

More effort needed to erase perceptions of aid bias in Rakhine State, UNICEF rep says

By Ye Myint

YANGON, 30 April—UNICEF Myanmar briefed the media in Yangon on Wednesday about the situation for children in Rakhine State, stating UNICEF is working on various areas related to promotion and protection of the rights of all children in the state.

In opening remarks at Micasa Hotel in Yangon, Bertrand Bainvel, UNICEF Myanmar representative, quoted Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham's speech at a meeting of the central committee for implementation of peace and stability in Rakhine State on Monday stating the Rakhine issue is not only a concern for the people of Rakhine State but also for all the people in Myanmar.

Bainvel expressed the belief that a long-term plan for children in Rakhine in cooperation with the



Bertrand Bainvel, UNICEF Myanmar representative, and party briefing media on situation of children in Rakhine State.

PHOTO: YE MYINT

local authorities would bring forth an environment for a "better, stronger and more sustainable" result for each child in the state.

Responding to questions about aid work in Rakhine, Bainvel emphasized UNICEF's work is based on need, not on race or religion, adding that much more effort is needed to "delete perceptions" of discrimination and bias. Questions of aid de-

livery have caused difficulties in the state in the past, with some believing international aid organisations were paying more attention to some communities than others.

In March, Medecins Sans Frontieres (Holland) was barred from work in Rakhine for alleged bias in its operations there.

Bainvel said organisations in the state have to work under whatever pressure and accept the chal-

lenges after recent violence, but there remains a determination to provide assistance to needy children no matter the situation.

And, he stressed, those children most in need will be provided for.

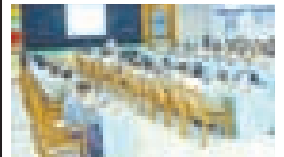
UNICEF has worked in Rakhine State since early 2000 from an office established in Sittway under the country programme 2005-2010.

It has expanded the number of staff from five or six to more than 20 people working on health and nutrition, water and sanitation, HIV/AIDS, education and child protection in cooperation with the government and other partners.

At the briefing, UNICEF officials also outlined the organization's new commitments for improving the lives of all children in Rakhine State in 2014-2015 and said it will spend US\$12 million in its Multi-Sector State-Level Work Plan that will be implemented over those two years.

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Dala limits water fetching time as Thingyan Lake level falls



Villagers line up to collect water from Thingyan Lake in Dala.

PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

By Aye Min Soe

The local authority in Dala on the banks of the Yangon River has limited to a single hour the time for villagers to collect drinking water from Thingyan Lake.

The move to limit water-fetching to between 4 and 5 pm is to prevent the lake from drying up before the rainy season begins.

Thingyan Lake is one of 33 in the area, but many of the others are already dried up or have become unfit for domestic use more than a month before the rainy season is expected to begin.

Even with the limit on water-fetching, the water level in Thingyan Lake has fallen to just 3 feet.

"A villager carries

about 10 gallons of water at one time and about 10,000 gallons of water from the lake are collected by villagers every day," a man in charge at the lake said.

Villagers, who face long queues every day, rely on the lake for their drinking water.

"Villagers in other areas are also experiencing scarcity of water for household use as the lakes they are relying on are dried up, though they can buy bottled water for drinking," the man added.

Generally, the rainy season around Yangon starts in early June and ends in early October.

U Tun Lwin, a prominent weather expert, has forecast the monsoon front is likely to enter the southern part of Myanmar between 15 and 20 May this year, but it is not expected to arrive in Yangon for at least several days after that.

Success of the reforms we are currently undertaking depends on citizens respecting the rule of law, and cooperating with the government

NAY PYI TAW, 1 May—*The following is the full text of the speech delivered by President U Thein Sein through radio programmes to the entire people on 1 May.*

My fellow citizens,

As I have done previously, I would like to give you the monthly update on the work of my government, and the developments that have taken place in our country.

This year's Thingyan festival was celebrated peacefully and with much merriment. In my Thingyan greetings, I wished all citizens enjoyment of celebrations free from violence and danger. Because of the vigilance of the Myanmar Police Force, town elders, and parents, and the discipline of the revelers, this Thingyan festival passed with the fewest number of injuries and deaths.

A notable sight during this Thingyan was the participation of diplomats, their families, and foreign tourists in the celebrations. This highlights our society's tolerance and open-

ness towards people of other cultures and beliefs. With the Thingyan water cleaning away the impurities of the previous year, I urge all to strive in unity and with renewed spirit of the new year for one's self, others, and country.

Last month in Yangon, I met with leaders of sixty-three of the sixty-five political parties. This was the third such meeting I have met with these leaders. During the limited time available at the meeting, the party leaders openly expressed their opinions. In line with the new political culture that we are trying to establish, we agree to work together in areas of consensus and to discuss and negotiate in areas where there is disagreement. These discussions are highly beneficial to national reconciliation. All political parties place a priority on peace, and I expect all parties, small and

big, to cooperate with the government as we undertake democratic reforms.

An important task is the reestablishment of nationwide basic literacy projects. If we look back at the history of literacy in our country, Myanmar was able to achieve an admirably high level of literacy because of the efforts of the Buddhist clergy during the reign of ancient kings. Sadly, during the colonial period, the literacy rate plummeted to thirty-five percent.

Prior to and after independence, the literacy rate gradually increased because of the efforts of clergy and the public. Four Yangon Teachers Training College students started the universal literacy movement in Meiktila in 1964.

Between 1965 and 1966, volunteer teachers from various universities and colleges organized, and energetically carried out a

nationwide literacy movement. For these achievements, UNESCO awarded Myanmar with the Mohammad Reza Pahlavi Prize in 1971, followed by the Noma prize in 1983.

In 2013, volunteer teachers and 1985 students from ten universities provided basic literacy courses to 22407 persons in nine townships. During April of 2014, 403 volunteer teachers and 4664 students from various universities formed study groups, and taught 46475 persons in 29 townships. According to the Myanmar proverb, literacy leads wisdom; as such, literacy is of fundamental importance. Only if one is literate can he or she recognize the distinction between right and wrong or good and bad. Rumors can also be quashed. Therefore, I honor and congratulate the teachers and students from the various universities who

volunteered their time during the hot summer vacation period to the nationwide literacy effort.

With the public's cooperation, the 2014 nationwide census was successfully completed with only a few problems. Data processing, and the dissemination of the results will be done in accordance with project guidelines. The nationwide census is essential for the building of an open and free society for which we are striving. Only constructive uses of the census data will be permitted. Regarding the peace building efforts, from April 5 to 8, representatives of the Union Peace Making Work Committee and the ethnic groups' Nationwide Ceasefire Coordination Team negotiated, and agreed to draft a single text of the nationwide ceasefire agreement. The parties deliberated over the document headings previously established,

and the first draft of the agreement was finalized. Getting to this stage is the positive result of negotiation and detailed work by both sides, and can be viewed as bringing peace one step closer. Based on these results, we will soon be able to sign a nationwide ceasefire agreement. And, as I have promised the ethnic groups, we will then resolve armed conflict by political means. I would like to add that we continue to make necessary preparations for political dialogue. Peace building is difficult, and it is to be expected that efforts at solving decades-old problems will encounter many problems. However, I will continue to strive to achieve peace that our citizens steadfastly desire.

The success of the reforms we are currently undertaking depends on

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Myanmar, Russia to cooperate in sports, culture and technology

NAY PYI TAW, 30 April—Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing held talks with Deputy Minister for Defence Dr Anatoly Antonov of the Russian Federation at Zeyathiri Hall on Wednesday morning.

They exchanged views on cooperation in sports, culture and technology between the armed forces of

two countries, exchange of scholarship students and goodwill delegations of senior military officers between the two armed forces.—MNA

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing holds meeting with Deputy Minister for Defence Dr Anatoly Antonov of Russia in Nay Pyi Taw.
MNA



Myanmar, Japan exchange views on judicial affairs

NAY PYI TAW, 30 April—A delegation led by Japan's Senior Vice Minister of Justice Shinsuke Okuno called on U Tun Tun Oo, chief justice of the Union at the hall of the Supreme Court of the Union on Wednesday morning to discuss the judicial system in Myanmar, procedures of the Supreme Court of the Union, drafting laws, cooperation in capacity-building for judges and judicial officers and the National Bar Exam conducted by Japan's Ministry of Justice for the appointment of judges, law officers and advocates in Japan.



Chief Justice of the Union U Tun Tun Oo shaking hands with Japan's Senior Vice Minister of Justice Shinsuke Okuno.—MNA

Okuno also called on Chairman of the Constitutional Tribunal of the Union U Mya Thein at his of-

fice.

They exchanged views on the duty and functions of the tribunal, constitu-

tional issues, friendly relations between the two countries and cooperation in legal affairs.—MNA

Information Ministry to recommend introduction of one-month multiple entry visas for foreign correspondents

NAY PYI TAW, 30 April—The Ministry of Information on Wednesday announced it will recommend the introduction of one-month multiple entry visas for foreign correspondents who are not based in Myanmar.

Under the new scheme, the ministry said the one-month multiple entry visa can be extended twice. Journalists need to reapply for a new visa after three months at the em-

bassies which issued their first visa.

Foreign journalists who have an office or news agency in this country will be able to extend their visa every six-month here, according to the new plan. The move is aimed at easing visa procedures for foreign reporters who will enter the country to cover the ASEAN summits and related meetings.

MNA

NATIONAL

Be ready for disaster management programmes, vice-president urges



Vice-President U Nyan Tun addressing meeting of the National Disaster Preparedness Central Committee.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 30 April—Vice-President U Nyan Tun, at a meeting of the National Disaster Preparedness Central Committee at the Ministry for Social Welfare, Relief and Reset-

tlement, urged Wednesday that government bodies to be ready for a natural disaster management system that comprises prevention, preparedness, response and rehabilitation.

He warned the extent of damage caused by natural disasters depends on weakness, vulnerability, population density, preparedness, type of disaster and the strength of natural

calamities.

U Nyan Tun said that although the type of disaster and its degree cannot be controlled, other factors can be managed through the cooperation and public

awareness.

He suggested Myanmar should adopt the appropriate plans for disaster managements by taking lessons from natural disasters across the world.

The vice-president highlighted the importance of awareness, creation of communication systems, media information regarding natural disaster management programmes, and rescue drills, as well as storing water, food, clothes, household utensils and construction material for emergency use.

He also called for preparedness under an immediate disaster response system by taking the victims into shelters and providing care.

U Nyan Tun also said ministries, states and regional governments must to report the real situation to the central government so it can coordinate effectively with foreign governments, social organizations, international organizations and regional organizations.

MNA

National Parliament Speaker attends stake-driving ceremony for Yamethin Technological University

NAY PYI TAW, 30 April—National Parliament Speaker U Khin Aung Myint attended a stake-driving ceremony for a new school building at the Government Technological University in Yamethin Township in Mandalay Region on Wednesday.

During the ceremony, he outlined the background of the Government Technological College that was established in 1999 and up-

graded in 2010 as the Government Technological University.

Students need to try-hard to become the best and the teachers need to conduit research to turn out qualified students across the country, he stressed.

He also urged the scholars at the university to supervise the construction of the new building and the university.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 30 April—The Speaker of the Union Parliament Thura U Shwe Mann made a trip to Gwa Township of Rakhine State on Tuesday morning, where he visited a hospital and witnessed an eye surgery. The Chairman of the National Parliament Relief and Resettlement Committee Dr Khin Shwe and family donated K100 million to the hospital for more free eye surgeries.

During the trip, the speaker visited Kanthaya Village and Yadana Myaing Basic Education

High School Branch, meeting with locals.

In Kyeintali Sub-Township, the chairman of the parliament committee donated K 5 million to the fund for the construction of a library at Kyeintali BEHS.—MNA

Union Parliament Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann at Kyeintali Sub-Township for regional development works.

MNA



National Parliament Speaker U Khin Aung Myint driving stake for construction of new school building for Government Technological University in Yamethin Township.—MNA

UN Secretary-General's Partnership Group on Myanmar meeting discusses violence in Rakhine State, nat'l reconciliation

NAY PYI TAW, 30 April—The United Nations Secretary-General convened the first meeting of the Partnership Group on Myanmar on 25 April in New York aimed at further broadening the scope of the partnership between Myanmar and the United Nations, with officials discussing a wide range of issues, including the recent attacks on international aid organizations in Rakhine and national reconciliation, initiated

by the Secretary-General, a ministerial delegation from Myanmar also attended the meeting.

The Partnership Group welcomed the participation of U Khin Yi, Union Minister of Immigration and Population, saying the negotiations between the government and the armed ethnic groups was a positive signal.

Referring to the recent developments in Rakhine, Member States stressed the need for firm action by the

government to curb violence and hatred in that state.

Member States welcomed the decision of the UN Secretary-General to increase international presence in Rakhine.

The UN Secretary-General reiterated that the United Nations as a whole would continue to support the Government and people of Myanmar during the critical transitional phase.

MNA

Myanmar, Thai authorities exchange views at border committee meeting

TACHILEK, 30 April—The 79th meeting of the Myanmar-Thailand Township Border Committee took place in Tachilek in eastern Shan State on 28 April.

A five-member delegation and five observers from Myanmar held talks with a 40-member Thai delegation about promotion of bilateral relations and cooperation to solve various problems between the two countries.

Maw Gyi
(Triangle Region)



Villagers in Sagaing take clerical test for general administration dept

KYUNHLA, 30 April—In order to fill vacancies in the General Administration Department and create more job opportunities for youths in Kyunhla Township of Sagaing Region, 23 local graduates at exams

on Monday, hoping to get a job as a division clerk or office assistant.

The Township Administrator said he held the exam in accordance with the departmental rules.

Myo Win Nyo (Kyunhla)

Timely rain benefits summer paddy in KhinU Township

KHINU, 30 April—Storms early on 28 April brought 1.12 inches of much needed rain to summer paddy in KhinU Township in Sagaing.

The rain also brought welcome relief from the

42C temperatures reached on 27 April in the area.

With the rain, water from Thaphanseik Dam is helping irrigate 41,666 acres of summer paddy in the township.

Yaungni Tin Win

Myanmar traditional dance trainer course concludes in Thaton Tsp



THATON, 30 April—A Myanmar traditional dance trainer course concluded on Tuesday in Thaton Township in Mon State, organized by the District Education Office.

At the conclusion ceremony at a pre-school of the

township, U Aung Maung, the District Education Officer, presented certificates to the trainees before they entertained the attendees with a traditional dance performance. Around 40 trainees from Thaton, Kyaukto, Bilin and Paung townships attended the one week course.—District IPRD

Emphasis put on fire prevention in Mohnyin Licenses for trishaws to be renewed by 31 July in Yangon

MOHNYIN, 30 April—Emphasis is being placed on effective fire prevention, fire security and fire fighting in Mohnyin Township in Kachin State, U Hein Min Htaik of Mohnyin Fire Station said.

There are 10 fire engines, three water tankers, 11 fire fighters and 1,808 auxiliary fire fighters in four fire service stations in Mohnyin, he added said.

The Township Fire Prevention Committee

is conducting a basic fire fighting course, disseminating knowledge on fire education and prevention and supervising to ensure fires at road side filling shops do not occur due to negligence.

K Hsai Naw (Phakant)



YANGON, 30 April—The Development Affairs Committees in townships in Yangon Region, which have been renewing licenses for trishaws from 1 April, have told the vehicle owners licenses must be renewed not later than 31 July.

License fees are K 2400 for trishaws, K 1900 for garli, K 700 for wheel barrows and K 3,200 for push carts.

Up to 25 April, more than 900 trishaws had already obtained licenses in Hline Township in Yangon.

Thant Zin Win

Myainggyingu Special Region provided with solar panel, road, bridge and water

HPA-AN, 30 April—A ceremony to open a solar electrification facility and completion of a road, bridge and water supply from the Rural Development Department and AAR Japan was held in Thitsar Aye Myaing Village in Myainggyingu Special Region in Kayin State on 28 April.

State Chief Minister U Zaw Min said the Ministry of Border Affairs constructed the road and school in the region and offered vocational training for local people.

Head of the Rural De-

velopment Department U Nay Oo explained the solar electrification.

Hlaingbwe Township Administrator U Zay Wunna Hlaing, an official from AAR Japan and a town elder opened the new tarred road developed by AAR Japan.

State Minister for Security and Border Affairs Col Aung Lwin and a town elder cut the ribbon to open the solar electrification facility.

The chief minister pressed the main switch to open the solar facility.

Nay Myo Lwin (IPRD)



U Htin Zaw Win, president of the Myanmar Hockey Federation, and executives join trainee coaches and referees on the pitch after training sessions for hockey referees and coaches ended on Wednesday.

THAN SWE (PABEDAN)

Ambulance donated to 40-bed Station Hospital in Sagaing

CHAUNGU, 30 April—An ambulance and K 3 million have been donated to Amyint Station Hospital in ChaungU Township of Sagaing Region. The donation on Tuesday came from Htet Linn Traditional Medicine Industry, with officials from the 40-bed hospital receiving the cash as well as the vehicle documents.

Myo Win Tun (Monywa)

WORLD

Chemical watchdog to investigate Syria chlorine gas claims



People gather at the site of two car bomb attacks at al-Abassia roundabout in Homs on 29 April, 2014, in this handout released by Syria's national news agency SANA.—REUTERS

AMSTERDAM/BEIRUT, 30 April — The global chemical weapons watchdog overseeing the destruction of Syria's toxic stockpile will send a fact-finding mission to Syria to investigate allegations by rebels and activists of chlorine gas at-

tacks, the organization said on Tuesday.

The Hague-based Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) said President Bashar al-Assad's government had agreed to accept the mission and had prom-

ised to provide security in areas under its control.

"The mission will carry out its work in the most challenging circumstances," the OPCW said, referring to the three-year-old conflict between Assad's forces and rebels. It gave

no exact date for the mission but said it would take place soon. Accusations by rebels and Syrian activists of at least three separate chlorine gas attacks by Assad's forces in the last month have exposed the limits of a deal which Assad agreed last year for the destruction of his chemical arsenal.

The accord followed a sarin gas attack on rebel-held outskirts of Damascus last August in which hundreds of people were killed. Washington and its allies blamed Assad's forces for the attack, but Damascus authorities said rebels carried it out to try to force Western military intervention.

Damascus has now shipped out or destroyed 92 percent of the chemicals it pledged to eliminate. However chlorine, which also has many industrial uses, was never included in the list submitted to the OPCW.

Videos released by activists of chlorine gas

canisters they said were dropped in barrel bombs from Syrian military helicopters could not be verified by *Reuters* but analysts say the pattern of attacks suggest a coordinated campaign with growing evidence of government responsibility.

The US State Department said last week that if Syrian authorities used chlorine gas with the intent to kill or harm this would violate the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC), which it joined as part of last year's agreement. In addition to the possible chlorine use, diplomats say Western powers believe Syria may have not have declared all of its chemical stockpiles — an accusation which Syria has denied. One Western diplomat said a separate OPCW mission arrived in Syria last week to discuss discrepancies between Syria's original declaration and the quantities which have been shipped out so far.—*Reuters*

Afghan and foreign forces kill 60 near Pakistan border

KABUL, 30 April — Afghan troops backed by Western air power killed at least 60 militants in a battle near in southeastern Afghanistan near the Pakistan, Afghanistan's intelligence agency said on Wednesday. Fighting began when about 300 insurgents from the Haqqani militant network and other foreign fighters tried to storm Afghan forces' bases in Ziruk district of Paktika Province, the intelligence service of the country, the National Directorate of Security (NDS) said in a statement.

Paktika shares a long and porous border with lawless areas in Pakistan where foreign fighters and the Haqqani network, allies of the Afghan Taliban, is believed to be based.—*Reuters*

10 killed, 11 missing in Russian ammo depot blasts

MOSCOW, 30 April — At least 10 people were killed and 11 others injured in explosions at a munitions depot in eastern Siberia, Russian media reported Wednesday.

As many as 20 explosions were heard at the depot near Bolshaya Tura village, some 6,200 km southeast of Moscow, the reports said, quoting official sources, adding the explosions were probably caused by a wildfire raging nearby.

Helicopters and fire-fighters have been deployed at the scene, while 280 residents including 83 children were evacuated.—*Xinhua*

EU says Egypt mass death sentences in breach of international law



EU's Catherine Ashton

BRUSSELS, 30 April — The European Union's foreign policy chief said on Tuesday Egypt's sentencing of 683 people to death breached international law and urged Cairo authorities to ensure defendants' rights to a fair and timely trial.

An Egyptian court sentenced the leader of the outlawed Muslim Brotherhood and 682 supporters to death on Monday, intensifying a crackdown on the movement that could trigger protests and political violence before an election next month.

The defendants were charged with crimes including inciting violence following the army overthrow of elected leader Mohamed Mursi, a senior Brotherhood member, in

July after mass protests against his rule.

"These mass trials are clearly in breach of international human rights law," the EU's Catherine Ashton said in a statement.

"The exact charges against each defendant remain unclear, the proceedings lack the most basic standards of due process and the verdicts appear grossly disproportionate, failing short of complying with the principle of individual sentencing," she said.

Ashton said the EU was concerned about Egypt's compliance with its international human rights obligations, as well as "the seriousness of Egypt's transition towards democracy."

Reuters

Kerry to resume Mideast peace talks after a pause

NEW YORK, 30 April — To both critics and supporters, it was "classic" John Kerry.

A day before the formal end of Kerry's quixotic, nine-month effort to broker an Israeli-Palestinian peace agreement, the Secretary of State was surreptitiously taped making a comment that provoked a political firestorm in Washington.

In a closed meeting with foreign policy experts, Kerry said that if there is no two-state solution soon, Israel risked becoming "an apartheid state." Kerry was apparently referring to an argument made by liberal Israelis and European critics that if two states are not created and current demographic trends continue, Palestinians will outnumber Israelis.

"A unitary state winds up either being an apartheid state with second-class citizens," Kerry said on Friday, according to the *Daily Beast*. "Or it ends up being a state that destroys the capacity of Israel to be a Jewish state."

The comment played into longtime caricatures of the former Senator. To skeptics, it was Kerry, the egotistical former presidential candidate, committing yet another gaffe. After months of pursuing an ambitious Middle East peace settlement, Kerry was blaming Israel for his own failure.

Senator Barbara Boxer, a Democrat from California, called Kerry's statement "nonsensical and ridiculous." Senator Ted Cruz, a Texas Republican, called for Kerry to resign.

To Kerry's defenders, it was a high-risk, high reward Secretary of State speaking the truth about the need for a two-state solution. On Monday night,

Kerry said in a statement that he never said, or suggested, that Israel was currently an apartheid state.

And on Tuesday, his aides stood by the remarks, which they said was nothing more than Kerry reiterating a warning voiced by liberal Israeli politicians such as Tzipi Livni, Ehud Olmert and Ehud Barak for years. "He said what Livni, Olmert and Barak all said," a senior State Department official close to Kerry said on Tuesday.

And instead of admitting failure, aides said Kerry would continue his Mideast negotiations after a pause of several months. After an initial domestic political boost, the aide predicted, Israeli and Palestinian officials would be forced back to the table by the long-term need for a two-state solution.

"It's a matter of time before they all come back," the aide predicted, "and want to have negotiations."—*Reuters*



Cameron faces vote test after Mercer's resignation



Britain's Prime Minister David Cameron

LONDON, 30 April — Prime Minister David Cameron faces a potentially awkward test of voter support following the resignation on Tuesday of MP Patrick Mercer, a former member of his Conservative party.

Mercer's resignation, after reports he was to be suspended for six months for breaking lobbying rules, triggers an election that would allow the anti-European Union UK Independence Party (UKIP) to test their growing popularity in a region where

the Conservative party is traditionally strong. The result could reveal how much support the Conservatives, who in 2010 had a healthy 16,000 vote majority in Mercer's Newark constituency in the English Midlands, have lost to UKIP.

The vote will not take place until after European Parliament elections next month, in which UKIP is expected to push Cameron's Conservatives into third place behind itself and the Labour party. Minority parties tend to do better in European than domestic elections as the voting system favours them and voters are more likely to cast their ballots in protest or on single issues.

So a big loss of Conservative votes in Newark to UKIP, which has nine seats in the European Parliament but no elected members in Britain's parliament, could hint at a serious split in the centre-right vote in next year's national election.—Reuters

Firm says finds plane debris in Bay of Bengal

PERTH, 30 April — A private company said it had found what it believes is wreckage of a plane in the Bay of Bengal that should be investigated as possible debris from the missing Malaysia Airlines Flight MH370, CNN reported.

The Joint Agency Coordination Centre managing the multinational search for the missing plane dismissed the possibility, saying it continued to believe that the plane came down in the southern Indian Ocean off Australia.

The Bay of Bengal is located between India and Myanmar, thousands of miles from the current search area.

The wreckage was reported by Australian geophysical survey company GeoResonance. "The company is not declaring this is MH370, however it should be investigated," CNN quoted GeoResonance as saying in a statement.

GeoResonance says on its website that it offers a unique and proven method of geophysical survey that detects electromagnetic fields suggestive of subsurface deposits.

Flight MH370, carrying 227 passengers and 12 crew, went missing in March en route from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing. GeoResonance could not be immediately reached for comment.—Reuters



Crew aboard the Australian Defence Vessel Ocean Shield move the US Navy's Bluefin-21 autonomous underwater vehicle into position for deployment in the southern Indian Ocean to look for the missing Malaysia Airlines flight MH370, on 14 April, 2014 in this handout picture released by the US Navy.—REUTERS

Ukraine separatists seize second provincial capital, fire on police

LUHANSK, (Ukraine), 30 April — Hundreds of pro-Moscow separatists stormed government buildings in one of Ukraine's provincial capitals on Tuesday and fired on police holed up in a regional headquarters, a major escalation of their revolt despite new Western sanctions on Russia.

New US and EU sanctions packages, announced with fanfare, were seen as so mild that Russian share prices rose in relief. A small number of names were added to existing blacklists, while threats to take more serious measures were put on hold.

Nevertheless, Russian President Vladimir Putin responded by threatening to reconsider Western participation in energy deals in Russia, the world's biggest oil producer, where most major US and European oil companies have extensive projects. Demonstrators smashed their way into the provincial government headquarters in Luhansk, Ukraine's easternmost province, which abuts the Russian border, and raised separatist flags over the



Pro-Russian armed men take cover behind a car near the local police headquarters in Luhansk, eastern Ukraine, on 29 April, 2014.—REUTERS

building, while police did nothing to interfere.

As night fell, about 20 rebel gunmen opened fire with automatic weapons and threw stun grenades at the headquarters of the region's police, trying to force those inside to surrender their weapons, a Reuters photographer at the scene said.

"The regional leadership does not control its po-

lice force," said Stanislav Rechynsky, an aide to Interior Minister Arsen Avakov, referring to events in Luhansk. "The local police did nothing."

The rebels also seized the prosecutor's office and the television centre.

The separatist operation in Luhansk appears to give the pro-Moscow rebels control of a second provincial capital. They

already control much of neighbouring Donetsk Province, where they have proclaimed an independent "People's Republic of Donetsk" and declared a referendum on secession for 11 May. The rebels include local youths armed with clubs and chains, as well as "green men" — heavily armed masked men in military uniforms without insignia.—Reuters

Senior US lawmaker blocks aid for Egyptian military



Senator Patrick Leahy (D-VT) (C) speaks to the media after attending a closed meeting for members of Congress on the situation in Syria at the US Capitol in Washington on 1 Sept, 2013.—REUTERS

WASHINGTON, 30 April — US Senator Patrick Leahy, chairman of the Senate subcommittee that oversees foreign aid, said on Tuesday he would not approve sending funds to the Egyptian military, denouncing a "sham trial" in which a court sentenced 683 people to death.

The decision by Leahy,

the longest-serving US senator and an influential foreign policy voice, could further complicate the Obama administration's difficult relationship with Egypt, one of Washington's most important strategic allies in the Middle East.

The Pentagon said last week it would deliver 10 Apache attack helicopters

and \$650 million to Egypt's military, relaxing a suspension of aid imposed after Egypt's military ousted President Mohamed Mursi on 3 July and violently suppressed protesters.

"I'm not prepared to sign off on the delivery of additional aid for the Egyptian military," Leahy said in a speech on the Senate

floor, explaining why he would hold up the \$650 million (386.2 million pounds). "I'm not prepared to do that until we see convincing evidence the government is committed to the rule of law."

An Egyptian court on Monday sentenced the leader of the Mursi's outlawed Muslim Brotherhood and 682 supporters to death, intensifying a crackdown on the Islamist movement that could trigger protests and political violence ahead of an election next month.

Leahy said he would be watching the situation in Egypt with "growing dismay" even if he were not chairman of the State and Foreign Operations Subcommittee, denouncing "a sham trial lasting barely an hour." "It's an appalling abuse of the justice system, which is fundamental to any democracy. Nobody, nobody, can justify this. It does not show democracy. It shows a dictatorship run amok. It is a total violation of human rights," the Vermont Democrat said.

Reuters

WORLD

Iraqis vote on Wednesday as violence grips country

BAGHDAD, 30 April — Iraqis head to the polls on Wednesday in their first national election since US forces withdrew from Iraq in 2011 as Prime Minister Nuri Maliki seeks a third term amid rising violence.

The country's western province of Anbar is awash in violence as Sunni Muslim militants challenge the Iraqi military and Shi'ite militias for territory surrounding Baghdad. The country's economy is struggling and Maliki faces criticism that he is aggravating sectarian splits and trying to consolidate power for political gain.

On Wednesday voters choose among 9,012 candidates and the parliamentary election effectively serves as a referendum on Maliki, a Shi'ite Muslim who has governed eight years.

Political analysts say no party is likely to win a majority in the 328-seat parliament and forming a government may be hard even if Maliki's State of Law alliance, as expected, wins the biggest number of seats.

Maliki, who is fending off challenges from



People walk past campaign posters for Iraq's parliamentary elections in Sulaimaniya on 28 April, 2014. Picture taken on 28 April, 2014.—REUTERS

Shi'ite and Sunni rivals, has portrayed himself as his Shi'ite community's defender against the Sunni Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant.

This week, Maliki

vowed to stop the al Qaeda inspired ISIL from entering Baghdad.

"Is ISIL and al Qaeda capable of reaching the target for they were established ... bringing down Baghdad

and the other provinces and destroying the holy shrines? ... I say no," Maliki said. "ISIL is over, but its pockets still exist and we will keep chasing them and the few coming days will witness

major developments."

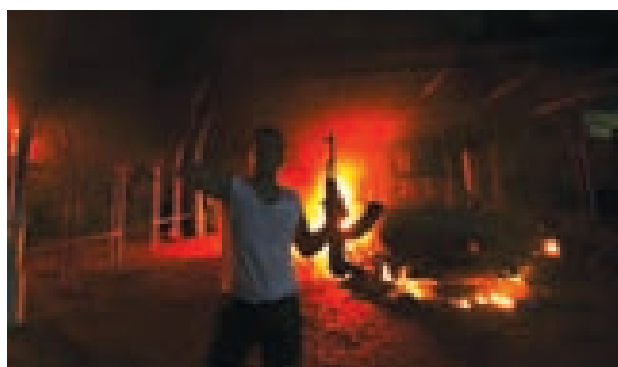
His forces are currently locked in a four-month fight for the cities of Ramadi and Fallujah in Anbar. His troops surround Fallujah and are waging street battles in

Ramadi. The war has displaced an estimated 420,000 people and the Iraqi electoral commission concedes it can only hold the election in 70 percent of Anbar, not counting Fallujah.

On Monday 50 people were killed in attacks around Iraq, with some suicide bombers dressed in police and army uniforms. The burden falls particularly hard on Iraq's Sunni population, who are viewed with suspicion by the mostly Shi'ite Iraqi security forces and terrorized by the ISIL.

Iraq's Sunni political leaders paint Maliki as an authoritarian ruler who wants to destroy their community. His main Sunni nemesis, the parliament speaker Usama al-Nujaifi, criticised the prime minister this week.

"Our people haven't harvested the national partnership only the rattle of weapon, the language of blood, the education of revenge, the sectarian inciting, the displaced people as a result of terrorism and militias," Nujaifi told supporters recently.—Reuters



A protester reacts as the US Consulate in Benghazi is seen in flames during a protest by an armed group said to have been protesting a film being produced in the United States on 11 Sept, 2012.—REUTERS

Benghazi emails show White House image control — Judicial Watch

WASHINGTON, 30 April — Conservative watchdog group Judicial Watch released emails from US officials on Tuesday that it said showed the White House was concerned primarily with protecting President Barack Obama's image after an attack that killed Americans in Libya. The attack by militants on 11 September, 2012, killed four Americans at the US mission in Benghazi, including Ambassador Christopher Stevens. Days later, then US Ambassador to the United Nations Susan Rice appeared on television news shows and said the violence resulted from a spontaneous crowd reacting to an inflammatory video rather than the work of Islamic militants. When Rice's account proved incor-

rect, Republican lawmakers accused her of trying to protect Obama during his re-election campaign, which the White House disputed. Rice is now Obama's national security adviser.

Judicial Watch sought documents related to the Benghazi attacks through the Freedom of Information Act and obtained them earlier this month. On Tuesday, it pointed to an email from Ben Rhodes, Obama's deputy national security adviser for strategic communications, which discussed preparations for Rice's appearances on the shows. The email lists one goal as being "to underscore that these protests are rooted in an Internet video, and not a broader failure of policy."

Reuters

Six hurt, suspect dead in Georgia FedEx facility shooting

KENNESAW, 30 April — A FedEx Corp package handler armed with a shotgun opened fire at a shipping facility in suburban Atlanta early on Tuesday, injuring six people before killing himself, apparently with his own weapon, police and hospital officials said.

Three people were in critical condition, two of them with life-threatening injuries, after being shot by the 19-year-old gunman just before 6 am EDT at a FedEx warehouse near the airport in Kennesaw, Georgia, about 30 miles northwest of

Atlanta, police and hospital officials said.

The shooter, identified as Geddy L Kramer of Acworth, Georgia, drove up to the security guard shack at the warehouse and shot the guard before entering the warehouse where he shot the other five people, according to police.

FedEx employee Liza Aiken told the Atlanta Journal-Constitution she was correcting addresses on packages when she saw a colleague dressed in black and armed with a knife, gun and a cartridge belt strapped

across this chest.

"He had bullets strapped to his chest like Rambo," she told the newspaper. "He looked like he was heading into war." Authorities searching the building after the incident found a Molotov cocktail that appeared to have been left behind by the gunman, said Cobb County Police spokesman Michael Bowman. No motive was given for the attack. Aiken said she previously had reported the man to her superiors after he pointed a work laser at her eye.

Reuters



Police officers from Cobb County Police, and Marietta and Kennesaw departments stage near the entrance of the Federal Express Ground building after a man opened fire inside the building before turning the gun on himself in Kennesaw, Georgia, on 29 April, 2014.—REUTERS

Shootouts claim 14 lives in northern Mexican border city

MEXICO CITY, 30 April — At least 14 people were killed in a series of shootouts in the northern Mexican border city of Reynosa on Tuesday as gunmen battled police in a region racked by violence between warring drug gangs.

Assailants in armoured vehicles opened fire on federal police and military officers in three shootouts in Tamaulipas, an unruly state on the US border where the brutal Zetas drug gang has fought the Gulf Cartel for control.

The death toll in Reynosa, which is directly across the border from Hidalgo, Texas, included 10 gunmen, two federal police officers as well as two young adults who were caught in the crossfire while driving in separate vehicles.

It was not immediately clear if the gunmen were affiliated with any drug cartels, which vie for control of lucrative smuggling routes into the United States.

Reuters

PERSPECTIVES

Thursday, 1 May, 2014

Increase in migration and human trafficking needs to be tackled

By Aung Khin

Economic progress often leads to an increase in legal and illegal migration. Many dream of going to 'greener pastures' to make money. Some research suggested that as many as one-third of the Myanmar population have migrated from rural to urban areas. Though the migration figures differ, according to the average estimate out of one million illegal immigrants in Thailand, 75 percent are from Myanmar.

However, migration is not always a case of

human trafficking. Internal migration of women and girls occurs primarily in the rural areas, in the central dry zone and Ayeyawady delta region. They often move around for small jobs, before ending up in the cities sent by relatives or acquaintances.

Illegal immigration has long been an issue at border areas. Some of them entered Myanmar years ago from countries with high population density. Due to the porous borders and slack enforcement by border immigration officers in the past, those illegal immigrants sought to live in the country. After living here for a certain period, they are now emigrating again to neighbouring countries illegally.

Illegal immigration and human trafficking cases cannot be prevented even in developed countries. The illegal immigrant population of the United States in 2008 was estimated by the Center for Immigration Studies to be about 11 million people, mostly from Mexico, Latin American countries,

Asia, Europe, Canada and Africa.

According to the study of the Washington D.C.-based Pew Research Center's Hispanic Trends Project, the total number of migrants living in the United States without papers rose from 11.3 million in 2009 to 11.7 million in 2013. Law enforcement programmes are crucial for both, the country of origin and the new host country, in fighting against illegal migration or human trafficking. With the exception of those seeking political asylum, most immigrants have left their countries to escape poverty. No country across the world can tackle migration and human trafficking if poverty is not eradicated.

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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.

State is also exerting efforts to ensure fair protections without affecting the interest of both workers and employers

NAY PYI TAW, 1 May—President Agga Maha Thayay Sithu, Agga Maha Thiri Thudhamma U Thein Sein sent a message on the occasion of the Workers' Day which falls on 1 May 2014. The unofficial translation of the message is as follows:-.

Esteemed workers

I would like to greet all workers in Myanmar, who are an important force for our country, and wish you all physical health and mental well-being on the occasion of the world workers' day held in honor of workers across the world on 1 May 2014. It is over 120 years since 1 May was designated as the world workers' day and ceremonies to mark the event were held by workers around the world every year. Ceremonies to mark the world workers' day are held in Myanmar every year, and today is the meaningful and auspicious day for workers in Myanmar.

Esteemed workers

At a time our country is accelerating the all-round transitional process after adopting the multiparty democracy system, the expertise, experience and knowledge of workers are invaluable strengths.

With the aim of ensuring labour rights and improving the social life of workers, the state, after drawing strategies and tactics, is making efforts to adopt laws and policies required for fair labour practices vital between workers and employers. At the moment, the state is placing emphasis on systematic utilization of the labour force for national development, employing those who really need jobs in appropriate employment, nurturing disciplined and efficient skilled workers constantly, and qualified human resource development essential for building a modern nation. In addition, the state is inviting foreign direct investment to create jobs and to acquire technology and investment for the citizens as well as encouraging development for industries, manufacturing and services of national entrepreneurs. In doing so, existing labour laws are being amended and new laws are being drafted to meet international labour norms and requirements of the time and the political system as a measure to promote and protect labour rights. As freedom to form labour and employers organizations is given under the labour organization law enacted in 2011, 1,092 labour and employer organizations have been formed until 31 March 2014. In some sectors, township-level organizations have been formed while

federation-level organizations have been formed in other sectors. Furthermore, measures are being taken to approve the minimum wage under the 2013 Minimum Wage Law adopted with the aim of fulfilling the basic needs of workers across the country and their families, promoting the efficiency of workers, approving the minimum wage and improving competitiveness and living standards of workers.

Esteemed workers

To ensure better healthcare and social security programs for workers, it has been announced that the 2012 Social Security Law has come to effect since 1 April 2014. Under the new law, there are six insurance systems instead of two previously. They are health and social security insurance, family benefit insurance, workplace injury insurance, unemployment benefit insurance, insurance for invalid persons, pension insurance for retirees and the insurance benefit for families of workers who are dead, housing insurance and optional insurance for those who have registered to pay premiums on their own. I would like to convey the good news that measures for social security protection of the majority of workers can be taken more extensively as even the self-employed can enjoy the insurance benefits after paying premiums on their own accord, although businesses with five or more workers were allowed to enter an insurance program under the previous law.

Esteemed workers

In implementing the elimination of forced labour with the aim of providing appropriate jobs for workers, ward or village administration law has been amended in accord with the elimination of forced labour Provision 29 of the International Labour Organization and educational tasks are being carried out with the cooperation of the ILO in the entire country for the effectiveness of the practical application of the law. In addition, the project for elimination of forced labour in Myanmar in 2015 is being drawn and implemented in cooperation with the ILO. Concerning with the elimination of the worst form of child labour of the project, Myanmar registered to abide by ILO Provision 102 for elimination of worst form of child labour on

18 December 2013.

Esteemed workers

The state is also exerting efforts to ensure fair protections without affecting the interest of both workers and employers. As labour market competition will be fierce under the basic map of freedom of mobilization of skilled labour in the ASEAN Community which will be implemented in 2015, Myanmar workers will have to compete not only with local workers but also with regional workers.

In addition, workers are required to improve their skills in their respective sectors as more foreign direct investment will flow into Myanmar under the foreign investment law enacted in 2012. The state is taking measures to effectively implement the promotion of workers' skills under the 2013 employment and skill development law.

The state is also cooperating with international labour organizations to effectively protect and help Myanmar migrant workers who are working in other countries. Myanmar workers who are working abroad are also required to live and work in accordance with the existing laws, rules and regulations of the foreign countries concerned.

Esteemed workers

Half the population of our country is within the working age limit. Therefore, our country will develop by implementing measures to improve the living standards of workers. As the state is trying its best to promote the interest and improve the living standards of workers, I would like to urge workers to abide by labour laws and to place emphasis on peace in the workplace. I would like to urge workers to demand their rights in accordance with law in labour disputes in factories and workshops.

Under the democratic system being strenuously implemented by the state at present, following laws, rules and regulation plays an important role. Only when one lives in accordance with laws and rules and regulations, can one enjoy the true essence of democracy. Therefore, I would like to urge workers in all seriousness to join hands with the government for the perpetuation of the new democratic nation.

Success of the reforms we are currently undertaking...

(from page 2)

Some lawbreakers were responsible for the violence that occurred in Rakhine State in March. These events

are universally unacceptable, and should never have happened. We will not accept this kind of behavior, and action against the offenders is being taken pursuant to the law. To prevent similar issues from escalat-

ing into violence in the future, we established the Emergency Coordination Center (ECC) with members from government, international organizations, and representatives of civil groups. The public will be

consulted and closer attention given when carrying out peace, stability and development work in Rakhine State. I urge citizens and international organizations to cooperate with the ECC.

In conclusion, I would

like to inform you that I continue to strive for achieving internal peace, improving livelihoods, and ensuring a brighter future for our children.

I wish you all good health.

LOCAL NEWS

Sagaing Township to raise water rates



SAGAING, 30 April—People in the Sagaing urban area will see higher water bills ahead as the authorities plan to raise rates.

Since 1990, water from the Ayeyawady River has been supplied to urban dwellers because water from most tube-wells in the area has too much calcium for ordinary household use.

“The township authorities monthly collect K 120 per unit of water in Seingon

Ward and K100 per unit in Podan Ward. As the rate of electricity rises this month, a plan is underway to increase water rates to be able to recover the cost of water supply,” U Zaw Win, a member of Podan Ward water supply committee, said. Two wards in Sagaing collect K3,500 per household and surplus revenue from the water charges is spent on education, social and health development.—*Nanda Min Lwin*

KALAY, 30 April—Kalay District Management Committee Chairman U Maung Htoo and Kalewa Township Management Committee Chairman U Tint Naing inspected construction progress on the Segyi-Yuzalal road which is located on the eastern bank of the Chindwin River, upper Chindwin region, Sagaing, on 30 April.

The government allotted 175 million to construct this road in 2013-2014 FY, which is one of the rural development roads which connects villages in the township.—*Linlet Kyezin*

Talks on sustainable nursing given in Dawei

DAWEI, 30 April—The Myanmar Nurse and Midwife Association and Taninthayi Region Nurse and Midwife Association jointly organized talks on sustainable nursing at the Nursing Training School in Dawei, Taninthayi Region on 29 April.

Officials from the MNMA, Region NMA and

the nutrition manager of Mosia Co Ltd gave talks about post abortion care, ante-natal care, family planning, new-born care and nutrition and those present took part in the discussions. The 200 attendees were presented certificates of recognition by the officials.

Pho Shwe Thun (Dawei)

Strong winds, heavy rains hit in Monywa, no serious damage or casualties

MONYWA, 30 April—Strong winds knocked down trees in Monywa, Sagaing Region on 28 April, but there was no serious damage or casualties, officials from township administrator’s office said.

Local authorities are

clearing fallen trees in Ahlon and Sispin Wards where some power lines were cut.

The Meteorology and Hydrology Department noted the highest temperature last month in Monywa was 43.8C on 24 April.

Myo Win Tun (Monywa)

Nahtaungya canal dredging project begins in Magway Region

TAUNGDWINGYI, 30 April—The Taungdwingyi Township Irrigation Department has begun a canal dredging project near Myinsu Village in Taungdwingyi Township in Magway Region to ensure better agricultural production across the seasons.

The Nahtaungya ca-

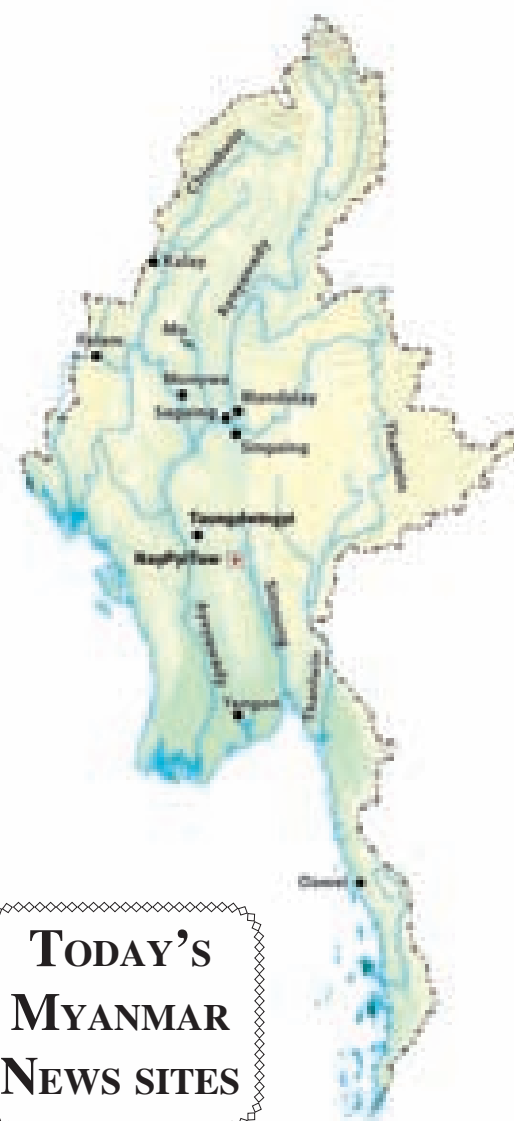
nal is 2,000 ft long, 70 ft wide and 15 ft high and the project is expected to cost more than K10 million.

The canal will benefit 1,170 acres of farmland owned by more than 300 farmers from eight villages in the township.

Kyemon-580



Road under construction to connect villages on eastern bank of Chindwin River



**TODAY'S
MYANMAR
NEWS SITES**

Primary School teacher course underway in Chin State to improve education

FALAM, 30 April—A special training course for primary school teacher has started at Shalwai Hall in BEHS, Falam, Chin State and will run until 22 May. The course is aimed at raising the quality of primary school education by training the teachers, said an

official.

More than 260 teachers from Falam District received training from 13 educational experts. They will be awarded certificates and made permanent staff once they have passed the examination.—*Joe Net (Kalay District IPRD)*

Storms lift roofs, topple trees and lampposts in Singaing Township



SINGAING, 30 April—Squalls hitting Singaing Township in Mandalay Region for the second time this week blew the roof off the public rest-house, toppled the trees in the precinct of a monastery in Konni Village cut the power lines in the village.

The thunderstorms also blew down seven concrete power line poles and a transformer was blown into a private fish pond near the village.

The storm and heavy rains damaged Shwesaga pagoda and tree branches were knocked down along the Yangon-Mandalay Highway near Belin Village.

The authorities are clearing the debris and working to resume power to the villagers.

Aung Min (Singaing)

Anime-themed Japanese sword exhibition to open in Paris



Visitors look at traditional Japanese swords and replicas of blades that appeared in the animation series “Neon Genesis Evangelion” at an exhibition at the Japan Cultural Institute in Paris, France, on 29 April, 2014, a day before the exhibition opens to the public. The “Evangelion and Japanese Swords” show was devised with the Bizen Osafune Japanese Sword Museum in Okayama Prefecture. About 50 sword craftsmen produced pieces inspired by the anime such as “the Spear of Longinus” and the “Magoroku Sword.” —KYODO NEWS

PARIS, 30 April — An exhibition showcasing traditional Japanese swords as well as replicas of blades that appeared in the animation series “Neon Genesis Evangelion” will open at the Japan Cultural Institute in Paris on Wednesday.

The “Evangelion and Japanese Swords” show was devised jointly by the Bizen Osafune Japanese Sword Museum in Okayama Prefecture, which

hopes to interest a younger audience in Japanese swords, and the anime work’s copyright management company.

The organizers decided to bring the show to Europe after it was favorably received in Japan in a tour across the country that began in July 2012. About 50 sword craftsmen produced pieces inspired by the anime such as “the Spear of Longinus” and the

“Magoroku Sword.”

“The collaboration between anime, which represents modern Japanese culture, and Japanese swords, which represent refined traditional culture, is meaningful,” said Sadanobu Gassan, a 34-year-old sword maker.

The exhibition will run through 21 June in Paris before being held in Madrid between 5 July and 28 September. —Kyodo News

Japan, France to start joint work on unmanned surveillance vehicles

Tokyo, 30 April — Japan is set to launch joint research with France to develop unmanned submersible vehicles, a Japanese government official said on Tuesday.

Japan hopes Prime Minister Shinzo Abe will agree with President Francois Hollande on the plan on unmanned surveillance vehicles when they meet in Paris next Monday, the official said.

The two countries have agreed to jointly develop defence equipment, and Japan aims to keep China in check as Beijing is trying to strengthen ties with Paris.

Abe left Japan on Tuesday for a 10-day tour to visit Germany, Britain, Portugal, Spain, France and Belgium, to hold talks with the leaders of the six European countries.

Japan assumes the research will be on techno-

logy related to unmanned submersible robots that can stay underwater to conduct warning and surveillance activities for many hours.

For the current fiscal year ending next March, Japan’s Defence Ministry has allocated about 500 million yen for research funding on unmanned vehicle technology to improve its underwater information-gathering capabilities.

France, an arms-exporting country, is interested in Japan’s high technology. Japan intends to create a framework that prevents defence equipment it co-develops with France from being exported to a third country. In March, Chinese President Xi Jinping announced plans to boost economic cooperation with France when he visited Paris to see Hollande.

Kyodo News

Sri Lanka joins global airline alliance

HAMBANTOTA, 30 April — Sri Lanka on Wednesday joined the global oneworld alliance, becoming the 15th member of the group which includes some of the top names in the passenger airline industry.

The national Sri Lankan carrier also becomes the first carrier from the Indian subcontinent to join any of the global airline alliances and completes oneworld’s biggest expansion program since the alliance was

launched 15 years ago.

As part of oneworld, SriLankan will be able to offer all of its customers seamless connections across a global network serving almost 1,000 destinations in more than 150 countries, with first rate connections between the world’s leading business centres.

“SriLankan is already participating in Global Explorer, the round-the-world fare offered by all oneworld members and various

airlines that are not part of the alliance. Sri Lankan airlines network will be covered by oneworld’s full range of alliance fares the most extensive offered by any of the global alliances, including the market-leading oneworld Explorer round-the-world fare,” the airline said. Bruce Ashley, the Chief Executive Officer of oneworld said that they hope to have Indian passenger airlines on board as well soon. —Xinhua

Air France pilots plan daily strikes in May



Passengers check-in at an Air France counter in Nice International airport in Nice on 31 July, 2013. —REUTERS

PARIS, 30 April — Pilots of Franco-Dutch airline Air France-KLM plan to strike for several hours per day in May to protest against what they say are limits on their right to strike. Air France said the strikes will disrupt its

schedule and will prevent flight connections at the Paris Charles de Gaulle airport, which is why it plans to cancel most of the flights threatened by the action.

Air France’s leading pilot union SNPL said it plans to strike daily

between 5:45 am (0445 BST) and 7:45 am and 12:45 pm and 3.45 pm time between 3 May and 30 May. The union wants the cancellation of a law that forces them to give 48 hours’ notice for a strike.

Air France-KLM Chief Executive Alexandre de Juniac told reporters the strike could cut revenues by up to several tens of millions of euros per day. “It is an act of disrespect towards passengers and staff,” he said. The French transport ministry said the mandatory notice does not infringe on the right to strike but allows companies to warn passengers of possible delays to their flight.

Reuters

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) prime ministerial candidate for general elections 2014 and Gujrat Chief Minister Narendra Modi shows his marked finger after casting his vote in Ahmedabad, capital of Gujrat, India, on 30 April, 2014. In India’s general elections, Congress Party is seeking to regain power under leadership of Rahul Gandhi, the fourth generation scion of India’s powerful Nehru-Gandhi clan. He is facing BJP nominee Narendra Modi, who wants to unseat the Congress party after two successive terms.

XINHUA



Japan supplies S Korea with sunken ferry’s original plans

SEOUL, 30 April — Japan has supplied South Korean authorities with original blueprints of the ferry Sewol, as investigators probe whether subsequent renovations could have contributed to the ship’s capsizing and sinking two weeks ago, South Korean government sources said on Wednesday.

South Korean investigators obtained the plans for the ship, which was operated in Japan from 1994 to September 2012 as the Naminoue, through diplomatic channels by the end of last week, the sources told Kyodo News.

South Korean authorities are continuing joint search and rescue operations on the Sewol for the 92 passengers still missing after it sunk off Jindo Island in the country’s southwest on 16 April. So far 210 people have been confirmed dead.

Kyodo News

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY



An Xbox One which will be discounted at 6pm local time on Thanksgiving day is seen on display at the Wal-Mart Supercenter in the Porter Ranch section of Los Angeles on 26 Nov, 2013.—REUTERS

Microsoft's Xbox One console to go on sale in China in September

SAN FRANCISCO, 30 April—Microsoft Corp will begin selling its Xbox One video game console in China in September through its partnership with Chinese InternetTV company BesTV New Media Co, the company said on Tuesday.

The partners will also kickstart a programme to help developers create, publish and sell Xbox One games in China and other markets where the console is sold, Microsoft said in a statement.

In September last year, Microsoft and BesTV, a subsidiary of Shanghai Media Group, formed a joint venture and invested \$237 million in “family games and related services.”

Last week, Shanghai's government said console

makers such as Microsoft, Sony Corp and Nintendo Co will be able to manufacture and sell consoles in China through “foreign-invested enterprises” in Shanghai's free trade zone. China had banned game consoles in 2000, citing their negative effect on the mental health of its youth. It temporarily lifted the ban in January.

Pirated and smuggled consoles have been available in China during the ban, but they sold poorly as Chinese gamers predominantly play PC and mobile games. Microsoft has sold more than 5 million Xbox One video game consoles to retailers since its launch in November. The announcement was first reported by Re/code on Tuesday.—Reuters

Chipmaker RF Micro says rise in smartphone sales to fuel growth

NEW YORK, 30 April—RF Micro Devices Inc, a maker of chips that connect mobile devices to networks, forecast quarterly revenue above analysts' estimates and said it expected rising smartphone sales to fuel growth in the second half of the year.

Shares of RF Micro, whose customers include Apple Inc and Samsung Electronics Co, rose about 7.5 percent in extended trading after the chipmaker also posted a better-than-expected profit for the fourth quarter. “In terms of timing, we are beginning to support the volume ramps of many of this year's most popular devices and we expect this to accelerate into the September quarter,” RF Micro Chief Executive Robert Bruggeworth said on a post-earnings call.

Apple is expected to launch the next version of its iPhone in September, the month in which the company usually introduces the latest versions of its products. RF Micro is also positioned to benefit from the “Internet of Things”, Bruggeworth said, referring to machine-to-machine connectivity that allows devices on both wired and wireless networks to interact. There is also speculation that Apple will launch wearable devices such as smartwatches, after Chief Executive Tim Cook spoke about “new product categories” for 2014.

Increasing demand for internet connectivity and social media while on the move is driving sales of mobile devices, which use more radio frequency chips than basic phones.—Reuters

Curiosity rover set for third drilling on Mars

WASHINGTON, 30 April — US space agency NASA said on Tuesday its *Curiosity* rover will carry out its third drilling on Mars in the coming days.

Curiosity used several tools to examine a Martian sandstone slab dubbed “Windjana” over the weekend, including a wire-bristle brush known as the Dust Removal Tool to clear away dust from a 6-centimeter-across patch on the rock, NASA said.

“In the brushed spot, we can see that the rock is fine-grained, its true colour is much grayer than the surface dust, and some portions of the rock are harder than others, creating the interesting bumpy textures,” *Curiosity* science team member Melissa Rice of the California Institute of Technology said in a NASA statement.

“All of these traits reinforce our interest in drilling here in order to understand the chemistry of the fluids that bound these grains together to form the rock,”



Rice said.

Before *Curiosity* drills deeply enough for collection of rock-powder sample, there will be a preparatory “mini-drill” operation on the target, as a further check for readiness, NASA said.

Curiosity's drill collects

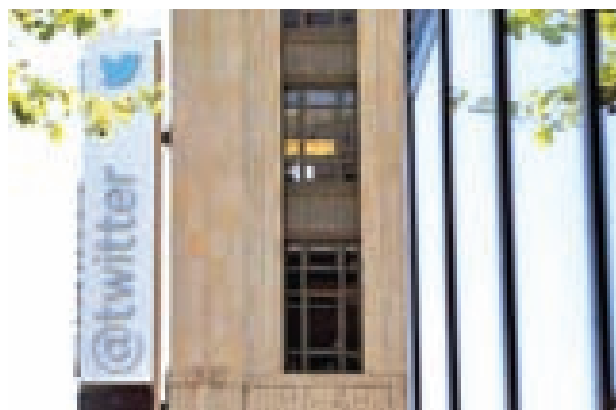
powered sample material from the interior of a target rock for analysis.

The only two rocks previously drilled by *Curiosity* are even finer-grained mudstone in Yellowknife Bay, about 4 kilometers north-east of the rover's current

location at a waypoint called “The Kimberley.”

Those two targets, examined in 2013, provided evidence of an ancient lakebed environment from billions of years ago with conditions favourable for microbial life.—Xinhua

Twitter disappoints again on user growth and views; shares drop



The Twitter logo is pictured at its headquarters on Market Street in San Francisco, California on 29 April, 2014.—REUTERS

SAN FRANCISCO, 30 April—Twitter Inc reported lackluster user and usage growth for the second consecutive quarter on Tuesday, deepening investor concerns about its struggle to gain a mass following.

Twitter's stock fell more than 10 percent after hours to \$38.05, below its post-initial public offering low of \$38.80 on 25 November. Perhaps most worrying, the San Francisco-based company said its 255 million monthly users, on average, appeared to check the service less frequently than a year ago.

The results revealed slowing momentum at a company that exuberant

analyst at Pivotal Research. “Twitter is and will remain a niche medium, and a very powerful one.”

On a conference call Tuesday, Costolo repeatedly told Wall Street analysts that tweets from the Academy Awards show in March have been viewed more than 3 billion times online and mentioned countless times more on radio and television shows.

“Twitter—the platform — we believe is already incredibly mainstream,” Costolo said. The challenge, he added, was to convince the world to see the “value of the logged-in experience.”

Although overshadowed by the usage figures, Twitter posted better-than-expected revenues of \$250 million. The company, which has been steadily refining its targeting capabilities, also showed signs it is better able to present ads based on what it thinks each user would be interested in, and is thus able to command higher ad prices. Twitter said its advertising revenue per thousand timeline views, which measures the effectiveness of its ads, nearly doubled to \$1.44 over the past year.—Reuters

Ancient hunting structures found under Lake Huron

BEIJING, 30 April—Pre-historic stone walls were discovered deep beneath the Lake Huron, according to a new findings in Monday's the Proceedings of the National Academy of Science.

This will give a clearer portrait of prehistorical people's life in the Great Lakes region, US. The stone walls form a lane 30 metres long and 8 meters wide, and have its hunting blinds built into the sides as well as other lanes and structures, similar to structures used to channel caribou by hunters.

“They were massive, and probably related to the first people to inhabit the New World and hunt mastodons,” said John O'Shea, an archaeologist of Michigan University.

A picture is beginning to emerge of a hunting and gathering people who brought down caribou in small groups in autumns, dug in snug and lived off food caches and animals such as beaver in the winter.

The findings were published on Monday in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Science.

Xinhua

Philippines says US obligated to help in case of attack

MANILA, 30 April — Washington has a treaty obligation to come to the assistance of the Philippines in case of an attack on its territory or its armed forces in the South China Sea, Manila's foreign minister said on Wednesday, disputing criticism of a new security pact.

The United States and the Philippines on Monday signed a new 10-year Enhanced Defence Cooperation Agreement allowing US forces wider access to local bases and to preposition ships, aircraft, equipment and troops for maritime security. The new military deal is a testimony to America's "ironclad" commitment to defend its oldest Southeast Asian ally, US President Barack Obama told Filipino and American troops taking

part in military exercises next week at an Army base in Manila.

"Under the Mutual Defence Treaty, the US will come to the assistance of the Philippines if our metropolitan territory is attacked or if our armed forces are attacked in the Pacific area," Albert del Rosario said in a statement. "In 1999, in a diplomatic letter, the US affirmed that the South China Sea is considered as part of the Pacific area."

Del Rosario's statement was meant to dispel concerns and doubts that Washington will not take action if the situation in the disputed areas in the South China Sea escalates into a conflict with China, which has grown assertive in its claims.

Reuters



Philippine Foreign Secretary Albert del Rosario delivers a statement during a news conference in Manila on 30 March, 2014.—REUTERS

Korea ferry disaster exposes cozy industry ties, soft penalties

SEOUL, 30 April — A culture of cozy personal ties that can blur the lines between businesses and those regulating them, of profit over safety, and soft courts is in focus as South Korea demands answers over the sinking of a ferry with the loss of more than 300 lives, mainly high school students. Prosecutors are investigating two shipping trade organizations responsible for vessel safety checks and for certifying ships that operate in domestic waters.

Two officials at the Korea Shipping Association (KSA) have been arrested on charges of obstructing justice for destroying documents related to a probe into lobbying government officials. A third official was arrested for alleged influence peddling and embezzlement. Prosecutors are also investigating Korean



Police officers stand guard at a pier, as yellow ribbons dedicated to missing and dead passengers on board the capsized Sewol ferry are tied to its handrails, at a port where family members are waiting for news from the search and rescue team in Jindo, on 28 April, 2014.

REUTERS

Register (KR), which tests and certifies ships.

Trade groups wield enormous power in South Korea's shipping industry — and in other sectors, too — as lobby groups and as business interests that can outsource inspection contracts to smaller companies, said an official at a ship-

building company.

"Korean Register has so many officials who come from the Maritime Ministry," said the official, who is based in the port city of Mokpo and who did not want to be named due to the issue's sensitivity and the ongoing criminal investigations.—Reuters

Malaysia names leader for MH370 international investigation team



International and Australian air crews involved in the search for missing Malaysia Airlines plane MH370, prepare for an official photograph on the tarmac at the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) Pearce Base in Bullsbrook, near Perth on 29 April, 2014.—REUTERS

KUALA LUMPUR, 30 April — Malaysia has hired Kok Soo Chon, a former director-general at the department of civil aviation, to lead the international investigation team tasked to find the cause of the disappearance of Malaysia Airlines Flight MH370, the government said on Tuesday.

Other team members are from the US National Transport Safety Board, Britain's Air Accidents Investigations Branch, China's Aircraft Accident Investigation Department,

France's Land Transport Accident Investigation Bureau, the Australia Transport Safety Bureau, aircraft manufacturer Boeing and British satellite communications company Inmarsat.

The team also has representatives from Singapore and Indonesia.

"The main purpose of the international investigation team is to evaluate, investigate and determine the actual cause of the incident so similar incidents could be avoided in the future," Acting Transport Minister

Hishammuddin Hussein said. The investigation, he said in a statement, "is not aimed at apportioning blame or liability with regards to the incident".

The search for Flight MH370, which vanished while flying from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing on 8 March with 239 people on board, has so far failed to turn up any trace of wreckage from the plane.

Efforts have focused on a vast expanse of water in the Indian Ocean off the coast of Western Australia. It remains

unclear what caused the Boeing 777 to veer sharply off course and disappear from radar as it prepared to cross into Vietnamese airspace.

Malaysia will discuss with other countries involved in the search, the deployment of equipment with deep sea search capabilities, the cost of the operation and how best to keep next of kin informed. It is also verifying reports of potential wreckage sightings in the Bay of Bengal, the statement said.

Reuters

Study finds Fukushima radioactivity in tuna off Oregon, Washington

PORTLAND, 30 April — A sample of albacore tuna caught off the shores of Oregon and Washington state have small levels of radioactivity from the 2011 Fukushima nuclear disaster in Japan, researchers said on Tuesday.

But authors of the Oregon State University study say the levels are so small you would have to consume more than 700,000 pounds of the fish with the highest radioactive level to match the amount of radiation the average person is annually exposed to in everyday life through cosmic rays, the air, the ground, X-rays and other sources.

Still, the findings shed some light about the impact of the meltdown on the Pacific Ocean following the March 2011 tsunami and subsequent power plant disaster, said Delvan

Neville, a graduate research assistant at OSU and lead author of the study.

"I think people would rather have an answer on what is there and what isn't there than have a big question mark," Neville said.

At the most extreme, radiation levels tripled from fish tested before

Fukushima and fish tested after. That level was 0.1 percent of the level set by the US Food and Drug Administration for concern.

"The levels were way too small to really be a food safety issue, but we still want to tell people about it so they know what's there," Neville said.—Reuters



Tokyo Electric Power Co (TEPCO)'s tsunami-crippled Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant's reactor buildings one to four (L to R) are seen in Fukushima prefecture, in this aerial view photo taken by Kyodo, on 11 March, 2012.—REUTERS

ADVERTISEMENT & GENERAL

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV PACIFIC TRADER VOY NO (026)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV PACIFIC TRADER VOY NO (026) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 1.5.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MIP where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S ORINET OVERSEAS
CONTAINER LINES**

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV SINGAPORE BRIDGE VOY NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SINGAPORE BRIDGE VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 1.5.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S SAMUDERA SHIPPING
LINES**

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV THIGAYU VOY NO (03/14)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV THIGAYU VOY NO (03/14) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 2-5-2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W(5) where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S KRUNG THON NAVA
CO LTD.**

Phone No: 2301186

THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR MINISTRY OF ENERGY MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE (8/2014)

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

Sr.No	Tender No	Description	Remark
(1)	IFB -001(14-15)	Skid Mounted Water Transfer Pump with Motor Driven (700 gpm, 700 ft head)	US\$
(2)	IFB -002(14-15)	API Class 'G' Cemeny (1,000) Ton	US\$
(3)	IFB -003(14-15)	Spare for HDD Rig	US\$
(4)	IFB -004(14-15)	Spares for Rig Engine/Rig Pump Ex HDD Rig	US\$
(5)	IFB -005(14-15)	Assorted Sizes of Drilling Rock Bits	US\$
(6)	DMP/L-001(14-15)	B-40, B-60 & B-80 Shale Shaker Screens	KS
(7)	DMP/L-002(14-15)	CCTV Camera and Accessories	KS
(8)	DMP/L-003(14-15)	18R 22.5-20 PR Radial Tyre Complete Set and 20.5 x 25-24 Ply Tyre	KS
(9)	DMP/L-004(14-15)	6.0 Sqmm Wire Cable and Heat Shrink Tube	KS
(10)	DMP/L-005(14-15)	9 5/8" Float shoes and Collars (P-110, 53.5 lb/ft)	KS

-Tender Closing Date & Time - 26-5-2014, 16:30 Hr.

Tender Document shall be available during office hours commencing from 29th April, 2014 at the Finance Department, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, No (44) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.
Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise
Ph: +95 67 - 411097/411206

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV BANGSAKAO VOY NO (21)

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

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

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Phone No: 2301186

Iran's Rouhani suggests critics benefited from sanctions



Iran's President Hassan Rouhani speaks during an event to mark Nawroz, the Persian New Year, in Kabul on 27 March, 2014.
REUTERS

DUBAI, 30 April — President Hassan Rouhani, in a riposte to hardliners who suggest he is capitulating to the West, accused critics of his government on Tuesday of using lies and exaggeration to oppose his policies, including Iran's nuclear talks with world powers. In an interview on state television, Rouhani suggested his critics were a "tiny minority" who had profited from sanctions and feared losing out if curbs were removed with an eventual resolution of Iran's nuclear dispute with the West.

Rouhani and his negotiators have been under strong pressure from Islamic hardliners opposed to the talks with the United States and five other powers seeking curbs on Iran's nuclear programme in return for an end to sanctions against Teheran. As the talks move toward a possible deal by late July, the hardliners, many of them hold-outs from the administration of former President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, have stepped up their campaign, accusing Rouhani of sacrificing national pride and revolutionary identity for the sake of an agreement.

Reuters



Chinese Premier Li Keqiang (R) meets with former US Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner in Beijing, capital of China, on 29 April, 2014.—XINHUA

Some Pakistanis still believe bin Laden not killed in 2011 raid

ABBOTTABAD, 30 April — Three years after Osama bin Laden was presumably killed in a US Navy SEAL raid on his compound in the Pakistani city of Abbottabad, some Pakistanis are hooked on the view that he was already dead when the operation took place on 2 May, 2011.

This conspiracy theory was first peddled by senior Pakistani officials before the Abbottabad Commission set up by the government to investigate the circumstances that led to the raid on the compound in the city, located some 110 kilometers north of Islamabad.

In the commission's confidential report, which was partially leaked to the media last year, the administrative head of the Hazara region, of which Abbottabad is a part, was of the view that bin Laden was not present in the compound when the raid took place.

Even if he was killed there on 2 May, 2011, some argue that he could not have been living there for five

years as has been suggested.

The administrative head of Abbottabad told the commission he believed bin Laden came to the compound only two weeks before the raid because "very few clothes were found for OBL." He also noted the small amount of electricity consumed and food found in the house.

A man identified only as Aziz, who lives opposite the compound, testified he heard "no cries of women and children" from the house. He said a family residing in the relatively posh area would typically need a variety of services, such as those of a barber, cook, driver, carpenter or electrician, but the occupants of the compound never sought such a service during the five years. And he wondered aloud how 15-16 children belonging to bin Laden and his two guards — brothers Abrar and Ibrahim — could be kept quiet for five years. Another man identified as Shamraiz, who also lived near the bin Laden compound and was detained

by Pakistan's shadowy Inter-Services Intelligence for nearly three weeks, said that as far as he knew, only Abrar and Ibrahim lived there.

According to the head of local Crime Investigation Agency, bin Laden could have been brought to the house as part of a conspiracy involving the US Central Intelligence Agency, which masterminded the daring raid on the compound.

It was because of such statements that the commission observed that "only a minority of people in the area believed that OBL lived there." Veteran Arab journalist, Jamal Ismail, who met bin Laden three times and is writing a book about his life, claims bin Laden died in April on return from a visit to North Waziristan, a restive tribal area bordering Afghanistan, and was buried somewhere between there and Abbottabad. He said the doctor who attended him informed the ISI, which took his body and informed the CIA of his death.

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NDTV Indian of The Year: Deepika Padukone named Entertainer of The Year



Actress Deepika Padukone

NEW DELHI, 30 April — Actress Deepika Padukone was named Entertainer of The Year at the NDTV Indian Of The Year 2013 awards in New Delhi on Tuesday night.

Deepika, who delivered three blockbuster hits last year, has cleaned up at award shows this season for her performances in Chennai Express, Ram-Leela

and Yeh Jawani Hai Deewani. She recently won Best Actress and Entertainer of the Year at the IIFA awards held in Florida.

“Am very nervous about being billed Bollywood’s Golden Girl, this award matters most to me,” said the Chennai Express star. On a lighter note, she added, “Kevin Spacey is so graceful in a lungi,”

referring to her Lungi Dance with Hollywood star Kevin Spacey at the IIFA Awards.

Deepika’s big releases this year includes Kochadaiiyaan opposite Rajinikanth and Happy New Year co-starring Shah Rukh Khan. When she arrived in Delhi earlier today, Deepika took this playful selfie of herself.—PTI

NDTV Indian of The Year: Kangana Ranaut named Actor of The Year



Kangana Ranaut

NEW DELHI, 30 April — The Queen rules Bollywood and don’t we all know it. Actress Kangana Ranaut was named the Actor of The Year at the

NDTV Indian of The Year awards in new Delhi on Tuesday night.

Kangana, long been considered an outsider in Bollywood, starred in the super hit and much praised Queen last month and followed up with the just-released Revolver Rani.

Thrilled to have received her award from Aamir Khan, Kangana said, “It’s really flattering to be here and receive this award. I was told Aamir was going to present me this award so I had to be here. He has been a huge inspiration and this is a very special evening.” Aamir also had high praise

in return. “Kangana goes with her heart. Not many people are able to do what she did,” he said.

Kangana will next be seen in Ungli. This was Kangana saying hello to Delhi, her smile disarmingly wide, when she checked into Delhi earlier today.

PTI

With Lego makeover, ‘The Simpsons’ gets fresh face 25 years on

LOS ANGELES, 30 April — Fox’s hit animated show “The Simpsons,” which has used donut-loving Homer and his dysfunctional family to satirize US popular culture for 25 years, is celebrating another milestone with a plastic makeover featuring Lego building blocks.

“Brick Like Me,” airing on Sunday, marks the show’s 550th episode and adds a notch in this year’s revival of the popular Danish plastic building brick, after the runaway success of February’s “The Lego Movie.”

“The Simpsons,” created by Matt Groening and premiering in 1989,

has rarely changed its basic visual form in a quarter century. It is the world’s most-watched US television show, syndicated across more than 100 countries, and reaches more than 150 million viewers a week according to Fox. The show also has one of the largest TV Facebook fan pages with 72 million.

The show has tapped into the changing American zeitgeist and successfully embedded itself in international pop culture over the past two decades, with Homer’s “D’oh!” catchphrase entering the Oxford English Dictionary in 2001.

“Brick Like Me,” the brainchild of longtime

“Simpsons” writer-producers Brian Kelley and Matt Selman, will see both the cartoon characters and town of Springfield reimaged in the form of the plastic toy brick blocks. In a clip of footage shown to Reuters, Homer and Marge wake up in their 3D Lego forms and Homer tumbles, disassembling himself. Later, Bart goes to Springfield Elementary school and manages to reduce the building into a rubble of plastic bricks.

“We really try to take full advantage of the Lego playground, to tell the story from a different way than we usually would,” Selman said at the show’s headquarters in the center of the Fox

Harrison Ford, Carrie Fisher lead cast of new ‘Star Wars’ film

LOS ANGELES, 30 April — Harrison Ford will lead returning and rising stars, including Carrie Fisher, Mark Hamill, Andy Serkis and Oscar Isaac, for the anticipated new “Star Wars: Episode VII” film, Walt Disney Co and Lucasfilm said on Tuesday.

Ford, Fisher and Hamill, who were rumoured to be returning to director J J Abrams’ reboot of the franchise, will be joined by the series’ original stars Peter Mayhew (Chewbacca), Anthony Daniels (C-3PO) and Kenny Baker (R2-D2).

Ford played Han Solo, Fisher played Princess Leia and Hamill was Luke Skywalker in the original films, but it is not known if they will reprise their roles or have different characters in the new film.

Joining the franchise alongside “Lord of the Rings” star Serkis and “Inside Llewyn Davis” actor Isaac will be Swedish actor Max Von Sydow, “Girls” star Adam Driver, Domhnall Gleeson and newcomers John Boyega and Daisy Ridley.

“It is both thrilling and

surreal to watch the beloved original cast and these brilliant new performers come together to bring this world to life, once again. We start shooting in a couple of weeks, and everyone is doing their best to make the fans proud,” Abrams said in a statement.

Disney purchased “Star Wars” creator George Lucas’ Lucasfilm in 2012 for \$4.05 billion and announced three new films in the franchise. “Episode VII” is scheduled for release on 18 December, 2015.

Reuters

Actor Harrison Ford and his wife Calista Flockhart arrive at the 2014 Vanity Fair Oscars Party in West Hollywood, California on 2 March, 2014. REUTERS



Chinese love story tops weekly box office

BEIJING, 30 April — “My Old Classmate,” a Chinese love story inspired by a namesake popular song in the 1990s, ruled China’s box office in the week ending on 27 April, according to a film industry weekly.

The film tells of the romance between two deskmates spanning across 20 years and stars Zhou Dongyu, a Chinese actress who rose to fame in the leading role in Zhang Yimou’s 2010 “Under the Hawthorn Tree”, and grossed 11.1 million yuan (1.76 million U.S. dollars) in the three days since its debut on 25 April, according to figures released by China Film News on Tuesday.

The previous week’s champion, “Captain America: The Winter Soldier,” an American superhero movie featuring Marvel Comics character Captain America, dropped to third place with 56 million yuan in box office last week, as its total gains in China reached 66.4 million.

Xinhua



The Simpsons show editor Mike Bridge (L), executive producer Matt Selman (C) and co-executive producer Brian Kelley pose with a segment of upcoming Lego episode shown on the editing bay in 20th Century Fox Studios in Los Angeles, California on 22 April, 2014.

REUTERS

Studios lot in Los Angeles.

“It yielded a ton of jokes being able to be in a world that is similar to our normal universe but different in key ways,” Kelley

said. “It’s very hard on the regular show to disassemble our characters without causing them permanent harm, but in Lego, we could do that,” he added.—Reuters

GENERAL

US tornadoes kill 34, threaten more damage in South



Fallen trees and damaged homes are shown in Bessemer, Alabama, on 29 April, 2014.—REUTERS

TUPELO, 30 April — At least 34 people were killed in tornadoes unleashed by a ferocious storm system that razed neighbourhoods in the southern United States over the last three days and threatened more destruction in heavily populated parts of the South on Tuesday. In Arkansas and Mississippi, the hardest hit of six states struck by the storm, there have been 27 confirmed storm-related deaths and more than 200 people injured as tornadoes reduced homes to splinters, snapped trees like twigs and sent trucks flying through the air like toys.

Deaths were also reported in Oklahoma and Iowa on Sunday, and Alabama and Tennessee on Monday.

The White House said President Barack Obama declared a major disaster in Arkansas and ordered federal aid to supplement state and local recovery efforts.

Makeshift shelters have been set up for thousands of families forced out of their homes while the National Guard, local police and residents who had lost all their possessions sifted through the rubble looking for more victims.

"People were running around screaming, trying to find their kids. There was nothing left," Melba Reed said as she described the aftermath of a tornado in Louisville, Mississippi, a town of about 7,000 in the central part of the state.

The tornado that ripped through Mississippi's

Winston County on Monday packed winds of up to 200 mph, according to the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency.

In Tupelo, Mississippi, police went from house to house, searching for victims and trying to seal gas leaks.

In Park Hill, a traditionally black and densely populated neighbourhood of Tupelo, the sound of chainsaws reverberated in the air as children joined adults to help remove debris and residents handed out grilled hotdogs on the streets to anyone in need of food. "The damage is overwhelming, but the outpouring of people to help lend a hand is overwhelming, too," said Denise Hardin, who works at the Tupelo

Housing Authority.

More than 2,000 houses and 100 commercial properties have been reported damaged, and there is a risk of worse to come.

A massive area home to tens of millions of people stretching across large parts of the South and into Pennsylvania and Ohio was under some threat from the storm system that spawned the tornadoes, forecasters said. "We will see tornadoes again today," said Bill Bunting, operations chief at the National Weather Service's Storm Predictions Center in Norman, Oklahoma. "Unfortunately, the areas that are under the gun today are the same ones that were under the gun yesterday."

Reuters

MYANMAR TV

(1-5-2014, Thursday)

- 6:00 am
- 1. Paritta by Mingun Sayadaw
- 6:25 am
- 2. Physical Exercises
- 7:00 am
- 3. News
- 7:20 am
- 4. People Talks
- 8:30 am
- 5. India Drama Series
- 9:00 am
- 6. News/ International News
- 10:15 am
- 7. Documentary
- 11:15 am
- 8. TV Drama Series
- 12:00 pm
- 9. News/International News/Weather Report
- 3:15 pm
- 10. Teleplay
- 4:00 pm
- 11. News
- 4:20 pm
- 12. University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) Second Year (History)
- 4:40 pm
- 13. Documentary
- 5:00 pm
- 14. News
- 5:30 pm
- 15. India Drama Series
- 6:00 pm
- 16. News/ Weather Report
- 6:50 pm
- 17. TV Drama Series
- 7:00 pm
- 18. News
- 8:00 pm
- 19. News/International News/Weather Report
- 8:35 pm
- 20. Documentary
- 9:00 pm
- 21. News
- 22. Documentary
- 23. CLEVER
- 24. Teleplay

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(1-5-14 07:00am~
2-5-14 07:00am) MST

- * Local News
- * Kyauk Gu Umin Cave Gu Pha Ya
- * World News
- * Art Students :Theatrical Art
- * Local News
- * Made of Jade
- * World News
- * Distinguished Myanmar Ladies "Tin Moe Lwin"
- * Local News
- * Sagaing Guitar
- * World News
- * Moving Meditation : Aikido
- * Local News
- * Me N My Travel (Wonderful Pagodas On The Mount Akauk)
- * World News
- * Famous Pagodas of Sagaing
- * Local News
- * A Study Tour To Khakaborazi Museum (Putao)
- * World News
- * Kyeikhteeyoe: Welcome All
- * Local News
- * Preserving Myanmar Handicrafts
- * World News
- * A Tea Business: Pankwan (Part-1)
- * Local News
- * Snow Flakes...Scenic Confluence...To Kachin State
- * World News
- * The Pride of Myanmar "Traditional Handicraft"
- * Local News
- * A Day Life Of Kayan Padaung Tribe
- * World News
- * Dhamma School

Philippines troops exchange mortar fire with militants, 15 dead

MANILA, 30 April — At least 15 people were killed when security forces and Islamist militants exchanged mortar fire for three hours on Tuesday in a remote southern Philippine island, a marine general said on Wednesday, claiming the rebels were trying to retake their base.

Brigadier-General Martin Pinto said a soldier was killed and 19 others were wounded as sporadic fighting continued early on Wednesday in Patikul, Sulu, a known hotbed of the al-Qaeda-linked Abu Sayyaf Group.

"By employing combined arms of 105mm howitzers, 81mm mortars and close air support from

the MG520 helicopters, the marines were able to inflict heavy casualties on the enemy," Pinto told reporters.

"The wounded marines, most of them are caused by mortar shelling from the Abu Sayyaf, were evacuated to an army hospital for treatment."

Pinto said about 300 rebels launched an offensive to retake their base in Patikul after soldiers captured them on Monday.

"Our troops held their ground for three hours and repulsed the attack as reinforcement came," he added. Early this month, security forces killed 18 Abu Sayyaf in nearby Basilan island as the Philippines stepped up an offensive

against armed groups opposed to the peace pact with a larger Muslim rebel group, Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF).

The peace deal struck with the MILF ended a 45-year conflict that has killed more than 120,000 people, displaced 2 million and stunted growth in one of the resource-rich areas in the poor Southeast Asian state.

The situation on the ground remained shaky as other groups, particularly the Abu Sayyaf, a group on the US anti-terrorist "blacklist", continued to pursue the armed struggle to set up a separate and independent Islamist state in the south.—Reuters

Simmonds goals help Flyers force decider against Rangers



NEW YORK, 30 April — Wayne Simmonds scored a hat-trick and goaltender Steve Mason made 34 saves as the Philadelphia Flyers sent their playoff series against the New York Rangers to a decider with a 5-2 victory at Wells Fargo Centre on Tuesday.

Defenceman Erik Gustafsson and centre Claude Giroux also had goals for the Flyers, who will need to become the first team to win two in a row in this series to advance to a Conference Semi-final show-

down against the Pittsburgh Penguins.

Rangers left winger Carl Hagelin ended Mason's shutout bid with 6:34 left in the game and center Mats Zuccarello scored a consolation goal in the final minute.

Game Seven of the Eastern Conference series will be played at Madison Square Garden on Wednesday, where the Rangers are 2-1 on home ice this post-season. Mason, who did not start the first three games of the series because of an upper-body injury, was outstanding for the second time in three games. He outplayed Rangers goalie Henrik Lundqvist, an eight-time All-Star and former Vezina Trophy winner, who allowed four goals on 23 shots and was replaced by Cam Talbot at the start of the third period.

Right winger Simmonds scored three of the first four goals of the game as Philadelphia raced to a 4-0 lead.

The longtime rivals meet in a Game Seven for only the second time in their history.—Reuters

Hodgson unimpressed by late form



England manager Roy Hodgson

LONDON, 30 April — England manager Roy Hodgson has ruled out making any late changes to his World Cup squad based on “last-minute form” in the final weeks of the Premier League season.

Hodgson, whose team face the daunting prospect of battling through to the knockout stages of the tournament finals in Brazil from a group that also includes Italy and Uruguay, said the final weeks of the season are a “notoriously bad time to judge talent”.

“All I can do is be really clear in my mind with what I want to do as a squad and which players I want to take,” he said on the FIFA website (www.fifa.com).

“Nothing that happens in the last four games, in terms of form, is going to affect me. I don’t judge players on their last-minute form over two or three games.

“I’m judging them over two years. Or, in particular, if anyone new on the scene has emerged I’m judging him over several months.”

Hodgson will name his 23-man squad on 13 May, while they open their World Cup campaign with a Group D match against Italy in Manaus on 14 June.

“As a manager I was never keen on making strong judgements on players, either to buy them or to sell them or to retain them in the last two or three weeks of the season,” he added.

“I wanted to make my decision around the November-to-early-March time because that’s where things are really done.”

Reuters

Local Sports

Nay Pyi Taw FC defeats Singapore Lions XII 1-0 in friendly match

YANGON, 30 April— Myanmar National League club Nay Pyi Taw FC beat Malaysia Super League side Singapore Lions XII 1-0 in a friendly match at Thuwunna Youth Training Center in Yangon on Wednesday.

Nay Pyi Taw FC, which is preparing for the knockout stage of AFC Challenge Cup, played the match with Myanmar players and a starting line-up that included former national player-captain Aye Hsan, goalkeeper V.L. Haywel, Tin Zaw Moe and Khaing Htoo.

Ex-Singaporean Star Fandi Ahmad’s Singapore Lions XII failed to show their brilliant skill and missed a penalty chance to

equalize in the 77th minute.

Aung Kyaw Naing scored a winning goal for Nay Pyi Taw FC in the 8th minute.

Myanmar’s national team will play a friendly with Singapore Lions XII at the same venue at 5 pm on 2 May. The ticket prices are K1,000 for special stand and K500 for ordinary stand and the fans will have a chance to win two Samsung S4 handsets through lucky draw programme.

Byline: Nyi Myat Thawda

Players of Nay Pyi Taw FC and Lions XII controlling the ball in football friendly.

PHOTO: SOE NYUNT



K-Pop Concert in Myanmar 2014 held at Thuwunna Indoor Stadium

YANGON, 30 April— K-Pop Concert in Myanmar 2014 was held to honour the Taekwondo Athletes at Thuwunna National Indoor Stadium, Yangon, at 6:30 pm on 30 April.

Five Korean Pop-Stars Groups namely Tint, Girl’s Day, Dal* Shabet, M.I.B and Jung It Young and Myanmar celebrities Bobby Soxxer and HeLay entertained the audience.

The concert was

organized by Fortune International Ltd & HAN BAEK International Trade Company Myanmar under the arrangement of Myanmar Taekwondo Federation to raise fund.

Thant Zin Win



Real Madrid crush Bayern 4-0 to make UEFA Champions League final

BERLIN, 30 April — Real Madrid dethroned titleholders Bayern Munich 4-0 to smooth the way for the final at the Champions League semifinals on Tuesday.

Real Madrid taught Bayern Munich a lesson as the Spaniards booked their ticket for the final in Lis-

bon with a 5-0 triumph on aggregate over the German title defenders.

Carlo Ancelotti’s men staged a clinical chance conversion and killed the game with three first half goals. Sergio Ramos sealed his brace within 20 minutes to destroy all hopes by the Bavarians. Besides

that Christian Ronaldo set a new record with his goals No. 15 and 16.

Bayern Munich took over from the kickoff to press Real into defence, as they wanted to neutralize their 1-0 first leg loss with an early goal.

Xinhua

Murray to be spared nightmare Wimbledon draw despite low ranking



Britain’s Andy Murray returns a shot against Italy’s Andreas Seppi during their Davis Cup quarter-final tennis match in Naples on 5 April, 2014.—REUTERS

LONDON, 30 April — Wimbledon champion Andy Murray should be spared a horror draw at this year’s tournament despite his recent rankings slide, organizers said on Tuesday.

Murray, who became the first British man to win the men’s singles at the grasscourt grand slam for 77 years last July when he beat Novak Djokovic in the final, has sunk to eighth in the ATP rankings which at most tournaments determine seedings.

However, Wimbledon’s seeding system, which takes into account past performances on the grass surface, means it is unlikely Murray would find himself outside the top

four seeds even if his world ranking does not improve.

Seedings at Wimbledon are generally based on ATP rankings but the fact that Murray was unbeaten on grass last year and reached the Wimbledon final in 2012 as well will count in his favor, according to All England Club chairman Philip Brook.

“For Andy Murray, as the winner of Queen’s last year and the winner here last year, and a finalist here in 2012, there will be a significant impact on him,” he told a news conference.

Murray’s ranking has slipped from a career-high two down to eight, largely because of back surgery at the end of last year.

Reuters