

President U Thein Sein tours tea and rubber plantations in Homalin

NAY PYI TAW, 7 April— President U Thein Sein visited a tea farm in the township of Homalin in Sagaing Region on Tuesday, according to officials.

The president heard briefings from officials on the operations of the plantation, including marketing, employment and earnings.

The president and union ministers presented clothes and cash to tea growers and cultural dance troupes.

Sagaing Region has more than 9,000 acres of tea plantations, with 6,700 acres in Homalin alone.

At a briefing hall in Homalin, Sagaing Region Chief Minister U Tha Aye explained transport networks and construction of bridges. The president and his entourage also visited rubber plantations, where he encouraged growers.

The region has 11,700 acres of rubber plantations, with over 1,900 acres in Homalin.



President U Thein Sein being welcomed by local residents and ethnic people on his arrival in Hkamti, Sagaing Region.—IPRD

The president also visited Sitagu Eye Hospital, where he paid homage and presented offertories

to members of the Sangha. He also offered flowers, water and lights at a historic pagoda there.

The president and his entourage flew to Hkamti Township, where he met local development com-

mittees and town elders in the township's guesthouse. *MNA*

Business federation seeks input on reforming 100-year-old Companies Act

By Ye Myint

YANGON, 7 April— Myanmar's largest business federation hosted a public briefing and consultation meeting Tuesday to reform the country's century-old Companies Act, in conjunction with the Asian Development Bank.

The meeting took place at the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers

of Commerce and Industry building in Yangon, with Mr Chris Hughes, managing partner of multinational law firm Baker & McKenzie, making a presentation on the draft of a new Myanmar Companies Act.

He explained key parts of the draft law that includes forms of companies, incorporation processes and corporate governance.

The Myanmar Companies Act 1914 requires major changes, Mr Hughes said, adding that its reform is as important as the modernisation of the investment law which is being carried out by the Directorate of the Investment and Company Administration.

The new Companies Act is also being developed by DICA in cooperation with the ADB. It has invited businesspeople and

the public to provide input on modernisation of the new legislation by email, post or fax to its offices in Yangon, Nay Pyi Taw and Mandalay, as well as Shan and Mon states.

Modernising the old Companies Act will be of benefits to businesses in Myanmar, making it easier for them to operate and to access finance, said Mr Winfried Wicklein, ADB country director in Myanmar.

"We are also considering a future system to strengthen a collateral framework to make it easier to access credit," he added.

UMFCCI is facilitating debate on the new law, seeking public consultations and providing inputs for the enactment of the law, said UMFCCI Vice President U Zaw Min Win. The new draft law will be submitted to the next parliamentary session, he said. —GNLM



Mr Chris Hughes, managing partner of Baker & McKenzie, makes a presentation on Myanmar Companies Act Reform at UMFCCI Building in Yangon on Tuesday.—PHOTO: YE MYINT

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Mr. Lee Luong Minh, Secretary General, ASEAN Secretariat welcomes signing for draft agreement of Nationwide Ceasefire

Mr. Lee Luong Minh, Secretary General, ASEAN Secretariat sent a message of congratulation letter regarding the signing of draft agreement of Nationwide Ceasefire.

In his letter, he congratulated His Excellency, President U Thein Sein, the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the people for signing of draft agreement of Nationwide Ceasefire. He stated that it will be conclusive to the realization of a peaceful, united and harmonious Myanmar as well as contribute to the maintenance of regional people and stability in the interest of the peoples of ASEAN.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Dailies to come out alternately during New Year holiday

NAY PYI TAW, 7 April— The Ministry of Information has announced its dailies will come out alternately during the ten-day New Year holiday.

The publication of The Mirror and The Global New Light of Myanmar will continue from 12 to 16 April, when The Myanmar Alinn will stop its publica-

tion. It will start its publication from 17 to 21 April, when The Mirror and The Global New Light of Myanmar will stop their publications.

The subprinting house in Mandalay will not work on 15, 18 and 22 April.

All dailies will resume their regular publications as of 22 April.—MNA

Pyithu Hluttaw

Pyithu Hluttaw approves education amendment bill

NAY PYI TAW, 7 April — The Pyithu Hluttaw on Tuesday approved the national education amendment bill, which came to the parliament with changes from the Amyotha Hluttaw and the Bill Committee.

The Amyotha Hluttaw and the Bill Committee had made 50 changes and 45 changes respectively to the education amendment bill, with the Pyithu Hluttaw accepting their amendments after discussing them clause by clause. —MNA

Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Tin Oo Lwin being welcomed by Ambassador of Democratic People's Republic of Korea Kim Sok Chol at a reception to mark the 103rd birthday of DPRK's supreme leader Kim Il Sung at Chatrium Hotel in Yangon on 7 April. —MNA

**Myanmar golfers win prizes in boy classes**

YANGON, 7 April — Myanmar youth golfers participated in the 14th True Visions International Junior Golf Championships 2015 in Siam Country Club, Bangkok, from 31 March to 3 April.

Hlaing Min Htet stood first in Boy Class A together with second prize winner Zin Aung

Min while Yazar Aung secured the third prize in Boy Class B.

Sai Aung Sai Pha won the third prize in Boy Class C and Min Thanlwin Aung the first in Boy Class D.

Min Sit Thway of Myanmar was honoured by the organizing committee for his hole-in-one

score at Hole No 3 in the official practice round.

Myanmar golfers played the championships together with over 100 players from 11 countries.

They arrived back at Yangon International Airport on 4 April.

GNLM



Four prize winning youth golfers who secured awards in 14th True Visions International Junior Golf Championships 2015 seen at Yangon International Airport. —GNLM

Amyotha Hluttaw

A&I ministry deals with queries at Upper House session

NAY PYI TAW, 7 April — Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Khin Zaw was in Amyotha Hluttaw session on Tuesday, answering queries about water storage facilities and a rural development bank.

Replying to the question of U Aung Chit Lwin, an MP of Sagaing region constituency No 11, the deputy minister said a fund for construction of one-wall reservoir in Homalin Township, Hkamti District, in northwestern Myanmar has not been proposed in

the regional government budget of 2015-2016 fiscal year despite benefits of this suggested water facility to irrigate more than 550 acres of paddy farms.

Regarding the query about formation of a management committee on water storage facilities, U Khin Zaw also said Myanmar National Committee on Large Dams has been legalized on February 27 this year, and the executive board of the committee is open to all civil service employees.

He also said the min-



Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Khin Zaw. —MNA

istry has not planned to open an outlet of Myanma Agricultural Development Bank in Waingmaw Town-



U Aung Chit Lwin, an MP of Sagaing region constituency No 11.

MNA

ship in Kachin State in consideration of budget allocation in 2015-2016 fiscal year. —MNA

Overseas employment agencies informed of code of conduct

NAY PYI TAW, 7 April — A seminar was organized at Grand Amara Hotel here on Thursday by the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security in partnership with the International Labour Organization (ILO) in an

bid to convince foreign employment agencies to follow ethics.

Deputy Minister U Htin Aung delivered an address at the seminar, which focused on laws concerning the protection of migrant workers from

exploitation, bullying and forced labour.

According to some laws, job agencies are responsible for the provision of services for safety of Myanmar workers sent abroad to work.

MNA



Participants from overseas employment agencies join discussions on protection of migrant workers. —MNA

Myanmar investigates alleged enslavement of fishermen in Indonesia

NAY PYI TAW, 7 April — Myanmar is investigating reports that hundreds of its citizens have been forced into slave labour as fishermen on remote islands in eastern Indonesia and will seek to determine how many have been affected before assisting in their repatriation.

Myanmar diplomats in Indonesia travelled to the remote islands including Tual and Benjina with Indonesian police,

immigration officials and representatives from the International Organization for Migration on 6 April to interview the fishermen who are reportedly from Myanmar, said U Sein Oo, Acting Director-General of the Consular and Legal Affairs Department.

A Myanmar delegation comprising representatives from the Myanmar Police Force, Anti-Human Trafficking Squad, Ministry of Immigration and

Population, and the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement plans to visit the islands and hold talks with Indonesian authorities aimed at bringing any affected citizens home, he added.

Three-quarters of the more than 320 migrant workers who were rescued from a remote Indonesian island were Myanmar fishermen, according to the Jakarta Post's 29 March issue.

About 300 alleged slave labourers believed to be from Myanmar, along with 100 from other countries, were moved to a safe location on Tual Island on 4 April, U Sein Oo said.

The International Organisation for Migration believes there may be as many as 4,000 people working as slave labourers in the fishing industry in the areas surrounding Benjina.

GNLM

NATIONAL

NAY PYI TAW, 7 April—Accurate statistics are essential to the formulation of sound policy, Vice President U Nyan Tun said Tuesday at a meeting of the Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development.

U Nyan Tun, also a patron of the statistics committee, said economic and social data needs to be reliable and consistent with practice.

He said Myanmar would work with organizations such as the World Bank to develop a statistical system compatible with the practices of the United Nations.

Union Minister Dr Kan Zaw, chairman of the statistics committee, said the ministry is working together with the World

Bank to draft a national-level strategy to ensure the norms of UN's Fundamental Principle of Statistics and ASEAN Code of Statistics.

Myanmar has amended a bill on collecting facts and figures with the assistance of the Asia Development Bank, and has submitted it to the Union Attorney General's Office.

The Fourth Session of the ASEAN Community Statistical System Committee Meeting and the introduction of the EU-ASEAN Compass Program were held in Nay Pyi Taw from October 14 to 16.—MNA

Vice President U Nyan Tun stresses reliable statistics for sound policies



Vice President U Nyan Tun highlights accurate statistics for formulation of sound policy at meeting of Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development.—MNA

Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services tours Rakhine State



Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing comforts a patient soldier at military hospital in Sittway. MYAWADY

NAY PYI TAW, 7 April — Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing visited Sittway, the capital of Rakhine State, on Tuesday, to donate computers and accessories for schools.

During the meeting with residents and local authorities, the senior general said that while primary schools in Rakhine State had 90 percent enrollment, that of matriculation students was only 25 percent.

The number of primary school children in the 2003 academic year was 104,569 compared

to 25,450 matriculation students, with only 4,639 passing the matriculation exam.

Tatmadaw and well-wishers donated computers and accessories to fill the gap in support of information technology, with the area having recently received 24-hour electricity from the national grid.

Rakhine and Taninthayi regions were colonized in 1824, resulting in the loss of mutual trust among the people and ideological conflicts which left the area among the least-developed in the country.

The Commander-in-Chief said formal education is crucial for development, while the proper use of natural re-

sources is vital for the country.

The Chief Minister of Rakhine State accepted computers and accessories and thanked donors.

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing then inspected a drainage project in Sittwe before meeting with military families at Sittway Station, where he said the Tatmadaw had won public support in the Laukkai conflict due to its sacrifices.

Later, senior military officers donated food, computers and accessories for schools.

The commander-in-chief comforted patients at the military-run hospital, while his wife visited the women's ward of the hospital.

Myawady

Union ministers present gifts to Hkamti Township



NAY PYI TAW, 7 April—Union Minister at the President Office U Soe Thane and party met with departmental officials, ethnic cultural groups, grassroots authorities and local people at the hall of Hkamti District on Monday.

As departmental officials and local authorities submitted requirements for the region, the union minister attended to the needs.

Union Minister U Ye Htut presents gifts to a local resident in Hkamti. MNA



Union Minister at the President Office U Soe Thane meets departmental officials and townselders at gymnasium in Hkamti.—MNA

The union minister presented Sky Net TV receiver and related equipment, blankets, stationery, marine products and

kitchen utensils to Hkamti Township through officials.

Also present at the meeting were Union Min-

isters Lt-Gen Thet Naing Win, U Tin Naing Thein, U Ohn Myint and U Ye Htut and deputy ministers.

MNA

Students join scholarship tests for middle and high schools

TATKON, 7 April —Scholarship exams were held at No 1 Basic Education High School in Tatkon Township, Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, on Monday.

A total of 150 students from 147 basic education schools and seven monastic education schools sat the middle school scholarship test.

Likewise, 32 students from 33 basic education schools participated in the scholarship test at high school level.

The students sat English and general knowledge components on 6 April and physical and mental tests on 7 April.—*Tin Soe Lwin (Tatkon Township IPRD)*



Students to receive three-storey building in Pabedan Tsp



YANGON, 9 April — The stake-driving ceremony for construction of a three-storey reinforced concrete building was held at No 3 Basic Education Primary School in Pabedan Township here on Tuesday.

Yangon Region Minister for Social Affairs Dr Myint Thein, Director of No 3 Basic Education Department Daw San San Yi, Region Hluttaw MP Dr Win Ko Hla and Chairman of Shwetaung

Development Co Ltd U Aik Tun participated in the stake-driving ceremony.

It will be the 83rd school building built by Shwetaung Company. The building will be 6,084 square feet, comprising nine classrooms, two offices and one hall.

According to the schedules, the building will be completed in October 2015, with a K450 million contribution from Shwetaung Company.—*MNA*

TODAY'S MYANMAR NEWS SITES

Myanmar, Thai entrepreneurs showcase foodstuffs, personal goods

MYEIK, 7 April — A friendship trade fair at Myeik Shopping Center on Strand Road showcased goods from Myanmar and Thailand on 4 April.

Authorities from Myeik District of Taninthayi Region and Prachuap Khiri Khan District of Thailand signed a sister city

agreement on 9 October, 2014.

Chief Minister of Taninthayi Region U Myat Ko said the Htikhi-Mawtaung border trade camp has been opened for trade promotion in the region, adding that trade fairs further strengthen bilateral relations between Myanmar

and Thailand.

The director of the district development department of Thailand spoke about bilateral relations and business cooperation.

On the occasion, students of Myeik University presented dances depicting the Bagan era.

District IPRD

An educative talk on crime reduction during Maha Thingyan festival period was held at the hall of General Administration Department in Kyaunggon, Ayeyawady Region, on 6 April. Police officers spoke about plan to take action against sales of hormone and narcotic drugs.
DAVID (KYAUNGON)



Asphalt road commissioned into service in Zabuthiri Township



NAY PYI TAW, 7 April — The opening ceremony for a new asphalt road leading to Tegyigon Village in Zabuthiri Township was held Tuesday, with Nay Pyi Taw Council member U Myo Nyunt, Amyotha Hluttaw representative U Khin Maung Htay and Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee member U Kyaw Myint in attendance.

The 1,920-foot-long

and 12-foot-wide road was upgraded to an asphalt facility to improve transport for local residents.

The council member, the committee member and Amyotha Hluttaw MP cut the ribbon to open the road.

While meeting local residents, the Nay Pyi Taw Council member spoke about development tasks in education, health and social sectors in the

council area.

After attending the road opening ceremony, the council member and officials viewed the construction of water-throwing pandals in Nay Pyi Taw Hotel Zone and instructed officials to supervise entertainment of participants in line with Myanmar culture while also taking security measures.

District IPRD

REGIONAL

India seeks to settle French fighter jet dispute ahead of PM's trip

NEW DELHI, 7 April — India has asked France's Dassault Aviation SA(AVMD.PA) to stick to the original price tag for fighter jets or risk losing one of the world's biggest military aircraft deals, the *Times of India* reported on Tuesday.

Talks on the proposed purchase of 126 Rafale planes have been ongoing for more than three years to resolve differences over pricing as well as local assembly. The deal is back in focus as Prime Minister Narendra Modi visits

France this week.

The deal was initially worth \$12 billion but is now widely estimated to have jumped to \$20 billion, primarily because of the implications of building some of the jets in India.

The Times quoted an unidentified Indian official as saying Dassault wanted to raise the price to cover the increased cost of local production, and that any such escalation could be a deal-breaker.

A defence ministry



A Rafale fighter jet performs during the Aero India air show at Yelahanka air base in Bengaluru on 18 Feb, 2015.—REUTERS

spokesman was not immediately available to comment on the report. Dassault was also not available.

Under terms of the contract, 18 of the planes will be sold ready-to-fly while the rest will be assembled at an Indian state-run facility as part of a government effort to build a domestic military-industrial base.

The price of the jets was set to increase substantially because the French firm had calculated a rise in hours required to make

the jets at the factory of Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (IPO-HIAE.NS) in Bengaluru, the newspaper said.

"Dassault should relent, become fully compliant to the request for proposal and stand 100 percent by its original offer. It can live with a slightly lesser profit margin," the official was quoted as saying.

The two sides have also wrangled over the issue of guarantees for local production of the aircraft which the newspaper said they were trying to work

out. It said, under a new proposal, Dassault will not be liable for penalties if Hindustan Aeronautics failed to deliver the planes on time.

India conducted a global tender in 2007 for the planes after a domestic programme to build combat aircraft made slow progress. The Rafale was chosen in 2012 over rival offers from the United States, Europe and Russia.

Modi is travelling to France, Germany and Canada this week.—Reuters

Russian PM's visit a boost for Thais, focus on trade, tourists



Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev

BANGKOK, 7 April — Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev arrives in Thailand on Tuesday for a visit aimed at expanding trade and the ruling military will be keen to highlight international support nearly a year after it ousted an elected

government.

Medvedev's two-day visit follows criticism from some Western countries and the United Nations of sweeping security powers granted to the military last week after martial law was lifted in most areas.

Political worry, especially after the 22 May, 2014, coup, has hurt Thailand's tourist industry and it is keen to lure more Russian visitors to its Buddhist temples, beaches and bars.

Thailand has stepped up engagement with both China and Russia in response to cooler ties with old ally the United States and other Western countries worried about the suspension of democracy and curtailment of some human rights.

Thailand accused the United States in February of meddling in its political affairs.

A Thai government spokesman, Yongyuth Mayalarp, said Russia and Thailand would sign five memorandums of understanding on Wednesday on increasing cooperation on energy, investment, suppressing drug crime, tourism and culture.

Russia has also shown interest in buying rubber from Thailand, the world's biggest grower and exporter of the commodity, and Medvedev was expected to follow up on earlier talks on cooperation with Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha.

"The Russian prime minister has expressed interest in Thai agriculture

products including rubber," Yongyuth said.

Medvedev's visit, the first by a Russian prime minister in 25 years, will include stops at Bangkok's glittering Grand Palace and Temple of the Emerald Buddha.

The ruble's sharp decline over the past year is exacting a toll on Southeast Asian tourism as Russians think twice about their next beach holiday in Thailand, Cambodia and Vietnam.

Thailand drew 1.6 million Russian tourists in 2014, down 8.6 percent.

"Talks aimed at enticing Russian visitors to Thailand despite the Russian currency's depreciation are high on the agenda," said Yongyuth.

Reuters

Memorial service held on 70th anniversary of Yamato sinking



Photo taken on 7 April, 2015, in the western Japan city of Kure shows a memorial service to honour around 3,000 crew who died when Japanese battleship Yamato was sunk by the US forces 70 years ago in the East China Sea.—KYODO NEWS

HIROSHIMA, 7 April — A memorial service was held on Tuesday in Kure, Hiroshima Prefecture, for about 3,000 crew members aboard the Imperial Japanese Navy's battleship *Yamato* which was sunk by US forces on 7 April, 1945 during World War II.

About 300 people including relatives of the war dead and Maritime Self-Defence Force cadres attended the service held in front of a cenotaph for the war dead in the Old Imperial Navy Cemetery.

Kazushi Hiro, 91, leader of a group of survivors and other people which sponsored the event, delivered a speech paying tribute to the war dead.

Hiro said, "We would

like to contribute to world peace by conveying the war dead's wishes to younger generations."

Kure Mayor Kazutoshi Komura said, "We should not forget that our peace was founded on the sacrifices of the war dead."

A naval ensign was hoisted and a local MSDF band played as the families in turn placed white chrysanthemums at the cenotaph.

Of the 3,332 crew members aboard the *Yamato*, 276 survived the sinking.

The *Yamato*, completed in Kure in December 1941 as the then largest battleship in the world, was sunk by US warplanes in the East China Sea southwest of Kagoshima Prefecture while on its way to Okinawa.—Kyodo News

Militants in Malaysia planned raids for guns, attacks in capital

KUALA LUMPUR, 7 April — Suspected militants loyal to the Islamic State (IS) had planned to raid Malaysian army camps and police stations to seize weapons and to attack "strategic locations" in the capital, Malaysia's police chief said on Tuesday.

Hours after news of the arrest of 17 suspects, lawmakers passed an anti-terrorism bill early on Tuesday following more than 10 hours of debate on legislation that reintroduces detention without trial three years after it was revoked.

Police arrested the 17 on Sunday saying they wanted to establish an Islamist regime in the Muslim-majority Southeast Asian country.

"The purpose of this new terrorist group is to establish an Islamic country

ala IS in Malaysia," police chief Khalid Abu Baker said in a statement on Tuesday.

Malaysia has not seen any significant militant attacks but has arrested 92 citizens on suspicion of links to the Islamic State. Authorities have identified 39 Malaysians in Syria and Iraq.

Militants have used Facebook and other social media to draw recruits, attracting thousands of followers online.

The 17 were arrested in various locations in the northern state of Kedah and in the capital, Kuala Lumpur.

They had also planned kidnappings and to rob a bank. Khalid did not identify any locations he said they planned to attack in Kuala Lumpur and the nearby fed-

eral administrative centre of Putrajaya.

Prime Minister Najib Razak oversaw the repeal of an Internal Security Act, which allowed for detention without trial, in 2012 under a reform agenda.

Phil Robertson of Human Rights Watch described the legislation reintroducing it as "a giant step backwards for human rights".

"Malaysia has reopened Pandora's Box for politically motivated, abusive state actions," he said in a statement.

The law permits police to arrest and detain individuals suspected of terrorist activities, with decisions for extension of detention made by a Prevention of Terrorism Board, and ruling out courts from having jurisdiction

over board decisions.

Khalid did not identify any suspects but said among them was a 49-year old former member of the Kumpulan Militan Malaysia militant group who was suspected of getting military training in Syria last year, and earlier in Afghanistan and Indonesia.

A 38-year-old suspect was a religious teacher who went to Syria in September 2014 to join Islamic State and returned in December. Two other suspects were in the army, and one was a security guard who had access to weapons.

A former member of the Jemaah Islamiyah militant group from Indonesia who was skilled in handling weapons was also detained, Khalid said.

Reuters

China to document its tourists behaving badly



Chinese tourists visit Wat Phra Kaeo (Emerald Buddha Temple) in Bangkok on 23 March, 2015.—REUTERS

SHANGHAI, 7 April — China will keep records of “uncivilised” behaviour by its tourists for up to two years, the country’s tourism agency said on Tuesday, to combat a spate of incidents abroad in recent

years which it said reflected badly on the country’s image.

Bad behaviour included violating customs, destroying public infrastructure and historic sites, causing disturbances on public transport and participating in gambling and prostitution, the agency said.

“China’s image has already been tarnished,” the China National Tourism Administration said on its website.

The actions of badly behaved tourists has caused many people to “blush with shame” and people who behaved badly overseas needed to “learn a lesson”, it added. It did not specify the nature of any punishment.

Regulators would hunt out bad behaviour through tips from local tourism bureaus, media reports and

the general public.

In 2013, a Chinese student sparked an outcry in Egypt after scratching his name on the wall of an ancient temple in Luxor, while a mainland couple drew ire in Hong Kong for allowing their two-year-old child to defecate on a sidewalk.

Thai authorities issued thousands of Chinese-language etiquette manuals in February after Chinese tourists were caught drying underwear at a temple, kicking a bell at a sacred shrine and washing their feet in a public restroom.

Overseas travel has boomed in recent years among increasingly affluent Chinese, who have become the world’s biggest spenders on travel since 2012, according to the UN World Tourism Organization.

Reuters

Nagasaki institute makes proposals on Northeast Asia nuke-free zone

TOKYO, 7 April — A research centre in Nagasaki for the abolition of nuclear weapons on Tuesday urged the Japanese and South Korean governments to take the lead in establishing a nuclear weapon-free zone in Northeast Asia ahead of a UN conference to review the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. Nagasaki University’s Research Centre for Nuclear Weapons Abolition made the call as it unveiled a seven-point proposal for achieving the nuclear-free zone that is expected to geographically cover Japan, South Korea and North Korea.

“Although the NPT review conference (to start in late April in New York) is said to become a difficult one amid sluggish progress

in nuclear disarmament, we hope this proposal will help create a breakthrough,” Hiromichi Umebayashi, ex-director of the centre who has led the project, told a Press conference at the Foreign Press Centre in Tokyo. According to the proposal, the three countries as well as the surrounding nuclear powers — China, Russia and the United States — should not only pursue North Korea’s denuclearization, but also seek to conclude a “comprehensive framework agreement” that is aimed at resolving related pending security issues simultaneously.

The framework should include declarations to terminate the Korean War — which has yet to end technically in the absence of a

formal peace treaty — and provide mutual non-aggression, assurance of rights to access nuclear and other energy, and an agreement on a treaty to establish the Northeast Asia Nuclear Weapon Free Zone, it said.

It also said Japan and South Korea, by proposing the establishment of the nuclear-free zone, should “fulfill their obligations” set forth by the previous NPT review conference in 2010 that called on all state parties to pursue policies that are fully compatible with the objective of achieving a world without nuclear weapons.

In the zone, Japan and South Korea will be assured that they will not face nuclear attacks or intimidation, which means that they will

no longer have to rely on the nuclear deterrence provided by the United States for its protection against potential attacks.

“We worked out this proposal so that the Japanese government can shift to a security policy that does not rely on the nuclear umbrella and can insist on nuclear weapons abolition with more conviction as a country that has suffered atomic bombings,” Umebayashi said.

The research centre is based in Nagasaki, the second city devastated by US atomic bombing in 1945, after Hiroshima. It was launched in April 2012 to conduct research focusing on the elimination of nuclear weapons.

Kyodo News

Hezbollah says Iran nuclear agreement ‘rules out spectre of regional war’



A poster of Lebanon’s Hezbollah leader Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah is seen during a snow storm in Al-Rihan, south Lebanon on 13 Feb, 2015.—REUTERS

BEIRUT, 7 April — The leader of Lebanon’s Hezbollah said on Monday that a framework nuclear agreement that Iran reached with world powers last week rules out the spectre of regional war.

“There is no doubt that the Iranian nuclear deal will be big and important to the region,” Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah said in an interview with Syria’s al-Ikhbariya television.

“The agreement, God willing, rules out the spectre of regional war and world war,” he said.

The tentative accord, struck on Thursday after eight days of talks in Switzerland, clears the way for

a settlement to allay Western fears that Iran could build an atomic bomb, with economic sanctions on Teheran being lifted in return.

Nasrallah said the accord would prevent conflict as “the Israeli enemy was always threatening to bomb Iranian facilities and that bombing would definitely lead to a regional war.”

The Shi’ite Muslim Hezbollah was founded with Iranian help in the 1980s to fight Israel in Lebanon. It has grown into a powerful political and military force and is fighting alongside President Bashar al-Assad’s army in Syria’s civil war.

Reuters

S Korea condemns Japan for territorial claim over disputed islets

SEOUL, 7 April — South Korea on Tuesday condemned Japan for reasserting its territorial claim over South Korea-controlled islets in the Sea of Japan in its annual foreign policy report.

“Despite our repeated warnings, Japan carried out acts of running contrary to history by Cabinet endorsement of the Diplomatic Bluebook, which contains unjust claims over Dokdo and victims of ‘comfort

women,’” South Korea’s Foreign Ministry said in a statement, referring to the islets by their Korean name.

“Although the Japanese government continues to make such nonsensical claims, the historical truth that Dokdo is the first victim of Japan’s aggression into the Korean Peninsula and ‘comfort women’ suffered unspeakable pains and scars can never be deleted or revised,” it said.

The statement was issued after the Japanese document reaffirmed Tokyo’s position that the islets, known as Takeshima in Japanese, are Japanese territory based on historical facts and international law.

South Korea on Monday issued a similar statement, denouncing Japan for laying its claim to the territory in newly approved school textbooks.

South Korean Vice Foreign Minister Cho Tae

Yong also summoned Japanese Ambassador to South Korea Koro Bessho to lodge a protest against Japan’s approval of the textbooks.

Japan’s education ministry said on Monday that all 18 social studies textbooks authorized for use at Japanese junior high schools from April next year describe the islets as Japanese in line with new government guidelines.

Kyodo News

Greek parliament backs setting up committee to investigate bailout

ATHENS, 7 April — Greek lawmakers voted on Tuesday in favour of setting up a committee to examine the circumstances under which Greece agreed to bailouts totalling 240 billion euros (174.45 billion pounds) with the European Union and International Monetary Fund.

Relations are tense between Athens and its creditors, on whom it depends for money to stay afloat. Greece, which has not received any bailout funds since last August, is fast running out of cash and struggling to strike a deal on reforms needed to unblock that aid.

“After five years of parliamentary silence on the major issues that caused the bailout catastrophe, today we commence a procedure that will give answers to the questions concerning the Greek people,” Prime



Greek Prime Minister
Alexis Tsipras

Minister Alexis Tsipras told lawmakers before the vote in the early hours of Tuesday.

The committee, proposed by Tsipras’s leftist Syriza party and its coalition partner, the right-wing Independent Greeks, will look into how Greece entered the agreements and any other issue relating to the bailouts and their implementation.

This includes the revision of the 2009 budget

deficit, whose wildly gyrating figures triggered the country’s fiscal crisis, a debt restructuring in 2012 and the recapitalisation of the country’s banks.

The proposal was approved with 156 of the 250 lawmakers present voting in favour, 72 against and 22 abstaining.

Former prime minister Antonis Samaras, now the main opposition leader, accused Tsipras of trying to distract the public from the pressing issues facing the economy.

“Indeed we will need a new committee... (to examine) the credit event (crunch) which you are bringing closer... and for the new bailout you are leading us towards,” Samaras said.

A fierce critic of Greece’s bailouts and the unpopular austerity attached to them, Tsipras had made setting up such a commit-

tee one of his pre-election pledges and has repeatedly promised to scrap measures such as wage and pension cuts.

Greeks have been hit hard by austerity imposed on them under the bailout agreements over the last five years. Greece is only just emerging from years of economic depression and roughly one in four Greeks is still unemployed.

In March, parliament passed an anti-poverty bill offering food stamps and free electricity to the poor to tackle what Tsipras calls the country’s humanitarian crisis. The bailout committee follows a parliamentary panel set up to audit ballooning debt and another to demand reparations for the Nazi occupation, a claim which has strained relations between Greece and its biggest creditor, Germany.

Reuters

Obama says confident Iran sanctions could be reimposed if deal broken

WASHINGTON, 7 April — President Barack Obama said in an interview released on Tuesday he is confident sanctions against Iran could be reimposed if Teheran violates an agreement to restrict its nuclear programme.

Obama told National Public Radio (NPR) that US and European negotiators are trying to reach a deal with Iran in which sanctions could be reimposed without a UN Security Council vote, where Teheran-ally Russia would have a veto.

“We are absolutely convinced we can do it again,” Obama said of the international sanctions, which have crippled Iran’s economy.

He said a reimposition of sanctions would be triggered by a finding of the International Atomic Energy Agency that Teheran had broken the agreement.

After reaching a framework deal last week, negotiators face an end-of-June deadline to reach a final agreement meant to prevent Iran from being able to build a nuclear weapon.

Obama said a nuclear deal could help strengthen moderate elements in Iran.

“If they are shown to have delivered for their people, presumably it strengthens their hand vis-a-vis some of the hardliners inside of Iran,” he said.

Obama also took a swipe at Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker, a possible Republican presidential

candidate in 2016, who has vowed to scrap any deal with Iran on his first day in office if elected.

Obama said if presidents were to withdraw from international agreements reached by their predecessors it would be a problem for US allies and “embolden our enemies.”

“It would be a foolish approach to take, and, you know, perhaps Mr Walker, after he’s taken some time to bone up on foreign policy, will feel the same way,” Obama said.

In an excerpt released on Monday, Obama poured cold water on an Israeli demand that a deal be predicated on Teheran recognizing Israel.

“The notion that we would condition Iran not getting nuclear weapons in a verifiable deal on Iran recognizing Israel is really akin to saying that we won’t sign a deal unless the nature of the Iranian regime completely transforms,” Obama said.

“That is, I think, a fundamental misjudgment,” he said.

Obama said a nuclear deal would not solve many of the other disagreements Washington has with Teheran.

“They’re still going to be financing Hezbollah. They’re still supporting Assad dropping barrel bombs on children. They are still sending arms to the Houthis in Yemen that have helped destabilize the country.”

Reuters

Obama says would move fast to take Cuba off terrorism sponsor list

WASHINGTON, 7 April — President Barack Obama vowed on Tuesday to act quickly once he receives a State Department recommendation on whether to remove Cuba from the US list of terrorism-sponsoring countries, a remaining obstacle to the restoration of relations between Washington and Havana.

With just days to go before a hemispheric summit in Panama where Obama will come face-to-face with Cuban President Raul Castro, he offered no clear sign of how he was leaning or the timeframe for his decision. He ordered the review im-

mediately after announcing a diplomatic breakthrough with Havana on 17 December.

Obama, in a Reuters interview in early March, said he hoped the United States would be able to open an embassy in Cuba by the time of the 10-11 April Summit of the Americas, and US officials have since said the review was being expedited.

But the lack of a decision so far on taking Cuba off the terrorism blacklist — something Havana has steadfastly demanded — has raised strong doubts about whether the review will be finished in time to make fur-

ther strides toward normalization before the summit.

“As soon as I get a recommendation, I’ll be in a position to act on it,” Obama said in an interview with National Public Radio.

Obama gave no sense of where the administration is heading on the issue but made clear that his decision would be based not on “whether they engage in repressive or authoritarian activities in their own country” but on the “current activities of the Cuban government” with regard to terrorism.

Cuba was added to the list of terrorism sponsors in 1982, when it was aiding

Marxist insurgencies. But it is currently aiding a peace process with Colombia’s left-wing FARC guerrillas.

“I think there’s a real opportunity here, and we are going to continue to make — move forward on it,” Obama said. “Our hope is to be in a position where we can open an embassy there, that we can start having more regular contacts and consultations around a whole host of issues, some of which we have interests in common.”

He added: “What I’m saying is, I’m going to be taking a very close look at what the State Department recommends.”—Reuters

Former British PM Blair to assail Cameron over EU referendum



Former British Prime Minister Tony Blair speaks during the Egypt Economic Development Conference (EEDC) in Sharm el-Sheikh, in the South Sinai governorate, south of Cairo on 14 March, 2015.—REUTERS

LONDON, 7 April —

British Prime Minister David Cameron’s plan to hold a European Union membership referendum if he is re-elected next month would lead to an intense period of uncertainty for businesses, former British Prime Minister Tony Blair will say on Tuesday.

Cameron, whose Conservatives are neck-and-neck with the opposition Labour Party in most polls ahead of the 7 May vote, has promised to renegotiate Britain’s ties with Brussels ahead of a referendum by

the end of 2017.

In a campaign speech on Tuesday, former Labour leader Blair, who served as prime minister from 1997-2007, will say the “short-term” pain of Cameron’s proposed re-negotiation has been underestimated.

“Think of the chaos produced by the possibility never mind the reality of Britain quitting Europe,” Blair, 61, will say, according to extracts released in advance by the Labour Party.

“Jobs that are secure suddenly insecure; invest-

ment decisions postponed or canceled; a pall of unpredictability hanging over the British economy,” he will say.

If Britain voted to leave the European Union, business would face the most intense uncertainty since World War Two, Blair will say.

“There would be significant business uncertainty in the run-up to a vote but should the vote go the way of exit, then there would be the most intense period of business anxiety, reconsideration of options

and instability since the war.” Blair will argue that Cameron made the referendum pledge to appease Euroskeptic members of his party and to try to win back voters who have defected to the anti-EU UK Independence Party.

“This issue, touching as it does the country’s future, is too important to be traded like this,” Blair will say.

Blair will praise opposition Labour leader Ed Miliband for resisting pressure to promise a referendum.—Reuters

PERSPECTIVES

Wednesday, 8 April, 2015

Age-inappropriate teaching can limit children's progress

By Aung Khin

Most Myanmar children are sent to preschools or nurseries at around four years old. They are exposed to writing both Myanmar and English alphabets from that time. The reason for this premature teaching is due to their parents' and kindergarten teachers' belief that they need to be ready for writing and reading when they go to primary schools.

Education experts have warned of the damaging pressure to perform in class at a young age. Children in Myanmar are obliged by law to be in full-time schooling by age five. However, almost all Myanmar children have to start

learning at preschools. This age is suitable only for play-based learning. A premature start to formal learning is likely to cause profound damage to the self-image and learning dispositions of a generation of children.

Although preschool teachers are given training before or after they have set up their kindergartens, there are still some nurseries operated by teachers who have not received training for class control methodology or child psychology. On the other hand, many parents lack knowledge about the appropriate age for children to start formal classes. These circumstances have prevented some children from receiving the greatest educational benefits.

Research by prominent education experts and psychologists on children's play in hunter-gatherer societies, and evolutionary psychology studies on other mammalian young, have identified play as an adaptation that enabled early humans to become powerful learners and problem-solvers.

For young children, playful activity leads to the growth of more connections between neurons,

particularly in the frontal lobe—the part of the brain responsible for uniquely human higher mental functions.

Many Myanmar adults have grown up having undergone schooling from an early age as their parents, lacking knowledge about age-appropriate teaching methods, wanted them to learn reading and writing. With this in mind, educative programmes for parents should be conducted and preschools should be monitored to ensure appropriate teaching for young children.

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Ushering in the Thingyan Festival

By Myo Myint

Thingyan, the Myanmar Water Festival, is around the corner. One can sense it from the huge pandals being built, the repeated telecasts of golden-oldie Thingyan songs by aspiring singers accompanied by little known dancing actresses and models wearing faux-padauk in their hair, the advertisements of ephemeral western style Thingyan songs that appear annual at this time of the year on TV and radio, the skimpy revealing dresses being displayed in stores, the youths with heads dyed in flamboyant colours, and weird hair-cuts, and sales of goods unrelated to Thingyan being held to herald the festival. The weather is also getting hotter day by day and soon the four-day festival will arrive followed by the celebration of the first day of the Myanmar New Year.

For those young in age, or young in spirit, it is a time to look forward to: the merrymaking, zipping about in crowded vehicles from one water throwing pandal to another, dressing up (or dressing less), dancing singing, getting intoxicated and flirting with the opposite sex. For the rich and adventurer, it is a time to spread one's wings and celebrate Thingyan abroad. For newly emerging and established pop singers,

starlets and fading stars it is a time to make some money and get some publicity with their Thingyan song and dance routines. For those money-minded wealthy people and owners of enterprises, it is time to compete for the right to set up a pandal, have fun, make money and promote their products all at the same time, and for those with less money to invest, to find a good spot to set up a food and refreshment stall and make a few extra bucks. For the middle aged, it is time to think of gaining merit while enjoying the fun and festivities. For the aged, it is time to fret about how to pass the noisiest week in the year and find a place to meditate far from the maddening crowd. For those young in years, but mature in mind, it is a time to seek shelter in meditation centers and learn more about Buddhism. For the overworked employees, it is time to get a bit of rest and do spring cleaning and washing.

Thingyan has always been a time for merriment since ancient times, as literary records and frescoes in ancient pagodas will show. However, in the ancient past, it had been celebrated without the assistance of hosepipes, water pumps and water balloons and without malice or desire to cause pain.

Due to modernization

and the many opportunities that it presents for purposes other than to celebrate the end of the old year and the beginning of the new in a traditional manner, Thingyan has increasingly become commercialized and the way it is celebrated by many young people and a few older ones have deviated from the traditional concepts of merrymaking, celebration and doing merit. Take for instance the Thingyan pandal. The traditional pandal is a temporary inexpensive one built of bamboo poles and coconut fronds and decorated with the scented blossoms of padauk by the youths of the locality for them to throw water. Young people gather there to throw water using bowls. There is no intention to cause pain or alarm. Some even use sprigs of padauk to gently spray water on others. But now things have changed. Costly huge two-storied pandals, many of them sponsored by businessmen to promote their products, are set up in centrally located spots like Kandawgyi and Pyay road in Yangon and along the palace moat in Mandalay. Some of these pandals charge exorbitant fees for people to spray water on revelers using hosepipes operated with powerful pumps. Bands with popular singers and dancers are hired to entertain as well as

entice merrymakers to visit the pandals to get themselves thoroughly soaked. Some even hire entertainers from neighbouring countries to draw more attraction to their pandals. There are even small restaurants that also serve alcohol attached to the pandals to cater to the merrymakers. Hookah shisha is also made available for merry makers to smoke so that they become livelier. Dressed in the latest revealing fashion that is totally alien to Myanmar culture and contrary to the significance of the water festival, some revelers take advantage of the joyful mood and misbehave as if given the license to act indecently in public. With micro shorts, bare midriffs, backs and shoulders being in fashion for bold females these days, rude, nasty shocks are likely to occur during the Thingyan festival unless these females are forewarned about the legal consequences by the authorities concerned.

It must not be thought that Thingyan traditions have been forsaken by all. In big cities like Yangon and Mandalay, the transgressors of Thingyan traditions are still a minority and the majority are mere spectators of the misbehaviours, and they continue to conduct themselves in accordance with tradition. In towns and villag-

es, people continue to have fun during Thingyan in the way their forefathers use to. If they can afford to, they carry out such meritorious deeds as offering food and refreshments to all who pass by their house, they do so with the help of relatives and friends. People living in states and regions continue to celebrate Thingyan in their own unique way. The Rakhine youths have their own way of throwing water. A boat to put water for throwing is placed in the pandal. Damsels sit on one side of the long boat facing the interior of the pandal. Young men stand on the other side with buckets of water that they have bought from the pandal. Each lad chooses the damsel he wants to pour water on and initiates the water pouring as well as the chatting. After being poured water for about three times, the damsel throws water on the lad using the content of the boat. Another unique tradition in Rakhine state is the sandalwood grinding competition participated by Rakhine women held on the eve of New Year to offer the sandalwood paste to the images of Lord Buddha at pagodas on New Year day. The Mon people, as part of their Thingyan rituals, prepare a dish called Thingyan rice which consists of cooked rice, crispy fried pounded dried kakuy-

an fish (*Eleutheronema tri-dactylum*), crispy fried onions, the scent of bee wax, and is eaten together with fried green mangoes. On New Year Day which usually falls on 17th April, the fun and frolic end and Myanmar people concentrate on merit making activities like going to the pagoda together as a family, and releasing captive cattle, birds and fish. They also collectively hold ceremonies to pay their respects and present gifts to the elderly living in the ward. They may also invite monks to recite Parittas to bless the neighbourhood.

Thingyan is the most beloved of Myanmar festivals as it is the most joyful as well as the most significant, not only for each person, but also the country as a whole, since it brings us all together to mark the happy transition from one year to another from which we anticipate a better, more peaceful and more prosperous future for the country and oneself. As the traditional spirit of Thingyan should be strengthened, so that it will not be diluted by foreign influence, it is therefore vital that we train our younger generations not only to value the irreplaceable traditions of the Thingyan Festival, but also to respect our rich culture to ensure that our uniqueness and identity are never lost.

LOCAL NEWS

Habitat destruction threatens golden deer population

MAGWAY, 7 April — Development, drought and hunting threaten Myanmar's golden deer population, with the species' habitat shrinking each year, according to conservation experts.

One of the conservation areas for the golden deer is Shwesettaw sanctuary in Magway Region. Established in 1940, the 280-square-mile sanctuary is bordered by Minbu, Pwintbyu, Ngaphe and Sedoktara townships.

The sanctuary is home

to 14 species of mammals, 43 species of amphibian, 39 species of butterfly and 113 species of birds.

Many golden deer can be seen in the sanctuary. The deer can also be found at Chatthin sanctuary in Kanbalu Township, and Thayet, Shwebo and Meiktila townships.

The government enacted the Conservation of Natural Areas Law (1994) for protection of flora and fauna.

Kaung Thuta (Minbu)



Kanaungsu Ward wins Hinthada football tournament

HINTHADA, 7 April — The Kanaungsu Ward team defeated Pabedan Ward 2-1 in the final of the Hinthada Township Management Committee Chairman's Cup U-23 football tournament at the township football ground on 4 April.

Chairman of the committee U Tin Aung Win presented the trophy to Kanaungsu Ward, Commander of Township Police Force Police Major Toe Win, second prize to Pabedan Ward and Chairman of Township Development Affairs Supporting Committee U Aye Cho third prize to Talokhtaw station. More than 500 spectators watched the final, including departmental personnel and social organization members.

Kyaw Kyaw (Hinthada)

Bridge under construction on inter-district road



TADAU, 7 April — The TadaU Township Rural Development Department is upgrading a bridge across Chaungwa Creek on No 1 inter-district road, replacing

the existing span with a reinforced concrete structure. The 20-year-old wooden bridge has gradually become damaged through wear and tear. The No 1

inter-district road crosses five creeks along its route. The bridge on Chaungwa Creek is under 30-feet long.

Khin Zar Mon Myint (Law)

Workshop emphasizes importance of libraries to community

YINMABIN, 7 April — A workshop on enhancement of library services was staged at the hall of Basic Education High School in Yinmabin, Sagaing Region, on Monday with participation of officials and staff of the Information and Public Relations Department.

Staff Officer of the district IPRD U Hsan Myint spoke about the important role of library services in broadening the horizons of local residents.

Librarian U Aung Nay Lin of Bawdi Mandaing library in Nyaungbingyisu Village discussed the contribution of volunteers to

the development of libraries.

Similar workshops were held in Salingyi and Kani townships in the third week of March.

Tun Ko Ko (Yinmabin)



Link connections installed for electric safety of people



NATOGYI, 7 April — Electricians led by Township Electrical Engineer U Ye Htet Hein installed 20 link connections at 400-volt power lines in Natogyi, Mandalay Region, to

improve safety.

A 33 kilovolt line and an 11 kV line pass through Natogyi to connect the grid which supplies electricity across the nation.

Htay Myint Maung

Two new concrete bridges span Pyaungbok Creek in Sagaing Region

KALAY, 7 April — Public Works has built two concrete bridges across Pyaungbok Creek on Mawlaik-Pyaungbok-Sawbwa

Yayshin Road in Sagaing Region.

The road links Kalay and Mawlaik districts.

Both bridges have 18-foot-wide motorways,

built with K198 million from the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw fund in fiscal 2014-15.

Public Works constructed the eight-mile

long section of Mawlaik-Pyaungbok-Sawbwa Yayshin road spending K780 million from the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw fund.

Joe Net



UN Security Council mulls how to help Syria's Yarmouk civilians

UNITED NATIONS, 7 April — The United Nations Security Council said on Monday it would look at how to help some 18,000 Palestinian refugees and Syrian civilians in a camp largely taken over by Islamic State as a top UN official suggested it consider measures to evacuate people.

Pierre Krahenbuhl, head of the UN Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), briefed UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and the 15-member council about Yarmouk camp on the outskirts of Damascus, just a few miles (kilometres) from President Bashar al-Assad's palace.

"What the civilians in Yarmouk are most concerned about right now is bare survival. It's as simple and straightforward as that," Krahenbuhl told reporters via video link from Jordan.

Islamic State has taken most of Yarmouk from rival groups while the Syrian army surrounds the district, according to the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights. Islamic State rules swathes of Syria and Iraq and is the target of US-led air strikes. Krahenbuhl said states with influence over warring parties should push for protection of civilians and urged the council to "think about possible meas-

ures that would facilitate an orderly and safe evacuation of those who wish to leave the camp."

"That is a highly complex undertaking in an environment that is as delicate and dangerous as Yarmouk currently, but those would be concrete steps to be looked at," he said. Krahenbuhl said UNRWA had not had any contact with Islamic State militants.

The Security Council said in a statement it would "look into further measures that can be taken to help in providing the necessary protection and assistance."

It called for aid access to Yarmouk and for "safe passage and evacuation of

civilians."

Yarmouk became a battleground before the siege, and has been devastated by street fighting, air attacks and shelling. The United Nations said 94 civilians had made it out on Sunday, though some 3,500 children were still trapped.

The chief Palestinian delegate at the United Nations, Riyad Mansour, appealed for international help "in any form or shape" to secure a safe evacuation route for civilians out of Yarmouk.

Yarmouk was home to half a million Palestinians before the Syrian conflict began in 2011. The war has



Pierre Krahenbuhl, United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) Commissioner-General speaks during an interview in Damascus on 11 March, 2015.

REUTERS

killed 220,000 people and displaced millions of Syrians. Krahenbuhl suggested Security Council envoys visit Yarmouk because

"nothing replaces seeing a situation for oneself and having to confront the realities on the ground."

Reuters

Hungry sea lion pulls man holding fish off boat in California



SAN DIEGO, 7 April — A man was injured on Sunday after he was pulled into the water by a sea lion that jumped from the water at a San Diego marina and grabbed a fish he was holding, authorities said.

The sea lion jumped onto the railing of a boat at the Hyatt Mission Bay Marina and snatched a fish being held by a man on the boat, said San Diego Fire Rescue spokesman Lee Swanson.

The man was pulled

into the water for about 15 seconds, Swanson said, and was brought to a hospital where he was treated for cuts on his arm and hand.

Media, citing witnesses including lifeguards, reported the man was posing for

a photo with the large fish when the incident occurred.

California sea lions, many of them pups, have been washing ashore stranded and hungry in record numbers in recent months.

Reuters

South Africa detains girl trying to join Islamic State

JOHANNESBURG, 7 April — South African authorities detained a 15-year-old girl who was travelling to join Islamic State, the state security ministry said on Monday, the country's first known arrest linked to the militant group.

The ministry said it was investigating whether Islamic State had a recruitment network in South Africa.

The teenager was stopped at Cape Town airport on Sunday after evidence was found in her bedroom indicating she had been in contact with Islamic State recruiters, the ministry said.

"We can confirm that she was planning to leave the country with the intention of joining IS, and had been actively engaged with social media networks,"

Minister of State Security David Mahlobo was quoted as saying in *The Star* newspaper.

"An investigation is under way as to how far this network goes, whether there is a cell in the country. We cannot allow South Africa to be used as recruitment space," he said.

Thousands of people from more than 80 nations, including Britain, other parts of Europe, China and the United States, have joined the ranks of Islamic State and other militant groups in Syria and Iraq over the past few months.

Islamic State seized large swathes of land in Iraq and Syria last June, including territory close to the Turkish border. A US-led coalition has launched air strikes to try and push the Sunni militant group back.—Reuters

Lufthansa says not obligated to report crash pilot's medical record

FRANKFURT, 7 April — Lufthansa (LHAG.DE) said on Monday it was not required to inform German aviation authorities about Andreas Lubitz's former depression because he qualified as a pilot before stricter reporting rules went into effect in 2013.

Lubitz, a co-pilot at Lufthansa's budget division Germanwings, is believed to have deliberately crashed a plane into the French Alps and killed 150 people.

The question of what Lufthansa knew about any psychiatric problems may be a factor in its liability in the crash. Germany's Allianz estimates that insurers will

end up paying \$300 million in claims and costs related to the crash.

Lubitz broke off pilot training for several months in 2009. When he resumed his training, he told the Lufthansa pilot instructors by email he had overcome a period of severe depression. He was first certified to fly commercial planes in 2012.

Under European regulations, pilots with psychiatric conditions should be referred to the licensing authority by aeromedical examiners, who may then decide to restrict the pilot's licence.

The Luftfahrtbundesamt (LBA), the relevant German authority, on Sunday

said it had "no information at all" before the crash about Lubitz's depression.

Lufthansa said that a provision in the new regulation, introduced in Germany in April 2013, safeguarded certain pre-existing fit-to-fly certificates and medical certificates issued by specialized aviation doctors. Aeromedical centers or aviation doctors could therefore issue extensions to such medical certificates even after the new rules came into effect, the airline said. "A general and separate duty to refer to the LBA did not therefore arise as a result of the change in the legal position," Lufthansa said.—Reuters



A general view of debris, seen in this picture made available to the media by the French Interior Ministry on 1 April, 2015, from the wreckage of a Germanwings Airbus A320 which crashed, near Seyne-les-Alpes.—REUTERS

BUSINESS & HEALTH

US researchers separate cancer cells from blood using sound waves

WASHINGTON, 7 April — A simple blood test may one day replace invasive biopsies thanks to a new device that uses sound waves to locate and separate cancer cells circulating in patients' blood, US researchers said on Monday.

Cancer cells often break free from their original locations and circulate through the bloodstream, but finding them has proven challenging because there might be only one such cell in every one billion blood cells in the sample, the researchers reported in the US journal *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*.

Most existing cell-sorting technologies require tagging cells with chemicals or exposing them to strong mechanical forces that may damage them, but sound waves offer a gentler alternative, allowing scientists to recover intact cancer cells that are ready for further testing, they said.

The concept behind the new method involves placing two acoustic transducers, which produce sound waves, on either side of a microchannel on a microfluidic chip. When the two waves meet, they combine to form a standing wave, which thus produces pressure nodes, or lines of low pressure, across the channel.

"Because the sound waves are tilted so they run across the microchannel

at an angle, each cell encounters several pressure nodes as it flows through the channel," according to a statement released by the researchers from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Pennsylvania State University and Carnegie Mellon University. "As cells encounter each node, they are pushed further to the side of the channel; the distance of cell movement depends on their size and other properties, such as compressibility."

According to the researchers, it takes about five hours for the dime-sized device to separate cancer cells from a typical patient sample of about 6 milliliters.

The researchers tested the device with blood samples from three breast cancer patients and found the method is as effective as a commercially available device.

"With further improvements in cell throughput, this work could offer a useful new tool, for both basic research into the complex topic of circulating tumor cells and for clinical assessment of different types of cancer," coauthor Carnegie Mellon University President Subra Suresh said.

The researchers are now working on further improving the device's flow rate, as well as making it more robust and cost-effective.

Xinhua

Asia up on Wall Street's lead, Aussie jumps as RBA stands pat

TOKYO, 7 April — Asian stocks rose on Tuesday, following a positive lead from Wall Street, while the dollar held onto its gains after rebounding against the euro and yen on higher US Treasury yields.

Spreadbetters saw the upward momentum for equities continuing into Europe, forecasting a higher open for FTSE, Germany's DAX and France's CAC.

The Australian dollar jumped after the Reserve Bank of Australia surprised some by standing pat on monetary policy, leaving the cash rate at a record low 2.25 percent.

But given the risks facing the Australian economy like sliding prices of iron ore, the country's biggest export, the central bank did leave the door open for future action, saying further easing might be appropriate.

"We have a cut for May. The key development is that weaker commodity prices, lower terms of trade, and a somewhat sticky currency will push them over the line in May," said Su-Lin Ong, senior economist at RBC Capital Markets.

The Aussie was up 1.3 percent at \$0.7686, pulling away from the six-year low of \$0.7534 plumbed last week. Australian shares rose more than 1 percent earlier

on easing hopes but were last up 0.4 percent.

Elsewhere in the region, shares in Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand gained. Chinese stocks hit a new seven-year high ahead of the quarterly earnings season. MSCI's broadest index of Asia-Pacific shares outside Japan gained 0.3 percent.

Japan's Nikkei climbed 1.2 percent as the market had an opportunity to gauge how US equities responded to Friday's much weaker-than-expected non-farm payrolls.

"How the US market would react to the weak jobs data was of concern to investors," said Nobuhiko Kuramochi, a strategist at Mizuho Securities in Tokyo.

"The market is relieved on views that the Fed will not likely raise interest rates while the economy is seen still fragile."

Wall Street shares rose overnight as the disappointing jobs data fed expectations that the Federal Reserve could wait longer before raising interest rates. The US stock market was closed on Friday, when the closely-followed data was released.

In currencies, the euro inched up 0.1 percent to \$1.0936, after climbing down from an overnight



An employee of the Tokyo Stock Exchange (TSE) stretches his body as he works at the bourse at TSE in Tokyo on 13 March, 2015.—REUTERS

high of \$1.1036. The dollar was steady at 119.60 yen after bouncing from a low of 118.80 on Monday.

A spike in US Treasury yields buoyed the dollar. The 10-year yield jumped overnight from two-month lows and was back at a level prior to the weak non-farm data release. The benchmark note last yielded around 1.90 percent.

"It is important to look at the unemployment rate, which remained unchanged and earnings, which increased last month. The moves in the financial markets tell us that equity, bond and FX traders share our view and we expect the dollar to avoid further losses this week," Kathy Lien, managing director of FX strategy at BK Asset Man-

agement, said in a note.

In commodities, crude oil dipped, giving back some of the large gains made overnight when the market reassessed how quickly Iran might increase exports after a preliminary nuclear deal. Goldman Sachs said prices needed to remain low for months to achieve a slowdown in US output growth.

US crude was down 0.8 percent at \$51.70 a barrel after rallying 6 percent on Monday. Brent shed 0.6 percent to \$57.48 a barrel following its 5.7 percent jump.

Gold retreated from a seven-week top as the dollar rebounded. Spot gold was flat at \$1,213.80 an ounce after hitting the seven-week peak of \$1,224.10 on Monday.

Reuters

For some elderly, unclogging leg arteries doesn't improve mobility

SAN FRANCISCO, 7 April — For nursing home residents, surgery to improve blood flow to the legs yields only limited improvements in mobility, according to a new study.

Knowing that so-called lower extremity revascularization may not improve

mobility allows doctors, patients and families to have more realistic discussions about outcomes of the operation, said Dr Emily Finlayson, the study's senior author from the Philip R Lee Institute for Health Policy Studies at the University of California, San Francisco.

"I think the importance of the study is that people can be sanguine of the benefits of this operation in this population," said Finlayson.

The nearly 11,000 nursing home residents in the study had a problem called peripheral artery disease, which results when arteries in the legs are clogged and blood flow is reduced. Pain, trouble walking, poor wound healing, and even gangrene can result.

To treat the condition, the residents underwent lower extremity revascularization between 2005 and 2009, at an average age of 82. Surgeons replaced or reopened their leg arteries with a small balloon to improve blood flow.

Before surgery, three quarters of the residents could not walk, and 40 percent had experienced a de-

cline in overall function, the authors reported in *JAMA Internal Medicine*.

A year after surgery, more than half the people had died. Rates of death or immobility were 63 percent among patients who were able to walk before the operation, and 89 percent among those who couldn't walk before surgery.

Also at one year, a third had a steady decline in function.

Being 80 years old or older, having cognitive impairment, congestive heart failure, kidney failure, needing emergency surgery, not being able to walk before surgery or declining activities of daily living were each tied to an increased risk of dying or not being able to walk after lower extremity revascularization, the researchers write.—Reuters

BOJ starts 2-day meeting, likely to maintain current easing policy

TOKYO, 7 April — The Bank of Japan started a two-day policy meeting on Tuesday, at which the central bank is likely to keep intact its current monetary easing policy despite the likelihood of consumer prices falling into negative territory.

Amid moves by major companies that have decided to raise wages in spring wage talks, the BOJ maintains its outlook that consumer prices are likely to return to a rising path in the latter half of this fiscal year and reach the central bank's 2 percent inflation target.

But the outlook of price developments is likely to be one of the main topics at the gathering, as some of the nine Policy Board members have pointed out the possibility of a delay in the timing of prices' starting to climb again.

The BOJ aims to achieve the 2 percent inflation target in the period centering on fiscal 2015 that started this month.

In February, Japan's core consumer prices remained flat from a year earlier, excluding the impact of last April's consumption tax hike, as prices were weighed down by declines in crude oil prices, according to government data.

With the lingering effects of lower crude oil prices, many economists expect prices are likely to fall into negative territory in the next few months, while the BOJ expects prices to start rising again, judging such effects will likely start to fade around this summer.

Meanwhile, the central bank is expected to retain its current economic assessment as Japan's economy is recovering moderately.—Kyodo News



A retired woman uses a cane as she takes a walk in Enghien-les-Bains, north of Paris, on 26 Aug, 2013.

REUTERS

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV KANG LONG VOY NO (100)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KANG LONG VOY NO (100) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 8.4.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T (3) where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
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Phone No: 2301186

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV KOTA BERLIAN VOY NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA BERLIAN VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 8.4.2015 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 ADVANCE CONTAINER
LINES**

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV TOKYO TRADER VOY NO (1505)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV TOKYO TRADER VOY NO (1505) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 8.4.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S MCC TRANSPORT
(S'PORE) PTE LTD**

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV KOTA TAMPAN VOY NO (TPN-627)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA TAMPAN VOY NO (TPN-627) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 8.4.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to 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 ADVANCE CONTAINER
LINES**

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV MOROTAI VOY NO (YF260R)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MOROTAI VOY NO (YF260R) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 8.4.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S CMA CGM LINE**

Phone No: 2301185

US defence chief calls for Pacific trade pact conclusion



US Defence Secretary Ash Carter

WASHINGTON, 7 April — US Defence Secretary Ashton Carter called on Monday for the early conclusion of a contested Pacific free trade pact, saying he believed US military strength rests on the foundation of a growing economy.

In his first full speech on the US policy of focusing on Asia since he became US defence chief in February, Carter also expressed the hope that new security guidelines with Japan would take bilateral security ties to a "new level."

The Trans-Pacific Partnership trade initiative is "as important to me as another aircraft carrier," Carter said in the speech at Arizona ahead of his first visit to Japan and South Korea.

The trade deal among the United States, Japan and 10 other countries is "one of the most important parts of the rebalance," Carter said, mentioning a phrase President Barack Obama's administration uses to promote its focus on Asia: "rebalance to Asia."

The US-led trade initiative would "underscore our lasting commitment to the Asia-Pacific," said Carter, who will be arriving in Japan on Tuesday for a three-day stay before South Korea.

The 12 countries, also including Australia, a key US security ally in the region, are struggling to strike a deal on the trade pact within this year following multiyear negotiations, but have no clear time frame in sight.

Carter said new guidelines on bilateral defence cooperation with Japan will take "our cooperation to a whole new level, and into new areas like space and cyber space."

Tokyo and Washington are working on putting the finishing touches to the new version of the guidelines and planning to release it after a so-called two-plus-two meeting on 27 April in Washington among foreign and defence ministers from both governments.

The two countries agreed to revise the Guidelines for US-Japan Defence Cooperation, which define the roles of the Japanese Self-Defence Forces and the US military in a contingency, for the first time since 1997, citing changes in the security environment in East Asia.

On China, Carter in his speech mentioned its opaque defence budget, actions in cyber space and assertive claims to islands in disputed areas in the South China Sea.

"We and many other countries are deeply concerned about some of the activities China is undertaking," Carter said.

He also talked about the need to build mutual confidence and constructive dialogue with China, saying, "The US and China are not allies, but we don't have to be adversaries."

Kyodo News

After Nepal tragedy, trekkers safety in hands of living-room weatherman

KATHMANDU, 7 April — Armed with a four-year-old laptop and an unreliable Internet connection, a retired weather forecaster working from his living room is the best local source of climate data for trekkers in Nepal months after a storm killed 32 in the Annapurna massif.

The tragedy, described at the time by Nepal's top civil servant as a "wake up call", has yet to result in any new meteorological services being provided to trekkers and guides, despite promises made by Prime Minister Sushil Koirala.

Instead, those heading to the world's highest mountain range largely rely on Krishna Bhakta Manandhar, a former senior meteorologist at Nepal's Meteorological Forecasting Division. He was among the first to warn that a cyclone in the Bay of Bengal would bring snowstorms in the Annapurnas. "I feel a moral obligation to help those in need," Manandhar, 64, told *Reuters* at his home in Kathmandu. "I am often nervous...they



A trekker stands in front of Mount Everest, which is 8,850 metres high (C), at Kala Patthar in Solukhumbu District on 7 May, 2014.

REUTERS

are high up in the mountains, what happens if I am wrong?"

Thousands of tourists from Europe, North America and East Asia have arrived in Kathmandu for the spring trekking and climbing season. Many have little or no mountain experience, and the failure to overhaul forecasting renews concerns about the safety of Himalayan treks.

"We have seen the government is concerned about this," said Prakash Adhikari, of Himalayan Rescue Association Nepal. "But we are yet to see them make any major improvements."

Annapurna was the nation's worst trekking disaster. Aside from the 32 fatalities, hundreds were injured when waist-high snow fell on a high-altitude pass in October. After criticism for

failing to warn of the weather system, the government promised to set up a new system. An official at the Meteorological Forecasting Division said there "had not been any special improvement" since.

"If the weather is particularly bad, then we put out a press release and contact the home ministry," said the official, who asked not to be named.—*Reuters*

ADVERTISEMENT & GENERAL

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST
Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development
(Department of Rural Development)
National Community Driven Development Project (IDA Grant H814-MM)
Assignment Title: Township Level Technical Assistance

Ref No.	Township Clusters (TC) by Region/State	No of townships per cluster, beginning in October 2015	Potential expansion into additional townships in subsequent years up to a total of
C4.10	Ayeyawaddy	2 TS	6 TS
C4.11	Bago and Yangon	3 TS	8 TS
C4.12	Kayah	2 TS	5 TS
C4.13	Magway and Chin	2 TS	10 TS
C4.14	Mon, Kayin and Tanintharyi	4 TS	12 TS
C4.15	Nay Pyi Taw and Mandalay	3 TS	8 TS
C4.16	Sagaing	12 TS	8 TS

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar has received financing from the World Bank to implement the National Community Driven Development Project (NCDD) under the Department of Rural Development (DRD) of the Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development. The Government intends to apply part of the Grant proceeds to hire consulting services for new townships to be covered starting in year 3 of project implementation, e.g. around September 2015.

The consulting services (the "Services") include:

- Assisting township DRD offices in planning, implementing and monitoring project activities in the respective townships in line with the procedures contained in the Project Operations Manual and directions received from the DRD union office.
- Assisting villages and village tracts in (i) the preparation and annual revision of development plans; (ii) sub-project technical design, cost estimation, review and approval; (iii) Sub-project implementation, including adherence to environmental and social safeguards outlined in the Operations Manual, procurement of labor and materials and supervision during implementation; and (iv) organization of annual social audits.
- Assisting village tract project support committees to manage project funds in a transparent and accountable manner.
- Where applicable, providing technical support as needed to existing project townships within the State/ Region.

The consulting services will be procured in seven separate contracts, covering the geographic areas outlined below. Technical assistance will begin in two to four townships (as per the table above) starting in October 2015, and depending on performance and project needs may be increased into additional townships in 2016 up to the total listed above. The consultant teams will include five full time experts based in each township: (i) team leader/training specialist, (ii) finance officer, (iii) procurement officer, (iv) monitoring and evaluation officer, (v) communication/social accountability/gender officer. Furthermore, there may be a national senior advisor as well as short-term inputs by an international CDD expert to support the township teams. In addition, the Consultant will also locally recruit community facilitators (1 CF per 2 village tracts or 8 villages) and technical facilitators (1 TF per 3 village tracts or 15 villages) to be based in each township. In each township, this team shall be in place for a period of 24 months starting from 1 October 2015 to build the capacity of local DRD offices, with an annual review at the end of the first 24 month period in a given township to see what remaining inputs may be needed in each township. Given the phased nature of township expansion, the contract will be for a period of 48 months.

DRD now invites eligible consulting firms or NGOs ("Consultants") to indicate their interest in providing these Services. Interested Consultants should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services in one or more of the townships in the aforementioned locations. Consultants may associate with other NGOs/ firms in the form of a joint venture or a sub-consultancy to enhance their qualifications. Expressions of Interest must be submitted in a written form to the address below (in person, or by mail, or by e-mail) by **18 May 2015** and clearly indicate the township cluster(s) in which the Consultant is interested. Consultants may indicate more than one township cluster in their Expressions of Interest.

Following a review of Expressions of Interest, DRD will invite short-listed consultants to prepare full proposals. Consultants will be selected in accordance with the QBS method set out in the Consultant Guidelines. Contracts will be structured primarily as lump sum payments against agreed outputs. The short-listing criteria are:

- Past experience with community based development activities in similar conditions as in Myanmar, with prior experience in Myanmar desirable;
- Size of relevant assignment contracts over the past five years.

Further information and detailed sample terms of reference may be obtained from the NCDD Project webpage: <http://www.cdd.drdmyanmar.org> or the address below during office hours from 09h00 to 16h00, Monday through Friday, except public holidays.

Attn: U Khant Zaw (Deputy Chief Engineer)

NCDD Project Secretariat Office, Department of Rural Development

Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development

Office No. 14, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar

Tel, & Fax: 067- 409071

Email address: drdmyanmar@gmail.com

THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF ENERGY
MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE
(INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER)
(6/2015)

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

Sr.No	Tender No	Description	Remark
(1)	IFB-001(15-16)	4" Dia Discharge Vibrator Hose and 4" Dia Hammer Union (2) Items	US\$
(2)	IFB-002(15-16)	Electrical Spares for USS Oil Well Rig (26) Items	US\$
(3)	DMP/L-001(15-16)	PGGO 140 Gear Oil (1) Lot	KS
(4)	DMP/L-002(15-16)	Hydraulic Oil (H.O.L) (1) Lot	KS
(5)	DMP/L-003(15-16)	Cooling Fan Motor, Water Pump & Motor, Oil Pump & Motor for CNG Compressor (4) Items	KS

Tender Closing Date & Time - 4-5-2015, 16:30 Hr

Tender Document shall be available during office hours commencing from 6th April, 2015 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

**Tender Invitation for Pharmaceutical Plants
Myanma Pharmaceutical Industries (MPI)
Ministry of Industry**

Concerning with EOI, which was invited by MPI for the development of Pharmaceutical Production of the Pharmaceutical Factory (Insein), the **Winner** list has already been declared.

So, MPI would like to invite the EOI winner companies to participate the Tender process for each and every project plant, the Automatic Ware House System, Complete Tablet Production Plant, Small Volume Parenteral Production Plant, Large Volume Parenteral Production Plant and Cephalosporin Injection Plant, as mentioned in EOI.

The MPI invites the Tenders for all projects plants above mentioned with facilities: the complete design, construction, supplying machineries and equipments, transferring the know-how, providing validation Master Plan and Standard Operation Procedures, etc. All facilities should be in certified/compliance with **GMP or PIC/S Guidelines**.

Tender Documents may be purchased and detail information can be obtained from the **Office of Planning Department, MPI, Ministry of Industry, Building No.(37), Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar, during working hours from 8th April, 2015 to 30th April, 2015.**

Tender Documents (technical and financial bid) shall be submitted at the **Office of Deputy Minister, Ministry of Industry, Building No. (37), Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar before 16:00 hrs on 15th May, 2015.**

Planning Department
Myanmar Pharmaceutical Industries
Ph - 067-408140, 067-408195, 067-408276
Fax - 067-408275

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV UBC CANADA VOY NO (36)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV UBC CANADA VOY NO (36) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 8.4.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T (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 THALAMAR SHIPPING AG
Phone No: 2301186**

TRADEMARK CAUTION

NOTICE is hereby given that Yugen Kaisha Atorie Hanai (Atelier Hanai Limited Liability Company) of 1-18-18, Ebisu, Shibuya-ku, Tokyo, Japan is the Owner and Sole Proprietor of the following trademark: -

YUKIKO HANAI

(Reg: Nos. IV/9113/2011 & IV/5280/2012)

in respect of:- "Footwear, Boots for sports" - Class: 25

Any fraudulent imitation or unauthorized use of the said trademark or other infringements whatsoever will be dealt with according to law.

U Kyi Win Associates
for Yugen Kaisha Atorie Hanai

(Atelier Hanai Limited Liability Company)

P.O. Box No. 26, Yangon.

Phone: 372416

Dated: 8th April 2015

Japanese tourist evacuated from Socotra Island by Chinese navy ship

TOKYO, 7 April — A Japanese tourist has arrived in Oman after being evacuated from Yemen's Socotra Island by a Chinese naval vessel, the top Japanese government spokesman said on Tuesday. Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga told a regular Press conference that the tourist accepted an offer from Chinese people to leave the island together aboard the navy ship being used to evacuate Chinese citizens. "We have conveyed our gratitude to the Chinese government," Suga said.

Kyodo News

WEATHER REPORT

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 8th April, 2015: Rain or thundershowers are likely to be isolated in Upper Sagaing and Mandalay Regions, Kachin, Northern Shan and Chin States, weather will be partly cloudy in Lower Sagaing, Magway and Taninthay Regions, Shan (Eastern and Southern) and Rakhine States and generally fair in the remaining Regions and States. Degree of certainty is (60%).

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Eva Mendes to return for 'Furious 8'?

LOS ANGELES, 7 April — Actress Eva Mendes, who played Agent Monica



Actress Eva Mendes, who played Agent Monica Fuentes in the second "Fast and Furious" movie, is reported to reprise her role for the upcoming 'Furious 7' sequel. PTI

Fuentes in the second "Fast and Furious" movie, is reported to reprise her role

for the upcoming 'Furious 7' sequel.

Mendes, 41, who just gave birth to her first child with Ryan Gosling, played US Customs Service agent in the second installment "2 Fast 2 Furious" in 2003. She then returned for a cameo in the franchise's fifth film "Fast Five" in 2011, reported Ace Showbiz.

"FAST & FURIOUS 8 #RUMOR With #fast7 now in the record books, the upcoming NY based #Fast8 story will depend on whether they can bring back Eva Mendes' character: US

Customs Agent Monica Fuentes," Latino-Review's El Mayimbe wrote on his Instagram page.

Aside from Mendes, Kurt Russell is also expected to return for "Fast and Furious 8" as Vin Diesel previously suggested, "I always think of these films multiple pictures in advance — I think of them as trilogies. Kurt Russell came in for this movie, but we really hired him because of the story that follows this — that takes place in New York. Cool stuff that not everybody knows." PTI

Naomi Watts inspired by Nicole Kidman



"I was lucky that Nicole Kidman was always there to support me, console me, keep my spirits up and help me believe in myself. She's been such a good friend over the years," Naomi said.—PTI

LONDON, 7 April — Naomi Watts has revealed Oscar-winning actress Nicole Kidman helped her to believe in herself.

The 'While We're Young' star admits she couldn't have carved out a successful career in Hollywood without the support of her best friend, reported Contactmusic.

"I was lucky that Nicole Kidman was always there to support me, console me, keep my spirits up and help me believe in myself. She's been such a good friend over the years," she said.

The 46-year-old beauty, who has sons Alexander, seven, and Samuel, six,

with long-term partner Liev Schreiber, said she is reluctant to take on traumatic roles these days because she is so happy in her personal life.

"Early in my career I was drawn to darker material. But now I have so much joy in my family life that I don't want to spoil that mood.

"I feel such a warmth with Liev and the boys. I look forward to everything now. I've always had a happy nature, it was just a matter of getting to a place where I could let that side take charge again. Me and my men have such fun together."—PTI

Michael Keaton's tribute to 'Batman', 'Beetlejuice' on SNL



The 63-year-old actor turned down the two's requests, but Killam and Moynihan edited footage of Keaton backstage on the show to fulfill their dreams.—PTI

LOS ANGELES, 7 April — Oscar-nominated actor Michael Keaton returned to "Saturday Night Live" since he last hosted the show in 1992.

During his monologue, Taran Killam and Bobby Moynihan interrupted him to ask him to play "Batman" and "Beetlejuice" with them.

The 63-year-old actor turned down the two's requests, but Killam and Moynihan edited footage of Keaton backstage on the show to fulfill their dreams.

Keaton eventually delivered one-liners from Killam and Moynihan's favorite movies at the end of the monologue, reported Ace Showbiz.

In one of the sketches, Keaton played a teacher whom Mike O'Brien's high school student's character asked to the prom as he made a bet with a friend that he could make anyone who went with him a prom queen.

The "Birdman" star also played a super creepy dude who's really into Easter in another skit called "Easter Candy".

Meanwhile, "SNL" parodied Scientology in a music video from fake group, a science-based religion Neurotology. The show also poked fun at CNN and its excessive use of reenactment videos with Cecily Strong playing anchor Brooke Baldwin. Responding to the skit, Baldwin called it "a crazy compliment" on Twitter. PTI



Thai young people cosplay at a presentation of Bangkok Entertainment Week in Bangkok, Thailand, on 5 April, 2015. Bangkok Entertainment Week will be held in Bangkok from 27 April to 3 May.—XINHUA

I was like a brother to Amy Winehouse: Mark Ronson

LONDON, 7 April — Record producer Mark Ronson says he felt like he was a brother to Amy Winehouse, who died young due to alcohol intoxication, and admitted it was a "dream" to work with the star.

The 39-year-old 'Uptown Funk' hitmaker worked closely with the late star, who tragically passed away in July 2011 at the age of 27, on her last studio album, "Back to Black", reported Female First.



Record producer Mark Ronson says he felt like he was a brother to Amy Winehouse, who died young due to alcohol intoxication, and admitted it was a "dream" to work with the star.—PTI

"She wouldn't reach she was (despondent) because I was almost like a

brother. When I met her, when we made the record together, she was super together, maybe the most together she'd ever been in her adult life because she was doing something great.

"I'd heard these stories, like, 'Oh, you're going to make a record with Amy Winehouse? Good luck.' Because a couple years before, she'd been drinking heavily. But I was like, 'What's everybody talking about? It's a dream working with her,'" he said.—PTI

Hollywood studios defeat animators' hiring lawsuit

LOS ANGELES, 7 April — A federal judge has thrown out an antitrust lawsuit accusing major Hollywood animation studios of trying to drive down animators' wages through an illegal anti-poaching conspiracy.

In a decision on Friday, US District Judge Lucy Koh in San Jose, California said the four-year statute of limitations ran out long before the animators in September sued Walt Disney Co and its Lucasfilm and Pixar units, Sony Corp, DreamWorks

Animation SKG Inc and 21st Century Fox Inc's Blue Sky Studios.

Koh also found no

proof that the studios ran a "continuing" conspiracy not to raid each other for talent or tried to cover up their pa-



The water tank of The Walt Disney Co Studios is pictured in Burbank, California on 5 Feb, 2014.—REUTERS

per trail, which could justify stopping the clock.

"The allegation that defendants engaged in a secret conspiracy does not show that defendants took affirmative steps to mislead," Koh wrote in a 32-page decision.

She gave the plaintiffs permission to amend their lawsuit.

Lawyers for the plaintiffs did not immediately respond on Monday to requests for comment.

Animators accused the studios of having suppressed wages since 2004 by refrain-

ing from cold calling employees, by sharing news of job offers, and by agreeing not to get in bidding wars.

The lawsuit raised many of the issues underlying a 2009 US Department of Justice probe into Silicon Valley recruiting, and a separate \$415 million settlement of claims that Apple Inc, Google Inc, Intel Corp and Adobe Systems Inc agreed not to poach each others' engineers.

Koh approved that accord last month. Lucasfilm, Pixar and Intuit Inc have

settled similar claims covering other workers for a combined \$20 million.

The named plaintiffs in the animators' case are lighting artist Georgia Cano, character effects artist Robert Nitsch and production engineer David Wentworth.

Koh said the statute of limitations ran out on their claims as early as 2008, and no later than 2011.

The studios had called it "implausible" to believe they would collude on wages after the Justice Department probe began.—Reuters

GENERAL

Presidential hopeful Prince Ali demands FIFA changes

CAIRO, 7 April — FIFA presidential candidate Prince Ali Bin Al Hussein demanded immediate change in the organization of soccer's governing body as he issued his manifesto on Monday. The Jordanian royal is one of three men who will challenge incumbent Sepp Blatter in the election on 29 May. The others are former Portugal midfielder Luis Figo and Dutch FA president Michael van Praag.

In his manifesto, entitled 'A FIFA Worthy of the World's Game', Prince Ali pledges to transform the organization's reputation and guarantee development.

He also delivered a harsh warning on the future should Swiss Blatter be voted into power for a fifth term, as is expected. "You cannot underestimate how important it is ... to have a change right now," the FIFA vice-president told Reuters in an interview on the eve of



FIFA Vice President Prince Ali bin al-Hussein of Jordan and UEFA President Michel Platini (L) attend the CONMEBOL ordinary congress in Luque on 4 March, 2015. —REUTERS

the Confederation of African Football (CAF) Congress in Cairo. "It's been enough, in my opinion, in terms of all the problems and scandals.

"I will not continue on the executive committee if I am not elected because I cannot see another four years for myself if things don't change. If I win ... I'll make the changes that are so needed," said the Jordanian FA chief.

"My manifesto is based on my experience as president of a national association and what I have also seen serving on the FIFA executive committee over the last four years. It's also based on my discussions with other countries." Prince Ali said FIFA had to be restored as "a proper service" group.

"We have to bring belief back to an organization that has had its reputation dam-

aged over the years," added the 39-year-old. "The reality is the reputation of FIFA is where it is despite many great people doing their best for football.

"Unfortunately as popular as the sport is, the reputation of its controlling body is in the other direction. You need a change and that change needs to come now." Prince Ali said FIFA's vast profits must be ploughed back into the development of the sport across the globe. "My ideas are based on the needs and necessities of countries the world over, from those small in size to those at the top of the game, and taking all their perspectives into account," he added. His manifesto also put an emphasis on transparency, more consultation and increased effort in tackling match-fixing and racism. "I think it's very do-able. I'm here to unite people not divide," said Prince Ali.

Reuters

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(8-4-2015 07:00 am~ 9-4-2015 07:00 am) MST

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| <p>6:00 am</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paritta by Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw <p>6:30 am</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physical Exercise <p>7:35 am</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Money Talk Myanmar <p>8:00 am</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • News / International News <p>8:35 am</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People's Talks <p>9:35 am</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Science and Technology Programme <p>10:35 am</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Documentary <p>11:35 am</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MRTV's Youth Programme <p>12:00 noon</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • News / International News / Weather Report <p>12:35 pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hluttaw Image <p>1:55 pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Songs of Thingyan Festival | <p>2:30 pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Head Line News <p>2:35 pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traditional Boxing <p>3:30 pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Head Line News <p>4:35 pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) — First Year (English) <p>5:00 pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • News/Weather Report <p>6:35 pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Science and Technology Programme <p>7:35pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Documentary <p>8:00 pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • News / International News / Weather Report <p>9:00 pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • News / International News / Weather Report • Hluttaw Image • Fine Arts-Boston of Dramatic Performance |
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MRTV Entertainment Channel

(8-4-2015, Wednesday)

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| <p>6:00 am</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mono Classic Songs <p>6:20 am</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Songs And Dance Of Thingyan Festival <p>6:40 am</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Myanmar Series <p>7:00 am</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TV Drama Series <p>7:45 am</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TV Drama Series | <p>8:25 am</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teleplay <p>8:35 am</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Myanmar Video <p>9:35 am</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Songs And Dance Of Thingyan Festival <p>9:55 am</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Myanmar Movie <p>12:00 noon</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Close Down |
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Groups sue US to halt killing of grizzlies near Yellowstone

WASHINGTON, 7 April — Wildlife advocates are suing the Obama administration to prevent the killing of protected grizzly bears that come into conflict with sportsmen over elk they kill or wound during annual hunts in northwest Wyoming.

The Sierra Club and Western Watersheds Project accuses the US Fish and Wildlife Service of violating the Endangered Species Act with a permit allowing four grizzlies to be killed over seven years during elk hunts in Grand Teton National Park, south of Yellowstone National Park.

The wildlife advocates argue that those anticipated grizzly deaths, combined with federal permits sanctioning the deaths of grizzlies elsewhere in the

region, may mean that as many as 65 female bears could be killed annually.

That would amount to three times the mortality limit set by US wildlife managers, the activists say in their lawsuit filed Friday in a US court in Washington, DC.

The outsized, hump-shouldered grizzly bears, considered an icon of the American West, were added to the federal endangered and threatened species list in the lower 48 states in 1975, after hunting, trapping and poisoning cut their numbers to just 1,000 from an estimated 100,000 a century ago.

Most grizzlies that still roam the lower 48 are in and around Yellowstone National Park, which encompasses parts of Wyoming, Montana and Idaho.

In most cases it is illegal to kill grizzlies and other federally protected animals without special permits from the Fish and Wildlife Service.

In 2013, the agency issued such a permit for Grand Teton, where the search for food by bears can bring them into conflict with hunters over elk carcasses, and where hunters shot and killed a grizzly in 2012.

"The fact that the government responded to that killing by authorizing the killing of four more bears in one of our nation's premier parks ought to be telling us something is wrong with our management of grizzlies and parks," said Tim Preso, attorney for Earthjustice, the environmental law firm representing the conservation groups.

A spokesman for the Fish and Wildlife Service said the agency does not comment on pending or ongoing litigation.

An inter-agency government panel overseeing Yellowstone area grizzlies has said the population of roughly 600 bears has recovered and recommended that they be stripped of federal protections, which could ultimately open the way for hunting.

Reuters

Wigan fire manager Mackay

LONDON, 7 April — Wigan Athletic have fired manager Malky Mackay following their 2-0 home defeat by Derby County on Monday, the English Championship club said.

Wigan, who won the FA Cup and were relegated from the Premier League in 2013, are eight points from safety with five games of the season remaining.

The 43-year-old Mackay, former manager of Watford and Cardiff City, took charge of Wigan in November but they have gathered only 19 points from a possible 72 and look likely to be relegated to the third tier.

"This is a very difficult decision to make but I feel that for the long-term future of the club, there needs to be a change now," Wigan chairman David Sharpe told the club website. "I wish Malky all the best for the future." Mackay is still under investigation by the FA for allegedly sending racist and sexist text messages when he was Cardiff manager.

Former Wigan chairman Dave Whelan was fined by the FA and banned for six weeks for making racist comments in an interview following his decision to appoint Mackay as manager.

Whelan quit as Wigan chairman last month, handing the job to Sharpe, his 23-year-old grandson.—Reuters



A grizzly bear roams through the Hayden Valley in Yellowstone National Park in Wyoming, on 18 May, 2014. —REUTERS

MFF issues tentative list of women's national team

YANGON, 7 April — Myanmar Football Federation released a tentative list of Myanmar national women's team that will take part in the AFF Women's Championship 2015 in Ho Chi Minh City of Vietnam from 1 to 10 May.

The team comprises goalkeepers Mya Phu Ngon (Sports Ministry), Khin Thanda Aye (Sports Ministry) and Thanda Oo (Myawady FC); defenders Khin Than Wai (Myawady FC), Zin Mar Win (Home Affairs Min-

istry), Phu Pwint Khaing (MOHA), Wai Wai Aung (Sports Ministry), Zar Chi Oo (Myawady FC) and Aye Aye Moe (Myawady FC); midfielders: San San Maw (MOHA), Than Than Htwe (Transport Ministry), Khin Moe Wai (MOHA), Naw Ar Lo Wer Phaw (MOHA), May Sabwi Phu (Myawady FC), Nilar Myint (MOHA), Nilar Win (own business), Yupa Khaing (Myawady FC), Nan Kyay Ngon (Transport Ministry), Lei Lei Hlaing (own business) and Nge Nge Htwe (MOHA); forwards: Yi

Yi Oo (Sports Ministry), Khin Marlar Tun (Sports Ministry), Win Theingi Tun (Myawady FC), Hla Yin Win (Myawady FC) and May Thu Kyaw (Myawady FC).

The team is under control of manager Daw Myat Myat Oo, technical adviser U Aye Maung, head coach Daw Thet Thet Win, coaches Daw San San Thein and U Ko Ko Aung, medical officer Dr Mon Mon Khaing, physiotherapist Daw Pyone Pan Ei and media officer U Nay Myo Kyaw.—MFF

QPR striker Vargas out for six weeks, says agent

LONDON, 7 April — Queens Park Rangers striker Eduardo Vargas will be out of action for six weeks due to a knee ligament injury, the player's agent said on Monday.

The 25-year-old Chilean international, who is on loan from Italian club Napoli, was hurt after scoring the opening goal in the 4-1 victory at West Bromwich Albion on Saturday.

The struggling Premier League club said earlier on Monday that Vargas would be out for 10 to 12 weeks, meaning he would miss QPR's last seven league matches of the season.

But his agent Cristian Ogalde said he was in daily contact with the QPR

doctors who told him Vargas should be fit within six weeks.

"The information I have I was given directly by the doctor, with whom I am speaking every day, as well as with Eduardo," Ogalde told Chilean Radio Cooperativa.

"He shouldn't have any problem being at the Copa America but now it's evidently more important for him to even manage to play (some of) what remains of the Premier League."

QPR are second from bottom, three points behind Aston Villa who are two places above them and host Rangers on Tuesday.

Chile is hosting the Copa America from 11 June- 4 July.—Reuters



Eduardo Vargas celebrates scoring the first goal for QPR during Queens Park Rangers v Everton football match, Barclays Premier League, Loftus Road, on 22 March, 2015.

REUTERS

Nishikori reclaims No 4 ranking

NEW YORK, 7 April — Kei Nishikori moved back up to fourth in the latest ATP world rankings released on Monday.

Nishikori had reached a career-best No 4 in the 2 March rankings, but dropped to No 5 a week later where he had stayed ever since. Novak Djokovic held the top spot, followed by Roger Federer.

Kyodo News

City's title hopes in tatters after defeat at Palace

LONDON, 7 April — Crystal Palace left Manchester City's hopes of retaining their Premier League crown in tatters after a 2-1 win at Selhurst Park on Monday to leave Manuel Pellegrini's side trailing a distant fourth in the title race.

The defeat kept City nine points behind leaders Chelsea and seemingly now in a battle to finish above Arsenal and Manchester United. Chelsea, who have eight matches to play, have 70 points, followed by Arsenal on 63, Manchester United on 62 and City on 61. That trio all have seven matches remaining.

Impressive Palace defended resolutely to withstand early City pressure before taking the lead through Glenn Murray after 34 minutes.

He swept in from close range after Scott Dann's shot bounced off goalkeeper Joe Hart's leg into his path.

The goal stood despite

Bolt has no need to worry about Gatlin, says coach

KINGSTON, 7 April — Usain Bolt is happy with his condition in the leadup to August's world championships and will not be denied more sprint gold by American Justin Gatlin, according to his coach Glen Mills. "We take all competitors with a level of seriousness and I don't see Gatlin as a joke, but the truth of the matter is Usain at his best doesn't have much to worry about," Mills told Reuters in an interview.

Jamaican Bolt will bid for a third 100 metres gold and a fourth 200m gold in succession at the 22-30 August meeting in Beijing.

In Bolt's absence, Gat-

lin dominated the Diamond League last season, ending the year as world leader in the 100 and 200m with personal best times of 9.77 and 19.68 seconds respectively.

"It's good for the sport and creates the kind of interest, but those kinds of things don't affect us in any way because Usain and myself knows what we can get him to do when he's fully fit and ready and that's what we're working to do," said Mills, who has guided Bolt since 2005.

"When we are ready and he's peaked then let's hear the shout, 'I'm sure it will be Usain Bolt!'" The 100 and 200m world re-

cord holder, Bolt won both events at the 2008 and 2012 Olympics.

Having taken time off last year, the 28-year-old told Reuters he was looking to set quick times this season. "I always try to wait until I run my first race (to set targets), but for me the aim is always to go to the championship and to defend my titles," he said.

"But I want to run really fast this season so I'm working on it."

Mills said Bolt had stepped up his preparation sincerunning 46.37 seconds over 400m on 14 March in Kingston.

Reuters



Usain Bolt of Jamaica (C), Poland's Karol Zalewski (L) and Sheldon Mitchell of Jamaica compete in the men's 100m race during the fifth Athletic Memorial, a tribute to deceased Olympic Champion Kamila Skolimowska, at the National Stadium in Warsaw on 23 Aug, 2014. —REUTERS

City claiming Palace had been offside in the build-up, but there was no argument about Palace's second three minutes into the second half. Fernandinho brought down the outstanding Murray 20 metres from goal and Jason Puncheon swept his curling free kick over the wall and past Hart into the corner of the goal.

Yaya Toure gave City some hope with a thunderous drive after 78 minutes but although Palace dealt his team what could be a fatal blow to their title hopes, Pellegrini was not conceding the race was over yet.

"We lost to an offside goal and a beautiful free kick and we did not take our chances," he told Sky Sports. "We are not talking about the title now, or Chelsea. We are just trying to win our games. We have seven games left they are all very important, there are 21 points and all we must do is win our games."

City came to Pal-

ace after a run of patchy form with only four wins in their last 13 matches in all competitions and were almost dealt an early blow in the second minute when Wilfried Zaha blasted his angled drive over.

City soon settled with David Silva and Sergio Aguero combining well up front, and Aguero came close to opening the scoring after 19 minutes but saw his shot cannon away off the foot of Julian Speroni's right-hand post.

The match also had echoes of Liverpool's visit to Selhurst Park 11 months ago when they were leading 3-0 with 11 minutes to play, only for Palace to end their title hopes by drawing 3-3.

Palace manager Alan Pardew told Sky: "We showed diligence, character and resilience tonight. We had two quality moments for the goals — it was a shame we did not have more offensive moments tonight, but we will have other games when that happens."—Reuters



Manchester City's Joe Hart looks dejected during Crystal Palace v Manchester City football match, Barclays Premier League in Selhurst Park on 6 April 2015.—REUTERS

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