

President U Thein Sein greets farmers warmly at ceremony to hand over farm machinery provided by JICA

NAY PYI TAW, 1 May —President U Thein Sein warmly greeted farmers at a ceremony to hand over farm machinery provided by the Japan International Cooperation Agency and to mark the pollination of Palethwe hybrid paddy strain at a 3,000-acre model farm of an advanced agricultural mechanization system near the hotel zone in Nay Pyi Taw on Friday.

Also present were Vice President U Nyan Tun, union ministers, deputy ministers, the Japanese ambassador to Myanmar, resident representatives of IRRI and JICA, officials of the Myanmar Music Association and Myanmar Writers Association, agricultural experts and local farmers.

After arriving at the model farm at 8 am and greeting the local farmers, the president attended the ceremony to hand over the farm machinery provided by JICA, Japan's aid agency.

At the ceremony, Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint



President U Thein Sein warmly greets local residents at pollination ceremony at 3000-acre model farm in Dekkhinathiri Township.—MNA

Hlaing expressed thanks for the farm machinery including 93 Kubota tractors, 10 Kubota harvesting and winnowing machines,

92 six-blade ploughs and 92 other ploughs provided by JICA and said that cooperation between Japan and Myanmar has extend-

ed from the friendship between their leaders to that of their peoples.

Then, the Japanese ambassador spoke about

the assistance and cooperation in the agriculture sector between the two countries and handed over documents related to the

farm machinery to the union minister who presented the ambassador a certificate of honour in turn.

(See page 3)

Traffic accidents claim 11 lives a day in Myanmar

By Ye Myint

YANGON, 1 May — On average, 11 people are killed every day in road accidents in Myanmar, resulting in the deaths of an estimated 4,000 people a year, Dr Thit Lwin, a member of the Traffic Rule Enforcement Supervisory Committee, said Friday.

He told The Global New Light of Myanmar in a phone interview that according to figures from a WHO report, road traffic accidents currently rank as the 9th leading cause of death globally, and are predicted to move up to third largest cause of death and disability around the world by 2020 unless effective action is taken.

Most accidents on city streets are caused by speeding, unsafe overtaking, drunk driving and lack of driving experience, ac-

cording to a taxi driver with more than 20 years' service in Yangon.

With an influx of imported cars following the government's relaxation of rules and regulations on vehicle imports, roads, especially in Yangon, are becoming congested, resulting in a greater number of crashes. Outside of Yangon, accidents involving motorcyclists make up the greatest number of road crashes.

"Road safety cannot be done without the participation of all road users," said Dr Thit Lwin, stressing the need of mass participation in road safety campaigns to ensure a more effective enforcement of traffic rules across the country.

Since 1992, Myanmar's Ministry of Health in cooperation with the World Health Organization (See page 9)

Rail Transportation Ministry inks deal with China's CMC to buy locomotive engines

By Aye Min Soe

YANGON, 1 May—The Ministry of Rail Transportation signed a deal with China National Machinery Import Corporation-CMC on Thursday in Nay Pyi Taw to buy locomotive engines worth more than US\$ 11million, according to ministry sources.

Out of the ministry's 377 locomotive engines, more than 200 are outdated, an official of the ministry said.

The first three engines will arrive in Myanmar in November and the remainder in 2016.

The new locomotives will replace current engines running on routes in hilly regions, according to the ministry.

The Ministry of Rail Transportation bought about 100 air conditioned coaches from Japan in

March to replace current ordinary coaches on Yangon's circular railroad.

The Ministry spent

\$207 million of ODA loans from Japan to buy the coaches.

The coaches will arrive

in Myanmar in September and the ministry will complete the replacement in 2015.—GNLM



Myanma Railways gives rail transportation services to people across the nation so as to ensure swift flow of commodity and smooth transport of passengers.—PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

Experts explain EIA and SIA over hydropower project



LOILEM, 1 May — A ceremony to clarify environmental impact assessment and social impact assessment over Upper Thanlwin (Mongtong) hydropower project was held at the hall of Loilem District General Administration Department, Shan State, on 28 April.

Deputy commissioner of the district U Aung Hein Kyaw spoke on the occasion.

Experts Mr Michael Holics, Mr Michael Waters and Mr Terry Warren of Snowy Mountain Engineering Corporation (SMEC) and local experts U Kyi Win and U Ba Than discussed EIA and SIA over the project and replied to queries raised by those present.

Moe Lwin Oo (Loilem)



Fire engulfs property worth more than K300 million



DAWEI, 1 May — A fire that started from short circuit at the residence of Ko Cho Win-Ma Khin Nyo at No 110 on Ywale Street in Dawei engulfed houses and buildings in Pottery Ward in Dawei, Taninthayi Region on 30 April.

A total of 67 houses and one basic education primary school worth K377.75 million were destroyed in the fire, leaving more than 300 people homeless and seven injured.

Firefighters from Dawei, Launglon and Thay-

etchaung township fire stations and local people put out the fire with the use of five fire trucks and water bousers. The fire victims are being accommodated at the relief camp in the compound of No 3 Basic Education High School in Dawei.

Chief Minister of Taninthayi Region U Myat Ko and officials, Commander of Region Police Force Police Col Kyi Lin and officials supervised putting out of fire and relief works.

Po Shwe Thun (Dawei)

Inter-village road improves transport facility for residents

YINMABIN, 1 May — Under the supervision of village authorities, well-wisher U Thein Aung of Monywa has spent K1.35 million on hiring heavy machinery for construction of a 30-foot-wide Tayawkyin-Kyauk-pyoke-Ohbo inter-village road starting from Taungpu village-tract in Yinmabin Township as of 28 April.

On 29 April, the six-mile and three-furlong-

long section has been constructed in the project.

Taungpu village administrator U Maung Htwe said, "This road was only for the path of bullock-cart in the part. Thanks to the well-wisher, the earthen road will give better transport to local people from three villages. They can use the road in transport of domestic products to Kani and Monywa townships."

Tun Ko Ko (Yinmabin)



Waste water kills fish till 30 April

AMARAPURA, 1 May — Waste water drained out by the industrial zone caused death of fish in Taungthaman Lake in Amarapura Township, Mandalay, till 1 May.

As the industries from the industrial zone did not purify the waste water before throwing it into Payantaw Creek, fish in the

lake were dead due to lack of oxygen.

"As of 11 April, lake workers gathered dead fish in the lake. On 30 April, plenty of dead fish floated in the western part of the lake. We have informed Mandalay City Development Committee of killing fish in the case. At present, lake officials spread lime

and raw salt in the lake as part of minimizing death of fish," said an official of fish breeding farm in the lake.

Fishermen lost more than 200 viss of fish worth hundreds of thousands of kyat.

Owners of the fisheries industries in the lake buried the dead fish.

Aung Ye Thwin



Taungup Township facilitates RC bridge in rural area

NAY PYI TAW, 1 May — A ceremony to inaugurate an RC bridge crossing Kama Creek was held in Taungup Township, Rakhine State on 30 April morning.

The ceremony was attended by Director-General U Htwe Hla of Department of Progress of Border Areas and National Races, Taungup Township Pyithu Hluttaw representative Dr San Hlaing and officials.

The bridge links old and new Kama villages and Zeebinkwin village. The 90-foot-long and 16 foot-wide bridge was built with K9 million fund in 2014-15 fiscal year to improve livelihoods of the local residents.

Kyemon

NATIONAL

President U Thein Sein greets...

(from page 1)

Afterwards, Vice President U Nyan Tun delivered a speech at the ceremony.

In his speech, the vice president said that the agriculture sector plays an important role in Myanmar and is the driving force for food sufficiency of the entire country.

It is, therefore, necessary to make efforts for development of the agriculture sector for the economic development of the country, the vice president added, before saying that the government has laid down policies for the development of the sector.

Then, the vice president pointed out that an important reform is to transition from traditional farming to mechanized farming, which is easier said than done, and that farmers are already aware of the difficulties they are encountering.

Then, the vice president said that it is necessary

to make the difficulties into opportunities, and that the country has the ability to do so.

In conclusion, the vice president said that it is necessary for the government to provide assistance to farmers including technologies, high-yield strains and machinery and thanked the farmers and those who assist in development of the agriculture sector.

Later, the vice president viewed the machinery and attended a pollination ceremony of the Palethwe hybrid strain in a 100-acre section of the farm, before presenting gifts to the Japanese ambassador and the resident representative of JICA and offering refreshments to experts and farmers. Then, the vice president visited the thriving Palethwe summer paddy field of U Kyaw Win, an outstanding farmer, in Aung Thukha Village, a 100-acre seed production farm of F-1 Palethwe strain



Vice President U Nyan Tun views display of agricultural machinery provided by Japan International Cooperation Agency.—MNA

of Myanmar New Ayeya Co and a 344-acre seed production farm of F-1 Palethwe strain near Alyinlo Village and thriving summer paddy fields irrigated by Ngaliike Dam.

During the term of the incumbent government, Japan and Myanmar have cooperated in the production and distribution of quality seeds, development of technologies that apply

less water in dry zones, development of agricultural technologies, human resources development in the agriculture sector of the agriculture university, food sufficiency for farmers who

face adverse conditions and agricultural development in western Bago. The government is implementing 7,000-acre advanced mechanized farms in the Nay Pyi Taw Council Area.—MNA



Speaker of Pyidaungsu and Pyithu Hluttaw meets US senator

WASHINGTON D.C., 1 May—Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and the Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann met with US Senator Mr Mitch Mc Connell at the Capitol Hill in Washington D.C on Thursday.

Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann poses for documentary photo with US Senator Mr Mitch Mc Connell.

MNA

Present at the meeting were chairmen and members of Hluttaw committees U Hla Myint Oo, Dr Shwe Mann met with US Senator Mr Mitch Mc Connell at the Capitol Hill in Washington D.C on Thursday.

At the invitation of Speaker of the House of Representatives of the US Mr John Boehner, Speaker of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and the Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann left for the United State on Wednesday evening and arrived at Incheon International Airport in Seoul, Korea, on Thursday

morning.

The speaker and party were greeted at the airport by Myanmar Ambassador to South Korea U Soe Lwin and embassy staff.

Then, the speaker proceeded to the US and arrived at Dulles International Airport in Washington D.C on 30 April morning.

The speaker and party were welcomed by Myanmar Ambassador to the US U Kyaw Myo Htut and embassy staff at the airport.

MNA

Union minister hints minimum wage will soon become law

YANGON, 1 May—A law on minimum wage is expected to come into effect soon, the union minister at President's Office hinted in a celebration of May Day in the Hlinethaya industrial zone here on Friday.

U Aung Min said steps are being taken at various administrative levels to ensure the right to form associations freely alongside the elimination of forced labour, child labour and

discrimination at work.

The Confederation of Trade Unions of Myanmar (CTUM), which organized the event, has had over 590 members, with the union minister saying that there are over 1,600 labour unions and two federations in the country.

U Aye Myint, Union Minister for Labour, Employment and Social Security, read out a message sent by President U Thein Sein on the celebration of

the May Day 2015, following an opening speech by the CTUM chairman.

The event included educative programmes on women's health, better labour relations between employers and employees, and issues of migrant workers.

The May Day celebration drew more than 1,500 workers from Yangon, Mandalay, Bago, Ayeyawady and Sagaing regions and Kachin, Shan and Kayin states.—MNA

Union Information Minister, Chairperson of Pyithu Hluttaw Rule of Law and Tranquility Committee to attend World Press Freedom Day 2015

NAY PYI TAW, 1 May—Union Minister for Information U Ye Htut and Chairperson of Pyithu Hluttaw Rule of Law and Tranquility Committee Daw Aung San Suu Kyi will deliver keynote speeches at the ceremony to mark the World Press Freedom

Day 2015, jointly organized by Ministry of Information and UNESCO, at Novotel Max Hotel in Yangon from 10 a.m. to 12 noon on 3 May.

Resident Representative of UNESCO Myanmar Mr. Sardar Umar Alam will read out the message sent by the UNE-

SCO director-general.

Five media organizations plan to read out their messages on the occasion.

Myanmar has observed World Press Freedom Day since 2012, with the 4th time of its kind on coming Sunday.

MNA

Buddhist cultural course widens knowledge of youths

MANDALAY, 1 May — The Buddhist cultural course for youths concluded at Minkyaung Buddha Yaungchi Dhammayon in Zeya Mingalayama NanU monastery in Yanmyolon Ward, Chanayethazan Township, on 30 April afternoon.

Abbot of Minkyaung Bhaddanta Kelasa adminis-

tered the Five Precepts.

The abbot and officials presented prizes to outstanding trainees.

Course instructors Sayadaw Bhaddanta Khemacara and Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kavinda gave lectures to 83 trainees from 21 to 30 April.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)

Primary students to receive school uniforms free of charge in Natmauk Tsp



NATMAUK, 1 May — Natmauk Township Education Office in Magway Region has issued school uniforms for primary students to 205 schools for coming academic year.

The basic education schools will deliver one set of uniform each to students from KG to fourth standard in four sizes.

“According to the student list in the academic year, the uniforms will be presented to the students. There are 22,273 students at

205 basic education schools in Natmauk Township. We have demand more uniforms for students of monastic education schools,” an education official said.

The schools will provide school uniforms, textbooks and notebooks to primary students free of charge in the township in 2015-16 academic year. The students do not need to pay fees for parent-teacher association’s fund, sports fund and library fund.

Township IPRD

Development tasks gain momentum in Myanaung Tsp

MYANAUNG, 1 May — Ayeyawady Region Hluttaw representative U Aung Win Shwe and party inspected progress of development tasks funded by Pyidaungsu Hluttaw in Myanaung Township, Ayeyawady Region, on 30 April.

They viewed construction of desks at Kanaung Basic Education High School and Ngapi-

seik BEHS Branch in Myanaung Township, and upgrading of the inter-village road linking Ngapiseik and Chaungyoe Okpon villages.

They also looked into progress of rural development tasks in various village-tracts in the township and attended to the local residents.—*Win Bo (Township IPRD)*



Ministry of Electric Power presents compensation for loss of cultivation to farmers

YEDASHE, 1 May — A ceremony to deliver compensation to those who lost perennial and seasonal crops in the construction of 500KV Meiktila-Nay Pyi Taw-Toungoo power grid project by Ministry of Electric Power was held at the hall of Yedashe Township General Administra-

tion Department, Bago Region, on 29 April.

Project Manager Deputy Director U Than Shwe spoke about delivery of compensation with calculation over losses of farmers and agricultural companies in construction of towers and approach roads of the project.

Township Administrator U Htay Kyaw expressed thanks for delivery of compensation for the loss of farmers.

Departmental officials presented more than K79.4 million to four agricultural companies and six farmers.

Ko Lwin (Swa)



Myanmar, China join hands in carrying out sanitation to mark May Day

MUSE, 1 May — In honour of the May Day which falls on 1 May 2015, volunteers from Myanmar and China joined the sanitation tasks at Kyukok-Wamting Bridge checkpoint in Kyukok (Pangsai), northern Shan State, on 30 April.

More than 120 volunteers supervised by Pangsai Township Administrator U Aung Aung Kyaw and officials, the vice mayor of Ruili City and officials carried out sanitation at the checkpoint.—*L Soe (IPRD)*



2nd Zosuan Youth Conference focuses on existence of Zomi culture, literature and language

TIDDIM, 1 May —The 2nd Zosuan Tuailai Khawmpi (Zosuan Youth Conference), organized by Zomi Youths, was held at FBBC Hall and Cope Baptist Church from 23 to 26 April.

On behalf of Chin State Chief Minister U Hong Ngai, State Minister for Finance U Nan Zamon opened the Zosuan Tuailai Khawmpi and spoke about existence of Zomi culture, literature and language.

Participants exchanged views on learning opportunities for Zomi youths, graduation from the least developed status among the regions and states, development of education and health sectors.

Altogether 305 residents from 60 villages attended the conference, said the secretary of the Zomi Youth Association (Tiddim).

Rev. JM Ngul Khan Pau gave talks ‘Towards comprehensive development’, attended by about 2,000 people.

The first conference was held in June 2013.

Zomi ethnics mainly reside in Tiddim, Tunzang and Cikha townships in Chin State.—*Zo Hae Hsar*

REGIONAL

Nepal quake toll passes 6,200, \$2 billion needed for reconstruction

KATHMANDU, 1 May — The death toll from Nepal's devastating earthquake rose steadily past 6,200 on Friday as fresh aftershocks and the stench of rotting bodies made it hard for nervous survivors to return to their homes.

Disposal of the hundreds of bodies still being found six days after the 7.9 magnitude quake devastated the Himalayan nation of 28 million people was becoming a problem for officials, who have ordered immediate cremations.

"Morgues are full beyond capacity and we have been given instruction to incinerate bodies immediately after they are pulled out," said Raman Lal, an Indian paramilitary force official working in coordination with Nepali forces.

Aid was slowly beginning to reach remote towns and villages nestled in the mountains and foothills but the overpowering smell of bodies trapped beneath the rubble of collapsed build-

ings in the capital was making it hard for residents to return to their homes.

Many Nepalis have been sleeping in the open since Saturday's quake. According to the United Nations, 600,000 houses have been destroyed or damaged.

Finance Minister Ram Sharan Mahat said Nepal would need at least \$2 billion (1.30 billion pounds) to rebuild homes, hospitals, government offices and historic buildings and appealed for help from international donors.

"This is just an initial estimate and it will take time to assess the extent of damage and calculate the cost of rebuilding," Mahat told *Reuters*.

The United Nations has said 8 million people had been affected, with at least 2 million in need of tents, water, food and medicines over the next three months.

A home ministry official said the death toll had



Earthquake survivor Pema Lama, 15, is rescued by the Armed Police Force from the collapsed Hilton Hotel six days after Saturday's earthquake, in Kathmandu, Nepal on 30 April, 2015.—REUTERS

risen to 6,204, with 13,924 injured.

Information Minister Minendra Rijal said the government would provide \$1,000 in immediate assistance to the families of those killed, as well as \$400 for cremation or burial.

Prime Minister Sushil Koirala told *Reuters* earlier this week the death toll from the quake could reach 10,000.

That would surpass the 8,500 who died in a 1934 earthquake, the last disaster on this scale to hit the Himalayan nation sandwiched between India and China.

Home ministry official Laxmi Prasad Dhakal said that, even though the 1934 quake was more powerful, there were fewer people living in the Kathmandu valley then.

"The scale of recon-

struction will be unprecedented," Dhakal said. "We have still not even been able to assess the damage in remote areas, which have been completely devastated." Officials have said the chances of finding any more survivors were fading, even though a boy and a woman had on Thursday been pulled from the rubble where they had lain trapped for five days.

As rescuers slowly started reaching outlying areas, witnesses reported seeing 70 to 80 percent of buildings severely damaged in Chautara, northeast of Kathmandu towards the border with China's Tibet.

Anger over the pace of the rescue has flared in some areas, with Nepalis accusing the government of being too slow to distribute international aid that has flooded into the country.

It has yet to reach many in need, particularly in areas hard to reach given the quake damage, poor weather and aftershocks.

Tensions between foreigners and Nepalis desperate to be evacuated have also surfaced. In Ashrang village in Gorkha, one of the worst-hit districts about four hours by road west of Kathmandu, hundreds of villagers were living outdoors with little food and water even as boxes of biscuits, juice and sacks of rice and wheat were stored in a nearby government office. Nepal is also appealing to foreign governments for more helicopters help the 20 at work in rescue operations. China was expected to send more, home ministry official Dhakal said.

In the Himalayas, climbing is set to reopen on Mount Everest next week after damage caused by avalanches triggered by the quake is repaired, although many have abandoned their ascents.

A massive avalanche killed 18 climbers and sherpa mountain guides at the Everest base camp.

Reuters



Cambodian workers celebrate International Labour Day in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, on 1 May, 2015. Thousands of Cambodian workers on Friday marked the International Labour Day, calling for higher wages and better working conditions, a union leader said.—XINHUA

Singapore must remain exceptional in order to survive

SINGAPORE, 1 May — Singapore must remain exceptional in order to survive, Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong said at the May Day Rally on Friday.

Lee said that three vital factors, which are successful economy, hardworking and skillful workers as well as outstanding leadership, are important for Singapore to work towards to remain exceptional.

"We might be small with only 5 million people, but other countries take us seriously; they believe we can make a contribution beyond this island," he said.

Lee noted that every country faces similar challenges today, and economies have to be restructured to become more productive.

He said the SkillsFuture scheme for raising employees' skills is a big challenge, but it could boost Singapore by cre-

ating many pathways for workers to grow.

"If we fail in education and training, our workers' future will be bleak," Lee said. "But if we succeed, Singapore will continue to be exceptional, and our children will live in a country that is even better than the one we live in today."

Singapore's founding Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew's passing in March was a reminder that exceptional leadership made a big difference for Singapore, Lee said, "This place could not have been built, and cannot be kept going, without exceptional leaders."

He also stressed that Singapore needs people "who are committed to Singapore, with high ability, strong character, dedication and gumption" to keep the country exceptional.

Xinhua

Japan, S Korea, Mongolia NGOs call for efforts for nuke-free zone

NEW YORK, 1 May — Nongovernmental organizations from Japan, South Korea and Mongolia called on governments in the Northeast Asian region and elsewhere to cooperate in efforts toward the establishment of a nuclear weapon-free zone during a gathering at the UN Headquarters on Thursday.

In a joint statement, the NGOs and other organizations said the establishment of the zone, to cover Japan, South Korea and North Korea, would be "effective" to

"break through the severe situation in Northeast Asia and work for lasting peace in the region."

The event was held at a time when representatives of countries around the world are gathering at the United Nations to review the operation of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, a conference held every five years.

During the event, Akira Kawasaki from Tokyo-based NGO Peace Boat emphasized the importance of activating discussions on

the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons in the region, given the increased global focus on the issue.

"Recognition of the humanitarian aspect of nuclear weapons has not prevailed in the very region that suffered from actual atomic bombings (by the United States) 70 years ago. Rather, national security and states' survival have been at the center of the nuclear debates in the region," Kawasaki said.

Mihyeon Lee, a South

Korean-based NGO member, said the cooperation of countries around North Korea, including Japan and South Korea that rely on US nuclear weapons for protection, is essential to persuade Pyongyang to give up its nuclear technology.

"In return for the South and the North giving up nuclear umbrellas and nuclear weapons, Japan should also give up their nuclear umbrella, and nuclear powers including China, the US, and Russia should promise the exclusion of preemp-

tive fire of nuclear attacks against each other and nuclear weaponry usage against non-nuclear power nations," she said.

An NGO member from Mongolia, a country which has nuclear-weapon-free status and diplomatic ties with North Korea, showed readiness to support efforts to create a regional nuclear weapon-free zone.

At the beginning, Nagasaki Mayor Tomihisa Taue, who is visiting New York from Japan to attend an NPT review confer-

ence session, pointed to the continuing "tensions" due to North Korea's missile launches and nuclear tests, and expressed hope that civil society initiatives will "heighten momentum" for the creation of such a zone.

The gathering was also attended by government officials from five of the six countries involved in the six-party talks on North Korea's denuclearization, namely Japan, China, Russia, South Korea and the United States.

Kyodo News

Nuclear powers say incremental approach is “only way” to disarmament

NEW YORK, 1 May — Five nuclear-weapon states said on Thursday that an incremental approach is the “only practical option” in moving ahead with nuclear disarmament, distancing themselves from calls to seek a nuclear weapons ban treaty.

“We continue to believe that an incremental, step-by-step approach is the only practical option for making progress towards nuclear disarmament, while upholding global strategic security and stability,” Britain, China, France, Russia and the United States said in a joint statement at the ongoing UN conference on nuclear disarmament in New York.

The five countries also hailed the “substantial progress” seen in the disarmament field, saying that “global stocks of nuclear weapons are at their lowest point in over half a century as the result of unprecedented efforts on the part of the nuclear-weapon states.”

The statement could provoke a backlash from non-nuclear countries as many of them have shown frustration over what they see as a lack of progress in nuclear disarmament during the Nuclear Non-Pro-

liferation Treaty review conference, which started Monday and will continue for about a month.

Some countries have also called for a nuclear weapons ban treaty amid increased global focus in recent years on the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons. A deeper division between nuclear powers and non-nuclear countries could adversely affect the course of the NPT review conference, in which NPT members hope to reach a final document by consensus. The five nuclear powers said they “remain steadfast” in their commitment to achieving a world without nuclear weapons and that they are “ever cognizant of the severe consequences that would accompany the use of nuclear weapons.”

But instead of showing concrete steps toward the abolition of nuclear weapons, the countries said they are resolved to prevent such consequences from happening. They also said they “note” the importance of reducing the role of nuclear arsenals in national security strategies.

The five countries, meanwhile, welcomed a

recent framework accord reached between Iran and six world powers, including the United States, over Iran’s disputed nuclear programme.

“We highlight our continued commitment to complete successfully negotiations by 30 June on a comprehensive settlement that would ensure the exclusively peaceful nature of Iran’s programme,” the statement said.

The nuclear powers also urged North Korea to respond to diplomatic efforts aimed at the resumption of the six-party talks on Pyongyang’s nuclear programmes. North Korea declared withdrawal from the NPT in 2003 and subsequently carried out three nuclear tests.

The five countries developed and detonated nuclear weapons prior to 1 January, 1967 and are recognized as “nuclear-weapon states” by the NPT.

Under the treaty, nuclear powers pledge to work toward disarmament in exchange for the promise that non-nuclear nations would not acquire them, while all countries have access to nuclear energy for peaceful purpose.

Kyodo News

UK PM Cameron wins last TV contest of election campaign — poll



Prime Minister David Cameron takes part in a special BBC Question Time programme, hosted by David Dimbleby (standing left), with the three main party leaders appearing separately at Leeds Town Hall, West Yorkshire, during the General Election 2015 campaign.—REUTERS

LONDON, 1 May — Prime Minister David Cameron won the last major TV contest of Britain’s election campaign, a snap Guardian/ICM poll showed on Thursday, with 44 percent of viewers saying he had performed best on the night.

Conservative Party leader Cameron, up for re-election on Thursday next week, was subjected to 30 minutes of questions from a BBC TV audience. Labour leader Ed Miliband and Liberal Democrat leader Nick Clegg were then - in

turn — questioned by the same audience.

The poll, which surveyed 1,288 British adults after they had watched the programme, said Miliband came second, with 38 percent, and Clegg third with 19 percent.

There were no major gaffes, but Miliband briefly lost his footing and stumbled off the stage, something his critics in the country’s mostly right-leaning press seized on with glee.

Britain faces an unusually close national election

on 7 May with most polls showing Cameron’s party level or narrowly ahead of or behind Labour.

The same polls show no one party is on track to win an overall majority, making another coalition government the likeliest outcome. Thursday’s event, which took place in the northern English city of Leeds, saw all three party leaders subjected to robust questioning, with audience members sometimes accusing them of lying and abusing their trust. — Reuters

US senator and Iran foreign minister face off on Twitter

WASHINGTON, 1 May — Amid heated debate over Iran policy in the US Senate, one of the leading congressional critics of the international negotiations with Teheran squared off with the country’s foreign minister on Twitter.

US Senator Tom Cotton used the social media service to challenge Iranian Foreign Minister Javad Zarif to come to Washington for a debate on Iran’s “record of tyranny, treachery and terror” after Zarif mentioned Cotton in remarks at New York University on Wednesday.

Zarif said sanctions would be lifted if there is an international agreement on Iran’s nuclear programme “whether Sen. Cotton likes it or not.” Cotton, a Republican from Arkansas, also upped the ante with a jab at the Iranian, saying that Zarif “hid” in the United States during his country’s war with Iraq in the 1980s.

“Not badge of courage... to hide in US while your country fought war to survive-but shows coward-

ly character still on display today,” Cotton, a former US Army captain, wrote on Twitter. A spokeswoman for Cotton said the senator had written the Tweets himself. Zarif responded on Thursday with this message: “Serious diplomacy, not macho personal smear, is what we need.” However, the Iranian official added congratulations on the birth this week of Cotton’s first child. “May U and Ur family enjoy him in peace,” Zarif said.

Zarif, 55, was a student in the United States in the 1980s. Cotton, 37, is the youngest member of the US Senate, where he has been serving since January.

In March, Cotton wrote a letter signed by 47 of the 54 Republican US senators warning Iran that any nuclear deal made with President Barack Obama could last only as long as the Democrat remained in office, a highly unusual intervention in US foreign policy-making that angered the White House and Senate Democrats.

Reuters

On Clinton’s age, Republican rivals imply — but never say — she’s old

WASHINGTON, 1 May — Her campaign barely three weeks old, Hillary Clinton already has been attacked by Republicans on everything from donations to her family’s charitable foundation, to her tenure as secretary of state and her ties to Wall Street. But her rivals, and the political action committees that support them, are treading more carefully on one incendiary subject: her age.

If elected in November 2016, Clinton would be, at 69, the second-oldest person to take the presidential oath for the first time, behind only Ronald Reagan, who turned 70 weeks after being sworn into office in 1981.

Questions of health and fitness for the presidency dogged two former candidates of a similar age, Bob Dole in the 1996 election and John McCain in 2008, each of whom was 71 at this point in the race. *Time* magazine featured Dole on the cover asking whether he was “too old” for the job. McCain was



A Hillary Clinton sticker is pictured on a street post near her campaign headquarters in the Brooklyn borough of New York, on 14 April, 2015. —REUTERS

so determined to show that he was healthy that he often put in back-breaking campaign days.

“I do think age is an issue in a presidential campaign,” said Steve Schmidt, who was McCain’s campaign manager. “There is a thin line between seasoned and decrepit.”

But several Republican campaigns that seem best positioned to exploit it don’t want to touch the issue — at least directly. That’s a shift

from just a few months ago, when presidential hopefuls Senator Rand Paul, 52, and Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker, 47, explicitly referenced Clinton’s age as a possible disqualifier, and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell likened her to a cast member of the hit TV show “The Golden Girls,” which featured four older women living together. “It’s a rigorous physical ordeal, I think, to be able to campaign for the presidency,” Paul said in

November, referring to Clinton’s age. Now, however, Paul’s presidential campaign doesn’t want to talk about the issue. It declined further comment.

As did Walker’s political action committee, even though last fall, he, too, noted that he could run for president “20 years from now” and be the same age Clinton is today.

Campaign aides to Paul, Walker and Senator Marco Rubio, 43, as well as Republican strategists, told *Reuters* there was little appetite in the party at the moment for a direct assault on Clinton on the issues of her age and fitness for office, even after a 2012 fall that gave her a concussion and caused a potentially life-threatening blood clot.

Similarly, anti-Clinton political action committees such as American Crossroads, America Rising, and Citizens United said they had no plans to launch ads centered on her age.

Reuters

WORLD

France's Hollande vows no mercy to soldiers if African child abuse proven

PARIS / UNITED NATIONS, 1 May — President Francois Hollande vowed on Thursday to make an example of any French troops found guilty of child sex abuse in Central African Republic as an internal UN report suggested that French, Chadian and Equatorial Guinea troops were implicated.

The allegations, which came to light this week due to an internal UN report summarizing interviews with victims, risks damaging the reputation of France's peacekeeping operations in Africa. *Reuters* obtained the UN report on Thursday, though the *Guardian* newspaper was the first to report on the charges.

The report suggests that at least 13 French soldiers,

two soldiers from Equatorial Guinea and three Chadian troops had been involved in alleged abuse between December 2013 and June 2014. Subsequent French inquiries identified some of them, a French judicial source said, though none had been questioned.

The 6-page report said the child victims interviewed alleged they had performed oral sex on the French troops, while accusing soldiers from Equatorial Guinea and Chad of sodomising children.

"If this information is confirmed ... the punishment will be proportionate to the deeds. If they are serious, the punishment will be harsh," Hollande told reporters during a visit in western France. "I will be implacable."



Francois Hollande arrives to deliver a speech after a defence council meeting at the Elysee Palace in Paris, France, on 29 April, 2015.—REUTERS

There was no immediate reaction from officials in Chad and Equatorial Guinea.

Hollande is a strong advocate of using the French military to secure peace in ex-colonies such as Central

African Republic or Mali, where he received a rapturous welcome in 2013 after France intervened to halt an Islamist insurgency.

France's Defence Ministry said the abuse was alleged to have taken place at a centre for displaced people at M'Poko airport in the capital Bangui and involved about 10 children. It said it would take "all necessary measures" to establish the truth.

"It is unacceptable that kids less than 10 years old are raped like this by those sent there to protect the population," Remy Djamouss, head of the local children's rights agency CPDE, said in Bangui.

French prosecutors will ask for an internal French

army report on the matter to be declassified, the judicial source said. The Bangui public prosecutor said he had also opened an investigation.

France intervened in Central African Republic, a former French colony, some 18 months ago to stem violence between Christian militias and largely Muslim Seleka rebels who had seized power. It started withdrawing some of its 2,000 troops this year, handing over to UN peace keepers.

A spokesman for UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon confirmed on Wednesday that the UN office for human rights in Bangui had conducted an investigation in late spring of 2014.

He said a UN staff member had admitted leak-

ing an unredacted report on the investigation before it reached top management in the UN's Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). He said that was "a serious breach of protocol" that could endanger victims.

But Bea Edwards, head of the Government Accountability Project, a whistleblower advocacy protection group, rejected Haq's criticism of the UN staffer, saying OHCHR had the report for weeks and did nothing.

"As soon as (the staffer) was aware of the report and the lack of action, he contacted French law enforcement," she told *Reuters*. "Within days, investigators were in the CAR."

Reuters

One thousand Europeans missing, 12 dead after Nepal quake



Relatives welcome Swiss survivors of Saturday's earthquake in Nepal after their arrival at Bern airport, Switzerland on 30 April, 2015.—REUTERS

KATHMANDU, 1 May — One thousand people from the European Union are missing in Nepal and 12 are confirmed dead, nearly a week after a devastating earthquake, the head of the EU delegation here said on Friday.

"We don't know where they are, or they could be," Ambassador Rensje Teerink

told reporters, adding that those unaccounted for were mostly tourists in the Langtang and Lukla areas.

Langtang is a trekking region to the north of Kathmandu that has been hit by a huge avalanche and mudslides, while Lukla is the jumping off point for walkers and climbers making the nine-day trek to Everest base camp. Nepal, struck by a huge earthquake on Saturday that has killed more than 6,000, is a popular destination for trekkers and climbers. Rescuers have struggled to get to remote areas of the mountainous country popular with climbers to look for survivors, with fighting between tourists and locals marring efforts to airlift hundreds of trekkers to safety.

Reuters

German police foil Islamist attack ahead of Frankfurt cycle race

FRANKFURT, 1 May — German police said on Thursday they had thwarted a planned Islamist attack, detaining a couple with suspected Salafist militant links, and cancelled a Frankfurt May Day cycle race after they had been seen along the route.

Public prosecutor Albrecht Schreiber said a search of their home had turned up an automatic assault weapon, 100 rounds of live ammunition, chemicals commonly used in preparing home-made bombs and a canister full of petrol.

"Investigations by the police indicate that we have been able to prevent a terrorist attack," Peter Beuth, the interior minis-

ter of Hesse, told reporters. "This incident shows that we must all remain very alert."

The 35-year-old man had dual Turkish-German citizenship and a criminal record, said Hesse police chief Stefan Mueller. His wife was Turkish and two young children found in their home by police were being cared for by social services.

Police decided to detain the man after he was seen buying large amounts of chemicals which can be used to make explosives — using a false name. He was also seen along the route of Frankfurt's 1 May cycle race, which attracts thousands of participants and



Police conduct a search of a forest area just outside the town of Oberursel near Frankfurt, Germany on 30 April, 2015.—REUTERS

spectators every year.

Police later announced they had cancelled the May

Day cycle race as a precaution.

Reuters

Baltimore probe report finds no evidence Gray fatally injured during arrest

WASHINGTON, 1 May — A preliminary probe into the death of the 25-year-old black man Freddie Gray indicated that Gray sustained the spinal cord injury that later led to his death not during the police arrest but during his riding in the police van, US media reported on Thursday. According to a Baltimore local TV station affiliated with the US TV network ABC News, law enforcement sources familiar with the preliminary report, which was handed over to the State attorneys Thursday morning, said medical examiner found Gray's deadly injury was caused when he slammed into the back of the police van during transportation.

The ABC affiliate also reported that medical examiners said Gray sustained a head injury that matched a bolt in the back of the van.

Baltimore Police Commissioner Anthony Batts announced earlier Thursday that Baltimore Police Department had already turned over an investigation report on Thursday morning on the death of Gray to state prosecutor. The report was previously expected on Friday.

The city of Baltimore has witnessed a widespread of protests, sometimes uncontrolled ones, in the past 10 days due to the death of Gray, who appeared to die of a spinal cord injury sustained either during or after police arrest while in police



People march along streets during a parade in Washington DC, capital of the United States, on 29 April, 2015, in support of Baltimore protestors to demand justice for African Americans living across the country.—XINHUA

custody. Speaking at a press conference, Batts stressed that the investigation was not over, adding that 30 detectives were assigned to investigate the death of Gray.

In a statement issued late Thursday, the Maryland State's Attorney's Office said nothing new was included in the Baltimore probe report and called for patience.

"...the results of their investigation is not new to us. We have been briefed regularly throughout their process," said the statement, adding that it was simultaneously conducting its own independent probe into Gray's death. As the Baltimore Police Department completed its initial probe into Gray's

death, new discovery was disclosed as a "privately owned camera" recorded a previously undisclosed stop by the van which transported Gray on 12 April en route to a police station.

Baltimore deputy police commissioner Kevin Davis told reporters on Thursday that the stop was "previously unknown to us", an indication that the six police officers involved in Gray's death had not told investigators before about the stop.

Other independent investigations into Baltimore law enforcement by the US Justice Department's Civil Rights Division and the US Federal Bureau of Investigation were also underway.

Xinhua



Saturday, 2 May, 2015

Shaping good governance and clean government through press freedom

By Kyaw Thura

IN layman's terms, good governance and clean government can be described as a state that promises the rule of law alongside freedom of expression.

In this age, information spreads by word of

mouth as well as through social media. There is no doubt at all that any attempt to stop the flow of information will end in vain, bringing shame on whomever does so.

A moment's glance is enough to realize how important press freedom is in monitoring every single step the government takes and every single decision the government makes so that the media can keep the public informed of any developments.

At a time when people have easy access to a wide variety of news media platforms, transparency is a crucial element in shaping good governance and clean government, simply because lack of transparency encourages corruption and favouritism in government. Some studies point out that a high rate of corruption and bribery results from a low level of press freedom.

In this respect, the media, as a fourth pillar, is

responsible for bringing unbiased information to people by monitoring, investigating and criticizing the actions of the executive, legislative and judicial bodies in a constructive way. All things considered, freedom of the press, when practised correctly, is an ally of open government.

Write for us

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

BE VIGILANT AGAINST UNINVITED GUESTS

By Maung Hlaing

IT was on the night of 2 May, in 2008, an eventful year in the history of Myanmar. As I was kept awake by the howling wind and bombardment of the rains, I could have a view from my apartment. The scene was too ugly for me to watch.

Trees were uprooted. Branches were broken off the trees. Corrugated iron sheets were thrown off the houses and they were flying in the air. Indeed, the Cyclone Nargis abated the City of Yangon.

On 3 May, Yangon revealed the ugliest scene of what the storm pounded. The streets were full of fallen trees. Many buildings were without roofs. All the roads and streets were not in a position to cope with vehicles. No sound of Vehicles could be heard in the whole city which was like a ghost-town.

Before long, we faced evil consequences of the Cyclone Nargis. We ran out of electricity and water. There was no supply at all. To make matters worse, transport service was not available. Due to lack of power supply, filling stations could not work.

The Cyclone Nargis that mainly hit the delta, Yangon and Bago Regions, Mon and Kayin States on 2 and 3 May was the hardest of its kind for Myanmar. I think it claimed more human lives and property than any other strong wind in the course of Myanmar history. It happened seven years ago but what happened on 2 and 3 May is still in the hearts of the people.

As I was born in a delta town, I was accustomed to what was happening in the delta areas. Because I was brought up in the environment of rivers and creeks, strong winds and floods were very common to me. By nature, we usually failed to lis-

ten to the weather reports.

Before 2 May, 2008, weather reports about the possible disaster were released repeatedly in advance. However, the dwellers of the delta areas mostly did not have enough knowledge about preparedness works. Let alone those who were in rural areas, those who have knowledge on natural disasters did not know how to carry out preparedness activities.

In fact, we had not faced such a severe disaster in our life time, so we failed to do preparedness works.

As a result, the government issued Announcement No.6/2008, (dated 29 May, 2008) that the Cyclone Nargis hit Ayeyawady and Yangon Regions, claiming many lives and causing enormous destruction to houses, religious buildings, schools, hospitals, watercraft, crop plantations, and food supplies, and the three days from 20 to 22 May, 2008 inclusive were designated as the days of mourning for the loss of lives of the people and the flags had to be flown at half mast.

So, on 20 May, 2008, State flags were seen flying at half mast at the government offices and houses all over the country starting from 9 a.m. to mourn the storm victims. Similarly, vehicles and people made a three minute silence to mourn the storm victims at 9 on that day.

I am not chewing the cud for nothing.

Nowadays, we have heard the news on powerful storms that recently hit left schools and homes severely damaged. Weather bureau has already warned of thunderstorms and strong winds (during the Thingyan days).

In the world today, governments are deeply engaged in taking preventive measures against the outbreak of natural disasters. A look into

our neighbouring countries will reveal the occurrence of natural disasters such as floods, cyclones, droughts, earthquakes and so forth.

Disaster is a sudden event that has very unfortunate consequences for those affected by it. Disasters involve large-scale loss of life and property. The worst disasters in history killed thousands of people at a time. According to the definition, disasters are of two types : -

- (1) **Natural disasters**, usually caused by geological or meteorological events, and
- (2) **Major accidents** involving human actions or technology.

Famine, drought and war are regarded as disasters, but their onset is usually rather gradual.

Natural disasters have usually been for more destructive of life and property than have accidents resulting from human actions. This is because most natural events, such as volcanic eruptions, cyclones, hurricanes and floods, unleash massive forces that humans are rarely able to match.

The Cyclone Nargis reminded me of the worst cyclone that struck Bangladesh in 1970. Cyclones are common in this region, but the 1970 cyclone was exceptionally destructive. It killed more than a quarter of a million people, left millions homeless, and swamped precious agricultural land.

Throughout the ages, supplication and sacrifices have been offered to improve the odds against natural disasters. In modern times, man has turned to technology; but despite revolutions in science, mankind's dream to control nature is still just a dream. Recent reports conveyed the news that some areas of our neighbouring

countries have been hit by mistimed rainfalls threatened the plantations and farmers feared that further rainshowers will affect low-lying paddy fields. Such happenings are not uncommon in this country and it wreaks havoc wherever it strikes.

It is evident that after a natural disaster, social evils follow resulting in thousands of victims, vast property losses, costs for combating side effects like hunger, costs of temporary housing, hospitalization and medicines, reconstruction and so forth. Indeed, bringing relief to the stricken millions is no small matter.

Regarding natural disasters, scientists put the blame on global warming. Some environmentalists call for fighting the climate change due to deforestation. This is why, developing countries with vast tracts of tropical forests and high rates of deforestation have been pushing the plan known as Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation. Besides, world leaders come to be interested in working together to combat global warming and promote "Green Growth" in the fast developing region.

Being a developing country, Myanmar welcomes all the measures which are taken to prevent the events leading to natural disasters. However, uninvited guest, or act of God may appear unexpectedly.

India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Myanmar annually take a lashing from the pre-monsoon and end-of-monsoon storms which frequent their coasts, and sometimes more far inland. Whenever disasters strike any country, our sympathy goes to the stricken, for we in Myanmar have suffered the devastating action of natural disasters.

POEM:

Just Yesterday

Just yesterday,
I was sleeping on my lover's lap peacefully under the silver moon.
But now,
My lover disappeared on an unscheduled trip without leaving a single clue.
Just yesterday,
My kids were happily playing at this beach along with the tender wave.
Where are they now?
I can only see the ball they played floating together with human limbs on the water surface.
Just yesterday,
My grandma was slowly putting the small fishes under the sun to get dry.
But now,
I can only see her little broken comb resting on the muddy soil.
Just yesterday,
My fisherman friend was cheerfully waving me when he left to river for fishing like saying 'Adieu',
But now,
Who crushed his hope of coming back home with abundant of fishes for his broods?
Just yesterday,
I was feeling the beauty of nature in this place and sea breeze tenderly caressed me.
But now,
I can only see the victims' dreadful faces at the rescue camp and hear their hysterical screams.
Oh, where am I now?
No one hears my voice.
My body was abruptly wiped away from my soul by the merciless disaster called 'Nargis' last night.
Nargis, are you the messenger of the Dark Lord?
Where is my Saviour? Please hear my pleas!!
Please spare me a few more years.
I have a pending deed to put my son into Novitiation which leads to Nirvana.
If not, please spare me a few more months.
I still have unfulfilled promises to my loved ones.
If not, please spare me a few more weeks to heal the aversion in my heart.
I just started to find a noble path.
If not, please spare me a few more days.
I want to say 'goodbye' to this wonderful world in a proper way.
If not, please, please, spare me only a few hours,
Just to be calm to surrender...

Meiji Soe

**Novitiation - To initiate the boy into Buddhist order
(This poem is dedicated to the victims who perished during Nargis cyclone on 2nd May, 2008 which severely fell mainly on Ayeyawady Delta. Nargis is the worst natural disaster in Myanmar history.*

May the victims' souls rest in peace!)

The Buddha's Day, the Full Moon of the month of Kason

Ba Sein (Religious Affairs)

The Buddha's Day, the Full Moon of the month of Kason falls on 2nd May 2015.

We all Buddhist across the world always take great awareness and worthy of the Buddha's Day, the Full Moon of the month of Kason because over 2558 years ago, our unrivalled Omniscient Buddha was born on the day of the Full Moon of the month of Kason, upon which He attained the Enlightenment at the age of thirty-five and also upon which He attained Parinibbana (passed away) at the age of eighty.

In commemoration of these three significant and holy events associated with the precious life of the Buddha, the Buddhist peoples celebrate the Buddha's Day, the Full Moon of the month of Kason.

The month of Kason mostly falls on one of the days of the last week of the month of April or on one of the days of the first or the second week of the month of May

every year according to calendar.

All Buddhist throughout the world also know that the most important of the Buddhist festivals is Vesakha or Vesakha festival. Vesakha is the name of an Indian month, the month of May. We all Buddhist communities all over the world heartily comprehend that our Omniscient Gotama Buddha attained the Enlightenment under the sacred Bodhi Tree at Buddhagaya in India early in the morning on the Full Moon Day of Kason (Vesakha), unaided and unguided by any supernatural agency but solely relying on His own efforts, the consciousness of true insight possessed Him. Having attained the Enlightenment or Buddhahood, the supreme state of perfection, He devoted the remainder of His precious life to serving humanity.

The Sacred Bodhi Tree (Bo Tree)

All of Buddhist peoples know that the sacred Bodhi Tree (Bo Tree) is a sacred tree having comprehensive and significant associations with our unrivalled Omniscient Buddha. The Buddha-to-be, Prince Siddhattha fully at-

tained the Enlightenment or the Buddhahood under the shade of the Bodhi Tree, which is said to have been "born" simultaneously with Him.

Thus the sacred Bodhi Tree is a signified image of worship as a worthy Paribhoga cetiya or shrine in Buddhist countries. Therefore, Buddhist peoples across the world pay respect to the sacred Bodhi Tree that has sacred associations with the unrivalled Omniscient Buddha.

Auspicious Celebration of the Buddha's Day or Vesakha Festival

It is learnt that all Buddhist peoples in Buddhist countries throughout the world respectfully celebrate the Buddha's Day or Vesakha Festival in accordance with their culture and traditions every year. The generous Buddhist people in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar pay respectful visit to pagodas, shrines and monasteries in the evening of the Buddha's Day, Full Moon of the month of Kason to perform pouring clean water on the sacred Bodhi Tree that exists there.

Myanmar sends 2nd batch of humanitarian assistance to Nepal



Tatmadawmen loading humanitarian assistance on board Tatmadaw aircraft to send these aids to earthquake victims from Nepal.

MNA

YANGON, 1 May — It is learnt from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs that in view of the close friendship and cooperation that exist between Myanmar and Nepal, the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar is providing humanitarian assistance to the victims affected by devastating earthquake that hit Nepal on 25 April 2015.

The humanitarian assistance from Myanmar is scheduled to be delivered to Nepal in two consignments by the Myanmar Air Force's Y-8 cargo plane. The first batch of humanitarian aid was sent on 1 May from Yangon to Kathmandu with 6 tons of relief goods consisting of purified water, instant noodles, soft drinks and juices, assorted

types of biscuits, dried vermicelli and clothing donated by the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and 100 robes for Buddhist monks donated by Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services of Myanmar. The second batch consisting of 5 tons of rice, beans and pulses and 1 ton of clothing

will leave for delivery from Nay Pyi Taw depending on Nepal's capacity to schedule the landing of foreign humanitarian planes.

Myanmar's humanitarian aid will be delivered to Nepal by representatives from the Ministry of Defence, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, and the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI) who will travel along with the Y-8 cargo plane. The Director-General of the National Reconstruction of Nepal accepted the donations from Myanmar.

The 6 family members of the Myanmar Embassy staff in Kathmandu returned by the Y-8 plane on its return trip to Myanmar.—MNA

English proficiency course offered to monks



Trainee monks are learning English through television that plays an important role in improving pronunciation abilities.

PHOTO: KHAING THANDA LWIN

By Khaing Thanda Lwin

YANGON, 1 May — Academy of Paññāpāramī has launched a course on Spoken English at Mumbai Monastery in Tamu Township here on Friday, aiming to train monks to have a good command of the language.

It said monks across the country who have completed Dhammacariya, a Buddhist degree, are eligible to apply for the three-month course.

Eleven monks have

been selected to take the course.

Diplomas will be awarded at the end of the course, and trainee monks will have an opportunity to do a master's at the same school, according to U Arnt Maung, adviser at the President's Office.

He added the trainee monks, after completion of the course, will be able to share language skills with people in rural areas.

GNLM

Army drives insurgent group taking extortion money from vehicles

NAY PYI TAW, 1 May — An insurgent group was reported to be taking extortion money from vehicles in a village near the Union Highway in northern Shan State on 29 April, according to officials.

The Ta'ang National Liberation Army (TNLA) charged K10,000 to K20,000 each for small cars and K500,000 for

heavy vehicles. Government troops, after receiving a tipoff from locals, launched attacks on the insurgent group, which later went on retreat.

The army seized arms and ammunitions, with some of its members left wounded. The army was in hot pursuit of the insurgents.

Myawady

Traffic accidents claim 11 lives a day . . .

(from page 1)

has carried out the "Injury Prevention Project" which is ongoing across the country to reduce deaths and injuries resulting from traffic-related and work-related accidents.

This year, Myanmar will take part in the third UN Global Road Safety Week dedicated to keeping children safe on roads. It is set to be held from 4 to 10 May, featuring many events including paper-reading sessions and campaigns focused on raising public awareness of road safety.

GNLM



Photo of a stretch of Yangon-Nay Pyi Taw-Mandalay Highway on which more than 10, 000 vehicles travel each day. Speeding, overtaking, drunk driving, driver drowsiness and use of illegal tyres are blamed for most fatal crashes on it. —PHOTO: YE MYINT

Nigerian army says rescues more women and children from Boko Haram

ABUJA, 1 May — Nigeria's military rescued another set of women and children who had been kidnapped by Boko Haram militia and were being detained in Sambisa forest where the Islamist group has been holed up, an army spokesman said on Thursday. Earlier this week, the army said it rescued nearly 300 women and girls from the same forest in the north eastern Borno state as it fights to quash the six-year Islamist insurgency.

"They have been evacuated to a safety zone for further processing," Colonel Sani Usman said in a statement without specifying the number of people saved from the group, which seeks to create a caliphate in western Africa.

The group, whose name means "Western education is sinful", has snatched at least 2,000 women and girls from their families since the start of 2014, according to Amnes-



A soldier from the Nigerian Army talks with hostage women and children who were freed from Boko Haram, in Yola, in this 29 April, 2015 handout. —REUTERS

ty International.

Many of them have ended up as sex slaves or are used as human shields by the militants.

The uprising poses the greatest security threat to Africa's largest economy and leading oil producer, but it was only the mass

kidnapping of more than 200 schoolgirls from a school in Chibok a year ago that focused the world's attention. In the last two months, the Nigerian army has taken back control of swathes of territory in the remote north with the backing of troops from neigh-

bouring Chad, Niger and Cameroon.

Nigerians hope president-elect Muhammadu Buhari, a former army general, will stamp out the rebellion which his predecessor, Goodluck Jonathan, struggled to confront.

Reuters

Ten jailed in Pakistan for involvement in attack on Malala

PESHAWAR, (Pakistan), 1 May — A Pakistani court jailed 10 men for 25 years each on Thursday for involvement in the 2012 shooting of teenage activist Malala Yousafzai, targeted for her campaign against Taliban efforts to deny girls education.

Pakistani Taliban militants claimed responsibility for attacking Malala as she travelled home from school in her home in Swat, northwest of the capital, Islamabad.

"Judge Mohammad Amin Kundi in his verdict gave 25 years jail to all of these people," said a court official in Swat, where the 10 were convicted in an anti-terrorism court.

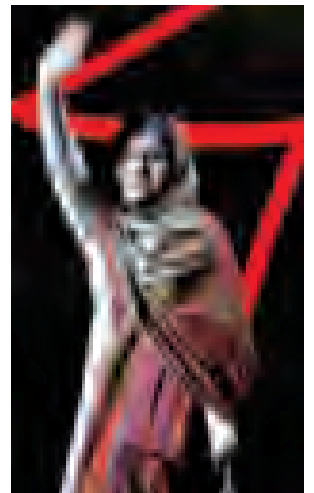
They were the first convictions for the attack.

Malala was seriously wounded and airlifted to Britain for treatment, where she now lives. Two other schoolgirls were wounded.

Since then, Malala has become a symbol of defiance in the fight against militants operating in ethnic Pashtun areas in northwest Pakistan. She won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2014.

A security official said none of the four or five men who carried out the attack on Malala was among the 10 men sentenced on Thursday.

"But certainly they had a role in the planning and execution of the assass-



Nobel Peace Prize laureate Malala Yousafzai waves as she arrives on stage at the Nobel Peace Prize Concert in Oslo on 11 Dec, 2014.

REUTERS

sination attempt on Malala," said a police official in Swat who declined to be identified as he was not authorized to speak to the media.

Police believe the gunman who shot Malala escaped across the border into Afghanistan.

Several people, including Pakistani Taliban leader Fazlullah, are wanted in connection with the attack on Malala.

Fazlullah, a fiery preacher from Swat, is also believed to be hiding out in eastern Afghanistan.

Malala is unable to return to her homeland because of Taliban threats to kill her and her family members.—Reuters

Islamist fighters seize southern Syria crossing

BEIRUT, 1 May — The hardline Ahrar al-Sham group in Syria and other insurgents seized a crossing in the southwest frontier area near Israel on Thursday from a small group of rival Islamist fighters, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights monitoring group said.

If confirmed, the capture would represent a further advance for Ahrar al-Sham, one of the main jihadist groups in Syria alongside Islamic State and al-Qaeda's Syria wing Nusra Front.

In the northwestern Idlib Province, Ahrar al-Sham is part of an Islamist alliance which has

taken strategic territory from government forces in recent weeks, suggesting the group has recovered after its senior leadership was wiped out last year.

The Observatory said Ahrar al-Sham and allied fighters took the crossing in Syria's southern Quineira Province from a group called Army of Jihad, which has pledged allegiance to Islamic State.

Control of the crossing has passed between several insurgent groups, who have occasionally worked together but have also fought each other in Syria's chaotic conflict.

The area is sensitive due to its proximity to the

Israeli-occupied Golan Heights. In recent days fighting between insurgent groups has been especially intense, killing dozens of fighters, according to the Britain-based Observatory.

The senior leadership of Ahrar al-Sham was wiped out in a blast in September in Idlib, which dealt a major blow to an organization which is thought to have received funding from Gulf backers. It was not clear who was responsible for the blast.

The group follows a hardline ideology and is one of the oldest insurgent movements in Syria's four-year conflict.

One its founders, Abu

Khaled al-Soury, fought alongside Osama bin Laden and was close to al-Qaeda's current chief Ayman al-Zawahri. But its new leadership has recently sought to distance itself from Nusra's al-Qaeda ideology and has appealed to Syrian youths disenchanted with Western-backed rebel factions and who also oppose ultra hardline groups such as Islamic State.—Reuters

Afghan forces struggle to drive back Taliban from besieged city

KUNDUZ CITY, (Afghanistan), 1 May — The Afghan army and police on Thursday failed to expel Taliban fighters from the outskirts of a besieged provincial capital as a seventh day of fierce fighting put pressure on national forces struggling largely without US military backup.

The Taliban push is a major test of the Afghan security forces trained by NATO, which ended its combat mission in Afghanistan in December, 13 years after the US-backed military intervention that toppled the hard-line Islamist regime.

The governor of the northern province of Kunduz vowed that the capital, Kunduz city, would not fall to the insurgents, but ac-

knowledgeed that pushing back the Taliban was proving tough.

"It goes very slowly because we do not want defenceless civilians to suffer," said governor Mohammad Omar Safi.

Four civilians had been wounded, he said, along with 20 Afghan soldiers and police killed and 140 Taliban-allied fighters dead, many of them militants from neighbouring Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.

The Taliban, for their part, claimed to have killed 232 Afghan security forces and lost only nine fighters.

Heavy artillery and gunfire rang out on Thursday as government forces fought in two districts on the city's outskirts. Despite thousands

of army reinforcements sent to Kunduz, Taliban fighters held the same positions as several days ago, Mohammad Ali, a local militia commander, complained.

"The government hasn't even made one step forward," Ali said, after visiting two districts just 5 km (3 miles) from the governor's compound.

Dawlat Waziri, a spokesman for the Ministry of Defence, insisted the Afghan national forces had made progress.

"We have the upper hand in this fight," Waziri said.

Kunduz was the insurgents' last stronghold before the US-led forces drove them from power.

Reuters



Rebel fighters fire mortar shells at the frontline in the Jabal al-Akrad area in Syria's northwestern Latakia Province, on 29 April, 2015.—REUTERS

BUSINESS & HEALTH

Japan jobless rate improves for 2nd straight month in March

TOKYO, 1 May — Japan's unemployment rate improved for the second straight month in March, dropping to 3.4 percent from 3.5 percent the previous month, indicating that companies are willing to hire more workers amid a recovery in corporate profits, the government said on Friday.

The number of unemployed totaled a seasonally adjusted 2.21 million, down 3.9 percent from a month earlier, while that of people holding jobs was

63.66 million, down 0.2 percent from February, the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications said.

The ratio of employment offers to seekers was flat at 1.15 in March from February, which means 115 positions were available for every 100 job seekers, according to the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare.

A major reason behind the improvement in Japan's job market was a rise in the number of young people who have found jobs, an internal affairs ministry of-

ficial said.

"Employment conditions have been generally improving," the official said.

In March, the jobless rate was 3.6 percent for men and 3.1 percent for women, the internal affairs ministry said.

By industry, the hotel and restaurant sectors and the construction industry reduced jobs from a year earlier, but the medical and welfare segment and the retail and wholesale sectors added jobs.— *Kyodo News*

Vaccine reduces cervical cancer risk for young Australian women

CANBERRA, 1 May — The cervical cancer vaccine has halved the rate of cancer-causing abnormalities in Australian females aged under 20 as the results of a nationwide vaccination programme begin to be realized, medical authorities said on Friday.

The rates of abnormalities in women aged 20-24 have also dropped 23 percent since the vaccine was introduced in 2007, a report released by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) showed.

Australia implemented a nationwide school vaccination programme for human papillomavirus

(HPV), the biggest risk factor for cervical cancer, with most girls receiving the vaccine around the age of 12. Cervical cancer incidence and mortality in Australia remained at a historical low in 2012-13 at seven new cases per 100,000 women and two deaths per 100,000 women.

These reductions, however, have not applied in equal measure to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women.

"For Indigenous women, the rate of new cases of cervical cancer was twice that of non-Indigenous women, with death rates four times as high," AIHW

spokesperson Justin Harvey said in a statement.

The data also showed a clear trend of increasing participation with increasing socioeconomic status, with rates ranging from 52 percent in areas of lowest socioeconomic status to 64 percent in areas of highest socioeconomic status.

Cervical cancer is a rare outcome of persistent infection with one or more of the cancer-causing types of HPV, and is a largely preventable disease. Vaccination and two-yearly pap smear screenings are the main prevention strategies implemented in Australia.— *Xinhua*

Polio eradicators hail historic progress, aim to 'finish the job'



An Afghan child receives polio vaccination drops during an anti-polio campaign in Kabul on 24 March, 2014.—REUTERS

LONDON, 1 May — The world is closer than ever to being able to wipe out polio, international experts said on Thursday, with zero cases of the crippling disease recorded across all of Africa this year and fewer than 25 globally.

Polio eradication specialists are wary of claiming premature success and warn complacency could prove the project's downfall, but with only two countries, Pakistan and Afghanistan, reporting polio cases in 2015, they see an end in sight.

"We've never been in a better place to hold hopes of being able to eradicate this disease once and for all," said Peter Crowley of the United Nations children's fund UNICEF.

Jay Wenger, head of polio eradication at the

Gates Foundation, told reporters: "The progress is very impressive. We're looking forward to finishing the job."

"We don't think we can declare victory, but we've never gone anywhere near this long without any wild polio virus being found in Nigeria or in Africa as a whole," he said on a telephone briefing with experts from the World Health Organization (WHO), the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) and the US Centres of Disease Prevention and Control.

Polio is a viral disease that invades the nervous system and can cause irreversible paralysis within hours. It can spread rapidly, particularly among children and especially in unsanitary conditions in

war-torn regions, refugee camps and areas where healthcare is limited.

In 1988, when the GPEI was formed to lead a battle to wipe it out, polio was endemic in 125 countries and paralyzed nearly 1,000 children a day. Since then, thanks to huge vaccination campaigns, there has been a more than 99 percent global reduction in cases.

But the WHO's repeated warning is that as long as any child anywhere remains infected with polio, all children are at risk.

Latest global data show just 23 polio cases reported so far in 2015 — 22 in Pakistan and one in Afghanistan. That compares to a year-to-date total of 54 cases worldwide in 2014, and a 2014 annual count of 306.

Wenger said the success in Nigeria, which has not seen a single polio case for eight months, was largely due to political will from national, regional and local government.

The experts said progress against polio remains fragile, particularly since it is in regions vulnerable to instability. In 2013, polio re-emerged in Syria after a 14-year absence, prompting a vast and expensive regional vaccination campaign.

Reuters

China April official PMI shows factories struggling to grow

BEIJING, 1 May — China's factories struggled to grow in April as domestic and export demand remained weak, reinforcing expectations that Beijing will roll out more measures to support the slowing economy.

The official manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) stood at 50.1 in April, identical to the previous month's reading and just above the 50-point mark that separates growth from contraction on a monthly basis.

Analysts polled by *Reuters* had predicted a reading of 50 as the world's second-largest economy continues to cool.

The country's elite Politburo said on Thursday that authorities will step up policy "adjustments" and should cut taxes further. It also said the government must resolve financing glitches

which are holding up big infrastructure projects. "Since the current slowdown is in large part a consequence of the slow-moving property market correction, growth in China likely hasn't bottomed out yet," said Bill Adams, senior international economist for PNC Finan-

cial Services Group.

"Chinese macroeconomic policies will become more accommodative this year as evidence of economic weakness accumulates." The PMI index for new orders — a proxy for foreign and domestic demand — was unchanged at 50.2 in April

from March. New export orders contracted again and at a slightly faster pace, falling to 48.1 from 48.3 in March. Manufacturers also continued to shed jobs, and at a slightly faster clip than in March. "The manufacturing sector is still facing downward pressures," Zhao

Qinghe, an official of the bureau said in a statement accompanying the report, while arguing that economic conditions were slowly stabilizing. Other data so far this year have indicated that the economy has lost steam despite two interest rate cuts since November, two reductions in the amount of money banks must keep in reserve and repeated attempts by the central bank to reduce financing costs.

A private, preliminary HSBC/Markit PMI survey last week showed factory activity contracted at its fastest pace in a year in April, suggesting that economic conditions are still deteriorating despite increasingly aggressive policy easing by the central bank.

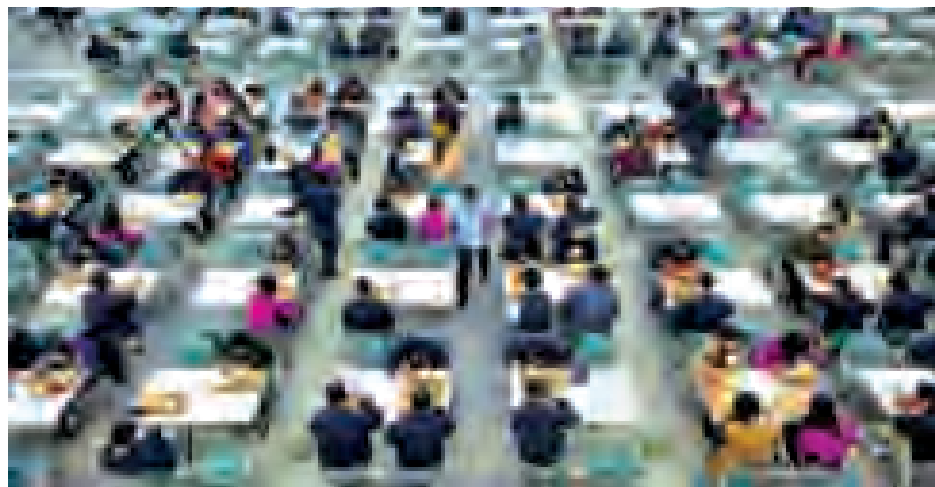
The official survey looks more at larger, state-owned firms, which have been more resilient to the protracted downturn, partly

due to generous government subsidies and better access to credit. Unlike manufacturing, activity in China's services sector has remained largely robust, though it too is showing signs of cooling.

The official services PMI fell to 53.4 in April from 53.7 in March, and the lowest since January 2014, the bureau said.

Weighed down by a property downturn, factory overcapacity and high levels of local debt, China's economic growth is expected to slow to a quarter-century low of around 7 percent this year from 7.4 percent in 2014. The economy grew at its slowest pace in six years in the first quarter of 2015 and weakness in key sectors suggested the economy was still losing momentum, intensifying Beijing's struggle to find the right policy mix to shore up activity.

Reuters



Workers eat their lunch at a restaurant inside a Foxconn factory in the township of Longhua in Shenzhen, Guangdong Province, in this 21 Jan, 2015 file photo.

REUTERS

Japan to help smaller firms enter Silicon Valley

SAN FRANCISCO, 1 May — Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe promoted his interest in high technology in San Francisco on Thursday, revealing a plan to help Japanese ventures enter Silicon Valley and enjoying a ride in an electronic vehicle.

After arriving in the city, the third leg of a week-long tour of the United States, Abe joined Stanford University's President John Hennessy and former Secretary of State George Shultz on the panel of a symposium. "I want individuals highly motivated and talented to take the plunge and launch business in Silicon Valley," which is home to advanced information technology firms, Abe told the event at the university in a San Francisco suburb. Shultz is Stanford's distinguished fellow.

Abe revealed a plan to help a total of 200 small and midsize companies as well as ventures in Japan do business in Silicon Valley over the next five years

to boost innovation. The Japanese government has promoted measures aimed at enhancing technological innovation, hoping this will help revitalize the Japanese economy.

At Tesla Motors Inc in Silicon Valley, Chief Executive Officer Elon Musk took Abe for a drive in one of the company's electric vehicles, with the prime minister commenting later that the rapid acceleration made him feel like he was "riding on a roller coaster." "I felt Japan must follow the speed of change. We would not be able to achieve energetic growth otherwise," Abe told reporters. Abe also met with Mark Zuckerberg, chief executive officer of Facebook Inc. Abe, who came to San Francisco from Washington the same day, will move to Los Angeles on Friday to take part in various economic events and visit a museum of the history of Japanese-Americans.

Kyodo News



Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe (R) shakes hands with Facebook Inc Chief Executive Officer Mark Zuckerberg at the company's headquarters in the US technology hub Silicon Valley south of the San Francisco Bay Area on 30 April, 2015.
KYODO NEWS

Chile volcano Calbuco erupts again with new cloud of ash



A man watches the Calbuco volcano in Puerto Varas Llanquihue province, Chile, on 30 April, 2015. Southern Chile's Calbuco volcano erupted again Thursday, releasing a large column of smoke in a towering arc, just over a week after it spectacularly roared to life following half a century of inactivity, according to local press.—XINHUA

SANTIAGO, 1 May — Chilean volcano Calbuco erupted for the third time in eight days on Thursday, sending a new cloud of ash and gas high into the sky, although officials said the latest eruption was less powerful than those of last week.

Calbuco spewed more than 200 million tonnes of ash last week, coating nearby towns, wrecking parts of the salmon industry and forcing the cancellation of flights as far as Buenos Aires 1,400 km (870 miles) away.

The volcano has been quiet this week, but geological officials had warned it was still unstable

and could erupt again. The new eruption began at 1:09 pm (1609 GMT), the government's geology service Sernageomin said.

Calbuco, one of the most active along a chain of around 2,000 in Chile, is in the scenic Los Lagos region, a popular tourist destination around 1,000 km (620 miles) south of the capital, Santiago.

TV pictures showed a thick, grey plume spreading quickly into the sky on Thursday afternoon. It was heading south-east over the Andes into Argentina, said government meteorologist Arnaldo Zuniga.

LATAM Airlines' Chilean arm LAN, which

cancelled some flights last week as a precaution because of the ash cloud, said flights in Chile and Argentina were unaffected so far.

A 20 km (12 mile) exclusion zone has remained in place around the volcano since the first sudden eruption on 22 April, but some residents have been making short visits to their homes to begin clearing away thick layers of ash and debris.

About 1,500 more people had been evacuated on Thursday, interior minister Mahmud Aleuy said. He said there were indications that the eruption was not as powerful as those of last week, when ash and

gas reached 17 km (10.5 miles) into the atmosphere.

"This emission is notably weaker than the previous ones. We are talking about a column of ash no higher than four kilometres," said Aleuy.

Officials said, however, that heavy rain or snow on Friday could lead to complications such as lahars — destructive flows of debris that can wipe out anything in their path.

"This emission should begin to weaken in the coming hours...but we are in an eruptive process, on red alert, and the situation can change at any time," said Sernageomin head Rodrigo Alvarez.—Reuters

Germanwings pilot was briefly refused medical certificate in US

BERLIN/WASHINGTON, 1 May — US authorities temporarily refused a private pilot's medical certificate in 2010 for Andreas Lubitz, the pilot suspected of deliberately crashing a Germanwings plane last month, according to documents released by the Federal Aviation Administration.

Voice and data recordings from the Germanwings flight on 24 March show Lubitz locked the captain out of the cockpit and set the plane on course to crash into the French Alps, killing all 150 on board.

Investigators in Germany have found evidence that Lubitz, who during his training six years ago had informed the Lufthansa flight school of a period of "severe depression", had researched methods of suicide in the period leading

up to the tragedy. He had also hidden doctors' notes signing him off work from his employers.

In a letter dated on 8 July, 2010, published on its website following a freedom of information request, the FAA said Lu-

bitz was ineligible for an airman medical certificate and that further reports from doctors on his medication and treatment were required due to his history of reactive depression.

Information provided by doctors to the FAA

shows Lubitz was treated with Ciprex and Mirtazapine and received psychotherapeutic treatment from January to October 2009.

"Severe depressive episode without psychotic symptoms in complete

remission," states the diagnosis given by German doctors and provided to the FAA, which was scrutinizing Lubitz because he applied privately for a pilot's license in the United States.

After reviewing the medical records, the FAA awarded a third-class medical certificate, typically used by student pilots and those flying recreationally, to Lubitz but said in a letter dated 28 July, 2010 that he should not fly should he develop new symptoms or require further medication or treatment.

The documents released also show that Lubitz initially checked the 'no' box when asked in the application whether he had ever suffered any mental disorder but this was later changed to yes.

The crash and revelations of Lubitz's medical

history have raised questions over the strict nature of doctor-patient confidentiality in Germany, which means employers do not have access to information on an employee's medical health.

The LBA German aviation authority, which issues pilots' licenses in Germany, was unaware of his period of depression in 2009. But it has said that Lufthansa, which owns Germanwings, had followed correct procedures under rules that applied at the time.

A spokesman for Lufthansa highlighted that the application made by Lubitz to the FAA was a private one, using a private email address. It was unaware of the medical information provided to the FAA until the documents were published, the spokesman said.—Reuters



The entrance of a Lufthansa Flight Training school is pictured in Bremen, on 1 April, 2015.—REUTERS

ADVERTISEMENT & GENERAL

Auction Notice

The May Nwe Kyaw Company will be auctioning UNHCR office objects that are no longer in use. The object will be sold to the highest bidder.

- Items to be auctioned
- Computers and related accessories
 - Motor cycles
 - Land Cruiser spare parts (about 50 different items; new)
 - Generators among other objects

Date & Time of auction - 5-5-2015, at 10 AM

Place of auction - May Nwe Kyaw Company No. 459/A (Ground Floor), New University Avenue, Bahan Township.

Note : Starting today, you can view the auction items and learn more about them. A form containing the list of auction items and rules can be obtained for free from the May Nwe Kyaw office.

If you wish to learn more, contact us at:

Ph : 09-5072359, 09-977364183

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV MUNICH TRADER VOY NO (RY-1504-09 N)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MUNICH TRADER VOY NO (RY-1504-09 N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 2.5.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.I.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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Incomplete applications will not be considered.

WEATHER REPORT

BAY INFERENCE: Weather is generally fair in the North Bay and partly cloudy to cloudy in the Andaman Sea and elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 2nd May, 2015: Weather will be partly cloudy in Magway and Bago Regions, rain or thundershowers are likely to be isolated in Lower Sagaing, Mandalay, Yangon, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Regions, Shan, Rakhine, Kayah, Kayin and Mon States and scattered in the remaining Regions and States. Degree of certainty is (60%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Seas will be moderate in Myanmar waters.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Continuation of rain or thundershowers in the Northern Myanmar areas.

Maersk insists on release of ship and crew seized by Iran

COPENHAGEN, 1 May — Danish shipping giant Maersk insisted on Thursday on the release of a vessel and crew seized by Iran but an Iranian Embassy statement said the *Maersk Tigris* would only be let go once a years-old debt case was settled.

The Marshall-Islands flagged *Maersk Tigris* container ship was detained by Iranian forces in the Strait of Hormuz on Tuesday after shots were fired across its bow, spurring the United States to send military vessels to monitor the situation.

Maersk had chartered the ship, which according to ship operator Rickmer Shipmanagement is owned

by undisclosed private investors. The company met with Iran's Ports and Maritime Organization on Wednesday and said the company "must presume" the seizure was related to the dispute.

"We have, however, not received any written or formal confirmation that the seizure and the cargo case are connected," the company said in a statement. "We must insist that the crew and vessel are released as soon as possible. The crew is not employed by Maersk Line, nor is the vessel owned by Maersk Line. Maersk Tigris and its crew are thus not in any way party to the case."

Reuters

Flash floods kill two, topple three buildings in Havana

HAVANA, 1 May — Heavy rains and flash floods hit Cuba's capital Havana, leaving two dead after causing three buildings to collapse and partially damaging 24 others.

The two victims included an 81-year-old resident of the city's Old Havana district, who drowned, and a 24-year-old man who was electrocuted by fallen electrical cables, state daily *Granma* reported on Thursday, citing local officials.

The storms, accompanied by hail and gusts, also caused blackouts in parts of the city on Wednesday afternoon, cutting off water supply, which was reestablished by nighttime, officials said.

Photos on the daily's website showed cars im-

mersed up to the tires wading through the inundated streets. More than five decades of a trade embargo against Cuba has choked off the country's access to basic building materials, meaning many of the capital's older constructions lack maintenance and have aging infrastructure. More than a third of the city's housing is considered to be in regular or bad condition.

Cuba's National Institute of Meteorology (INS-MET) said the heavy rains were caused by a line of thunderstorms that formed rapidly in the Florida Straits, ahead of a cold front, which was expected to arrive Thursday, along with continuing rains over the western region.—Xinhua



A child poses at a fair organized by Mexico City's government to celebrate the Children's Day, in the main square of Mexico City, capital of Mexico, on 30 April, 2015.—XINHUA

UNICEF's humanitarian supplies reach quake-devastated Nepal

KATHMANDU, 1 May — Following the devastating earthquake in Nepal, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has delivered 29 tons of humanitarian supplies including tents, water purification tablets and first aid kits to reach at least 1.7 million children in the quake-hit areas.

"Children's lives in Nepal have been turned upside down," said Raju Shrestha, Chief Logistics for UNICEF Supply Division in Copenhagen

at a Press release on Thursday.

Within hours of the 7.9 magnitude earthquake, UNICEF had delivered water purification tablets, oral rehydration salts and hygiene kits to affected communities, from emergency stocks kept ready in the UN agency's warehouses in Nepal.

More than a dozen informal settlements have sprung up around the Kathmandu and UNICEF and local partners are trucking safe water and hygiene supplies to all of them.

According to UNICEF, they are working with the government of Nepal to ensure humanitarian supplies are delivered and distributed to affected communities as quickly as possible through a combination of shipping supplies on commercial and charter airlines.

Meanwhile, UNICEF has launched a 50-million-dollar appeal to support its humanitarian response to the earthquake in Nepal over the next 90 days.—Xinhua

‘X-Men: Apocalypse’ a really different film: Bryan Singer

LOS ANGELES, 1 May — Director Bryan Singer has revealed that “X-Men: Apocalypse” is really different to what has come before.

The new film will be a follow-up to “X-Men: Days of Future Past”, according to *The Hollywood Reporter*.

“It’s a big monster of a movie. The stakes are so high and global and the villain is so mythic. It’s definitely an X-Men movie, but it really feels different,” Singer said.

Meanwhile, he also

spoke about Tye Sheridan, Sophie Turner and Alexandra Shipp’s roles in “Apocalypse”. The trio will star as younger versions of Cyclops, Jean Grey and Storm respectively. “They’re as much a part of the movie as our main cast,” Singer explained.

“Scott is not yet the squeaky-clean leader. Storm is a troubled character who is going down the wrong path in life. And Jean is complex, interesting and not fully mature.

“It’s fun to see someone struggling with their

powers when you know one day they’ll become the most powerful person in the world,” he added.

The upcoming Bryan Singer movie introduces the infamous Marvel villain Apocalypse (Oscar Isaac) as a power-mad mutant bent on the destruction of humanity.

Producer Simon Kinberg recently teased Apocalypse, saying that the film will alter the foundations of the franchise.

“X-Men: Apocalypse” will release on 27 May, 2016.—PTI



Director Bryan Singer has revealed that “X-Men: Apocalypse” is really different to what has come before.—PTI

Britney Spears to star in mobile video game app

LOS ANGELES, 1 May — Pop star Britney Spears is the latest celebrity to feature in a mobile video game application.

Glu Mobile, the app game developer responsible for Kim Kardashian: Hollywood, announced that it would be developing a game featuring Spears, 33, reported *People* magazine.

Due out in 2016,

the game will be the first product released as part of a five-year deal between Spears and Glu to feature Spears’ likeness, voice and creative influence.

In February, Glu Mobile announced that it was making a Katy Perry game, and in March it announced an app game starring Kendall and Kylie Jenner.—PTI



I’ve learnt Latin dance from Sofia Vergara: Reese Witherspoon

LOS ANGELES, 1 May — Actress Reese Witherspoon has revealed she learnt moves of Latin dance from her “Hot Pursuit” co-star and close friend Sofia Vergara.

“Now I’m working on a Latino audience with my dance game. Sofia’s taught me how to Latin dance,” the 39-year-old “Wild” actress said while promoting their upcoming film.

Vergara, 42, was present alongside Witherspoon, when she spoke about her dance lessons, reported *People* magazine.

“You didn’t need me to teach you anything. You knew already,” joked Vergara to which Witherspoon quipped, “I had a beat in my heart.”

“Hot Pursuit” is slated to release on 8 May.

PTI

Taylor Swift calls 12-year-old fan battling cancer

LOS ANGELES, 1 May — Country singer Taylor Swift has called Emily Beazley, the 12-year-old battling with cancer.

The Chicago-born girl had a street named after her and she has also been made an honorary member of the Chicago PD, reported *People* magazine.

“The smile on my daughter (is one) I have not seen in a very, very long

time,” her mother Nadia Beazley said, adding, “I could cry.”

Beazley has been battling stage III T-cell lymphoblastic non-Hodgkins lymphoma since 2011.

Despite years of chemotherapy, her case remains so aggressive that last week her doctors told her family there was nothing more they could do.

PTI



Country singer Taylor Swift has called Emily Beazley, the 12-year-old battling with cancer.—REUTERS

Songlines world music awards honour Afrobeat pioneer Tony Allen

LONDON, 1 May — Nigerian artists spanning five decades of music-making took honours in Songlines magazine’s 2015 awards, with Afrobeat pioneer and drummer Tony Allen winning Best Artist and Ibibio Sound Machine picked as Best Newcomers.

The Malian father and son duo of Toumani Sidiki Diabate were named Best Griot for their work highlighting the griot (story teller) tradition in the awards, announced on Thursday.

The Kronos Quartet, usually associated with classical music, took the Cross-Cultural Collaboration award for an album embracing the music of countries ranging from Syria to China.

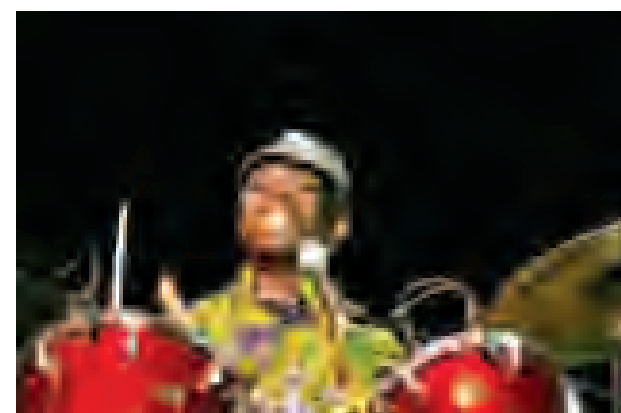
Allen, 74, was nominated for his “Film of Life” album but the award was as much a recognition of his lifetime achievements, Songlines editor-in-chief Simon Broughton said.

Allen began working with the late Nigerian music legend Fela Kuti in 1964 and helped create the Afrobeat style which energised the continent. Once described as the “finest drummer on the planet”, his music blends jazz, funk and tribal grooves.

“As Fela said, without Tony Allen, there wouldn’t be any Afrobeat. Fela very much handed the invention of Afrobeat over to him as a moving force,” Broughton told *Reuters*.

“Film of Life,” which features a collaboration with Blur’s Damon Albarn, showed him still fresh and eager to experiment.

It also deals with topical issues. Two tracks, “Go Back” and “Boat Journey”, with its refrain of “Don’t take the boat journey”, highlight the plight of Africans fleeing from war and poverty only to risk their lives crossing the Mediterranean.



The London-based Ibibio Sound Machine, fronted by charismatic singer Eno Williams, are a group of young Nigerian expatriates who weave the folk tales of southeast Ibibio region with electronic grooves, funk, Afrobeat and Highlife.

“They are really making an impact. It’s that nice mixture of Nigerian but in a London context. London is probably the World Music capital of the world right now,” Broughton said.

Sidiki Diabate is bet-

ter known as a rapper but he linked up with his father, griot and kora player Toumani, for an eponymous album of songs in a traditional vein.

“The Diabate family has been absolutely central to Malian music for years and years, generations and generations. Toumani’s father was a leading kora player. They are very much looking back at the tradition they have inherited and expressing the idea of passing it on,” Broughton said.—Reuters

GENERAL

Japan proposes to cut greenhouse gas emissions 26 pct by 2030



Steam spew from chimneys at an industrial complex in Kawasaki, south of Tokyo on 23 Oct, 2009. —REUTERS

TOKYO, 1 May — Japan said it was proposing to cut its greenhouse gas emissions by 26 percent by 2030 as its contribution to a global summit on climate change in Paris later in the year.

Media reports earlier this month said the country was looking at a 25 percent cut from 2013 levels, up from an earlier target of about 20 percent.

Japan, the world's No.5

emitter of climate-warming carbon dioxide, has however previously watered down emissions targets as the shutdown of its nuclear plants after the 2011 Fukushima disaster forced its utilities to burn record amounts of gas and coal to generate power.

The country's latest proposal, issued by the industry and environment ministries, includes a target to reduce emissions by 25.4

percent by 2030 from 2005 levels. But government officials said they would prefer to use 2013 as a baseline, which implies a higher reduction target than other major developed countries.

If 2013 becomes the baseline, Japan's 26 percent emissions cut would be higher than an 18 to 21 percent cut by the United States by 2025 and a 24 percent cut by the European Union by 2030, the proposal showed.

The European Union has said it is looking to cut emissions by at least 40 percent from 1990 levels by 2030, while the United States is proposing a 26 to 28 percent cut from 2005 levels by 2025. From 1990 levels, Japan's target would represent a mere 18 percent cut. "It's not fair to pick 2013 as baseline since it would ignore all those efforts made by other countries to cut emissions since 1990," said Kumiko Hirata, coordinator of environmental group Climate Action Network Japan.

"Japan is trying to make its target look bigger by selecting 2013 as a base, when the country emitted so much greenhouse gas," she said. Japan's greenhouse-gas emissions rose to 1.41 billion metric tonnes of carbon dioxide (CO2) equivalent, the second-highest on record, in the year through March 2014, reflecting a rise in coal-fired power after the indefinite closure of nuclear power plants. That was up 10.8 percent from 1990.—Reuters

Modest Roach plays down role in Pacquiao transformation



Manny Pacquiao's trainer Freddie Roach listens to a reporter's question at the MGM Grand Resort in Las Vegas, Nevada on 30 April, 2015. REUTERS

LAS VEGAS, 1 May — Freddie Roach is the quintessential trainer, an Irish-American who lives and breathes boxing and is happiest when he has the mitts on while putting his fighters through their paces in his Wild Card Boxing Club.

Voted trainer of the year by the Boxing Writers Association of America on seven occasions, Roach is best known for the success he has achieved in partnership with Manny Pacquiao, a Filipino southpaw he has transformed into a complete fighter. When Pacquiao first worked with Roach in

2001, he was a one-handed fighter with lightning-fast hand and foot speed who had very little defensive technique to balance his naturally aggressive style in the ring.

Under Roach's shrewd guidance and after thousands of hours in the gym, the ever-smiling Filipino has developed a lethal right-hand while vastly improving his defence and has gone on to win 10 world titles in an unprecedented eight weight classes.

"I recognized he needed to add a right hand, but anybody who has walked into a gym more than once

would have been able to tell him that," said Roach, while playing down his own part in Pacquiao's transformation. "It was up to Manny. He's such a great athlete and he's so dedicated, he just listened to what I said and went out and made the change on his own. That's a Manny Pacquiao thing, not a 'me' thing."

Roach has guided Pacquiao to a 57-5-2 record with 38 knockouts and on Saturday they will get the chance to cement that legacy when the Filipino takes on undefeated American Floyd Mayweather Jr in a heavily anticipated welter-

weight showdown.

"This is big, the biggest fight of my life," said Roach, a former featherweight and lightweight boxer who ended his own career in the ring at the age of 26 with a decent 41-13 record.

"I know Floyd is a good fighter but I just think I have the better fighter," Roach told Reuters. "Hand speed is going to be a big, big difference, and Manny is much quicker than he is."

"We have to attack really quick and get out really quick. We can't stay in the pocket too long. We know the game plan, we know how to beat this guy."

Victory by Pacquiao on Saturday would certainly add gloss to an already extraordinary career for Roach, who has long battled Parkinson's disease but is able to control his symptoms through medication and by training with his boxers.

"It is part of my life now and I just have to live with it," said Roach. "Some people just want to lay down and die, but not me. I'm a fighter. I'm in the gym every day. I love what I do."

Reuters

mitv Myanmar International

(2-5-2015 07:00 am~ 3-5-2015 07:00 am) MST

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| * Sagaing: Gold Leaf | * News |
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| * Impressionist Myanmar Master Artist — U Lun Kywe | * Kindhearted Pet Lovers |
| * Goldsmith | * News |
| * News | * Kachin Traditional Wedding Ceremony |
| * A Short Trip With Steve (South Korea) (Ep-1) | * A Dream A Destination (Hpa An) |
| * Kay Tu Mar Lar "The Decision" | * News |
| * News | * Interview with Israeli Ambassador |
| * Food Trip (Ep-3) (Part-2) | * Maha Myatmuni Buddha Image In Rakhine |
| * Today Myanmar "E-Bike Rental | * U Htun Htun Naing "Winner of Young Entrepreneur Award of ASEAN" |

MRTV News Channel in Brief

(2-5-2015, Saturday)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 6:00 am | 1:35 pm |
| • Paritta by Venerable Mingun Sayadaw | • Dhamma puja Song |
| 6:15 am | 2:35 pm |
| • Myitta Pawana by Mingun Sayadaw Phayagyi | • Teleplay |
| 7:00 am | 3:35 pm |
| • News / Weather Report | • Hyper Sports |
| 7:35 am | 4:30 pm |
| • Fullmoon Day of Kason | • Myanmar Traditional Performing Arts Competition |
| 8:35 am | 4:40 pm |
| • Documentary | • University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) — Third Year (Physics) |
| 9:00 am | 5:00 pm |
| • News / International News | • News |
| 9:35 am | 5:40 pm |
| • MRTV's Youth Programme | • Documentary |
| 10:35 am | 6:00 pm |
| • Science and Technology Programme | • News / Weather Report |
| 11:35 am | 6:35 pm |
| • Head Line News | • Documentary |
| 12:00 noon | 7:35 pm |
| • News / International News / Weather Report | • Business News |
| 12:35 pm | 8:35 pm |
| • Round Up of The Week's Local TV News | • Documentary |
| | 9:00 pm |
| | • News |
| | • Teleplay (Part-2) |

MRTV Entertainment Channel

(2-5-2015, Saturday)

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| 6:00 am | 7:45 am |
| • Classical Songs | • Radio Teleplay |
| 6:10 am | 8:40 am |
| • Teleplay | • Pyi Thu Ni Ti |
| 7:15 am | 9:05 am |
| • Myanmar Series | • Dramatic Arts |
| 7:30 am | 10:00 am |
| • Musical Programme | • Musical Programme |
| | 10:10 am |
| | • Myanmar Video |



Myanmar to meet with Vietnam in debut of Group (B) in AFF Women's Championship

YANGON, 1 May — Myanmar national women's football team stays at Ramana Saigon Hotel in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam which will host the 2015 AFF Women's Championships.

Myanmar will meet host Vietnam in the debut of the Group (B) in the championship at 6 p.m. Myanmar

standard time on 2 May.

On 26 April, Myanmar played against Thai women's team in a tune-up match at the sports ground of Thai Port FC in Bangkok, Thailand, ending at a draw result. Myanmar women's team took two-time training session a day while in Thailand.—MFF

Inzaghi to stay on as Milan coach

MILAN, 1 May — Filippo Inzaghi has clung on to his job as AC Milan coach following their 3-1 home defeat by Genoa and will stay unless there are any major changes, the club said on Thursday.

Italian media reported on Thursday morning that Inzaghi could be replaced by youth team coach Cristian Brocchi for the final five matches of the season in an attempt to save the club from further embarrassment. But an announcement on Milan's television channel said that Inzaghi will "remain at the helm at Milan unless there are any major changes."

Inzaghi's position had become increasingly precarious following a run of four matches without a win which left his side in 10th place and set to miss out on European football for a second season in a row.

Milan have 43 points from 33 matches — 33 fewer than leaders Juventus.

Wednesday's defeat came as former Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi was meeting Thai businessman Bee Taechaubol to discuss the sale of the club, which he has owned for almost 30 years.

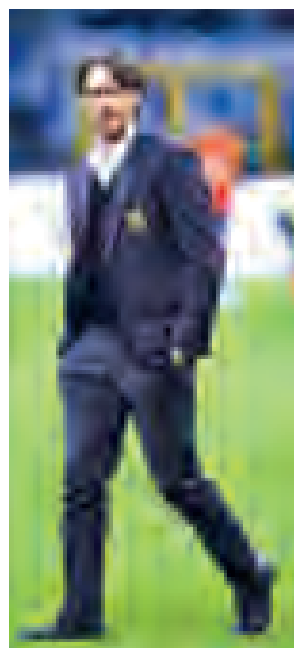
Milan's website also said that the players had been released from a so-called "ritiro", in which they are confined to the club's training headquarters. They had agreed to the "ritiro" after a 2-1 defeat at Udinese on Saturday when Inzaghi criticized them for lack of effort. In what has become a familiar routine, Milan's season has been a story of crises, false dawns, injuries and new signings who have failed to settle in. Fernando Torres came and went,

scoring one goal in four months, and forwards Alesio Cerci and Mattia Destro have managed three goals between them since joining in the January transfer window. Inzaghi has been going through the same process as his predecessors Massimiliano Allegri, dismissed in January last year, and Clarence Seedorf, who followed him at the end of last season.

Both fell victim to a combination of unrealistically high expectations and a lacklustre squad, and were eventually fired. Allegri is now with Juventus, who are 14 points clear of the field with five matches left and have reached the Champions League semi-finals.

Inzaghi, who during his playing days was famously described by then Manchester United manager Alex Ferguson as having been "born offside", was hugely popular with Milan fans, having spent most of his playing career at the club.

Reuters



AC Milan's coach
Filippo Inzaghi

Villarreal keeper Asenjo out for six months with knee injury

BARCELONA, 1 May — Villarreal goalkeeper Sergio Asenjo will be out of action for six months after suffering a ruptured knee ligament, the La Liga club said on Thursday.

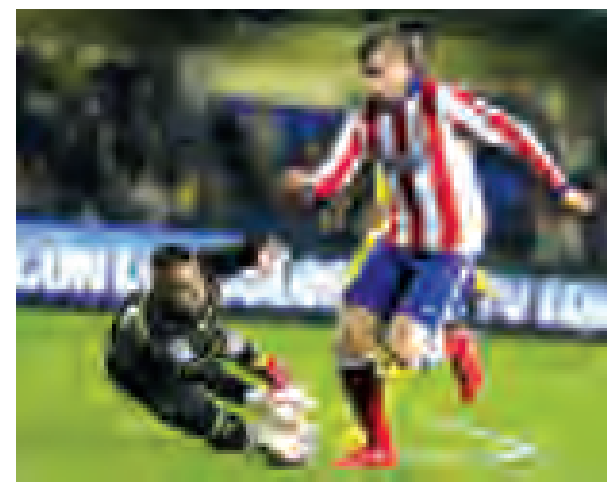
Asenjo injured his knee when he landed awkwardly after jumping for a ball in Wednesday's 1-0 home defeat by Atletico Madrid.

"Asenjo has ruptured the anterior cruciate ligament of the right knee, along with less serious injuries and they will require surgery," the club said in a

statement on their website.

It is the latest injury setback for Villarreal whose results have suffered with the team falling well away from Champions League contention and they now lie sixth in La Liga on 53 points from 34 games.

Key players Bruno Soriano and Mateo Musacchio have both had serious problems while Denis Cheryshev and Luciano Vietto, who spearheaded their strong early season form, have suffered minor injuries.—Reuters



Atletico Madrid's Fernando Torres (R) controls the ball past Villarreal's goalkeeper Sergio Asenjo during their Spanish first division soccer match at the Madrigal stadium in Villarreal, Spain on 29 April, 2015.—REUTERS

Promoted Premier League teams battle to avoid immediate relegation

LONDON, 1 May — The congested battle to avoid relegation from the Premier League is set for a tense finish with Leicester City, Burnley and Queens Park Rangers hoping to avoid becoming the first promoted sides in 17 years to all go down.

The only time since the Premier League's inception in 1992 that all three sides who came up from the second tier were immediately relegated was in the 1997-98 campaign when Barnsley, Bolton Wanderers and Crystal Palace all failed to beat the drop.

Bottom side Burnley have won just one of their last 13 league fixtures, but despite their struggles boss Sean Dyche has been praised by many who predicted his side would be dead and buried by now.

"It's different for us, I said to the lads 'you've been written off now, you've been written off all season', so it makes no dif-

ference to us," Dyche said after his side's defeat to Leicester last weekend.

QPR's resistance has not been helped by a dismal away record, an ageing squad and former manager Harry Redknapp's surprise decision to step down in February.

Sunderland currently occupy 18th spot, the final relegation place.

They are a point behind 17th-placed Leicester, but boast a crucial game in hand on Nigel Pearson's side, whose run of four straight league wins came to an end against runaway leaders Chelsea on Wednesday.

While the promoted teams and Sunderland are in a nip-and-tuck battle to avoid the drop, familiar Premier League faces Newcastle United and Aston Villa are not yet safe.

Newcastle's interim manager John Carver has endured a torrid time since taking over from Alan Pardew in December

and last Saturday's 3-2 defeat by Swansea City at St James' Park was the club's seventh straight loss.

Carver could have also done without 15th placed Hull City recording back-to-back league wins to move to within a point of Newcastle.

FA Cup finalists Villa, who have never been relegated during the Premier League era, are two points above the drop zone after last weekend's 3-2 defeat

against Manchester City.

Ever the optimist, manager Tim Sherwood, who took charge in February, is adamant his side will survive if they perform like they did against last season's champions City.

"What? We play like that and get relegated? You are having a laugh aren't you?," Sherwood said when asked if he feared dropping down to the Championship.—Reuters



Marc Albrighton celebrates after scoring the first goal for Leicester during their Barclays Premier League at King Power Stadium on 29 April, 2015.—REUTERS