

Cancellation of holding joint portfolio

NAY PYI TAW, 9 April — Minister for Bamar National Affairs U Thet Win's concurrent holding of the post of transport minister in the Mon State government has been cancelled, according to Order No (2/2015) of the President's Office on Thursday. —MNA

Appointment of Mon State Transport Minister

NAY PYI TAW, 9 April — U Hla Tun, Mon State Hluttaw representative for Kyaikmaraw constituency No (1), has been appointed to the post of transport minister in the Mon State government, according to Order No (3/2015) of the President's Office on Thursday. — MNA

Vice President U Nyan Tun outlines land resources management reform

NAY PYI TAW, 9 April — Vice President U Nyan Tun explained the reform of the land resources management system Thursday to the central committee at the meeting hall of the Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry in Nay Pyi Taw.

The vice president, who is also chair of the Central Committee for Land Resources Management, said there are three preliminary tasks being undertaken as part of the reform.

The first is the development of basic principles for land resources management policy, with public participation, that will lay a sound foundation for the future. It is being carried out with advice from Hluttaw representatives in states and divisions, civil society organizations and town elders, the vice president added.

The vice president urged the officials to take necessary measures to



Vice President U Nyan Tun highlights reform process of land resources management system. —MNA

draft a land law that meets the standards of fairness, enforceability and compliance by the public as the second task.

The third task is a pi-

lot project towards people-centred development outcomes, which is to be realized by developing the One Map database, which will use technology to cen-

tralise land records and statistics, the vice president added.

Afterwards, the vice president said it is necessary to take steps to

compile land records, and develop a monitoring mechanism for land use management. Furthermore, the collection of accurate land price data is required

to establish an efficient land market, as well as improve the land tax system and prevent land speculation.

(See page 3)

Canadian Foresight Group, partners to explore large gas field offshore Myanmar

YANGON, 9 April — A joint venture of Canadian Foresight Group (CFG), Perth based Transcontinental Resource Group (TRG) and Myanmar's KMA Group will explore a large gas field in the Andaman Sea.

CFG was awarded offshore Block M-15 late last month. Under the terms of joint bid, CFG will undertake a seismic program and drill two wells.

Block M-15 is located in the Andaman Sea, within the Taninthayi Offshore basin, which is off Myanmar's southern Taninthayi coast. The area of Block M-15 covers 13,480 square km with estimated P50 Recoverable 16.1 Tcf.

One of the biggest offshore gas fields in Myanmar, Yetagun gas field, is located 60 km to the north of M-15. The Yetagun field contains an estimated 4.2 Tcf of recoverable gas.

Exploration work is expected to commence in September.

GNLM /Natural Gas Asia

57 apply for Yangon Stock Exchange service provider licenses

By Aye Min Soe

YANGON, 9 April — The Securities and Exchange Commission of Myanmar has received 57 service provider applications for the Yangon Stock Exchange, SECM chairman and deputy minister for Finance Dr Maung Maung Thein said Thursday.

Among the applications, 20 are for underwriters, 30 for consultants or advisers and seven for brokers and dealers, he said, during talks on the development of the stock exchange, which is slated to launch on 1 October this year.

According to the chairman of the SECM, the commission plans to invite companies to seek listing on the Yangon Stock Exchange following the country's traditional four-day New

Year's festival in mid-April.

Currently, the commission is reviewing its listing criteria. Companies seeking to list should have transparency, good governance and

trust, he added. The Yangon Stock Exchange project is on track and the project is now more than 60 percent complete. SECM invited applications for the service

licenses — underwriters, dealers, brokers and consultants — setting different levels of capital requirements for each in January.

(See page 2)

Correction

A story titled "Three foreign banks set to open Yangon branches 23 April" on Page 1 of the 9 April edition incorrectly stated that The Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi UFJ would be one of three overseas banks to open branches in Yangon on 23 April. The bank will in fact open its branch on 22 April. We regret the error. — Ed



Pedestrians walk past a cultural heritage building where the Yangon Stock Exchange market will be established. —PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

Appointment of permanent secretaries is lawful: Pyidaungsu Hluttaw



Representatives of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw discuss issues on appointment of permanent secretaries and their salaries.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 9 April— Dr Myat Nyana Soe of the Yangon Region constituency No 4 asked a motion at the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw on Thursday, suggesting a cancellation of the appointment of permanent secretaries and their salaries if the appointment is contrary to the existing laws and describing the

position as ‘invented’.

Dr Kan Zaw, Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development, responded that the new rank will steer the government into a good, clean, transparent and accountable body in terms of public management. He added the appointment of permanent secretaries is an early preparation to ensure a smooth transition between the coming elections and the post-election period.

The union minister quoted the State Constitution as granting the President the rights to appoint, approve, transfer and terminate high-ranking officials of the Union Civil Services Board, with UCSB Chairman U Kyaw Thu saying that officials appointed by the President

are entitled to their monthly salaries in line with the presidential power, although the Union Civil Service Law and Regulations has no mention of it.

U Mahn Aung Tin Myint of the Kayin State constituency urged the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw to include funds in the new fiscal year for the construction of housing for MPs to stay, with the speaker noting that MPs are to stay in government-run guest houses as there is no housing for MPs. The speaker promised to work on the proposal in accordance with the law.

Dr Kan Zaw also said he would give top priority to the issue, pledging further discussions with the planning commission and the government.

MNA

Pyithu Hluttaw

Ministry says Indaw gem mine operation lawful



Deputy Minister for Electric Power U Aung Than Oo replying to questions.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 9 April— The government confirmed the legality of

a gem mining operation in Sagaing Region on Thursday in response to a question from a member of the Pyithu Hluttaw.

U Kyaw Naing Htay of the Indaw constituency asked whether the mine in a reserved forest near a village in his township of Sagaing Region is legally permitted, saying the company ignores letters of protest calling for the mine’s closure.

U Than Tun Aung, Deputy Minister for Mines, answered that his ministry issued a gem company with a licence for jade mining in February 2010, adding that it had not been informed of the letter of notice dated

4 February, 2015, sent by the Ministry of Forestry. The deputy minister pledged his ministry’s coordination with the Ministry of Forestry.

U Pike Lin of the Paletwa constituency raised a query concerning the prospect of a national power grid linking Paletwa in Chin State and Kyauktaw in Rakhine State. Deputy Minister for Electric Power U Aung Than Oo rejected the proposal, saying the installation of power lines between the two townships depends on the budget. The funds for the project are not included in the 2015-2016 fiscal year, he said.

MNA

57 apply for Yangon Stock Exchange service provider...

(from page 1)

A license for underwriting requires K15 billion (around \$15 million); for dealing K10 billion; for brokerages K7 billion and for consultancy business K30 million as paid-up capital, according to the deputy minister.

An underwriting license, which tops the capital requirements, also allows operation in the other three businesses areas.

The four kinds of service providers are also allowed to have joint ventures with foreign firms in anticipation of speeding up the development of the stock market, U Maung Maung Thein said.

The Yangon Stock Exchange, Myanmar’s first, will have the abbreviation YEX.

Japan’s Tokyo Stock Exchange and Daiwa Institute of Research Ltd

signed an agreement with the Myanmar Economic Bank to help establish and run the exchange in December, 2014.

The market will be run by Yangon Stock Exchange Joint-Venture Company, with a 51 per cent stake owned by the Myanmar Economic Bank under Myanmar’s Finance and Revenue Ministry and the remainder by the Japanese partners.—GNLM

Amyotha Hluttaw

Rural development tasks being carried out according to priorities; Deputy Minister

NAY PYI TAW, 9 April— Representatives at Amyotha Hluttaw on Thursday raised questions on regional development tasks including upgrading an eight-mile road section in Meiktila, water supply and installation of solar lights and construction of a 70-foot long bridge in Meikwa Village in Paletwa Township and construction of a river crossing bridge in Khonsint Village Tract in Moemaik Township.

However, Deputy Minister for Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development Dr Aung Myat Oo said that the ministry is unable to carry out the projects at the moment as rural development tasks are being implemented according to their priorities.

Afterwards, the representatives discussed the reports on finding of teams on field trip of the Amyotha Hluttaw government’s Guar-



Deputy Minister for Livestock, Fishery and Rural Development Dr Aung Myat Oo.—MNA

antees, Pledges and Undertakings Vetting Committee.

Representative U Hlaing Oo of Ayeyawady Region Constituency (12) pointed out that three pledges were cancelled under Letter No. 7/445, but Labutta Township is the largest rain paddy growing area and the pledges should be fulfilled after making field trips to study the diffi-



Representative U Hlaing Oo of Ayeyawady Region Constituency (12).—MNA

culty of farmers.

Then, a member of the vetting committee sought the approval for the report and the session approved it.

The Amyotha Hluttaw session also approved the report of the Public Complaints Committee submitted by Representative Dr Khin Shwe of Yangon Region Constituency (9).

MNA

KOICA donates laboratory equipment, research assistance

YANGON, 9 April—A ceremony to provide laboratory equipment and assistance for research works worth US\$450,000 was held at Medical Research Department on Ziwaka Street in Dagon Township, here, on Thursday.

The molecular re-

search centre was constructed in 2004 between Medical Research Department and Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA).

Director-General Dr Kyaw Zin Thant spoke about a plan on research of communicable diseases of

the department in cooperation with KIOCA.

Thanks to the donation, medical researchers will have the opportunities to conduct research on malaria, hepatitis B and TB diseases through modern technology.

Win Win Maw

Vice President U Nyan Tun outlines land ...

(from page 1)

Concerning the relocation of farmland, the vice president suggested the current system of relocating farmland in forest reserves, to settle land disputes and fulfil the need to relocate farmland in the post-conflict period, should be based on international standards, with the cooperation of the international community.

After the speech of the vice president, central committee member Dr Tun Shin explained the draft land law.

Then, vice chairman of the central committee, Union Minister Lt-Gen Ko Ko and Union Minister U Win Tun, reported on the use of state-owned land, rent, compensation for land confiscation and resettlement, as well as rules and regulations for classification of land.

Afterwards, members of the central committee reported on matters including management of virgin and vacant land, land use for mining and urban development projects in cities.

MNA

Tatmadaw conquers strategic hill of Kokang insurgents

NAY PYI TAW, 9 April — Tatmadaw forces captured a strategically important Kokang insurgents hill position Wednesday in the latest of a series of fierce battles that have claimed the lives of 10 government soldiers and wounded another 62.

The Tatmadaw forces used heavy weapons in the early morning battle for Point-1845, occupying the hill by 11 am.

The forces of the Tatmadaw have recently carried out offensives against a number of rebel strongholds, bringing them under government control.

The Point-1845 hill is more than 6,000 ft high and located about 4,000 meters from the Chinese border. The insurgents had placed tents for 200 people, bunkers,

communication ditches and bomb shelters at the hill.

The Tatmadaw will use the site as a stronghold to clear surrounding areas.

Myawady

Thandwe Township receives RC bridge in rural area

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing presents gifts to a patient at Thandwe District General Hospital. MYAWADY



NAY PYI TAW, 9 April — Mobile medical teams of Defence Services have provided health care services to more than 300,000 people across the nation during four years period, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing told the cash donation ceremony at

Thandwe District General Hospital on Thursday.

The senior general and wife presented cash donation of Tatmadaw families of Army, Navy and Air to district medical officer Dr Daw Myat Myat Moe. Well-wishers also donated cash to the hospital.

In the morning, the sen-

ior general, wife and Chief Minister of Rakhine State U Maung Maung Ohn cut the ribbon to open a 360-foot-long RC facility Thahtaychaung bridge linking Zeegyun and Myinhsaimaw villages in Thandwe Township.

The senior general and party visited a rural health branch built by Min Din Foundation in Zeegyun vil-

lage. While in the village, they paid respects to 85 aged and presented cash assistance.

Thahtaychaung Bridge, 360 feet long and 11 feet wide, was built by Directorate of Military Engineers of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) with the contribution of families of Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air).—Myawady

Information-sharing programme aims to improve haemophilia treatment

By Khaing Thanda Lwin

YANGON, 9 April—To provide better treatment to people with haemophilia, the Ministry of Health and partner organizations are implementing a project to share information and expertise, Dr Aye Aye Khaing, Senior Consultant Paediatrician at Yangon Children's Hospital, said Tuesday.

The project runs for four year between 2015 and 2018 with the assistance of the World Federation of Haemophilia. The programme covers medical assistance for patients, refresher courses for health care providers and cooperation on diagnoses.

Under the project, the WFH has recently provided medical assistances to the Yangon Children's Hospital, Dr Aye Aye Khaing said.

Hemophilia is an incurable genetic disorder caused by a missing clotting factor in the blood. As a result, people with haemophilia can bleed for longer than normal.

"The inborn disease is

mostly found in males and I have seen a female patient along my career," Dr Aye Aye Khaing told the *Global New Light of Myanmar* in an interview Tuesday.

She said, "Currently, 150 patients are receiving treatment in Yangon Children's Hospital. About 80 per cent of them have haemophilia A, also called factor VIII (FVIII) deficiency".

According to the estimation of international experts, there are more than 350,000 haemophilia patients worldwide, with some 1,500 in Myanmar.

Myanmar has sought to become a member country of the World Federation of Haemophilia since 2013. The federation has agreed to officially recognize Myanmar as a member at its world congress to be held in 2016.

"We are also planning to develop a hydrotherapy pool for the patients but we face difficulty finding suitable spaces for it," Dr Aye Aye Khaing said.—GNLM

A map shows chashes between government troops and Kokang insurgents in Laukkai region



War veterans with disabilities receive cash assistance

YANGON, 9 April—In honour of the 70th Anniversary of the Armed Forces, Chairman of the Insein Township War Veterans Organization presented cash assistance to its members with disabilities at its office in Aung San Ward, Insein Township, in March.

Chairman of the Township Organization Major Saw L C (Rtd) presented K235,000 to 47 disabled war veterans.

Kyemon (684)



Chairman of Myanmar-Japan Friendship Association U Saw Hla Min, Myanmar Automobile Manufacturers and Distributors Association Dr Soe Tun and officials cut the ribbon to launch Sakai & Polestar Automobiles Company at No 5-7 on Pyidaungsu Road, Ward 37 in Dagon Myothit (North) Township on 8 April.—MAUNG MAUNG THANT (KYEMON)

Japanese flower art staged to enthusiasts

NAY PYI TAW, 9 April—The Japanese Flower Art Event, jointly staged by Ministry of Culture and Japanese flower artists, took place at Mingala Thiri Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw Hotel Zone on Tuesday, with a speech by Director-General Daw Nanda Hmun of Historical Research and National Library Department.

International Sakura flower specialist Mr Fumihiko Muramatsu of Floral Décor Marumatsu of Tokyo spoke about flower art of Japan, while garden owner in Japan Mr Watanabe Takahiko demonstrated skills of flower art, with hotel staff and flower art lovers totalling more than 130 in attendance.—MNA

Authorities to clamp down on noisy vehicles during Maha Thingyan festival



MANDALAY, 9 April — Police will target drivers of cars and motorcycles with noisy exhausts during the Maha Thingyan festival period in Mandalay, Police Major Thein Ko Ko of the No 11 traffic squad said.

“Action has been taken against motorcycles and vehicles without exhaust pipes each year,” he said. “We have warned that work licences will be revoked for the car workshops and garages that install inappropriate exhaust pipes.”

On 2 March, officials met owners of 762 motorcycle and car workshops

in Mandalay District at the Mandalay City Hall and gave talks on the outbreak of common crimes in the festival.

“Authorities will impound unlawful vehicles during Maha Thingyan festival period,” the major said. “After the festival, action will be taken against owners and orders will be given to reinstall the original exhaust pipes.”

The local authorities took action against 53 unlawful motorcycles in 2013 and 35 in 2014 under the MCDC Law.

Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-printing House)

Villages enjoy illumination with solar panels



NAY PYI TAW, 9 April — A ceremony to electrify Sibuntha Village with solar panels was held on the evening of 7 April.

Nay Pyi Taw Council member U Phone Zaw Han delivered an address while Deputy Chief Engineer U

Than Tun Aung of Electricity Supply Enterprise reported on efforts to electrify of the village.

Township Administrator U Myat Soe handed over solar panels and related equipment to village administrator U Than Tun.

Nay Pyi Taw Council spent K26 million on installation of solar panels at 97 houses in the village. The project was implemented by Innovative Consulting & Technological Services (ICTS) Company.

Shwe Ye Yint

Yangon Zoo welcomes new animals

YANGON, 9 April— A number of new animals, including a lion and a rhinoceros, arrived at Yangon Zoological Gardens from Nay Pyi Taw Zoo and Safari Park on 4 April.

“Among the animals that arrived recently here, one pair of camels were born in Nay Pyi Taw, with the remaining animals coming from Africa,” administrator U Tin Shwe of

Yangon Zoo said.

The newcomers to Yangon Zoo were one brown female lion, one white rhinoceros, a pair of camels, a pair of ostriches and a pair of zebras.—*Thi Thi Min*



REGIONAL



Emperor, empress mourn war dead on Palau's Peleliu Island

Japanese Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko talk with local people on Peleliu Island, Palau, on 9 April, 2015. The imperial couple visited the island to commemorate those who lost their lives there during World War II.

KYODO NEWS

Girl missing after ferry catches fire off southern Thailand

BANGKOK, 9 April — An Israeli girl is missing and about 40 people suffered minor injuries after a tour boat on which some 100 people, mainly foreign tourists, were aboard caught fire in the Andaman Sea off Thailand's southwestern coast, according to local rescue authorities. The boat had just departed seaside town of Krabi on a two-and-a-half-hour

cruise to the resort island of Phuket when the fire broke out around 3 pm local time.

The ferry was completely destroyed by the fire and sank, with the passengers and crew rescued by a fishing boat.

According to the Japanese Embassy in Bangkok, there is no word of any Japanese being injured in the accident.—*Kyodo News*

Gov't declines comment on Japan's possible contribution to AIIB

TOKYO, 9 April — The government on Thursday declined to comment on news reports that Japan's possible financial contribution to a China-led development bank would amount to billions of dollars in the event Tokyo participated.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga said that regardless of such reports, Japan remains "cautious" about joining the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, which will be launched by the end of the year.

"I refrain from commenting on every news report," Suga said at a news conference. "The government is conducting various

studies, but our country maintains a cautious stance about participation in the AIIB." "In coordination with relevant countries, (Japan) has been urging China that the AIIB meet standards suitable for so-called international financial institutions, which we believe is naturally necessary," the top government spokesman said.

While Britain and other key European countries have announced that they will take part in the new bank, Japan — in close coordination with the United States — has decided to stay out of it, citing concern over the opaqueness of the institution's govern-

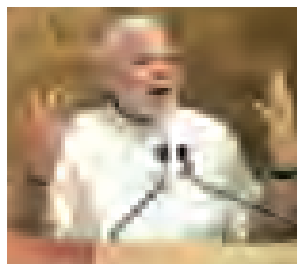
ance standards.

Earlier this week, *Kyodo News* reported that an internal government document showed that Japan envisages a possible contribution of up to \$1.5 billion to the AIIB in the event that Tokyo participated.

The Yomiuri Shimbun reported on Thursday that Japan would chip in \$1.1 billion-\$1.5 billion should it join the bank. Citing government calculations, the Japanese daily paper said the envisaged amount would expand to \$2.1 billion-\$3 billion if the institution's initial capital of \$50 billion were raised to \$100 billion in the future.

Kyodo News

India's Modi says progress possible in Rafale fighter jet talks



Prime Minister Narendra Modi

PARIS, 9 April — India and France should be able to make progress in talks over the purchase of Rafale fighter jets, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi said in an interview with French newspaper *Le Figaro*. "The question of the Rafales is still in discussion and we should be able to make progress on

mutually acceptable bases," Modi told the newspaper ahead his arrival on Thursday in France for a state visit. Talks on the proposed purchase of 126 Rafale planes have been under way for more than three years, trying to resolve differences over pricing and local assembly.—*Reuters*

Singapore's public housing flat resale prices decline in March

SINGAPORE, 9 April — The resale prices for Housing and Development Board (HDB) flats in Singapore dropped by 0.8 percent on-month in March, according to the HDB on Thursday.

The prices of all property types decreased in March, except HDB executive flats which rose 1 percent. Resale prices for three-room and four-room flats dropped by 0.9 percent and 1.1 percent respectively, while five-room flats experienced a 0.5 percent decline. SRX Property said prices have declined 6.6 percent from the same period a year ago and 11.1 percent from the peak in April 2013 on the whole.

A total of 1,349 HDB resale flats were sold last month, an 17.5 percent increase from the 1,148 transacted units in February. The resale volume was down 5 percent compared with a year ago, SRX Property said. The overall median Transaction Over X-Value (TOX), a measurement of whether people are overpaying or underpaying SRX Property's estimated market value, remained negative.

About 80 percent of the resident population in Singapore live in high-rise flats built by the Housing and Development Board and sold to local households under the basic principle of one unit per household.

Xinhua

Cambodia's new election body to start functioning on 13 April



Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen(R) and Sam Rainsy, president of the opposition Cambodia National Rescue Party (CNRP), speak to media in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, on 9 April, 2015. XINHUA

PHNOM PENH, 9 April — Cambodia's new National Election Committee (NEC) will be launched on 13 April after the National Assembly approved the new NEC's nine members on Thursday, Prime Minister Hun Sen said.

Some 113 of 117 lawmakers voted in favour of the nine members, including four each from the ruling Cambodian People's Party (CPP) and the opposition Cambodia National Rescue Party (CNRP), and one "neutral" person from a non-governmental organization.

"On Saturday, there will be a swearing-in ceremony of the newly-elected

president, vice-president and members of the new NEC," he told reporters after the voting session. "And a power transfer ceremony from the old NEC to the new NEC will be held on Monday at the NEC headquarters."

The new NEC was introduced after Hun Sen and CNRP President Sam Rainsy reached an agreement on 22 July to end the opposition's 10-month boycott of the National Assembly following the 2013 elections.

Both Hun Sen and Sam Rainsy have confidence that the new NEC will ensure free and fair national elections in 2018 and prevent post-election

deadlock.

"I'm confident that the reformed NEC will end the concerns of our people and businessmen over post-election crisis," Hun Sen said.

Sam Rainsy said, "From now on, the Cambodian people will have confidence in the future elections. Definitely, there will be no post-election dispute in the future."

Under the new election law, any party, that wins one or more parliamentary seats in the election but boycotts the National Assembly when the king convenes, will be deemed to have abandoned seats.

Xinhua

S Korea says has no word if North has nuclear ICBM capability

SEOUL, 9 April — South Korea's Defence Ministry said on Thursday it could not confirm a Pentagon report saying North Korea has the ability to launch an intercontinental ballistic missile carrying a nuclear weapon.

Ministry spokesman Kim Min Seok said during a press briefing that Seoul has no information

on whether North Korea is capable of mounting a miniaturized nuclear warhead on a ballistic missile.

On Tuesday, Adm William Gortney, commander of North American Aerospace Defence Command and the US Northern Command, said that US intelligence believes that North Korea has acquired the capa-

bility of miniaturizing a nuclear weapon and installing it on its KN-08 intercontinental ballistic missile.

"Our assessment is that they have the ability to put a nuclear weapon on a KN-08 and shoot it at the homeland," Gortney told reporters during a Pentagon briefing.

Kyodo News

In Jamaica, Obama seeks to reassert US leadership in Caribbean

KINGSTON, (Jamaica), 9 April — President Barack Obama arrived in Jamaica on Wednesday to attend a Caribbean summit seeking to reassert US leadership in the region at time when oil-producing Venezuela's economic clout may be receding.

As the first US president to visit Kingston since Ronald Reagan in 1982, Obama faces the challenge of convincing Caribbean island leaders that Washington is genuinely re-engaging after a long period of perceived neglect of its smaller, poorer neighbours.

Obama arrived in the middle of Jamaica's Carnival week but will have little time to take in the revelry during a 24-hour visit expected to be dominated by discussions on energy, security and trade with the 15-member Caribbean Community, or Caricom.

Some analysts say a key reason why Washington is suddenly paying attention to the Caribbean Basin is that it wants to wean the islands off dependence on cut-rate Venezuelan oil that Caracas has long used to wield influence in the region.

Most Caricom members participate in Venezuela's discounted Petrocaribe oil programme, but Caracas now finds itself in growing economic distress due to low oil prices.

"As Petrocaribe is unraveling, the US is taking advantage," said Michael Shifter, president of the Inter-American Dialogue think tank in Washington. "The Caribbean islands have to look elsewhere for energy."

The Obama administration launched the Caribbean Security Energy Initiative last year, and in January



US President Barack Obama (2nd R) is greeted by Jamaica's Prime Minister Portia Simpson Miller (C) as he arrives aboard Air Force One at Norman Manley International Airport in Kingston, Jamaica on 8 April, 2015.—REUTERS

Vice President Joe Biden hosted Caribbean leaders in Washington to discuss alternative energy sources such as wind and solar.

From Jamaica, Obama travels to Panama to attend a Western Hemisphere summit, where Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro

has made clear he will confront Obama over new US sanctions.

Obama will also cross paths at the Summit of the Americas with Cuban President Raul Castro for the first time since the two announced a historic opening between their countries in

December.

Communist-ruled Cuba will also be on the agenda in Kingston, with leaders largely supportive of US détente with the region's most populous island nation.

In Thursday's talks, Obama will try to show that even though he remains pre-occupied with crises elsewhere in the world, he is determined to focus on the Caribbean.

"We absolutely feel that the Caricom region does deserve greater attention and engagement from the United States," Ben Rhodes, Obama's deputy national security adviser, told reporters. "At times people feel like the United States has not engaged these countries significantly as we should."

Rhodes said the talks would yield "concrete outcomes" but he declined to

provide details on any new regional initiatives.

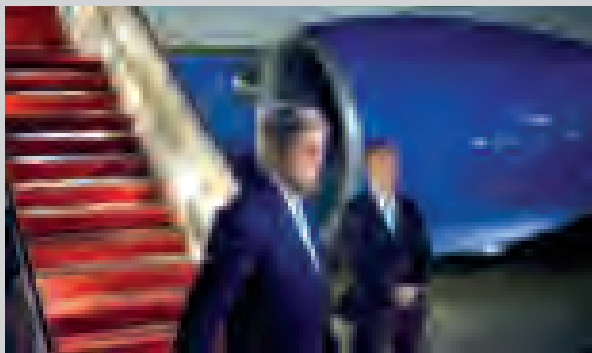
With Caribbean countries saddled with high unemployment, many are eager for a re-energized US partnership. "We have no jobs here. Jamaican people just want jobs," said Marie Sherrod, 32, a craft vendor on the beach in Kingston.

The night before getting down to work with Caribbean leaders, Obama paid a visit to the Bob Marley Museum in Kingston.

On a tour of the house where the reggae legend lived until his death in 1981, Obama, in shirtsleeves, was shown a trophy room where Marley's Grammys and platinum records were on display. Meanwhile, Marley's hit song "One Love" played over the loudspeaker. "What a wonderful tour," Obama said as he wrapped up the visit.

Reuters

Kerry says US aware of Iran's support to Yemen's Houthis



US Secretary of State John Kerry arrives at Andrews Air Force Base in Maryland, on 3 April, 2015. REUTERS

WASHINGTON, 9 April — US Secretary of State John Kerry said on Wednesday the United States is well aware of the support that Iran has been providing to Houthi forces who have driven Yemeni President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi out of the country.

Kerry said the United States would support countries in the Middle East who feel threatened

by Iran.

"We're not looking for confrontation, obviously, but we're not going to step away from our alliances and our friendships and the need to stand with those who feel threatened as a consequence of the choices that Iran might be making," Kerry said in an interview with PBS Newshour.

Reuters

Iran will sign final nuclear deal only if sanctions lifted — Rouhani on state TV



Iran's President Hassan Rouhani smiles as he leaves a news conference at a hotel after the fourth Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) summit, in Shanghai on 22 May, 2014.—REUTERS

ANKARA, 9 April — Iran will agree to a final nuclear accord with six major powers only if all sanctions imposed on the country over its disputed nuclear work are lifted, President Hassan Rouhani said in a televised speech on Thursday.

"We will not sign any deal unless all sanctions are lifted on the same day ... We want a win-win deal for all parties involved in the nuclear talks," Rouhani said.

The tentative deal between Iran and the six powers on curbing Iran's nuclear work, reached a last week in the Swiss

city of Lausanne, revived hopes of an end to sanctions in return for limits on the Iranian atomic programme.

Iran wants sanctions to be lifted altogether and at once, but the United States made it clear on Monday that sanctions would have to be phased out gradually under the final nuclear pact.

A deadline for reaching the final agreement is 30 June and Iran, the United States, Germany, France, Britain, Russia and China are expected to meet in the coming days to discuss the deal.—*Reuters*

N Korea fired two short-range missiles into Yellow Sea on Tuesday

SEOUL, 9 April — North Korea test-fired two short-range surface-to-air missiles, known as KN-06, into waters off its west coast on Tuesday, South Korea's Defence Ministry said on Thursday.

Spokesman Kim Min Seok made the statement when asked by reporters to

confirm news reports carried by local media earlier Thursday.

When pressed why the information was not immediately made public, he said it was because the range of the missiles was relatively short. Kim said South Korea is closely monitoring for signs of

North Korea preparing to launch ballistic missiles. Speculation has surfaced in recent days that it may launch missiles around founder Kim Il Sung's birthday, which falls on 15 April, or when US Defence Secretary Ashton Carter makes a three-day visit to Seoul, which is set to begin

later Thursday. Last week, North Korea fired several short-range rockets into the Yellow Sea, apparently as a gesture of defiance against an annual US-South Korean military exercise that has been under way since 2 March and is scheduled to run until 24 April.

Kyodo News

Russia to stop air search for missing crew from sunken fishing trawler

VLADIVOSTOK, 9 April — Russia will end its air search on Friday for the 13 people missing from a fishing trawler that sank off Russia's Kamchatka Peninsula, local authorities said on Thursday.

The maritime search

and rescue efforts in the shipwreck area will continue until 10 April, and the number of fishing vessels participating in the rescue mission has increased to 43, the Russian Emergency Situations Ministry said.

A MI-8 helicopter is carrying out the last day's air search, the ministry said.

The fishing trawler Dalniy Vostok had 132 crew members on board when it sank in the Sea of Okhotsk at 6:15 am local

time (1915 GMT) on 2 April.

So far, 56 people have been confirmed dead, with 63 rescued and 13 still missing.

The cause of the accident is under investigation. *Xinhua*

WORLD

US soldier killed in possible Afghan insider attack

JALALABAD, (Afghanistan), 9 April — An Afghan man dressed in the uniform of local security forces opened fire on US soldiers in eastern Afghanistan on Wednesday, killing one American and wounding several more before the shooter himself was killed, a US official said.

Many details surrounding the incident were still unclear. The Pentagon and US State Department only confirmed an exchange of gunfire between US and Afghan forces, saying an investigation was ongoing.

“I can confirm that one American soldier was killed today,” Colonel Steve Warren, a Pentagon spokesman, told reporters.

Asked whether this was an insider attack by an Afghan soldier turning his weapon against NATO forces, Warren said: “It’s a little early to tell. Indications are leaning that way.”

“But we need to let a little more information come out first,” Warren added. Two Afghan soldiers were also injured in the shootout, but it was unclear who had fired first, Afghan police said.

A US official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said shooting was initiated



Afghan civil order policemen stand guard at the compound of a provincial governor's office in Jalalabad on 8 April, 2015. — REUTERS

by an unidentified Afghan man dressed in the uniform of Afghan security forces. He was killed in the ensuing return fire from American troops.

A second US official estimated that around six Americans were wounded.

The US State Department acknowledged only that an exchange of gunfire took place about an hour after State Department officials held a meeting with the provincial governor in Jalalabad. They had left the site before the shooting began, officials said.

“I have seen nothing

to indicate they were targeted though, and I know the investigation is ongoing,” said State Department spokeswoman Marie Harf.

The frequency of “insider attacks” in Afghanistan has fallen sharply this year as most foreign forces withdrew from the country in 2014. A small contingent of around 12,000 NATO troops remains in Afghanistan to train Afghan forces after the combat mission officially ended last year.

Wednesday’s incident was the first since January, when three US military contractors were killed by

an Afghan soldier in the capital Kabul.

In the final years of the war, dozens of incidents seriously eroded trust between Afghan forces and their international allies, forcing the coalition to scale back interaction with government troops.

The Taliban have sometimes claimed that insider attacks reflect their ability to infiltrate the enemy, but Afghan and coalition forces say incidents more often arise over misunderstandings or arguments between troops.

Reuters

Greek PM gets support, not money from Putin

MOSCOW, 9 April — Russian President Vladimir Putin offered Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras moral support and long-term cooperation but no financial aid on Wednesday, leaving Athens to fend for itself in resolving urgent debt problems with Western creditors.

The leftist-led Greek government, at loggerheads with its euro zone and International Monetary Fund creditors, risks running out of money within weeks unless it can reach a new cash-for-reform deal.

“The Greek side has not addressed us with any requests for aid,” Putin told a joint news conference after Kremlin talks. “We discussed cooperation in various sectors of the economy, including the possibility of developing major energy projects.”

Tsipras added: “Greece is not a beggar going around to countries asking them to solve its economic problem, an economic crisis that doesn’t only concern Greece

but is a European crisis.”

Athens managed to sell 1.138 billion euros (825.9 million pounds) in six-month Treasury bills on Wednesday to keep itself afloat. The next test comes on Thursday when the government is due to repay the IMF 450 million euros, leaving it scraping state agencies’ cash reserves to pay April public sector salaries and pensions.

Greece must roll over another 1 billion euros in short-term debt on 15 April. On a maiden visit to Moscow that caused unease among some EU partners, Tsipras mostly heeded warnings from Brussels and Berlin not to break ranks with European Union economic sanctions imposed on Russia over its role in destabilizing Ukraine. He told the news conference that Greek exports had been hurt by Russian counter-measures he called understandable, and said he had made clear to his EU peers that he disagreed with the rationale for “economic warfare”. —*Reuters*

South Carolina police shooting reflects racist pattern, residents say

NORTH CHARLESTON, (SC), 9 April — For the dozens of protesters who descended on the working-class South Carolina city of North Charleston on Wednesday, a bystander’s video of a white police officer gunning down a fleeing black man was long-awaited confirmation of what many residents have been saying for years.

Activists said the footage, showing Officer Michael Slager shooting 50-year-old Walter Scott in the back, is chilling evidence of what they portray as “an atmosphere of racism” that allows African-Americans to be targeted in North Charleston and across the state. “This is not an isolated incident,” said Muhiyidin Moye D’Baha, an organizer with the activist group Black Lives Matter. “This is something that exists within a system down here.”

It is a point of view that has been echoed in predominantly African-American neighbourhoods across the country, where the more aggressive tactics police have employed to curb crime have stirred deep resentment.

Residents of the St Louis suburb of Ferguson, Missouri, where an unarmed black teenager was shot

to death last summer, described a similar pattern of racial harassment by a mostly white law enforcement establishment.

Local, state and federal officials were quick to condemn the actions by Slager, 33, who was arrested on a murder charge on Tuesday after a witness came forward with video of the Saturday shooting. In the footage, Scott can be seen running from Slager as the patrolman aims his weapon and begins firing. It was the 11th time this year an officer has been involved in a shooting in South Carolina. Slager’s arrest and termination did little to ease long-simmering racial tensions in the city, where nearly half the residents are black and about 21 percent of the police force is African-American. The police chief and mayor are also white.

Otha Meadows, president of the local chapter of the Urban League and a resident of the city for nine years, said the community was frustrated by a number of shootings of black men by police officers in the region.

“The community has felt that those shootings have gone on deaf ears and been swept under the rug,” he said. —*Reuters*

Cameron’s Conservatives pledge to renew nuclear submarine fleet

LONDON, 9 April — Prime Minister David Cameron’s Conservative Party on Thursday promised to renew the country’s ageing nuclear submarine fleet if it wins a 7 May national election, hoping to put pressure on their main rivals Labour to match the commitment.

Replacing the vessels carrying the Trident missiles — four Vanguard-class submarines — is expected to cost 20 billion pounds with a final decision on the renewal due to be taken in 2016. Opponents argue replacing Trident could cost as much as 100 billion pounds and Britain should consider cheaper alternatives.

“The Conservative manifesto will guarantee that we will build a new fleet of four Successor ballistic missile submarines,” Defence Secretary Michael Fallon wrote in the *Times* newspaper. “We will retain the Trident continuous-at-sea nuclear deterrent to provide the ultimate



Crew stand on the deck of the Royal Navy nuclear-powered submarine HMS Astute near the Skye bridge off the Isle of Skye, northwest Scotland on 22 Oct, 2010. — REUTERS

guarantee of our safety.”

The Conservatives have long supported renewing Trident, and Thursday’s pledge is designed as a challenge to Labour which, whilst also backing the programme, has mooted the idea that three submarines could fulfil the same role.

With neither Labour or the Conservatives forecast

to win the election outright, Labour’s most likely route to power is a deal with the Scottish National Party (SNP) who vocally oppose any renewal of the fleet, which is based in Scotland.

SNP leader Nicola Sturgeon on Wednesday said her party would “never ever, ever” vote for a renewal of the Trident programme, potentially

complicating post-election government-forming negotiations.

“Labour is committed to maintaining a minimum, credible, independent nuclear deterrent, delivered through a continuous-at-sea deterrent,” Labour defence spokesman Vernon Coaker said in a statement. “This is not up for negotiation with any party.” —*Reuters*

PERSPECTIVES

Friday, 10 April, 2015

Don't let poverty drive children out of schoolBy *Kyaw Thura*

There is no child who does not love being told fairy tales before bedtime. This tells us children are enthusiastic about learning and shows us how important primary education is to them. As the United Nations Millennium Development Goals state, every boy and girl should be able to complete a full course of primary education.

Most people feel education can help society

eradicate poverty in a sustainable manner. The view that educating children is crucial to ending extreme poverty is held by many nations. They prioritize programmes designed to invest in human capital in the belief that it can pave the way for social mobility.

Investing in primary education encourages children to realize their full potential as future leaders of their countries and the world as a whole.

In Myanmar, some children, especially in rural areas, do not have easy access to education. The number of schools in remote and rural areas is quite small. Many schools do not have adequate resources. In addition, long travelling distances discourage children from attending school. Many children in rural areas have to walk miles to the nearest school.

Despite the government's generosity in making primary education free nationwide, pov-

erty still remains a major obstacle for school-age boys and girls from poor families. We should not let poverty drive our children out of school, especially in this age. Leaving school and working to support families will no doubt have tragic consequences for children.

All things considered, primary education is not only the basic rights of all children but also a solid foundation for upward social mobility.

Write for us

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

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

Let us pay deep homage to the Sacred Uppatasanti (Protection against Calamity) pagoda (Cetiya) of 325 feet in height, the Replica of the most famous Shwedagon Pagoda in Nay Pyi Taw, the capital of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Ba Sein (Religious Affairs)

We all Buddhists take great awareness that the Omniscient Buddha Himself made a vow (resolution) before His Parinibbana (noble demise).

The vow says, "After My Parinibbana all my scared relics should not be in one and should be parted in various pieces and propagated in different parts for all beings in the universe to be able to attain the stage of the Nibbana".

During the lifetime of the Omniscient Buddha and after the noble demise (Parinibbana) of the Omniscient Buddha, the four kinds of pagoda (Cetiya) were greatly built by Buddhist peoples and Buddhist communities across the world dedicating to the Nine Supreme Attributes of the Omniscient Buddha. The four kinds of pagodas

(Cetiya) are as follows:-

- (1) Dhatu Cetiya (Pagoda) in which the sacred relics of the Omniscient Buddha are enshrined.
- (2) Dhamma Cetiya (Pagoda) in which scriptures and inscriptions of the Omniscient Buddha are enshrined.
- (3) Oddissa Cetiya (Pagoda) in which Buddha Images and Statues are enshrined.
- (4) Pariboga Cetiya (Pagoda) in which materials and objects used by the Omniscient Buddha are enshrined.

The world Buddhist communities firmly recognize that the Republic of the Union of Myanmar is a leading Theravada Bud-

dhist nation in the Buddhist world. According to the historical records of Buddhism, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has been a genuine Theravada Buddhist nation for thousands of years and over 90 percent of the whole population of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar have taken faith in genuine Theravada Buddhism since then.

According to the historical records of Myanmar, the successive Myanmar Kings and governments of Myanmar significantly encouraged and supported for carrying out the noble task of the purification, perpetuation and propagation of the Buddha Sasana (the noble teachings of the Omniscient Buddha) throughout the country and they themselves built pagodas, monasteries, temples and other religious edifices dedicating to promotion and propagation of the

Buddha Sasana. The successive Kings of Myanmar devoutly and deeply took faith in the genuine Theravada Buddhism. For instance, His Majesty King Anawrahta who firstly founded a strong and stable Kingdom of Myanmar vividly implemented the noble task of the purification, perpetuation, propagation and promotion of the genuine Theravada Sasana with great assistance of the Most Ven. Shin Arahan from Suvannabonmi (Thaton). Furthermore, His Majesty King Anawrahta built a large number of pagodas, monasteries, temples and other religious buildings not only in Bagan, the capital of Myanmar Kingdom at that time but also throughout the Kingdom. Multifarious Buddhist people across the Kingdom carried out the noble task of promotion and flourishing of the Buddha Sasana (Teachings of the Omnisci-

ent Buddha) under the prudent guidance and supervision of members of Sangha Order and His Majesty King Anawrahta.

And also now, we all Buddhists throughout the Republic of the Union of Myanmar take awareness that the newly-built sacred Uppatasanti (protection against calamity) Pagoda (Cetiya) of 325 feet in height, the Replica of the most ancient famous Shwedagon Pagoda which was built during the lifetime of the Omniscient Buddha in 103 Great Era, over 2558 years ago, is being paid homage in Nay Pyi Taw, the capital of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

The great grand auspicious stake driving ceremony for construction of the sacred Uppatasanti Pagoda was held in Nay Pyi Taw on 12 November 2006. Under the prudent and effective guidance and supervision of the members of the State Ovadacariya (Patron) Committee of the Sangha and the State Sanghamahanayaka Committee of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and heads of the State, the successful construction of the sacred Uppatasanti Pagoda was completed in 2009. It took only about three years.

The auspicious Ceremony of hosting the sacred golden umbrella

(Shwetidaw) atop the Uppatasanti Pagoda.

In accordance with Buddhist traditions and ritual rites, the auspicious ceremony for Upper enshrinement of religious objects and hoisting the sacred golden umbrella (Shwehtidaw) atop the pagoda was grandly held on 7th March 2009, the auspicious ceremony for hoisting the Diamond Orb and the Vane atop the sacred golden umbrella (Shwehtidaw) of the pagoda was held on 8th March 2009 and the auspicious ceremony for offering the golden lotus robe, the emerald bowl and the consecration of the pagoda on 9th March 2009 respectively.

All Buddhist people, well-wishers and donors throughout the country were cordially invited to attend these auspicious ceremonies in order to pay deep homage to the newly-build Uppatasanti Pagoda in Nay Pyi Taw, the capital of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Paying homage to the newly-built Uppatasanti Pagoda, the Replica of the most famous Shwedagon Pagoda in Yangon, will be like just paying homage to the most famous Shwedagon Pagoda which was built in the lifetime of the Omniscient Buddha in 103 Great Era (589 BC) over 2558 years ago.

Interview for candidates of scholarship continues

YANGON, 9 April—The interview for candidates from second and third batches for President's scholarship was held for the ninth day at Yangon Technological University in Insein Township on Thursday.

A total of 37 candi-

dates in engineering major joined the interview.

From 1 April to date, 733 candidates have sat the interview. The scholarship scrutiny committee will shortlist the winners from them once more and announce the list.—*Khin Cho Win*

GOLD PRICE, FE RATE

(9-4-2015)

Yangon Gold Price

Buying K680,900 per tical: Selling K681,900

Mandalay Gold Price

Buying K680,300 per tical: Selling K681,300

FE RATE

SGD Buying K 789: Selling K 795

Euro Buying K 1,150: Selling K 1,180

LOCAL NEWS

Monastery receives replica of Japan's Maha Kamakura Buddha

MYINT O O LWIN, 9 April — Myataung Monastery in Pyin Oo Lwin Township in Pyin Oo Lwin Township on Wednesday received a replica of Japan's Maha Kamakura Buddha donated by a well-wisher who commissioned the silicon-fibre copy of the famous statue located near Tokyo.

The statue was transported from Padauk Street in Industrial Zone-1 of Mandalay to the monastery at Peikchinmyaung Cave. Well-wisher U Myint Thein spent K70 million on the carved image, which took two years and three months to make.

"The image made of silicon can be conveyed easily," U Myint Thein said. "I studied the technology in China to create



this image."

The image is 14 feet high and 10 feet wide. The

chamber and throne for the image were donated by U Myint Sein and family of UTL generator industry.

Myint Sein and family of UTL generator industry. Aung Ye Thwin

Electoral officials compile voter lists ahead of poll

KYAUKPADAUNG, 9 April — Staff of Kyaukpadaung Township Elec-

tion Sub-commission are compiling voter lists ahead of the general elections

slated for the end of October or early November. A total of 99,335 men

and 120,021 women voters are residing in 12 wards and 109 village-tracts in Kyaukpadaung Township as of 31 December, 2014.

The sub-committee is computerizing the voter lists based on information from ward and village-tract administrators, as well as the Township Immigration and National Registration Department.

Under the supervision of the chairman of the township sub-commission U Maung Maung Shein, 20 computer operators from the Ministry of Education compile the voter list as of 30 March.—Ko Nay (Kyaukpadaung)



Natogyi Township plans to dredge 55 more lakes next FY

NATOGYI, 9 April — The Township Irrigation Department has dredged 25 earthen lakes this summer in Natogyi Township, Mandalay Re-

gion, so as to store water in the coming monsoon season, Staff Officer U Aung Myint Than of the department said.

The department

dredged 99 small lakes last year and 25 more lakes this year. These lakes can store monsoon rainwater to boost local supplies, he added. Under the township

General Administration Department, the Irrigation Department will dredge 55 more lakes in the 2015-16 fiscal year.

Htay Myint Maung



TODAY'S MYANMAR NEWS SITES



Deputy Director of Myawady District Immigration and National Registration Department U Aung Thein Win and officials discuss birth registration activities in Myawady on 9 April.—TUN TUN OO (MYAWADY TOWN)

Loans contribute to extension of livestock breeding

KANBALU, 9 April — A ceremony to present loans to livestock breeders was held at the hall of the Township Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department in Kanbalu, Sagaing Region, on 3 April.

Commander of the Township Police Force Police, Police Major Moe Myint Zaw, and the head of the Township LVBD Dr Kyaw Win spoke at the ceremony.

The cooperative, formed with 59 members in 2009, began a breeding

program with 6,354 goats, funded with K59 million from World Yadana Bank Ltd.

A total of 9,453 goats have been sent to Kachin State and Mandalay Region. As the bank disbursed

K59 million with 1.7 percent interest from 2009 to 2015, the cooperative society has the opportunity to extend its tasks to be able to contribute towards alleviation of poverty in rural areas.—Aung Win Nyein (Kanbalu)

Yemen's Houthis seize provincial capital despite Saudi-led raids

ADEN, (Yemen), 9 April — Houthi fighters, backed by supporters of former Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh entered the provincial capital of the mainly Sunni Shabwa Province in eastern Yemen on Thursday, residents said, despite intense Saudi-led air strikes against the group.

Residents said local tribal chiefs and security



People walk past a car damaged by an airstrike in Sanaa on 8 April, 2015.—REUTERS

officials facilitated the entry of the Houthi forces to the city of Ataq, where they took control of the offices of the local government and security forces compounds.

It was the first time that the Houthis, who hail from the Zaidi branch of Shi'ite Islam, and forces loyal to Saleh had entered the city, where the fiercely Sunni Muslim Awlaki tribe comes from.

The takeover brings the Houthis and Saleh's forces closer to the country's most prized economic asset, the Belhaf gas facility and export terminal, on the Arabian Sea about 160 km (100 miles) to the

southeast.

Saudi Arabia, backed by four Gulf Arab states and other regional Arab allies, has mounted two weeks of air strikes against the Iran-allied Houthis after they pushed south toward Aden, the stronghold of Saudi-backed President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi.

The air campaign failed to stop the Shi'ite Houthis and soldiers loyal

to Saleh entering central Aden. But the coalition says it has cut Houthi supply lines, destroyed weapons depots and pushed them back in some southern provinces around Aden.

Earlier in the day, residents of al-Siddah district in central Yemen said they woke to find al-Qaeda flags flying over local government offices.

They said a group of al-Qaeda militants led by a local commander known as Ma'mour al-Hakem, took over the district at night. Residents said the Houthis, who had been in control of the town for more than two months, retreated without a fight.—Reuters

French broadcaster TV5Monde hit by Islamist hackers

PARIS, 9 April — Hackers purporting to be supporters of Islamic State knocked out channels belonging to French public television station TV5Monde and posted material on its social media feeds to protest French military action in Iraq.

President Francois Hollande's government branded the cyber attacks, which started late on Wednesday, a "vile and cowardly" affront to freedom of expression and began an investigation, promising to track down those responsible.

Yves Bigot, head of the TV5Monde station, said the assault caused its 11 chan-

nels to go temporarily off air and also hit its websites. The network broadcasts news and entertainment programs in French on 11 channels around the world, and is 49 percent owned by state-backed broadcaster France Televisions. French news agency AFP said the hackers posted documents on TV5Monde's Facebook page purporting to be the identity cards of relatives of French soldiers involved in anti-Islamic State operations, and threats against the troops. The Facebook page was back up on Thursday but the main website remained down.—Reuters

Islamic State releases more than 200 captive Yazidis in Iraq

KIRKUK, (Iraq), 9 April — More than 200 elderly and infirm Yazidis were freed on Wednesday by Islamic State militants who had been holding them captive since overrunning their villages in northwestern Iraq last summer.

A Reuters reporter saw the group of 216 people, which included two Christians, handed over to Kurdish forces near the city of Kirkuk. Some were too exhausted and disoriented to speak.

One elderly woman said she had been captured by the insurgents last August when they overpowered Kurdish forces in the Sinjar area and proceeded to purge its Yazidi population, killing hundreds and taking thousands captive.

The woman, who asked not to be named, said she had told her son and two young daughters

to run away as the militants closed in, but stayed behind herself because she was unwell and did not want to slow them down.

"I had lost hope of seeing my children again, but today it has happened," she said as they embraced her and wept.

It was not clear why the radical jihadists had decided to release the Yazidis, whom they consider devil-worshippers, but the group previously freed 200 more it was holding under similarly mysterious circumstances.

Some of the Yazidis said they had been held in the Islamic State stronghold of Tel Afar most of the time, but in the days leading up to their release, they were moved from one town to another in Islamic State's self-proclaimed caliphate.

The Yazidis thought



An officer from the Kurdish forces carries an elderly woman from the minority Yazidi sect, on the outskirts of Kirkuk on 8 April, 2015.—REUTERS

they were being led to their execution, but instead, were piled onto a minibus that drove them to peshmerga positions in batches. Yazidi community leaders were there to receive them and an ambulance was on standby.

Yazidi activists say many remain in the hands of Islamic State, which has

often subjected women to rape or sexual slavery. The United Nations said last month Islamic State may have committed genocide against the minority.

The Yazidis are an ancient, predominantly Kurdish people who follow their own religion derived from Islam, Christianity and Zoroastrianism.—Reuters

UAE says 'systematic' Iranian meddling in Yemen, region

ABU DHABI, 9 April — Iran is meddling in Yemen's conflict and elsewhere in the region, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) foreign minister said on Wednesday, and Gulf Arab states had little

grounds for hoping they could build normal ties with Teheran.

"Someone might say that the information pro-

vided by Yemen is not accurate, but there is systematic action that has been going for years on the idea of exporting the (Iranian) revolution."

Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed added at a news conference that a Saudi-led coalition now attacking Iranian-allied Houthi fighters in Yemen wanted a UN Security Council resolution requiring all parties to take part in dialogue and imposing a ban on arms purchases by Houthis and other groups "that are out of line".

Asked about evidence to back up allegations by Saudi- and US-backed Yemeni President Abd Rabbu Mansour Hadi that Shi'ite Muslim Iran provided support for Shi'ite Houthi militia fighters opposed to his rule, Sheikh Abdullah replied:

Iran denies arming the Houthis and has condemned the Saudi-led offensive against the Houthis of which the UAE is a part. It sent two warships to the Gulf of Aden on Wednesday, saying they would protect Iranian shipping.

Sunni Muslim Gulf Arabs could have "positive, normal" ties with Teheran, he said, "but Iran is not giving its partners in the region this hope...Each time we try to come close to Iran it starts spoiling the region, making (matters) difficult for our countries."

Iran denies arming the Houthis and has condemned the Saudi-led offensive against the Houthis of which the UAE is a part. It sent two warships to the Gulf of Aden on Wednesday, saying they would protect Iranian shipping.

Reuters



The United Arab Emirates Foreign Minister Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan during a meeting in Sharm el Sheik on 26 March, 2015.—REUTERS

Iran, Pakistan agree to work for peaceful solution to Yemen crisis: Iranian FM

ISLAMABAD, 9 April — Visiting Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad-Javad Zarif said on Wednesday that Iran and Pakistan have agreed to work for a peaceful solution to the Yemen crisis.

Zarif made the remarks at a joint press conference with Pakistan's top foreign affairs adviser Sartaj Aziz after their official talks that focused on the crisis in the Middle East.

"We have agreed to work together for a peaceful solution to the conflict in Yemen," said the Iranian foreign minister, who arrived Wednesday evening on a two-day visit to Pakistan. He demanded a halt to the Saudi-led airstrikes in Yemen and said these actions have caused sufferings of the people in Yemen. He also called for an immediate ceasefire in Yemen to give opportunity to the peace process.

"We support intra-Yemeni dialogue to find out solution and to form a broad-based government there," Zarif said. He denied military support to the Houthis.

The Iranian foreign minister warned that the Islamic State or Daish and al-Qaeda are taking advantage of the situation in Yemen and they have already taken control of some areas.

He said Pakistan and

Iran face serious challenges of terrorism and extremism and referred to the recent killing of eight Iranian guards near the Pakistani border region. He welcomed Pakistan's announcement to investigate the incident.

Zarif said he also discussed the situation in Afghanistan and both sides agreed to work together for peace and stability in Afghanistan.

Xinhua

Dust-covered ice glaciers found on Mars

CAPE CANAVERAL, 9 April — Mars has thousands of glaciers buried beneath its dusty surface, enough frozen water to blanket the planet with a 3.6-foot (1.1-metre) thick layer of ice, scientists said on Wednesday.

The glaciers are found in two bands in the mid-southern and mid-northern latitudes. Radar data, collected by Mars-orbiting satellites, combined with computer models of ice flows show the planet has about 5.3 trillion cubic feet (150 billion cubic metres) of water locked in the ice, according to a study published in this week's issue of the journal *Geophysical Research Letters*.

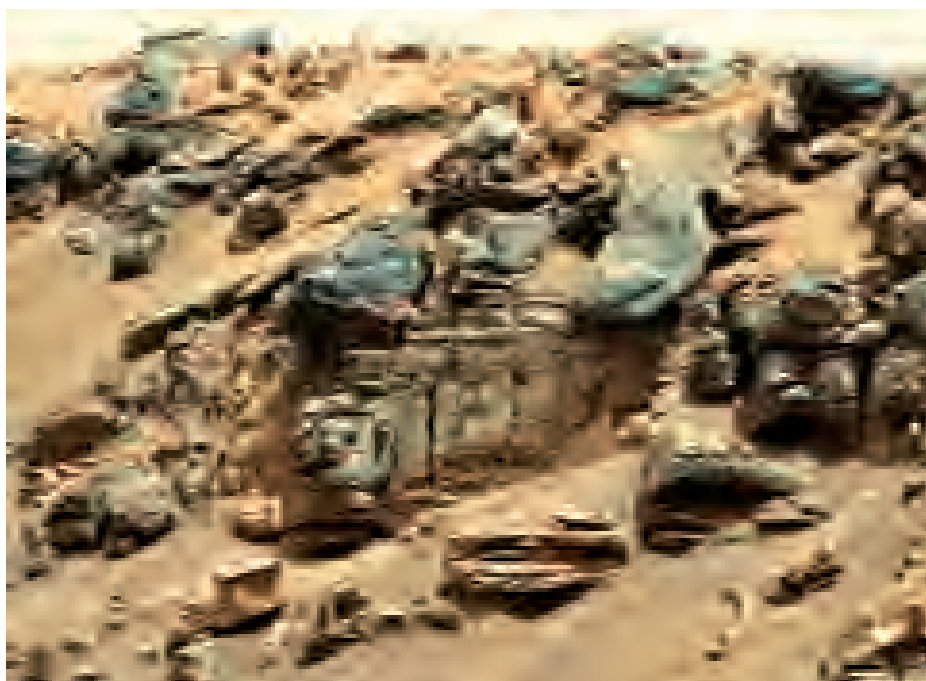
"The ice at the mid-lat-

itudes is therefore an important part of Mars' water reservoir," Nanna Bjornholt Karlsson, a researcher at the University of Copenhagen's Neils Bohr Institute, said in a statement.

Scientists have been trying to figure out how Mars transformed from a warm, wet and presumably Earth-like planet early in its history into the cold, dry desert that exists today.

Billions of years ago, Mars, which lacks a protective, global magnetic field, lost much of its atmosphere. Several initiatives are under way to determine how much of the planet's water was stripped away and how much remains locked in ice in underground reservoirs.

"The atmospheric



An evenly-layered rock on the planet Mars, photographed by the Mast Camera (Mastcam) on NASA's Curiosity Mars Rover is shown in the NASA handout provided on 9 Dec, 2014.—REUTERS

pressure on Mars is so low that water ice simply evaporates and becomes water vapor," the institute said in a news release.

Scientists suspect that the glaciers remained intact because they are protected under a thick layer of dust.

In addition to evidence of river beds, streams and hydrated minerals, scientists studying telltale molecules in the Martian atmosphere last month concluded that the planet probably had an ocean more than a mile deep covering almost half of its northern hemisphere. Mars has lost about 87 percent of that water, scientists said.

Currently, the planet's largest known water reservoir is in the polar caps.

Reuters

Scientists restore the good name of Brontosaurus



An artist's rendering of a Brontosaurus as researchers see it today, with a Diplodocus-like head is seen in this undated handout courtesy of Davide Bonadonna in Milan, Italy.—REUTERS

WASHINGTON, 9 April — Paleontologists are restoring the good name of Brontosaurus more than a century after it was deemed scientifically invalid and the famous dinosaur was reclassified as another genus called Apatosaurus.

They unveiled on Tuesday an exhaustive analysis of Brontosaurus remains, first unearthed in the 1870s, and those of closely related dinosaurs, determining that the immense, long-necked plant-eater was not an Apatosaurus and deserved its old name back.

Paleontologist Emanuel Tschopp of Portugal's Universidade Nova de Lisboa cited important anatomical differences in-

cluding Apatosaurus possessing a wider neck than Brontosaurus and being even more massively built.

"The differences between Apatosaurus and Brontosaurus are numerous enough to revive Brontosaurus as a separate genus from Apatosaurus," Tschopp said. Brontosaurus, which lived in North America around 150 million years ago in the Jurassic Period, was about 72 feet (22 metres) long and weighed about 40 tons.

"Brontosaurus and T rex are the two most popular dinosaur names ever," said Universidade Nova de Lisboa paleontologist Octávio Mateus. "Even 112 years after paleontologists considered

it invalid, the name Brontosaurus still echoes in the popular culture. It was indeed a very cool dinosaur name."

"This will be like recovering Pluto as a planet again," Mateus added, referring to astronomers' 2006 decision to downgrade Pluto from a full-fledged planet to a dwarf planet.

After his team excavated fossils of two huge long-necked dinosaurs, prolific 19th century paleontologist Othniel Charles Marsh named the first one Apatosaurus ("deceptive lizard") in 1877 and the second one Brontosaurus ("thunder lizard") in 1879.

In 1903, paleontologist Elmer

Riggs declared that Brontosaurus and Apatosaurus were too similar for each to be considered a separate genus. Because Apatosaurus was named first, under the rules of scientific naming it supplanted Brontosaurus.

But the name was so popular it survived its burial, with "Brontosaurus" and things like "Bronto Burgers" appearing in numerous books, cartoons, movies and elsewhere.

Brontosaurus belonged to a group of dinosaurs with long necks and tails and pillar-like legs called sauropods that included Earth's largest land animals ever.

This study, published in the scientific journal *PeerJ*, focused on the anatomy and relationships among a category of sauropods called diplodocids, which includes Brontosaurus, Apatosaurus, Diplodocus and others.

"I remember finding out that Brontosaurus was actually called Apatosaurus as a child," University of Oxford paleontologist Roger Benson said. "It didn't seem right, and I think a lot of people will secretly be pleased that Bronto is back again."

Reuters

"Extinct" New Zealand plants rediscovered in wild

WELLINGTON, 9 April — Two unique New Zealand plants that have been believed extinct in the wild have been rediscovered, the government's Department of Conservation announced on Tuesday.

Dysphania pusilla, or pygmy goosefoot, had been one of eight native plant species listed as completely extinct until its surprise rediscovery in summer at two widely-separated sites in the South Island, said a statement of the department.

Another native herb, *Lep tinella filiformis*, or slender button daisy, was being cultivated at some protected sites, but was last seen growing wild in the late 1990s until it was rediscovered growing wild at another site in the South Island.

"The last record of pygmy goosefoot was from 56 years ago and amazingly, when rediscovered this year, a few thousand plants were seen at both locations," director-general Lou Sanson of the department said in the statement.

"Botanists believe pygmy goosefoot may lie dormant for many years as seed when conditions aren't suitable for it to grow. It was fortunate rangers were in the right places at the right time when it had germinated in abundance enabling its rediscovery," he said.

"Both herb species grow in dry, open areas and finding them highlights how much is still being learnt about the unique species that inhabit such dryland ecosystems and what is needed to preserve them."—Xinhua

Reuters

Samsung expects record Galaxy shipments, S6 edge shortage

SEOUL, 9 April — Samsung Electronics Co Ltd (005930.KS) expects record shipments for its new Galaxy S6 smartphones and said it will struggle to meet demand for the curved-edged version due to production constraints, adding to hopes for a turnaround in mobile sales.

The S6 models are widely expected to sell briskly following a string of positive reviews, boosting prospects for an earnings recovery in 2015. This week, the company estimated its January-March operating profit to be its highest in

three quarters, which analysts said was partly because Samsung put its own chips in the new phones.

Samsung expects the flat screen S6 to sell more than the higher-margin S6 edge — priced about \$120 more in South Korea — but mobile chief J K Shin said at a media event on Thursday the firm won't be able to keep up with demand for the latter model in the near term because the curved screens are harder to manufacture.

"Some carriers are switching existing orders to get more of the S6 edge, and it looks like demand

for the model will exceed supply throughout this year," said HMC Investment analyst Greg Roh. "That means average selling price will fall at a slower rate, which will have a positive impact on Samsung overall."

Samsung has not disclosed its shipment record for a handset. Analysts regard the Galaxy S3 as its best-selling model overall, though they estimate the Galaxy S4 to have done better in its initial year, when a model is most profitable.

Nomura estimated that Samsung sold 80 million S3s in three

years from its 2012 launch, and 43 million S4s from the model's April 2013 launch to the end of that year. Some analysts say Samsung could ship 50 million or more S6 phones this year.

Samsung's Shin also said the South Korean electronics maker is preparing a variety of wearable devices, including a new version of its Gear smartwatch, but did not give specifics. Arch-rival Apple Inc (AAPL.O) is due to roll out its much-anticipated smartwatch on 24 April.

Reuters

Norway's prime minister apologizes for treatment of Romas during World War Two



Norway's Prime Minister Erna Solberg gestures during the session 'Ending Poverty through Parity' in the Swiss mountain resort of Davos on 24 Jan, 2015.

REUTERS

OSLO, 9 April — Prime Minister Erna Solberg apologized on Wednesday for discrimination against Norway's Roma population before and after World War Two, calling it a dark part of the country's history, and promised to pay reparations.

The Scandinavian country's small Roma minority, of around 500, have campaigned since the 1990s for compensation for their mistreatment.

Solberg's comments followed the release of a

government-commissioned report in February that detailed how Norwegian Roma citizens in the 1930s were denied re-entry after travels abroad. It named 62 people who ultimately perished in Nazi death camps following the rejections.

Survivors of the death camps were also denied re-entry to Norway after the war for up to 10 years, the report by the Centre for Studies of the Holocaust and Religious Minorities showed.

The prime minister said the measures taken by the authorities at the time amounted to a "racist exclusion policy".

"It's time for a moral reckoning with this dark part of our history. The state recognizes its responsibility for the errors that were made and the injustice done to Norwegian

Roma," Solberg said in a statement.

Data from the mid-1920s shows that between 100 and 150 Roma lived in Norway at that time, according to the Centre for Studies of the Holocaust and Religious Minorities.

More research was needed to uncover the full extent of what happened to Roma in Norway during German occupation of the country from 1940-1945, the report said.

Solberg promised that the right-wing coalition government would pay reparations but said the details would be worked out in cooperation with Roma representatives.

Elsewhere in Europe, Greece is seeking 278.7 billion euros from Germany in reparations from World War Two.

Reuters

North Korea demands cargo ship held in Mexico since summer be freed

NEW YORK, 9 April — A North Korean diplomat on Wednesday called for the immediate release of a North Korean cargo ship moored in Mexico since last summer and blamed the United States for pulling strings behind the grounding of the vessel, suspected of links with a shipping company blacklisted by a sanctions panel under the UN Security Council.

Speaking to a group of reporters at the North Korean diplomatic mission in New York, An Myong Hun, deputy ambassador, said the *Mu Du Bong* is "totally a peaceful and legitimate commercial ship" and had "not shipped any items prohibited by international law and regulations."

He also said that the *Mu Du Bong* "has no relations at all with Ocean Maritime Management Co," the Pyongyang-based shipping company targeted by the committee on sanctions against North Korea under the Security Council. The deputy envoy said the ship has more than 50 crew members and they are enduring "inhuman life detained within the ship for more than eight months. Their families are crying for their safe return." The envoy said Mexico has acknowledged that the North Korean ship has not violated any international laws, adding that "we believe that it is none other than the United States which is behind" the detaining of the ship in Mexico. The UN Security Council's sanctions panel sent experts last fall to investigate the *Mu Du Bong*. OMM is one of the North Korean companies also subject to sanctions imposed by the US Treasury Department in July.—*Kyodo News*

American woman deported from N Korea arrives in Beijing

BEIJING, 9 April — A woman believed to be American humanitarian aid worker deported from North Korea arrived in Beijing on Thursday, seemingly in good health.

The grey-haired woman, thought to be the person identified by North Korean official media as Suh Sandra, was escorted away by US officials in the terminal of Beijing's international airport. The *Korean Central News Agency* on Wednesday night reported that the woman, who had frequently visited the country over the

past two decades for supposed humanitarian work, had actually been engaged in "plot-breeding" and producing propaganda against the country through photos and videos.

It said she had "apologized for her crimes" and begged for forgiveness. Instead of detaining her, it was decided to deport her, "taking into full consideration her old age and by displaying the generosity" of the North Korean law.

The brief report did not provide her age or other specifics.—*Kyodo News*

Tsarnaev convicted in Boston bombing, may face death sentence

BOSTON, 9 April — Dzhokhar Tsarnaev was found guilty on Wednesday of the 2013 Boston Marathon bombing that killed three people and injured 264 others, and the jury will now decide whether to sentence him to death.

Tsarnaev, 21, is the surviving member of pair of ethnic Chechen brothers who planted the homemade pressure-cooker bombs that tore through the crowd at the famed race's finish line in one of the most shocking attacks on US soil since 11 September, 2001. He left a note behind describing the

attack as an act of retribution for US military campaigns in Muslim-dominated countries.

His lawyers opened Tsarnaev's federal trial in Boston a month ago by bluntly admitting "it was him" who planted one of the bombs on 15 April, 2013 and three days later shot dead a police officer, kicking off a day of chaos in Boston.

After 11 hours of deliberations over two days, the jury found him guilty of all 30 criminal counts he faced.

The slightly built,

lightly goateed defendant stood silently, shifting uncomfortably as a US District court official read out each guilty finding, a process that took 25 minutes.

The courtroom was packed with survivors of the attack including the parents of 8-year-old Martin Richard, the youngest fatality, and law enforcement officials, including former Boston Police Commissioner Ed Davis.

After the verdict was read, Karen Brassard, whose left leg was badly injured by one of the bombs, said she was glad that Tsar-

naev had shown no emotion.

"Personally I wouldn't have bought it if he had," Brassard said, as an early-spring sleet fell over Boston's waterfront. "He has been, to use my word, arrogant walking in and out of the courtroom."

The blasts killed restaurant manager Krystle Campbell, 29, Chinese exchange student Lingzi Lu, 23, and Richard. Tsarnaev also was found guilty of the fatal shooting of Massachusetts Institute of Technology police officer Sean Collier, 26.—*Reuters*

Three killed, two injured in Milan courthouse shootout

MILAN, 9 April — Three people were killed and another two were injured when the defendant opened fire during a hearing in Milan's courthouse on Thursday, local reports said.

A bankruptcy judge, Fernando Ciampi, and a young lawyer, Lorenzo Alberto Claris Appiani, were among the victims, according to court sources quoted by ANSA news agency.

The accused, an entrepreneur named Claudio Giardiello, 57, was arrested later by police some 20 km away from the Milan's courthouse while trying to

flee the scene on a motorbike, Rai State television said.

Two injured people, of whom one was reportedly seriously wounded, were rushed to hospital. "I was outside a courtroom on third floor and I heard the gunshots. I saw a young man who had been shot to death and later two others lying on the floor," a lawyer told Rai. "He used to be a client of mine, but I gave up on him because he was an over-the-top person," Giardiello's former lawyer commented on the shootout.

"Understanding how it

was that a man armed with a gun was able to enter the courthouse will be a very serious issue," a columnist of Milan-based *Corriere della Sera* newspaper, Giuseppe Guastella, told *Xinhua*. "There are seven passages in the courthouse, of which three are equipped with metal detectors," Guastella said.

He explained to *Xinhua*, however, that judges and lawyers are allowed to enter the courthouse without passing through the metal detectors.

Hundreds of courthouse workers, journalists and passers-by gathered

outside the courthouse, which is located in a central

area of the northern Italian city where the next world

exposition will kick off on 1 May.—*Xinhua*



Police cars surround the tribunal of Milan on 9 April, 2015.—REUTERS

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WEATHER REPORT

BAY INFERENCE: Weather is generally fair in the East Central Bay of Bengal and partly cloudy in the Andaman Sea and elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.
FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 10th April, 2015: Rain or thundershowers are likely to be scattered in Kachin state, isolated in Sagaing, Mandalay, Yangon and Taninthayi Regions, Shan, Chin, Kayin and Mon States, partly cloudy in Bago and Yangon Regions and weather will be generally fair in the remaining Regions and States. Degree of certainty is (60%).
STATE OF THE SEA: Seas will be moderate in Myanmar waters.

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

Death toll from fuel truck explosion in SE Mexico climbs to 20

MEXICO CITY, 9 April — The death toll from a fuel truck explosion in Mexico's southeast state of Tabasco in late March climbed to 20 Wednesday, officials said.

Victims numbered 19 and 20 both died on Wednesday, the Tabasco State Prosecutor's Office (FGE) and the Health Secretariat reported separately.

"We report that at this time the body of the 19th victim of the gas truck explosion on the Cardenas-Coatzacoalcos Hwy. is being taken to the Semefo (Forensic Medical Service)," the FGE said via Twitter.

The victim was identified as Ana Patricia Sanchez Madrigal, 24.

Minutes earlier, the Health Secretariat reported that Abimael Candelero Correa, 28, died of his injuries at the hospital where he was being treated.

The accident occurred on 26 March when the dual-tank fuel truck carrying 60,000 liters of gasoline veered off the highway and crashed into nearby trees.

According to media reports, local residents were drawn to the scene to collect the spilled fuel, with two killed instantly and 34 others severely injured after the tanks exploded.

Mexico's Milenio daily cited the FGE as saying "the victims ... tried to collect the fuel of the overturned tanks, not heeding the barricade tape placed by members of Civil Protection."

The company that owned the truck, Transportadora de Liquidos del Norte, claimed the accident was caused by armed robbers trying to steal the cargo.—Xinhua



A firefighter examines the site of a fire in a plant of Tenglong Aromatic Hydrocarbon (Zhangzhou) Co Ltd on Gulei Peninsula of Zhangzhou City, southeast China's Fujian Province, on 9 April, 2015. The fire in the chemical plant was extinguished at around 2:57 am on Thursday (1857GMT on Wednesday) after storage tanks repeatedly caught fire. On Monday evening, oil leaked from a xylene facility in the plant caught fire and led to blasts at three nearby tanks.—XINHUA

At least 24 killed, 22 injured in road accident in central Bangladesh

DHAKA, 9 April — At least 24 people were killed and more than 22 others injured when a passenger bus veered off the road and fell into a ditch in Bangladesh's central Faridpur district, some 101 km away of capital Dhaka, early Thursday.
"The passenger bus fell into a road side ditch, leaving 15 passengers dead on the spot and some 22 to 24 were injured," Ratan,

a Faridpur police official, told Xinhua. "Nine of the injured died on the way to local hospitals," he added.

The accident occurred as the bus driver lost control over the steering and plunged the vehicle into a ditch.

Bangladesh has one of the highest fatality rates for road accidents in the world mainly due to shoddy highways, poorly maintained

vehicles, violation of traffic rules by inept drivers and lack of monitoring of the traffic department. According to a study of Accident Research Centre of Bangladesh University of Engineering Technology, some 10,000 to 12,000 people are killed in road accidents in Bangladesh every year, of which about 75 percent fatalities occur in rural areas.—Xinhua

Falls in crime may be due to drinking decrease in Australian state

MELBOURNE, 9 April — The number of young adults committing crime in Australian state of Victoria is lowering drastically, statistics released by the Sentencing Advisory Council suggested on Thursday.

The statistics said that the number of people aged between 18 and 24 that were being sentenced dropped a whopping 26.4 percent

across all Victorian courts between 2009 and 2014.

However, this was partly due to police being more lenient to young people regarding some crimes, with more warnings being handed out for offenses such as possession of cannabis. Cautions issued to young adults in the same time period had risen 31 percent, but the number of young offenders detained

by police dropped 5 percent in the same time. Sentencing Advisory Council chairman Professor Arie Frieberg said that similar trends were being seen around the country, so it wasn't just merciful policing, but a change of attitude towards illegal practice from young people. "The trend being observed in Victoria is consistent with broader trends around Aus-

tralia indicating that it is not simply the result of a change in policing practice," he told Fairfax Media on Thursday.

The study also illustrated a dramatic drop in the number of juvenile offenders, with 39 percent fewer young people being sentenced over the same five year period between 2009 and 2014. A spokesperson for Victoria Police said that

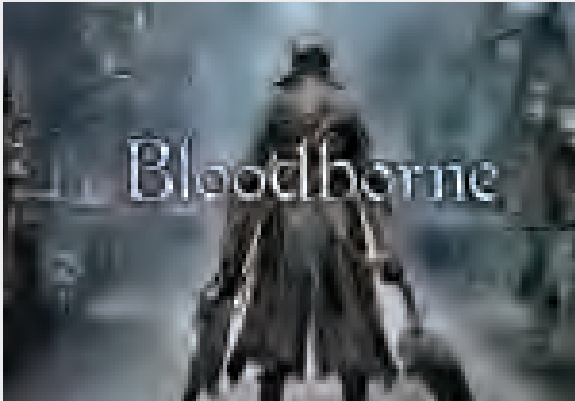
by managing police units better and increasing the number of warnings handed out for minor breaches, young people tended not to risk a second offense.

"Putting people before the court is not always the best use of our time, nor the best outcome for the offender," the spokesperson told Fairfax Media on Thursday.

"Getting people appro-

priate treatment is important and, anecdotally, once people have been issued with (something like a) cannabis caution, we don't tend to encounter them again for the same offenses." The study also found that young people were binge drinking less, smoking less and using illicit substances less than those in the same age bracket five years ago.—Xinhua

Bloodborne original soundtrack to release this month



Bloodborne full soundtrack will be available in Europe and North America as a physical cd and digital release.—PTI

LONDON, 9 April — The original soundtrack for Bloodborne will be on sale from 21 April, it has been revealed.

Priced at USD 9.99, the full soundtrack will be available in Europe and North America as a physical CD and a digital release through Sumthing Else Music Works, reported *Digital Spy*.

Consumers can also purchase songs individually for USD 0.99 from the publisher.

The soundtrack comprises 21 tracks featuring over 70 minutes of music by a 65-piece orchestra and 32-piece choir, ac-

cording to Eurogamer.

Bloodborne's music was composed by artists such as Yuka Kitamura (*Dark Souls 2*), Tsukasa Saitoh (*TenchuZ*), Nobuyoshi Suzuki, Ryan Amon (*Elysium*) and Michael Wandmacher (*Twisted Metal*).

A recently-released promo for the PlayStation 4 exclusive gives an inside look at a live recording session for one of the tracks that make up its 'haunting' score.

Elsewhere, a newly-discovered glitch seemingly makes in-game boss battles easier after 12 hours.—PTI

Wale edges out 'Furious 7' for top spot on Billboard 200

LOS ANGELES, 9 April — Rapper Wale's latest studio record topped the weekly US Billboard 200 album chart on Wednesday, but it was the soundtrack to Universal Pictures' hit "Furious 7" movie that posted the largest rise this week.

Wale's "The Album About Nothing," which features narration by comedian Jerry Seinfeld, sold 88,000 albums, 74,000 songs and was streamed 6.9 million times, for a total unit tally of 100,000, according to figures from Nielsen SoundScan.

The "Furious 7" soundtrack, which features Wiz Khalifa and Charlie Puth's song "See You

Again" as a tribute to the street car franchise's late star Paul Walker, rose to No 2 from No 17 on the chart, with 74,000 units sold this week.

The boost in sales comes from the film's debut over the weekend, which broke April box office records with a \$143.6 million (97 million pound) opening.

The Billboard 200 chart tallies album sales, song sales (10 songs equal one album), and streaming activity (1,500 streams equal one album).

"Furious 7" star Ludacris's new album "Ludaversal" came in at No 3 just behind the soundtrack,



Rapper Wale attends the re-opening of 40/40 Club in New York on 18 Jan, 2012.—REUTERS

with sales of 73,000 units.

Last week's chart-topper, Kendrick Lamar's "To Pimp A Butterfly," dropped to No 4.

Other new albums this week include country artist Darius Rucker at No 7 with "Southern Style," alt-rockers Death Cab for Cutie at No 8 with "Kintsugi" and singer-songwriter Sufjan Stevens at No 10 with "Carrie & Lowell."

On the Digital Songs chart, Mark Ronson and Bruno Mars' "Uptown Funk!" was pushed from the top spot to No 2 by Khalifa and Puth's "See You Again," which sold 168,000 downloads.

Reuters

'John Wick' directors eyed for DC movie?



Directors of Keanu Reeves starrer "John Wick", Chad Stahelski and David Leith, are being pursued to helm a big-screen adaptation of DC Comics for Warner Brothers.—REUTERS

LOS ANGELES, 9 April — Directors of Keanu Reeves starrer "John Wick", Chad Stahelski and David Leith, are reportedly being pursued to helm a big-screen adaptation of DC Comics for Warner Brothers.

It is unclear what movie is offered to the pair, but there are a number of DC movies in works, reported *Aceshowbiz*. "The Flash" starring Ezra Miller and "Aquaman" starring Jason Momoa are due in 2018. "Shazam" starring The Rock will arrive in 2019, while "Cyborg" starring Ray Fisher and "Green Lantern (2020)" will follow in 2020.—*Reuters*

Frank Ocean's new album to be out in July

LOS ANGELES, 9 April — Rapper Frank Ocean's new album, rumoured to be called "Boys Don't Cry", will release this July.

A new publication by the 27-year-old rapper will also come out the same month, reported *Aceshowbiz*.

Ocean took to his website FrankOcean.com to

share a photo of him sitting next to two stacks of magazines with the words "Boys Don't Cry" on the covers.

"I got two versions. I got twooooo versions, #ISSUE1 #ALBUM3 #JULY2015 #BOYS-DONTCRY," he wrote in the caption, hinting that the album would be titled "Boys Don't Cry".

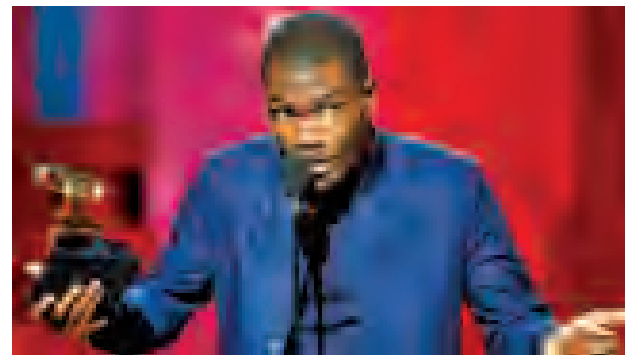
His representative then confirmed that a new Frank Ocean album would indeed come out in July.

Ocean has been working on his new full-length with producers Hit-Boy, Rodney Jerkins, Happy Perez, Charlie Gambetta and Kevin Ristro.

The record will serve as the follow-up to his

2012 acclaimed set "Channel Orange" that won the Best Urban Contemporary Album Award at the 2013 Grammys.—PTI

Rapper Frank Ocean's new album, rumoured to be called "Boys Don't Cry", will release this July.—PTI



'Logan's Run' to get new version with female lead

LOS ANGELES, 9 April — Warner Bros is reportedly reviving the classic sci-fi movie 'Logan's Run' with a female lead after Ryan Gosling bowed out of the project.

The story is set in a dystopian future where people are killed off when they reach a peak age in order to avoid overpopulation and maintain the

consumption of very limited natural resources, reported *Aceshowbiz*.

Director Nicolas Winding Refn ("Drive") was initially circling the project and actor Ryan Gosling was attached to play the title role, but the two eventually left to pursue other projects. Based on a novel by William F Nolan and George Clayton Johnson, the original movie

was released in 1976 with Michael York as the titular character. It spawned a TV spin-off starring Gregory Harrison and airing from 1977 to 1978.—PTI

Warner Bros is reportedly reviving the classic sci-fi movie 'Logan's Run' with a female lead after Ryan Gosling bowed out of the project.—PTI



Toyota to start Tokyo trial of electric three-wheeler in green mobility push

TOKYO, 9 April — Tokyoites will get a chance to zip around town on Toyota Motor Corp's three-wheeled electric car-motorbike from Friday, in a trial aimed at crafting a global business model to reduce gridlock and pollution.

The world's top-selling automaker will partner Japanese car-sharing service operator Park24 Co Ltd for a six-month experiment leasing the i-Road concept vehicle, with a view to setting up a green car-sharing business akin to Daimler AG's car2go service.

The pint-sized i-Road has two front wheels that move up and down independently of each other, allowing it to lean like a motorcycle but retain the stability of a car. Toyota has not yet decided whether to mass-produce it.

"Our concept was to offer something that's both fun and convenient for city driving," i-Road chief engineer Akihiro Yanaka told *Reuters*. Devising smarter ways to get around - known in the industry as "smart



A Toyota i-Road electric vehicle drives in a underground parking lot in Tokyo, on 9 April, 2015.— REUTERS

mobility" — looks set to become a new battleground for automakers as urbanization grows, pollution worsens, and more cars clog up cities in emerging markets.

Germany's Daimler has taken the lead with car2go, where its 1 million-plus members in 30 European and North American cities use a mobile app to reserve the tiny Smart Fortwo car, many of which are zero-emission. Drivers pay by the minute and can drop the car off at

various spots around town.

Ford Motor Co in January announced the Ford Smart Mobility initiative that would involve various types of trials around the world including a car-sharing service in London. Toyota also has car-sharing experiments underway in its namesake city as well as in France's Grenoble, but Tokyo would be its first in a major metropolis, which it says would benefit most from the i-Road. "Data shows that about 70 percent

of cars in big cities are occupied by one person, with most traveling less than 10 km (6.2 miles)," said Toshiya Hayata, group manager of Toyota's Smart Community department. "That means the mode of transportation doesn't have to be a car." In the upcoming trial, users can lease one of five i-Roads from the upmarket Ginza shopping district for 412 yen (\$3) per 15 minutes, dropping it off at any of five spots in the capital.—*Reuters*

Second case of feared banana disease confirmed in Australia

SYDNEY, 9 April — A second case of a destructive disease affecting banana plants has been confirmed in Australia, dashing hopes that a recently confirmed outbreak would be isolated and threatening the country's A\$550 million (\$423 million) sector.

The so-called Tropical

Race 4 strain of Panama disease was found at a farm in Mareeba in the far north of Queensland, the local government said on Thursday.

It comes a month after the discovery of the first case in Queensland at a farm in Tully. State biosecurity officials quarantined that farm and growers hoped

the incident would prove to be isolated. Now, with a second case some 200 km (124 miles) from the original outbreak, the banana industry is concerned the disease may spread to other parts of the country's largest banana-producing state.

"The Panama tropical race 4 (TR4) on a second

North Queensland banana farm has further emphasized the need for every assistance to be provided to the banana industry to help contain the disease," the Australian Banana Growers' Council said.

Panama disease hits banana plant roots, with Race 4 considered particularly destructive.—*Reuters*

IKEA seeks to drive food sales growth with eco-friendly menu

STOCKHOLM, 9 April — Swedish furniture retailer IKEA said sales growth at its food business could accelerate in coming years, helped by a drive to meet customer demand for healthy and eco-friendly dishes. IKEA Food Services, which runs the group's in-store budget restaurants and Swedish food stores, in January reported an 8.6 percent rise in sales in its 2013/14 fiscal year, to 1.7 billion euros (\$1.8 billion).

The division's boss, Michael La Cour, said it could outstrip that sales growth in coming years as it catered

better for customers who had become more conscious about the nutritional value and sourcing of their food in recent years.

"This massive shift in terms of how to serve and what people expect around food of course has an impact on how we want to do food going forward at IKEA," he told *Reuters* on Wednesday. "The food business will be a strong contributor to IKEA. We don't think the 8.6 percent is the ceiling."

The food business accounted for 5 percent of sales in the fiscal year to August 2014 at IKEA Group, which

owns IKEA Food Services and most of the IKEA stores worldwide. La Cour said he expected that proportion to be at least unchanged this year. In a first step of its food drive, IKEA on Wednesday launched a vegan version of its signature Swedish meatballs with a carbon footprint 30 times less than that of the meat-based product. Within months, all seafood on sale will be certified as sustainably fished, La Cour added.

La Cour said the 2013 horse meat scandal - which saw IKEA withdraw its meatballs across most of Europe after a supplier found

a batch that contained traces of horse meat - was a wake-up call for the food industry.

"The horse meat scandal, which we got entangled in due to lack of transparency in the supply chain, was absolutely an example of how demands on the food industry have to change," added the IKEA veteran, who became food chief 18 months ago. Besides making money on their own, IKEA banks on its restaurants, which average 2,000 square meters and last year had 600 million customers, to make visitors to its stores stay and shop longer.—*Reuters*

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(10-4-2015 07:00 am~ 11-4-2015 07:00 am) MST

- * News
- * "Myanmar's Beauty and Nature" Beach
- * Crocodile Keeper
- * News
- * The Long-Lasting Royal Tradition
- * Thingyan Dance
- * News
- * Myanmar Wedding Dresses
- * Myanmar Betels
- * News
- * Ambassador's View: Indonesia — Myanmar Bilateral Ties
- * Kambawzathardi Golden Palace — A Treasured Legacy of Golden Days
- * News
- * Short Trip With Steve (Taungyi Trip)
- * Today Myanmar "Rattan Export"
- * News
- * Lisu New Year Festival
- * Shwe U Min Natural Cave In Kalaw
- * Amazing May Phoo Han
- * News
- * Cruising To Precious Islands (Part-2)
- * Marketable Goods (Aluminium Glasses & Stainless Steel)
- * News
- * Thingyan Dance
- * Bagan: The Land of Pagoda
- * News
- * "Myanmar's Traditions and Culture" Myanmar Pottery
- * Thread Charm "A Kayin Threading Ceremony"
- * News
- * MONASTERY Yot Son Kyaung (Sa-Le)

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(10-4-2015, Friday)

- 6:00 am**
- Paritta by Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw
- 6:35 am**
- Physical Exercise
- 7:35 am**
- People's Talks
- 8:00 am**
- News / International News
- 8:35 am**
- Current Affairs
- 9:35 am**
- Weekly Entertainment
- 10:35 am**
- MRTV's Youth Programme
- 11:35 am**
- Science and Technology Programme
- 12:00 noon**
- News / International News / Weather Report
- 12:35 pm**
- Hluttaw Image
- 1:20 pm**
- Talk on Old Film
- 2:15 pm**
- Songs of Thingyan Festival
- 2:35 pm**
- Traditional Boxing
- 3:00 pm**
- News
- 4:35 pm**
- Documentary
- 5:30 pm**
- Head Line News
- 6:35 pm**
- Hyper Sports
- 7:35 pm**
- Documentary
- 8:00 pm**
- News / International News / Weather Report
- 9:00 pm**
- News
- Hluttaw Image
- Amazing World
- Teleplay

India expects normal monsoon rains this year

NEW DELHI, 9 April — India's summer monsoon rains are expected to be normal this year, the chief economic adviser at the finance ministry said on Thursday.

Monsoon rains are vital for India's farm sector, which accounts for 14 percent of the \$2 trillion economy, as half of the country's farmland lacks irrigation.

Weak monsoon rains have cut farm output in the past, stoking inflation.

Arvind Subramanian also said inflation is not expected to run up in the medium term due to the recent unseasonal rains, which have damaged over 10 million hectares (24.7 million acres) of crops.—*Reuters*

Myanmar shooters to take part in ISSF Rifle and Pistol World Cup in ROK



YANGON, 9 April—Selected shooters from Myanmar team left for the Republic of Korea on 7 April to take part in the 2015 Rifle and Pistol World Cup of International Shooting Sports Federation from 8 to 16 April.

Myanmar team consisted of Ye Tun Naung for 10m air pistol and 50m prone pistol, Myo Thant Kyaw for 10m air pistol, Kyaw Swa Win for 50m

prone pistol, Kaung Htaik and Wai Yan Min Thu, 50m shooting and May Poe Wah, Khin Pa Pa Soe and Khin Kyu Kyu Khaing for 10m air pistol and 25 sport pistol under manager/coach U Aung Thura (Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry), Mr Florin Cristofor (Romanian rifle coach) and Mr Calota Gritian (Romanian pistol coach).

SPED

United primed to resume Manchester top-dog role



Manchester United manager Louis Van Gaal

LONDON, 9 April — Manchester United, buoyed by five successive Premier League victories, head into Sunday's derby against Manchester City a place and a point above their rivals and believing they are poised to restore red ascendancy in the city.

Champions City have won the last four league meetings against United, including a 1-0 victory at the Etihad Stadium in November, but their hopes of retaining the title have faded. They have dropped down to fourth after four wins in 11 league games and trail leaders Chelsea by nine points.

United, meanwhile, have put their early season struggles behind them to climb to third, eight points clear of fifth-placed Liverpool in the race for Champions League qualification. "It was another Manchester United (last November), I believe," United boss Louis van Gaal told reporters after Saturday's 3-1 win against Aston Villa.

"That was more in the start of the process and now we are in the end of the process." Now we have developed the team. I think also the confidence of our players is very high at the moment.

"This next game is the decisive game... you have to win these kinds of matches." City arrive at Old Trafford on the back of a 2-1 defeat by Crystal Palace but captain Vincent Kompany believes form counts for nothing in a derby. "It doesn't matter what place you are in the league, it's a derby," Kompany said after the Palace loss.

"If anything, it's a good moment to go into a derby. "I guess the momentum is a little bit with our neighbours at the moment, but it's the perfect place for us to go and try to rectify what we've had."

Reuters

Coutinho goal sends Liverpool into FA Cup semi-final

LONDON, 9 April — Philippe Coutinho thumped home a second-half winner as Liverpool broke the resistance of Championship Blackburn Rovers to reach the FA Cup semi-finals with a gritty 1-0 replay victory on Wednesday.

Brendan Rodgers's side, who came into the game after back-to-back Premier League defeats that all but ended their hopes of a top-four finish, will face Aston Villa in a Wembley semi-final.

They came out on top at Ewood Park having dominated possession but struggled to break down the hosts who got men behind the ball and restricted Liverpool to very few sights of goal.

The breakthrough came in the 70th minute when Coutinho exchanged passes with Jordan Henderson from a corner, drove into the box and drilled the ball low into the bottom corner.

"From start to finish, I thought we were brilliant tonight," Liverpool's captain

on the night Jordan Henderson told BT Sport.

"Now we have a tough game against Villa at Wembley, but it gives the club a good lift."

The victory kept seven-times Cup winners Liverpool on course to win Rodgers's first trophy for the club after a disappoint-

ing league campaign that has left them out of the Champions League qualification places.

Rodgers had said winning the FA Cup would represent progress for his side despite failing to make any impact in the league after last season's second-place finish.

It was far from a convincing performance from Liverpool, however, who looked like the confidence had been knocked out of them by consecutive losses to Manchester United and Arsenal.

With the bone-hard and bobbly playing surface making possession difficult, Liv-

erpool, who lost defender Mamadou Sakho to injury early on, spent the first half probing at a pedestrian pace with little success.

Blackburn were rolling their sleeves up and keeping numbers in defence, the tried and tested formula for lower league teams hoping to cause a cup upset.

Liverpool had little more than glimpses of goal in the first half, with Coutinho prodding an effort that was saved by Simon Eastwood and Daniel Sturridge trying his luck with a speculative effort that drifted a fraction too high.

The hosts had two efforts saved by Simon Mignolet at the start of the second half, with the Liverpool keeper tipping Tom Cairney's 25-metre effort over the bar and palming Ben Marshall's firm header on to the post.

Liverpool maintained their stranglehold of the ball, however, and Coutinho's moment of class proved the difference.—Reuters



Philippe Coutinho celebrates after scoring the first goal for Liverpool during FA Cup Quarter Final Replay at Ewood Park on 8 April, 2015.—REUTERS

Ronaldo reaches 300 goals for Real in Rayo win

MADRID, 9 April — Cristiano Ronaldo headed his 300th goal for Real Madrid in a laboured 2-0 La Liga victory at neighbours Rayo Vallecano on Wednesday that kept the gap on leaders Barcelona down to four points.

Fresh from thrashing Granada 9-1, when Ronaldo hit five, the European champions needed a win at Rayo's Vallecas stadium after Barca strolled to a 4-0 home victory over Almeria to open a seven-point advantage over their arch-rivals.

In-form Luis Suarez scored twice and Lionel Messi ended a three-game goal drought, with Marc

Bartra also getting on the scoresheet at the Nou Camp.

Real struggled to exert any control over lowly Rayo and missed a host of chances before Ronaldo netted his 37th La Liga goal of the campaign with a header from Dani Carvajal's cross.

The prolific Portugal forward, five clear of Messi at the top of the scoring chart, is the third player after Raul (323) and Alfredo Di Stefano (307) to reach 300 goals for Real, but has needed only 288 matches, compared with Raul's 741 and Di Stefano's 396.

Ronaldo had earlier been booked for a dive in

the penalty area and will be suspended for the La Liga game at home to Eibar on Saturday.

James Rodriguez made it 2-0 with a sharp finish from Ronaldo's lay-off to lift Real to 70 points, five ahead of third-placed champions Atletico Madrid, who won 2-0 at home to Real Sociedad on Tuesday.

"We tried to pressure them with more intensity high up the pitch but in the first half we were not convincing," Real coach Carlo Ancelotti told a news conference.

"In the second, we were more complete, we played well and we de-

served to win," added the Italian.

After edging to a 1-0 win at Celta Vigo on Sunday, Barca dominated

Almeria at the Nou Camp to record their 20th victory in 22 matches this year in all competitions.

Reuters



Real Madrid's Cristiano Ronaldo (L) celebrates after scoring a goal against Rayo Vallecano during their Spanish first division soccer match at Vallecas stadium in Madrid on 8 April, 2015.—REUTERS