

President, JPN FM hold talks over founding of Japan-Myanmar Joint Initiative

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Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services meets Japanese FM

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TALK ON MOTION TO END FIGHTING IN RAKHINE

THE Amyotha Hluttaw continued for its 18th day session yesterday with a discussion held on an urgent motion calling for an end to fresh fighting in Rakhine State as well as bringing AA armed group into political talks. Also held was a question and answer session on electricity and construction and the submission of a bill to revoke the 1974 State Council's Law.

U Khin Maung Latt of Rakhine State Constituency 3, one of

10 representatives listed to discuss the motion, said that now is the time to invite the armed group to peace talks as the present government is moving towards ensuring national reconciliation and the emergence of a democratic federal Union at the 21st century Panglong Conference.

If the AA group had been given a chance to ink the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement last year, gunfire that fell silent for 35 years

in Rakhine State would have continued to be silent, he added.

In her discussion, Daw Naw Hla Hla Soe of Yangon Region Constituency 10 called on the Parliament to document the motion with serious consideration of the issue as the entirety of the people are ready to do their bit to ensure the successful holding of the 21st century Panglong Conference in order to realise stable and lasting peace in the country.

All citizens wish to see peace and live together in a country free from armed conflicts through thick and thin, she added.

U Sai San Aung of Shan State Constituency 12 highlighted the importance of peace, calling for the inclusion and cooperation of all ethnic minorities as a crucial drive for positive development in domestic political, economic and social sectors, particularly in their own regions.

He pointed out that peace will remain out of reach due to the continuing armed struggle.

In his discussion, he stressed the need to take heed of warnings by international experts who have warned that Rakhine State will become an Asian 'Kosovo' following ISIS threats to the state.

He suggested that rounds of negotiations be required to ensure an immediate end to the fighting.

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Construction Ministry to inspect major bridges

AS part of the government's 100-day plan, the Ministry of Construction is planning to inspect major bridges across the country to ensure public safety and identify the durability and stability of the structures according to Union Minister U Win Khaing.

Plans—short term, medium term and long term— will be drawn up for the maintenance of the bridges to ensure safety, sustainability and durability following the nation-wide bridge inspections said the Union minister during a Q & A session held during the Amyotha Hluttaw session in Nay Pyi Taw on Monday.

The bridge inspections are set to cover all major bridges in the country, added the Union minister while answering a question raised by U Soe Moe of Ayeyawady Region Construction No (1).

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Vehicles seen on the newly constructed Shwegondine Flyover in Yangon.

PHOTO: NYI ZAW MOE

We would like to give good news that those who come to Okkala Golf Resort and play ten times and above monthly will be granted free **Green Fees** once and that in the event of **Hole In One**, the golfer will be given a **KENBO-110-motorcycle**.

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Union Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Dr Aung Thu. PHOTO: MNA



UEC member U Hla Tint. PHOTO: MNA

Pyithu Hluttaw session continues

THE Pyithu Hluttaw entered its 20th day session with a question and answer session and submission of three bills yesterday.

During the Q & A session Union Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Dr Aung Thu replied that it was impossible to build the Narwah dam in Mongyal Township due to budget cuts for the 2016-2017 fiscal year. The ministry, however, will request an allocation of funds for the dam construction project next year.

Regarding the provision of compensation to the affected persons of the canal-crossing bridge construction project in Einme Township, the Union minister said that payments of compensation for farmland and property losses are set to be disbursed following final calculations this month.

In his response to a question on whether a plan to build new bridges in Loilem Township is

in motion the Union minister vowed to construct two new bridges over a creek in the township with the use of K17 million provided by the Rural Development Department. Next, U Hla Tint, member of the Union Election Commission, put forward the bills to amend the Pyithu Hluttaw Election Law, the Amyotha Hluttaw Election Law and the Region/State Hluttaw Election Law to parliament.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Tatmadaw fumes at words in MRTV-4 news story

THE Tatmadaw True News Information team released a statement yesterday denouncing a news story broadcast by MRTV-4 and posted on its website on 29 April calling for necessary action to be taken against what they termed to be an 'unfair broadcast' that they further accused of failing to follow media ethical guidelines.

According to the team, MRTV-4 broadcast a news story entitled 'Around 1100 locals forced to flee due to fighting between government forces and Arakan Army, the point of contention being the use of the terms 'government forces' instead of Tatmadaw and 'Rakhine Tatmadaw' instead of AA insurgent group.

The team said that the term Tatmadaw is stated in Chapter VII of the 2008 Constitution, adding that there is only one Defence Services in each and every country around the world.

Section-377 in the chapter states that the main armed force for the Defence of the Union is the Defence Services (Tatmadaw).

The team blamed the MRTV-4 for failing to use term 'Tatmadaw' in its broadcast, saying that the news story broadcast could potentially defame the Tatmadaw and it is thought to have supported the AA insurgent group, describing the armed insurgent group as an official armed force.

On behalf of the Defence Services (Army, Navy and Air), the team strongly denounced the news broadcast aired by MRTV-4 and called on officials concerned to take action.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Union Information Minister expresses his readiness to promote media freedom in Myanmar



Union Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint seen talking to mark World Press Freedom Day. PHOTO: MNA

UNION Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint informed media members in the country of his readiness to focus on the promotion of Myanmar media freedom in cooperation with print, broadcast and internet media entities at a ceremony to mark World Press Freedom Day in Yangon yesterday.

In his address, the Union minister highlighted the impor-

tance of the strenuous efforts of media workers while addressing prominent domestic issues, saying that the progress achieved up until now has been brought about by their efforts.

Media organisations as well as individuals are able to promote media freedom in the country, he added.

It was the fifth World Press Freedom Day ceremony ob-

served in Myanmar. The theme of this year's celebration was Access to Information and Fundamental Freedoms: This is Your Right!

Next, the Union minister met with responsible persons from MJA, MJN, MJU and BNI and held talks on a wide range of matters including media freedom, difficulties private media are facing, access to information,

the rights of journalists and holding workshops and seminars on media development.

While meeting with representatives of the Myanmar Motion Picture Organisation, the Union minister heard reports on difficulties in the movie industry and preparations for the celebration of the 100th anniversary of Myanmar motion picture in 2020.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Fire destroys 49 longhouses at IDP camp in Sittwe



Fire fighters being seen bringing the fire under control. PHOTO: SOCIAL WELFARE, RELIEF AND RESETTLEMENT

A FIRE, reportedly beginning in a kitchen at the Baw Du Ba internally displaced persons (IDP) camp-2 in Sittwe destroyed 49

longhouses yesterday.

The fire started at around 9.10 am and was brought under control by firemen at 10 am, ac-

cording to the local fire department.

Six longhouses were destroyed by the firefighters in or-

der to control the blaze and stop the spread of fire to other structures.

The fire caused losses totaling K137.5 million according to the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement.

A total of 1,744 persons from 435 different households, who were left homeless by the fire, are currently being sheltered at the Ohndawgyi relief camp.

The Rakhine State Government and local Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Department have provided relief aid to the fire victims and are establishing tents for them at their temporary shelter location.

Red Cross members in Sittwe are providing medical assistance to the injured. No deaths were reported.—*Myanmar News Agency*

President, JPN FM hold talks over founding of Japan-Myanmar Joint Initiative

PRESIDENT U HtinKyaw received Japanese Foreign Affairs Minister Mr Fumio Kishida at the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday where the two discussed the formation of a Japan-Myanmar Joint Initiative.

The two further discussed matters regarding democratic reform measures being carried out, the providing of assistance to aid the enforcement of the rule of law, Japan's continuation to be involved in the development process as a development partner, the providing of assistance in the creation of a monetary market, financial market and job opportunities, Japan's continuous investment in the Thilawa Special Economic Zone and a host of other issues.

The meeting was also attended by Union ministers U Thant Zin Maung and Dr Myo Thein Gyi, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Tin and the Japanese ambassador to Myanmar.—*Myanmar News Agency*



President U Htin Kyaw welcomes Mr Fumio Kishida. PHOTO: MNA

U Myint Lwin appointed as Ambassador to Egypt

THE President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed U Myint Lwin, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Permanent Mission of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the United Nations, New York, the United States of America, as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Arab Republic of Egypt.—*Myanmar New Agency*

Republic of the Union of Myanmar President's Office

Order 37/2016

11th Waning of Tagu, 1378 ME
(3 May, 2016)

Appointment of Deputy Ministers

In accord with the provisions stated in article 234 (a) and (d) of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and section 16 (b) (9) of the Union Government Law, the following persons have been appointed as Deputy Ministers for the ministries shown against each.

- | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------------------|
| (1) Maj-Gen Aung Soe | Deputy Minister for Home Affairs |
| (2) Rear-Admiral Myint Nwe | Deputy Minister for Defense |
| (3) Maj-Gen Than Htut | Deputy Minister for Border Affairs |

Sd/ Htin Kyaw
President

Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Tatmadaw cooperates with authorities concerned in fight against illegal logging

THE Tatmadaw arrested suspects in connection with illegal logging and seized tonnes of timber and vehicles while conducting combined operations in Kachin, Shan and Rakhine States and Sagaing Region.

According to figures, 171 suspects involved in illegal logging were arrested and 1,610.83 tonnes of timber and 141 vehicles

were confiscated in the aforementioned regions.

So far, arrested suspects and seized timber and vehicles have been handed over to the departments concerned, said the Tatmadaw, adding that efforts are being made to protect the country's forest resources in cooperation with civil authorities.—*Myawady*

Talk on Motion to end fighting in Rakhine

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On a bill to revoke the State Council's Law (Law No 10/1974) submitted by Dr Myat Nyana Soe of Yangon Region Constituency 3, Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than announced that the bill will be discussed at the parliament. During a Q & A session, Union Minister for Electricity and Energy U Pe Zin Tun stated that Falam will gain electricity supply within 100 days

following the completion of the 66 KV Haka-Falam transmission line and 66 KV Falam sub-power station. Union Minister for Construction U Win Khaing said that regular inspections will be carried out on a three-month cycle on the Ngawun suspension bridge and detailed inspection and maintenance is set to take place once a year with the use of modern instruments.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Construction Ministry to inspect major bridges

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He responded to a question regarding bridges and regular inspections.

"I welcome regular inspection of bridges," said the Amyotha Hluttaw representative.

However, it is required that action be taken to protect against the possible lapse of regular bridge inspections, he told the media after the parliamentary

session. At a press conference held on the Yangon-Nay Pyi Taw Expressway the Union minister warned that engineers will be sentenced to prison if roads and bridges they build do not meet construction standards. The minister added that the durability of roads and bridges built in the time of the new government is conservatively considered to be five years.—*Thein Ko Lwin*

Diversities accepted by democracy: State Counsellor



Foreign Minister Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and her Japanese counterpart Mr Fumio Kishida hold the press conference in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday following their meeting. PHOTO: AUNG SHINE OO

IT'S natural that the Japanese government maintains a relationship with Myanmar in a manner different from the western governments, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi in her capacity as the foreign minister said in response to a question raised by a Japanese journalist at the press briefing held after a meeting with her Japanese counterpart yesterday.

She added that if one believes in democracy, one shall accept diversities based upon which Japan and Myanmar have been working together in finding solu-

tions to bilateral, regional and international issues.

The meeting between the two foreign ministers was focused on matters relating to urban development of the City of Yangon, the upgrading of railway transport, ensuring that the full rights of Myanmar workers in Japan are respected, participation in Myanmar's peace process and the providing of scholarship awards.

In the press briefing the Japanese foreign minister said that Japan heartily welcomed the successful implementation of the transfer of power to the histor-

ical government that has won the people's mandate, and that both the Japanese government and Japanese private enterprises will provide assistance to Myanmar's development effort.

He further emphasised that Japan has been helping Myanmar with internal peace process and national reconciliation efforts and that the Japanese government will continue to provide the new Myanmar government with assistance through the special representative of the Japanese government.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Crime NEWS

Four Chinese men arrested with arms and ammunition

POLICE arrested four Chinese men who have illegally entered the country with arms at Ngwe Hsin housing in Kaunghmudon ward of Muse Township in Shan State (North) on Monday, according to the office of the deputy police chief of Shan State.

The four Chinese men, identified as living in Sichuan Province, were arrested and searched revealing four 9mm pistols, five magazines, 40 rounds of ammunition and a .38 pistol, a magazine and eight rounds of ammunition.

Members of the Myanmar Police Force and Myoma people's militia caught them in a forest near the border following a tip-off.

According to police the men were caught while leaving for China following their attempt to visit casinos in Kyai Gaung where there are not, nor have there been for many years, any casinos.

Measures are being taken to take action against them in accordance with the law, said the police. — *Myanmar News Agency*



Four Chinese men seen together with arms and ammunition. PHOTO: MNA

Uncensored movie sellers arrested

POLICE seized uncensored movies at a shop owned by Sein Win Naing, 31, at Shwe Chaung village, Min Hla township, Magwe region on 28 April. Act-

ing on a tip-off, members of the police searched the shop and found uncensored videos numbering 788 CDs/VCDs worth Ks 236,400.

Local police station has filed charges against Sein Win Naing under Television and Video Law Section 32(B)/32(C). — *The mirror*

Yaba seized in Hpa-an



The drug dealers seen together with the drugs seized. PHOTO: THE MIRROR

A local police squad Hpa-an seized Yaba from a house in ward 1, Bokyoke road, Hpa-an on 29 April. Acting on a tip-off, the police searched a house of Soe Min Tun and discovered 190 Yaba tablets. Ma Thiri Mon was found together with the host. The police also arrested

Toe That Oo who is selling the drugs at ward 1, Hospital road, Hpa-an town.

According to the connected investigation, the police searched a house owned by Tun Tun Oo and found 5,200 Yaba tablets and a white vehicle. Ma Hnin Hnin Wai and Pyae Son

Win were found together with the host. Similarly, the police searched a house of Ma Arr Hlan at Kho Wein ward, Muse town and discovered 750 Yaba tablets. Police have filed charges against them under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. — *The mirror*

AD Van overturns on Yangon- Mandalay highway

AD Van en route to Yangon from Nay Pyi Taw overturned between mileposts 122/6 and 122/7 on Yangon- Mandalay highway on 2 May, leaving two passengers killed.

The accident occurred when the driver lost control and crashed into the barrier in the middle of the road. After the accident the car overturned and was engulfed by the fire.

The fire was put down by the firemen with the help of

neighbors. The police found two passengers burned into death in the vehicle and sent the corpses to Oaktwin general hospital. The police are still investigating the identity of the two passengers.

The accidents killed over 600 passengers and injured over 3,000 passengers on Yangon-Mandalay highway during the past 7 years, according to the traffic police. Most of the accident occurred because of reckless driving. — *Nyi Nyi Than*

Illegal ownerless sawn timber seized in Bago

LOCAL police found illegal sawn timber weighing 0.7100 time from a vehicle on Yangon-Mandalay highway, Nyaunglebin township, Bago region on 2 May while the police were patrolling.

The police discovered 136

illegal teak planks worth Ks 532,500 on ownerless Mitsubishi van which stopped near toll gate, at milepost 107/2.

The police are still investigating the case in order to arrest the owner of the vehicle. — *Pein Zaloke Thein Nyunt*



Illegal sawn timber in car. PHOTO: PEIN ZALOKO THEIN NYUNT

Police arrested two - digit lottery gamblers

POLICE have arrested a woman who allegedly played two-digit lotteries in her house at Ywar Thar Kon village, Salin township, Magwe region on 29 April. They searched the house of Ma San San Mu, 38, and found Ks 25,500 and the relevant documents items of two-digit lottery. Local police filed charges

against her.

On the same day, the police have seized K 200,950 and the relevant documents of two lottery from a betel shop owned by Ma Thwe alias Ma Myint Myint Yee, 43, at 87th street, Aungmyaytharsan township, Mandalay. Action has been taken against them. — *The mirror*

Fire breaks out in Namsam

A fire broke out on 1st May at a monastery in Kun Hal village, Kun Hal village-tract, Namsam Township, Palaung Self Administrative Region, Northern Shan State. The fire was caused by electric short circuits.

The blaze destroyed ancient buildings including the ordination hall, a main building of the monastery, rest house and a nun-

nery hall. With the assistance of neighbours, the fire was brought under control by fire fighters with 3 fire engines from fire services departments in Namsam Township.

It also evacuated the three monks, two novices and four nuns to the monastery of Man Ngai village. — *Tin Tin Htwe (Singaing)*

LOCAL Business

Tax on imported sugar needs to be set to ASEAN rate: MMA

THE tax rate on imported sugar needs to be the same as other ASEAN countries such as Thailand, Indonesia and The Philippines for the reason that local sugar entrepreneurs are suffering from the tax gap between Myanmar and other ASEAN nations according to the Myanmar Sugar Cane and Sugar Related Products Merchant and Manufacturers Association.

“The tax income on Myanmar sugar exports comes from Thailand (10 per cent), Indonesia (25 per cent) and The Philippines (35 per cent). The import of sugar, however, from other ASEAN countries is only 0.5 per cent and little tax is being collected. This badly affects local sugar entrepreneurs”, said U Soe Linn, the chairman of Myanmar Sugar Cane & Sugar Related Products Merchant & Manufacturers Association.

The imported sugar, some 1.15 million tonnes between January and March this year, is about threefold that of annual local production. China currently purchases Myanmar sugar which meets export quality standards. To fulfil the demand from China, the volume of import of sugar from Thailand and India has increased.

The volume of domestic sugar consumption is between 350,000 and 400,000 tonnes per year which is about equal to annual domestic production.

The Myanmar Sugar Cane and Sugar Related Products Merchant and Manufacturers Association has submitted a proposal to the Ministry of Commerce urging a change of the tax code to bring the taxation rate on sugar imports to be more in line with other ASEAN nations. Local sugar entrepreneurs may suffer from sugar exports if China



A worker cuts sugar canes on a field near Nyi Pyi Taw. PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

elects to restrict the import of sugar for any number of reasons. One reason may be that sugar import is not legally allowed in China. A G-to-G agreement related

to sugar exports to China needs to be negotiated.

Sugar imports from abroad should be halted during the four months from December to March

when the domestic sugar manufacturing industries run their harvest time business in order to maintain profits for domestic producers.—PTK/Union daily

Promotion of condominium market requires access to long-term loans

THE condominium market still remains relatively unchanged despite the Condominium Law being enacted. Easy to access long-term loans from the banks are required, according to developers.

“Some are waiting to purchase property by taking up an instalment payment system housing loan from the banks. That’s why the condominium market is

still cool,” said a market expert.

Construction businessmen have said that they will sell apartments at a low rate of interest by linking with the banks if local and foreign banks will jointly give the loans to those who wish to purchase apartments in instalments.

Currently, Kanbawza (KBZ) bank is offering this financial service to those who

wish to purchase a house by taking up a three year loan. The bank links those people with the companies selling the apartments. Construction and Housing Development Bank Limited offers a similar service for those who wish to buy a low-cost housing apartment with a four year instalment loan plan. Co-operative Bank (CB) is also giving out one-year loans.—200

Mango farms seeing good prices from advanced purchases in Magwe

THE advanced purchase of mango trees and entire mango farms has increased in Chauk, Yenangyhaung and Natmauk townships in Magwe Region, according to local mango growers.

“The mango farms from these townships did not suffer from the recent wild weather. For that reason the yield might be higher than last year”, said the growers. Some townships in Sagaing and Mandalay region, where mango is mainly cultivated, have been hit by strong winds and so the supply from those ar-

eas might decline. This being so, the advanced purchase option has risen”, said a mango grower.

There are generally between 10 and 20 trees on a given farm in the upcountry villages though farms having many less trees is not uncommon. The going price for a whole mango farm is around K1.5 million to K3 million while the minimum price sits at around K750,000. The price of a whole mango farm was between K1.7 million and K4 million in June of last year. Those prices are expected to re-

main stable this year despite the unpredictable weather.

“Local mangoes are mainly exported to China but also sent to local markets. A tree with around 500 mangoes can be sold for between K80,000 to K150,000. A hundred MaChit-Su and Seintalone mangoes sells for K30,000 and some resell the mangoes after they have made them ripe. Obviously good quality mangoes gain a better price. The above price rates are only for advanced purchases.—SN/Union Daily

Vehicles in border areas no longer stranded

BEGINNING from 1 May, the government has announced, licensed vehicles and agricultural vehicles stranded at border areas due to a suspension of imports on 24 December, 2015, will be able to move freely once more. The ban was originally instituted to stem the flow of illegally imported vehicles through border areas, said U Aye Cho, the vice chairman of the Myanmar Automobile Manufacturers and Distributors Association.

Currently, only licensed vehicles are allowed to enter. As of this time new registrations

for licenses are not permitted.

The Ministry of Commerce allowed Vigo, vehicles made in Thailand, to be imported for local businessmen. However, these vehicles are limited to a small number whereas car dealers from Yangon and Mandalay can import these vehicles on a commercial scale, it has been learned.

Hundreds of various types of vehicles were trapped in the border areas starting from 17 December, 2015 when the Ministry of Commerce first tightened car import regulations in border areas.—200

Licensed Suzuki Light Trucks sells well at K6 million in Lashio

LICENSED Suzuki Light Trucks have been selling well at a price of K6 million in April this year at a car market in Lashio, Northern Shan State. The market for dealing in cars without licences has been cool as of late, according to industry experts.

The Suzuki Light Trucks, without a license, sells for between K2.5 million and K3 million. Local farmers purchase the

Suzuki Trucks for commercial-industrial transportation when they have nothing to harvest before the cultivations season.

The truck can be hired as a chartered car as and when it is needed. This business model can alleviate employment problems as well as boost local family earnings. There are one-month driving training courses which can be arranged in order to receive a license.—200

Hospital under investigation after student death

BEIJING — A hospital that gave ineffective cancer treatment to a patient who turned to it after seeing promotion on Chinese search engine Baidu has been put under investigation.

Wei Zexi, 21, died last month of a rare form of cancer after undergoing an experimental form of treatment at the Second Hospital of the Beijing Armed Police Corps (SHBAPC).

The National Health and Family Planning Commission (NHFPC), and the health bureaus under both the Logistic Support Department of the Central Military Commission and the Logistic Support De-

partment of the Armed Police Force, are now investigating the hospital, a NHFPC spokesperson said on Tuesday.

Before he died, Wei expressed anger at the SHBAPC and Baidu in an online post, accusing them of false advertising in claiming a high success rate for the treatment.

The Cyberspace Administration of China (CAC) said on Monday that it had sent investigators to Baidu.

The investigators are from the CAC, the State Administration of Industry and Commerce, and the NHFPC.—Xinhua

Philippines ready for 9 May polls

MANILA — The Philippine government said on Tuesday that all systems are ready for the holding of the 9 May elections.

Presidential Communications Operations Office Secretary Herminio Coloma Jr. said that all the concerned agencies have been doing everything to ensure

orderly, peaceful and meaningful polls on Monday.

The police and the military deputized by the Commission on Elections (Comelec), have been specifically focusing on so-called “hotspot” areas where rivalry of candidates has been intense, he said.—Xinhua

Secrecy, hierarchy haunt Japan corporate culture despite Abe's reforms

TOKYO — A spate of high-profile scandals at leading Japanese companies show reforms and rhetoric aimed at improving the country's corporate governance do not go far enough to unwind the culture of secrecy and hierarchy that plagues Japan Inc.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe won applause for introducing new corporate governance rules over the past two years in bid to attract foreign investment and shake-up Japan's too-cozy corporate culture. But scandals including Mitsubishi Motor Corp's admission that it used non-compliant fuel economy testing methods for decades and last year's admission by laptop-to-nuclear conglomerate Toshiba Corp that it had inflated profits suggest much more remains to be done. Nearly five years after Michael Woodford was fired for exposing a cover-up at Olympus Corp, the British ex-CEO of the Japanese medical imaging gear maker says he's still treated like a pariah in Japan, a view

not uncommon in a corporate culture where whistleblowers are more often disdained than admired.

“It is evident to me that 80 per cent or more of senior business leaders (in Japan) consider me as someone who betrayed my company,” Woodford, who now runs a business consultancy and lives in London, told Reuters in a telephone interview. “I'm seen to be a leper in Japan.” Better protection for whistleblowers, training for board directors and stiffer penalties are among the measures experts prescribe to change an inward-looking corporate culture that values unquestioning loyalty to top bosses.

“Japanese corporations still have significant problems with the secrecy of their corporate dealings and lack of transparency in their finances and operations,” said Thomas Clarke, director of the Key University Research Centre for Corporate Governance at the University of Technology in Sydney. Abe's policy team introduced a new corporate



Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe attends a news conference at his official residence in Tokyo, Japan, on 29 March. PHOTO: REUTERS

governance code in 2015, setting rules on disclosure, shareholders' rights and independent directors.

While not legally binding, the Tokyo bourse requires listed firms to “comply or explain” why not, and a “stewardship code” introduced the year before was supposed to encourage disgruntled investors to speak out. Experts laud the changes and say they may even be partly responsible for recent scandals coming to light.

“Bad things happen at

big companies. The question is, how are they dealt with,” said Jesper Koll, CEO of fund manager WisdomTree Japan. “Sweeping them under the carpet is no longer an option.” Experts also warn against wholesale adoption of a US model tying executive compensation to short-term investor returns. Some caution against at pointing the finger just at Japan, given scandals around the world, including Volkswagen's cheating on emissions.—Reuters

North Korea capital gears up for congress; South fears nuclear test



North Korean leader Kim Jong Un gives field guidance during his visit to the newly built Mindulle Notebook Factory in this undated photo released by North Korea's Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) in Pyongyang on 19 April. PHOTO: REUTERS

SEOUL — North Korea has started welcoming delegates from around the country to its first ruling party congress in 36 years, state media reported on Tuesday, as rival South Korea expressed concern that Pyongyang could conduct a nuclear test before or during the event.

The isolated North has conducted a series of weapons tests, including three failed launches of an intermediate-range missile, in the run-up to the Workers'

Party congress starting in Pyongyang on Friday.

North Korea's young leader Kim Jong Un has aggressively pursued nuclear weapons and could be looking to a successful test this week as a crowning achievement. South Korean Defence Minister Han Min-koo said Pyongyang's fifth nuclear test may come before or around the time of the opening of the congress.

“North Korea's goal is to be internationally recognised as a nuclear weapons

state,” Han told a parliamentary hearing on Tuesday. “We believe its nuclear capability is advancing.”

At the congress, which foreign media organizations have been invited to cover, Kim is expected to declare his country a nuclear weapons state and formally adopt his “byongjin” policy to push simultaneously for economic development and nuclear capability.

It follows Kim's father's Songun, or “military

first,” policy and his grandfather's Juche, the North's home-grown founding ideology that combines Marxism and extreme nationalism.

Pyongyang citizens “fervently welcomed participants of the congress who have given all their patriotic passion ... as a new generation of true warriors of Juche revolution under the leadership of dear comrade Kim Jong Un,” North Korea's official *Rodong Sinmun* newspaper said on Tuesday.

Security has been stepped up ahead of the congress.

The Daily NK, a website run by defectors with sources in North Korea, said that since mid-April, free movement in and out of the capital had been stopped and security personnel summoned from the provinces to step up domestic surveillance.

The party congress is the first since 1980, before the 33-year-old Kim was born. His father and predecessor, Kim Jong Il, who died in December 2011, never held one.—Reuters

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Printed and published at the Global New Light of Myanmar Printing Factory at No.150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, by the Global New Light of Myanmar Daily under Printing Permit No. 00510 and Publishing Permit No. 00629.

Australia blames refugee advocates after asylum seeker sets herself alight

SYDNEY — Australia blamed refugee advocates on Tuesday for “encouraging” asylum seekers held in remote camps towards acts of self-harm after a woman set herself on fire, while the United Nations renewed its criticism of Australia’s harsh immigration policy.

Australian officials said an unidentified 21-year-old Somali woman was in a critical condition after she set herself alight at an Australian detention camp on the tiny South Pacific island of Nauru on Monday, the second such incident in a week.

A 23-year-old Iranian man also set himself on fire last week in protest against his treatment on Nauru and later died. The Somali woman has been transferred to Australia for treatment, officials said.

Under Australia’s hard-line immigration policy, asylum seekers intercepted trying to reach Australia after paying

people smugglers are sent for processing to camps on Nauru, which holds about 500 people, and on Manus Island in Papua New Guinea. They are told they will never be settled in Australia. The Papua New Guinea government ordered the Manus Island camp, which holds about 850 people, closed last week after its Supreme Court ruled the facility unlawful.

The harsh conditions and reports of systemic child abuse at the camps have drawn wide criticism inside and outside Australia and have become a major headache for Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull during campaigning for likely July elections.

Australia however has vowed there will be no change to the policy, which has been pursued by successive governments.

On Tuesday, Immigration Minister Peter Dutton acknowl-



Protesters from the Refugee Action Coalition hold placards during a demonstration outside the offices of the Australian Government Department of Immigration and Border Protection in Sydney, Australia, on 29 April. PHOTO: REUTERS

edged there had been a rise in cases of self-harm in the camps but accused refugee advocates of giving the asylum seekers false hope they would one day be settled in Australia.

Her said some advocates were “encouraging some of these people to behave in a certain way”. “The recent behaviours in Nauru are not protests

against living conditions. They aren’t protests against health care, they aren’t protests against the lack of financial support,” Dutton told a news conference in Canberra.

However, the peak UN body for refugees said such incidents in the camps, which hold asylum seekers fleeing violence in the Middle East, Afghanistan

and South Asia, were a result of Australia’s tough offshore detention policies.

“These people have already been through a great deal, many have fled war and persecution, some have already suffered trauma,” the office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in Australia said in a statement.—*Reuters*

Hague court says India must release Italian sailor — Italy



Salvatore Girone (C) and Latorre Massimiliano (3rd R), members of the navy security team of Napoli registered Italian merchant vessel Enrica Lexie, are escorted as they leave a courtroom at Kollam in Kerala in 2012. PHOTO: REUTERS

ROME — A UN court has ruled that India must allow an Italian marine detained in Delhi for more than four years to go home, Italy’s Foreign Ministry said on Monday.

India acknowledged the ruling but said Salvatore Girone would remain under the authority of its Supreme Court which might impose various conditions on his release.

Girone is one of two Italian marines were arrested in India in 2012 on suspicion of killing two fishermen while on an anti-piracy mission on an Italian oil tanker. One returned to Italy with health problems, but India has refused to

let Girone go. He is living in the Italian embassy in Delhi.

“This really is a significant step forward which we have worked on with great dedication,” Prime Minister Matteo Renzi told reporters. “I’ll take advantage of this moment to send a message of friendship to the great people of India.”

The case has soured relations between India and Italy, and also overshadowed Delhi’s efforts to improve its ties with the European Union as other EU countries backed Rome in the row.

Looking to overcome the legal impasse, the two countries

agreed last year to move their dispute to the Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague and abide by its decision.

The Italian Foreign Ministry said in a statement that in an initial ruling, the court had decided that Girone should be allowed home while it continued its deliberations, which might take many months. The court itself declined to comment.

Responding hours later, India said Girone should be free to return home for the duration of the UN investigation, but stressed that he would remain on bail and would have to return to India if the Hague court ruled that India could try the case.

The Ministry of External Affairs said the Supreme Court might demand that he surrender his passport to the Italian authorities and not leave Italy without Indian permission.

The UN court will continue to review the merits of the case and no date has been set for a definitive ruling.

“The government underlines that today’s court decision ... will not influence the progress of the arbitration procedures, which should decide if Italy or India has jurisdiction in the case,” Italy’s Foreign Ministry said.—*Reuters*

Singapore holds eight Bangladeshis for planning terror attacks in home country

SINGAPORE — Singapore has detained eight Bangladeshi men planning to stage terror attacks in their home country as the Islamic State in Bangladesh (ISB), the city state said on Tuesday, the second group of Bangladeshis investigated in the past six months.

The men, aged 26 to 34, were working in Singapore’s construction and marine industries, the government said in a statement. At least two more members in the group were in Bangladesh, it added. “ISB poses a security concern to Singapore because of its support for ISIS and its readiness to resort to the use of violence overseas,” the Ministry of Home Affairs said, referring to Islamic State. The men were detained in April under Singapore’s Internal Security Act, the government said. It was not immediately clear if or when they would be charged or deported. Singapore’s Straits Times called it the first detentions under the act involving a foreign workers’ cell. The government of wealthy, multi-ethnic Singapore, which has not faced any militant attacks in decades, said investigations showed the ISB had identified several possible attack targets in Bangladesh.

Islamist militants in Bangladesh have targeted atheist bloggers, academics, religious minor-

ities and foreign aid workers in a series of killings that date back to February 2015 and have claimed at least 20 lives. A Hindu tailor was hacked to death on Saturday.

The Islamic State and a group affiliated to al Qaeda have claimed responsibility for most of the attacks. Bangladeshi police said home-grown militant group are responsible.

In January, Singapore said it had arrested 27 Bangladeshi construction workers who supported Islamist groups including al Qaeda and Islamic State and deported 26 of them. Fourteen of the 26 have since been jailed in Bangladesh on “terror charges”, Bangladeshi police said, but denied they had any link to the Islamic State or al Qaeda. The Singapore ministry said the eight detained men had intended to join Islamic State as foreign fighters.

It provided photographs of the men, a bomb making manual and other documents it said the group had used.

The ministry said the men felt it would be difficult for them to make their way to Syria and focused instead on returning to Bangladesh to overthrow the government by force, and bring it under the Islamic State’s self-proclaimed caliphate, the ministry said.—*Reuters*

Opinion

Write for us

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

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

Be ethical, accountable and impartial

Khin Maung Aye

WHENEVER the word "the freedom of the press" is mentioned, the newsmen should remember that they are obliged to serve the public interests with unbiased reporting. Whatever is reported be it in the form of a news report or a feature or editorial, there should prevail three factors—fairness, accuracy and impartiality.

It is true that journalists are at liberty to express and publish freely their conviction and opinion as allowed by the constitution, enjoying

the freedom of expression and freedom of information. Nevertheless, it is of importance for the editorial staff to understand well and abide by the following principles: not to harm the interests of the public; to avoid writing the misleading news reports and articles and to pay special attention to the accuracy of the news reports.

In this juncture, it is also of importance for the journalists to be ethical, abiding by the code of conduct according to which journalists shall not harass or attempt to

intimidate the news source, avoiding all forms of discrimination and avoiding obscenity, vulgar expression, malicious imputations and false and defamatory statements.

Nowadays, certain media are found to be weak in being accountable for what is written, especially when it comes to ethics or code of conduct. A strong case is a news report regarding religious faith. In its news report, there are certain opinions which can mislead the readers with the result that hatred is bred between and among the peo-

ple professing different religious faiths. An equally strong case is concerned with ethnic affairs. The news report is found to be distorted to drive a wedge between ethnic groups. As Myanmar is made up of 135 national races, it is of utmost importance for the media to provide balanced reports.

Just as the authorities are needed to provide full access to information, the journalists are also required to be ethical, accountable and impartial in their presentation of news and views.

Environment and Human Rights

Dr. Khine Khine Win

THERE is no internationally agreed single definition of environment. Environment is living things and what is around them. Living things do not simply exist in their environment. They constantly interact with it. In the environment there are interactions between plants, animals, soil, water, temperature, light, and other living and non-living things. The environment affects the growth and development of the person. It affects the person's behavior, person's body, mind and heart.

Human rights are rights inherent to all human beings regardless of nationality, place of residence, sex, religion, language or any other status. All human being rely on environment to get resources, such as water, shelter, food and clothing.

The provisions of the UN Stockholm Declaration of 1972 focus on the concerns and efforts to protect the environment on the fact that is essential for human well-being and to the enjoyment of basic human rights. This Stockholm Declaration is the first effort of the international community to introduce in the political agenda the environmental dimension as a condition for economic and social progress.

Although environment and human rights are distinct and separate fields, protection of envi-



ronment and human rights are closely related to the point that they are actually independent. For instance, pollution is not directly a human rights issue but it becomes a human right issue when people well-being is affected by pollution, negative effects on health and livelihood such as the right to health and the right to life. And also climate change poses a threat to the right to food,

the right to water and the right to development. It shows that environmental degradation such as pollution, depletion of ozone layer and climate change etc affects directly the enjoyment of basic human rights. Moreover, the relation between human rights and the environment has been recognized in two ways, through the proclamation of right to healthy environment, safe and sustainable and by

deepening the link between human rights and environment, such as right to life and right to health. In this regard, adequate protection of environment depends on the exercises of human rights, such as right to access information which is vital to the transparent environmental policies.

Nowadays, climate change is affecting every country on every continent. Climate change

is a major threat to agriculture and as a consequence food security for people is at risk. And also infrastructure and transportation are at risk too. In order to solve this issue, addressing climate change is one of 17 Global Goals that make up the universally agreed 2030 Agenda for Sustainable development.

UN special Rapporteur John Knox emphasizes in his report that human rights perspective on environmental protection promotes equality, freedom and human dignity and improves the effectiveness of policy making and he elaborates that more sustainable and robust policy outcomes can be generated when those individuals most affected by development and environmental policies participate in decision-making processes. In future, efforts to mainstream environmental and human rights norms in implementing and monitoring the SDGs will be critical, he stated in his report.

The enjoyment of human beings depends on environmental protection and in turn environmental protection depends on the action of human beings. While attempting to become fully developed country, preserving the environment issue should be considered because the existence of all human being does not rely on infrastructure; it's on green and clean environment.

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Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services meets Japanese FM



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing receives Japanese Foreign Minister Mr Fumio Kishida. PHOTO: MYAWADY

COMMANDER-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing received Japanese Foreign Affairs Minister Mr Fumio Kishida yesterday.

During the meeting, the Senior General clarified the stance of the Tatmadaw in regard to the

peace efforts and its cooperation in achieving long-term stable peace in the country.

Mr Fumio Kishida vowed to further strengthen bilateral relations through promoting of cooperation in the defence sector between the two countries with

the involvement of the Japanese defence ministry and Nippon foundation.

The two also discussed matters related to Myanmar's efforts in attaining lasting peace and issues relating to regional and international stability.— *Myawady*

Environment and Human Rights

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Despite most countries having enacted laws aimed at protecting the environment, many of which have enshrined this right in their constitutions, the right to a healthy environment is not recognized explicitly. Protecting the environment is a government obligation and that of citizens too. Article 45 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar states that “The Union shall protect and conserve natural environment” and also article 390 (b) states that every citizens has the duty to assist the Union in carry out to environmental conservation.

In order to deal with human rights and environmental protection, legitimacy policies, accountability of every stakeholder levels, good governance in multi-stake holders the private sector

for human rights and environment organization are needed to promote. Rules, norms and regulations must be in place. At local level, the provincial authority and village leaders should formulate rules and agreement concerning the preservation and conservation of environment. And also many existing institutions at both national and global have to foster to address the environment protection, while others are involved in human rights. We should strive to balance between environmental protection and human rights protection and safeguard life in order to achieve the sustainability.

It should be noted that, getting community involvement in environmental protection is very crucial. Better coordination between public, private, civil society and NGOs, (all stakeholders)

plays an essential role to ensure a global green economy and green world. Lack of coordination between among different stakeholders fails to become a healthy environment. Without the right to healthy environment, it is impossible to realize the right to food, water, health etc now and in the future.

To conclude, the economic and social development depends on the protection of the environment and reduction of the human impact. Addressing the global environmental problems that threaten our lives requires national efforts as well as international collaboration on both bilateral and multilateral level and the active participation of all members of the international community. If there is an issue, it is the political will and individual will that matters.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

Regarding the article The Myanmars and Jealousy which appeared on 2 May 2016, having travelled to over twenty countries and got the chance to know people from many other nations, I would like to express the view that the people of Myanmar, now and in the past, are not especially prone to this malady, and we are no more, and no less afflicted with the seven deadly sins of pride, envy, wrath, gluttony, lust, sloth and greed, than people in other regions. I have stayed in four countries for about four years each, and much as I would like to claim that I know these countries and their peoples well, due to our differences in culture, religion, values systems, level of development, etc. it would be difficult for me to say precisely what their national traits are because each person I got to know was different. Since young, many of us in Myanmar have always been tempered by the concept of karma in Buddhism and the belief that our present conditions are shaped by the actions, work or deeds of our past lives, and so a lot of us accept that we are totally, if not partially, responsible for our good fortunes and misfortunes and it is no use being jealous of other people's success. Indeed, the world would be a much better place and its citizens happier, if jealousy could be totally eradicated in the minds of all beings, not just human beings.

Pho Thit

Significant Achievements Regarding Labour Rights in Myanmar **POEM:**

The President's message of felicitation on first May on the occasion of International Workers' Day was to all Myanmar workers near and far away greeting them and wishing them health and happiness and urging them to strive for the national progress.

During the time of the Twenty Eleven Government there had been several significant achievements regarding rights and privileges of Myanmar worker which will bear fruits in the new Government's tenure.

The first significant achievement is Freedom of Association and the Right to Organize granted in the Union Constitution. To put it into effect the law relating to labour organization was enacted by the Hluttaw in October, Twenty Eleven.

Many Workers' Organizations have since been formed as in the President's Workers' Day Message is mentioned and many more are being in the process of formation. Efforts by the Workers' and Employers' Organisations, together with the representatives of Government to resolve labour disputes through process of conciliation in line with the settlement of labour disputes legislation without resorting to strikes, the workers may be assured of having their grievances and demands addressed. For conciliations to resolve labour disputes, the workers must have faith in the process and the employers as well, take seriously their legal and social obligations, and cooperating with the workers and their organizations.

The next significant achievement according to the President is the efforts toward eradication of forced labour in accordance with the long ratified by Myanmar "Forced Labour Convention" with technical assistance of the International Labour Organization.

An achievement of significant impact on the workforce of the future was the signing of the Convention on Worst Forms of Child Labour. The Program on the Elimination of Child Labour is being launched also with the technical cooperation of the ILO, as is mentioned.

Fixing minimum wages by law is the next significant achievement it is implicit in the matters of labour laws mentioned by the President. As fixing of minimum wages is a new measure for the Union Government effort is needed together with employers and workers to implement.

Another one of the significant achievement has been enacting The "Employment and Skills Development Law" of twenty thirteen replacing the "Employment and Training Act" of nineteen fifty placing responsibility on employers, of both public and private industry to undertake skills development, upgrading and updating training for their workers either individually or collectively conducting training courses or sending their workers to attend training centres organized by both public and private training service providers.

Another feature of the same law is the certification of skilled workers whether they acquired their skills through attending organized training or through experiential learning on-the-job as has mostly been the practice over the years in most Enterprises and Industry seen. The Skills Development Body formed under the ESD Law abovementioned sets Competency Standards at semi-skilled, skilled, advanced skilled and supervisory levels in line with international standards for specific occupations for quality assured assessment and certification at the workers option by an independent committee under the Skills Development Body and awarding by the Body of National Level Certificates of Competency.

Still another significant achievement concerns Labour Migration as innocent people from various States and Regions have fallen victim to exploitative illegal recruiters and the human traffickers promising them jobs but 'selling' them to unscrupulous employers. Eradication of the illegal recruiters and human traffickers are a priority it's equally important to educate and inform potential migrants duly about safe and legal way to seek and take up employment abroad.

For that purpose as the President in his message mentioned, Migrant Resource Centres have been established in (11) cities including Yangon and Mandalay, and efficient operation of the MRCs will induce migrant workers to undertake migration legally and safely.

The pledge of the new Government as expressed by the President is to realize the political objectives long inspired by the people. That the new Government will work hand in hand with the workforce and strive for ensuring national development through the cooperation among the government, employers and workers based on Social Justice. It will surely also lead to long awaited Industrial Harmony and Peace.

Lokethar

Clinton courts Appalachian voters to counter Trump on trade



US Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton buys Girl Scouts' cookies during a campaign event in Ashland, Kentucky, United States, on 2 May. PHOTO: REUTERS

WASHINGTON/CARMEL, (Ind) — US presidential candidate Hillary Clinton met with coal and steel workers in the Appalachian region on Monday in an effort to win over blue-collar voters in a part of the country with strong support for Republican Donald Trump.

The real estate mogul made his own pitch on Monday to voters in areas struggling from the loss of industry, telling a crowd in Indiana he would create “clean coal” jobs.

Clinton has increasingly turned her attention beyond the Democratic Party nomination fight with US Senator Bernie Sanders and is making early moves to try to siphon support from Trump ahead of a possible match-up in the 8 November election.

On Monday, she met union leaders and some of the 600 workers who were laid off last year when AK Steel Holding Corp announced it would idle a furnace in eastern Kentucky.

She said jobs losses in manufacturing and the coal industry in the area had been a heavy blow.

“Talk about a ripple effect. It’s just devastating communities,” Clinton told workers around

a table at an Italian restaurant in the town of Ashland.

While the Republican presidential candidates focus on Tuesday’s primary contest in Indiana, Clinton launched a trip to Appalachia this week that will include events in Ohio and West Virginia.

She has a large lead over Sanders for the Democratic nomination. Unions typically back Democratic candidates, and union leaders have endorsed both Clinton and Sanders in the 2016 presidential race.

But Trump’s pro-coal, anti-trade message and outsider status has resonated with some blue collar union members frustrated with Washington politicians. He and other Republicans also accuse President Barack Obama’s administration of waging a “war on coal” by imposing strict environmental regulations.

“I’m a free-market guy, but not when you’re getting killed,” Trump said at a rally in Carmel, Indiana. “Look at steel, it’s being wiped out. Your coal industry is wiped out, and China is taking our coal.”

The New York businessman won the Republican nominating contest in Kentucky in March,

sweeping most of the counties in the economically struggling east of the state.

Parts of Appalachia, a region that spans multiple states across the eastern United States, have struggled with poverty and job losses. West Virginia’s unemployment rate of 6.5 per cent in March was well above the national rate of 5 per cent, according to Labour Department data. Ohio’s unemployment rate was 5.1 per cent, while the figure in Kentucky was 5.6 per cent.

It will be an uphill struggle for Clinton there if she wins the nomination. She has pledged more than \$30 billion to help regions that depend on coal, but her promise was overshadowed when she said in March that the country would “put a lot of coal miners and coal companies out of business.”

And her husband, former President Bill Clinton, campaigned on Sunday in West Virginia, encountering protests from Trump supporters. West Virginia last voted for a Democratic presidential candidate in 1996, when Bill Clinton was running for his second four-year term. He is the only Democrat who has won Kentucky since 1980.—Reuters

US does not owe Japan apology for nuclear bombing: White House

WASHINGTON — US President Barack Obama does not believe that his country owes Japan a formal apology for the 1945 nuclear bombing of the Japanese city of Hiroshima, White House spokesman Josh Earnest said on Monday.

“No, he does not,” said Earnest at a press conference when asked whether Obama thinks Japan deserves an apology for the bombing in 1945.

Earnest also said that Obama is yet to decide whether to officially visit Hiroshima when he is

in Japan in late May for a Group of Seven (G7) summit.

In April, US Secretary of State John Kerry visited the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park, along with other G7 foreign ministers.

Kerry was the first US secretary of state to visit the A-bombed city, and Tokyo is hoping Kerry’s visit could spur a visit by Obama.

A US bomber dropped a nuclear bomb on Hiroshima on 6 August, 1945, and another nuclear bomb was dropped on the Japanese city of Nagasaki three days

later, killing tens of thousands of people.

The bombings, which remain the only use of nuclear weapons for warfare in history, were thought to be instrumental in forcing the Japanese surrender in World War II.

Japan has been ceaselessly emphasizing its identity as the world’s sole victim of nuclear bombs, but has yet to thoroughly reflect on the root cause of the tragedy — its militaristic aggression and brutal violence against other countries.—Xinhua

NEWS IN BRIEF

Chinese police to patrol in Italy in two-week experiment

ROME — Chinese police are joining Italian officers on the streets of Rome and Milan in an experiment aimed at helping tourists from China feel safe, Italy’s interior ministry said on Monday.

The experiment is the first of its kind in Europe, China’s ambassador to Italy, Li Ruiyu, said at a meeting to announce the project, according to a statement from the ministry.

The four Chinese officers, who were trained by Italians in Beijing, will wear the same uniforms they wear at home so their compatriots can recognise them easily.

More than 3 million Chinese tourists come to Italy every year, according to Liao Jinrong, the director general of the Chinese International Cooperation Bureau.—Reuters

Helicopter crash in Russia’s Far East kills three

VLADIVOSTOK, (Russia) — All three people aboard a private helicopter were confirmed dead after it crashed Tuesday in Russia’s Far East, officials said.

The Robinson R44 helicopter crashed near the Kamchatka Peninsula, and skiers at the site called the emergency services, according to the regional office of the Ministry for Emergency Situations and Civil Defence. The cause of the helicopter crash is yet to be determined.—Xinhua

Spanish police arrest four accused of promoting Islamist militancy

MADRID — Spanish police arrested four people on the outskirts of Madrid on Tuesday accused of promoting Islamist militancy via social media, the Interior Ministry said.

Three of those detained in the operation, which is ongoing, were from Morocco and the fourth was Spanish, it said in a statement.

They allegedly targeted hundreds of people via instant messaging and other social media before making direct contact with smaller groups.

Including Tuesday’s arrests, Spain has detained 23 people so far this year with presumed links to Islamist militancy.—Reuters

Spanish King calls national election for 26 June

MADRID — Spain’s King Felipe dissolved parliament on Tuesday and called a parliamentary election for 26 June, the second in six months after an inconclusive ballot in late 2015 left its political landscape fragmented.

The new ballot follows four months of fruitless coalition talks between Spain’s four main parties, including the conservative People’s Party (PP) of acting prime minister Mariano Rajoy, which won the most votes in December but lost its majority.

“Let’s hope we’ve all learned our lesson and that the next parliament reaches an agreement (on forming a government) as soon as possible,” speaker Patxi Lopez told a news conference, confirming the king had signed the election decree.

Conducted against a backdrop of economic hardship and with a political elite tainted by corruption claims, the previous election marked the end of the dominance of the two traditional parties, the PP and the Socialists, that have governed Spain since its transition back to democracy in the mid-1970s. Their power base was eroded by the emergence of two newcomers, anti-austerity Podemos (“We Can”) and centrist Ciudadanos (“Citizens”).—Reuters

Kosovo airport closes after Turkish Airlines jet skids off runway

PRISTINA (Kosovo) — A Turkish Airlines jet carrying 143 passengers and eight crew from Istanbul skidded off the runway on Monday when landing at Kosovo’s sole airport, officials said.

“Turkish Airlines flight TK1018 from Istanbul has had a minor incident and fortunately no one was injured,” airport spokeswoman Valentina Gara said.

“The airport will remain closed for few hours until some initial technical investigations are finished.”

A flight from Brussels was diverted to Tirana, Albania.

Local media showed images of the Turkish Airlines jet standing in a grassy area next to the runway.

“Thanks God we (were) saved from a tragedy,” one passenger wrote in a facebook posting with photos of the aircraft.

Authorities are investigating what caused the incident.—Reuters

Kerry aims to extend truce to Syria's Aleppo as ceasefire unravels



US Secretary of State John Kerry gestures next to United Nations Special Envoy on Syria Staffan de Mistura during a news conference in Geneva, Switzerland, on 2 May. PHOTO: REUTERS

AMMAN/GENEVA — Washington and Moscow said on Monday they were working hard to extend a truce in Syria to Aleppo, the divided northern city where a sharp escalation of violence in recent weeks has left a ceasefire in tatters and torpedoed peace talks.

US Secretary of State John Kerry was in Geneva for meetings with other dignitaries to try to revive the two-month-old US

and Russia-sponsored cessation of hostilities, which quieted guns for the first time during the five-year Syrian war but which has unravelled in recent days.

Syria announced temporary local truces in two areas last week. But those agreements have not been extended to Aleppo, where government air strikes and rebel shelling have killed hundreds of civilians in the past week, including more than 50 people in a hos-

pital rebels say was deliberately targeted by the army.

The Aleppo fighting threatens to wreck the first peace talks involving the warring parties, which are due to resume at an unspecified date after breaking up in April when the opposition delegation walked out citing government ceasefire violations.

"We're getting closer to a place of understanding, but we have some work to do, and that's

why we're here," Kerry said at the start of a meeting with Saudi Foreign Minister Adel al-Jubeir.

Kerry said he hoped for more clarity in the next day or so on restoring the nationwide ceasefire. The United States and Russia had agreed to keep extra staff in Geneva to work on it.

"Both sides, the opposition and the regime, have contributed to this chaos, and we are working over the next hours intensely in order to try to restore the cessation of hostilities," Kerry said.

He later spoke by telephone to Russia's Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov. The Russian Foreign Ministry said they both called on all sides to observe the ceasefire. A Russian military official, General Sergei Kuralenko, said talks were under way on extending the local truces to Aleppo.

The United States and Russia have taken the leading roles in diplomacy since Moscow joined the war last year with an air campaign that tipped the balance of power in favour of President Bashar al-Assad, its ally.

Washington is among Western and regional powers that say Assad must leave office. The White House said on Monday Assad's government needed to live up to its ceasefire commitments.

The civil war in Syria has killed hundred of thousands of people, driven millions from their homes, created the world's worst

refugee crisis and provided a base for Islamic State militants who have launched attacks elsewhere.

All diplomatic efforts to resolve it have foundered over the fate of Assad, who refuses to accept opposition demands that he leave power.

The local truces, known as a "regime of calm", were launched in the Eastern Ghouta suburb of Damascus and the countryside of northern Latakia province from Saturday morning in a bid to revive the overall ceasefire. The Latakia truce was for three days and the Ghouta truce, initially for 24 hours, was also extended by another 48.

Both cover areas where there has been heavy fighting. But without a similar truce in Aleppo, divided for years between government and rebel zones, there appears to be little hope of restoring the overall ceasefire so talks can resume. De Mistura, due to travel to Moscow for talks with Lavrov, said in a statement there could be no progress in political talks without the ceasefire and other steps to bring "tangible benefits on the ground for the Syrian people".

Aleppo remains the biggest prize for Assad's forces hoping to take full control of the city, Syria's largest before the war. The nearby countryside includes the last strip of the Syria-Turkish border in the hands of Arab Sunni rebels.—Reuters

Afghan woman injured in militants' firing on local bazaar

JALALABAD, (Afghanistan) — An Afghan woman was wounded on Tuesday when militants shot several rounds of small arms fire on a local bazaar in eastern province of Nangarhar, the provincial government said.

"The militants fired indiscriminately on Hisarak District bazaar at around 09:00 am local time. The firing caused one

woman shopper injured but she was shifted by security forces to the district hospital shortly after the incident," it said in a statement.

The injured remained in stable condition after receiving treatment, according to the statement.

The statement noted that "a pursuit operation was now

launched against the fleeing rebels".

The statement blamed the enemies of peace, a term used to refer to Taliban militants, for the attack.

More than 3,540 civilians were killed and over 7,450 injured in Taliban-led attacks and conflicts last year, according to a report by the UN mission in

the country released in February.

The report has attributed 62 per cent of the casualties to the Taliban and other insurgent groups, 17 percent were attributed to security forces while the rest 21 per cent of civilian casualties were unattributed or caused by explosive remnants of war.—Xinhua

Two Turkish soldiers, five Kurdish militants killed in attack

ANKARA — Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) militants armed with rocket launchers and rifles attacked a military outpost in southeast Turkey, triggering a clash in which two Turkish soldiers and five PKK fighters were killed, the military said on Tuesday.

The attack was launched in the Semdinli District of Hakkari Province, which borders Iraq and Iran, at 5:35 pm (1435 GMT) on Monday, the armed forces statement said.

Thousands of militants and hundreds of security force members and civilians have been killed since the conflict between the PKK and the state resumed last July after a 2-1/2-year ceasefire.

The PKK, designated a terrorist group by Turkey and its Western allies, began its insurgency in 1984 and more than 40,000 people have been killed in the conflict.—Reuters

Islamic State breaches peshmerga defences north of Mosul

BAGHDAD — Islamic State militants attacked Kurdish peshmerga forces on multiple fronts in northern Iraq on Tuesday, breaching their defences and briefly taking over a town, military sources said.

The attacks around the northern city of Mosul are the largest against Kurdish forces in recent months by the insurgents, who have been losing ground to an array of forces in the north and west of the country. The head of a Christian militia said the insurgents had overrun their positions at dawn around the town of Tel Asqof, 20 km (12 miles) north of Mosul, and occupied it until being beaten back with the help of air strikes from a US-led coalition. "There were many suicide bombers and suicide car bombs,"

said Safa Elias, the head of the Nineveh Protection Forces, which are deployed alongside the peshmerga in the area.

There were also attacks on the Bashiqa front and in the Khazer area, about 40 km (25 miles) west of the Kurdish regional capital Erbil. Since the United States intervened to blunt Islamic State's advance on Erbil in August 2014, the peshmerga have driven the militants back in the north.

The militants are rarely able to penetrate Kurdish defences. Peshmerga Secretary General Jabbar Yawar said details of the offensives were still unclear, but they constituted the biggest attacks in recent months.

"The battles are ongoing," he said.—Reuters



An Iraqi Kurdish Peshmerga stands guard near the Mosul Dam in northern Iraq, on 3 February. PHOTO: REUTERS

Baby pulled out alive three days after Kenya building collapse

NAIROBI — Rescue workers pulled out a one-year-old girl from the rubble of a building in Kenya's capital on Tuesday more than three days after it collapsed following days of heavy rain.

At least 21 people have so far been confirmed dead after the six-storey residential block in Nairobi's poor Huruma district crumbled on Friday night. Police are questioning the owners after President Uhuru Kenyatta ordered them detained.

"The child, who had been buried for about 80 hours, was found in a bucket wrapped in a blanket. She appeared dehydrated, and with no visible physical injuries," the Kenya Red Cross said in a statement.

The fate of her parents was not clear. The girl was being treated in hospital.

The collapse of the building was the latest such disaster in a fast expanding



A general view shows rescue workers searching for residents feared trapped in the rubble of a six-storey building that collapsed after days of heavy rain, in Nairobi, Kenya on 30 April. PHOTO: REUTERS

African city that is struggling to build homes fast enough.

Like many other cities in Africa, the population of Nairobi has climbed dra-

matically in recent years. The Kenyan capital had almost 3.5 million people in 2011, about a third bigger than a decade earlier, according to UN figures.

Governments have struggled to provide basic infrastructure and bureaucratic processes to ensure planning rules are met.

Many Kenyans who

come to the city in search of work end up in one of several slums, such as Kibera, made up of makeshift homes of wood and corrugated iron sheets.

Others live in slightly better off but still poor districts, like Huruma, where concrete buildings have risen rapidly amid potholed roads and ropey power supplies. Heavy rains have caused other collapses in Nairobi but without such high death tolls.

The Interior Ministry said the Huruma building had been earmarked for demolition as it was built close to a river, but the order had not been carried out by local officials. It urged developers to adhere to safety standards.

After visiting the site on Saturday, Kenya's president ordered other buildings to be surveyed to ensure they were safe.

Rescue workers had

said on Monday that the chances of finding more survivors was unlikely. About 136 people have already been saved from the wreck.

Dozens of other people are still listed as missing, Red Cross spokeswoman Arnolda Shiundu said, adding it was not clear how many of those had escaped but had not yet been traced.

Similar disasters have afflicted other African urban areas. In 2014, a church in Lagos, one of Africa's biggest cities, collapsed killing 115 people. A Nigerian coroner last year blamed poor construction.

Poor and illegal construction has also often been blamed for the crumbling of apartment blocks in Egypt, where almost all Egyptians are crammed into the crowded Nile Valley and buildings are often extended with extra floors piled on top.—Reuters

Commissioner urges greater transparency of media ownership

BELGRADE — Serbia's Commissioner for Information of Public Importance and Personal Data Protection Rodoljub Sabic congratulated journalists on 3 May, World Press Freedom Day, on Monday, wishing them "the accomplishment of several objectives significant for journalists and media, as well as society as a whole."

He also noted the need for greater transparency of media ownership, public access to all information on media funding from public funds and on possible other ways of influencing media.

The commissioner also pointed to the need to

curb self-censorship and the phenomenon of "conflicts" in electronic media, including attacks on websites and activities by campaigners commonly referred to as "bots" and, in particular, an increasing tabloidisation of media and society, accompanied by frequent "leaks" of various "confidential information" to certain media only.

Sabic also wished better personal security to journalists, noting that the state plays a crucial role in this and that the role includes punishing all those who put the security of journalists under threat.—Tanjung

US tells Pakistan it will have to fund F-16s itself

WASHINGTON — The United States has told Pakistan it will have to finance the purchase of US F-16 fighter jets itself after members of the US Congress objected to the use of government funds to pay for them.

The US government said in February it had approved the sale to Pakistan of up to eight F-16 fighter jets built by Lockheed Martin Corp LMT.N, as well as radar and other equipment in a deal valued at \$699 million.

However, Republican Senator Bob Corker said he would use his power as chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee to bar the use of any US funds for the deal to send

a message to Pakistan that it needed to do more in the war against militants.

Corker's stance reflected deep unhappiness among both Democrats and Republicans in Congress about what they see as Islamabad's policy of supporting militant groups that target Afghans and Americans, and Pakistan's failure to support the reconciliation process for Afghanistan. US State Department spokesman John Kirby said congressional opposition meant funds from the US government's Foreign Military Financing allocation could not be used to purchase the aircraft.

"Given congressional objections, we have told the Pakistanis that they should



Pakistani F-16 fighter jets fly past during the Pakistan Day military parade in Islamabad, Pakistan, on 23 March 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

put forward national funds for that purpose," he told a regular news briefing.

Kirby said the State Department opposed putting conditions on the use of such funds and believed

that effective engagement with Pakistan, including by supporting its counter-terrorism effort, was "critical" to promoting democracy and economic stability in the country.—Reuters

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV MERATUS GORONTALO VOY NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MERATUS GORONTALO VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 4.5.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claim's 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 YANG MING LINE

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV PACAO VOY NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV PACAO VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 4.5.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claim's 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 YANG MING LINE

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV KULTHARA VOY NO (04/16)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KULTHARA VOY NO (04/16) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 4.5.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W 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 Claim's 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 KULNATEE CO LTD.

Phone No: 2301928

France's Hollande sends labour bill to parliament in face of rebellion

PARIS — After weeks of sometimes violent protests, France's socialist government sent a bill to parliament on Tuesday that seeks to soften labour laws despite every chance that rebels within President Francois Hollande's ruling party will shoot it down.

Defeat would deliver a further blow to the deeply unpopular Hollande a year from elections. Only weeks ago, in the face of widespread opposition, he was forced to abandon plans to strip people of their French citizenship if convicted of terrorism.

"The time has come to allow parliament to embellish the text. Should we give in to street protests and pull this text? No," Labour Minister Myriam El Khomri told France's Le Parisien newspaper as the

National Assembly prepared to open the debate.

France has some of the most extensive and protective labour regulations in the euro zone. The government argues that France needs to cut red tape and some of the more cumbersome regulations that deter employers from hiring.

At stake for Hollande is a second crack at the presidency.

He has said he will not run for re-election unless the unemployment rate, stuck stubbornly above 10 per cent, falls.

El Khomri acknowledged the bill might be as many as 40 votes short of the support it needs to become law when put to a vote later this month. She said she hoped that would change.

The government, fac-



A protestor holds a placard during a demonstration against the French labour law proposal in Paris, France, on 3 May 2016 as the labour reforms law reaches parliament today with 5,000 amendments to be discussed. PHOTO: REUTERS

ing thousands of formal demands from lawmakers for amendments, could override opposition via a special constitutional clause — known as 49:3 - to force the reform through by decree. It has not indicated it will do so.

Unions argue that by broadening recourse to deals on pay and conditions at company level, the proposed legislation would effectively provide employers with an opt-out from national obligations on basic labour rights.

The government has already watered the bill down.

El Khomri backed down on capping the financial settlements that labour tribunals can impose on employers for breach of obligations. But the bill re-

tains other measures that would make it easier for firms to lay off workers in hard times.

Unions and other opponents of the bill were planning more protests in Paris and other cities later on Tuesday.—Reuters

New York businesses to cut trash by half in 'Zero Waste' plan

NEW YORK — More than 30 New York City businesses, including Whole Foods Market Inc, Walt Disney Co's ABC and Anheuser Busch, have agreed to cut the trash they send to landfills by half by June, the mayor's office said on Monday.

The "Zero Waste Challenge" is part of Mayor Bill de Blasio's ambitious goal to reduce the city's waste output by 90 per cent by 2030, through increased recycling, reduced packaging and composting. In 2015, the city's sanitation department collected 3.2 million tons of waste.

"We're doing what we can to make recycling and composting as accessible as possible to New Yorkers, but everyone will need to do their part to make a more sustainable New York City a reality," de Blasio said in a statement. "These businesses are leading the way."

New York, with more than 8 million residents, is the largest city in the Western Hemisphere to adopt such a far-reaching plan. Los Angeles has announced

a similar plan to reduce its waste by 90 per cent by 2025.

Participants in the challenge, which began in February, have already slashed 60 percent of their waste, on average, using strategies such as stocking coffee mugs rather than paper cups and switching from filing cabinets to digital storage, de Blasio said. Nearly 13,000 tons of trash have been diverted from landfills so far, they said.

The challenge also requires businesses that regularly have leftover edible food to donate it to collection organisations like City Harvest, which distributes food to homeless shelters.

Businesses in the challenge include Citi Field and Barclays Center, the homes of the New York Mets baseball team and the Brooklyn Nets basketball team, respectively; luxury hotels like The Peninsula and The Waldorf Astoria; high-end restaurants like Le Bernardin; and the e-commerce website Etsy Inc.—Reuters

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV LA CHESNAIS VOY NO (-)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV LA CHESNAIS VOY NO (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 4.5.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P.L 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 Claim's 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 BENLINE AGENCIES CO LTD.**

Phone No: 2301928

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV WINNING BRIGHT VOY NO (1605)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV WINNING BRIGHT VOY NO (1605) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 4.5.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T-4 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 Claim's 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 BRIGHT SAIL SHIPPING CO LTD.**

Phone No: 2301928

INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER (3/2016) [TENDER NO. MPPE/ HSD / T /1 (2016 — 2017)]

1. Open Tender is invited for the Myanma Petroleum Products Enterprise, Ministry of Electricity and Energy for the supply of High Speed Diesel (423.000 ± 10% Barrels)

2. Tender Closing Date & Time - 19 - 5 - 2016, 12:00 Hrs
3. Tender Opening Date & Time - 19 - 5 - 2016, 13:00 Hrs
4. Delivery Time - June 2016 to September 2016

5. Tender documents and details information are available at the Department of Finance, Myanma Petroleum Products Enterprise, Nay Pyi Taw, during our office hours commencing 2 - 5 - 2016 on payment of Myanmar Kyat One Hundred Thousand (Kyats 100,000) per set.

6. Only bid from tenderer who has purchased tender document officially from Myanma Petroleum Products Enterprise will be accepted for evaluation.

Managing Director
Myanma Petroleum Products Enterprise
Ministry of Electricity and Energy
No (6) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw

Contact Phone No.
067-411487/411486/411280

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Celebrities and elite unleash tech-themed outfits at Met Gala

NEW YORK — Celebrities and the elite unleashed tech-themed haute couture at the Met Gala on Monday night in New York, lighting up the Twittersphere much like a dress worn by Claire Danes.

Danes caused an early flurry on social media wearing a Zac Posen dress, similar to Cinderella's ball gown, which was illuminated from underneath as she walked the red carpet. The Twittersphere briefly mistook the "Homeland" actress for model Heidi Klum.

Pop singer and co-chair of the Gala, Taylor Swift, however appeared to win the night. True to the "Manus x Machina: Fashion in an Age of Technology" theme for this year's Costume Institute exhibition, "Tay Tay" shimmered in a silver Louis Vuitton gown, black lace-up heels and boldly dark lipstick.

Swift's date for the night, Selena Gomez, also rocked the red carpet wearing Vuitton.

"Am I crazy? I like how Taylor Swift looks? I think it's editorial. #MetGala," wrote

editorial director of Paper Magazine Mickey Boardman (@AskMrMickeyv).

Others didn't take as well to Swift's selection.

Fashion blogger Bryanboy (@bryanboy) quipped, "Taylor Swift had the worst shoes I swear."

Kanye West and Kim Kardashian showed up to the ball "twinning" in Balmain, prompting the Fashion company to go viral on Twitter with many users expressing their "over-it" feelings toward the line.

"MORE OF THIS, LESS BAL-

Singer-Songwriter Taylor Swift arrives at the Metropolitan Museum of Art Costume Institute Gala (Met Gala) to celebrate the opening of "Manus x Machina: Fashion in an Age of Technology" in the Manhattan borough of New York, on 2 May.

PHOTO: REUTERS

MAIN," opined fashion writer Jessica Schiffer (@jessicaschiffer), retweeting an image of actress Emma Watson at tonight's Gala in a Calvin Klein pant and skirt ensemble.

Mother-to-be and "Scandal" star Kerry Washington rocked a black lace Marc Jacobs dress with a new do — purple hair — while Lady Gaga strutted the red carpet in a Versace one-piece. Ciara also furthered the conversation online with her metallic hair and custom-made H&M dress.

Beyonce, who has dominated the Met Gala red carpet in recent years, wore a Givenchy gown. The singer tops dress searches at the gala on Google from 2004 to present, according to Google Trends (@GoogleTrends).

Anna Wintour, the American Vogue editor-in-chief and organizer of the star-studded event, was the first to arrive at the Met's annual fund-raising ball. Paparazzi snapped photos of her white-fringed Chanel dress alongside her daughter, Bee Shaffer, who wore a custom gown by Alexander McQueen.

The hashtag #MetGala was top trending in the United States on all of Monday with more than 1 million total mentions.—Reuters

Oprah Winfrey.
PHOTO: PTI



Oprah Winfrey to star in HBO's 'Henrietta Lacks' movie

LOS ANGELES — TV mogul Oprah Winfrey has landed a lead role in "The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks".

The star, 62, has been developing the TV movie for six years after teaming with "True Blood" creator Alan Ball to produce the project, reported Deadline.

The film, for America's HBO network, will be based on Rebecca Skloot's book and will centre on the true story of Henrietta Lacks, an African-American woman whose cancerous cells were used in medical research to create the first immortal human cell line.

"She was a poor black to-

bacco farmer whose cells — taken without her knowledge in 1951 — became one of the most important tools in medicine, vital for developing the polio vaccine, cloning, gene mapping, in vitro fertilization, and more," a description on the book's official website reads.

"Henrietta's cells have been bought and sold by the billions, yet she remains virtually unknown, and her family can't afford health insurance."

Broadway director-producer George C Wolfe has written the script and will direct the film, which will begin shooting in the summer.—PTI



Acting is the greatest gig in world: Tom Hanks

LONDON — Tom Hanks thinks he has the "greatest gig in the world" because he loves acting and is in a position to pick and choose the roles he wants.

The Oscar-winning actor's lengthy career success means he is in a "fabulous" place where he can choose the roles he wants just because they interest him, and unlike some people with "twisted" motives, he only got into the movie-making business because he wanted to have fun, reported Female First.

"I'm at a fabulous place. I

really have to be intrigued by a part. It is like saying, 'I'm going to give up, go off, form my repertory company in Cleveland, Ohio, and do plays I'd like to be in.' It's not unlike that and it's nice.

"Some people are in show business for twisted reasons. Power. The money is good. But when I stumbled into this, I did it because it was fun and I'm no goo at anything else. To get paid to make movies? This is the greatest gig in the world," Hanks, 59, said.—PTI

Beyonce's 'Lemonade' tops Billboard, Prince reigns on album chart

LOS ANGELES — R&B star Beyonce stormed to the top of the weekly US Billboard 200 album chart with her surprise visual concept album "Lemonade," while late singer Prince's music dominated the chart as fans continued to remember his legacy through his music.

"Lemonade," the sixth solo album by Beyonce, sold 485,000 albums, more than 900,000 songs and was streamed 115 million times, totaling 653,000 units according to figures from Nielsen SoundScan.

Beyonce debuted "Lemonade" as an hour-long film made up of music videos on cable network HBO last week, and initially made it available exclusively on premium streaming service Tidal, before releasing it to other online retailers.

The album garnered headlines for lyrics that suggested Beyonce's husband, rapper Jay Z, may have had an extramarital

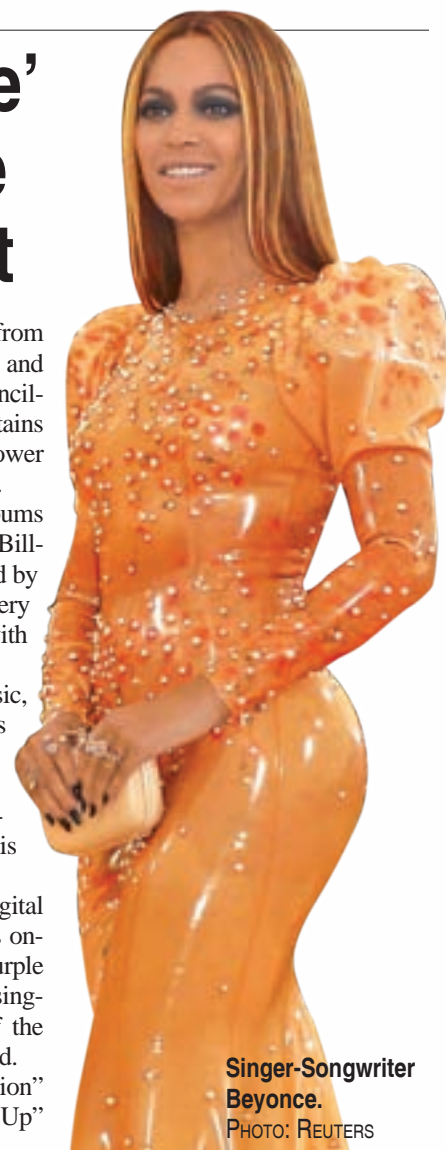
affair. The songs transition from suspicion and anger to hurt and finally forgiveness and reconciliation. The album also contains the single "Formation," a power anthem to race and feminism.

Five of Prince's albums stayed in the top ten of the Billboard 200 chart this week, led by 2001's compilation "The Very Best of Prince" at No. 2 with 391,000 units sold.

Sales of Prince's music, which he kept off numerous streaming platforms such as Spotify and YouTube, have soared after the singer's sudden death on 22 April at his Minnesota estate.

On Billboard's Digital Songs chart, which measures online song sales, Prince's "Purple Rain" led seven of the late singer's songs in the top ten of the chart with 282,000 copies sold.

Beyonce's "Formation" came in at No. 3 and "Hold Up" came in at No. 9.—Reuters



Singer-Songwriter Beyonce.
PHOTO: REUTERS

Pompeii, Bourbon jail, to gain from \$1 billion culture handout in Italy

ROME — The ancient Roman city of Pompeii, an island jail built by the Bourbons and the home of Botticelli's Venus are among dozens of cultural sites due to share in a 1 billion euro (\$1.15 billion) cash injection, Italy's culture ministry said on Monday.

Caring for centuries worth of art and architecture has caused headaches for successive Italian governments as economic stagnation squeezed funding for the arts and restoration projects were dogged by bureaucracy and bad management.

Culture Minister Dario Franceschini said the 33 projects constituted "the biggest operation on our cultural heritage in the history of the republic", referring to the period since a 1946 referendum sent Italy's royal family into exile.

One of the biggest windfalls is due to go to an 18th century prison on the tiny Tyrrhenian Sea island of Santo Stefano, which was closed in the 1960s and has been

slowly decaying ever since.

The ministry said in a statement the prison, whose cells were built in a horseshoe shape around a watchtower to make prisoners feel they were always being watched, would receive 70 million euros for restoration and development.

Pompeii, where work to secure a city preserved under volcanic ash for more than 1600 years was long delayed by corruption and mismanagement, will get 40 million euros.

A further 40 million euros will go to works on the Uffizi museums in Florence, home to masterpieces by Sandro Botticelli and Caravaggio. The historic centre of L'Aquila, destroyed by an earthquake in 2009, will get 30 million euros.

The 29 other projects include extending the Pinacoteca di Brera gallery in Milan, completing restoration at the Palace of Caserta, near Naples, and finishing an auditorium in Florence.—Reuters

Only pedestrians, cyclists allowed on road in front of Cambodia's famed Angkor Wat temple

PHNOM PENH — Traffic on a road in front of the famed Angkor Wat temple has now been prohibited in order to ensure public order and safety for tourists in the complex of the ancient site, Prime Minister Hun Sen said on Tuesday.

"From now on, only pedestrians and cyclists, or emergency cases, firefighting trucks and ambulances, are allowed to travel straight forwards on the road in front of the Angkor Wat temple," he wrote on his Facebook page. "This is to ease traffic congestion, maintain public order, ensure safety for tourists, and improve the beauty of the Angkor Wat temple's front complex."

Long Kosal, deputy chief of the communications department of

the Apsara Authority, which manages the site, said about 300 metres of the road in front of the Angkor Wat temple was blocked.

Located in northwest Cambodia's Siem Reap province, the Angkor Wat temple, inscribed on the UNESCO's World Heritage List in 1992, is the kingdom's most popular tourist destination.

The ancient site attracted some 2.1 million foreign tourists in 2015, earning total revenue of 60 million US dollars from ticket sales, according to government's figures.

The entrance fee to the site is 20 US dollars per day for a foreigner, 40 US dollars for a three-day visit and 60 US dollars for a week-long visit.—Xinhua

3,000 cats neutered to protect remote island's native rabbits

TOKUNOSHIMA, (Japan)

— Three municipalities on a remote island in southwestern Japan have launched an unprecedented project to neuter all 3,000 resident felines in order to protect native rabbits designated as a special national treasure.

Some 200 Amami rabbits are estimated to inhabit the island of Tokunoshima in Kagoshima Prefecture, which has a human population of 23,000. The rabbits, however, are at great risk of being eaten by stray cats in the mountainous areas.

"Domestic cats have a hunting instinct, and they hunt when they become feral," says Harutaka Watanabe at the Environment Ministry's nature conservation office on Tokunoshima Island.

"There are no carnivorous mammals on the island, so native rabbits are not so vigilant (of being preyed upon)," according to Watanabe, 30.

Culling all the stray cats is not a realistic option for the island, which is part of the Amami and Ryukyu islands area seeking to be registered as a World Natural Heritage site.

Osamu Minobe, a 60-year-old resident of the town of Isen on the island, says the island would not qualify as a heritage site "if we kill thousands (of cats)."

As a solution, the three municipalities on the island, including Isen, launched the project in November 2014 in collaboration with an animal protection organisation based in Hyogo Prefecture, western Japan.

Officials of the municipalities set traps to capture stray cats. After veterinarians sent by the organisation, Doubutsu Kikin (Animal Fund), neuter the cats and mark the edge of one of their ears with a cut to signify that fact, they will be released.



Stray cats are kept temporarily in a shelter after being neutered, and Hikaru Akiyama, who is in charge of the shelter. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

Meanwhile, the Environment Ministry has also started a project to capture cats in the mountains that prey on the island's rabbits. The ministry also neuters the cats and temporarily keeps them in a shelter run by the three municipalities on the island until new owners are found who are required to keep the cats indoors.

"I hope that we can change the residents' mindsets, encouraging them to keep their cats inside," said Hikaru Akiyama, 29, who is in charge of the shelter.

So far, some 2,200 cats have gone through the process in total, while more and more Amami rabbits have been spotted recently. A staff member at Doubutsu Kikin says that it would "revert to where we started in five years if we stop this now" due to cats' high fertility rates.

"We need to continue patiently," the staff member said.

For fiscal 2016 through March next year, the island municipalities plan to continue their project utilizing a central government subsidy.

However, critics say that it is clearly humans' fault that the number of stray cats has increased.

According to Minobe, the island has a mild weather and people usually keep their doors open, letting their cats come and go freely, leading to them escaping and becoming feral.

Under the project, owners of cats can also have the pets neutered for free, as many are reluctant to pay for the operation.

Yumiko Masada, 43, a worker at a nonprofit organization in Isen, said, "It is not the cats' fault. It is humans' selfishness. I think it's important for residents to take care of the cats, even after the operation, as a service to their communities," she said.—Kyodo News



Entertainment Channel

(4-5-2016, Wednesday)

6:00 pm	8:50 pm
• Weather Report	• International Movie Songs
• Music Programme	9:00 pm
6:30 pm	• English Premier League (Review- I)
• Pyi Thu Ni Ti	9:20 pm
6:40 pm	• Music Programme
• Cartoon Programme "Brother Bear (II)" (Part- I)	9:40 pm
7:10 pm	• Myanmar Masterclass: Artist Zay Yar Aye
• International Drama Series	10:00 pm
7:50 pm	• Myanmar Video
• International Drama Series	
8:30 pm	
• Music Programme	

From 4-5-2016 (Wednesday) 6:00 Pm
To 5-5-2016 (Thursday) 6:00 Pm



Myanmar International

(4-5-2016 07:00am ~ 5-5-2016 7:00am) MST

Today Fresh

07:03	Am	News
07:26	Am	Mobile House
07:37	Am	Reflected Glory
08:03	Am	News
08:26	Am	"Myanmar's Traditions and Culture" Novicehood in Myanmar
08:51	Am	Porcelain and Glass
09:03	Am	News
09:26	Am	A Life In The Ring
09:43	Am	Interview with Shan State Chief Minister
10:03	Am	News
10:27	Am	Myanmar Scout

(11:00 Am ~ 03:00 Pm) - Tuesday Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)
(03:00 Pm ~ 07:00 Pm) - Today Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)

Prime Time

07:03	Pm	News
07:25	Pm	An Oasis Trip to Mt. Popa
07:53	Pm	The Pride of Myanmar "Traditional Handicraft"
08:03	Pm	News
08:26	Pm	Myanmar Traditional Identity (EP- 2)
		Myanmar Chinthe (Myanmar Lion)
08:41	Pm	Sightseeing in Yangon: Inya Lake
08:52	Pm	Snake Dancer

(09:00 Pm ~ 11:00 Pm) - Today Repeat (09:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)
(11:00 Pm ~ 03:00 Am) - Tuesday Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)
(03:00 Am ~ 07:00 Am) - Today Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)

(For Detailed Schedule – www.myanmaritv.com/schedule)

Artist Richard Wilson spray paints a mural of Leicester City manager Claudio Ranieri in Leicester, Britain on 29 April. PHOTO: REUTERS



Amazing Leicester celebrate fairytale title success

LONDON — Leicester City's Premier League title dream became reality on Monday as their only remaining challengers Tottenham Hotspur drew 2-2 at Chelsea to complete one of the greatest ever sporting achievements.

The result provoked an outpouring of celebration in the provincial English city and as far away as Thailand and Japan, with Leicester's players having watched nervously on television along with Foxes fans packed into local bars 160km away.

Goals from Tottenham's Harry Kane and Son Heung-min had looked like extending the title race to the penultimate week of what has been an unforgettable season.

Gary Cahill gave Chelsea a lifeline just before the hour, however, and substitute Eden



A Chelsea fan displays a banner in reference to Leicester City manager Claudio Ranieri on 2 May. PHOTO: REUTERS

Hazard's superb 83rd-minute equaliser ended Spurs' slim title hopes to the delight of Leicester and their former Chelsea manager, Italian Claudio Ranieri.

As tempers flared at the end of a red-hot London derby

at Stamford Bridge, television pictures cut away to Leicester's players celebrating in the living room of their striker Jamie Vardy, whose 22 goals have under-pinned his side's challenge.

Elsewhere in Leicester, the

city's biggest ever party began in earnest, with hundreds of fans gathering outside the stadium and thousands more celebrating in pubs and bars.

Leicester's unlikely journey from no-hopers to English champions has captivated sports fans worldwide, nowhere more so than in Thailand, home of the club's owners King Power.

Defender Wes Morgan, who scored his side's equaliser in the 1-1 draw at Manchester United on Sunday, summed up the mood.

"Nobody believed we could do it, but here we are, Premier League champions and deservedly so," he told Leicester's website.

"Saturday can't come quickly enough. I can't wait to get my hands on the trophy."

With two games left, Leicester are seven points ahead of Tottenham and Saturday's home match against Everton will be a glorious lap of honour.

In one of the most unpredictable Premier League seasons ever, Tottenham had been hoping to win a first English league title since 1961, but fell short in agonising circumstances at Stamford Bridge where they have not won in 26 years.

"First of all, congratulations to Leicester City and to Claudio Ranieri. A fantastic season," Spurs manager Mauricio Pochettino said.

"I'm very disappointed but now we have to fight for second place.

"It's a massive, amazing season for Leicester, Claudio the players and the fans. They deserve it."—Reuters

Federer out of Madrid Open with back injury

MADRID — Former world number one Roger Federer has pulled out of this week's Madrid Open with a back injury.

The Swiss great travelled to the Spanish capital for the tournament but was unable to practice on Monday and announced his withdrawal.

Federer, however, said he would be back for the Rome Masters next week. "I don't want to take more chances as I know I'm not going to be fully ready for Wednesday," he added, referring to his opening match.

"I would rather play it safe and rest up now and get ready for Rome. I'm sorry to the tournament for coming and leaving without playing.

"I arrived and I was okay

and then I practised on Saturday and hurt my back a little bit and stopped early. I'm very disappointed to say the least," said Federer.

"I changed my schedule around and practised well in Switzerland before coming here," Federer said he was not worried about his preparations for the French Open that starts on 22 May. "I've been doing a lot of practice on clay," the world number three explained. "I don't always need a lot of matches to feel 100 percent ready.

"With my experience and the way I feel about big tournaments, if I have matches, great. If I don't, I trust in my game, in my mind that I'll be fine regardless of the preparations."—Reuters

Real banking on Ronaldo goal power against City

MADRID — Real Madrid are hoping the fit-again Cristiano Ronaldo can lead them into the Champions League final although strike partner Karim Benzema remains a doubt for Wednesday's return match with Manchester City.

Ronaldo completed a full training session on Monday for the first time since injuring his hamstring against Villarreal on 20 April and is expected to start the semi-final second leg against City who were held to a 0-0 home draw in the first game.

Benzema, who is also nursing a hamstring problem, could only do running exercises on Monday.

The 10-times European champions scraped a 1-0 win at Real Sociedad in La Liga on Saturday without their two top scorers.

Portugal marksman Ronaldo took no part in last week's tie in Manchester while France forward Benzema went off at halftime. Although Real had the better chances they were noticeably lightweight up front in the second period.

The club's all-time leading scorer Ronaldo has 47 goals in all competitions this season.

His hat-trick in the quarter-final second leg against VfL Wolfsburg overturned a two-goal deficit from the first match, averting an embarrassing exit for Zinedine Zidane's side. —Reuters



PHOTO: REUTERS