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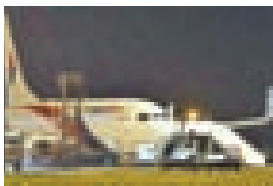
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## DMH urges people to be on alert for pre-monsoon dangers posed by thunderclouds



*A farmer clean his vineyard damaged by hailstorm in central Myanmar.*

PHOTO AYE MIN SOE

**By Aye Min Soe**

NAY PYI TAW, 21 April — Myanmar Meteorology and Hydrology Department has warned the people to be on alert for strong winds, thunder, lightning and hailstorms along with untimely heavy rain in the afternoons and evenings during the

pre-monsoon period.

During the March to mid-May, isolated rain or thundershowers are likely in the afternoon or evening accompanied with 35-40 mph surface wind, hail, thunder and lightning, due to the rising daily temperatures across the country, according to the department.

High temperatures in

daytime cause thunderclouds which can bring strong wind, tornados, heavy rain and hailstorms in the evenings.

A tornado hit Inlay Lake on 17 April, destroying around 17 houses, but no casualties were, according to a post on Facebook by U Tun Lwin.

U Tun Lwin, a mete-

orologist and the retired-director general of the Meteorology and Hydrology Department, has also warned people to be on alert for the dangers posed by the thunderclouds, especially in evenings until the last week of May.

“Ships and boats in rivers may capsize due to lightning, strong wind and

tornados caused by thunderclouds. Meanwhile, flash floods and landslides can happen in the pre-monsoon season,” U Tun Lwin said, on page.

Rain and hailstones fell in some parts of Myanmar recently, with rain reaching 24 millimeters in Taunggyi in eastern Myanmar 8 mm in Kawkareik in Kayin State.



*Photo shows hailstones fell recently in central Myanmar.*

## Incidents, including on the road up, death toll lower during this year's Thingyan Festival



*People celebrate Myanmar traditional new year festival in Nay Pyi Taw.*

MNA

**By Aung Khin**

Despite more serious incidents during the 1375 ME Maha Thingyan Festival, the death toll declined from last year, according to

figures from the Ministry of Home Affairs.

This year's water festival lasted from April 13 to 16, with revellers enjoying the water splashing celebration across the country.

There were 164 serious incidents, leaving 15 dead and 198 injured. Last year, 32 died and 190 were injured in serious mishaps.

During the four-day festival this year, the seri-

ous incidents included five murder cases in which five people were killed and one injured, three rape cases, five sexual harassment cases, 64 fights that left 102 people injured, two cases of public duty disturbance with two injured, 13 drunken brawls and six other cases.

In Mandalay, the cultural and business hub of central Myanmar, incidents declined from last year.

A police officer at No. 11 Traffic Police Squad in Mandalay Region said: “The cases of breaking traffic rules declined this year. It can be said the young people observed the laws. It is also the result of our preventive measures for the festival.”

Police Maj. Khin Aung of the office of the commander of Mandalay Region Police Force said: “The accidents declined as (See page 2)

## Co-founder of National League for Democracy U Win Tin dies at 85

YANGON, 21 April — U Win Tin, the legendary co-founder of the National League for Democracy and an award-winning journalist, died of kidney failure at the age of 85 in a hospital in Yangon on Monday, officials said.

He was admitted to a private hospital on 12 March after suffering respiratory problems and multiple organ failure. The veteran democracy activist was moved to Yangon General Hospital after his health failed to improve and reportedly put on oxygen therapy after losing consciousness.

Doctors pronounced him dead at 6:30 am on Monday, with the National League for Democracy lowering its flag to half-staff at offices across the country to mourn the passing of one of their iconic leaders.

Tributes from the inter-



*U Win Tin.*

national community have flowed in for the former political prisoner, with the Burma Campaign UK saying in a statement they are “deeply sad to learn of the death of U Win Tin.”

Before his funeral, a mass will be held for U Win Tin from noon to 5 pm on 23 April at Yeway Cemetery in Yangon.

U Win Tin suffered from many diseases, including heart problems and (See page 2)

## People in Thabaung Village-tract get benefits from newly opened bridge



BOGALE, 21 April— A newly constructed bridge across the Jat Creek in Thabaung Village-tract in Bogale Township has benefited local people.

Construction of the bridge started on 15 January, 2014 and it was inau-

gurated on 20 April.

Local people have got easy access between the two wards thanks to the bridge. The RC bridge is 67 ft long and 10 ft wide.

It was constructed at the cost of K 9,077,500. Pyidaungsu Hluttaw has contributed K 5 million into the construction of the bridge.

There are two creeks in the village tract and there is a plan to build a bridge across the remaining creek to link Bogale and Thabaung, according to U Myo Tint Naing, the administrator of Thabaung Village.

*Bogale Htay Naing*

## Zeyawady old city's walls under threat from extended sugarcane cultivation

Pyu, 21 April — The presiding monk at Dhamma Shwe Meiksat monastery has voiced concern for the walls of Zeyawady ancient city five-mile east of the Pyu in Bago Region that are under threat from extended cultivation of sugarcane by local farmers. Since 2000, some sugarcane farmers have started establishing their plantations in the area of the old walls where religious edifices such as monasteries are located.

Despite frequent visits

to the walls by officials of the Ministry of Culture who said the area of cultural heritage will be designated as a protected one, no action has been taken up to date, the monk said.

The monk called for strict restrictions to be put on sugarcane farming by local authorities, saying that the old walls will disappear within a few years as local farmers extended their farmlands due to the high demand for sugarcane in the region.

*Ko Lwin-Swa*

## Myanmar Golf Tournament to hold second leg in May

YANGON, 21 April— The Myanmar Golf Tournament will hold its second leg from 6 to 9 May at Yangon Golf Course (Danyingon) in Yangon, with professionals and amateurs to take part in various events.

Participants have to register no later than noon on 25 April at Myanmar Golf Training Course at the corner of Okkalapa and Airport Roads in Mayangon Township and at Yangon



could be distributed to Sit-tway, Ponnagayun, Kyauktaw, MraukU, Minbya, Buthidaung, Maungtaw, An, Taungup, Thandwe, Maei, Kyaukpyu, Yanbye and Madekyun.

The government has allocated foreign reserve of US\$ 102. 4 million and K 88508 million, loans from India and grants from China for this project.—MNA

Golf Course (Danyingon) in Yangon, with a fee of K 20,000 required. The tournament will be organized by the Myanmar Golf Federation and Myanmar PGA, and mainly sponsored by Ayeyawady Bank, United Amara Bank, Myawady Bank, Asian Green Development Bank and Inwa Bank.—Soe Nyunt

## Union A&I Minister urges 'organic farming'

NAY PYI TAW, 21 April— The Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation visited the farms of New Ayar Company in Nay Pyi Taw at 7: 30 a.m. on Monday, explaining the advantages of organic farming.

U Myint Hlaing, the Union Minister visited the company's Asparagus officinalis plantation, water convolvulus farms and vegetable plots which are cultivated through Tai-

wan's technology in Ot-tarathiri Township of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area.

The Union minister also encouraged to apply organic farming in the agricultural sector.

The 150-acre Asparagus officinalis plantation was established by 'one village on product' cultivation system, the sugarcane farms with potential produce of 80 tons per acre and red pepper farms.

The minister also visited the four-month old sugarcane farm, taro plants and water convolvulus of Japanese species, and mango plants of pure stocks in Zeyathiri Township.

He then reminded of food safety measures for

consumers in foreign markets and the importance of organic farming.

U Myint Hlaing highlighted the 'public private partnership' system supported by the government, co-operatives, private business firms and agricultural experts.

*MNA*

## Hydropower project in Rakhine State inspected

NAY PYI TAW, 21 April—Union Minister for Electric Power on Sunday inspected Tha Htay Chaung hydropower project in Rakhine State.

U Khin Maung Soe reminded the safety measures at the construction sites of tunnels of the project.

Tha Htay Chaung hydropower project has the installed capacity of 111

MW with annual production of 386 GWh. At present, 34 percent of the whole project has been completed.

The minister urged to finalize power distribution plans to Taungup and Thandwe townships by June and to other areas of Rakhine State by December 2014. At the completion of power supply network with national grip, electricity

## Co-founder of National League for Democracy...

(from page 1)

high blood pressure, due to his long imprisonment.

He founded the NLD with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi in 1988, and was imprisoned the following year in the wake of the student-led pro-democracy uprising. In 2008 he was released at the age of 78.

U Win Tin was one of the founders for the *Mirror* which was first published on 16 April, 1957, and worked together with other prominent Myanmar journalists. From 1959 to 1964, he served as the secretary of the Press Council.

He was also appointed as the chief editor of the *Hantharwaddy Daily* in October 1969. As a chief editor, he made study tours to 20 countries in West Europe and East Asia, covering news.

In 2001, he was awarded the UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize, and the World Association of Newspapers' Golden Pen of Freedom Award. His pseudonyms were Maung Wun Zin, Paw Thit, Pyi Soe, Win Htin, Pone Nya, Win Swe, Thu Tay The and An Editor. —NLM

## Incidents, including on the road...

(from page 1)

we took safety measures to prevent criminal cases and traffic accidents this year."

But in road accidents in the three regions of Yangon, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi and two states of Kayin and Mon, as many as 41

died and 407 people were injured in 153 accidents during this year's water festival. The property loss reached K 36,476 billion, according to a report from the No. 2 Traffic Police Branch (Yangon) released on 18 April.

MANDALAY, 21 April— The Mandalay Region Chief Minister urged locals on Saturday to maintain the tube-wells that have been handed over to them.

In a tube-wells handover ceremony in Lankhwa Village in Myittha Township of Mandalay Region, an official handed over 1,429 tube-wells to local farmers.

The chief minister also attended the dams/lakes handover ceremony at Theepin Lake of Yitkan Village in Myittha Township and inspected Sama dam near the township.

*Tin Maung (Mandalay Sub-Printing House)*





## LOCAL NEWS

## Lisu internally displaced persons in northern Shan State receive humanitarian aid



LASHIO, 21 April—Almost 300 internally displaced persons belonging to the Lisu ethnic group in northern Shan State received humanitarian aid on Sunday from a local monastery and other donors.

U Thein Aye, one of the donation organizers, said, “The displaced persons are 270 people from 57 families,

including vulnerable elderly people and 80 children. They have been temporarily placed in bamboo tents.”

The head monk of Alo Taw Pyae monastery in Lashio Township and his devotees donated 13 bags of rice, 114 bottles of salt and cooking oil, 57 packs of salt and kitchen utensils, snacks, soft drinks, bottles of puri-

fied drinking water, clothes and cash donation worth K 2 million. According to the head monk “these Lisu people are from Inie Village of Namtu Township. We are providing them with foods and clothes since they had to leave their areas.”

One Lisu said that most of them are Buddhists and that due to unrest it was im-

possible for them to return to their home where they had been cultivating tea.

The Lisu are one of Myanmar’s 135 ethnic groups, with an estimated population of 600,000 living in northern and southern Shan State and Wa special region, Sagaing Region, Mandalay Region, and Kachin State.—*Reported by Ma Ma (Lashio)*

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Myanmar traditional bullock cart contest thrills in Yangon



YANGON, 21 April—Fans came from far and wide across the country to watch the 2<sup>nd</sup> Myanmar traditional bullock cart contest at 11/14 ward in Dala Township, in the southern part of Yangon Region this month.

Oxen from Twantay, Kungyangon, Kawhmu and Dala townships entered the events and raced in classes

determined by experts.

Third-class bullocks, carts and drivers have no previous experience in the traditional contests, second-class teams have participated at least once before, while the first-class racers, some of them professionals, all must have two or more contests under their wheels before being allowed in the top-class races.

“I haven’t enjoyed these contests for a long time. I think it is a good traditional contest and it is wonderful for my children to see. In the past, bullock cart contests were frequently held on significant days such as Peasants’ Day,” spectator Daw Win Kalyar, 49, of Thakayta Township in Yangon said.

*Ko Ko (H.G.P)*

## 18 villages in Mohnyin to soon get electrification

MOHNYIN, 21 April—Eleven villages in Mohnyin Township of Kachin State will soon have full electricity supply, officials said Monday. In Hopin Sub-township of Kachin State, the construction of a 66/33 KV 10 MVA power

sub-station is underway as well as the installation of a 48-mile long 33 KVA powerline under the supervision of Myanmar Electric Power Enterprise. The villages benefitting from the project are located east and west of Indawgyi Lake including

Shwemyitzu Pagoda.

Authorities are now implementing plans to provide 33/0.4 KV transformers to the region through a fund. The Ministry of Electric Power has urged for local and foreign direct investment in the electric sector to supply electricity for the 42,000 remaining villages of the country.

*K Hsaing Naw (Phakant)*



## Road construction completed in Magway Region

THAYET, 21 April—A road was completed on Sunday in Thayet Township in Magway Region on Sunday, with residents of Yamani and Kyaukkhe villages benefitting from the construction the most,

officials said.

The road was constructed at a cost of K 12 million, with K 5.5 million funded by Yangon donors and K 6.5 million contributed by locals.

*Kyemon*

## Locals thank authorities for construction of road and bridge in Twantay Tsp

YANGON, 21 April—Locals in Twantay Township in the southern part of Yangon Region will have a new bridge and new road soon.

As part of efforts for

the socio-economic development of rural people, the Region Development Affairs Department allotted K 500 million to construct a one mile and seven furlongs long road and a 300 ft

high and 22 ft wide bridge.

Union Minister U Ohn Myint contributed K 5 million to the construction.

The road is being built from Shitkhulay Village to Shwehle Chaung in Twan-

tay Township.

The bridge is across the “Ohnpin Cheek”.

Work began on 2 February and it expected to be completed in June.

*Ko Ko (H.G.P)*



## Deadly gun attack in eastern Ukraine shakes fragile Geneva accord



*A pro-Russia protester warms himself by the fire on a barricade outside a regional government building in Donetsk, in eastern Ukraine on 20 April, 2014.—REUTERS*

any role, saying Russian special forces were behind the clash. Failure of the Geneva agreement could bring more bloodshed in eastern Ukraine, but may also prompt the United States to impose tougher sanctions on the Kremlin — with far-reaching consequences for many economies and importers of Russian energy.

US Vice President Joe Biden will meet with Ukraine's acting president, Oleksander Turchinov, and Prime Minister Arseny Yatseniuk in Kiev on Tuesday during a two-day stay in Ukraine. Biden will consult on developments in eastern Ukraine and discuss international efforts to strengthen Ukraine's economy and assist Kiev "in moving forward on constitutional reform, decentralization, anti-corruption efforts, and free and fair presidential elections on 25th May," the White House said on Sunday.

Under the deal signed in Geneva last week, the European Union, Russia, Ukraine and the United States agreed

that illegal armed groups would go home in a process to be overseen by Europe's OSCE security watchdog.

So far, the pro-Russian militants have shown little sign of budging from public buildings in the east, although there was some hope of progress after Kiev said it would not move against the separatists over Easter, and international mediators headed to eastern Ukraine to try to persuade them to disarm.

But the shootings near Slaviansk — already a flashpoint for tensions between Ukraine's rival camps — are likely to make that task even harder, hardening the view of the many Russian speakers in eastern Ukraine that they cannot trust Kiev.

"The Easter truce has been violated," the Russian Foreign Ministry said in a statement. "This provocation ... testifies to the lack of will on the part of the Kiev authorities to rein in and disarm nationalists and extremists."

*Reuters*

SLAVIANSK/YENAKIEVO, (Ukraine), 21 April — At least three people were killed in a gunfight in the early hours of Sunday near a Ukrainian city controlled by pro-Russian separatists,

shaking an already fragile international accord that was designed to avert a wider conflict.

The incident triggered a war of words between Moscow and Ukraine's

Western-backed government, with each questioning the other's compliance with the agreement, brokered last week in Geneva, to end a crisis that has made Russia's ties with the West more

fraught than at any time since the Cold War.

The separatists said armed men from Ukraine's Right Sector nationalist group had attacked them. The Right Sector denied

## Ghana company says US plane seen in Teheran broke no laws

ACCRA, 21 April — A US-flagged plane which landed at an airport in the Iranian capital Teheran last week was carrying business executives from Ghana and did not flout international laws, according to the mining firm which leased it.

The *New York Times* reported on Thursday that the plane, owned by the Bank of Utah, was parked at Teheran's Mehrabad Airport on Tuesday.

Its presence caused a stir as the United States and Iran have been at loggerheads for decades and the Islamic Republic is

subject to economic sanctions, which would generally prohibit US-registered aircraft from flying to the country. It was later reported that the aircraft was leased to Ghana-based mining firm Engineers and Planners (E&P), founded by the Ibrahim Mahama — a multi-millionaire and brother of Ghana's President John Mahama.

"The said trip was made in conformity with all international aviation laws," said a statement signed by the company's executive director, Adi Ayitevie, and seen by

*Reuters* on Sunday. Ayitevie said the plane had carried a delegation of Ghanaian business executives to Iran and had since returned to Ghana.

"We wish to also state that the President of the Republic of Ghana, H.E John Dramani Mahama, has never been transported by the said aircraft," the statement added.

The *New York Times* quoted a Bank of Utah executive, Brett King, as saying the company had no idea why the plane was at the airport and it was investigating further.—*Reuters*



*Defence Minister Itsunori Onodera (2nd from R) attends a ceremony on 20 April, 2014, to mark the launch of a unit operating E-2C early warning patrol planes at an Air Self-Defence Force base in Naha in Okinawa Prefecture, southern Japan.*

KYODO NEWS

## Japan, US to resume working-level TPP talks from Tuesday

TOKYO, 21 April — Japan and the United States will resume working-level talks in Tokyo from Tuesday to try to find common ground over a Pacific free trade pact, with US President Barack Obama due to arrive in Tokyo the following day. The fresh round of negotiations, which would be the last chance to break the stalemate before the leaders of the two nations meet, comes after Tokyo and Washington failed to resolve their differences over key outstanding issues during ministerial talks held in Washington last week.

US trade officials are arriving in Tokyo on Monday afternoon, and Acting Deputy US Trade Representative Wendy Cutler is expected to engage in full-fledged discussions with Hiroshi Oe, Japanese deputy chief TPP negotiator, from Tuesday.—*Kyodo News*

## Gunmen kill two Egyptian policemen near Cairo, court jails Islamists

CAIRO, 21 April — Gunmen killed an Egyptian intelligence officer and a policeman on a road outside Cairo in a late-night firefight, the Interior Ministry said on Sunday.

The armed men fled the scene after shooting dead Captain Ashraf Bader el-Qazaz of the intelligence service and a police conscript, the ministry said in a statement.

The two men were on security patrol late on Sat-

urday on a desert road linking Cairo to the canal city of Suez when they tried to stop a vehicle, which then opened fire on them.

Islamist militants have stepped up attacks on members of the security forces and killed hundreds of them since the army toppled Egypt's first freely elected president, Mohamed Mursi, last July.

The insurgency poses a threat to national security ahead of a presidential

election in May and also hurts the country's tourist industry, a key source of foreign income in Egypt.

Militants have recently shown their ability to strike beyond the Sinai Peninsula, the initial base of their attacks after Mursi was removed from power. The group Ajnad Misr claimed responsibility on Saturday for a blast in Cairo that killed one police officer on Friday.

An Egyptian court

sentenced 23 people it said were members of Mursi's banned Muslim Brotherhood movement to 3-1/2 years each in prison on Saturday, judicial sources said.

The accused were jailed in connection with protests in November against the trial of Mursi. They were found guilty of charges including attacking security forces and "thugery", among other charges.—*Reuters*



## WORLD

## Protesters fight police, burn Maduro puppets in Venezuela



Police operating a water cannon advance towards anti-government protesters during riots in Caracas on 20 April, 2014.—REUTERS

CARACAS, 21 April—Masked youths battled police, protesters burned and hung from lamp-posts effigies of President Nicolas Maduro and marchers demanded the “resurrection” of democracy on a volatile Easter Sunday in Venezuela.

Though millions of Venezuelans have headed for Caribbean beaches and family gatherings over the Easter period, student demonstrators have sought to keep a nearly three-month

protest movement going with religious-themed demonstrations.

After a barefoot walk and a “Via Crucis” march in the style of Jesus’ tortured walk towards crucifixion earlier in the week, hundreds of demonstrators began on Sunday with a rally denominated “Resurrection of Democracy.”

Easter marks the day Christians believe Jesus was resurrected from the dead after being crucified.

“We’re staying in

the street until we get our country back,” student leader Djamil Jassir, 22, told *Reuters* in a square where protesters displayed dozens of used gas canisters and bullets as symbols of repression. “This is the time to stand firm.”

Later, several hundred hooded protesters, many wearing Guy Fawkes masks, set up barricades in the eastern Chacao district of Caracas that has been a near-daily battleground during recent unrest in

Venezuela since mid-February. Chanting “Liberty!”, the youths threw petrol bombs, fired stones from slings, tore down advertising hoardings, and placed wires across streets blocked by debris.

Police responded with teargas and water-cannons, as residents banged pots and pans from windows in a form of protest. Some neighbours threw bottles of water and bags of ice down to the students from balconies.—*Reuters*

## Al-Qaeda kills 14 Algerian soldiers in ambush

ALGIERS, 21 April — Islamist militants killed at least 14 Algerian soldiers in an ambush in mountains east of the capital Algiers at the weekend in one of the deadliest attacks on the military in years. The troops were in the Tizi Ouzou region, 120 km (75 miles) east of Algiers, when they were attacked by al-Qaeda’s north African branch, al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM), state news agency *APS* and a security source said on Sunday. The attack on Saturday night came just days after President Abdelaziz Bouteflika, 77, was re-elected for a fourth term following a campaign that portrayed the ageing leader as the key to continued security for the North African OPEC state.

Since the end of its 1990s war with armed Islamists, attacks have been rarer in Algeria. But Algerian officials are concerned about spillover from the turmoil in neighbouring Libya, where fighters linked to al-Qaeda take refuge in the southern deserts.

“On their way back from securing the presidential election, the unit... came under attack,” the defence ministry said in a statement posted by *APS*. Three militants were also killed.

Algerian security specialist Rahmani Anis told *Reuters*: “This attack is a response to setbacks for AQIM, which lost several of its militants in recent months. AQIM tried also to disrupt the election but it failed.”

AQIM is mostly based in the Sahel area which crosses southern Algeria. The army has killed 37 militants since January, according to the ministry, including several in the eastern mountains. Security sources say some have been found with weapons traced to Libya.

One of those believed to be hiding in the east is Abdelmalek Droukdel, a former chemistry student who become AQIM leader after fighting in Afghanistan. Algerian forces last year killed two of Droukdel’s deputies in Bouira, a former stronghold of militants during the 1990s civil war. That conflict was triggered in 1992 when the government cancelled elections that an Islamist party looked set to win. In January last year, militants raided Algeria’s Amenas gas plant near Libya’s border, killing 40 oil contractors, most of them foreigners, in an attack that prompted British-based BP and Norway’s Statoil to pull their workers out.

*Reuters*

## Syria’s Assad pays Easter visit to recaptured Christian town

MAALOULA, 21 April — Syrian President Bashar al-Assad on Sunday visited an ancient Christian town recaptured from rebels last week, state media said, as he seeks to persuade minorities that the government is their best protection against hardline Islamists. Assad’s Easter visit to Maaloula — a rare appearance outside central Damascus — also highlighted growing government confidence in recent gains against insurgents around the capital and along the Lebanese border.

Islamist fighters, including some from the al-Qaeda-linked Nusra Front, had taken over part of Maaloula in December and held several nuns captive until releasing them in March in a prisoner-exchange deal.

On Monday, government forces retook the town, which is roughly 60 km (40 miles) north of Damascus and has changed hands

multiple times, the latest in a series of advances against rebels in the Qalamoun mountains region.

During his visit, Assad inspected Mar Sarkis—a Greek Orthodox monastery dating to the fourth century — and damage caused “at the hands of terrorists,” state news agency *SANA* said, using the government’s customary term for the rebels.

The agency said he also visited the Mar Thecla monastery, which also suffered damage during fighting for the town. Images published by *SANA* showed Assad, dressed in a beige blazer, waving and examining antiquities as he toured the area with church officials.

A *Reuters* reporter in Maaloula on a state-organized tour said Syrian soldiers and members of the loyalist National Defence Force militia were stationed throughout the town, where homes and buildings were burned

and damaged by the fighting.

“The display of hatred was clear — the houses are totally destroyed, the whole village was destroyed. I can’t describe the amount of damage to the village,” said Lorain, a Maaloula resident in her 20s who was returning on Sunday after fleeing the fighting several months ago.

Rita, another resident, said she hoped to return to live in the village but that electricity and water were not ready yet.

“Still, we’re happy—and we’ll be even happier when those who are being held captive are released,” she said, referring to residents who are still missing.

Maaloula’s churches and monasteries attracted both Christian and Muslim pilgrims before the conflict. Some of its inhabitants still speak Aramaic, the language of Christ, and the monastery of Mar Thecla has a reputation among believers for mi-



Syrian President Bashar al-Assad (R) visits Maaloula town, northeast of Damascus on 20 April, 2014, in this handout photograph released by Syria’s national news agency *SANA*.—REUTERS

raculous cures.

Syrian Tourism Minister Bishr Yazigi told *Reuters* that damage and theft to antiquities during the fighting amounted to “billions of Syrian pounds” in losses.

Assad’s government has consistently tried to portray itself as the protector of the country’s minorities, including the Christians who account for about 10 percent of the population.

Assad is a member of the Alawite minority, an offshoot of Shi’ite Islam, while the rebels fighting to overthrow him are overwhelmingly Sunni.

*Reuters*

## South Korea President says conduct of ferry crew tantamount to murder

SEOUL, 21 April — South Korean President Park Geun-hye said on Monday the actions of the captain and crew of a ferry that sank last week with hundreds feared dead were tantamount to murder, as authorities arrested four more officers of the vessel.

Sixty-four people are known to have died and 238 are missing, presumed dead, in the sinking of the Sewol ferry last Wednesday. Most of the victims are high school children.

Captain Lee Joon-seok, 69, and two other crew members were arrested last week on negligence charges, with prosecutors announcing four further arrests — two first mates, one second mate and a chief engineer — on Monday.

Several crew members, including the captain, left the ferry as it was sinking, ahead of the passengers, witnesses have said.

Park said the crew's desertion was tantamount to murder. "Above all, the conduct of the captain and some crew members is unfathomable from the view-



*Family members of missing passengers who were on the South Korean passenger ferry Sewol which sank in the sea off Jindo, look towards the sea at a port where family members of missing passengers gathered, in Jindo on 21 April, 2014.—REUTERS*

point of common sense, and it was like an act of murder that cannot and should not

be tolerated," *Yonhap* news agency quoted her as saying during a meeting with aides.

Lee, the captain, said

in a promotional video four years ago that the journey from the port city of Incheon to the holiday island of Jeju

was safe — as long as passengers followed the instructions of the crew.

*Reuters*

## Ex-army chief, leftist to run for Egyptian presidency

CAIRO, 21 April — The former army general who toppled Egypt's first freely elected president will face a leftist politician in next month's presidential election, as they were the only candidates to enter, the committee organizing the vote said on Sunday.

The committee had received paperwork from former army chief Abdel Fattah al-Sisi and former parliamentarian and presidential candidate Hamdeen Sabahi, its head told a news conference, hours after the

deadline for nominations had passed.

The elections will be held in a barren political climate, three years after the uprising that overthrew autocrat Hosni Mubarak raised hopes of a robust democracy in the biggest Arab nation.

There will be no Islamist candidate, in contrast to the hotly contested 2012 presidential race which featured more than a dozen rivals from across the political spectrum and was won by Mohamed Mursi of the

Muslim Brotherhood.

Sisi, who deposed Mursi last year, is expected to win the vote easily. He has gained cult-like adulation from supporters who see him as a saviour who can end the political turmoil dogging the country since the army-backed popular uprising that ended Mubarak's three-decade rule.

Islamists, many of whom have been driven underground, view Sisi as the mastermind of a coup.

*Reuters*

## Lottery winners top up Scottish independence coffers with 3 million pound donation

LONDON, 21 April — A Scottish couple who won the lottery have donated at least 3 million pounds (\$5 million) of their winnings to the campaign for an independent Scotland, making them Britain's biggest political donors, a newspaper reported on Sunday.

Colin Weir, a former cameraman, and his wife Chris, a former nurse, are from a seaside resort near the Scottish city of Glasgow and won 161,653,000 pounds (\$271.72 million) in the Euromillions draw in 2011.

The *Sunday Times*, which is in the process of compiling its annual list of Britain's richest people, said its analysis had shown that the couple had given at least 3 million pounds to those campaigning for an independent Scotland ahead of a referendum on 18 September. Opinion polls suggest Scotland will vote to reject independence but that the contest is tightening a little and supporters of a breakaway have made some ground in recent months.

The British government minister responsible for Scotland said last month that nationalists had a huge "war chest" to fund their campaign and appeared more "hungry" for victory.

The Scottish National Party (SNP) and the "Yes Scotland" campaign had received the couple's donation, the *Sunday Times* reported, making the Weirs Britain's biggest political donors in the last 15 months.

*Reuters*



*Leftist politician Hamdeen Sabahi (C) waves upon arrival to submit his bid to run as presidential candidate to the presidential election committee in Cairo, on 19 April, 2014.—REUTERS*

## Boston Marathon looks to emerge from shadow of 2013 bombing

BOSTON, 21 April — Runners from the world's elite racers to first-timers will step to the Boston Marathon starting line on Monday for the first time the race has been held since last year's deadly bombing attack.

Some 36,000 people, the second-largest field in the race's 118-year history, will set out from Hopkinton, a town west of Boston, for the 26.2-mile (42.2 km) race that finishes on Boston's Boylston Street, where two homemade pressure-cooker bombs last year killed three people and injured 264.

For the top men and

women runners, including 2013 winners Ethiopia's Lelisa Desisa and Kenya's Rita Jeptoo, the focus will be entirely on the competition.

The fans, hundreds of thousands of whom are expected to line the course, will also be rooting for top US entrants including Ryan Hall of California and Desiree Linden of Michigan. Either could be the first American to stand atop the podium in three decades, breaking a long domination of the event by African athletes.

Massachusetts Governor Deval Patrick on Sunday told CBS's "Face

the Nation" that added security measures, including a higher than usual police presence, would assure a "very safe" atmosphere at the race.

"Somebody said it may be the safest place in America tomorrow," Patrick said.

While more police tactical units and undercover operatives will be stationed along the route, Patrick said there was an effort to provide adequate security while retaining the race's traditional atmosphere so that it does not become "a race through a militarized zone."

*Reuters*



*Joel (L) and Jackie Dalton leave mementos for Martin Richard, one of the victims of the 2013 Boston Marathon bombings, at a memorial for all the victims at the site of the first bomb blast in Boston, Massachusetts on 20 April, 2014.—REUTERS*



## HEALTH &amp; BUSINESS

## GM to battle VW in China with \$12 billion investment and new plants

BEIJING, 21 April — US car giant General Motors Corp (GM) (GM.N) plans to invest \$12 billion in China from 2014 to 2017 and build more plants next year as it competes with aggressive rivals in the world's largest auto market.

GM expects its China sales to expand 8-10 percent this year, in line with the overall growth of the Chinese market, where foreign firms, such as Volkswagen AG (VOWG\_p.DE), and domestic players like SAIC Motor Corp (600104.SS) vie for more market share.

"We are investing wisely and accelerating our vehicle development and manufacturing to keep pace with market demand. In total we are investing \$12 billion between 2014 and 2017," Matt Tsien, president of GM China, said at the Auto China

show in Beijing. GM plans to build five more plants in China next year, as part of its efforts to ramp up manufacturing capacity there by 65 percent by 2020, executives said on Sunday.

Rival Volkswagen's (VOWG\_p.DE) early entry into China focused on rapidly-developing eastern provinces — now it plans to push into the west.

VW's luxury division Audi which will target smaller megacities in central and western provinces to raise the number of dealerships by about half to 500 in the next three years, chief executive Rupert Stadler told *Reuters*. "That's where new business is emerging, where things get rolling," Stadler said at the Beijing show. "We don't need more dealers in Beijing and Shanghai."

China's auto market is set to expand 8-10 percent this year, slightly slowing from 2013 when it sold 21.98 million vehicles, up 13.9 percent from a year earlier.

Vehicle density in China's smaller cities offer lucrative growth prospects.

The average number of cars per 1,000 inhabitants in Yaan, a city of about 2 million population in central Sichuan province is 18, compared with 123 in first-tier coastal cities Shanghai and Guangzhou, according to VW's website.

Parent VW was one of the first global automakers to launch production in China during the 1980s, is evolving its operations in the country by pushing west.

"A large sales potential for passenger cars will develop there fairly quickly,"

Jochem Heizmann, head of VW's China operations told reporters. "That's one factor driving growth besides state-induced urbanization."

VW, which last year opened factories in the western cities Chengdu and Urumqi, is counting on double-digit market growth to increase group deliveries to over 3.5 million this year, a record, from 3.27 million in 2013, CEO Martin Winterkorn said.

China's auto market rose 13.9 percent to 21.98 million vehicles last year, compared with a 7.6 percent gain in the United States to 15.6 million.

Wolfsburg-based VW, having eclipsed General Motors (GM.N) last year as the top-selling foreign brand in China, aims to consolidate its lead with aggressive spending.



*The grille of the Cadillac Elmiraj concept car as the vehicle is displayed during the press preview day of the North American International Auto Show in Detroit, Michigan on 14 Jan, 2014. —REUTERS*

Its two joint venture partners, First Automotive Works (000800.SZ) and Shanghai Volkswagen, are planning to spend 18.2 billion euros through 2018, the year VW has pledged to take the global car-sales crown, on models, technologies and

plants.

GM's five new Chinese plants will be in Wuhan, Chongqing, Jinqiao and Shenyang. Four of those will be vehicle assembly plants, while the fifth one will be an engine plant in Shenyang.—*Reuters*

## Asian stocks subdued on Ukraine caution, dollar firms vs yen

TOKYO, 21 April — Asian stock markets were subdued on Monday, as tensions in Ukraine kept investors cautious amid an absence of catalysts as several markets remained closed for the Easter holiday.

MSCI's broadest index of Asia-Pacific shares outside Japan inched down 0.1 percent. Japan's Nikkei stock average rose 0.3 percent on the back of a weaker yen.

Share markets in London, Paris and Frankfurt are closed for the Easter holiday.

Tensions in Ukraine, signs of slowing growth in China and uncertainty over when the US Federal Reserve would start to tighten interest rates have buffeted global markets in recent weeks, although Fed Chair Janet Yellen's dovish comments last week helped soothe some nerves.

Chinese shares slipped on concerns towards potential new listings diluting the market after the securities regulator released draft prospectuses for new companies planning to list.

"The way the market sees the IPO news is that new shares will end up diluting capital, and what's more, this news is rather sudden," said Tian Weidong, head of research in Kaiyuan Securities in the city of Xi'an.

The CSI300 index of the largest Shanghai and Shenzhen A-share listings was down 0.4 percent, while the Shanghai Composite Index lost 0.3 percent.

The dollar edged up to a two-week high against the yen after data showed Japan posted its largest-ever trade deficit in the fiscal year through March 2014 due to a soaring energy import bill.—*Reuters*

## Barclays planning exit of some commodities markets

LONDON, 21 April — Barclays (BARC.L) is planning to withdraw from parts of the metals, agricultural and energy markets, echoing moves by other major players like JPMorgan Chase (JPM.N) and Morgan Stanley (MS.N) away from the commodities business, the *Financial Times* reported on Sunday. The UK bank is expected to announce

the changes on Tuesday, which include heavy cuts to its global commodities trading staff, the newspaper reported.

The FT said Barclays is making the move because conditions in the commodities markets have grown unfavorable recently. Revenues have fallen and regulators have increased their scrutiny of the space. Bar-

clays declined to comment.

Barclays Chief Executive Antony Jenkins has undertaken a third review of the investment bank in as many years in response to pressure to cut costs and improve returns, which lag other parts of the business such as Barclaycard.

Analysts are expecting cuts in areas like credit trading, emerging markets,

securitization, structured credit and equity derivatives. The bank has already made some cuts in commodities, and it is considering selling its index business.

On Friday, Barclays announced a shakeup of its investment bank management team, including a new head of markets and new co-heads of banking.

*Reuters*

## Yoga may help women ease PTSD symptoms



NEW YORK, 21 April — Women enrolled in a small study reported a reduction in symptoms of posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) after a series of yoga classes.

However, women in a comparison group that didn't take the classes also reported a similar decline in symptoms, researchers found.

"The yoga group did well - they improved in their PTSD symptoms — and our control group actually did well, which we didn't

expect," Karen Mitchell told *Reuters Health*.

Mitchell, from the National Center for PTSD at the VA Boston Healthcare System, led the new study.

"I do emphasize that the yoga (group) definitely didn't do worse," she said. "Yoga could potentially be triggering for people with trauma, so while that's not as exciting a finding, I think it is important to say that."

About one in 10 US women is affected by PTSD, according to the authors.

Many say that alter-

native and complementary therapies — such as yoga — help them cope with the symptoms, which can include trouble sleeping and having flashbacks related to the traumatic event, known as re-experiencing.

"It can be very debilitating and in the general population it affects women about twice as often as men," Mitchell said. Her team's findings were published in the *Journal of Traumatic Stress*.

A total of 26 women with PTSD completed the

study. The women were an average of 44 years old and included both civilians and military veterans.

Fourteen of the women attended weekly yoga sessions for 12 weeks or twice-weekly sessions for six weeks. Each session was 75 minutes long and focused on mind-body connections, breathing and physical postures. Women also filled out a symptom questionnaire each week.

Twelve women in the comparison group met once per week for 12 weeks in small groups to complete the same questionnaires.

All participants completed a follow-up assessment one month after the sessions ended. Mitchell and her colleagues found that women in both groups had significant improvements in their symptoms.

The yoga participants showed decreases in re-experiencing and hyperarousal symptoms, while the comparison group reported improvements in re-experiencing symptoms and anxiety.—*Reuters*



*A man looks at an electronic board displaying Japan's Nikkei average (top C) and various countries' stock indices, as passers-by walk past outside a brokerage in Tokyo on 16 April, 2014.—REUTERS*

## PERSPECTIVES

Tuesday, 22 April, 2014

## Growing pains for Myanmar

By Asher Gould, freelance architect

*“Good character is not formed in a week or a month. It is created little by little, day by day. Protracted and patient effort is needed to develop good character.”*

Heraclitus

So it is with Myanmar, a country in transition with the lives of its people riding on hopes and prayers. The recent Myanmar New Year Festival celebrated throughout the country, is not hugely dissimilar from any other in the world. It is about people gathering together to remind each other that we are all here to collectively usher in future events into our lives. At this moment in Myanmar history, there is great hope for the future but also great trepidation and for better or worse, citizens live in the moment, unable to plan for their future. The lives of Myanmar people are molded by uncertainty and it speaks volumes about the resolve of the people that friendliness and cordiality with each other and visitors alike remains a noticeable attribute.

Water represents life in any culture and in Myanmar, it is used to symbolically wake up their spiritual life but here with the added benefit of providing respite from the oppressive heat. The spiritual life of the people is the thread that holds the nation together and it is what gives the people of Myanmar their unique disposition, one of great patience. With the increasing international focus in recent years, there is widespread belief, buoyed with optimism that a balanced and fair society will one day emerge for all of its citizens. As with many places in the world, this is clearly not yet the case but everyone here is awakening to the prospect of a country with a bright future, where the wealth of the country is used for the common good and shared equitably.

The mistake many visitors make upon entering Myanmar is to assume that globalization has taken a foothold here. Anyone that has spent time here will know that it is a country in transition and is still largely untouched by the specter of globalization. Myanmar leaders are presumably aware of the dangers of rapid unfettered economic growth that comes with acceptance into the global community. The grass is not always greener on the other side and the future for Myanmar would best be handled “little by little, day by day” with patience and with a clear understanding for any decisions made on behalf of the people. As a Buddhist country, the maxim of ‘cause

and effect’ should be used in small increments for adoption of government policies and tested with time. As with individuals, a good dose of patience is certainly needed for the good of the country until we have structural soundness in governance and economy. Visitors are all too aware of Myanmar’s shortfalls but are equally aware also of the strength and character of its people and ultimately it is the people of Myanmar that will rise or fall with decisions made by its leaders.

The rest of the world watches and there is much goodwill directed towards Myanmar.

The future for Myanmar will largely be dependent on the level of foreign support given in expertise in all fields of endeavors and only a good level of education for all its citizens will enable the country to sustain the growing momentum. The truth is, the world watches and wonders if the leaders have the wisdom and patience to rebuild this beautiful country into the paradise it once was. Recent developments suggest so but only time will tell.

## Write for us

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

## World Bank Group accelerates rapidly growing program for Myanmar



Photo shows World Bank Building in Washington, DC.

A US\$30 million project approved recently by the World Bank’s Board of Executive Directors is separate from the US\$2 billion development plan for Myanmar that World Bank Group’s President Jim Yong Kim announced during his first visit to Myanmar at the end of January 2014, a media contact of the World Bank in Yangon told NLM by email.

Carl Hanlon added much of the new facility will be interest-free.

According to a press release of the World Bank Group on 2 April, Myanmar will secure US\$ 55 million— US\$ 30 million in credit from the International Development Association (IDA), US\$ 8.5 million from the Australian Government and US\$16.5 million from the UK’s Department for International Development (UKAID)— to support modernization of the public finance system.

The World Bank press

release said the IDA credit will support Modernization of Public Finance Management Project, which aims to improve the efficiency and accountability of public service delivery and accounting and reporting of budget execution through more strategic planning and budgeting process and more credible budget management system.

The press release added “the people of Myanmar will be the ultimate beneficiaries” of the project that

aims to gain improvements in both quantity and quality of public services such as education, health and water and sanitation.

In accordance with the World Bank Group’s US\$ 2 billion multi-year development package for Myanmar, projects to develop the agriculture sector, improve access to energy and health services and support the country’s reform and other key development priorities will be implemented in Myanmar.—NLM

GOLD PRICE, FE RATE  
(21-4-2014)

## Yangon Gold Price

Buying K 660,000 per tical: Selling K 661,000

## Mandalay Gold Price

Buying K 660,000 per tical: Selling K 661,000

## FE RATE

USD Buying K 960 - Selling K 965

SGD Buying K 765 - Selling K 773

Euro Buying K 1310 - Selling K 1330

Ceremonies of obeisance to the aged  
and fish-releasing in Kayin State

HPA-AN, 21 April— State and local dignitaries and many people in Hpa-an Township in Kayin State gathered 17 April to pay obeisance to the area’s elders and to release fingerlings to mark the Myanmar New Year. The ceremony respecting their elders was held at the Hpa-an Township Hall and attended by the chief minister of Kayin State, the speaker of the state parliament, the deputy-speaker, state ministers, members of the state parliament, chairman of the state election sub-commission, members of parliamentary af-

fairs, well-wishers, heads of government departments and members of social organizations. Two elders gave their blessing for the obeisance and offerings.

Each of 247 elders aged more than 85 got K 20,000, food and medicine and every senior citizen aged over 100 was given K 100,000, food and medicine at their homes.

Medical specialists also provided healthcare. The residents also released more than 50,000 fish into Kantharyar pond as a meritorious deed for the New Year.—Kyemon





## LOCAL NEWS

## Sales are blazing as scorching heat increases demand for Sagaing's toddy-palm chairs

SAGAING, 21 April—Sagaing region's traditional toddy-palm chairs are seeing a huge increase in sales recently as the scorching heat has brought on new demand for the chairs' cool comfort.

According to local people, the relaxing arm chairs are not only comfortable, they are also affordable.

Made with bamboo, some other types of wood and latticed with toddy-palm fronds, the chairs are in particular demand from restaurants that find customers like to sit in the two-seaters while enjoying a meal.

The producers generally need to pay K 25-30 per frond and each frond has to be kept dry in a warehouse to prevent rain damage if it is to be used in making chairs.

In Sagaing, local producers say each chair takes about 20 fronds to complete and demand is now growing for exceptional chairs that exhibit beautiful designs.

The number of seats is



also important, they say, with demand for big single-seaters mostly coming from families and that for two-seaters, in addition to being popular among restaurateurs, is often from couples.

The locally made chairs are available in the markets on Sagaing-Shwebo Road in the Sagaing Region and are also being sold in the downtown area.

"We sell chairs at various prices, ranging from K

2,500-8,000, but chairs selling around K 5,000 are in great demand. This summer, because they are comfortable enough for people

to sleep on or just rest, double-seater chairs are the mostly saleable," a local chair maker said.

Nanda Min Lwin

## Culture course aims at lifting morality among of rural youths

PAKOKKU, 21 April—A culture course opened Sunday at the monastery Saddhamma Mamaka in Natkayun-Kinpunkha Village of Pakokku, Magway Region with the venerable monk of the monastery offering words of advice to cultural trainees.

The course is being conducted for two sessions from 7 am to noon and from 1 pm to 4 pm daily as of Monday and will last one month.

Monks at the monastery are giving training to 149 youths from nearby villages.

Aung (Mann Tekkatho)

## Training courses help lift education standards for Pa-O youths

THATON, 21 April—The Khun Tannwe Pa-O Youths Network, in a ceremony Sunday morning at a monastery in Naungkala Middle Village in Thaton Township in Mon State, kicked off free youth training courses.

Chairman of the Pa-O Literature and Culture Committee of Mon State U Khun Shwe Thinn, Thaton Township MP of People's Parliament U Saw Ba Thein and responsible per-

sons of other political parties explained role of ethnic youths and the future of the state in preservation and uplifting of national race languages and literature.

Course leader Ko Khun Thet Maung Maung explained the purpose of the unity of youths, and uplift advanced training courses.

Computer science, English, Pa-O literature, people's ethics, basic print-

ing and web media courses are being provided to local youths free of charge. Each course lasts from 20 April to 18 May.

The courses are the ninth series by the Khun Tannwe Youth Network.

More than 200 Pa-O youths from Thaton, Kyaukto, Bilin and Paung townships in Mon State and Hpa-an township in Kayah State are attending the training courses.

Thet Oo (Thaton)



Chief Minister U Ye Myint views round activities of people learning education at three Rs campaign in Singaing Township.

MANDALAY 21 April—The chief minister and ministers from the Mandalay Region Government visited those involved in a Three Rs campaign being carried out across the region on Saturday.

Chief Minister U Ye Myint, also accompanied by departmental officials,

looked round the activities in two classes in Singaing Township, Kyaukse District.

During the visits, the chief minister encouraged the teachers and offered necessary instructions.

They then visited another Three Rs class in Myowin Village in the

same township and greeted the teachers.

At present, the township has 200 Three Rs classes where university students are giving lectures under the supervision of local basic education teachers. One class is taught by 10 teachers.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)



Photo shows Pa-O youths learning computer science at training courses in Thaton Township.

## Clock ticking for Thai PM as court verdict nears

BANGKOK, 21 April — A Thai court will decide this week whether to give embattled Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra more time to defend herself against charges of abuse of power, accusations that could bring her down, or whether to move swiftly to a verdict.

The fate of Yingluck and her government will determine the course of politics in Thailand which is polarized between the supporters of her and her brother, ousted former premier Thaksin Shinawatra, and supporters of the royalist establishment.

The confrontation between the two sides, marked by occasional violence, has undermined growth in Southeast Asia's second biggest economy.

Yingluck's government has faced months of sometimes violent anti-government protests but it appeared to be weathering the storm until legal challenges against her began to mount in February.

The charges Yingluck faces this week relate to the transfer of National Security Council chief Thawil Pliensri in 2011, which opponents say was done to benefit her party. The Constitutional Court will decide on Wednesday whether to grant her



Members of the pro-government "red shirt" group take part during a rally in Nakhon Pathom Province on the outskirts of Bangkok, on 6 April, 2014.—REUTERS

an extension to prepare her defence.

If the court eventually finds her guilty, Yingluck will be forced to step down.

"If the court does not grant the prime minister an extension this week and there is enough evidence, then the next court date will be the verdict," Constitutional Court spokesman Pimon Thampitakphong told Reuters on Monday, adding that the verdict could

come at the end of April.

The prime minister has also been charged with dereliction of duty for overseeing a state rice-buying scheme critics say was riddled with corruption. The National Anti-Corruption Commission, which brought the charges against her, rejected a request by her lawyers last week to allow two more witnesses.

The commission is expected to deliver its ruling

in May. If found guilty, Yingluck could be removed from office and may get a five-year ban from politics.

Thailand has been in conflict since 2006 when then premier Thaksin was ousted by the army. The former telecoms tycoon turned populist politician lives in self-imposed exile but is hugely popular in the north and northeast.

The crisis broadly pits the Bangkok-based mid-

dle class and conservative establishment, who see Thaksin as a corrupt crony capitalist and threat to their interests, against the mostly poorer supporters of Yingluck and Thaksin.

Long-simmering tension erupted last November when the lower house of parliament passed an amnesty bill that critics said was designed to let Thaksin come home without facing jail time for a corruption

conviction he said was politically motivated.

That bill was eventually rejected by the Senate but the street movement against it spiraled into a full-blown attempt to remove Yingluck. The protesters disrupted a snap election she called for 2 February, which was nullified by a court in March.

Last week Somchai Srisuthiyakorn, an election commissioner, said a new election could be held at the earliest in July.

The protesters, determined to rid the country of Thaksin's influence, want Yingluck to resign to make way for broad political and electoral reforms before a new election is held.

Adding to the instability, "red shirt" supporters of the Shinawatras say they will resist attempts to force Yingluck from office. "A day before the Constitutional Court hands down its verdict, we will hold a massive rally near Bangkok to support Yingluck," said Thanawut Wichaidit, a spokesman for the pro-government United Front for Democracy Against Dictatorship.

"Thailand is heading toward a dark and dangerous chapter so we must fight back, but with our voices only and not with weapons."—Reuters

## Malaysia Airlines plane returns safely after landing gear scare



Malaysia Airlines flight MH192 from Kuala Lumpur to Bangalore is seen at Kuala Lumpur International Airport in Sepang outside Kuala Lumpur on 21 April, 2014. REUTERS

KUALA LUMPUR, 21 April — A Malaysia Airlines passenger plane with 166 people on board landed safely at Kuala Lumpur airport early on Monday

after being forced to abandon a flight to Bangalore because of problems with its landing gear, the airline said.

Defence Minister and

Acting Transport Minister Hishammuddin Hussein said in a tweet: 'All landed safely — going there now!!'

Malaysia Airlines had

said earlier that the Boeing 737-800, carrying 159 passengers and seven crew, had suffered a malfunction of its right-hand landing gear upon takeoff, and would be forced to attempt an emergency landing.

The website www.flightradar24.com, which displays live air traffic, showed Flight MH192 repeatedly circling Kuala Lumpur airport before the eventual landing.

Fire rescue services had been placed on standby, according to the airline.

Last month a Malaysia Airlines flight disappeared on a flight from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing in unexplained circumstances with 239 people on board, and the search for its presumed wreckage is still continuing in the Indian Ocean.—Reuters

## Japan hopes Abe, Obama will show firmness of alliance

TOKYO, 21 April — Japan hopes Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and US President Barack Obama will show the robustness of the bilateral alliance to the world during Obama's three-day visit to Japan starting on Wednesday, Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida said on Monday.

"It is expected that the biggest outcome of the coming visit to Japan by President Obama is that it

will show both at home and abroad, that the Japan-US alliance, which is vital for Japan's diplomacy, is undoubtedly unshakable and firm," Kishida said in a speech in Tokyo.

Abe and Obama are scheduled to hold a summit on Thursday at which regional security and Trans-Pacific Partnership free trade negotiations are likely to top the agenda.

Kyodo News



President of Council of State of Cuba Raul Castro Ruz (R) meets with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi (L) at Revolution Palace in Havana, capital of Cuba, on 20 April, 2014.—XINHUA



## SCIENCE &amp; TECHNOLOGY

## ‘Easter Dragon’ makes delivery to International Space Station

CAPE CANAVERAL, 21 April—A cargo ship owned by Space Exploration Technologies arrived at the International Space Station on Sunday, with a delivery of supplies and science experiments for the crew and a pair of legs for the experimental humanoid robot aboard that one day may be used in a spacewalk.

Station commander Koichi Wakata used the outpost’s 58-foot (18-meter) robotic crane to snare the Dragon capsule from orbit at 7:14 am (1114 GMT), ending its 36-hour journey.

At the time, the station, a \$100 billion project of 15 nations, was sailing 260 miles over the Nile River.

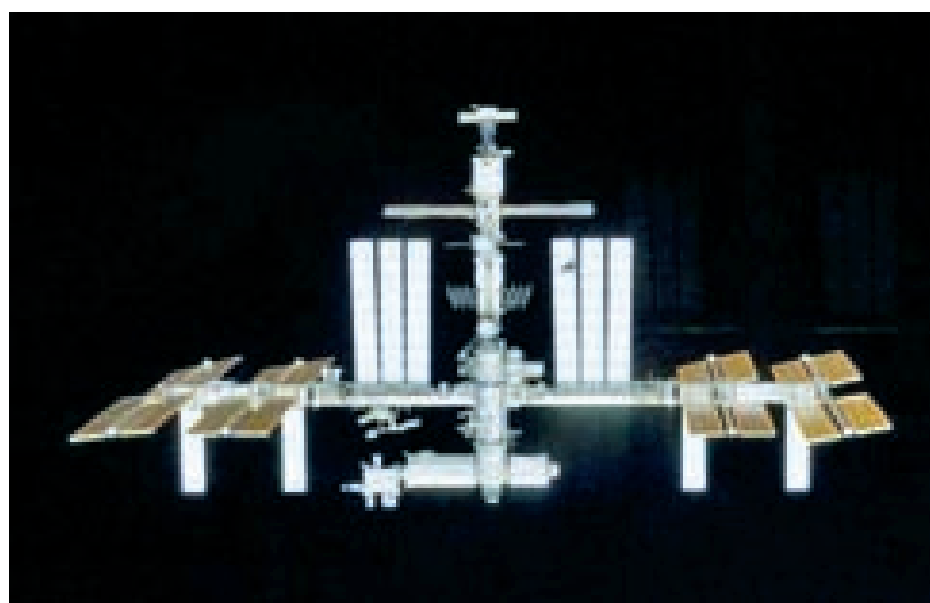
About three hours later, the crew bolted the capsule to a docking port on the station’s Harmony module. They plan to start unpacking on Monday.

“The Easter Dragon is knocking at the door,” astronaut Randy Bresnik radioed to the crew from Mission Control in Houston.

Space Exploration, known as SpaceX, had planned to launch its Dragon cargo ship in March, but was delayed by technical problems, including a two-week hold to replace a damaged US Air Force radar tracking system. The Falcon 9 rocket carrying Dragon finally lifted off at 3:25 pm (1925 GMT) on Friday from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station in Florida.

The launch also provided privately owned SpaceX an opportunity to carry out another test in its quest to develop a reusable rocket.

After the Falcon 9’s first-stage section separated from the upper-stage motor and Dragon capsule, the discarded rocket relit some



Backdropped by the blackness of space, the International Space Station is seen in this image taken by a crew member aboard the Space Shuttle Atlantis during rendezvous and docking activities in this photo released by NASA and taken on 18 Nov, 2009. —REUTERS

of its engines to slow its fall back through the atmosphere and position itself to touch down vertically on the ocean before gravity turned

it horizontal. The booster also was equipped with four 25-foot-long landings for stabilization. Data transmitted from an airplane

tracking the booster’s descent indicated it splashed down intact in the Atlantic Ocean—a first for the company.

“Data upload from

tracking plane shows landing in Atlantic was good! Several boats enroute through heavy seas,” SpaceX’s chief executive, Elon Musk, posted on Twitter late Friday.

SpaceX hopes to return a Falcon 9 booster to land before the end of the year. Eventually, it would like to recover and reuse its rockets to cost launch costs.

“There are just only a few more steps that need to be there to have it all work,” Musk told reporters after Friday’s launch.

“I think we’ve got a decent chance of bringing a stage back this year, which would be wonderful.”

SpaceX is one of two companies hired by NASA to fly cargo to the space station after the space shuttles were retired in 2011. The company is competing to develop a space taxi for astronauts as well. —Reuters

## Scientists find Earth-sized world in orbit friendly to life



Kepler-186f, the first validated Earth-size planet to orbit a distant star in the habitable zone—a range of distance from a star where liquid water might pool on the planet’s surface, is seen in a NASA artist’s concept released on 17 April, 2014. —REUTERS

CAPE CANAVERAL, 21 April—For the first time, scientists have found an Earth-sized world orbiting in a life-friendly zone around a distant star. The discovery, announced on Thursday, is the closest scientists have come so far to finding a true Earth twin. The star, known as Kepler-186 and located about 500 light years away in the constellation Cygnus, is smaller and redder than

the sun.

The star’s outermost planet, designated Kepler-186f, receives about one-third the radiation from its parent star as Earth gets from the sun, meaning that high noon on this world would be roughly akin to Earth an hour before sunset, said astronomer Thomas Barclay, with NASA’s Ames Research Centre in Moffett Field, California.

The planet is the right distance from its host star for water — if any exists — to be liquid on the surface, a condition that scientists suspect is necessary for life.

“This planet is an Earth cousin, not an Earth twin,” said Barclay, who is among a team of scientists reporting on the discovery in the journal Science this week.

NASA launched its Kepler space telescope in 2009 to search about 150,000 target stars for signs of any planets passing by, or transiting, relative to the telescope’s point of view. Kepler was sidelined by a positioning system failure last year.

Analysis of archived Kepler data continues. From Kepler’s observational perch, a planet about the size and location of Earth orbiting a sun-like star would blot out only about 80 to 100 photons out of every million as it transits. —Reuters

## Tech workers seek to use Steve Jobs evidence in upcoming trial on no-hire accords

SAN FRANCISCO, 21 April—Four large technology companies should not be allowed to limit evidence about Apple Inc co-founder Steve Jobs at an upcoming trial over no-hire agreements in Silicon Valley, according to a court document filed late on Thursday by employees suing the firms.

Tech workers brought a class action lawsuit against Apple, Google Inc, Intel Inc and Adobe Systems Inc in 2011, alleging they conspired to avoid competing for each other’s employees in order to avert a salary war. Trial is scheduled to begin at the end of May on behalf of roughly 64,000 workers in the class, and plaintiffs say damages could top \$3 billion.

The case, which is closely watched in Silicon Valley, is largely built on emails among top executives,



The Apple logo is pictured at its flagship retail store in San Francisco, California on 27 Jan, 2014. —REUTERS

including Apple’s late chief executive Jobs and former Google CEO Eric Schmidt.

In one instance, after a Google recruiter solicited an Apple employee, Schmidt told Jobs that the recruiter would be fired, court documents show. Jobs then forwarded Schmidt’s note to a top Apple human resources executive with a smiley face appended.

Earlier this week, the four companies asked US District Judge Lucy Koh to prevent plaintiffs from unfairly portraying Jobs as a “bully” attrial. The companies said they did not seek to bar Jobs’ communications about the no-hire agreements, but rather evidence gleaned from sources like Walter Isaacson’s bestselling biography about Jobs.

However, in the filing on Thursday, the employees said such material had been used in separate antitrust

litigation involving Apple over e-books.

“That the jury might draw conclusions about Mr Jobs’ character based on evidence showing the manner in which he pursued the conspiracy at the heart of this case is not grounds to exclude such evidence,” they wrote.

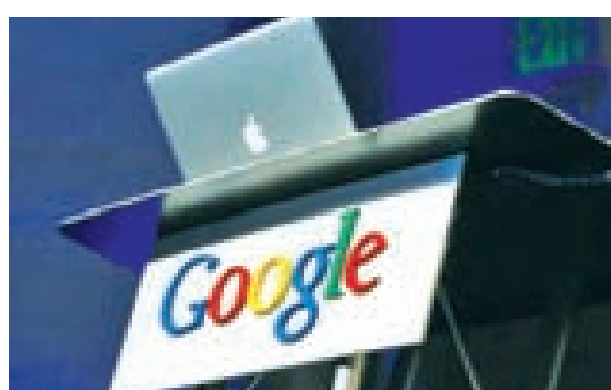
A Google spokesman declined to comment. Representatives for Apple, Intel and Adobe could not immediately be reached for comment, nor could an attorney for the plaintiffs.

The four companies agreed to settle a US Department of Justice probe in 2010 that barred them from entering into such no-hire agreements in the future. They have since been fighting the civil antitrust class action, arguing that the plaintiffs cannot successfully prove an overarching conspiracy to impact wages. —Reuters

## Apple, Google vie to offer exclusive game apps

NEW YORK, 21 April—Apple Inc and Google Inc are wooing game developers to ensure that top game titles arrive first on devices powered by their respective operating system, the Wall Street Journal reported, citing people familiar with the matter. Both the companies are trying to lure game developers by offering premium placement to these games on their app stores’ home pages and features lists, the daily said.

Both Google and Apple were not immediately available for comment outside regular US business hours. Apple had struck a deal with Electronic Arts Inc last August to promote the game “Plants Vs Zombies 2” prominently in its App Store, and had a similar arrangement with ZeptoLab to promote the sequel to its popular puzzle game “Cut the Rope”, which released in December, the Journal reported. —Reuters



An Apple computer is shown on Google’s company campus in Mountain View, California on 9 Feb, 2010. —REUTERS

## Cambodia, US begin military drill on peacekeeping, humanitarian aid

KAMPONG SPEU, (Cambodia), 21 April — Cambodia and the United States on Monday commenced a 10-day military exercise to promote regional peace and security and to bolster bilateral military ties, a US Embassy's statement said.

The annual drill, dubbed "Angkor Sentinel 2014", was opened by Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen's eldest son, Lieutenant General Hun Manet, deputy commander of the Army Headquarters, and US Army Pacific Representative Brigadier General John Goodale at the Training Centre for Multinational Peacekeeping Forces, about 70 km west of capital Phnom Penh.

The statement said more than 370 Cambodian armed forces and 100 US military personnel have participated in the drill, which focuses on humanitarian assistance and disaster relief activities, such as battalion staff training, engineering exchanges, medical training and activities to prepare Cambodian troops for the UN peacekeeping mission. "The exercise continues a



*Military personnel inspect the guard of honour during a Cambodia-US military exercise in Kampong Speu Province, Cambodia, on 21 April, 2014. Cambodia and the United States on Monday commenced a 10-day military exercise to promote regional peace and security and to bolster bilateral military ties, a US Embassy's statement said. — XINHUA*

substantial, multi-year effort by US Army Pacific and US Pacific Command to actively engage the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces and expand peacekeeping and stability operations," it said. "I am confident that this exercise will bring the two countries closer as allies as well as partners in the conduct of

humanitarian assistance and disaster relief missions," Goodale said.

Angkor Sentinel 2014 marks the fifth year of a significant and highly productive training event in Cambodia.

Speaking at the opening ceremony of the drill, Hun Manet said the exercise showed good

cooperation between Cambodia and US and would contribute to further developing military relations between the two countries. "The exercise is vital to building up capacity for Cambodian armed forces and to exchanging tactics, techniques and expertise between the two armies," he said.—Xinhua

## Premium auto brands make crossover

BEIJING, 21 April — Premium car brands are now becoming pioneers in exploring new model concepts such as the crossover vehicle.

At the ongoing Auto China exhibition in Beijing, their booths showcase the crossover model that combines utility, comfort and style. In a word, they are mixed-blood.

One example is the Mercedes-Benz Concept Coupe SUV, which made its global premiere yesterday. It is a vehicle that combines a coupe-like silhouette with the raised stance of a sport-utility vehicle.

Other brands have also been driven to explore this new direction of vehicle design such as the BMW X6, seen as direct rival to

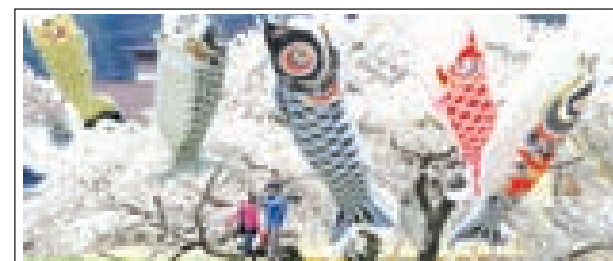
the Concept Coupe SUV, and smaller SUVs like BMW X4 and Audi Q4 — both of which made their Asian debut. The Infiniti Q30 concept which also debuted in Asia yesterday is a fusion of a hatch back, coupe, and a city SUV.

Zeng Zhilin, research director of LMC Automotive, Asia Pacific, predicts brands are now competing in product differentiation that may develop into another high-growth segment.

"China's SUV craze may continue through 2020, and consumers will be looking for something different," Zeng said.

Crossovers like city SUVs are big money spinners as their style comes across as the biggest value-added.

Xinhua



*Some 100 colourful carp streamers blow in the wind against the backdrop of cherry blossoms in full bloom in Ichinoseki, Iwate Prefecture, on 19 April, 2014.*

KYODO NEWS

## Tokyo Girls Collection show to be held in Fukushima for 1st time

FUKUSHIMA, (Japan), 21 April — Major Japanese fashion show Tokyo Girls Collection will be held in Fukushima Prefecture for the first time on 29 April to encourage female residents whose lives are still affected by the aftermath of the 2011 earthquake and

nuclear crisis.

Tokyo Girls Collection, a twice-yearly event taking place chiefly in the Tokyo metropolitan area, will be held at the Big Palette Fukushima convention center in Koriyama city in the northeastern Japanese prefecture,

organizers said.

This time around, pupils selected from local primary schools will participate in a catwalk show while local high school students are invited to sing with popular musicians on stage, they said.

Kyodo News

## Town mayor shot dead in N Philippines

MANILA, 21 April — A town mayor and his two bodyguards were killed after 15 armed men clad in police uniform attacked a town hall in northern Philippines on Monday morning, a military official said.

Calito Pentecostes, Jr,

mayor of Gonzaga town in Cagayan province, and his two bodyguards died on the spot, said Maj Emmanuel Garcia, commander of the Armed Forces of the Philippines' (AFP) 1st Civil Relations Group.

Garcia said gunmen

aboard two vans staged the attack on the town hall of Gonzaga during the flag-raising ceremony at around 7: 30 am on Monday.

He said police and soldiers from the 502nd Infantry Brigade are now pursuing the suspects.—Xinhua

## Indonesia hosts int'l workshops on Irregular Movement of Persons At Sea

JAKARTA, 21 April — Indonesia commenced on Monday a two-day international meeting aimed at increasing global comprehensive and coordinated approach to deal with irregular movement of persons at sea.

The meeting, themed International Workshops on Irregular Movement of Persons At Sea, was to follow suit the Jakarta Declaration on Addressing Irregular Movement of Persons that was agreed in Special Conference on Irregular Movement of Persons held here in 20 Aug last year.

Inaugurating the event

attended by delegates of 16 countries and three international organizations, Indonesian Foreign Affairs Minister Marty Natalegawa said that discussions on seeking comprehensive solutions need to be conducted as incidents at sea involving people in human trafficking, asylum seeking and other illegal activities remain a problem in many parts of the world despite efforts conducted through the Bali Process. "The cross border and complex nature of irregular movement of persons defies national solution. It demands comprehensive national,

regional and global approaches. It was recognition of this reality that laid the foundation of the Bali Process launched a decade ago. It was relevant then and remains relevant today," Marty told the delegates attending the meeting.

Indonesia has been actively involved in Bali Process, an international forum joined by 50 countries and many international organizations that facilitate discussion and information sharing related to people smuggling, human trafficking, trans-national crimes and appropriate responses to those issues.—Xinhua



*The Beijing International Automotive Exhibition opens in the Chinese capital on 20 April, 2014. The event will run through 29 April.*

KYODO NEWS



## GENERAL

## Niger could sign new deal with Areva within days: mines minister

NIAMEY, 21 April — The government of Niger, the world's fourth largest uranium producer, is on the verge of renewing an agreement with French state-controlled nuclear group Areva, the West African nation's mines minister said on Sunday.

Niger, one of the world's poorest nations, is pushing to boost revenues from its uranium, but Areva, which dominates the sector in the country, has claimed that increasing royalties would make its operations there unprofitable.

"We are very, very close to a deal. All that remains is to finalize it. We will sign in the weeks, or even the days to come," Mines Minister Omar Hamidou Tchiana said in an interview with private television stations Labari and Dounia.

Despite opening negotiations two years ago, Areva and Niger failed to reach a new agreement before the 10-year contracts expired on 31 December.

Niger's President Mahamadou Issoufou has previously characterized the expired contracts as a throwback to the post-colonial era, when France played a dominant role in the economies of its former African territories.

Reuters



*Insulating layers of a high-rise residential building is on fire at Xinghai Square in Dalian, northeast China's Liaoning Province, on 21 April, 2014. The fire, which was found at 11 am on April 21, has been extinguished and no casualties were reported by far.*  
XINHUA

## Bankrupt British loans official resigns, embarrassing PM Cameron

LONDON, 21 April — The head of a British government agency that hands out billions of pounds of loans to local authorities has resigned after failing to reveal he was bankrupt, Prime Minister David Cameron's office said on Sunday.

Cameron appointed Tony Caplin, a former senior official in his ruling Conservative party, to head the Public Works Loans Board (PWLB) last year. His resignation ahead of European elections next month and a national election in 2015 is embarrassing for the prime minister.

The PWLB is in charge of distributing infrastructure loans to local authorities across Britain and controls a loans portfolio of up to 60 billion pounds (\$100.85 billion).

However, an investigation by the Mail on Sunday newspaper revealed that Britain's High Court had declared Caplin, the

agency's head, bankrupt in 2012 with debts of more than 3 million pounds (\$5.04 million), a fact he had not disclosed.

Government rules stipulate that officials declared bankrupt must come clean about it so it can be decided whether they can keep their jobs or not.

"He should have declared he was bankrupt,"

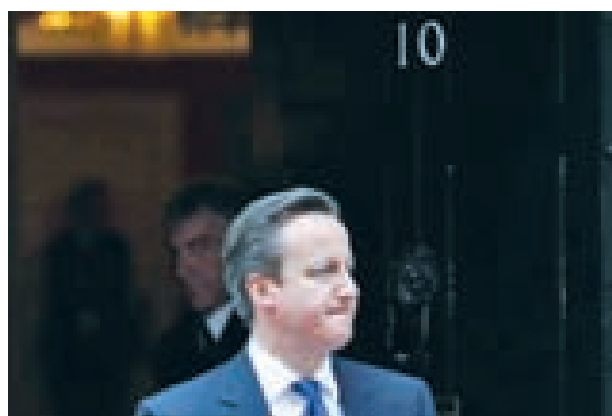
Cameron's office said of Caplin in a terse statement. "This has been pointed out to him and as a result he has resigned."

The opposition Labour party, which has a narrow lead over Cameron's Conservatives in the polls, said the matter called the prime minister's judgment into question. "It is astonishing that the Prime Minister

and the Chancellor (finance minister) could appoint someone who went bankrupt owing so much to the Treasury to run the Treasury's lending operations," Chris Leslie, one of Labour's financial spokesmen, said in a statement.

He said Caplin's appointment was "a misjudgment too far by a Prime Minister with a track record of poor judgment in relation to his cronies."

Earlier this month, Cameron suffered a more serious blow to his authority when a scandal-hit minister he had been doggedly defending resigned, exposing him to charges of weak leadership and poor judgment. Cameron says his government has delivered an increasingly strong economic recovery after a deep recession, a factor he hopes will hand him re-election next year as people's living standards begin to rise again.—Reuters



*Britain's Prime Minister David Cameron awaits the arrival of Ireland's President Michael D. Higgins at Number 10 Downing Street in London on 9 April, 2014.—REUTERS*

## Afghan security forces foil potential terror attack

SHIBIRGHAN, 21 April — Afghan security forces arrested four militants, including a would-be suicide bomber, in northern Afghan province of Jawzjan, foiling a potential terror attack, an official said on Monday.

"On an intelligence tip-off, three terrorists were detained on Sunday. The last member of the gang was detained earlier on Monday. The security forces defused a suicide jacket

during the raid in the provincial capital Shibirghan," deputy provincial governor Abdul Rahman told Xinhua.

They tried to target a government agency building in the city, 390 km north of the Afghan capital Kabul, he noted.

The Taliban insurgent group has intensified attack in spring and summer known as the fighting season in the war-torn country.

Xinhua

## Saudi Arabia sentences five to death for 2003 attacks

RIYADH, 21 April — A Saudi Arabian court on Sunday sentenced five men to death for their involvement in a suicide attack on expatriate residential compounds in Riyadh in 2003, the state news agency reported.

Another 37 people were sentenced to terms of three to 35 years for assisting the attacks in northeastern Riyadh, which were part of a three-year campaign by al-Qaeda that killed hundreds and was aimed at destabilizing US ally Saudi Arabia. Riyadh crushed the campaign in 2006, detaining more than 11,000 people in its security prisons, it has said.

The remnants of that al-Qaeda group fled to Yemen where in 2009 they joined local militants to form al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula, now seen as one of the most dangerous branches of the movement around the world.

Saudi Arabia has put on trial hundreds of accused militants in recent months, jailing many of them and sentencing others to death on charges that they played a role in the 2003-06 campaign, or aided those going to fight in Iraq or Afghanistan.

The conservative Islamic kingdom has grown increasingly concerned about radicalization this year because the war in Syria has spurred what they see as a surge in online militancy. They are worried about a new al-Qaeda campaign of attacks.—Reuters

## Nepal Sherpas demand compensation for families of avalanche victims



*The mother of Kaji Sherpa, one of 12 Nepali mountaineering guides who lost his life in an avalanche on Mount Everest, cries as she waits for the body of her son to arrive at Sherpa Monastery in Kathmandu on 19 April, 2014.—REUTERS*

KATHMANDU, 21 April — Nepal's Sherpas have demanded compensation

of \$10,000 for the families of 16 colleagues dead or missing in an avalanche on Mount Everest and double the insurance cover for expeditions on the world's highest mountain, crowded with climbers.

The government has announced an immediate payment of \$400 to the victims' families to cover funeral costs.

But there is no provision for compensation for Sherpas who are hired by international expeditions to carry gear, and in the past these groups have provided financial assistance on their own in the case of accidents.

On Sunday, Sherpas with 31 foreign expeditions held a meeting at the base camp of the 8,850-metre

(29,035-foot) summit and agreed to launch protests if their demands were not met.

At least 13 guides were killed, three are missing and at least three others are under intensive care for broken limbs, ribs, blood clots and other injuries in Kathmandu hospitals after an avalanche swept the Khumbu Icefall, one of the most dangerous parts of the climb to Everest.

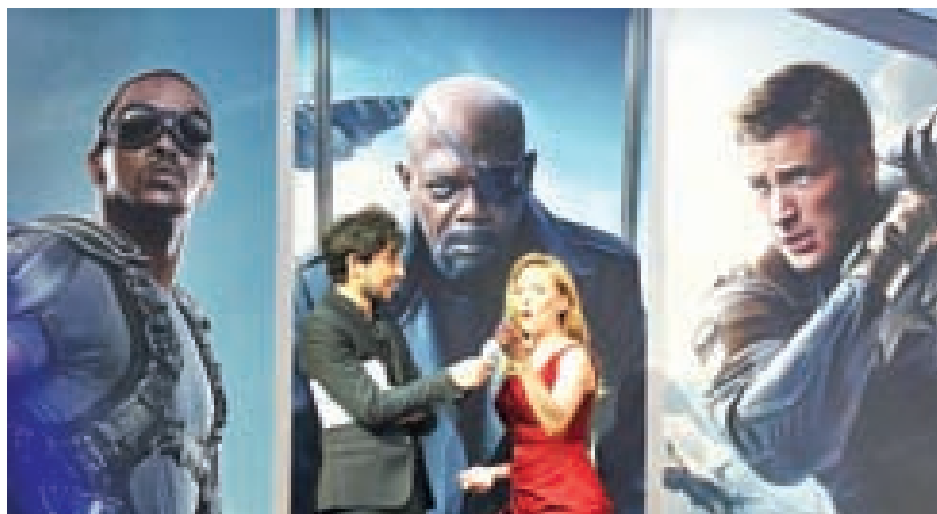
The men were trying to fix ropes and crack snow and ice to carve out a route for foreign climbers when they were caught in the avalanche.

Besides the cash compensation, the mountain

guides have demanded that the government pay for the treatment of the injured and raise the insurance cover to \$20,000.

"If the demands are not met, we will be forced to launch strong protests for the sake of daily bread of the entire Sherpa community," the Sherpas said in a statement.

It was not clear what form the protests might take if the demands were not met. Some guides had asked for the mountain to be closed to expeditions during the popular climbing season that runs through May this year as a mark of respect for the dead.—Reuters



## Neil Patrick Harris denies cursing at fan

LOS ANGELES, 21 April — Neil Patrick Harris's representative has denied reports that the 'How I Met Your Mother' star cursed at an audience member watching his Broadway show 'Hedwig and the Angry Inch'.

Harris was allegedly angry when a besotted fan proclaimed her love for him, while he was on stage and replied saying, "I am doing something up here..."

But the representative said that people should hear the full context before writing such things, reported Ace Showbiz.—PTI

## Uma Thurman calls off wedding to Arki Busson



Uma Thurman

NEW YORK, 21 April — Hollywood actress Uma Thurman has reportedly called off her engagement to Arki Busson, with whom she has a daughter.

The distance between New York-based Thurman and London-based Busson has taken its toll, reported *New York Post* online.

Thurman, 43, started dating the multi-millionaire Busson, 51, who has dated supermodel Elle Macpherson, in 2007.

However, in 2009 she returned an eight-carat diamond engagement ring a year after he proposed.

Actress Scarlett Johansson (R) gestures to the crowd during an interview at the UK premiere of "Captain America: The Winter Soldier" at Shepherd's Bush in London, on 20 March, 2014.—XINHUA

## Rubin 'Hurricane' Carter, US boxer famous in folk song, dies at 76

TORONTO / NEW YORK, 21 April — Former US professional boxer Rubin "Hurricane" Carter, who spent 19 years in prison for murder and then was released after it was determined he did not get a fair trial, died on Sunday at the age of 76, according to his friend and caretaker John Artis. Carter, considered a folk hero by many and immortalized in film and song, had been battling prostate cancer for nearly three years, Artis said. He died at home in Toronto, where he had been living since he was released from prison in 1985. "Those who are wrongfully incarcerated lost a champion," Artis said.

"He dedicated his life to helping the people that need the same kind of assistance that we needed, who have been wrongfully convicted and incarcerated." Once a middleweight boxer who earned a world title fight in 1964, Carter is more well known for the turn his life took after he was arrested for a triple homicide in 1966.

That arrest, his imprisonment, and the ultimately successful battle to free him are immortalized in the 1975 Bob Dylan song "Hurricane" and the 1999 film of the same name, which starred Denzel Washington as Carter.

Born in 1937 in Clifton, New Jersey, Carter ran into trouble with the law as a teenager, serving custodial sentences for assault and robbery, and spending two years in the army.

In his 1974 autobiography titled "The Sixteenth Round", Carter writes of his younger years: "The kindest thing I have to say about my childhood is that I survived it."—Reuters

## Justin Bartha, wife welcome first baby

LOS ANGELES, 21 April — 'Hangover' star Justin Bartha and his wife Lia Smith have welcomed their first child, a baby girl.

The 35-year-old actor and Smith welcomed the baby girl on Sunday, reported *Us* magazine.

Bartha and the personal fitness trainer got engaged in May 2013, and tied the knot back in January in Oahu, Hawaii.

During their intimate ceremony, the newlweds were feted by Reese Witherspoon, her husband Jim Toth (who is also Bartha's agent), Jesse Eisenberg, and his 'Hangover' costar Ken Jeong.

Bartha has earlier dated Ashley Olsen from 2009 to 2011.

PTI



Justin Bartha And His Wife Lia Smith

## "Captain America" continues to win North America box office

LOS ANGELES, 21 April — "Captain America: The Winter Soldier" claimed a third straight box office win, collecting 26.6 million US dollars from 3,825 locations of showing over the weekend to beat the animated film "Rio 2," which generated 22.5 million dollars in ticket sales.

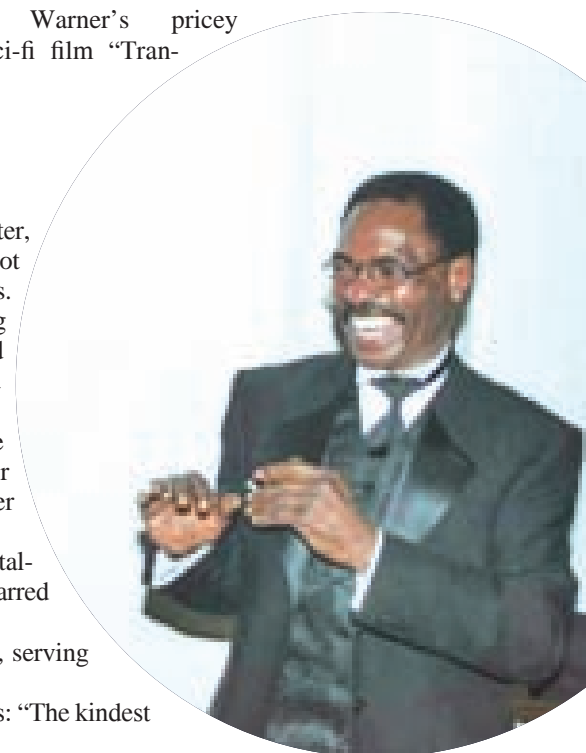
"Heaven Is For Real," based on a 2010 best-sell-

ing Christian book about a boy who claims to have witnessed heaven during an emergency surgery, came in the third with 21.5 million dollars in ticket sales over the Easter holiday weekend. The movie opened on Wednesday and earned 28.5 million dollars in its first five days of screening. The film got an "A" CinemaScore and 53 percent of critics at Rotten Tomatoes recommended it.

Warner's pricey sci-fi film "Tran-

scendence," starring Johnny Depp, was the fourth as it opened with a lackluster 11.2 million dollars from 3,455 locations of showing. The film only received a disappointing "C+" on CinemaScore. "Captain America: The Winter Soldier" has grossed 201.5 million dollars in ticket sales in North America in three weeks, according to Rentrak.

Xinhua



## Mick Jagger flies to L'Wren's favourite holiday island



NEW YORK, 21 April — Rolling Stone rocker Mick Jagger has reportedly flown to the Caribbean island of Mustique to help him come to terms with the death of his lover L'Wren Scott.

The 70-year-old singer is believed to be staying in a seafront villa where he and the late fashion designer often holidayed together, reported *Daily Mirror*.

Scott also spent a week alone at the villa prior to her death last month while Jagger toured with the Rolling Stones in the Far East.

Jagger is believed to have been joined in Mustique by his eldest daughter Karis, who has been supporting her father after his girlfriend Scott was found dead in her New York apartment. Karis is Jagger's daughter with singer Marsha Hunt, who he dated in the late 1960s and early 1970s. Jagger has been spotted strolling on the beach in the paradise location, where he owns a villa. The family were also seen dining out at popular local eatery Basil's Bar. "Mustique was always a special place for Mick and L'Wren, who spent many holidays there together and often went to relax over Christmas and New Year. It's the perfect place for him to start his recovery - which is going to take a long time," a source said.—PTI

## Canada's Kiesza grabs top spot in British music charts with debut

LONDON, 21 April — Female Canadian singer-songwriter Kiesza grabbed the top spot in Britain's music charts on Sunday with her debut single "Hideaway", which sold more than 136,000 copies, the Official Charts Company said.

Calgary-born Kiesza is a classically-trained ballerina and a former code-breaker in the Royal Canadian Navy where she says she began writing songs.

She knocked last week's number one, "Nobody to Love" by London-based dance music duo Sigma, into second place, while a new entry, "Touch" by Shift K3Y, went straight in at number three.

In the albums chart, Scottish singer-songwriter Paolo Nutini snatched the top spot with his new album "Caustic Love", the fastest-selling album of the year so far.

Reuters



## GENERAL

**Asleep in Jesus  
Mr Donald Minus  
Command Engineer (Retd)  
Public Works, Sagaing Division  
Aged (84) years**

Beloved son of late Mr G Minus and late Daw Sein Myint, beloved husband of late Myrna Minus (a) Daw Marlar of room No. (14), building No. (352/366), Mahabandoola Garden Street, Kyauktada Township, Yangon, beloved father of late Albert Minus (a) U Ye Tun and Daw Theingi Hlaing (a) Ruth Minus, Vicent Minus (a) U Bo Win, Leslie Minus (a) U Zaw Win and Daw Khaing Thida (a) Agnes Minus, Peter Minus (a) U Zaw Aung and Daw Moe Thu Han (a) Susan Minus, U Khin Maung Aye and Daw Myat Thuzar (a) Tina, grandfather of Geofferey Minus (a) U Thet Khine Tun and Daw Waing Thiri Than Htay (a) Wendy Minus, Maung Aung Thurein Hein (a) Aaron, Michelle Minus (a) Thazin Aung was Peacefully Asleep in Jesus at 1:25 pm on 20 April 2014 (Sunday) at Bahosi Hospital, the funeral service will be held at 8:00 am on 23 April 2014 (Wednesday) at Holy Trinity Cathedral Church at No. (446), Bogyoke Aung San Road. The body will be buried at 10:00 am on the same day at Yay Way Christian Cemetary. The buses from the above residence will be departed to the Church at 7:30 am.

**Bereaved family**

## Iran, world powers to start work on nuclear drafts next month

DUBAI, 21 April — Iran and world powers will begin work drafting a long-term settlement of Iran's disputed nuclear programme at expert-level talks in New York next month, the official state news agency IRNA reported on Sunday. During the 5-9 May meeting, the P5+1 world powers and Iran will start "writing draft of comprehensive agreements which will be a complex and difficult work," said senior nuclear negotiator Abbas Araghchi, according to IRNA. Hamid Baeedinejad, Director General for the Political and International

Affairs Department of Foreign Ministry, will head Iran's team at talks on the sidelines of the Non-Proliferation Treaty Review preliminary committee meeting, IRNA said.

The United States, France, Germany, Britain, China, Russia have agreed a 20 July deadline with Iran to clinch a long-term deal that would allow a gradual lifting of all nuclear-related sanctions imposed on Iran over its atomic programme. Teheran denies using its declared civilian atomic energy programme as a front for covertly developing the means to make nuclear weapons, saying it seeks only electrici-

ty from its enrichment of uranium. Under a breakthrough preliminary agreement that took effect on 20 January, Iran halted some aspects of its nuclear programme in exchange for a limited easing of international sanctions that have laid low the major oil producer's economy. In its monthly update, the International Atomic Energy Agency, which has a pivotal role in verifying that Iran is living up to its part of the accord, said that Iran so far was undertaking the agreed steps to curb its nuclear programme.

Reuters



## Cyclone threatens to disrupt search for missing Malaysian plane

PERTH, 21 April — A tropical cyclone was threatening to hamper the search for a missing Malaysian jetliner in a remote stretch of the Indian Ocean on Monday, as a submarine drone neared the end of its mission scouring the sea bed with still no sign of wreckage.

The search for Malaysia Airlines Flight MH370,

which vanished on 8 March with 239 people on board, has narrowed to a 10 sq km (6.2 sq mile) patch of sea floor about 2,000 km (1,200 miles) west of the Australian city of Perth.

Search authorities and the Australian and Malaysian governments have said a series of sonar signals, or "pings", traced to the area may have emanated from the plane's "black box" and present the most credible lead as to its whereabouts.

However no pings have been detected in almost two weeks and authorities now fear that, with the flight data recorder's battery several weeks past its expected expiry date, the black box may not emit further signals. A US Navy remote controlled submarine, the *Bluefin-21*, was on its ninth mission scanning the largely unmapped stretch of sea bed where the pings are believed to have come from, with still no trace found, Australian search officials said on Monday.

"*Bluefin-21* has searched approximately two-thirds of the focused

underwater search area to date. No contacts of interest have been found to date," the Joint Agency Coordination Centre said in a statement. The center added that the search, which has so far been largely unimpeded by weather, may be affected as Tropical Cyclone Jack continued to move south over the ocean.

"Widespread showers are developing with isolated thunderstorms to the north and east south-easterly winds," the center said of the weather forecast in the search area.

On Saturday, the center said the *Bluefin-21* was expected to complete its search of the targeted area within a week. But with the prospect of that search ending without finding any sign of the plane drawing ever more likely, the authorities are under pressure to determine their next strategy.

The search coordinator, retired Air Chief Marshal Angus Houston, said on 14 April that an air and surface search for debris would end within three days.—Reuters

### MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(22-4-14 07:00am~  
23-4-14 07:00am) MST

- \* Local News
- \* Me N My Travel With Maria (EP-4)(Part-2) (Pyay - Shwe San Taw)
- \* World News
- \* Talented Musicians
- \* Local News
- \* A Worth Studying Site For Ancient Myanmar Heritages
- \* World News
- \* Will you feed the pigeons
- \* Local News
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- \* Sticky Shan Snack
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- \* Myanmar Traditional Identity (EP- 3) The Sphinx of Egypt and The Manousiha of Myanmar
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- \* World News
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- \* Truly Magical Pindaya
- \* World News
- \* Temple Stalls
- \* Local News
- \* Back to a Paradise (Ep-2)
- \* World News
- \* Myanmar Masterclass: Impressionism

## Wawrinka fights back to beat Federer in Monte Carlo final

MONTE CARLO, 21 April — Stanislas Wawrinka signalled his French Open ambitions by beating Roger Federer 4-6, 7-6 (5), 6-2 in an all-Swiss Monte Carlo Masters final on Sunday. Third seed and Australian Open champion Wawrinka recovered from the loss of the opening set to claim his maiden Masters title on the Monte Carlo clay just six weeks before the 25 May-8 June grand slam tournament in Paris.

"I can see that when mentally I'm there and I'm fighting, I can play tennis, I can beat all the players," Wawrinka told reporters.

"When I came here, for me it was more like a test. I knew I was playing good tennis, but I didn't

expect to win because the draw was so strong.

"Clay, it's natural for me. It's easy. I'm always happy to come back on clay. It's always easy."

Federer, whose only defeat in 14 previous matches against Wawrinka was in Monte Carlo in 2009, said: "I had a great week. Congratulations to Stan, I hope it will continue for you like that for years."

Fourth seed Federer, who beat an injured Novak Djokovic in the semi-finals, was his brilliant old self for almost an hour but the 17-times grand slam champion was eventually overwhelmed by his opponent's power.

Wawrinka played with great depth as Federer was eventually pushed back far

from his baseline and was prevented from attacking.

"I don't think I served quite so well early on in the third set," Federer said.

"I think he really found his range and started to hit bigger, deeper. He didn't miss that many second serve returns anymore.

"He gave me a couple cheap points in the first couple sets which he later on really didn't give me anymore."

Federer saved a break point in the fourth game, Wawrinka banging his racket on his head in frustration after his passing shot went long.

Federer was more composed, breaking for 3-2 as Wawrinka's usually reliable backhand sailed long.

Another long back-



Stanislas Wawrinka of Switzerland holds up his trophy after winning the final match against his compatriot Roger Federer at the Monte Carlo Masters in Monaco on 20 April, 2014.—REUTERS

hand from Wawrinka gave Federer the opening set after 42 minutes.

Wawrinka opened a 2-0 lead in the second set, only for his opponent to

steal his serve straight back with a stunning backhand down the line.—Reuters

# Ding leads Wasley 6-3 as Xiao falls to Carter at snooker worlds

SHEFFIELD, (England), 21 April — China's qualifier Xiao Guodong lost an exciting battle 10-8 to two-time world finalist Ali Carter in the snooker World Championship here on Sunday.

China's top star Ding Junhui finished the opening round to lead worlds first timer Michael Wasley 6-3 overnight.

Sheffield debutant Xiao, ranked 25th in the world, fought back strongly from a 4-1 down in the first round and made it 4-5 at the end of the first session. The 24-year-old won the first two frames in the second round to lead 6-5. The next four were shared, Carter making breaks of 81 and 55 while Xiao made a 70.

Carter looked set to go 9-7 up until he ran out

of position on 59 in frame 16, allowing Xiao to make a brilliant 69 clearance. But the Englishman responded superbly and his opponent didn't score a point in the last two frames. A run of 80 put Carter 9-8 up and he dominated the next to secure the result.

Xiao said: "Ali played very well in the last two frames. I had the chance to go 7-6 up but lost that frame. It was a good game and every frame was very close and there was never more than two frames in the match.

"I enjoyed playing at the Crucible because everyone wants to come and play at the World Championship here. It was my first time here but I wasn't very nervous because I just wanted to enjoy it. My coach Terry Griffiths told me don't

think too hard and just try to relax."

Carter, who reached the finals here in 1998 and 2012 but lost on both occasions to Ronnie O'Sullivan, said, "I went out there with a game plan to try and attack and at 4-1 in front I was cruising and felt good. It cost me in the first session as for all the money in the world it looked like I was going to be 7-2 up, but then to get out 5-4 ahead in the end, I felt like I'd had a result."

"He played well and didn't look like he was under any pressure at any time. There was no emotion from him either because there is a lot of pressure out there. The clearance he did to go 8-8 was massive but all credit to me for making the 80 break and playing a granite last frame there to



Ding Junhui of China competes during his round one match against English Michael Wasley on Day 2 of World Snooker Championship at the Crucible Theater in Sheffield, Britain, on 20 April, 2014.—XINHUA

win it. "When I was 6-5 down I produced my best stuff and made an 80-odd break to go 6-6 and then went 7-6 up. Every time I

was on the floor, I picked myself up and I seem to be able to do that so that's good.

"To come through a

good 10-8 win there against an in-form qualifier, possibly the toughest qualifier I could have faced, is pleasing." —Xinhua

## Liverpool go five clear, Arsenal and Everton win

LONDON, 21 April — Liverpool's dream of a first title in 24 years moved closer to reality after a 3-2 win at lowly Norwich City on Sunday opened up a five-point lead over second-placed Chelsea with three matches remaining.

Arsenal beat Hull City 3-0 in a dress-rehearsal for next month's FA Cup final to stay one point ahead of Everton, who beat Manchester United 2-0 on David Moyes's return to Goodison Park, in the race for fourth spot.

Two Raheem Sterling goals and

Luis Suarez's 30th league strike of the season helped Liverpool to their 11th consecutive Premier League victory and confirmed their place in the Champions League next season.

They moved to 80 points, five ahead of Chelsea who suffered a shock 2-1 defeat by bottom club Sunderland on Saturday. Third-placed Manchester City, on 71 points and with two matches in hand, play West Bromwich Albion on Monday.

Liverpool have not won the title since 1990, two years before the Premier League began, and can move to the brink of ending that drought when they meet Chelsea at

Anfield next Sunday.

"At the beginning of the season, I think everyone thought it would be a struggle for us to even get to fourth," manager Brendan Rodgers told reporters.

"It shows the magnitude of the effort the players have put in to have at least guaranteed that at this stage and have Champions League football at Anfield again next season."

Sterling put the Reds ahead after four minutes when he received the ball from Suarez, shifted right and unleashed a shot from outside the box that grazed Michael Turner, giving

John Ruddy no chance.

He turned provider for the second on 11 minutes when he sent in a low cross and Suarez placed the ball inside the far post to become the first Liverpool player since Ian Rush in 1986-87 to score 30 league goals in a season.

Norwich pulled one back after the break through Gary Hooper, but Sterling restored Liverpool's buffer with another deflected effort before Robert Snodgrass ensured a nervous last 13 minutes with a second for the hosts.

After a sluggish start Arsenal gradually imposed themselves on Hull, taking the lead after a neat passing move involving Mesut Ozil and Santi Cazorla allowed Ramsey to steer the ball home after 30 minutes, his first goal since November having missed three

months through injury.

Podolski doubled Arsenal's lead on 45 minutes, volleying in after Ramsey's chested layoff from Olivier Giroud's cross and the German scored his fifth in as many matches after the break, following up after Steve Harper had blocked Ramsey's effort.

"We knew we had to win today and we had that kind of pressure," Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger said.

"But I think you could already see that against West Ham there is something better in our game and today there was much more oil in the engine again." —Reuters

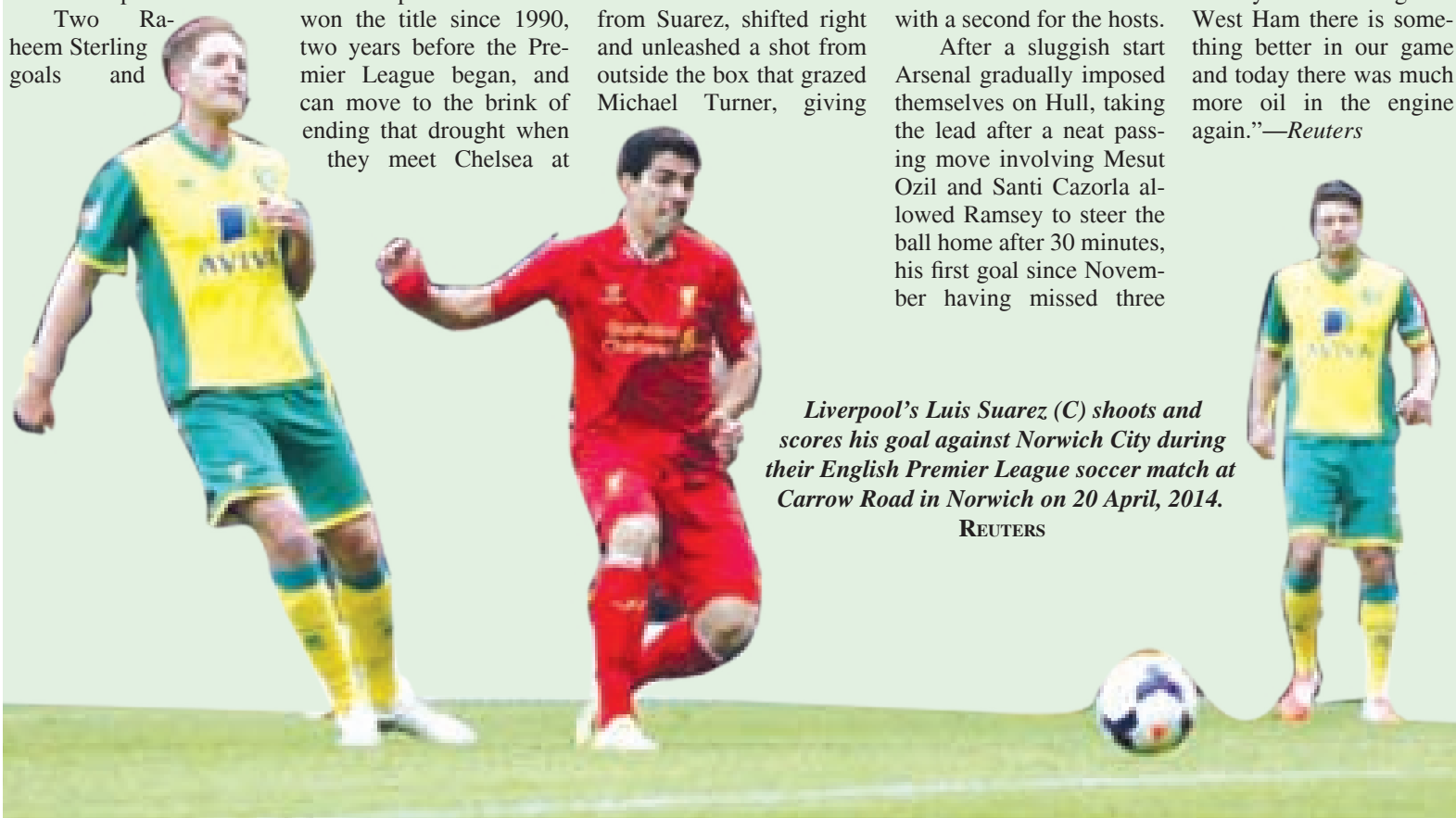
## Solksjaer plots northeast raid to ensure Cardiff survival

LONDON, 21 April — Cardiff City manager Ole Gunnar Solksjaer has labelled Sunday's Premier League relegation clash at Sunderland "a proper cup final" and believes two wins from their final three matches will be enough to avoid the drop.

Cardiff picked up a point in a 1-1 draw against Stoke City on Saturday to move up to 18th in the table on 30, two points shy of Norwich City in the safety of 17th ahead of the trip to league's bottom side.

Sunderland, though, are the form team in the relegation fight, having taken four points at title-chasing Manchester City and Chelsea in their last two outings with a home win next Sunday possibly lifting them out of the bottom three.

"Next weekend is a proper cup final, of the same importance to both sides and the same mental test for both," the Norwegian manager was quoted as saying by British media on Monday. "This game didn't really matter for Stoke, apart from their pride and professional attitude. But next weekend will be the same mental test for both teams." —Reuters



Liverpool's Luis Suarez (C) shoots and scores his goal against Norwich City during their English Premier League soccer match at Carrow Road in Norwich on 20 April, 2014.

REUTERS