouts and girl guides. The outstanding students sang a song in honour of the winners. A total of 176 outstanding students attended the scout course.

Min Min Zaw (Kalay)



Software development diploma course concluded in Mandalay

NAY PYI TAW, 28 April — The Myanmar Institute of Information Technology (MIIT) and India Institute of Information Technology, Bangalore (IIIT-B) concluded their joint post-graduate diploma course in software development at the Mandalay University of Computer Studies on

Tuesday.

Union Minister for Science and Technology Dr Ko Ko Oo said the joint effort between the governments of Myanmar and India has yielded fruitful results in devel-

oping human resources in the ICT sector.

He said 30 trainees completed the nine-month course, with six months in India and three months in Myanmar.

MNA



Head of Bagan recreation camp Director Dr Soe Myint Tun presents certificates of scout course to a trainee.—MAUNG PO ZAW

US Senate rejects bid to toughen Iran nuclear review bill

WASHINGTON, 29 April — The US Senate rejected an effort on Tuesday to require any nuclear agreement with Iran to be considered an international treaty, which would have forced any deal to be ratified by two-thirds of the Senate's 100 members.

The Senate voted 57-39 to reject the measure, which Republican Senator Ron Johnson offered as an amendment to the Iran Nuclear Review Act, a bill requiring an Iran nuclear deal to be reviewed by Congress. The amendment's backing by 39 Republicans signaled that there could be intense debate in the coming days as the Senate hammers out its final version of the legislation.

Majority Leader Mitch McConnell and other top Senate Republicans were among those voting for



Negotiators of Iran and six world powers face each other at a table in the historic basement of Palais Coburg hotel in Vienna on 24 April, 2015. —REUTERS

the amendment, despite an emotional appeal against it from Senator Bob Corker, the Republican chairman of the Senate Foreign Re-

lations Committee and author of the bill.

Corker and Senator Ben Cardin, the committee's top Democrat, have

been working against so-called "poison pill" amendments seeking to toughen the bill, which they say would kill its chances of

becoming law by alienating Democrats and provoking a veto by Democratic President Barack Obama.

Corker announced on Tuesday that his bill has 67 co-sponsors, enough to override a presidential veto.

Obama had threatened to veto the bill as a threat to ongoing nuclear negotiations with Iran until last week, when leaders of the foreign relations panel agreed on a compromise that removed many of the measure's strictest provisions.

Secretary of State John Kerry said on Monday that Washington and other major powers were closer than ever to a deal with Iran, although more tough talks lay ahead of a 30 June deadline for reaching a final agreement in which Teheran would drastically

scale back its nuclear programme in exchange for an easing of crippling economic sanctions.

The White House has made clear the veto threat would be back in place if the measure were significantly amended as it moves through the Senate and House of Representatives.

Many Republicans worry that Obama is so eager for a nuclear pact that he will allow Iran to develop a nuclear weapon. They say a tougher stand in Congress would help convince Teheran to compromise in the nuclear talks.

Several backers of the bill insisted that supporting the Corker bill was not an endorsement of a final nuclear agreement. They argued that opposing it would take away Congress' best chance to weigh in.

Reuters

Britain's Labour has one-point lead ahead of election - YouGov



Britain's opposition Labour Party leader Ed Miliband gestures at an election campaign event in north London on 26 April, 2015. —REUTERS

LONDON, 29 April — Britain's opposition Labour Party has a one percentage point lead over Prime Minister David Cameron's Conservatives, according to a YouGov opinion poll for the Sun newspaper published on Tuesday.

The two main parties have been neck-and-neck in most opinion polls since the start of the year, with neither establishing a sustained lead exceeding the

3-point margin of error.

The poll ahead of the 7 May election showed Conservatives at 34 percent, down one point from Monday, versus Labour at 35 percent, up one point, polling company YouGov said.

Opinion polls have consistently shown that neither of the two main parties is likely to win an overall majority in the 650-seat Parliament.

Reuters

Wife shields Greece's Varoufakis from anarchist attack at restaurant

ATHENS, 29 April — A group of self-styled anarchists threw glass objects at Greek Finance Minister Yanis Varoufakis and his wife Danae at an Athens restaurant late on Tuesday, but she hugged him to shield him from the attack, the finance ministry said.

The couple had just finished having dinner with friends in the bohemian Exarchia district — the site of frequent protests by left-wing protesters — when the group entered the restaurant's courtyard, telling them to leave "their area".

Varoufakis said his wife, an artist, blocked the attack. They tried "for a few seconds to reach me without hitting her," he said in the ministry statement.

Then "they retreated

fast continuing their curses and threats, got out of the courtyard and waited for us outside the restaurant," Varoufakis added.

The statement did not go into details on what prompted the attack. The outspoken economist has won fans in Greece for opposing austerity policies but has also garnered criticism at home for his brash style and a celebrity photo shoot in a French magazine. The minister said he thought the group was more interested in embarrassing him than injuring him. The couple left the courtyard and got on their motorcycle to leave.

"I started a dialogue with them, saying that I wanted to hear them out, even if that meant that I would be hit," said Varou-



Greek Finance Minister Yanis Varoufakis and his wife Danae Stratou attend a banking conference in Athens on 21 April, 2015.

REUTERS

fakis. "After 15 minutes of a tense but non-violent talk spirits calmed."

Varoufakis was sidelined by Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras in a reshuf-

fle of Greece's negotiating team with EU/IMF lenders on Monday after slow progress in talks over reforms to unlock aid.

Reuters

Hillary Clinton's Benghazi emails contain few revelations

WASHINGTON, 29 April — A cache of Hillary Clinton emails expected to be made public soon contains no support for Republican accusations that Clinton was involved in efforts to downplay the role of Islamic militants in the deadly 2012 attacks on US installations in Benghazi, Libya, people familiar with the emails said.

Two people familiar with the material said this week that the 300 emails do not demonstrate that Clinton, who was secretary of state at the time of the attacks, was personally involved in deci-

sions that resulted in weak security at the Benghazi outposts.

The State Department is expected to make public this week or next Clinton emails about Benghazi that it turned over in February to a Republican-led panel investigating the 11 September, 2012, attacks at the US diplomatic mission and a nearby CIA base. US Ambassador to Libya Christopher Stevens and three other Americans were killed in the attacks.

Most of the emails were sent from Clinton's Blackberry and were cryptic, with few running

longer than three or four sentences, said the sources, who requested anonymity.

Some showed Clinton exchanging correspondence with other State Department officials regarding security for a Libyan election that took place in June 2012. But there was no evidence Clinton held detailed discussions about security at US installations in Benghazi in the months before the attacks, the sources said.

David Kendall, Clinton's lawyer, declined to comment on the emails.—*Reuters*

France to raise defence budget by 3.8 billion euros from 2016-2019

PARIS, 29 April — French President Francois Hollande said on Wednesday he would increase the country's defence budget by 3.8 billion euros over four years from 2016 to ensure the army had the capacity to deal with threats at home and handle overseas operations.

"France is facing threats at home and overseas," Hollande told reporters. "Secu-

rity, protection, independence are principles that are not negotiable."

He said the defence budget in 2015 would remain at 31.4 billion euros (\$34.51 billion), but that an extra 3.8 billion euros would be given to the army over the period between 2016-2019.

He did not say how the extra costs would be financed.

Reuters

WORLD

Yemen's Houthis to investigate public figures, including Nobel laureate

DUBAI, 29 April — Yemen's Houthi rulers have launched an investigation against dozens of public figures, including Nobel Peace Prize laureate Tawakul Karman, state news agency *Saba* said late on Tuesday, following a complaint that could amount to treason.

Saba said a non-governmental organization had filed a complaint with the public prosecutor claiming that 39 prominent figures, including many living in exile, had compromised the country's independence, unity and territorial integrity.

"The first attorney in the office of the public prosecutor has ordered an investigation into an urgent complaint of crimes that impact the independence of the Republic of Yemen, its unity and the safety of its territory," *Saba* said.

The organization, identified as the Legal Centre for Rights and Development, suggested on its Facebook page that the complaint was linked to Saudi-led air strikes on Yemen, citing attacks on private and public transportation, storage houses and public facilities.

The United Nations said last week an estimated 551 civilians, including

31 women and at least 115 children, had been killed since Saudi-led military operations began in Yemen on 26 March.

Saudi Arabia says the campaign it leads was aimed at shoring up President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi against the Iranian-allied Houthi group and was being carefully conducted to avoid civilian casualties.

Karman, a mother of three who became a figure of symbolic importance in the 2011 Yemeni uprising, was the first Arab woman and second Muslim woman to win the Nobel Peace Prize.

Apart from her, the list included President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi's former chief of staff, Ahmed Awad bin Mubarak, two brothers who are leaders of the Hashed tribal federation, Hussein and Hameed al-Ahmar, and Hamoud Munassar, chief correspondent for the Saudi-owned al-Arabiya television.

The list also included General Ali Mohsen, the commander of the First Armoured Brigade who broke ranks with the then-President Ali Abdullah Saleh during 2011 protests against his 33 years in office and sided with demonstrators.—*Reuters*

Saudi-led planes bomb Sanaa airport to stop Iranian plane landing



Smoke billows from the international airport of Yemen's capital Sanaa after it was hit with air strikes by Saudi-led coalition on 28 April, 2015.—REUTERS

CAIRO / ADEN, 29 April — Jets from a Saudi-led alliance destroyed the runway of Yemen's Sanaa airport on Tuesday to prevent an Iranian plane from landing there, Saudi Arabia said, as fighting across the country killed at least 30 people.

Yemeni Vice President Khaled Bahah had called on the Houthis on Monday to heed a UN Security Council demand for an end to fighting, which the Red Cross says has pushed Yemen into a humanitarian catastrophe.

Houthis seized the

capital Sanaa last September, demanding a more inclusive government and crackdown on graft. Talks with President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi collapsed and he fled into exile. Chaos set in as the Iran-allied Houthi forces swept southwards, fighting loyalist army units, regional tribes and al-Qaeda militants.

Top world oil exporter Saudi Arabia, rattled by what it sees as expanding Iranian influence in the region, has been leading a Gulf Arab coalition in waging air strikes on Houthi targets since late March.

Riyadh said the campaign moved to a new phase last week, but fighting has intensified again since Sunday.

In Sanaa, air force planes from the Saudi-led coalition bombed the runway of the country's main airport to stop an Iranian flight landing, officials from both sides said, in a move that will further complicate humanitarian efforts to fly urgently needed aid into Yemen.

Brigadier General Ahmed Asseri, spokesman for the Saudi-led coalition, told *Reuters* that the airport

was bombed after an Iranian aircraft refused to coordinate with the coalition and the pilot ignored orders to turn back.

He said the bombing of the runway made it unusable for planned aid flights. Airport officials said the strikes set a civilian aircraft operated by Yemeni Felix Airways ablaze. A cargo plane was also hit they said.

An official at the Yemeni civil aviation authority said the runway was targeted by 20 sorties that destroyed both the take-off and landing runways.

Iranian state news agency *IRNA*, confirming the incident, said the pilots had ignored "illegal" warnings from Saudi jets to turn back before the runway was bombed. The agency said the plane was carrying humanitarian aid to Sanaa.

The Houthis' al-Masirah television said the plane was scheduled to carry wounded victims of the Saudi-led strikes for treatment in Iran.

A civil aviation official said the airport at the Red Sea city of Hodeidah had also been bombed, but appeared to be still operational. Officials said aid flights would be diverted to Hodeidah until Sanaa airport is repaired.

Reuters

Saudi King Salman replaces heir and next-in-line to rule

RIYADH, 29 April — Saudi King Salman appointed Interior Minister Mohammed bin Nayef as his new heir on Wednesday and made his son, Defence Minister Mohammed bin Salman, second-in-line to succeed in a dramatic reshuffle in the world's top oil exporter.

By making Mohammed bin Nayef, 55, crown prince, and Mohammed bin Salman, who is thought to be in his early 30s, deputy crown prince, the Saudi monarch has set the kingdom's succession in stone for decades and strengthened his branch of the dynasty.

He also replaced veteran Foreign Minister Prince Saud al-Faisal, who had served in the role since October 1975, with the kingdom's Washington ambassador Adel al-Jubeir, the first non-royal to hold the post.

The changes come at a

moment of unprecedented regional turmoil, as Saudi Arabia navigates the messy aftermath of the Arab spring and has departed from decades of backroom politics by launching a military campaign in Yemen.

In a decree published by state media, King Salman said the decision to replace his half-brother Prince Muqrin with Mohammed bin Nayef as his heir and to make his own son deputy crown prince had been approved by a majority of the family's Allegiance Council.

Salman succeeded his late brother King Abdullah, who died on 23 January.

The new crown prince has been interior minister since 2012, and headed the kingdom's security forces for a decade before that, a period in which he crushed an al-Qaeda uprising in Saudi Arabia and developed close ties with the United States.

Mohammed bin Salman, the new deputy crown prince, has enjoyed a meteoric rise in the ruling family's power elite, moving from a job as head of his father's personal court to become the third most senior man in Saudi Arabia.

As well as being appointed defence minister, a role that has made him the most prominent face of Riyadh's campaign in Yemen this month, he has also served as royal court chief and head of a powerful committee on the Saudi economy and development.

He was replaced on Wednesday as head of the royal court by Hamed al-Sweilam, the decree said.

The replacement of Muqrin, the youngest son of Saudi Arabia's founder King Abdulaziz Al Saud, cements a big shift away from princes favoured by the late Abdullah.

Muqrin, who had previously been the Saudi intelli-



Saudi Interior Minister Prince Mohammed bin Nayef al Saud

gence chief, was appointed deputy crown prince by the late king in 2013 and automatically became Salman's heir when Abdullah died. However, his mother was a Yemeni, which analysts said undermined his position with some members of the family.

The decree also appointed Saudi Aramco Chief Executive Khalid al-Falih as Health Minister and chairman of Aramco and made Labour Minister

Adel al-Fakeih economy and planning minister, replacing him with Mufrej al-Haqbani.

Internal reshuffles in Saudi Arabia often move oil prices as stability in the world's biggest petroleum exporting country is key to global supplies.

Of particular interest to oil markets was Falih's appointment. His new post of chairman is a position previously held by veteran Oil Minister Ali al-Naimi, who remained in his post.

Traders said they were closely observing who would become Aramco's new CEO and whether oil minister Naimi's position would be affected.

Naimi, who is 79 years old and has been oil minister since 1995, was seen as crucial in Saudi Arabia's decision last November to not cut production in support of crude prices, which have halved since June 2014.—*Reuters*

US military sends jets to northern Afghan city under siege

KABUL, 29 April — The US military has sent fighter jets to Afghanistan's northern province of Kunduz, where Taliban insurgents have launched a major offensive and overrun government checkpoints close to the main city, US and Afghan sources said.

The US military declined to say why the jets had been dispatched to the area, but confirmed they were on a mission outside regular operations.

"We can confirm there were US jet aircraft flying in the Kunduz area in the past 72 hours, no munitions dropped," a US military spokesman said, but declined to comment further.

Officials this week said hundreds of Taliban militants had attacked police and army checkpoints in the province, the insurgents' last stronghold before US-led forces drove them from power in 2001.—*Reuters*

Police enforce curfew in Baltimore, disperse protesters

BALTIMORE, 29 April — Thousands of police in riot gear and National Guard troops patrolled Baltimore to enforce a curfew on Tuesday night, dispersing protesters with pepper spray a day after the city was shaken by the worst rioting in the United States in years.

With helicopters overhead and armoured vehicles on the ground, most people respected a curfew that started at 10 pm EDT (0200 GMT Wednesday) and goes until 5 am all week.

But a few hundred people defied authorities, gathering at an intersection that was the scene of heavy looting in the largely black city a night earlier. Police broke up the group using rubber bullets and projectiles with pepper spray chemical irritant, and arrested seven people. Three more were arrested elsewhere in the city.

Baltimore erupted in violence on Monday hours after the funeral for a black man who died on 19 April after he was injured in police custody a week earlier.

The death of 25-year-old

Freddie Gray has renewed a national debate on law enforcement and race that was sparked by police killing unarmed black men last year in Ferguson, Missouri; New York City and elsewhere.

Just ahead of the curfew, Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake went to the intersection where protesters had gathered and pleaded with them to go home.

“Let’s take our babies home and abide by the curfew. I want to thank you for understanding that we want to bring peace,” Rawlings-Blake said through a megaphone.

On Monday, shops were looted, 19 buildings were set on fire, 20 officers were injured and police arrested more than 250 people in the city just 40 miles (64 km) from the nation’s capital in Washington.

More than 2,000 National Guard troops and 1,000 police from all over Maryland, as well as from New Jersey and the District of Columbia, were sent in to restore order.

Almost a quarter of the

620,000 people in Baltimore live below the poverty line and decayed, crime-ridden areas of the city inspired the gritty television police drama “The Wire.”

Baltimore saw scenes of reconciliation, cleanup and even celebration, as well as continued protest on Tuesday.

Groups of demonstrators marched and chanted “Black Lives Matter,” one of the anthems of a national movement against police use of lethal force, which is used disproportionately against minorities.

Near a looted and burned-out CVS pharmacy, hundreds of people waved flags and swayed in the street as they watched 50 dancers gyrating to the drumming of a unity band put together for the evening from music groups from all over the city.

“It feels good to see everyone coming together. People just enjoying themselves,” said Roxanne Gaither, 45. “This is what Freddie Gray would have wanted to see. Last night was terrible if a curfew is what it takes to avoid that, so be it.”

In Chicago, about 500 people demonstrated outside police headquarters and marched in solidarity with the people of Baltimore, chanting “Stop Police Violence.” At least one person was arrested, but the event was mostly peaceful.

For nearly a week after Gray died from a spinal injury, protests in Baltimore had been peaceful and Mayor Rawlings-Blake said she acted cautiously on Monday to avoid a heavy-handed response that would incite more violence.

Police in Ferguson, Missouri, were widely criticized last year for an aggressive, militarized response to demonstrations



A man carries items from a store as police vehicles burn on 27 April, 2015, after the funeral of Freddie Gray in Baltimore. Gray died from spinal injuries about a week after he was arrested and transported in a Baltimore Police Department van.—REUTERS

and rioting after a white police officer shot dead an unarmed black teenager.

On Tuesday Baltimore’s mayor responded to critics who said she waited too long to act.

“It’s a very delicate balancing act, when we have to make sure that we’re managing but not increasing and escalating the problem,” said Rawlings-Blake, 45, an African-American and Democrat who grew up in the city.

Maryland Governor Larry Hogan, a Republican, said he had called Rawlings-Blake repeatedly Monday but that she held off requesting the National Guard until three hours after looting started. He ended up declaring a state of emergency while she imposed the curfew.

The security crisis disrupted the city’s daily routines. Schools were closed on Tuesday, but were scheduled to reopen on Wednesday. In a rare move, the Major League Baseball game between

the Baltimore Orioles and Chicago White Sox will be played as scheduled on Wednesday but closed to the public.

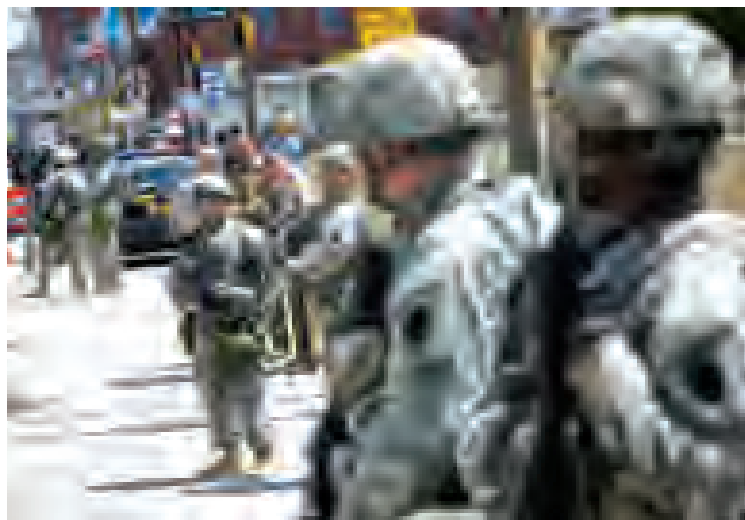
Gray was arrested on 12 April while running from officers. He was taken to the police station in a van, with no seat restraint and suffered a spinal injury.

Six officers have been suspended, and the US Justice Department is investigating possible civil rights violations.

“There’s no excuse for the kind of violence that we saw yesterday,” said President Barack Obama. “It is counterproductive.”

Obama also said at a news conference the problems in places such as Baltimore were not new and need to be addressed by everyone.

“We can’t just leave this to the police,” Obama said, adding that, “We as a country have to do some soul searching. This is not new. It’s been going on for decades.”—Reuters



National Guard troops stand watch along E Pratt St in Baltimore, Maryland on 28 April, 2015.—REUTERS

Nepal quake toll tops 5,000, people unable to leave capital seethe

KATHMANDU, 29 April — People looking for vehicles to leave Kathmandu for safety and for reuniting with family members chanted slogans against the government Wednesday, as the official death toll rose to 5,016.

“Down with the useless government!” protestors chanted in the Baneshwor area of the capital, while demanding that Home Minister Bam Dev Gautam be exiled from Nepal for his poor response to the disaster.

The Home Ministry said at least 10,194 people were injured in Saturday’s quake that has razed many buildings in cities and entire settlements in rural areas about which there is still very little information.

Sensing frustration among people wanting to leave Kathmandu despite the unavailability of transportation, the government announced Wednesday that it was providing 500 buses to transport

people out of the capital for free.

People stood in a more than 3-kilometre-long queue since 6 am after getting the information, but at midday there still were not enough buses despite Kathmandu schools offering their buses for the purpose.

Kanak Mani Dixit, a publisher who also runs a school that provided some buses for the evacuation, said only 100 buses could be arranged on Wednesday.

People who had waited for as long as six hours carrying luggage were frustrated after they were sent back with coupons and told to return on Thursday morning.

“This is cheating,” said Bishnu Bhandari, who was chanting slogans against the government. “Children and women waited here for so many hours. And now they have been asked to come back tomorrow. I believe this is just a publicity stunt by the government. They should have arranged the buses first, and then

asked people to come.”

Dixit, who is among the organizers of the free bus ride initiative, said the organizers now must make sure that 400 buses leave on Thursday.

“Transport workers are fleecing passengers. So everyone came here after coming to know that

these buses will carry them for free. Now managing the crowd is challenging,” he said.

Leaving the capital seems now the priority number one for most people.

“My parents told me to return as soon as possible to my hometown Rautahat because they think

an epidemic is imminent in Kathmandu,” said Kalyan Wagle, 20, a student. “All my friends have already left, paying exorbitant fares,” he added.

Purna Bahadur Darji, a 27-year-old, said Kathmandu is no longer safe. Darji, who was in the capital seeking employment in Qatar, was staying in a lodge that has now been damaged by the earthquake.

“I have spent four days under open sky near the airport. Commercial buses are charging two to three times the normal fare. I was hopeful that today I would be able to go to my home district, Morang, for free but there aren’t enough buses,” he rued.

At least 235,000 people have left Kathmandu since the weekend, some fearing shortages of necessities and an epidemic, and others to reunite with family members living outside Kathmandu, police said on Wednesday.—Reuters



Makeshift shelters for earthquake victims are seen on an open ground in Kathmandu, Nepal on 29 April, 2015.—REUTERS

ADVERTISEMENT & GENERAL

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV MARCLOUD VOY NO (0005N)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MARCLOUD VOY NO (0005N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 30.4.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S CHINA SHIPPING LINES**
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**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV KOTA TAMPAN VOY NO (TPN629)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA TAMPAN VOY NO (TPN629) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 30.4.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

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

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MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S INTERASIA LINES**
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**THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF ENERGY
MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE
(INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER)
(7/2015)**

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

<u>Sr.No</u>	<u>Tender No</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Remark</u>
(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

Bank Holiday

All Banks will be closed on 1st May (Friday) 2015, "May Day" being Bank Holiday, Under the Negotiable Instruments Act.
Central Bank of Myanmar

**MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
HOLIDAY NOTICE**

As the wharves, warehouses and Chellan Offices of Yangon Port will be closed on the 1st May 2015 (World Workers Day) and 2nd May 2015 (Fullmoon Day of KASON), Loading, Unloading and delivery for Goods will be received on Payment as Holiday Fees.

WEATHER REPORT

STATE OF THE SEA: Squalls with moderate to rough sea are likely at times off and along Mon-Tanin-thayi Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (30) to (35) mph. Seas will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS:
Likelihood of slight increase of day temperatures in the Central Myanmar areas.

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Michigan boy held in basement describes extreme exercise, abuse

DETROIT, 29 April — A Michigan boy who was found emaciated in his own basement after going missing for 11 days last year told a court on Tuesday that he was forced to exercise for up to two hours every morning and again each night and would suffer abuse if he slacked off.

If he faltered, he was

struck by a plastic pipe or wooden stick, or sometimes forced to stand with his arms over his head in a corner, a punishment his father and stepmother called "reaching for excellence," the boy, who was 12 at the time, testified.

"I was expected to do everything perfectly. I was never given any leeway. I

was never given a chance to make a mistake and learn from it," the boy testified, taking long pauses.

The Wayne County Circuit Court hearing, which has run for days, is to determine whether his father, Charles Bothuell IV, 46, and his stepmother, Monique Dillard-Bothuell, 37, should stand trial on

charges of torture and second-degree child abuse.

A conviction on torture carries up to life in prison and second-degree child abuse up to four years.

The boy, who is now 13, said his daily routine rarely wavered from November 2011 until his parents reported him missing in June 2014. Under questioning by Wayne County Assistant Prosecutor Carin Goldfarb, the boy said he hit a breaking point last May.

"I basically had gotten so upset and depressed and sad to the point where I had

tried to commit suicide," he said, describing cutting his wrist with a knife.

The boy told the court he had no friends, visited his mother every other month and had tried to run away, but police spotted him wandering the neighbourhood and took him home. On one occasion, his father threatened to take him to military school, he said. They made it as far as Ohio before he convinced his father to return home, he said.

Defence attorney Shawn Patrick Smith told reporters after the hearing

that the child's testimony seemed coached and "not credible."

"Obviously the reason he's saying anything is he wanted to live with his mom," Smith said.

A widespread search launched on 14 June after his father and step-mother reported him missing came up empty until a Michigan State Police sergeant and an FBI agent found him alive and hungry behind stacked boxes in the basement of his house.

The boy is expected to continue testifying on 6 May.—Reuters



Dressed like tea farmers, models give a show at tea plantation in central China's Hunan Province, on 27 April, 2015.—XINHUA

N Korean army deserters kill three Chinese people in border city

SEOUL, 29 April — Three North Korean army deserters killed three Chinese people in the Chinese border town of Helong last Friday and ran away, South Korea's KBS television network reported on Wednesday.

Chinese authorities are engaged in an extensive manhunt in the mountains

around Helong, in south-eastern Jilin Province, after ordering the town's residents not to go outside their homes, KBS quoted multiple sources in the town as saying.

In December, a North Korean soldier crossed into the Chinese border town of Nanping, just north of the Tumen Riv-

er, and killed four elderly Chinese people during a robbery attempt, according to *Yonhap News Agency*.

China lodged a rare diplomatic protest with North Korea over the killing. The killer was shot and died at a hospital while receiving medical treatment.—Kyodo News

Paul McCartney returns to Tokyo, surprises fans with Beatles hit

TOKYO, 29 April — Almost 50 years after the Beatles delivered memorable performances at Tokyo's Nippon Budokan arena, former band member Paul McCartney returned to the venue on Tuesday with a special treat for his fans.

McCartney, 72, surprised the audience by singing the Beatles' "Another Girl," the first time the song has ever been performed live, the singer's publicist said.

The veteran British musician also performed both Beatles hits and his own, and addressed the excited crowd in Japanese, saying "Long time no see Budokan."

"It was sensational and quite emotional remember-

ing the first time and then experiencing this fantastic audience tonight," McCartney said in a statement.

The Beatles first played the Budokan arena in 1966, amid protests from locals angered at the use of the venue for a musical act, as it was intended to be a sporting arena.

The controversy died down and over the past five decades, several musical acts have come to the Tokyo arena.

McCartney last performed in Japan in 2013, near the beginning of his international "Out There" tour, but not at the Budokan venue. His current tour will wrap up in July in Chicago.

Reuters



Fans wave and take pictures as Paul McCartney arrives for his gig at the Nippon Budokan Hall in Tokyo on 28 April, 2015.

REUTERS

Daniel Bruhl to play villain 'Captain America: Civil War'

LOS ANGELES, 29 April — "Rush" actor Daniel Bruhl will bring the classic villain, Baron Helmut Zemo, to the big screen for the "Captain America: Civil War".

The 36-year-old actor said he will play Baron Helmut Zemo who is depicted as a Nazi scientist and weapon expert in

the comics, reported Ace Showbiz.

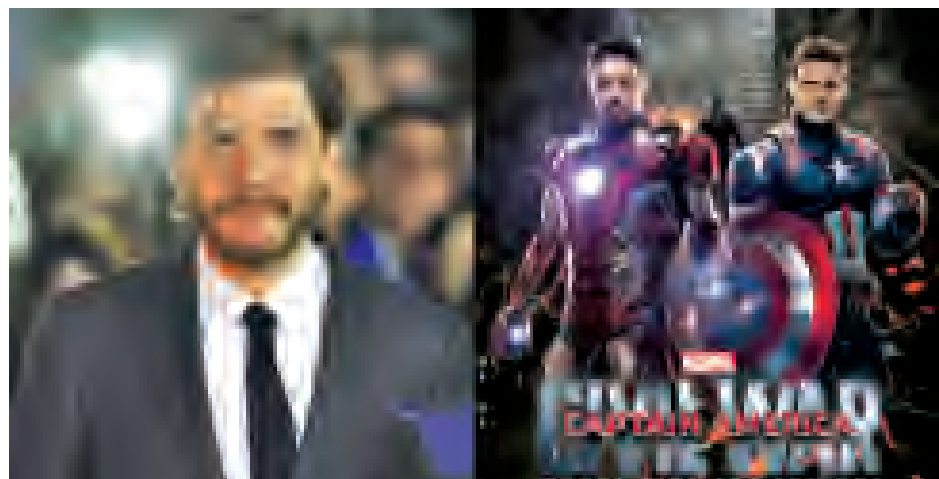
"I think I can tell you that without being thrown into Marvel prison ...," he joked.

"For the first few days I'll walk around like a little boy, just amazed by the megalomania of it. It's such a huge project. We could do 20 films with the

budget."

His villainous character is rumoured to have a smaller role in the upcoming third "Captain America" movie before later returning to take the role of a primary antagonist in a "Doctor Strange" standalone movie starring Benedict Cumberbatch.

Reuters



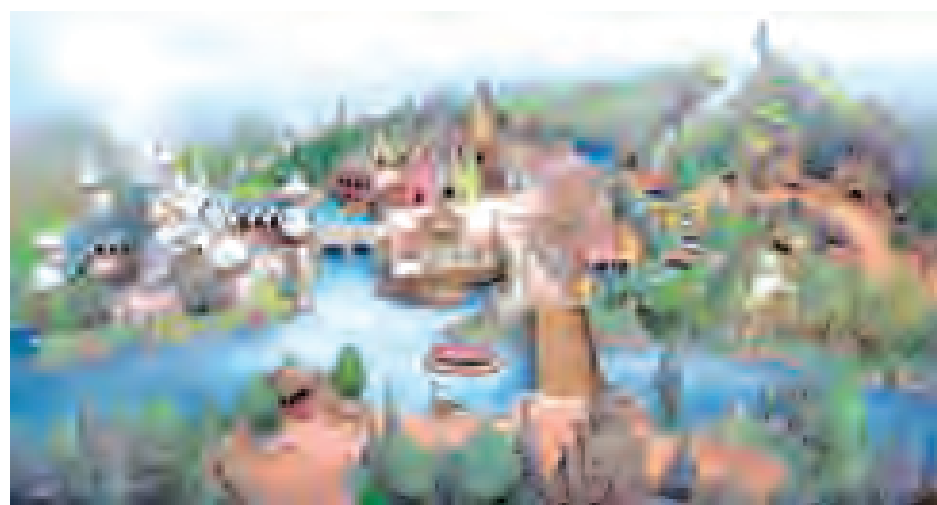
"Rush" actor Daniel Bruhl will bring the classic villain, Baron Helmut Zemo, to the big screen for the "Captain America: Civil War".—REUTERS

Tokyo DisneySea to have area themed on film "Frozen"

TOKYO, 29 April — The operator of the Disney theme parks in Japan said on Tuesday it will set up a facility featuring the hit Disney movie "Frozen" in the Tokyo DisneySea amusement park as early as 2017 as part of its 500 billion yen investment plan.

Oriental Land Co said it will also double the size of Tokyo Disneyland's Fantasyland area, featuring attractions based on Disney films, hoping to attract more visitors after enjoying a record high number for the third consecutive financial year through March 2015.

Oriental Land plans to install the Frozen-inspired facility in an area to be developed under the theme of Scandinavia with an investment of around 10 billion yen, given the popularity of an event launched early



Undated supplied photo shows Tokyo DisneySea's area where a new facility featuring the hit Disney movie "Frozen" will be located as early as 2017 as part of a 500 billion yen investment plan by Oriental Land Co, operator of the Disney theme parks in Japan.—KYODO NEWS

this year featuring the hit movie. The new Scandinavia-themed area is expected to house several facilities and eateries. Detailed plans for the area will be announced by the end of

March 2016, Oriental Land said.

At Tokyo Disneyland, the Fantasyland area will be expanded in 2017 or later to incorporate the themes of the Disney films "Beauty

and the Beast" and "Alice in Wonderland." The redevelopment plan calls for the expansion of the size of Tokyo Disneyland by around 10,000 square metres.

Kyodo News

Sam Smith cancels Australia tour due to vocal chord haemorrhage

LONDON, 29 April — British singer Sam Smith said on Tuesday he has cancelled the remainder of his Australian tour due to a haemorrhage on his vocal chords. Apologizing to his fans, the Grammy Award winner said the decision was taken on doctor's orders.

"I am deeply, deeply saddened to tell my Australian fans, I have to cancel my Australian tour," the

singer said in a statement.

"I have been vocally exhausted for a while now however last night in Sydney I had a small haemorrhage on my vocal chords. The doctors have told me I need to fully rest until my vocal chords have healed otherwise this could become a long-term issue."

His Australian tour promoter, Frontier Touring, said it was working with Smith to schedule

new performance dates in December.

Smith was scheduled to play more gigs in Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide and Perth before moving onto the Asian leg of his "In The Lonely Hour" tour, starting in Tokyo on 7 May. Smith triumphed at this year's Grammy Awards, scooping four awards including song of the year for his hit "Stay With Me".

Reuters



Singer Sam Smith arrives for the BRIT music awards at the O2 Arena in Greenwich, London, on 25 Feb, 2015.

REUTERS

'An American in Paris,' 'Fun Home' lead Broadway's Tony nominations

NEW YORK, 29 April — Two new musicals, "An American in Paris," a romance based on the Oscar-winning film, and the lesbian coming-out story "Fun Home" led the Tony nominations, theatre's highest honours, on Tuesday with 12 nods each.

Both shows earned nominations for the top prize, best musical. "An American in Paris" also scored nominations for leads Robert Fairchild and Leanne Cope, as did Michael Cerveris and Beth Malone for their leading roles in "Fun Home."

"Something Rotten!" a bawdy parody of Broadway musicals set in 1590s Tudor England which scored 10 nods, and "The Visit," about a wealthy widow returning to her hometown to seek revenge, will also compete for the top musical prize. But producer Harvey

Weinstein's "Finding Neverland" and the musical's stars Matthew Morrison and Kelsey Grammer were shut out. Hollywood actors Jake Gyllenhaal, Hugh Jackman, Glenn Close, James Earl Jones, Ewan McGregor, John Lithgow and Larry David were also snubbed.

Rock star Sting scored a nomination for best musical score for "The Ship," his first Broadway effort which closed earlier this year.

Bruce Willis and Mary-Louise Parker announced the nominations on Tuesday on "CBS This Morning." Tony winner and nominee this year Kristin Chenoweth will host the 69th annual awards with Alan Cumming at Radio City Music Hall on 7 June. CBS will broadcast the live two-hour show. Three-time Oscar nominee Bradley Cooper earned a best actor nomination for his role as

a disfigured man in "The Elephant Man." He will compete against Bill Nighy ("Skylight"), Ben Miles ("Wolf Hall One & Two"), Steven Boyer ("Hand to God") and Alex Sharp in his Broadway debut in "The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time."

Nominees for best play include "The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time," Pulitzer Prize winner "Disgraced," "Hand to God" and "Wolf Hall Parts One & Two," based on Hilary Mantel's historical novels.

Oscar winner Helen Mirren, who portrays Queen Elizabeth II in "The Audience," earned a best actress nomination along with Carey Mulligan ("Skylight"), Ruth Wilson ("Constellations"), Geneva Carr ("Hand to God") and Elisabeth Moss ("The Heidi Chronicles").—Reuters

GENERAL

Forest fire threatens Ukraine's Chernobyl nuclear zone



An aerial view from a helicopter shows fire on the ground in northern Ukraine, on 28 April, 2015.—REUTERS

KIEV, 29 April — Emergency services were battling on Tuesday to prevent Ukraine's largest forest fire since 1992 from spreading towards the abandoned Chernobyl nuclear power plant, Prime

Minister Arseny Yatseniuk said.

Earlier, the interior ministry had warned that high winds were blowing the fire in northern Ukraine towards Chernobyl, where in 1986 a reactor fire led to

the world's worst nuclear disaster.

A 30 km (18.6 miles) exclusion zone remains in place around the plant, which remains contaminated by radioactive particles.

"The situation is being

controlled, but this is the biggest fire since 1992. We've not had this scale of fire," Ukraine's Interfax news agency reported Yatseniuk as telling journalists.

"It is around 20 kilometers (from the fire) to the plant. Our emergency services are actively working there to prevent the fire spreading further," he said.

In February, international experts warned that a large amount of dangerous isotopes remained in the forests near Chernobyl, which could be spread by forest fires.

"Wildfires ... pose a high risk of redistributing radioactivity," according to a paper published in Ecological Monographs, titled 'Fire evolution in the radioactive forests of Ukraine and Belarus: future risks for the population and the environment.'

Chernobyl's Reactor 4, the epicenter of the 1986 blast, is covered with a concrete casement that the Ukrainian authorities plan to replace by 2016.

Reuters

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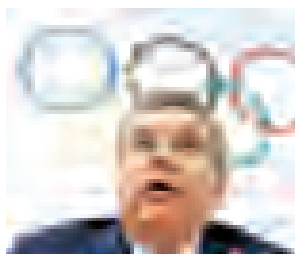
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Australia 2028 Games bid would have 'great chance'

SYDNEY, 29 April — A bid from Australia to host the Summer Olympics for the third time would have a "great chance" of winning what he hoped would be a hotly-contested bidding process, Olympic chief Thomas Bach said on Wednesday.

The Australian Olympic Committee (AOC) early this month offered its backing to a prospective bid for the 2028 Olympics by the mayors of South-



International Olympic Committee (IOC) President Thomas Bach speaks during a news conference in Rio de Janeiro on 28 Feb, 2015. REUTERS

East Queensland, centred on the city of Brisbane.

Bach, President of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), said he had met Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott earlier in the day and discussed a future bid to follow the success of the Melbourne Games in 1956 and Sydney in 2000.

"A bid from Australia would enjoy a lot of sympathy and would have a great chance of winning,"

he told a news conference.

"This is for 2028 and it is a long way away and I told him I hoped Australia would face a tough competition to host the Games.

"Because this is what Australians enjoy, a great competition and then perhaps to win." The Olympics will be held in Brazil for the first time next year, while Tokyo will host the Summer Games for the second time in 2020.

Reuters

Strict California water cutback rules still on the table, state

SACRAMENTO, (Calif), 29 April — California water regulators said they had created more nuanced ways for communities to show how much water they had used and saved, but refrained from making major changes to proposed new rules aimed at reducing water use in the drought-plagued state.

The rules, released on Tuesday by the staff of the State Water Resources Control Board and board Chair Felicia Marcus, are meant to bring the state into compliance with a 25 percent statewide cutback in urban water use ordered earlier this month by Democratic Governor Jerry Brown.

The latest proposal, which must be approved by

the full board, would still require communities that use the most water to cut back by as much as 36 percent over their usage in 2013.

But it allows communities to recalculate how much water is used per person in a way that is more consistent across the state.

The proposal also allows cities in areas where there are no water shortages, such as parts of the far northern coast, to reduce their usage by as little as 4 percent over 2013.

The proposed rules allow local water suppliers to decide whether or not to include commercial, industrial and institutional users in their conservation efforts.

They come on a day when Brown proposed a

new law allowing fines of up to \$10,000 for the most egregious water wasters.

The State Water Re-

sources Control Board is set to consider the new rules next month.

Reuters



A Department of Water and Power (DWP) Water Conservation Response Unit car, that patrols the streets looking for people wasting water during the drought, is seen in Los Angeles, California on 17 April, 2015. REUTERS

Tyson Foods to end use of human antibiotics in US chickens by 2017

CHICAGO, 29 April — Tyson Foods Inc (TSN.N), the largest US poultry producer, plans to eliminate use of human antibiotics in its chicken flocks by September 2017, one of the most aggressive timetables yet set by an American poultry company.

The Arkansas-based chicken and meat company also said on Tuesday it is working on ways to curtail such on-farm drug practices at its other protein businesses, which include pork and beef.

The move marks the latest push by the livestock and food industries to reduce the use of antibiotics crucial to human health in meat production.

Public health experts and federal regulators are concerned that routine feeding of antibiotics to animals could spur creation of antibiotic-resistant superbugs in humans, creating a health hazard.

Tyson's move will help the company meet a deadline recently outlined by McDonald's Corp (MCD.N) for its US restaurants to gradually stop buying chicken raised with human antibiotics over the next two years.

But Tyson's timetable was not synchronized with that of McDonald's, to which Tyson is a leading chicken supplier, Chief

Executive Donnie Smith said on a conference call Tuesday.

The shift away from human antibiotics in its poultry business is not expected to change Tyson's costs, the company said, and is part of an ongoing effort that goes beyond McDonald's.

The news was praised by public health and consumer advocacy groups, which note that the nation's top three chicken producers have all made commitments to end routine antibiotic use. The pressure now, critics say, will be for meat companies to carry those changes over to their beef and hog units.

Smith said on Tuesday that Tyson does not know what volume of medically important antibiotics are being used on-farm for the company's other meat businesses, because it does not own all the livestock or control the production or feed supply.

Tyson controls its chicken supply chain from beginning to end, from owning the birds to supplying the medicated feed to the contract farmers that raise the broilers for them.

But it buys hogs, cattle and turkeys from independent farmers.

"We don't know because we don't own those animals," Smith said.

Reuters

Hull beat Liverpool 1-0 to edge clear of danger

LONDON, 29 April — Hull City edged towards Premier League safety with a 1-0 win over Liverpool on Tuesday that moved them four points clear of the relegation zone and shredded the visitors' slim hopes of Champions League qualification.

Central defender Michael Dawson scored the only goal at the KC Stadium after 37 minutes, beating a hopeless Liverpool offside trap to head home and the hosts comfortably held on to record their second successive victory.

It moved them up to 15th place in the table with four games remaining, while Liverpool stayed fifth, seven points behind fourth-placed Manchester United who occupy the final Champions League

qualifying spot.

It was the second successive game in which Liverpool have failed to score and heaped pressure on manager Brendan Rodgers, whose side have taken four points from their last five games.

Liverpool last won the English title 25 years ago to the day and their performance against Steve Bruce's strugglers made them look every inch a team in decline.

Although they had the upper hand in terms of possession, they created little going forward and looked frequently vulnerable at the back.

Hull seemed happy to concede the ball to the visitors in the early stages, safe in the knowledge that their infrequent forays forward

and whipped crosses into the box regularly induced panic in the Liverpool ranks.

Sone Aluko should have put the hosts ahead after six minutes but headed straight at Simon Mignolet and Jake Livermore's header forced the Liverpool keeper to parry as Hull sensed blood.

Liverpool's only real effort on goal in the first half came when Philippe Coutinho's shot from a Jordan Henderson corner forced Hull keeper Steve Harper into a sharp block.

The hosts, however, looked the more threatening and went ahead when Dawson timed his run perfectly to beat the offside trap and head home a lofted ball from Ahmed Elmohamady.

Liverpool's lack of firepower in the absence of the injured Daniel Sturridge was evident and they struggled as the match wore on, although Henderson forced a smart save from Harper.



Liverpool's Mario Balotelli clashes with Hull's Tom Huddellstone during Hull City and Liverpool in Barclays Premier League at The Kingston Communications Stadium on 28 April, 2015.—REUTERS

Liverpool threw bodies into the box and Hull retreated but Bruce's side looked comfortable as they followed up Saturday's 2-0 victory over Crystal Palace with another crucial three points.—Reuters

Iran defender banned for nine months for fan incident

DUBAI, 29 April — Iran international Mohammad Reza Khazadegan has been handed a nine-month ban by the Iranian Football Federation (FFIRI) after being found guilty of attacking a fan in Qatar last week.

Video footage showed the 23-year-old reaching out to strike a fan with his left hand following Persepolis' 3-0 AFC Champions League defeat to Lekhwiya.

The defender could also be seen shouting at the supporter before being dragged onto the team bus by a Persepolis official.—Reuters

Dortmund stun Bayern in shootout to dash treble hopes



Borussia Dortmund players and coach Juergen Klopp (3rd L) celebrate after defeating Bayern Munich in the German Cup (DFB Pokal) semi-final soccer match in Munich, Germany on 28 April, 2015. Dortmund won the match 2-0 on penalties.—REUTERS

MUNICH, 29 April — Holders Bayern Munich slumped out of the German Cup semi-finals 2-0 on penalties to Borussia Dortmund on Tuesday after failing to score any of their spot kicks as their hopes of repeating their 2013 treble were dashed.

Bayern, who won the Bundesliga title on Sunday, had captain Philipp Lahm and Xabi Alonso slip as they sent their penalties into the stands as the Munich side missed all four of their efforts after a 1-1 draw following extra time.

Dortmund, beaten fi-

nalists last season, took revenge and maintained their hopes of a Europa League spot next term through the Cup competition after a disappointing Bundesliga campaign.

Unlucky Bayern will now focus on the Champions League where they face Barcelona in the last four next week.

"I did not expect such a game," beaming Dortmund coach Juergen Klopp told reporters.

"I wanted us to play with more courage in the first half and I told my players that it is ok to lose

here but not with this nonsense. Let's go down fighting," added Klopp, who is leaving the club at the end of the season.

Yet it had all looked to be going in Bayern's favour with their former Dortmund striker Robert Lewandowski scoring for the third time against his old club when he drilled home on the rebound in the 30th minute.

The Poland international then hit the post in the second half as Bayern dominated and looked certain to enjoy more goals.

But a quick break sent Dortmund's Pierre-Emer-

ick Aubameyang through at the far post and the Gabon forward slid in for the equaliser in the 75th against the run of play.

It was the wake-up call Dortmund needed and twice they had the chance to score again as the game turned on its head but Bayern goalkeeper Manuel Neuer's superb reflexes denied Marco Reus and Henrikh Mkhitaryan.

Bayern then lost winger Arjen Robben, who had come on as a substitute following a stomach muscle injury last month but lasted only 16 minutes.—Reuters

Pacquiao, Mayweather again divided in fight buildup

LAS VEGAS, 29 April — Four days before they meet in the ring for their highly anticipated showdown, Manny Pacquiao and Floyd Mayweather marked the start of fight week at different events on Tuesday, with the Fili-

pino southpaw a notable absentee from the 'Grand Arrival'.

While Las Vegas resident Mayweather greeted his fans in typically flamboyant fashion at the MGM Grand Hotel's official ceremony, Pacquiao conducted

his own fan rally elsewhere earlier in the day.

Pacquiao's long-time promoter Bob Arum felt his fighter owed it to his legions of supporters in the United States to host a public rally at the nearby Mandalay Bay hotel, where he and his entourage are staying this week.

"There are 70,000 Filipinos living in Southern Nevada, and they've obviously been very supportive of Manny," Arum told Reuters after Pacquiao had been welcomed to Las Vegas by hundreds of excited, raucous fans.

"We felt that we owed them this type of a rally and we felt that we couldn't do it here (at the MGM Grand) because Floyd, quite properly, would have objected.

"So rather than cause

any problems, we went to the Mandalay Bay where Manny is staying and we did it there and he (Mayweather) did his thing here. The timing was good so the press could be at both events."

Mayweather, however, did not agree when he spoke to reporters after treating several thousand fans to performances by stand-up comedian Ricky Smiley and the Southern University's "Human Jukebox" marching band at the MGM Grand Garden Arena.

"He (Pacquiao) should have been here with me," said the American. "So many different sponsors and networks came together to make it possible. It was the professional thing to support this.

"The bar is always set so high for Floyd Mayweather. If I didn't show up to the 'Grand Arrival', it would be front page (news)."

The undefeated Mayweather (47-0), who is guaranteed \$120 million (78 million pounds) from a megafight that is expected to be the richest of all time, oozed confidence as he predicted his record would remain perfect.

"I truly believe I am the smarter fighter," said the 38-year-old. "Pacquiao is reckless. Everybody's game plan (against Mayweather) is to come forward and throw lots of punches. It hasn't worked in 19 years and 47 fights."

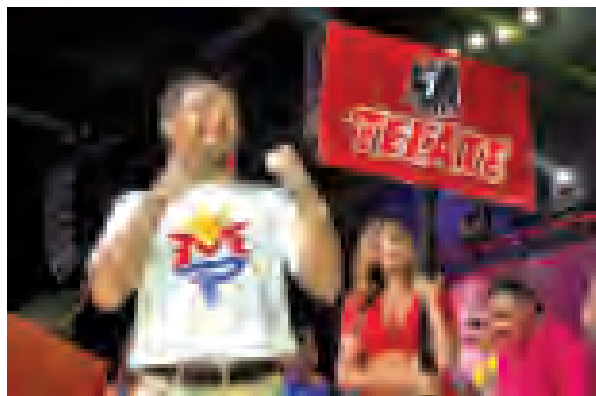
Earlier on Tuesday, Pacquiao promised that his "killer instinct" was intact

as he prepared for Saturday's welterweight showdown.

"My confidence is different than for other fights," the 36-year-old told reporters after his arrival at the Mandalay Bay rally was preceded by a colourful display from Filipino singers and folk dancers.

"I am not nervous. I am excited. I have something to prove. I like being the underdog because my killer instinct is there, my focus is there."

Pacquiao, a 2-1 underdog for a fight expected to earn him more than \$100 million, told the cheering fans at his rally: "Don't be nervous. I know I'm going to win the fight in the ring, so relax."—Reuters



WBO welterweight champion Manny Pacquiao of the Philippines poses during a fan rally at the Mandalay Bay Resort in Las Vegas, Nevada on 28 April, 2015.

REUTERS