

Arrangements underway to implement compulsory high school education

NAY PYI TAW, 5 May—President U Thein Sein met with all-round outstanding youths of the Recreation Camp of All-round Outstanding Youths (Ngwehsaung) at the Palengwehsaung Hotel at Ngwehsaung Beach in Patheingyi on Tuesday morning.

In his speech at the meeting, the president said that outstanding youths are required to possess fine characteristics such as academic competence, high morals, good discipline, genuine patriotism and union spirit, and that the government is exerting efforts to realize the wishes of the people for stability and development.

In doing so, the government, the Hluttaw, the Tatmadaw and the people are cooperating in developments in the political, economic and social spheres, and youths play an essential human resources role in people's power, according to the president.

The president added that since today is the age of education, the educational goal of Myanmar is to pro-



President U Thein Sein poses for documentary photo with outstanding students at Ngwehsaung Recreation Camp.—MNA

mote an education system that will lead to the building of a society that can face the challenges of the age of education and appreciate life-long learning.

The goal of human resources development of the country is to nurture human resources that can promote

socioeconomic lives of the people and national development, the president said. The government has therefore increased the education and health budgets year by year to realize the human resources development goals and to implement strategic measures, the president

pointed out.

Educational spending rose from K 369 billion in 2011-12 fiscal year to K 1514.77 billion in the 2015-16 fiscal year and health spending increased from K 86.582 billion to K 753.001 billion in the 2015-16 fiscal year, the president added.

Compulsory primary school education was introduced in the 2011-2012 academic year and compulsory middle school education began in the 2014-15 academic year with the aim of achieving all-round outstanding human resources, the president explained.

Arrangements are underway to implement compulsory high school education later and outstanding students are being awarded with middle school education scholarships and high school education scholarships while measures are (See page 3)

CNG supply to meet demand when refinery completed this year

By Aye Min Soe

YANGON, 5 May—The supply of compressed natural gas (CNG) is set to increase when a factory for refining natural gas from off-shore blocks is completed this year.

The installation of

machinery at the refinery is drawing near to be completed, and when the refinery is complete, many vehicles will be supplied with CNG without delay, U Myint Swe, Yangon Region Chief Minister said Monday.

Car owners who ex-

changed their old cars with newer models under the government's car swap scheme have complained that they have to wait at least five to six months to secure a supply of CNG from the government for their cars.

While private CNG

vehicles are facing scarcity of the gas, at least an additional 230 vehicles are on a waiting list for getting access to CNG, according to statistics.

The Ministry of Energy is currently supplying natural gas from inland blocks to vehicles, giving priority to public bus lines.

The authorities are carefully scrutinizing the vehicles which have applied to obtain CNG supply as the current CNG supply is low, according to U Myint Swe.

Currently, more than 360 bus lines are operating with 3,500 buses in Yangon to transport some 2 million people a day.

The refinery was on target to open in 2013 but it failed to achieve the target due to the economic sanctions on Myanmar, said the chief minister.

Chin State introduces first ever child-focused Local Social Plan in Myanmar to international development partners

YANGON, 5 May—The Chin State Administration revealed on Tuesday its Local Social Plan to benefit children and women, the first of its kind in Myanmar and supplementing the State's Comprehensive five-year Development Plan 2016-21.

The plan, supported by UNICEF, in collaboration with the Myanmar Institute for Integrated Development (MIID) and with financial support from the Danish government, aims at achieving new results for children and their families within the decentralization reforms led by the government of Myanmar.

Children in Chin are more likely to be under-

weight and stunted than their peers living in other parts of the Union of Myanmar. Only 6 per cent of children in Chin are delivered in a health facility, compared with 36.2 per cent in Myanmar on average.

"The Local Social Plan addresses unmet development needs and rights, prioritized by the people of Chin State and the Chin state government, such as food security, improved access to and retention in education, and expanded coverage of quality health services," explained Bertrand Bainvel, UNICEF representative to Myanmar.

To mobilise support for Chin's LSP projects from (See page 3)

Vehicles using CNG running along routes of passenger transportation in Yangon.

PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE



MCDC suspends collection of toll gate fees in Mandalay City

MANDALAY, 5 May—Mandalay City Development Committee Monday suspended collection of entrance fees at the toll gates from vehicles that have registered in other regions and states, according to the press conference at the city hall.

Toll gates collect entrance fees from the vehicles with the aim of reducing traffic congestion in downtown Mandalay. At present, MCDC urged owners who registered their vehicles in other regions and states to take registration in Mandalay Region, not later than 30 May. The resumption of fee collection will be announced, said MCDC secretary U Khin Maung Tint.

“Suspension of collecting the toll gate fee will be till 30 May for



enabling vehicle owners to take time for registration. On 1 May, toll gates collect fees for vehicles ranging from K2,000 to K10,000,” the secretary said.

Director of Internal

Revenue Department U Than Zaw said, “We will give one-stop service to the vehicle owners if they have full of documents under the rules and regulations. According to the taxation law in 2015, they

have to pay 3 percent for K100 million. At present, most of the vehicles running on the road are worth about K10 million, so the owners need to pay only K300,000 for tax.”

From 1 to 3 May, toll gates collected K30 million for 12,000 vehicles.

Min Htet Aung
(Mandalay Sub-printing House)



Myanaung Township Administrator U Min Min Tun and officials handed over humanitarian assistance provided by Ayeyawady Region Relief and Resettlement Department to storm victims in Htu Village on 2 May.

WIN BO (TOWNSHIP IPRD)

Residents participate in demonstration on use of foam in putting out of fire

MYAWADY, 5 May — In commemoration of the 69th Anniversary of Myanmar Fire Brigade Day, a demonstration to put out fire of fuel was held at Mya Sandi monument park in Myawady, Kayin State, on 4 May.

Officials of Fire Services Department explained use of foam for putting out of fuel fire, use of DCB fire extinguisher at fuel stations, difficulties in using water for putting out of fire, and advantages of fire ball.

It was attended by

Myawady District's deputy commissioner U Lwin Ko Oo, departmental officials, township ad-

ministrators and social organization members.

Thuzar (Myawady Township)



Pontoon built in Ayeyawady River for water pump



MYANAUNG, 5 May — Naygyi Market committee is building a pontoon in Ayeyawady River where a water pump donated by the Union Minister for Rail Transportation for taking preventive measures of fire

in Myanaung, Ayeyawady Region.

On 2 May, fire brigade members and officials kept the water pump on the pontoon.

Cash donation of shop family and local residents

will be spent on the water pump that will fill water to water bowsters and fire trucks as part of fire prevention at Naychi Market and urban area.

Win Bo
(Township IPRD)

Irrigation facilities contribute to thriving summer paddy in arid zone

ZIGON, 5 May—Thanks to irrigation facilities of Taungnyo Dam, local farmers could cultivate summer paddy exceeding the target in Zigon Township, Bago Region, this year.

Zigon Township grew 3,212 acres of summer

paddy against the target of 2,229 acres in 2014-15 fiscal year, Staff Officer of Nattalin Township Irrigation Department U Sao Khun Oo told media.

“Summer paddy plantations are thriving with irrigated water along Shw-

egyobin area. Last year, more than 400 acres of paddy were destroyed due to various reasons. Success of summer paddy will uplift our living standard. Regular supply of irrigated water will benefit summer paddy,” said a local farmer. Summer paddy plantations in eastern part of Zigon are 20 miles from Taungnyo Dam.—Ko Thet (Zigon)

NATIONAL

Arrangements underway to...

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being taken to award presidential scholarships, the president said.

The president also said that in the 2014-15 academic year, K 732 million worth of scholarships will be awarded to a total of 3,246 students consisting of 828 high school students and 2,418 middle school students.

In addition, the government is also providing stipends worth K 901.3 million to 16,022 students who cannot afford education in the 2014-2015 academic year, the president promised.

Although Myanmar has favourable conditions for development such as abundant natural resources, it lacks an educated and skilled workforce, the presi-

dent added.

In conclusion, the president urged the youths to try their best to become future leaders of the country, scholars and experts whom the people can rely on.

After the president's speech, the youths presented gifts to the president and the union ministers before an outstanding schoolgirl thanked the president.

Afterwards, the youths entertained the president with music and songs, and the president and his party posed for documentary photographs with outstanding youths. The president and his party later paid homage to the historic Thiriwunna Pagoda in Shwemyintin Village-tract in Patheingyi Township and offered flowers, water, lights and scented wood. —MNA

Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann leaves Washington D.C. for New York



Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann and party arrive in New York.—MNA

NEW YORK, 5 May—Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann on Tuesday held meetings with Deputy National Security Adviser to the US President Mr. Benjamin

J Rhodes at Eisenhower Building and Deputy Secretary of State Mr. Antony Blinken at Harry S Truman Building in Washington D.C.

The speaker and party left Union Station by train

and arrived in New York in the afternoon. The speaker was welcomed by Myanmar Permanent Representative to the UN U Kyaw Tin and embassy staff at Pennsylvania Station in New York.—MNA

Chin State introduces first ever...

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development partners, a Development Partner Forum took place in Yangon on Tuesday. "The event is a great opportunity for us to present the plan to development partners and donors, for their consideration in supporting our project proposals, thus complementing our budgetary request for 2015-16," explained Chin State Chief Minister U Hong Ngai. Peter Lysholt Hansen, Danish Ambassa-

dor to Myanmar, confirmed Denmark's keen interest. "Denmark is very pleased to have provided financial support to this plan, which is the result of a bottom-up participatory planning process involving key stakeholders," he stated.

"The people of Chin deserve to see tangible results in their daily life as a result of the bilateral ceasefire agreement, and the plan will contribute to this aim. This is part of Denmark's

strong support for the peace, democracy, human rights and reform process in Myanmar," he added.

UNICEF and MIID have recently shared the methodological guidelines of LSP and Chin State experiences with the Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development.

"The development of the Local Social Plan is a methodology that we hope can be replicated in other states and regions in Myanmar," affirmed Joern Kris-

Myanmar Fire Brigade marks 69th birthday



Vice President U Nyan Tun views modern fire extinguishers at the ceremony to mark 69th Anniversary of Myanmar Fire Brigade Day.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 5 May—Fire brigade members are to enhance their capacity for overcoming challenges while serving the interests

of the people, Vice President U Nyan Tun said at the 69th Anniversary of Myanmar Fire Brigade Day at Myanmar International Convention Centre-2, here, on Tuesday.

The vice president said that Pyidaungsu Hluttaw has enacted Myanmar Fire Brigade Law on 17 March, 2015, after revoking the 1997 Fire Brigade Law with the aim of ensuring effective preparedness for natural disasters and rescue and relief works in the event of natural disasters.

He added that a total of 1,629 outbreaks of fire destroyed more than 3,200 buildings and property worth K4.27 billion, leav-

ing 10,624 people homeless across the nation in 2014.

He recounted that the government has conferred medals for excellent performance on 208 fire brigade members till today.

He noted that while the government gives priority to raising the work proficiency of the Myanmar Fire Brigade, systematic management, development of human resources and supply of fire extinguishers to fire stations, fire brigade members need to disseminate knowledge about measures of fire prevention to the people.

Union Minister Lt-

Gen Ko Ko conferred Ye Bala titles on Assistant Fire Staff Officer U Min Kyaw Thu and Fire Sgt Sai Aung Kyi Win. The vice president viewed fire extinguishers displayed by local companies, documentary photos on training and organizational tasks and firefighting activities of fire brigade members at the hall and enjoyed a skill demonstration by firefighters in front of the hall.

In the afternoon, the director-general of the Fire Services Department presented prizes to outstanding service personnel.—MNA

KNPP activities cause concern among local people

NAY PYI TAW, 5 May—On tips that about 200 members of KNPP with their weapons were stationing at the west bank of the Thanlwin after crossing the river from Melayu ferry to conduct field organizational trips to villages around Shadaw Township in Kayah State on 1 May, the chief minister and the security and border affairs minister of Kayah State sent for two leaders of the group, U The Phu and U Area and explained that conducting armed organizational tasks are not allowed by the union level and regional level authorities.

Similarly, the regional command commander also sent for the two leaders of the group and explained that they should not travel with arms without permis-

sion in the area and warned that such activities could undermine the peace efforts. The two leaders said that they would report the matter to their headquarters.

Such activities breach the terms and conditions of the tentative ceasefire agreement to station only in negotiated and agreed places and not to travel to other places with arms except for the places agreed upon. In addition, since the places the group intends to travel are being controlled by transformed people's militias and Tatmadaw columns, there might arise undesirable problems, causing local people to worry about the tentative peace deal. Authorities are holding negotiations with the group.—Myawady

Political parties apply for registration at UEC

NAY PYI TAW, 5 May—The Union Election Commission scrutinizes and allows applications of political parties to register. On 5 May, Inn Ethnic League applied for registration of political party at the Union Election Commission.—MNA

tensen, executive director of MIDD.

Participants at the forum expressed hope that Local Social Plans such as Chin's will help Myanmar put children and their families at the centre of the development of the country.

GNLM



Indian Buddhist devotees offer prayers at a Buddhist temple to commemorate the 2,559th birth anniversary of the Buddha in Calcutta, capital of eastern Indian state West Bengal on 4 May, 2015. The day was observed as Buddha Purnima, or the birth anniversary of Lord Gautam Buddha, the originator of Buddhism.

XINHUA

Singapore PM says 2020 timeline unrealistic for Malaysia rail project

SINGAPORE, 5 May — Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong said a 2020 timeline to build a high-speed rail link between the city-state and Malaysia was unrealistic, adding that the two countries hoped to reach an agreement by year-end on when the trains would start running.

Singapore and Malaysia said in February, 2013, that they planned to build a high-speed rail link by 2020 that would cut travel time between the city-state and Kuala Lumpur to 90 minutes, without giving a cost estimate.

The project has been



Singapore's Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong

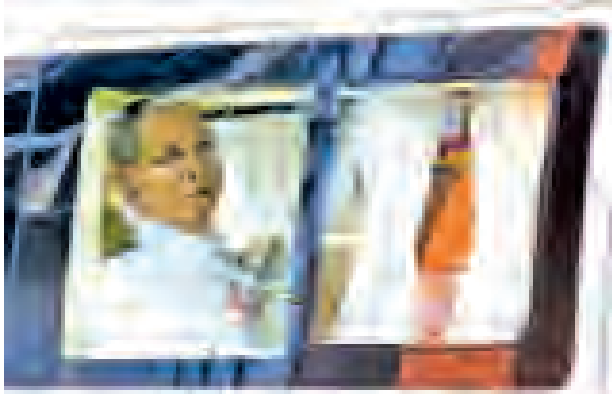
coveted by the Chinese and Japanese railway companies, which have been ramping up efforts to win contracts overseas.

Reuters

Thai king leaves hospital to attend coronation anniversary event

BANGKOK, 5 May — Thailand's King Bhumibol Adulyadej, the world's longest reigning monarch, left hospital on Tuesday to make a rare public appearance to commemorate the 65th anniversary of his coronation.

It was the second time



Thailand's King Bhumibol Adulyadej sits in a vehicle as he leaves Siriraj Hospital for the Grand Palace to join a ceremony marking Coronation Day in Bangkok, Thailand on 5 May, 2015.—REUTERS

in as many months that the 87-year-old had ventured out of Bangkok's Siriraj Hospital, where he was admitted in October and underwent surgery to remove his gallbladder.

The health of Bhumibol is watched closely in Thailand, where many see him as a moral arbiter and pillar of stability in a country that has experienced much upheaval during its eight decades of democracy.

The king has in the past intervened during messy political show-downs. A coup last year and political divisions that have festered and flared for a decade have heightened

concerns over his succession.

Dressed in a white uniform and sitting in a wheelchair, Bhumibol arrived at Bangkok's Royal Palace and watched as Buddhist monks led prayers at a royal hall.

Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha, top figures from the political and military establishment and royal family members also attended.

Bhumibol left the palace after less than an hour and was greeted by crowds of well-wishers shouting "long live the king" during his short drive back to the hospital.

Reuters

Pakistan commissions 1st solar power plant

ISLAMABAD, 5 May — Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif on Tuesday inaugurated Pakistan's first solar power plant with an installed capacity of 100 megawatts built with Chinese assistance in southern Punjab.

Punjab Chief Minister Shahbaz Sharif said during an inauguration ceremony that the Punjab government is envisaging building nine additional 100-megawatt solar power units at the same site.

The project, financed by China, is located in arid Bahawalpur about 658 kilometres south of Islamabad.

The Punjab government has provided 10,000 acres of land for the project.

The solar power plant inaugurated on Tuesday was built by TBEA Xinjiang SunOasis Ltd, based in the western Chinese region of Xinjiang.

"When completed, a 1,000-megawatt solar power plant would be the world's biggest," the prime minister said in his speech.

"Our top priority is to wipe out darkness and lighten Pakistan," Sharif said referring to chronic power shortages in the country.

Kyodo News

Vietnam, South Korea sign free trade agreement

HANOI, 5 May — Vietnam has signed with South Korea a free trade agreement which is expected to boost its exports to the South Korean market, the Vietnamese government said on Tuesday.

The signing in Hanoi concluded two-year talks between the two countries and the agreement is expected to enable their

trade to reach \$70 billion a year by 2020, the government said in a statement, citing Vietnam's trade minister Vu Huy Hoang.

South Korea is the biggest investor in Vietnam, with pledges totaling \$38 billion in more than 4,200 projects as of March 2015, based on Vietnam government data.—Reuters

China says Indian prime minister to visit next week

BEIJING, 5 May — Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit China next week, the Chinese Foreign Ministry said on Tuesday, his first trip to India's northern neighbour since being elected last year.

Modi will be in China from 14-16 May, the ministry said in a brief statement.

China and India have growing commercial links and deep historical ties, but their recent history has been overshadowed by sus-

picion and the two have yet to sort out a festering border dispute.

Underscoring the lack of trust, Modi's official account on Weibo, China's version of Twitter, which was set up on Monday, attracted many comments from Chinese users about a disputed part of Tibet belonging to China.

The nationalist Indian prime minister has been keen to resolve the territorial spat, which has clouded a rapidly expanding busi-

ness relationship.

However, there is no simple solution to a conflict that largely dates back to British colonial decisions about Tibet.

The disagreement over the 3,500-km (2,175-mile) border in the Himalayas led to a brief war in 1962 and involves large swathes of remote territory.

China claims more than 90,000 sq km (35,000 sq miles) disputed by New Delhi in the eastern sector of the Himalayas. Much

of that forms the Indian state of Arunachal Pradesh, which China calls South Tibet.

India says China occupies 38,000 square km (14,600 sq miles) of its territory on the Aksai Chin plateau in the west.

In September, the two armies faced off in the Ladakh sector in the western Himalayas just as Chinese President Xi Jinping was visiting India for the first summit talks with Modi.—Reuters

Shanghai bans leaders' family members from business



Shanghai Municipality Communist Party Secretary Han Zheng applauds at the Shanghai delegation's group discussion during the National People's Congress (NPC) at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing on 6 March, 2015.—REUTERS

SHANGHAI, 5 May — The Shanghai government has introduced rules to restrain the families of senior city officials from running private businesses, in a pilot measure that will eventually go nationwide in China's sweeping campaign against corruption.

The rules are among the most direct attempts to short-circuit the cycle of graft in China since President Xi Jinping launched an anti-corruption drive after coming to power more

than two years ago.

Xi gave his blessing to the new rules in March during the annual session of parliament, "requiring that Shanghai run the pilot and lead from the front," state media reported late on Monday.

The rules cover officials at the level of deputy bureau director and above in government, the ruling Communist Party, the judiciary, the local parliament as well as state-owned enterprises, the city government announced on its website.

"You can't have your cake and eat it too," an article on the website quoted Han Zheng, party chief of the city of more than 24 million, as saying. "If you choose to be an official, you can't go into business and strike it rich."

Reports in Chinese and foreign media about families of officials who have leveraged relationships to enrich themselves have ignited public anger.

Officials have come under fire for the behaviour of family members before. The party and government have ejected thousands of

so-called "naked officials", whose spouses and children have emigrated abroad.

Spouses and children of senior officials in Shanghai cannot register individual businesses or partnerships, invest in non-listed enterprises or register a business overseas and do business back in China, the new rules say.

Spouses of senior officials are banned from holding top positions in private companies or senior appointed positions in foreign-invested enterprises, the city government said.

Their children and the children's spouses may engage in business, but not in the locality where the official works, it added.

Senior city officials need to report the business activities of families, but punishments for not doing so were not stated.

In a bid to end corruption, Shanghai authorities on 23 April adopted a regulation banning spouses and children of public prosecutors and judges from serving as lawyers or in other jobs linked to the judiciary, state media have reported.—Reuters



Representatives attend the 10th general congress of the Red Cross Society of China at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, capital of China, on 5 May, 2015.—XINHUA

Japan's Meiji industrial sites endorsed for World Heritage listing



File photo taken in September 2013 shows the Nagasaki shipbuilding yard in the southwestern Japan city of Nagasaki. It is among the 23 facilities in the "Sites of Japan's Meiji Industrial Revolution" that a UNESCO advisory panel has recommended as a World Heritage site. KYODO NEWS

TOKYO, 5 May — A UNESCO advisory panel has recommended listing the "Sites of Japan's Meiji Industrial Revolution" as a World Heritage site, the Japanese Cultural Affairs Agency said on Monday.

The acknowledgement of the sites, representing the country's industrialization in the late 19th to early 20th centuries, fueled expectations for increased tourism in the host regions in Japan, while drawing protest from South Korea, which says thousands of Koreans were forced to work at some of the facilities during World War II.

The potential heritage assets include the Hashima Coal Mine in Nagasaki

City, otherwise known as "Battleship Island" for its uncanny guise.

Some of the facilities, such as the Nagasaki shipbuilding yard, are still partly in operation but require preservation work due to aging.

The International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) took stock of the historical context of sites where the country achieved industrialization over a relatively short span of 50 years by actively adapting western technologies to the needs and traditions of Japan, according to the agency.

The panel also called for reporting on measures to preserve Battleship Island and other deteriorating facilities at a World Heritage Committee meeting in 2018.

ICOMOS endorsed all the 23 facilities in eight of the country's 47 prefectures proposed by the Japanese government, the agency said.

The recommendation paves the way for a formal decision for listing at the World Heritage Committee's meeting slated for 3-6 July in Bonn, Germany, where 21 member countries including Japan, India and Germany, will meet.

If officially acknowledged, it will be the 15th cultural property listed in Japan. In the past two years, both Mt Fuji and To-mioka Silk Mill were added to the list.

While no sites proposed by Japan and endorsed for heritage listing

have been rejected at the final stage, deliberations at the committee meeting in July could see a setback as one of the members, South Korea, has expressed opposition to the listing.

Seoul has argued that people from the Korean Peninsula were brought over for labour against their will at some of the sites.

"Our government opposes the efforts to beautify them just as Industrial Revolution facilities, without recognizing the historical fact that forced labour took place there," South Korean Foreign Minister Yun Byung Se was quoted as saying by Yonhap News Agency.

Japan, for its part, has been stepping up its diplomatic efforts to marshal the recommendations through to final approval for the UNESCO list.

Meanwhile, local officials in Japan welcomed the UNESCO panel's decision.

"A treasure of Nagasaki is recognized as a treasure of the world," said Nagasaki Mayor Tomihisa Taue.

Kitakyushu Mayor Kenji Kitahashi said, "We are very happy as Kitakyushu is a region that has made significant contributions to Japan's modernization. It will encourage tourism." Kitakyushu is home to what used to be a government-run steel mill, endorsed by the UNESCO panel. The mill is still operated by Nippon Steel & Sumitomo Metal Corp.

Kyodo News

UN chief to attend World War II ceremony in Moscow

NEW YORK, 5 May — UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon will attend an event in Moscow on Saturday to mark the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II in Europe, the United Nations said on Monday. He will visit the Ukraine capital Kiev on Friday to meet President Petro Poroshenko before meeting Russian President Vladimir Putin and leaders from other countries attending the ceremony in Russia. Ukrainian government forces and pro-Russian separatists agreed earlier this year on a cease-fire to prevent further bloodshed in eastern Ukraine that escalated following the Ukrainian revolution and Russia's annexation of Crimea. Keeping a tough stance on the Russian action, US President Barack Obama, German Chancellor Angela Merkel and British Prime Minister David Cameron among others will not attend the anniversary event.—Kyodo News

Pension, labour disputes dog Greek talks as cash dwindles

ATHENS/BRUSSELS, 5 May —Wide differences over pension and labour reforms continued to dog intensive negotiations between Greece's leftist government and its international creditors despite progress in other areas as the country's cash position becomes increasingly critical.

Government spokesman Gabriel Sakellariadis sounded the alarm on Monday, saying that while Athens intended to meet all its payment obligations, including nearly 1 billion euros to the IMF in May, it needed fresh funds before the end of the month.

"Liquidity is a pressing issue," Sakellariadis told a news conference. "The Greek government is not waiting until the end of May for a liquidity injection. It expects this liquidity to be offered to the Greek economy as soon as possible."

In a sign of Greece's increasingly frantic efforts

to secure relief, Deputy Prime Minister Yannis Dragasakis will travel to Frankfurt to hold talks with European Central Bank President Mario Draghi on Tuesday, a government official said.

With lenders ruling out fresh aid until Athens implements all required reforms, Greece is hoping progress in negotiations will pave the way for the ECB to permit Greek banks to buy more short-term treasury bills, easing the government's cash crunch.

Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras spoke over the phone with International Monetary Fund Managing Director Christine Lagarde on Monday to discuss the progress of the negotiations. The government gave no details of the call.

Intensive talks on an interim deal between a reshuffled Greek negotiating team and representatives of the European Commission, the ECB and the IMF,



A man holding a Greek national flag and a placard walks in Constitution (Syntagma) Square in Athens on 4 May, 2015.—REUTERS

renamed the "Brussels Group", have been under way since last Thursday.

The aim had been to achieve a technical-level accord that would enable euro zone finance ministers to declare when they

meet on 11 May that there is a prospect of concluding the bailout review successfully. But the two sides remain at loggerheads over several issues.

Labour Minister Panos Skourletis said the Inter-

national Monetary Fund, Greece's second biggest creditor after euro zone governments, was insisting on tough policy conditions for an interim deal to unlock frozen bailout aid.

The global lender was

unyielding in demands for pensions cuts, rules to ease mass layoffs of private sector workers and opposition to a government plan to raise the minimum wage, Skourletis told Mega TV.

"They are asking us to not touch anything (of the austerity measures) that have ruined Greek people's lives in the last five years," he said.

"The IMF is the most inflexible side ... the most extreme voices of the Brussels Group," the minister said. "But there are also calmer voices."

Greece faces repayments to the IMF totalling 970 million euros by 12 May. It has been borrowing from municipalities and government entities to meet obligations. Finance Minister Yanis Varoufakis will also travel to Paris and Brussels on Tuesday to meet his French counterpart as well as EU Economics Commissioner Pierre Moscovici.—Reuters

Obama says inequality facing minority men behind unrest in Baltimore, Ferguson



US President Barack Obama

WASHINGTON, 5 May — Following a week of racially charged protests in Baltimore, US President Barack Obama on Monday said that the residual effects of racism have built up over time and created inequality.

Speaking on one of the final episodes of the Late Show with David Letterman, Obama said the effects of slavery, Jim Crow laws and discrimination in American history have left minor-

ity communities at a disadvantage. "We don't have to accuse everybody of racism today to acknowledge that as part of our past. And if we want to get past that, everybody has to make a little bit of extra effort," Obama said.

Earlier in the day, Obama spoke at Lehman College in the Bronx where he announced the launch of My Brother's Keeper Alliance, a nonprofit organization that is a spinoff of a White House initiative to increase opportunities for young minority men.

Obama said black and Latino men feel disadvantaged, and he credited their sense of frustration about their lives and opportunities for the intensity of recent protests around the country.

"That sense of unfair-

ness, powerlessness, people not hearing their voices, that's helped fuel some of the protests that we've seen in places like Baltimore, Ferguson and right here in New York," Obama said, referring to demonstrations that followed the deaths of unarmed black men after interactions with police.

Obama said he would continue to work on the issue after his presidency, a possible foreshadowing of his future involvement with My Brother's Keeper Alliance.

"We see ourselves in these young men," Obama said of himself and the leaders of My Brother's Keeper Alliance. The nonprofit, to be headed by Joe Echevarria, former chief executive of consult firm Deloitte, will develop guidance for com-

panies to increase access to jobs for racial minorities.

Companies including American Express Co (AXP.N), Pepsi Co (PEP.N) and News Corp (NWSA.O) have committed a combined total of \$80 million in money and in-kind donations to My Brother's Keeper Alliance.

Rules around fundraising for My Brother's Keeper Alliance while Obama is still in office are likely to be scrutinized. Questions have been raised about the influence donors to the Clinton Foundation wielded while Hillary Clinton was Secretary of State.

White House spokesman Josh Earnest said My Brother's Keeper Alliance will be responsible for determining its own fundraising policies.—Reuters

US warships accompany British commercial vessels in Strait — Pentagon

WASHINGTON, 5 May — US Navy warships have begun accompanying British-flagged commercial vessels through the Strait of Hormuz as a result of Iran's detention of a Marshall Islands-flagged cargo ship last week, the Pentagon said on Monday.

Army Colonel Steve Warren, a Pentagon spokesman, said the US Navy had accompanied one British ship through the strait, one of the world's most important oil shipping channels, following talks between Washington and London.

"They've asked if we would accompany their flagged vessels through the strait," Warren told reporters.

The Navy has been accompanying US-flagged ships traversing the strait for several days in response to last week's detention of the *MV Maersk Tigris* by Iranian Revolutionary Guard patrol boats. Pentagon officials say the action is a temporary one as a result of recent Iranian actions in the waterway.

The *Maersk Tigris* was approached by Iranian patrol vessels last Tuesday and ordered into Iranian waters. The ship's master initially declined and an Iranian vessel fired shots across its bow and forced it to divert to near Larak Island off the port of Bandar Abbas.

The *Maersk Tigris* remains there as a result of what Iranian officials have said is a court order based on a commercial dispute.

The incident comes at a time of heightened tensions in the region as a result of the conflict in Yemen between Iranian-backed rebels and the Saudi-backed government. The United States is supporting the Saudi-led coalition.

US officials said the Navy began accompanying US-flagged vessels in the strait in part because Iranian patrol boats had shadowed a US-flagged commercial ship going through the vital waterway a few days before the *Maersk Tigris* was detained.

Reuters

Labour and Conservatives tied again ahead of UK election

LONDON, 5 May — Ahead of Britain's parliamentary election on Thursday, Prime Minister David Cameron's Conservatives and the opposition Labour Party are tied at 33 percent, according to a YouGov opinion poll for the *Sun* newspaper published on Monday. The poll showed Conservatives down 1 percentage point from Sunday versus Labour who remained unchanged, polling company YouGov said.

The election is expected to be the tightest in decades.

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

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



Britain's opposition Labour Party leader Ed Miliband shakes hands with a supporter as he leaves after delivering a speech to supporters at a Citizens UK election assembly in London, Britain on 4 May, 2015.—REUTERS

WORLD

Nigeria's Boko Haram in disarray as government forces advance

MALKOHI, (Nigeria), 5 May — Boko Haram is fracturing as shortages of weapons and fuel foment tensions between its foot soldiers and leaders, women rescued from the Islamist jihadi fighters by Nigerian troops told *Reuters*.

The group abducted an estimated 2,000 women and girls last year as it sought to carve out an Islamic state in the northeast of Africa's biggest economy. The army has freed nearly 700 in the past week as it advances on Boko Haram's last stronghold in the vast Sambisa forest.

The militants began complaining to their captives about lacking

guns and ammunition last month, two of the women said, and many were reduced to carrying sticks while some of their vehicles were either broken down or lacked gasoline.

A 45-year old mother of two, Aisha Abbas, who was taken from Dikwa in April, said the fighters all had guns at first but recently, only some carried them.

Even the wife of their captors' leader, Adam Bitri, openly criticized him and subsequently fled, two of the women said, with one describing Bitri as short and fat with a beard.

Of 275 freed captives brought to a government-run camp for internally displaced people

in the Malkohi hamlet on the outskirts of Adamawa state capital, Yola, only 61 were over 18, and many small children hobbled around visibly malnourished. The women said they were kept inside, occasionally brought food and sometimes beaten severely. The children were left to run around or do errands for Boko Haram while those of the fighters were trained to shoot guns. "One evening in April, Boko Haram followers stood before us and said 'Our leaders don't want to give us enough fuel and guns and now the soldiers are encroaching on us in Sambisa. We will leave you.'" one of the women, 18-year old Binta Ibrahim



Women and children rescued from Boko Haram in Sambisa forest by Nigeria Military arrives at the Internally displaced people's camp in Yola, Adamawa State, Nigeria on 2 May, 2015.—REUTERS

from northern Adamawa state said. "They threat-

ened us but after they went the soldiers would come we were happy and prayed and save us."—Reuters

Rwanda says alarmed by Burundi unrest as refugees stream across border

KIGALI, 5 May — Rwanda's foreign minister said on Tuesday she was concerned about neighbouring Burundi's clampdown on more than a week of protests against its president's decision to seek a third term in office. President Pierre Nkurunziza's announcement that he would stand in a June 26 vote has plunged Burundi into its worst political crisis since its ethnically fuelled civil war that pitted majority Hutus against minority Tutsis from 1993 to 2005.

At least 24,000 mostly Tutsis have fled to Rwanda fearing another outbreak of ethnic strife, say officials. The unrest has particularly worried Rwanda, still scarred by its 1994 genocide that killed more than 800,000 Tutsis and moderate Hutus. "While we respect Burundi's sovereignty in addressing internal matters, Rwanda considers the safety of innocent population as a regional and international responsibility," Rwanda's foreign affairs minister, Louise Mushikiwabo, said.

"We appeal to leaders of Burundi to do everything



Protesters hold placards as they demonstrate against the ruling CNDD-FDD party's decision to allow Burundi President Pierre Nkurunziza to run for a third five-year term in office, in Bujumbura, on 4 May, 2015.—REUTERS

in their power to bring the country back to a peaceful situation," she added in a statement.

Civil society groups say at least 12 people have been killed during Burundi's protests, while police put the number at six, including three members of the security forces.

Small groups of protesters were back on the streets of Bujumbura on Tuesday, keeping their distance from

the police. Tyres smouldered and rocks were strewn over the roads from previous clashes. Police have fired tear gas, water cannon and, say demonstrators, live rounds, a charge the police denies. Nkurunziza's opponents accuse him of breaking a two-term limits set out in the constitution and the Arusha peace deal that ended the civil war. His supporters say his first term doesn't count as he was chosen by parlia-

ment, not by a popular vote.

US Secretary of State John Kerry, who is in the region for talks, told a news conference in Nairobi on Monday the decision to seek a third term "flies directly in the face" of Burundi's constitution. Nkurunziza, a former Hutu rebel leader, has called the protests an "insurrectional movement" and warned of tough steps against those behind the demonstrations.—Reuters

Somalia Islamists storm Puntland police station, kill three: police

BOSASSO, 5 May — Somalia's al Shabaab militants stormed a police station in the country's semi-autonomous region of Puntland and killed three policemen late on Monday, police said.

Several militants from the Islamist group were also killed during the brief siege of the police station in Yalho village, near the port town of Bosasso, police said.

"Al Shabaab attacked us with rocket-propelled grenades and machine guns last night. They briefly captured the station and killed three of my colleagues," Major Ismail Aden, a local police officer, told *Reuters* on Tuesday.

"We later came with reinforcement and recaptured the station, and we killed several of the militants," he said.

Al Shabaab's military spokesman confirmed the group's involvement in the attack, and said it had

killed five police.

Al Shabaab, which has links to al-Qaeda, has frequently carried out attacks in Somalia and neighbouring countries as it seeks to impose its strict interpretation of Islamic law and overthrow the Somali government, which is backed by Western donors and African peacekeepers.

The group, which once controlled Mogadishu and large chunks of territory in other regions, was driven out of the capital in 2011 and has been losing ground since then. But it has continued to launch attacks, including several across the border in Kenya.

"We captured the police station and... we killed five policemen," the group's military spokesman, Sheikh Abdiasis Abu Musab, told *Reuters* on Monday.

The militants and local authorities often cite different numbers of casualties.—Reuters

Suspected cattle rustlers kill 45 in northwest Kenya: administrator

ISOLO, (Kenya), 5 May — Suspected cattle rustlers ambushed and killed at least 45 people in a village in northwest Kenya, then drove away hundreds of livestock, a regional administrator said.

Military officers and police were pursuing the gunmen who raided the village of Nadome on the border of Turkana and Pokot counties, on Monday, Rift Valley regional commissioner Osman Warfa said.

Cattle rustling and clashes over grazing and farming land are common in arid areas of east Africa and have been fueled by an influx of weapons from Somalia in recent years.

At least 14 people also died in a fight between two

pastoralist communities on Monday, on the borders of Kenya's northern Samburu and Marsabit counties, the regional manager for the Kenya Red Cross, Mugambi Gitonga, said.

"We have collected 14 bodies from the two

scenes. Nine people with serious injuries have been airlifted to hospital in Nairobi," he added.

Samburu shares borders with Turkana county, which in turn borders South Sudan, Uganda and Ethiopia. In 2013, more

than 100 people were killed when two rival communities fought each other for weeks over land and water resources in the Tana River area. Police said the clashes were incited by a local politician.

Reuters



Wednesday, 6 May, 2015

Look deeper to realize the root cause of a problem

By Aung Khin

Knowing the root cause of problems in many cases helps people solve them. Although there never is a “silver bullet” solution to achieve a certain effect, we should look deeper to figure out what’s causing the problem and then we can fix the underlying systems and processes.

Looking deeper to identify the root cause needs fair and decisive judgment of the findings so that the process can be developed. Identifying

the origin of a problem can help determine what happened, why it happened and figure out the ways to lessen the impacts.

It has been accepted that every organization is not perfect amid emerging challenges everywhere. Moreover, causes and impacts are interrelated. Any action in a certain sector can trigger an action in another, and so on. In society, for example, the health care system is related to the education system, the economic system and so on.

If any system is found to be weak, the responsible persons should track back the existing actions and policies to discover where the problem started and how it grew into the effects we are now facing. In doing so, fair judgments are required to make the cause transparent.

Some causes for ineffective policies or systems include a lack of infrastructure and financial support; deficiencies such as a lack of proficient policy-makers and a shortage of skilled

workers; and the failure of organizational management, especially in making wrong decisions.

Actions must be taken along with investigating the patterns of negative effects, finding hidden flaws in a system or policy and identifying specific actions that contributed to the problem.

If the root causes for bad results are found, they should not be concealed by intimacy or fear. The root causes for failures might be committed by others or by us, but no one should be excused.

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.

Law – Quite a challenging subject to learn

U Khin Maung (A retired diplomat)

First, may I assert that law is quite a challenging subject to learn. Second, law is a very important subject, in the sense that it is a universal concern, the concern of the citizens, organizations, associations, states, etc. Here, the word “concern” means something that is important to a person or an organization, association or a state, etc. Further-

more, I would like to stress that nobody is above the law and to this legal maxim, I would like to add some others which I have learnt: equality before the law, law applies to the ruler and the ruled. And as law is a universal concern, at least basic knowledge of law or common sense is quite essential. Nobody can argue that I have done such a wrongful act, as I

don’t know anything about law. Thus, we have a legal maxim, “ignorance of law is no excuse.” With this knowledge I have gained through my learning, I would like to present my views about law and its necessity for the citizens, organizations, associations, states, etc, as follows.

The rule of law

The rule of law means “equality before the law, fair play, uniformity of laws for all-private citizens and public officials alike. It also means that disputes and differences that are amenable to legal settlement will be taken to the courts and peaceably settled.” “And law and order is often equated with the rule of law. So, I would like to say that law is a necessity for the citizens, for the organizations, associations, for the states, etc, so as to enjoy peace, progress, prosperity, harmony and development, such as economic development, technological development, etc. Law here means both law of the land or municipal law and international law.”

Law is too wide a subject that study of law is quite challenging and interesting as well. In this connection, may I submit my own experience. While I was serving as a minister-counsellor in Myanmar embassy in Beijing, China, one day, I had a discussion with a Chinese official about the international law in general and the “United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea in particular. Fortunately, I had been assigned to attend some

sessions of the United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea. So, I explained to the Chinese official about the convention as far as I could remember. The Chinese official seemed to be impressed with my briefing and out of courtesy, he said “Oh, Mr. Maung, you are a law expert”. I replied “Thank you sir, for your appreciation, actually, I am not a law expert, I consider myself as a law student”. Then, the Chinese official said, “Oh, You are quite old sir.” Why do you call yourself a law student?” Then, I asked him, “What do you call a person, who is studying a subject?” Slowly, and with a smile, he replied, “a student”. We both enjoyed our meeting and both of us were happy and pleased.

Law of the land or municipal law

Law of the land is explained in “Black’s Law Dictionary” as the law in effect in a country and applicable to its members, whether the law is statutory, administrative, or case-made. Law of the land is also called municipal law, domestic law. In short, we can say there are various kinds of laws of the land; and to mention just a few, penal code, criminal procedure code, civil procedure code, contract act, sea customs act, Myanmar companies act, etc. In passing, I would like to present to your our Myanmar culture and custom. Being friendly, hospitable and peace-loving are some characteristics of our culture and custom. And “the

main aim of Myanmar traditional justice is to achieve peace and harmony in society”. So, our main aim in solving disputes is “let amity be enduring and enmity be ephemeral”. Because, we believe that a man may not live one hundred years, but he may come across over one hundred cases. And, Myanmar people are happy-go-lucky sorts of persons. With such an attitude, we accept and practise the principle, “Let the graver offences be mitigated and the smaller ones be peacefully settled”.

International Law

There are two kinds of international laws, international customary law and conventional international law or multilateral treaty. In essence, the international law deals with the question of relations between states and not between individuals. In other words, international law is a law that governs inter-state relations. And, international law, by this strict and narrow test, is not law because it is not enacted by parliament, nor inherited as “existing law”. It is largely by this test, the international customary law, is the law which guides the nations in their dealings with one another”.

Conventional international law essentially means an agreement or compact especially one among nations, a multilateral treaty. United Nations Convention on the law of the sea, United Nations Convention on the rights of the child. Vienna Convention on the diplomatic relations. Vienna Convention on the consular rela-

tions are just a few examples.

Conclusion

In studying a law, I think, a person should study both the letter and the spirit of the law. “Letter of the law is defined in the Black’s Law Dictionary as the strictly literal meaning of the law, rather the intention or policy behind it. Spirit of the law is also defined in the same dictionary as the general meaning or purpose of the law, as opposed to its literal “content”. Therefore, to be a good lawyer, I think, a person should go on learning constantly to have an in-depth understanding of the law, letter and spirit as well. In conclusion, may I quote the internationally renowned and respected legal scholar and expert, the “Honorable DR. Maung Maung”. “Law is not or must not be reduced to mere words in statute books and legal decisions but is or should be an active, ceaseless social process that runs like a nerve system in the living society. Living laws are needed for a living society and the blood stream of law needs to be constantly renewed and nourished, so that it may accommodate the change in its continuity and youth in its age”.

Reference

- (1) Law and custom in Burma (Myanmar) and the Burmese (Myanmar) family. DR. Maung Maung
- (2) Black’s Law Dictionary
- (3) Oxford Advanced Learner’s Dictionary
- (4) မြန်မာ-အင်္ဂလိပ်အဘိဓာန် (မြန်မာစာအုပ်.)

Public information for remonstration

Inn Ethnic League headquartered on West Sabin Street in Winyat Ward, Nyaungshwe, Shan State, registered by the Union Election Commission as a political party under the Article 5 of the Political Parties Registration Law, submitted an application on 5-5-2015 with title, flag and emblem of the party as below.

It is hereby announced that those who want to remonstrate with the UEC about the party’s title, flag and emblem may submit a complaint along with the strong evidences within seven days starting from issuance of this announcement in line with Section 14 (d) of the Political Parties Registration Rules.

Flag of Inn Ethnic League



Emblem of Inn Ethnic League



Union Election Commission

LOCAL NEWS

Primary assistant teachers under training



MYANAUNG, 5 May — A basic primary teachers course for graduate teachers was opened at the hall of Basic Education High School in Myanaung.

Children under five receive birth registration in Myanaung Tsp

MYANAUNG, 5 May — The birth registration week activity was launched at the people's hospital in Myanaung, Ayeyawady River, on 4 May. Township Medical Officer Dr Maung Maung Chit and Head of Township Immigration and National Registration Department U Tin Myaing spoke about plans to deliver birth registration for children under five in wards and village-tracts up to 8 May. They viewed issuing of birth registration and birth certificates to the children in urban area.

Win Bo (Myanaung)



New lamp-posts, power lines installed in ChaungU Township

CHAUNGU, 5 May — Electricians of ChaungU Township Electrical Engineer's Office in Sagaing Region replaced old wooden lamp-posts with new concrete ones in the last week of April.



Township electrical engineer U Kyaw Lwin Oo said, "Our department has substituted 65 wooden lamp-posts with concrete ones in Myoma, Myothit, Yanaungmyay and Tamayang wards. Moreover, electricians installed ABC wires for safety of power lines."

Sagaing Region electrical engineer U Thein Tun Win gave directives to electricians of the township to install new power lines and substitute the lamp-posts from 1 to 26 April.—Township IPRD (ChaungU)

New wooden bridge benefits rural residents in Mahlaing Tsp

MAHLAING, 5 May — Pyithu Hluttaw MP U Aye Mauk of Mahlaing Township together with township authorities inspected progress of "Aye Myitta Phayusin" wooden bridge in Shwesukhin Village in Mahlaing Township, Mandalay Region, recently.

Township Department of Rural Development assigned duty to Tun

Tauk Yaungni Company to build a 320-foot-long and 14-foot-wide wooden bridge with K160 million fund in 2014-15 fiscal year.

The bridge can withstand 13-ton of loads.

The bridge gives smooth access to local residents from villages around the bridge.

Aung Htay (Mahlaing)



Police discuss security measures to be taken during election 2015

PYINMANA, 5 May — A workshop on security measures for 2015 election took place at the Dhammayon of Pyinmana Township Police Force on Tuesday.

Chairman of Township Election Sub-commission U Aung Myint spoke about preparations for holding a free and fair election in 2015. He stressed the police need to solve the problems under the election law and rules.

Commander of the township police force Police



Major Tin Moe Oo urged police to observe electoral processes and take security measures in the election.

Police officers of the workshop participated in the discussions.

Zaw Myo Naing

Election sub-commission allows people to check voter list

MANDALAY, 5 May — Mandalay Region election sub-commission and civic social organizations held a meeting at the sub-commission office in Mandalay on 4 May.

The meeting focused on processes of a campaign to announce voter lists for 20 townships from 1 to 14 June.

"It is necessary to distribute vinyls, pamphlets

and posters depicting announcement of voter lists in advance. Officials are to urge local residents to check their voter lists. Moreover, venues for announcement of voter lists must be accessible for voters," said Chairman of Mandalay Region Election Sub-commission U Aung Htut.

Ko Zaw Zin Maung Soe (a) Ko Hsee Hsar Nyi

Nyi of election monitoring network (Mandalay) said that the meeting was transparent for media. Only when the election sub-commission will be independent, will the election be free and fair, he added. The region election sub-commission will hold a meeting on electoral process with CSOs, political parties and media on 25 May.

Aung Ye Thwin

Asian shares slip, Aussie dollar volatile after rate cut, China concerns

HONG KONG, 5 May — Asian stock markets retreated on Tuesday and the Australian dollar stumbled after the central bank cut interest rates for the second time in four months as the region's growth falters in the face of slowing demand from China.

Financial spreadbetters expected European markets to open mixed, with Britain's FTSE 100 .FTSE likely to open 0.7 percent higher, Germany's DAX .GDAXI seen 0.2 percent lower and France's CAC 40 .FCHI seen down 0.1 percent.

The Reserve Bank of Australia cut its cash rate a quarter point to an all-time low of 2.0 percent to buttress



A pedestrian is reflected in the window of the Australian Securities Exchange with boards displaying stock movements, in central Sydney on 24 Sept, 2014.

REUTERS

the economy against slowing mining investment and push the stubbornly strong local dollar lower, in line

with market expectations.

The Australian dollar fell a quarter of a cent initially, but then quickly

rebounded as some investors bet the RBA's current easing cycle might now be over.

"Cautious and uncertain households mean rate cuts are less effective today," said Jasmin Argyrou, senior investment manager at Aberdeen Asset Management.

"A low AUD is still the best chance of rebooting the economy, but for that to happen the RBA will need to leave the cash rate at record lows, and for a record length of time," Argyrou said referring to the Australian dollar.

Australian stocks .AXJO ended flat, while the Australian dollar AUD=D3 was changing hands at

\$0.7908 in volatile trade.

MSCI's broadest index of Asia-Pacific shares outside Japan .MIAPJ0000PUS extended losses and was down 0.5 percent.

In China, benchmark stock indices fell between 1 to 3 percent, led by financials as media reports of tougher margin requirements added to concerns about market liquidity ahead of a new batch of share listings.

Liquidity was lacking with markets in Japan, South Korea and Thailand on holiday and little in the way of major economic data on the docket for Tuesday. This week's most anticipated data, US payrolls, will be released on Friday.—Reuters

Japan to return to int'l coffee pact amid competition

TOKYO, 5 May — Japan will return to the International Coffee Agreement as early as this month for the first time in six years to secure a stable supply of coffee beans amid fierce competition on the back of increasing consumption in South Korea and China, diplomatic and other sources said on Monday.

The agreement, signed in 1962 with the aim of adjusting demand and supply and maintaining stable prices, now involves 46 exporting and importing countries and the European Union, but Japan ditched it in 2009 to save fees as prices had long been stable.

An upper house plenary session will approve and clear the way for the return later this month, as Japan's industry group seeks to remain a member of the Private Sector Consultative Board of the agreement, which is advantageous to learn the latest situations in producing regions, the sources said.

The All Japan Coffee Association is among the 16 board members — eight each from producing and consuming countries — whose term will expire in September. The seats will be refilled through consultation with participating countries.

Japan, the fourth-largest coffee consuming country in the world, is concerned that its industry association may lose its post as its rivals from South Korea and China have shown a willingness to join the board, even as these countries are not parties to the agreement, the sources said.

The price of raw coffee beans has fluctuated since 2010 due to growing consumption in emerging nations, with total consumption in China, South Korea and Russia increasing 30 percent since 2009, according to the Japanese Foreign Ministry.

When Japan pulled out of the pact, it regarded its annual contribution of around 20 million yen (\$166,000) as "wasteful" and did not forecast the later surge in global demand, the sources said.

Kyodo News

Overweight diabetes patients outlive slimmer ones



File photo of an overweight woman in Times Square in New York, on 8 May, 2012.

REUTERS

NEW YORK, 5 May — Patients with type-2 diabetes who are overweight but not obese outlive diabetics of normal weight, scientists reported on Monday, in another example of the "obesity paradox." Although public health officials issue dire warnings about the consequences of overweight, and employers are pressuring workers to slim down via "wellness programmes," the relationship between weight and longevity is paradoxical: Studies show that although obesity increases the risk of developing cardiovascular disease (CVD), overweight patients with CVD live longer than patients of normal weight. Similarly, obesity increases the chances of developing type-2 diabetes. But it wasn't clear if overweight confers a survival advantage in diabetics.

Sixteen previous studies got conflicting answers: Some found overweight diabetics had lower mortality; others didn't. But many were hobbled by methodological problems including few patients, short follow-up, or using questionnaires rather than clinic records.

The new study tried to do better. Researchers led by Drs Stephen Atkin and

Pierluigi Costanzo of Britain's University of Hull followed 10,568 patients with type-2 diabetes for an average of nearly 11 years.

Although overweight and obese patients had an increased risk of heart attacks and strokes, they were more likely to stay alive than normal-weight diabetics, the researchers reported in *Annals of Internal Medicine*.

(Overweight is defined as a body mass index of 25 to 29.9, which would be 146 to 174 pounds for someone 5 feet 4 inches. Normal weight means a BMI of 18.5 to 24.9, or 108 to 145 pounds at that height.) Underweight diabetics had the highest risk of dying during the study, with nearly three times the mortality of normal-weight patients. Overweight patients had the best survival, being 13 percent less likely to die than normal-weight or obese diabetics. That result was at odds with a 2014 study in the *New England Journal of Medicine* that found no survival advantage with extra pounds. That study, however, used the upper end of normal weight as the comparison. If it had used the full range of 18.5 to 24.9, Costanzo said, "it's likely" the results "would have been similar to ours." One way extra pounds might keep diabetics alive longer is if overweight protects against frailty and osteoporosis, which can kill. Alternatively, diabetes in lean people might take an especially lethal form. "It's likely those diabetic patients with normal weight have a more aggressive form of type-2 diabetes compared to those who are overweight and obese," Costanzo said.—Reuters

Brent crude slips towards \$66 on Saudi plan to halt Yemen bombing

SINGAPORE, 5 May — Brent crude oil futures slipped towards \$66 a barrel on Tuesday, falling from a 2015 high, as Saudi Arabia considered halting bombing in Yemen to allow the delivery of aid, which eased concerns about oil supply from the Middle East.

A stronger US dollar also weighed on the dollar-denominated commodity, while investors waited for data on US commercial crude oil inventories later this week for more direction.

Brent crude oil futures were down 5 cents at \$66.40 a barrel at 0357 GMT, after touching a 2015 high of \$67.10 on Monday.

US crude oil futures fell by 6 cents to \$58.87 a barrel.

"The stronger US dollar and also news out of Saudi Arabia that they are halting the bombings in Yemen are two push-pull factors affecting the oil prices at the moment," said Ben Le Brun, a market analyst at OptionsX-

press in Sydney.

The Saudi foreign minister said on Monday the Saudi-led Arab alliance conducting air strikes against Houthi fighters in Yemen was considering calling a truce in specific areas to allow humanitarian supplies to reach the country.

Phillip Futures Energy analysts do not expect prices to change by more than 1 percent on Tuesday as long as geopolitical tensions remain the same.

Investors are also waiting for inventory data out of the United States later this week, Le Brun said. "Obviously if we see a further tightening in supplies in the US, then that might be a catalyst to drive prices higher."

A Reuters poll on Monday suggested commercial crude stockpiles had risen nearly 2 million barrels last week, building for a record 17th straight week.

Industry group the American Petroleum Insti-

tute will issue its own expectations for last week's stockpiles on Tuesday, before official data from the government's Energy Information Administration on Wednesday.

Investors are also waiting for the US nonfarm payrolls report for April due on Friday for clues on when the Federal Reserve may raise interest rates.

Still, oil price losses were limited by concern about supply out of Libya, with protesters shutting down the eastern Libyan port of Zueitina, one of the few Libyan ports still exporting oil.

Libyan oil production has fallen to less than 500,000 barrels a day, a third of what it used to pump in 2010. A US delegation will visit Iran this week to review energy investment opportunities as Teheran negotiates a final deal with world powers on its nuclear programme.—Reuters



An oil field is seen at sunrise near Bakersfield, California on 14 Oct, 2014.

REUTERS

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

The path to a wearable future lies in academia

SAN FRANCISCO, 5 May — For a glimpse of what is, what might have been and what may lie ahead in wearable devices, look beyond branded tech and Silicon Valley start-ups to the messy labs, dry papers and solemn conferences of academia.

There you'd find that you might control your smartphone with your tongue, skin or brain; you won't just 'touch' others through a smart Watch but through the air; and you'll change how food tastes by tinkering with sound, weight and colour.

Much of today's wearable technology has its roots in these academic papers, labs and clunky prototypes, and the boffins responsible rarely get the credit some feel they deserve.

Any academic interested in wearable technology would look at today's commercial products and say "we did that 20 years ago," said Aaron Quigley, Chair of Human Interaction at University of St. Andrews in Scotland.

Take multi-touch — where you use more than one finger to interact with a screen: Apple popularized it with the iPhone in 2007, but Japanese academic Jun Rekimoto used something similar years before.

And the Apple

Watch? Its Digital Touch feature allows you to send doodles, 'touches' or your heartbeat to other users. Over a decade ago, researcher Eric Paulos developed something very similar, called Connexus, that allowed users to send messages via a wrist device using strokes, taps and touch.

"I guess when we say none of this is new, it's not so much trashing the product," says Paul Strohmeier, a researcher at Ontario's Human Media Lab, "but more pointing out that this product has its origins in the research of scientists who most people will never hear of, and it's a way of acknowledging their contributions."

Those contributions aren't all pie-in-the-sky.

Strohmeier and others are toying with how to make devices easier to interact with. His solution: DisplaySkin, a screen that wraps around the wrist like a vambrace, or armguard, adapting its display relative to the user's eyeballs.

Other academics are more radical: finger gestures in the air, for example, or a ring that knows which device you've picked up and automatically activates it. Others use the surrounding skin — projecting buttons onto it or pinching and squeezing it. Another glues a tiny touchpad to a fingernail so you can scroll by running one finger over another.

Then there's connect-

ing to people, rather than devices.

Mutual understanding might grow, researchers believe, by conveying otherwise hidden information: a collar that glows if the wearer has, say, motion sickness, or a two-person seat that lights up when one occupant has warm feelings for the other.

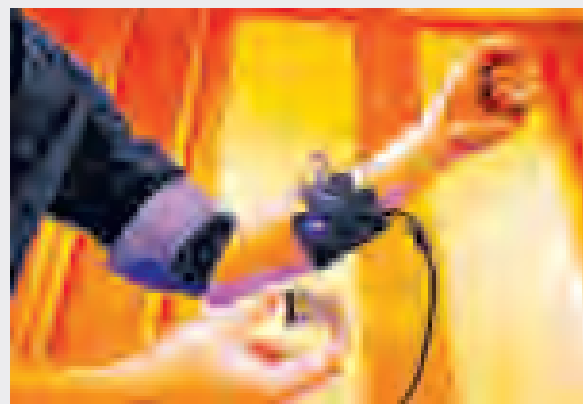
And if you could convey non-verbal signals, why not transmit them over the 'multisensory Internet'? Away on business? Send a remote hug to your child's pyjamas; or deliver an aroma from one phone to another via a small attachment; or even, according to researchers from Britain at a conference in South Korea last month, transmit tactile

sensations to another person through the air.

And if you can transmit senses, why not alter them?

Academics at a recent Singapore conference focused on altering the flavour of food. Taste, it seems, is not just a matter of the tongue, it's also influenced by auditory, visual and tactile cues. A Japanese team made food seem heavier, and its flavour change, by secretly adding weights to a fork, while a pair of British academics used music, a virtual reality headset and colour to make similar food seem sourer or sweeter to the eater.

Reuters



Junnishida of Tsukuba University of Japan shows his creation: the NEUROHack, a wearable device that allows wearers to share their kinesthesia, the awareness of the position and movement of the parts of the body by means of electrical signals sent out by nerves in the contraction of muscles, during a design competition showcasing wearable technology at the Augmented Human International Conference in Singapore, in this 10 March, 2015 file photo.—REUTERS

Facebook opens Internet.org to developers amid open web debate in India



Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg speaks during his keynote address at Facebook F8 in San Francisco, California on 25 March, 2015.—REUTERS

MUMBAI, 5 May — Facebook Inc (FB.O) opened up its Internet.org platform to new websites and applications from developers on Monday, a move the social media giant said would boost efforts to get people online in low-income and rural areas in emerging markets.

However, the decision drew criticism from some online activists in India who expressed concern over Facebook's control over all data accessed on the service and said it violated the principles of an open web.

Internet.org offers free access via mobile phones to pared-down web services, focused on job listings, agricultural information, healthcare and education, as well as Facebook's own social network and messaging services. It has been launched in nine countries in Africa, Latin America and Asia, including India,

bringing over 8 million people online, said Chris Daniels, vice president of product for Internet.org, who was in New Delhi to speak with partners and operators.

The platform will be open to all developers who meet certain guidelines, including that they produce content that can be browsed on both basic mobile phones as well as smartphones and is accessible in limited bandwidth situations, Facebook said. The US company partnered with Reliance Communications (RLCM.NS) to launch Internet.org in India in February.

But a number of e-commerce firms and content developers pulled out of the service after activists claimed it violated principles of net neutrality — the concept that all websites on the internet are treated equally.—Reuters



Xu Weilong shows a model of China's first moon rover Jade Rabbit at his aerospace exhibition hall in Shijiazhuang, capital of north China's Hebei Province, on 1 May, 2015. The 45-year-old Xu Weilong is a space enthusiast in Shijiazhuang. In 2014 he build an aerospace exhibition hall of his own at an abandoned factory in rural Shijiazhuang and opened it for free to the public. Items on display at Xu's exhibition hall include a complete set of aircraft instrumentation engine system, spacesuit and experience tank of the Shenzhou spacecraft etc.—XINHUA

Gigantic whales have nerves like bungee cords

WASHINGTON, 5 May — Nerves in general are not very extensible, while "nerve stretch injury" is a common form of nerve trauma in humans. But Canadian and US researchers said on Monday rorqual whales have nerves in their mouths and tongues that can stretch like bungee cords.

"This discovery was totally unexpected and unlike other nerve structures we've seen in vertebrates, which are of a more fixed length," study author Wayne Vogl of the University of British Columbia (UBC) said in a statement.

The elastic nerves, which can more than double their length with no trouble, support the animals' unique and extreme lunge feeding strategy, the researchers reported in the US journal *Current Biology*.

Rorqual whales represent the largest group among baleen whales weighing 40 to 80 tons, and include blue whales and fin whales.

To eat, the whales open their mouths and lunge while their tongues invert and their mouths fill like giant water balloons full of floating prey.

Those prey are concentrated by slowly expelling the water through baleen plates. The volume of water brought in with a single gulp can exceed the volume of the whale itself.

"Rorqual whales attained large body size with the evolution of a bulk filter feeding mechanism based on engulfing huge volumes of prey-laden water," Vogl said. "This required major changes in anatomy of the tongue and ventral blubber to allow large deformation, and now we recognize that

this also required major modifications in the structure of nerves in these tissues so they could withstand the tissue deformation."

Vogl and his team made the discovery after one of the researchers picked up a white cord-like structure in their lab and found it can stretch.

At first, they assumed that it was a blood vessel, which ought to be stretchy, but realized upon closer inspection that it was a nerve.

The nerves of other species are generally surrounded by a thin collagen wall, and any stretch can pull and damage the nerves.

In the whales, the nerve cells in the whales are packaged inside a central core in such a way that the nerve fibers simply unfold. A very thick and stretchy outer wall, full of elastin fibers like

elastic bands, surrounds that nerve core.

The researchers planned to keep studying the whales' nerves in greater detail, in hopes of understanding better how the nerve core is folded to allow its rapid unpacking and re-packing during the feeding process.

"This discovery underscores how little we know about even the basic anatomy of the largest animals alive in the oceans today," said co-author Nick Pyenson, a former UBC post-doctoral researcher currently at the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History.

"Our findings add to the growing list of evolutionary solutions that whales evolved in response to new challenges faced in marine environments over millions of years."—Xinhua

Costa Rica international airport to reopen Tuesday after volcano ash cleared



Empty ticket counters are seen at Juan Santamaria International Airport in Alajuela on 23 April, 2015.
REUTERS

SAN JOSE, 5 May — Costa Rica's international airport is set to reopen on Tuesday morning after the eruption of a nearby volcano blanketed runways with ash, forcing its closure overnight.

The airport, the largest in the tourist hot spot, will resume operations at 6:00 am local time, said airport official Silvia Chaves, adding that 13 flights had been delayed, cancelled or re-

routed.

The Turrialba volcano began erupting Monday afternoon, spewing thick black clouds of ash more than 8,200 feet (2,500 meters) into the sky. Winds pushed the ash towards the capital San Jose, some 31 miles (50 km) away.

Ash can affect the safety of flights during takeoff and landing as well as damage engines.

Reuters

M7.5 quake strikes PNG, no Pacific-wide tsunami threat

SYDNEY, 5 May — A strong earthquake with a magnitude of 7.5 struck Papua New Guinea on Tuesday, but no tsunami alert was issued for the wider Pacific region and experts said the threat to coasts located near the quake's epicenter has largely passed.

The quake struck at 11:44 am, local time, with its epicenter in the Pomio region of New Britain Island, about 130 kilometers south-southwest of the northeastern town of Kokopo, according to the US Geological Survey, which monitors global seismic activity.

In its revised estimates, the USGS raised the quake's magnitude to 7.5 from 7.4 and measured its depth at 42 km, down from 54 km.

The Hawaii-based Pacific Tsunami Warning Centre had earlier said tsunami waves were possible for some coasts of Papua New Guinea, but it later said that threat "has now largely passed."

Pomio, the southeastern district of East New

Britain Province where Tuesday's quake had its epicenter, has experienced significant seismic activity in recent weeks, including at M7.5 quake that struck on 29 March and was followed by more than two dozen M5-plus quakes.

Chris McKee, the assistant director of the Geophysical Observatory located in the PNG capital Port Moresby, told *Kyodo News* the quake-affected area is "lightly populated" and he had not heard any reports of serious damage.

McKee said he was not particularly concerned about the number of recent earthquakes in the area as it is one of the most seismically active areas on the planet.

Three dozen quakes exceeding M7 have been recorded with a 250 km radius over the past century, including an M8.1 one in July 1971, according to the USGS, which said the latest quake occurred as the result of thrust faulting on or near the boundary between the Pacific and Australian tectonic plates.

Kyodo News

Bad weather disrupts links with avalanche-hit Nepal village

KATHMANDU, 5 May — Bad weather has cut links with a remote village in Nepal where dozens of villagers and trekkers are believed to be buried under an avalanche set off by last month's devastating earthquake, officials said on Tuesday.

The death toll from the 25 April earthquake in the Himalayan nation has reached 7,557, the government said.

About 100 bodies were recovered on Saturday and Sunday at Langtang village, 60 km (37 miles) north of Kathmandu, which is on a trekking route popular with Westerners. The entire village, which includes 55 guesthouses for trekkers, was wiped out by the avalanche and rescuers are digging in the snow for signs of about 120 others believed buried.

Gautam Rimal, assistant chief district officer in the area where Langtang is located, said authorities had not made contact with Langtang for more 24 hours because of bad weather.

"We hope to send a rescue helicopter today (Tuesday) to the area," he said. "We'll know the situation then."

The dead include at least seven foreigners, but only two had been identified, he said.

The government has begun asking foreign

teams to wrap up search and rescue operations as hopes of finding people alive in the rubble receded.

"They can leave. If they are also specialists in clearing the rubble, they can stay," Rameshwor Dangal, an official at Nepal's home ministry, told *Reuters* on Monday.

A European Union source said only about 60 citizens from the 28-nation bloc were still unaccounted for. Last week a senior EU official had estimated around 1,000 EU citizens were missing after the quake.

The number is "going down by the hour" as rescue teams reach remoter areas, the EU source said.

A US State Department spokesman said helicopters chartered by the embassy in Kathmandu had rescued 17 US citizens in total from remote areas hit by the quake. The United States has provided \$14.2 million in humanitarian aid since the quake.

The government has said it has not closed Mount Everest, the world's highest peak, to climbers, although the route to the summit has been damaged by the earthquake. At least 18 people were killed on Everest when the earthquake struck.

Climbers pay \$11,000 each to climb Everest, and 357 were registered for this climbing season.

Last year, the government extended permits when teams abandoned their expeditions after an avalanche killed 16 Sherpa mountain guides.

The United Nations has said 8 million of Nepal's 28 million people were affected by the quake, with at least 2 million needing tents, water, food and medicines over the next three months.

The United Nations Children's Fund said more than half a million children were being vaccinated to prevent measles outbreaks. Around 1.7 million children remain in urgent need of humanitarian aid in the worst-hit areas, it added.

Reuters



Nepal military personnel and earthquake survivors search for belongings in collapsed houses in Sankhu, on the outskirts of Kathmandu, Nepal on 5 May, 2015.—REUTERS

Most Americans believe US wealth distribution unfair: poll

WASHINGTON, 5 May — Sixty-three percent of Americans believe that distribution of wealth in their country is unfair, despite the growing focus on inequality in recent years, a Gallup poll showed on Monday.

These attitudes are substantially unchanged over the past 30 years as 60 percent of Americans held the same view back in 1984, Gallup said in a report on the 9-12 April survey. Only 31 percent said the distribution of money and wealth in the United States is fair.

Americans' views that money and wealth need to be more evenly distributed

reached a high point of 68 percent in 2008, just before the recession. Americans became slightly less likely to agree with the idea in surveys conducted in 2009, 2011 and 2013, according to Gallup.

Americans' views on unfair distribution of money and wealth are closely correlated with their partisanship and ideology, as 86 percent of Democrats and 85 percent of liberals hold the view, compared to only 34 percent among Republicans and 42 percent among conservatives.

Income is also a factor affecting how Americans regard the money and wealth distribution in the

country. Americans with annual household incomes of at least 75,000 US dollars (54 percent) are considerably less likely than those with incomes below 30,000 dollars (74 percent) to agree that wealth is not evenly distributed, according to the poll.

Asked if the government should impose heavy taxes on the rich, 52 percent of Americans agreed with the idea in Gallup's most recent two surveys conducted in 2013 and last month. Forty-five percent of Americans said the government should not redistribute wealth by imposing heavy taxes on the rich.

Democrats are much

more likely to believe that wealth is not evenly distributed in the United States than Republicans, which helps explain why inequality has been a major focus for President Barack Obama and a core part of Hillary Clinton's presidential campaign.

Although less than half of Republicans believe that wealth distribution is unfair, Republican presidential candidates have also begun to address the issue, most likely realizing that they need to court the votes from independents, Hispanics and other voter groups that could decide the 2016 election, Gallup said.—Xinhua

ADVERTISEMENT & GENERAL

**Ministry of Energy
Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise**

Extension of the request for the Letter of Expression of Interest (LOEI)

Joint Venture Project of No. (3) Fertilizer Factory (Kyawzwa)

Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise (MPE) had invited the interested local and international investors for the request of the Letter of Expression of Interest (LOEI) regarding the joint venture project of No. (3) Fertilizer Factory (Kyawzwa) from 17.3.2015 to 23.3.2015 in the national newspaper and to be submitted not later than (12:00) noon on the date of 4.5.2015.

MPE hereby announces that the submission of LOEI shall be extended up to 4.6.2015 from 4.5.2015.

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WEATHER REPORT

BAY INFERENCE: Weather is partly cloudy in the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 6th May, 2015: Rain or thundershowers are likely to be isolated in Mandalay, Bago, Yangon, Ayeyarwady and Taninthayi Regions, Kachin, Shan, Kayah, Kayin and Mon States and weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining Regions and States. Degree of certainty is (60%).

**Yangon University of Foreign Languages
Invitations for application of MA(EFL)
Course**

1. The First Year academic programme leading to the MA (English as a Foreign Language) degree for the 2015-2016 academic year will be opened in June 2015.
2. Those who wishes to attend the course should
 - (a) be Myanmar citizens
 - (b) fulfil the requirements for admission to the First Year academic programme leading to the MA (EFL) degree.
3. Applications should be submitted by 15 May 2015 at the latest. Enquiries on admission may be made during office hours at Student Affairs Department, Yangon University of Foreign Languages.

Ph: 514372, Ext *809, *830.

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV CHANG HANG FAN HAI
VOY NO (1504)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV CHANG HANG FAN HAI VOY NO (1504) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 6.5.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S SHANG HAI CHANGHANG
SHIPPING CO.LTD**

Phone No: 2301186

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

Consignees of cargo carried on MV THAI BINH BAY VOY NO (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 6.5.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W 1 where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S G LINK EXPRESS PTE LTD.**
Phone No: 2301191/2301178

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV THAI BINH 68 VOY NO (-)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV THAI BINH 68 VOY NO (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 6.5.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.I.P.T-1 where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S G LINK EXPRESS PTE LTD.**
Phone No: 2301191/2301178

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV MOROTAI VOY NO (YF262R)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MOROTAI VOY NO (YF262R) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 6.5.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
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**Execution of Pakistan death row convict
stayed in dispute over age**



Sumera Bibi, sister of Shafqat Hussain who was charged as a child with murder and due to be hanged, reacts during a news conference with other family members in Muzaffarabad on 18 March, 2015.—REUTERS

ISLAMABAD, 5 May — of a man whose lawyers A Pakistani judge on Tuesday stayed the execution charged with murder, a

case that has angered rights groups and prompted mercy appeals from his family.

Shafqat Hussain was due to be executed on Wednesday. His lawyers say he was 14 in 2004 when he was burnt with cigarettes and had fingernails removed until he confessed to the killing of a child.

It was the second stay of execution for Hussain.

In March, he was dressed in a white uniform ready for hanging and told to write his will before his execution was postponed while the Federal Investigation Agency looked into the question of his age.

The agency, Pakistan's equivalent of the US FBI, later determined he was not a juvenile at the time of the killing and a new execution date was set. But that was also challenged.

"The judge has ruled that the FIA did not have the mandate to conduct the investigation into Shafqat's age and this should be done by a competent judicial forum," Shahab Siddiqui, of the Justice Project Pakistan, a legal aid group representing Hussain, told Reuters.

"So, until the matter is decided, his execution is stayed." The death sen-



A CRH train runs on the Zhengzhou-Jiaozuo railway line in Jiaozuo, central China's Henan Province, on 4 May, 2015. The 70.255-kilometre-long railway line, which has seven stations, was put into a trial operation on Monday.—XINHUA

tence cannot be imposed on a defendant who was under 18 at the time of the crime. Testimony obtained by torture is also inadmissible.

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif lifted a moratorium on the death penalty on 17 December, a day after Pakistani Taliban gunmen attacked a school and killed 134 pupils and 19 adults.

Since then, 102 people have been executed, according to the Human Rights Commission of Pa-

kistan. Hussain's family has made heartrending appeals to the government, complaining of a flawed justice system that allowed months of torture to extract a confession.

Human rights groups say convictions in Pakistan are highly unreliable because its antiquated criminal justice system barely functions, torture is common and the police are mostly untrained.

Reuters

LOS ANGELES, 5 May — Oscar-winning actress Halle Berry has revealed her seven-year-old daughter has been deeply affected by the

impoverished children in Nicaragua. The actress, 48, is mother to two — Nahla, with ex Gabriel Aubry, and Maceo, 1, with husband French actor Olivier

Martinez, reported *People* magazine.

“This year, I went to Nicaragua and I took my now seven-year-old daughter Nahla with me. And

during that trip, what I realized as a parent is it’s my responsibility to teach children the importance of taking care of children,” said Berry, who traveled for the World Food Programme.

“Nahla was so moved by the children she had met, that she packed up many of her material belongings — including dolls and a bike — and sent them to Nicaragua. She also started a lemonade stand, which she continues twice a month, to raise money for children in need,” she added.

The “*Extant*” star said her most important role is mother.

“(Children) are the most important, most vulnerable, most valuable assets that we have on the planet. To protect them is our duty. Whether we have children or not, it is our responsibility.”

PTI



Halle Berry’s daughter started lemonade stand to raise money

LOS ANGELES, 5 May — Pop sensation Justin Bieber says he wants to be a role model for his siblings.

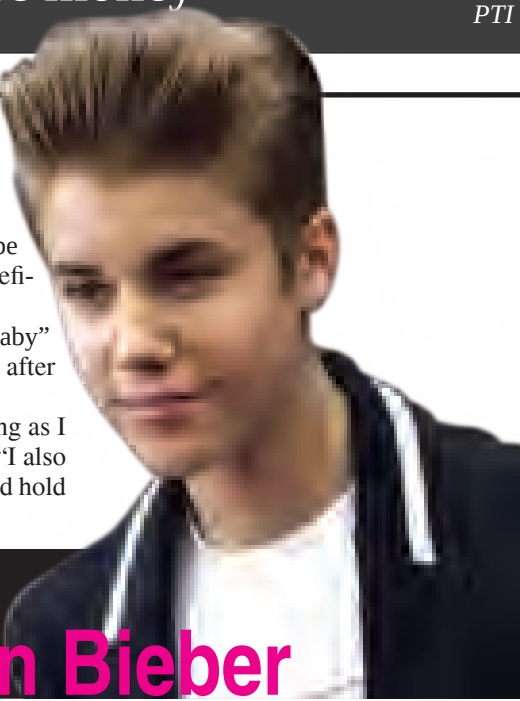
Bieber, 21, has a little brother and sister, reported *People* magazine.

“I love my brother and sister so much. I want to help them be the best they can be and being someone they can look up to is definitely an important part of that,” he said.

Being one of the most famous people on the planet, the “Baby” hitmaker said now he has a firm plan on how to stay grounded after showcasing his wild side in the past.

“There have been times where it has been difficult. But as long as I put God and family first, I can find my way through most things. “I also find it important to surround myself with people who are honest and hold me accountable for my actions – that helps a lot, too.”—PTI

I want to be someone my siblings can look up to: Justin Bieber



Singer Chris Brown suspected of misdemeanour battery in Las Vegas



Singer Chris Brown poses at the 2015 iHeartRadio Music Awards in Los Angeles, California, on 29 March, 2015. —REUTERS

LOS ANGELES, 5 May — Grammy-winning R&B singer Chris Brown was named by Las Vegas police on Monday as a misdemeanour battery suspect, accusing him of punching a man with whom he was playing basketball during a pre-dawn altercation at the Palms Casino Resort. Brown, who turns 26 on Tuesday, has been given the option of signing a misdemeanour citation or having the case submitted to the Clark County District Attorney’s Office for possible prosecution.

Police said the beating victim reported the incident from the hospital, where he was treated for his injuries and released, and that Brown had left the scene at the hotel by the time detectives arrived.

Signing the citation is a promise to appear in court, not an admission of guilt, police said. Likewise, Brown would be summoned to court if the district attorney

were to charge him.

Either way, a conviction carries a maximum penalty of a \$1,000 (660 pounds) fine, according to police spokesman Larry Hadfield.

Neither Brown’s attorney nor his publicist were immediately available for comment. Brown’s latest legal quandary comes about six weeks after a judge in Los Angeles ended his probation stemming from the performer’s 2009 guilty plea to charges of assaulting his then-girlfriend, singer Rihanna, on the eve of the Grammy Awards.

Brown’s probation was revoked in 2013 after he was accused of punching a man who was trying to get a picture of the singer in Washington, DC.

The following year, he was kicked out of a court-ordered rehab programme in California for breaking the rules and was jailed on that breach of probation for nearly three months.—Reuters

Chanel looks to traditional South Korean style for cruise line

SEOUL, 5 May — French fashion house Chanel looked to traditional South Korean dress for its 2015/2016 cruise collection, unveiling a colourful inter-seasonal line at a catwalk show in Seoul on Monday. Cruise collections, originally designed for wealthy fashionistas holidaying on yachts or cruises during the winter months, are lines produced by stylists in addition to twice-yearly seasonal collections.

Models strutted in round-shouldered jackets with large sleeves, wide trousers and just over-the-knee skirts, in a nod to the brand’s staple of suits. Mul-

ticoloured striped dresses bore high waistlines, making for a voluminous silhouette. Accessories included a handbag decorated with mother of pearl, a material traditionally used for furniture in South Korea. Models also wore black wigs that appeared to be inspired by the country’s Chosun dynasty, which ran from 1392 to 1910.

Using a palette of pink, orange, violet, mint green and royal blue, creative designer Karl Lagerfeld said he had drawn inspiration from the traditional Korean outfit, the hanbok, for the line. “The concept is (a) modern, international version of typical Korean

mood, how we see it for the modern 21st century but with inspiration from the past,” the designer told reporters at the show. “I love traditional Korean clothes, materials, patterns.”

The show was the first the brand had staged in South Korea. Asked about the location, Lagerfeld said: “Korea is ... mysterious, less known in a way so I saw it was the right moment to do it.” International as well as Korean celebrities, including, model Gisele Bündchen, actresses Tilda Swinton and Kristen Stewart as well as singer G-Dragon, attended the show held at the Dongdaemun Design Plaza.

Reuters

Elizabeth Banks takes director’s chair in ‘Pitch Perfect 2’

LONDON, 5 May — “The Hunger Games” actress Elizabeth Banks makes her debut as a feature film director in the musical comedy “Pitch Perfect 2” and hopes to inspire more women to get behind the camera.

Banks also appears in the sequel to the 2012 “Pitch Perfect” box office hit about a girls college singing group. The new film stars US actresses Anna Kendrick and Hailee Steinfeld and Australian Rebel Wilson.

Several actresses have blasted sexism in Hollywood. In a recent interview, “Twilight” star Kristen Stewart said the industry was “disgustingly



sexist”, adding women had “to work a little bit harder to be heard.”

“I actually felt a lot of support. I felt there was a lot of people rooting for the movie to work ... I’m really proud of the product,” Banks said during a promotional interview in London.

“I think just because it’s rare doesn’t mean that it’s a particularly difficult

or hard job to do ... Boys do it all the time. I hope really that what I’ve done inspires other women to get behind the camera and to tell more of these stories.”

Banks, who plays Effie Trinket in “The Hunger Games” franchise, has previously directed short films but “Pitch Perfect 2”, in which she reprises the role of Gail, is her first time in the director’s chair for a major feature film.

Wilson, who stole the show in the original film as Fat Amy, is back as the boisterous member of the Barden Bellas group. The actress has also played roles in female-led comedies “Bridesmaids” and “Bachelorette”.—Reuters

GENERAL

Climate change sparks tension in India's tea gardens

JORHAT, (India), 5 May — Usha Ghatowar smiles wryly when asked about the pay she earns picking leaves at a colonial-era tea garden in Assam.

“Do you think 3,000 rupees are enough when your monthly expenses can be double that?” she mumbles, as she puts on her “jaapi” hat of woven bamboo and palm leaves and takes a sip of tea from a steel mug.

As the women workers around Ghatowar nod in agreement the heavens open — it has started raining heavily in recent days after three largely dry months.

Unrest is brewing among Assam's so-called Tea Tribes, whose forefathers were brought here by British planters from neighbouring Bihar and Odisha more than a century ago, as changing weather patterns upset the economics of the industry.

Scientists say climate change is to blame for uneven rainfall that is cutting yields and lifting costs for tea firms such as McLeod Russel (MCLE.NS), Tata Global Beverages (TAGL.NS) and Jay Shree Tea (JYST.NS).

While rainfall has declined and become concentrated, temperatures have risen — ideal conditions for pests like looper caterpillar and tea mosquito to infest

the light green tea shoots just before they are ready to be plucked for processing.

Use of pesticides and fertilisers has nearly doubled as a result in Assam's 800 big tea plantations, known as gardens, and the rising costs are making Indian tea less competitive.

As a result, firms in Assam are resisting calls from activists and student leaders to lift the daily wage of tea workers from about \$2 agreed to recently, blaming weak prices and the doubling of crop expenses over the past 10 years. Assam Chief Minister Tarun Gogoi, whose Congress party was routed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in the 2014 general election, has sided with the workers ahead of state polls due early next year.

State elections have national significance in India — Modi needs to win most of the state assembly contests in the next four years if he is to take control of the upper house of parliament and ease the passage of his reform agenda.

Tea tribe votes can swing results in about a quarter of the seats in Assam, the country's main growing area, and the BJP has been making inroads.

In an interview to *Reu-*



Freshly plucked tea leaves are seen in the hand of a tea garden worker inside Aideobarie Tea Estate in Jorhat in Assam, India, on 21 April, 2015.—REUTERS

ters, Gogoi denied an opportunistic motive behind his call for the wage to be raised to about \$3 a day.

“I had warned the tea planters about climate change but they did not take care for a long time,” Gogoi said. “They thought it would be easy money. I can't allow injustice for tea labourers.”

Assam Tea Planters Association (ATPA) Chairman Raj Barooah said they would examine Gogoi's demand but “there has to be a fair wage that can sustain the industry”.

The average temperature in Assam has risen by 1.4 degrees Celsius in the past century and rainfall is down by 200 mm (8 ins) a year, said RM Bhagat, chief scientist at the Tea Research Association in Assam's tea hub of Jorhat.

“In the last 30 years we have seen that the magni-

tude of the effect of climate change is pretty high,” he said. “Rainfall has gone topsy-turvy. There is either too much or too little water, forcing planters to use sprinklers on what is a rain-fed crop.”

Several tea garden labourers and planters Reuters spoke with said tea factories in Assam now only run for about six months compared with round-the-year operations earlier.

Less rainfall resulted in an 8 percent fall in tea exports last year, according to the Indian Tea Association (ITA).

India is the world's No.2 tea producer but is less export-oriented than other producers thanks to its big home market, and Sri Lanka has been extending its lead as the world's third largest exporter behind China and Kenya.

Reuters

mitv Myanmar International

(6-5-2015 07:00 am~ 7-5-2015 07:00 am) MST

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(6-5-2015, Wednesday)

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| • Mono Classical Songs | • Musical Programme |
| 6:15 am | 8:50 am |
| • Myanmar Series | • Pyi Thu Ni Ti |
| 6:50 am | 9:35 am |
| • Fashion Show | • Musical Programme |
| 7:15 am | 9:50 am |
| • TV Drama Series | • Myanmar Video |
| 8:00 am | 12:10 am |
| • TV Drama Series | • Close Down |

Millions of trees die in California drought, adding to fire danger

SACRAMENTO, (Calif), 5 May — California's drought led to the deaths of 12.5 million trees in the state's forests last year, leaving behind huge amounts of dry fuel that could burn easily as the summer wildfire season begins, the US Forest Service said on Monday. The dead trees, visible from the air as red patches in the forest, were weakened by drought and in many cases then killed by bark beetles, which have infested the state's forests and thrive in the warm, dry conditions.

“In some places, we had 100 percent mortality,” said Jeffrey Moore, a biological scientist with the Forest Service whose team mapped the dead trees by airplane last month.

The Forest Service report, which was released on Monday, included aerial surveys of about 8.3 million acres throughout the state. The Forest Service has been closely tracking tree deaths since the start of the drought, now in its fourth year. The dry weather has made conifers in the state's wooded area particularly vulnerable to beetles, which attack when the trees are weak, eventually killing them. Stanton Floria, a spokesman for the Forest Service, said the drought was a major factor driving forest fires last year, and dry weather and dead trees and brush will exacerbate blazes again this summer.—*Reuters*



New growth is seen alongside damage caused by the 2013 Rim Fire in the Stanislaus National Forest in California on 30 May, 2014.—REUTERS

Samsung, Marvel use virtual reality for ‘Avenger’ movie ads

LOS ANGELES, 5 May — Samsung and Walt Disney's Marvel introduced a marketing campaign that uses virtual reality to promote “Avengers: Age of Ultron” as more studios look to the new technology to push movies.

The Avengers ad campaign, launched last week, employs VR that immerses a user in a 3D world and makes them feel as if they are in the action.

Jamie Park, head of experimental marketing at Samsung, said the company had seen a growing interest from studios in virtual reality (VR) and Samsung would be doing more of this in the future.

“It's less about taking the movie content and putting it directly into VR and more about figuring out the best way to enhance the overall content,” Park said.

Created by Los Angeles-based advertising firm 72andSunny, the short films give people a chance to feel what it is like to be one of the superhero characters such as Iron Man and



Actors Robert Downey Jr (L) and Jeremy Renner (C) gesture as they ring the opening bell of the New York Stock Exchange to promote the film Avengers: Age of Ultron in New York on 27 April, 2015. REUTERS

Captain America in the Avengers.

The campaign is made to work with Samsung's GS6 smartphone that fits with the company's VR glasses, Samsung Gear VR, though the films can be viewed on Android smartphones or any Web browser.

Fox Searchlight's “Wild” also used VR to promote the movie with Samsung's Gear VR headset.

“It's an ambition that is deeper than product placement,” said Bryan Rowles, executive creative director

at 72andSunny. “It's rare to work on a piece of technology in its infancy. It will be interesting to see where it goes and if it will catch on.”

One of the short VR films for the Avengers movie co-stars international sports figures including football star Lionel Messi and professional football player Eddie Lacy, and shows their experience being transformed into a super heroes.

In another, a user experiences a battle between the Avengers and a robot army, in 3D slow motion, with a

360-degree view.

Virtual reality (VR) is known among gamers who use the gear to enhance playing videogames, but the technology could start appealing to a broader base of consumers. Facebook, for example, bought VR startup Oculus Rift for \$2 billion last year.

The “Avengers: Age of Ultron, kicked off the summer blockbuster season this weekend and had the second-biggest domestic opening in history, notching \$187.7 million in box office sales.—*Reuters*

MFF conducts AFC “B” certificate coaching course

YANGON, 5 May—The AFC “B” certificate coaching course kicked off at the hall of Myanmar Football Federation, here, on Tuesday.

Joint general secretary U Tin Myint Aung of MFF made a speech while course instructor Mr Ab-

dulla Hassan Abdulla Ali and U Win Thu Moe explained the purpose of conducting the course.

U Win Myint (Coach, Nay Pyi Taw Academy), U Myint Oo (Gk Coach, Mandalay Football Academy), U Maung Maung Myaint (Gk Coach, Mandalay Football

Academy), U Myat Tun (Coach, Zwegapin United FC (youth)), U Zaw Myint (Asst:Coach, University FC), U Soe Myat Min (Coach, KBZ FC), U Maung Maung Myaint (Coach, Rakhine United FC), U Zaw Min Htwe (Sports & Physical Education Department,

Buthidaung Township), U Thet Tin (Coach, Dagon FC), U Aung Kyaw Moe (Asst:Coach, Yadanarbon FC), U Tin Thein (Coach, Chin United FC), U Aung Tun Tun (Asst:Coach, KBZ FC), U Kyaw Thi Ha (Asst:Coach, KBZ FC), U Si Thu Aung (Coach, Ayeyawady

Academy), U KB. Siang Chung Lian (Coach, GFA FC), U Win Maung (Coach, Hantawady United FC), U Kyaw Thu Aung Myint (Asst:coach, Zwegapin United FC), U Soe Ko Ko Tun (Asst:Coach, Zwegapin United FC), Nyi Nyi Tun (Coach, Institute Of Sports

and Physical Education), U Kyaw Thu Oo (Asst:Coach, Zwegapin United FC), U Zaw Win (Coach, GFA FC), U Thura Swe (Coach, Yangon United FC) and U Tin Maung Latt (Coach, Army) are attending the course up to 25 May.—MFF

Injured Pacquiao faces possible sanctions

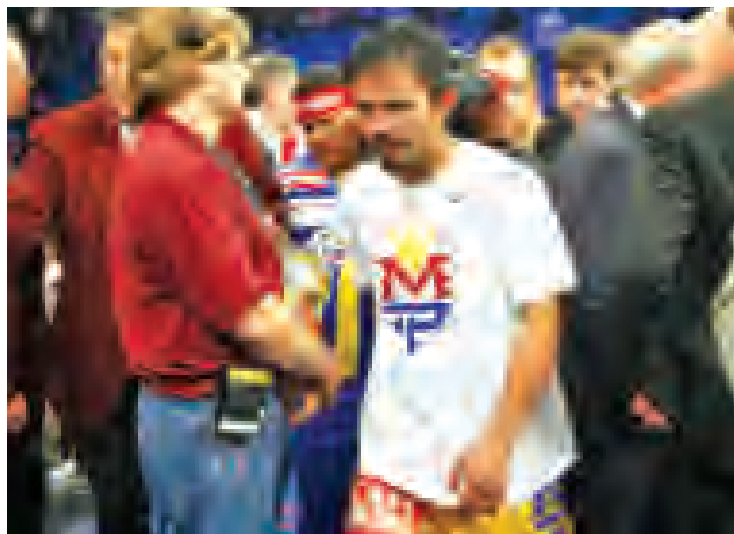
LOS ANGELES, 5 May — The fallout from the “Fight of the Century” became murkier on Monday with possible lawsuits in the works and Manny Pacquiao likely to face disciplinary action for failing to disclose a pre-bout shoulder injury.

Filipino Pacquiao lost on a unanimous decision to undefeated American Floyd Mayweather Jr in a heavily hyped welterweight showdown in Las Vegas on Saturday that is expected to be the top grossing prize fight of all time.

Barely one hour after the contest ended, Pacquiao’s promoter, Bob Arum, said the 36-year-old southpaw had been hampered by an ‘old’ injury to his right shoulder.

On Monday, an MRI scan in Los Angeles confirmed the boxer has a torn rotator cuff that will require surgery.

The major problem here is that apparently neither Pacquiao nor his team informed the Nevada Athletic Commission about the shoulder issue until a couple of hours before the start of the fight when they asked



Manny Pacquiao of the Philippines leaves the ring after losing to Floyd Mayweather, Jr. of the US in their welterweight WBO, WBC and WBA (Super) title fight in Las Vegas, Nevada, on 2 May, 2015.
REUTERS

for an anti-inflammatory injection.

At that point, it was too late for the commission to investigate whether or not Pacquiao was suffering a genuine injury and there were no MRIs or medical paperwork to support the claim made by the boxer’s team, the commission said.

“The first I heard of this was at 6:08 (pm PT) when he (Pacquiao) arrived in the locker room,” commission chairman Francisco Aguilar told reporters during the post-fight news conferences.

“I have no proof of the injury. If he told us on Fri-

day, we would have gotten the MRIs and there are a lot of things we could have done.”

While the commission was seemingly kept in the dark, and clearly no boxer wants to give an opponent any hint of possible weakness or injury ahead of a fight, the United States Anti-Doping Agency (USADA) was fully aware of Pacquiao’s injury.

The Filipino suffered the injury during a sparring session at the Wild Card Boxing Club in Los Angeles last month and USADA, after being consulted by

Team Pacquiao, permitted treatment through Toradol, a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory.

Pacquiao’s promoter said in a statement on Monday that doctors had “concluded that with short rest, treatments and close monitoring, Manny could train and, on 2 May, step into the ring against Floyd Mayweather”.

Pacquiao continued to work out and his shoulder improved, “though not 100 percent”, but he decided to proceed with the fight after anticipating that he could receive his pre-bout treatment.

“On his pre-fight medical form filled out earlier in the week, Manny’s advisors listed the medications that Manny used in training and the medications that might be used on fight night,” Pacquiao’s promoter said.

“A few hours before he was expected to step in the ring, when Manny’s doctors began the process, the Nevada Commission stopped the treatment because it said it was unaware of Manny’s shoulder injury.”

USADA had been informed about the injury but its role was limited only to testing the fighters for banned substances in training and on the night of the bout.

The commission was in overall control, yet when Team Pacquiao filled in its pre-fight medical questionnaire on Friday, a query about any shoulder injury was marked clearly “No” before the form was signed by Pacquiao and his advisor.

A copy of the questionnaire was posted earlier on Monday on the true.ink/boxing/ website where Aguilar confirmed that Pacquiao faced possible sanctions

from the state attorney general’s office for filling out a state form incorrectly.

“It’s something we’re looking at, and an issue we’ll be discussing with the attorney general,” said Aguilar. “Boxers are tough, and it’s our job often to protect them from themselves.”

The fact that Pacquiao did not disclose his injury until the night of the fight could also lead to possible lawsuits from boxing fans who feel cheated after paying record sums for either tickets in the MGM Grand Garden Arena or pay-for-view (PPV).

Some of the coveted ringside spots in the 16,800-seat Garden Arena demanded up to \$350,000 on resale site StubHub while a record \$300 million (198 million pounds) or more is expected in PPV revenue from at least three million customers who paid \$100 to watch.

Pacquiao, who is renowned for his attacking style, connected with just 81-of-429 punches on the night while the defence-minded Mayweather landed 148-of-435.

Reuters

Barca attack on fire, defence yet to dispel doubts

BARCELONA, 5 May — While there may still be a question mark over treble-chasing Barcelona’s defence, their fearsome attacking trident is firing on all cylinders ahead of Bayern Munich’s visit in the Champions League semi-finals on Wednesday.

The South American trio of Lionel Messi, Neymar and Luis Suarez reached a scorching 108 goals for the season following the La Liga leaders’ 8-0 destruction of Cordoba on Saturday, eight more than the previous club record set by Messi, Samuel Eto’o and Thierry Henry when Barca won the treble in 2009.

Argentina captain Messi is on 51 goals in all competitions, Uruguay striker Suarez, whose ban for biting an opponent at last year’s

World Cup finals expired at the end of October, has 24, and Brazil forward Neymar 33.

With a defence that has looked shaky at times this season, however, Barca’s hopes of reaching next

month’s Champions League final at Berlin’s Olympic Stadium may hinge on them scoring more goals than they inevitably concede.

The Catalan giants have most of the same personnel at the back, including the

likes of Gerard Pique, Jordi Alba, Dani Alves and Marc Bartra, as when they crashed to a humiliating 7-0 aggregate defeat to Bayern in the last four of Europe’s elite club competition two years ago. The rampant German champions won the first leg in Munich 4-0 and the return 3-0, the heaviest two-legged European defeat in Barca’s history, and Bayern went on to beat Bundesliga rivals Borussia Dortmund in the first all-German final.

“It was a fantastic experience, we played brilliantly and astonished the football world,” forward Thomas Mueller said on Bayern’s website (www.fcbayern.de) on Sunday. “We know their strengths and above all they have world-class players up front,” added the Germany international.—Reuters



Barcelona’s Luis Suarez (L) celebrates a goal with team mates Lionel Messi (R) and Neymar (C) during their Spanish first division soccer match against Cordoba at El Arcangel stadium in Cordoba, Spain on 2 May, 2015. —REUTERS

Arsenal all but seal Champions League qualification

LONDON, 5 May — Arsenal all but sealed Champions League qualification for an 18th successive season after they eased past relegation-threatened Hull City 3-1 in the Premier League on Monday. Alexis Sanchez’s deflected free-kick wrong-footed stranded keeper Steve Harper to hand Arsenal a 28th-minute opener before Aaron Ramsey doubled the advantage four minutes later when his shot was diverted into the net via a Hull defender.

Sanchez rounded Harper to add his second in first half stoppage time and, though they improved after the break, Hull’s solitary response came from Stephen Quinn’s 56th minute header.

Arsenal, in third, have 70 points from 34 match-

es and trail second-placed Manchester City, who have played a game more, on goal difference.

Hull sit one point and place above the relegation zone and face the daunting prospect of games against Tottenham Hotspur and Manchester United among their remaining three fixtures. “The most important thing was the victory today because the team is in a very good moment,” Arsenal’s Santi Cazorla, who dictated proceedings throughout, told Sky Sports.

“We want to win the title next year. We want to get second place this season but the most important thing now is qualify for the Champions League, win the FA Cup and then prepare well for next season.”—Reuters