

Yangonites ready to get wet in four-day water festival celebration

By Ye Myint

With only one day to go, Yangon is set to mark the Thingyan New Year's water festival with lively events around the city.

The Thingyan water festival is annually observed from 13-16 April across the country. During the holiday period, roads and streets are thronged with people dancing to music and dousing each other with water.

In central Yangon, entertainment stages and water-throwing pavilions will be open from Pyay Road to Kaba-Aye Pagoda Road and from Kandawgyi Ring Road to downtown streets.

Preparations are also under way in full in the suburbs. As authorities have limited the number of festival pandals on the main roads of the city, this year's Thingyan festival is expected to see less traffic.

"I am getting exciting



A Thingyan pavilion is readied for Myanmar's New Year's water festival on Kaba-Aye Pagoda road on Saturday, ahead of the start of the festival on Monday.—PHOTO: YE MYINT

to get wet in the four-day water party," said 18-year-old Zaw Min, who bought tickets for a pandal on Kaba-Aye Pagoda Road. "I prefer sitting in a pandal to going round on the roads in

the midday heat."

Kaba-Aye Pagoda Road, where most of the big pandals are located, is pre-

ferred by revelers who circle the entertainment areas by car.

Apart from the huge

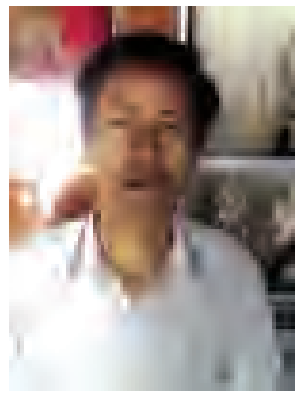
pandals lined on main roads and small ones scattered in a variety of locations, the Yangon Mayor's pandal

aims to attract locals and foreigners with a series of shows including traditional Thingyan dances.—GNLM

People of different professions voice support for recent peace move



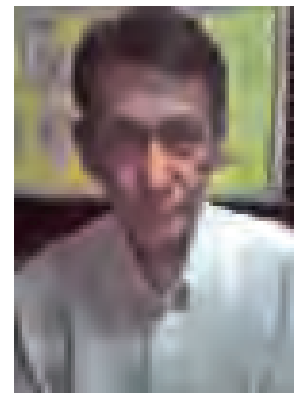
U Tin Win, village administrative officer.



Ko Kyaw Thura, a businessman.



U Saw Lwin, an assistant township education officer.



U Tun Myint, a food vendor.

MAHLAING (Mandalay Region), 11 April— Myanmar's recent move toward peace, marked by the historic signing of the draft nationwide ceasefire agreement between the government and ethnic armed groups here on 31 March, has drawn resounding support from people of different professions.

U Saw Lwin, an assistant township education officer, said internal armed

conflicts have had negative effects on the education sector since independence was restored in 1948. He urged all the stakeholders in the peace process to continue bidding to make the country modern and developed. Ko Kyaw Thura, a businessman, called the ceasefire an essential step for the country, stressing peace and stability for economic growth.

"Mutual understanding

has resulted in the realization of the draft ceasefire agreement," he said, blaming internal armed conflicts for the country lagging behind others economically and socially.

The ceasefire agreement signed by the government's Union Peacemaking Working Committee and the Nationwide Ceasefire Coordination Team representing ethnic armed groups will enable people in all

parts of the country to go to polling stations with peace of mind, said U Tin Win, a village administrative officer, who hopes for a better future for his country.

U Tun Myint, a food vendor, expressed his delight at the ceasefire agreement, saying, "Lack of stability and peace will spell disaster for hard manual labourers like us."

News & Photo: Kyaw Kyaw (Mahlaing)

Regional bloc seeks greater cooperation to fight human trafficking

By Khaing Thanda Lwin

YANGON, 11 April— Myanmar will attend a conference in Cambodia next month aimed at strengthening regional cooperation in the fight against human trafficking.

The 10th Coordinated Mekong Ministerial Initiative against Trafficking (COMMIT) senior officials' meeting will take place 28-29 April and the COMMIT inter-ministerial meeting on 30 April in Phnom Penh.

The senior officials' meeting aims to approve a new joint declaration of COMMIT to explore cooperation with other regional organizations like ASEAN, Police Captain Min Naing of Myanmar's anti-human trafficking body said. Promotion and strengthening of international and regional cooperation against human trafficking is one of the objectives of the COMMIT

process, he said.

Ministers, deputy ministers and senior officials from the six Greater Mekong Sub-region countries will hold a discussion on the achievements of the COMMIT process and future tasks at the inter-ministerial meeting, he added.

The first COMMIT senior officials' meeting was held in Bangkok in 2004. Myanmar hosted the first inter-ministerial meeting in October of that year.

Myanmar's police force is implementing a plan to combat human trafficking in a nationwide, military-style operation, Union Minister Lt-Gen Ko Ko said at last year meeting in Nay Pyi Taw.

According to official figures, police uncovered more than 1,000 cases nationwide between 2006 and 2014.

GNLM

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School buildings collapse in storm



TATKON, 11 April — A powerful storm that recently hit Tatkon Township, Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, has left schools and homes severely damaged. The storm at 7.30 pm on 9 April blew roofs from houses in 12 villages, while also damaging five buildings of the Basic Education High School Branch in Dahatgon Village. Some schools in the

villages collapsed in the strong winds. Two pylons fell in Okshitgon Village.
Tin Soe Lwin (Tatkon)

Concrete bridge marks major transport upgrade in Myanaung Tsp



MYANAUNG, 11 April —Yedwington Bridge spanning Mya Mya Creek was commissioned into service in Myanaung Township, Ayeyawady Region, on Friday. The concrete bridge linking Asel and Yedwington villages is 90 feet long and 10 feet wide. Township Administrator U Min Min Tun and local authorities formally opened the bridge. The Township General Administration Department provided more than K3.8 million, while local residents contributed over K10 million. The new bridge marks a major improvement in local transport infrastructure.
Win Bo (Township IPRD)

Insurance company presents compensation to customer

MANDALAY, 11 April — Grand Guardian Insurance Company (Mandalay Branch) presented a fire insurance payout to JJ automobile decoration shop of



Daw Shwin Chiak Hway between 62nd and 63rd streets in Channyathazi Township, Mandalay, on 9 April.

The building of the shop was engulfed by fire on 14 March.

Officer-in-charge U Tun Kyaing of the company's Yangon head office, U Kyaw Min Tun of its Mandalay branch and officials presented K105,055,250 compensation to U Sai Aung, son of the shop's owner.
Tin Maung (Mandalay)

Construction stoppages leave brick factory workers jobless

NAY PYI TAW, 11 April — Suspension of construction projects in Nay Pyi Taw and Yangon has led to a halt in production at brick factories in Ottarathiri Township, leaving workers there jobless.

“Some construction sites in Nay Pyi Taw and Yangon have been suspended, so brick trading is cold,” a factory worker said. “As a result, we seek jobs daily.”

About 10 entrepreneurs are engaged in brick-making in Phayagon Village. They hope to resume running the factories as usual.

Shwe Ye Yint



Mandalay District begins computerising township voter lists

MANDALAY, 11 April — The Mandalay District Election Sub-commission has begun computerising voter lists for the seven townships under its authority.

A team of 15 staff members recently finished compiling a list of more than 900,000 voters registered as of 15 December, 2014, according to Assistant Director U Tin Min Aye of Mandalay District Election Sub-commission Office.

“The election

sub-commission is computerising the voter lists for townships in the district based on data from the General Administration Department and Immigration and National Registration Department,” he said. “Officials of the European Union, Qatar Foundation and Asian Affairs organizations observed the compilation tasks.”

The voter lists will be announced at the respective election commission offices in the townships before 30 May.—*Aung Ye Thwin*



NATIONAL

Housing estate for war veterans constructed in Nay Pyi Taw



Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing drives a stake for construction of a housing estate for war veterans.—MYAWADY

NAY PYI TAW, 11 April—Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing put a stake into the ground for construction of a housing estate for war veterans here Saturday.

The housing project at Nawaday Ward in Pubbathiri Township will accommodate 108 war veterans who turned into physical disability in 16

buildings on 8.4-acre land plot in 2015-2016 fiscal year.

Moreover, Ministry of Defence Services will construct 23 buildings in Yangon region and another 23 buildings in Mandalay region.

The military will set up housing estates in the following fiscal years for war veterans who lost their body parts in conflicts.

Myawady

Presidential excellent performance awards selection coordinated

NAY PYI TAW, 11 April—A coordination meeting took place at the Ministry of Home Affairs here on Saturday to discuss matters related to the selection process for presidential awards of excellent performance, officials said.

Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Zan Myint urged relevant committees to ensure that their deci-

sions on awards are complaint-safe.

The excellent performance awards are categorized into nine types, some of which include the best awards for township and village development, supporting committees and development committees, and agricultural and livestock sectors.

MNA

Ledi meditation centre offers seven-day Buddhist retreat



A venerable monk delivers a sermon at Ledi Buddhist meditation centre in the township of Uttarathiri in the Nay Pyi Taw Council Area.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 11 April—The Ledi Buddhist meditation centre in the township of Uttarathiri in the Nay Pyi Taw Council Area opened a seven-day meditation retreat on Saturday.

The opening ceremony was graced by members of the Sangha led by

Kalawa Retreat Sayadaw Bhaddanta Jagarabhivamsa.

Union Minister at the President's Office U Thein Nyunt, local authorities and meditation practitioners, paid homage to the Sayadaw and monks.

Following a sermon delivered by the Sayadaw,

the monks recited parittas (religious verses).

The officials presented offertories to the Sayadaw and monks, which brought the ceremony to an end.

The week-long meditation retreat has drawn 281 meditation sitters from the council area and nearby villages.

The meditation centre, established in April 2012, can house up to 300 meditators and provide accommodations and foods donated by well-wishers.

The next meditation retreat is scheduled from 18 to 24 April.

MNA

Co-op minister looks into development programmes in Sagaing region



Union Minister U Kyaw Hsan opened two libraries each in Ywathaya and Lainkone villages, Pale Township, Sagaing Region.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 11 April—Cooperative Union Minister U Kyaw Hsan opened two libraries each in Ywathaya and Lainkone villages, Pale Township of Sagaing region, on last

week.

The minister urged locals to maintain and develop the libraries by keeping more books for potential readers as the two buildings and furniture have been set

up.

The Union minister and government officials also donated Sky Net TV receivers to the presiding monks from Lainkone, Ywatha, Ywahtin, Shwelaung,

KyokyaU and Thedaw villages.

U Kyaw Hsan said the locals that the union government and the state government will use more than K15 billion in 2015-2016 fiscal year in Pale Township for education, health, irrigation, bridges, roads, water supply, electricity distribution and other rural development programmes.

He added that the cooperative ministry's micro-loan system is included under sustainable development programmes to help people free from high interest loans, saying that individual village in this programme will have the fund of K10 million next four years.

The minister then provided K500,000 for construction of a library in Ywatha village, K1 million for construction of post-primary school, and agricultural inputs of paddy seeds, fertilizers and household items.—MNA

Coca-Cola to extend concert series to more cities

Kyaw The-ein (MNA)

NAY PYI TAW, 11 April—Coca-Cola Myanmar is extending its series of "Happiness Journey" music concerts to more cities this year.

The concert series was launched in Myanmar in 2013 with stops in Yangon and Mandalay. It included

Monywa, Pyay, Taunggyi, Patheingyi and Mandalay last year.

Using a convoy of specially-designed trucks, this year's shows, under the theme "Uplifting Break," feature performances by popular artists Sai Sai Kham Leng, Eaint Chit, Mi

Sandi, Bunny Phyoe, Me N Ma Girls and Jet San Htun.

"Based on customer demand, we are continuing the Coca-Cola Happiness Journey, bringing our 'Uplifting Break' experience to even more cities in 2015," said Rommel P. Fuentes, Marketing Director, Co-

ca-Cola Myanmar.

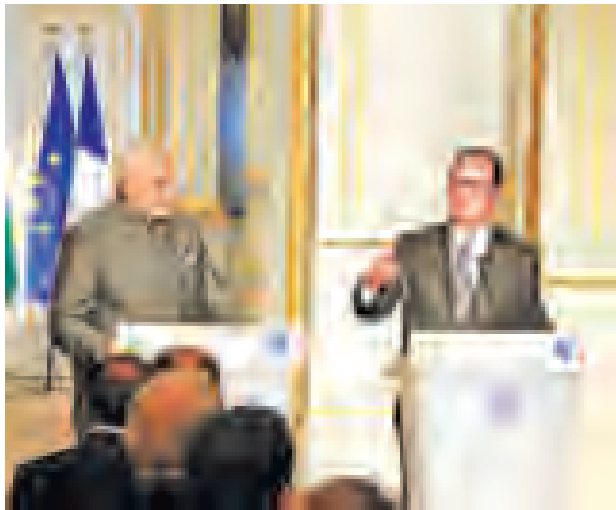
To attend the concerts, people can redeem tickets by collecting six Coca-Cola, Sprite or Max+ plastic bottle caps or cans and presenting them to the redemption booth staff to receive two tickets to the event.

The location of the

ticket redemption booth in each city is advertised on promotional banners at participating shops.

"I was delighted to be part of each and every Coca-Cola Happiness Journey stop in 2014 and am glad to be involved again this year," said singer Eaint Chit.

India to buy 36 Rafale fighter jets from France



French President Francois Hollande (R) and visiting Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi attend the press conference in Paris, France, on 10 April, 2015. India will buy 36 Rafale fighter jets from France, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced Friday on his first day of visit in France.—XINHUA

PARIS, 11 April — India will buy 36 Rafale fighter jets from France, Indian Prime Minister Nar-

ident (Francois Hollande) to supply 36 ready-to-fly Rafale jets to India,” said Modi during a joint press conference, adding that the terms and conditions are not finalized yet.

He said officials from both countries will discuss these issues in more details and continue negotiation.

France’s Defence Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian would travel to India soon to finalize the deal, according to the French president.

The contract could be worth 4 billion euros (4.24 billion US dollars), with the price of a Rafale is estimated at 110 million euros without arms.

In 2012, French company Dassault Aviation entered into exclusive negotiations with India to supply 126 fighters, a deal worth 12 billion euros.

According to previous reports, the deal’s value had risen to 20 billion euros as India wanted to build 108 jets at home.

French President Francois Hollande confirmed in February the sale of 24 Rafale fighter jets and related military equipments to Egypt, the first overseas contract of the Dassault Aviation-built planes.

The Rafale, manufactured by French company Dassault Aviation, is a twin-engine delta-wing multi-role jet fighter. Since it was introduced in 2000, it only serves in the French navy.

Due to its high price, the French aircraft faces competition from Boeing’s F/A-18 Super Hornet and Gripen NG from Sweden’s Saab.

Xinhua

Abe statement on WWII anniversary need not refer to “aggression”: panelist

TOKYO, 11 April — The acting chief of an expert panel on the war anniversary statement to be issued by Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said on Friday the statement need not include the expressions “colonial rule and aggression” and “apology” used in a statement 20 years ago.

“It would be natural that words are somewhat different between the 50th and 70th anniversaries” of the end of World War II, Shinichi Kitaoka said at a symposium in Tokyo, referring to the 1995 statement by then Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama which apologized for Japan’s colonial rule and aggression particularly in Asia.

Kitaoka, president of the International University of Japan, said in March that he wanted Abe to acknowledge that “Japan invaded” other countries in an act of aggression.

On Friday, Kitaoka said, in reference to the 1931 Manchurian Incident, what Japan did was “obviously aggression” and “illegal.”

But he also said “it is reasonable enough” to say the word aggression is no longer necessary after its inclusion in a variety of documents.

The panel will compile a report on the new statement before Abe issues it this summer, but it will not prepare a draft.—Kyodo News

Japan, China to promote exchanges as ties show signs of thawing



Ji Bingxuan (3rd L), vice chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People’s Congress (NPC) of China, shakes hands with Motoo Hayashi, chairman of the Standing Committee on Rules and Administration at Japan’s lower house in Tokyo, Japan, on 9 April, 2015. The eighth meeting of a mechanism for regular exchanges between the NPC and the Japanese Diet’s lower house was held here from 9 to 10 April.—XINHUA

TOKYO, 11 April — Japan and China agreed on Friday to promote exchanges in various fields as bilateral relations have shown signs of improvement since a meeting between Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and President Xi Jinping in November in Beijing.

Speaking to reporters after talks in Tokyo with a Chinese delegation led by Ji Bingxuan, vice chairman of the Standing Committee of the National Peo-

ple’s Congress, China’s parliament, Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga said he stressed the need to “actively promote dialogue and exchanges in line with the two countries’ strategic relations of mutual benefit.”

Suga, Abe’s right-hand man and the top government spokesman, said he proposed that Tokyo and Beijing advance exchanges at various levels.

Suga quoted Ji as telling him that China hopes

to promote bilateral exchanges as well, especially in tourism and youth exchange.

Suga said he and Ji did not discuss issues involving the Senkaku Islands, a group of East China Sea islets administered by Japan but claimed by China and Taipei, or the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, a Chinese initiative to set up a regional development bank by the end of this year.

In a sign of improved

ties, the Chinese delegation and a group of Japanese lawmakers on Thursday resumed a meeting of the Japan-China Parliamentary Exchange Commission for the first time in three years.

In the two-day meeting through Friday, the two sides raised their respective concerns such as China’s military buildup and how Japan perceives its wartime history, while exchanging views on economic issues including the AIIB.—Kyodo News

Truck bomb wounds seven on Thai holiday island Koh Samui

BANGKOK, 11 April — A truck bomb in an underground carpark wounded seven people on the Thai holiday island of Koh Samui on Friday night, in an incident which was likely to raise fears that Muslim rebels in the deep south could extend their campaign to tourist areas.

All of the wounded, who included a 12-year-old Thai-Italian girl, were later discharged from hospital with minor injuries, a hospital official told Reuters on Saturday.

The bomb exploded late on Friday, the eve of the new year holidays in predominantly Buddhist Thailand. It had been planted in a pick-up truck parked at Central Festival Samui shopping mall, Banpot Phunpian, spokesman for the Internal Security Operations Command, told reporters.

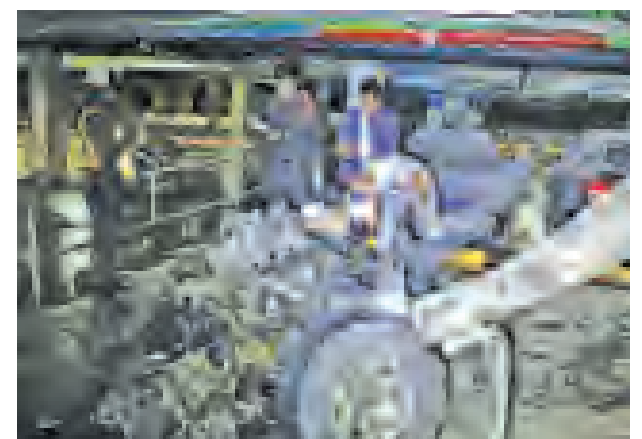
He said the truck used

in the attack was stolen last month from Yala province in southern Thailand, where a low-level insurgency has claimed more than 6,000 lives since January 2004 when resistance to Buddhist rule resurfaced violently.

Banpot said it was possible that insurgents from the south, experienced in assembling car bombs, were behind the blast.

The military government, which seized power last year in a coup, has said that peace in the Muslim-dominated south was an urgent national priority, but despite that pledge talks aimed at ending the insurgency have stalled.

On Saturday, masked gunmen shot dead four men and wounded two others in Pattani, another of the three southern provinces that have been under martial law for a decade. The incident was under investigation, police said.—Xinhua



WORLD

Iran deal could stumble on sensitive nuclear monitoring

UNITED NATIONS, 11 April — Beefing up international monitoring of Iran's nuclear work could become the biggest stumbling block to a final accord between Teheran and major powers, despite a preliminary deal reached last week.

As part of that deal, Iran and the powers agreed that United Nations inspectors would have "enhanced" access to remaining nuclear activity in Iran, where they already monitor key sites.

But details on exactly what kind of access the inspectors will have were left for the final stage of talks, posing a major challenge for negotiators on a complex and logistically challenging issue that is highly

delicate for Iran's leaders.

Securing proper inspections is crucial for the United States and other Western powers to ensure a final deal, due by 30 June, is effective and to persuade a sceptical US Congress and Israel to accept the agreement. Iran says its nuclear programme is peaceful, but it has never welcomed intrusive inspections and has in the past kept some nuclear sites secret.

Sharply differing interpretations have emerged on what was covered by last week's framework agreement — a sign of what diplomats and nuclear experts say will be tough talks ahead.

Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who has the final say

for Iran on the deal, on Thursday ruled out any "extraordinary supervision measures" over nuclear activities and said military sites could not be inspected.

That appeared to contradict a US "fact sheet" issued after last week's marathon talks in Switzerland which said the UN International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) would have "regular access to all Iran's nuclear activities" and to the supply chain that supports it, as well as a joint Iranian-European Union statement that said the IAEA would have expanded access in Iran.

Aside from the question of Iranian consent, the logistical requirements for increased monitoring

of Iranian sites would be daunting. It would involve more cameras, on-site inspections, satellite surveillance and other methods and might require the IAEA to assign more people and resources to its Iran team.

David Albright, president of the Institute for Science and International Security, said it was crucial to come up with a mechanism for "anytime, anywhere" inspections that go beyond the IAEA's own special arrangements for short-notice inspections, known as the Additional Protocol.

The Additional Protocol was created in the 1990s, after the discovery of Iraq's secret nuclear weapons programme and revelations that North Korea and Romania had



Iran's Foreign Minister Javad Zarif addresses during a joint statement with EU foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini in Lausanne on 2 April, 2015. —REUTERS

separated plutonium, as a means of smoking out covert arms-related activities.

"It's extremely difficult for Iran," said Albright, himself a former UN weapons inspector. "They don't

want it. They want to keep smuggling (nuclear-related dual-use items). They're buying a lot of things, and they're not going to want to stop."

Reuters

Russian envoy rejects Japan cities' protest at Putin's nuke remarks

HIROSHIMA, 11 April — Russian Ambassador to Japan Evgeny Afanasiev has rejected protests lodged by Hiroshima and Nagasaki against Russian President Vladimir Putin saying Moscow was ready to put its nuclear forces on alert during the Crimean crisis last year.

"Sorry to say that your criticism...is totally misguided," the ambassador said in a letter addressed to Hiroshima Mayor Kazumi Matsui, dated on Thursday. A similar letter was also sent to the city of Nagasaki.

The ambassador said he "cannot accept" the mayor's protest against

Putin's remarks, aired on Russian state-run television in March, that Moscow was ready to put its nuclear forces on alert over Russia's confrontation with the West regarding Ukraine and the annexation of Crimea last year.

"I cannot accept your 'protest' as unfounded and based on false interpretations of what President Vladimir Putin actually said," the ambassador said.

The ambassador further wrote that Russia's initiatives are aimed at a nuclear-free world, mentioned the need to "establish necessary international conditions," and said it

is "regretful" that calls by Russia to draw attention to the US development of its missile defence system apparently "falls out of scope of your vision."

Afanasiev also said Japan's reliance on the US nuclear deterrence for security "really contradicts" the Japanese atomic-bomb survivors' wish for peace and that the target of the mayor's protest should be the United States, which dropped atomic bombs on both Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945.

Hiroshima and Nagasaki have expressed anger over Putin's remarks and media reports that the Rus-

sian military simulated the pre-emptive and limited use of nuclear weapons in a military drill conducted in March in the Arctic.

Afanasiev is scheduled to visit Hiroshima on Tuesday, where he will offer flowers at a memorial centenary to the atomic-bomb victims and tour a museum showing the devastation caused by the atomic bomb, which is estimated to have killed 140,000 people.

An official of the city said, "We hope to convey the thoughts of a city that suffered the atomic bombing to the ambassador when we meet him."

Kyodo News

Japan, EU to hold summit on 29 May in Tokyo

BRUSSELS, 11 April — Japan and the European Union will hold an annual summit on 29 May in Tokyo to discuss their potential free trade agreement and security cooperation, diplomatic sources said on Saturday.

Japanese Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida and EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Federica Mogherini are expected to announce the schedule when they meet at next week's Group of Seven foreign ministers' meeting in Germany, the sources said. The summit will be the first since European Coun-

cil President Donald Tusk and Jean-Claude Juncker, president of the European Commission, the executive arm of the 28-member EU, took office last year.

Mogherini and Cecilia Malmstrom, EU trade chief, are also expected to attend the meeting in Tokyo.

Japan is aiming to achieve a broad agreement on trade liberalization with the European Union by the end of the year, although hurdles remain in areas such as EU tariffs on Japanese car imports. In negotiations, Tokyo has called for eliminating the tariffs.

Kyodo News



People attend a march in support of Cuba ahead of the seventh Summit of the Americas in Panama City, capital of Panama, on 10 April, 2015. The seventh Summit of the Americas was opened here on Friday night. —XINHUA

US "gravely concerned" about release of alleged Mumbai attack mastermind

WASHINGTON, 11 April — The United States is "gravely concerned" about the release on bail of alleged mastermind of Mumbai terrorist attack in 2008, the State Department said on Friday.

Pakistan on Friday released Zakiur Rehman Lakhvi, who is a leader of Jamaat-ud-Dawa group and among the seven accused Pakistan has taken into custody after the attacks in India's Mumbai that killed 166 people and injured many others.

"We have communicated that concern to

senior Pakistani officials over the course of many months, and as recently as yesterday," State Department spokesman Jeff Rathke said at a press briefing, adding that the US is considering taking further steps.

Pakistan has pledged its cooperation in bringing the perpetrators, financiers, and sponsors of the Mumbai terrorist attacks to justice, and the US urges Pakistan to follow through on that commitment, Rathke said.

India expressed concerns about the release of

what India described as the "principal accused" in the Mumbai attack. "Our High Commissioner has registered our strong concerns with the Foreign Secretary of Pakistan at the release of a principal accused in the Mumbai terrorist attack of 2008," Indian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Syed Akbaruddin said in a statement.

Dismissing the Indian concerns, the Pakistani government said it respected the judicial process and was confident that it would serve the interest of justice. —Xinhua

Clinton to announce White House run Sunday; her fame both bonus and burden

WASHINGTON / NEW YORK, 11 April— Hillary Clinton will announce her second run for the presidency on Sunday, starting her campaign as the Democrats' best hope of fending off a crowded field of lesser-known Republican rivals and retaining the White House.

The overwhelming favourite for the Democratic presidential nomination, Clinton will nonetheless face multiple challenges as she returns to the campaign trail seven years after losing the nomination in 2008 to Barack Obama.

She has been a high-profile figure in American politics for more than two decades since her husband, Bill Clinton, won the presidency in 1992, and her fame still eclipses the other likely Democratic contenders and Republican opponents.

But with the fame comes a set of challenges Clinton will need to overcome in the coming months. She will try to get past a controversy over her use of personal email while secretary of state, and find a way

to connect with ordinary Americans after her years as the top US diplomat.

Her advisers, including her husband, have urged her to take nothing for granted, arguing voters would be repelled by anything that resembles a pre-ordained coronation.

A Democrat close to the Clinton camp told *Reuters* on Friday that Clinton, who is also a former US senator, would announce her long-anticipated plans through video and social media. After the announcement, she will travel to the early voting states of Iowa and New Hampshire, said the source, who asked to remain unidentified.

A representative for Clinton declined to comment. Clinton, 67, has sounded out potential campaign themes during public appearances, casting herself as both a love-filled new grandmother with a vested concern in the future and a wise former diplomat who understands how countries thrive and fail.

In contrast to her 2008 campaign, Clinton has

shown signs she will not play down how being a woman distinguishes her from the 44 men who have served as US president.

She has filled speeches with paeans to the moral and economic importance of gender equality and women's rights, arguing that economic growth, the health of the middle class and the stability of foreign peace treaties all hinge on reducing gender discrimination.

"Just think about all the hard-working families that depend on two incomes to make ends meet," Clinton said in a paid speech at a conference for women technology executives in California's Silicon Valley, citing her own experience of raising a young daughter while working as a partner at an Arkansas law firm in the 1980s. "When one is short-changed, the entire family suffers."

What this might mean in terms of policy proposals is vague, although Clinton said in the same speech she was "embarrassed" that the United States remained one of the few countries where

there is no national right to paid family leave.

There are a dozen or so likely Republican contenders vying for the presidency, many still relatively unknown. Clinton has a different task: reassuring voters who already like her and wooing those who do not.

Only 2 percent of Americans say they have never heard of her, according to a Gallup poll last month, a level of name recognition exceeding that of Vice President Joe Biden, a name unknown to a 10th of Americans.

Her nearest likely rivals for the Democratic nomination, former Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley and Jim Webb, the former US senator from Virginia, struggle to get a fraction of Clinton's media coverage, favourable poll numbers and donations.

Clinton's use of social media to announce her White House run amounts to the adoption of tactics deployed by Obama in 2008 to raise large sums through small donations and appeal to young voters.—*Reuters*

UN wants 'understanding' of Western Sahara human rights situation



United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon

UNITED NATIONS, 11 April — UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon is calling for an "independent and impartial understanding" of human rights in the disputed North African territory of Western Sahara, according to a report seen by *Reuters* on Friday.

Ban's annual report on Western Sahara stopped short of recommending the UN peacekeeping mission in the territory (MINURSO) monitor rights, which the African Union has urged.

Rather it suggests that the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) should do it. He offered no details.

"I call on the Parties to continue and further enhance their cooperation with United Nations human rights mechanisms and OHCHR, including by facilitating OHCHR missions to Western Sahara and the refugee camps near Tindouf, with unrestricted access to all relevant stakeholders," Ban said in the report.

"These missions and other future forms of coop-

eration ... should contribute to an independent and impartial understanding of the human rights situation in both Western Sahara and the camps, with the goal of ensuring protection of all," he added.

The Security Council is expected to renew MINURSO's mandate this month.

Morocco took control of most of the territory in 1975 when colonial power Spain withdrew, prompting the Polisario Front independence movement to wage a guerrilla war that lasted until 1991, when the United Nations brokered a ceasefire and sent in MINURSO.

Morocco rejects the idea of MINURSO conducting human rights monitoring and says the African Union has no business meddling in the issue. Morocco is not a member of the African Union due to Western Sahara.

Polisario now runs refugee camps at Tindouf in Algeria.

Morocco's UN mission did not immediately respond to a request for comment on the report.

Reuters

Saudi Arabia bars second plane to enter airspace

RIYADH, 11 April — Saudi Arabia on Friday prevented a Pakistani airplane from entering its airspace, citing safety reasons, the second plane to have been barred, *Al Arabiya News* reported.

A Shaheen Air Flight was denied entry for failing to meet the safety standards set by the Saudi government, although the Pakistani carrier had reportedly applied for the necessary documents in advance but the request was rejected, the report said.

The *Boeing 767* is reportedly registered in Jordan and is on loan to Shaheen Air. The plane's registration bans it from entering European airspace, it said.

The Saudi General Authority of Civil Aviation said the safety of Saudi airspace remains a top priority and it will not allow any violations of protocol or regulations. Two days ago, Saudi Arabia barred an Iranian carrier with pilgrims on board for the same reason.—*Xinhua*



Workers offload the medical aid at Sanaa international airport in Sanaa, Yemen, on 10 April, 2015. The first Red Cross plane carrying medical aid landed in Yemen's capital of Sanaa on Friday morning, more than two weeks after Saudi-led coalition forces launched airstrikes in the country, Yemeni authorities said. The first cargo, carrying 16.4 tons of medicines, bandages and surgical equipments, landed safely in Sanaa international airport, officials at the airport authorities told *Xinhua*.—*XINHUA*

Next set of Ukraine, Russia gas talks postponed

BRUSSELS, 11 April — High-level gas security talks due next week between Russia, Ukraine and the European Commission have been postponed because experts need to do more preparatory work, the Commission said on Friday.

The three parties are seeking a lasting deal to stave off supply disruptions as Russia and Ukraine haggle over the terms of a long-term gas contract between Gazprom (GAZP.MM) and Kiev.

Earlier on Friday, the chief executive of Ukraine's Naftogaz, in Brussels for talks with NATO and the European Commission, said next week's meeting had been brought forward by a day to Monday at Russia's request. But the Commission issued a statement saying questions posed to Russia and Ukraine following talks in March had yet to be fully answered and only technical level discussions would take place in Brussels next week.

Commission Vice President Maros Sefcovic said in the statement he was confident expert-level talks would prepare the ground for the next meeting at political level, which was still expected in April.

No-one from the Russian energy ministry was available for comment.

Last week, Ukraine signed an interim three-month deal for cheaper supplies of gas from Russia, providing breathing space for both sides..

But Ukraine still

hopes three-way talks can achieve a longer-term deal to cover next winter and avoid it having to revert to its long-term contract with Gazprom whose terms it says are out of line with market conditions.

"We would prefer it (a deal) to be signed as soon as possible. We have a more or less stable situation for the next three months," Naftogaz [NAFTO.UL] Chief Executive Andriy Kobolev told a news conference on Friday.—*Reuters*

Barcelona's alleged jihadists planned kidnapping, beheading

BARCELONA, 11 April — Barcelona's alleged jihadists were planning to kidnap someone and behead him or her, emulating beheadings carried out by the Islamic State in other countries.

Local media reported on Friday citing sources from Spain's National High Court that the alleged jihadists who were arrested on Wednesday in the north-eastern city of Barcelona were also planning to kidnap the director of a bank in Catalonia in order to get economic resources.

According to these sources, they had a grenade, weapons such as fire guns and big knives and they visited the Parliament of Catalonia, Hotel Plaza and two police stations where they could possibly carried out a terrorist attack.

Seven out of 11 of the detainees were sent to prison while a 17-year-old youngster was sent to a youth detention centre.

Xinhua

US expands intelligence sharing with Saudis in Yemen operation

WASHINGTON, 11 April — The United States is expanding its intelligence-sharing with Saudi Arabia to provide more information about potential targets in the kingdom's air campaign against Houthi militias in Yemen, US officials told *Reuters*.

The stepped-up assistance comes as two weeks of relentless air strikes by the Saudis and other Gulf Arab allies have largely failed to halt advances by the Iran-linked Houthi forces.

The US officials said the expanded assistance includes sensitive intelligence data that will allow the Saudis to better review the kingdom's targets in fighting that has killed hundreds and displaced tens of thousands since March.

"We have opened up the aperture a bit wider with what we are sharing with our Saudi partners," said one US official.

"We are helping them get a better sense of the battlefield and the state of play with the Houthi forces.



A girl runs for shelter during an air strike in Sanaa on 8 April, 2015.—REUTERS

We are also helping identify 'no strike' areas they should avoid" to minimize any civilian casualties, the official said.

US ally Saudi Arabia is concerned that the violence could spill over the border it shares with Yemen, and is also worried about the influence of Shi'ite Iran, which has denied Saudi allegations it has provided direct military support to the Houthis.

The United States, whose fight against al-Qaeda militants in Yemen has been dealt a heavy setback by the Houthi takeover of the capital Sanaa and ousting of the previous government, has avoided a direct role in the worsening conflict. It will still stop short of picking targets for the Saudis, said the four US officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

But Washington has

come under pressure to do more to assist the alliance led by Saudi Arabia, which fears the Houthi advance is expanding the influence of arch foe Iran to its border.

Saudi concerns of growing Iranian influence have also been heightened by nuclear talks between Tehran and world powers that could result in a deal by 30 June removing punishing sanctions on the country.

A senior US diplomat said earlier this week that Washington was speeding up arms supplies and bolstering intelligence sharing with the Saudi-led alliance. The Pentagon has said it is beginning aerial refuelling of Arab coalition jets — although outside Yemeni airspace. Until recent days, US intelligence support was limited to examining Saudi targeting information to try to affirm its accuracy, US and Saudi officials said.

The US role has now expanded in size and scope, involving more detailed "vetting" of targeting information prepared by the Saudis, with a particular interest in helping the Saudis to avoid civilian casualties, according to the US officials.

The White House and Pentagon would not comment specifically when asked about expanded intelligence-sharing.

"The United States is providing our partners with necessary and timely intelligence to defend Saudi Arabia and respond to other efforts to support the legitimate government of Yemen," said Alistair Baskey, a White House spokesman.

Reuters

Islamic State attacks Iraqi provincial capital

BAGHDAD, 11 April — Islamic State militants attacked the capital of Iraq's vast Anbar Province on multiple fronts on Friday, seizing two areas on the city outskirts in a setback for a government campaign to retake the desert terrain.

The jihadists deployed vehicle and suicide bombs to tear through Iraqi government lines north of the city of Ramadi overnight before attacking on foot, said security officials and a hospital source.

The head of Anbar's provincial council, Sabah Karhout, called on Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi

to send urgent military reinforcements and supplies to fighters, saying they were running low on ammunition.

Abadi visited Anbar on Tuesday and declared the start of the operation to liberate the Sunni Muslim heartland, seeking to build on a victory over Islamic State last week in the city of Tikrit.

But a police source in Ramadi said early on Friday the insurgents had taken half of the Albu Faraj area, and provincial council member Athal al-Fahdawi later said it had been overrun completely.

Hundreds of families were fleeing Albu Faraj, just north of Ramadi, after Islamic State militants broke into the homes of policemen and soldiers in the area and killed 15 members of their families.

A car bomb blew up the bridge linking Ramadi and Albu Faraj across the Euphrates river, a police source said.

An army officer and the police source blamed some members of the Albu Faraj tribe for letting the militants infiltrate their area. The insurgents also took over the adjacent Albu Aitha area, according

to Fahdawi and local tribal leader Sheikh Ghassan al-Ithawi.

Large parts of Anbar had slipped from the government's grasp even before Islamic State overran the northern city of Mosul last June and surged through Sunni areas of Iraq.

The group controls swathes of Syria and Iraq, last year declaring a caliphate across the territory.

Security forces and Shi'ite Muslim paramilitaries have since regained some ground in Iraq, although core Sunni territories remain under Islamic State control including Anbar and the northern province of Nineveh.

In Anbar, which shares a long border with Syria, Saudi Arabia and Jordan, pockets of territory have remained under government control and Ramadi itself has been contested.

Shi'ite militia have played a leading role in reversing the insurgents' advances elsewhere, but officials from predominantly Sunni Anbar have expressed reservations about a role for the paramilitary forces on the battlefield.—Reuters

Egypt sentences Muslim Brotherhood leader, others to death

CAIRO, 11 April — An Egyptian court sentenced Mohamed Badie, leader of the outlawed Muslim Brotherhood, and 13 other senior members of the group to death for inciting chaos and violence, and gave a life term to a US-Egyptian citizen for ties to the Brotherhood.

The men were among thousands of people detained after freely elected Islamist president Mohamed Mursi was toppled in 2013 by the military under Abdel Fattah al-Sisi, who is now president.

Sisi describes the Brotherhood as a major security threat. The group says it is committed to peaceful activism and had nothing to do with Islamist militant violence in Egypt since Mursi's fall following mass protests against his rule.

Egypt's mass trials of Brotherhood members and people accused of links to the group, as well as its tough crackdown on Islamist and liberal opposition alike, have drawn international criticism of its judicial system and hu-

man rights record.

The sentences, pronounced at a televised court session on Saturday, can be appealed before Egypt's highest civilian court in a process that could take years to reach a final verdict.

US-Egyptian citizen Mohamed Soltan was sentenced to life in jail for supporting the veteran Islamist movement and transmitting false news. He is the son of Brotherhood preacher Salah Soltan, who was among those sentenced to death.

Mohamed Abdel-Mawgod, one of the defence lawyers, condemned the verdicts. "The court did not differentiate between the defendants and put them all in the same basket," he told reporters at the courthouse. None of the defendants were present during the hearing.

Badie is the Brotherhood's General Guide and has already been sentenced to several death and life sentences. His deputy Khairat El-Shater was given a life sentence on Saturday.

Reuters



Smoke rises from a bomb attack in clashes between Iraqi security forces and Islamic State militants on the outskirts of Ramadi on 9 April, 2015.—REUTERS

PERSPECTIVES

Sunday, 12 April, 2015

Young people should not be used as proxies in ideological fights

By Aung Khin

Hopes for a better future are universal, for one's country, one's people and for oneself. The enthusiasm and excitement of young people who want to work for the betterment of their community, however, can be exploited by the leaders of organizations.

For example, in some organizations, young people represent their bosses' interests, while

their mentors instruct them from behind a curtain, putting ideology into their hearts. Their bosses are orchestrating proxy wars.

Some people feel no shame in losing their own dignity or cannot realize their actions are on the wrong track, blinded by expectations of rewards from their bosses. In such organizations, the only principle is the word of the boss. Training is mixed with brainwashing. Many young people are exploited through favouritism and persuasion.

Leaders of organizations should in fact help new generations stand firm with their feet on the ground, giving them some responsibility. New generations in many areas instead become the targets of propaganda. Young people get training, but from groups affiliated with their organizations, through which ideology is implanted into their brains.

Not only individuals, but also some organiza-

tions themselves fall victim to more powerful figures who exploit those lacking education, knowledge, experience and property.

Under such circumstances, victims may lose their dignity, even their lives, for the sake of their mentors, who stand firm on their policies at any cost. Ideological differences will always exist. However, young people should not fall victim for the mentors.

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Dilly-dallying, Ad-libs, Argy-bargy, Helter-skelter move and Hanky-panky; the human behaviors and practices

By Tommy Pauk

We humans are engaged in daily activities from dawn to dusk. According to our professions or tasks or jobs or business, we have to work together with the people who are in the same organizations or entity or pool or association. When we do or carry out the specific task, we normally want to accomplish the task or goal as fast as possible. We ever encounter with some inconvenience and obstacles in our endeavor. Sometimes, we might diverge our aims and goals unintentionally due to our wrong decision or wrong practice or wrong behavior. We usually tackle the challenges or difficulties on the way to our goals. We commonly hold the opinions of our colleagues to do a certain job. Occasionally, we come across with disagreement or argument among ourselves which hinder or delay our progress or speed on our path to success. For some job, we hurriedly carry out, but the bad result arises. Therefore our effort is in vain. This situation should be considered as a great lesson for us. Some of the human's behaviors are socially and morally unacceptable. As we all know that we human beings are reluctant to admit our fault or wrong doings in any circumstances. Our common behaviors and

practice should be in equilibrium so that we can avoid any upsetting situation or outcome. As the maxim goes, 'Human being is not perfect in doing things in life.' However, we humans must behave ourselves whenever we talk or do or plan in human endeavor so that we cannot fail our attempt to achieve success.

Dilly-dallying is a sort of human behavior or action which takes too long to do something or go somewhere or make a decision. If someone or some people dilly-dally, it will take a long time for doing things which are not supposed to be done for a long time. In other words, this is an act of spending too much time for doing something unnecessarily. This is actually a bad practice of some persons or people indeed. It is a waste of time. This behavior also shows the spending time which is more than the timeline for carrying out some work or task or job. So, instead of dilly-dallying, we must do the job in the timeline. Otherwise, we cannot reach our aims and goals. For example, if a student who dilly-dallies on his way from home to school, he or she would surely be late for the class. For some cases, we ought to do the certain jobs urgently, but we dilly-dally in doing these jobs. As a result, we

cannot achieve success or reach our set target or win the race. On the other hand, the behavior of dilly-dallying causes loss of time, and manpower. In addition, a person who is in the important role of decision making must be able to decide to start doing some business in time line. If he or she dilly-dallies, he or she would miss the opportunity for upgrading his or her business. To sum up, the behavior and practice of dilly-dallying cause losses, delay and even failure in any human endeavor. It is considered a stupid behavior indeed.

Ad-libs is a kind of behavior or practice done by some people when they talk and perform their jobs. Some people usually ad-lib the whole speech. This means that he or she never uses the prepared text for delivering the impromptu speech. It seems that they possess some talent to act this act. Ad-lib does not affect others and it does not create negative impact. The act of ad-lib shows the awesome talent and praiseworthy ability indeed. Ad-lib is considered a good behavior indeed.

Argy-bargy can be heard when we disagree each other on a particular topic or subject. Argy-bargies are especially practiced in debate or group discussion or in some democracy parliament. Normally, parliamentarians discuss noisily in some democracy

countries. If they disagree on some issue, they argue or talk noisily. This act leads and ends no solutions to the problem or specific matter. In fact, this behavior occurs when we face a controversial situation. A verbal argument known as argy-bargy is commonly heard in any society for a certain matter. Argy-bargy can cause either improvement or long term dispute for a certain matter or issue of the individuals or groups or societies. Even when we look into the school, we find some argy-bargies among school students on the discussion related to history the subject taught in school. For instance, the secondary students discuss and argue about the evidence of the civil engineering standard in building Pyramids in ancient Egypt. People from all social strata are accustomed to argy-bargy and occasionally they do act argy-bargy in their daily life. E.g, In the daily bazaar, saloon-bar, and beerpub etc. Basically, this noisy argument is based on disagreement or disapproval between the two people or among the certain group of people. This behavior results positive impact or negative impact on persons or people concerned. This behavior

does not seem too bad.

Helter-skelter behavior does not have any discipline or organized way. Man's behavior depends on his character and emotion. If a person acts in helter-skelter way, he or she must be undisciplined or disorganized. Otherwise, there may have been a panic and a person or the people do or run helter-skelter. The person or the people must have encountered panicking or frightening situation. On the otherhand, this behavior reacts the awful or freaking the normal position or normal behavior. Therefore it is hard to justify the person's real behavior. However, if the person is always in such mood whatever he or she does, he or she must be a kind of person who is disorganized or undisciplined. He or she upsets his or her associates and society. Anyway, we can learn different human behaviors from our daily life.

Hanky-panky depicts the dishonest behavior which is socially unacceptable. Sometimes, it can be considered a humorous behavior. Telling lies or bluffing or behaving circuitously is hanky-panky. Some people do not behave or say honestly but they behave or say evasively.

Therefore, they are untrustworthy persons and they do not attain good reputation in life. Nobody wants to associate or do business with such persons. Their evasive behaviors make other people frustrated and confused on any circumstances. They do not value the model of rectitude as they are being dishonest and crooked. The unacceptable sexual activities are also considered hanky-panky. eg. There were all sorts of hanky-panky going on at the party. To summarize this behavior, we humans are totally not pleased with it and it is even vulnerable to our society.

The considerate and sensible persons wish to see or deal with the persons who are of well-behaved or honest so that a certain society will achieve prosperity and socio-economic development. Even if we practice or behave such bad or stupid behaviors, we should stop doing bad practice. However, good and socially accepted behaviors must be always maintained or preserved for harmonious social dealing among us.

Wishing all humans are capable of analyzing human behaviors for everlasting peace on this planet !!!!!

Tommy Pauk is the pseudonym of U Thein Swe, who is B.A (English) and (Registered Law) R.L.I. degrees holder. He has English Teaching experience at Yangon University English Department and Workers' college in Yangon, and now is working as freelance writer and English Teacher cum Translator/Interpreter for foreign firms.

ARTICLE

If parents cannot, who can? If parents will not, who will?

By Myo Myint

Ours is a nation with a long history, unique traditions and culture that value modesty of thought and behaviour and avoid extremes. But at the same time, since it is a land where over 100 national races reside, Myanmar people appreciate diversity and are willing to assimilate new ideas and accept innovations if they are not contrary to our time tested values.

Due to rapid modernization, expanding globalization, instant communication, widespread migration and cross border travels, there is no doubt that all societies are being influenced by each other and are changing, even those that are very conservative. What is trendy in one region, especially in the US, Europe and East Asia, whether it is in the matter of cars, clothes or cell phones, become instantly trendy in another. So also, what is fashionable among the local celebrities also spreads like wildfire among young people. Societies that are liberal adopt indiscriminately, those that are creative and innovative, adapt new styles to suit local conditions and culture, while those that have strong regard for their traditions and cultures, demand extensive modifications before accepting. After decades of reclusive existence, the country is opening up politically, economically, mentally and physically. This has created an influx of peoples, technologies, skills, cultures, thoughts, artistic works including films and songs, behaviours, capital, consumer goods, including clothes, etc. from neighbouring as well as distant lands. Within the period of a few years, the new developments, some positive and some negative, have impacted on the thoughts, behaviours and preferences of people, especially the young. The positive ones are the desire and ability to learn new skills and knowledge and improve themselves and a more questioning attitude. The most negative ones are the immodest way some of the young people behave in public and the lowering of the standard of decency of the way they, especially, girls dress. Worldwide, wearing less and dressing more in transparent clothes seem to be the trend. The wearing of micro shorts, low necklines, transparent clothes, clothes that reveal underwear, and bare necks, shoulders, midriffs, backs, legs, etc. seem to be the height of fashion for women. For those cultures that have adored bikinis, miniskirts and low necklines for many decades, the trend may not merit much interest or comments. However, for a country where for centuries the fashion for women has emphasized beauty with minimal exposure and modesty, the trend is cause for much alarm, especially when some Myanmar girls are shortening the already short shorts by turning up the edge of the shorts, and some are beginning to wear knicker-like shorts. Actresses, pop singers and models seem to be the main culprits who popularize it, as seen on TV and in magazines.

What action is being taken in other countries regarding such matters? Some countries thought best to

enact laws against indecent dressing such as banning the wearing of mini-skirts. Other countries have attempted to introduce such laws but legislators felt that since it was difficult to define indecent dressing it was best left to religious and community leaders, social organizations and parents to persuade women to dress in a more decent manner. In some countries, the public has taken the law into its own hands by attacking women who they regard as been dressed indecently. In a fashion conscious East Asian country that is popularizing minimum dressing for women in the region through its pop stars, the leader who is a woman has spoken out against the wearing of short dresses and a new overexposure law was introduced in early 2013 that could affect wearing of miniskirts.

What is the reaction to this matter in Myanmar? As there have been very few widespread discussions and few condemnations on this matter, except in informal conversations and a few newspaper articles, more and more girls are boldly dressing in this way and this style is gradually becoming a norm rather than an exception in urban areas in Myanmar. Even foreigners are surprised by how swiftly Myanmar girls have taken up this fashion.

Modesty in thought, modesty in behaviour, modesty in dress have for centuries been the norms of the country. Shame is strongly associated in Myanmar society with being improperly dressed. However, unfortunate it seems that all of a sudden, an unhealthy competition of who can wear the shortest or the most revealing skirts and shorts seems to be emerging among city girls in Myanmar. Myanmar youths must know that different countries have different cultural norms based on a variety of factors and sound reasons. Myanmar too has cultural norms based on its religious beliefs, long history, its traditions, outlook on life, geographical location, weather conditions, the livelihoods of people, etc. With a variety of dangers and challenges being faced by youths all over the world from drugs, terrorism, human trafficking, cultural colonization, knowledge, technology and skill gaps, climate change, environmental degradation, etc., Myanmar society needs to make clearer its cultural norms to its youths which will give them a certain degree of protection and strength. They need to be imbued with strong religious beliefs while accepting diversity. They need to be taught ethics. They need to be taught to admire the positive aspects of more advanced countries, such as the intellectual prowess and leadership and creative abilities of women rather than the way they dress. Youths need to understand that they are the main force in the protection of their nation's independence, territorial integrity and safeguarding of and having high regard for their own culture which contribute greatly to the protection of the former two. On the other hand, as exemplary persons to young persons, pop singers, actors, and models must also avoid cheap popularity and refrain from corrupting their young fans and contribute to the good of the youths and the nation where they live and amass their wealth. TV, newspaper and magazine media

moguls also have the important responsibility of ensuring the perpetuation of the positive national characteristics of one's culture and must refrain from giving publicity to indecorous behaviour as cheap means to promote their products, and have common decency standards for stars both in manners as well as dress in public. Designers also have a lot of responsibility in promoting the dignity of Myanmar women. They must come up with designs that evolve from within Myanmar culture and not simply imitate what Myanmar society regard as alien, indecent and sensational. In the same way, those running businesses must not unnecessarily make their staff dress in revealing Western clothes. This habit formation compounded by saturation of all TV channels by East Asian movies, will breed constant compulsion for such kind of decadent clothes in both staff and customers and make them abandon their convenient and elegant national dresses for no good reason. Teachers, who meet their students five days a week, play a leading role in inculcating traditional values, difference between right and wrong, ethics, good behaviour, love for their national dress and avoidance of extremes. Women's associations at different levels, many of whose members are mothers of girls themselves, have a wide outreach and can play a leading role through their members as well as through contacts with girls of different age groups and campaign on the importance of dressing decently. Most importantly, mothers must ensure that their daughters, who are under their direct care and supervision, dress decently. If mothers do not object, who will? If mothers cannot control their daughters, who can? If mothers do not pass on our cultural norms to their daughters who will? Of course, fathers too are responsible because as head of the household they have great authority in the family. However, not all fathers seem to assert their roles as some fathers are seen proudly escorting their scantily daughters around in public.

That moral standards are changing all over the world, nobody will deny. Some blame this on economic reasons. Others put the blame on laxity of parents and their lack of time to supervise their children. Still others blame it on too much worldly knowledge at too young an age in this Information Age. However, what will be agreed is that morality and self-control has declined and selfishness and self-indulgence are on the rise. It will be noted that laxity in one area leads to laxity in another. A study of the number of orphanages and the number of those in care will show that there are sharp rises in both due to the increase in the number of abandoned children as well as increase in the number of babies handed over to orphanages by the mothers themselves citing many reasons.

Many people say that appearances are deceptive. This may be true in some cases, but not in all cases these days. Those who are endangering Myanmar culture and conniving to erode traditional values that help maintain moral standards for the sake of making money are doing a great disservice to Myanmar society and destroying its core values and should not be allowed to do so. So also, parents, especially mothers, must accept that they have a lot of responsibility in promoting self-control and avoiding extremes in their daughters.

Blood donor association prepares emergency supplies for festival period

By Khaing Thanda Lwin

YANGON, 11 April — The Maternal Blood Donor Association is prepared to provide emergency donations during the Myanmar New Year's water festival from 13 to 16 April, Chairwoman Daw Mi Mi Aye said Friday.

Road accidents occur more frequently during the festival period, with the majority of incidents linked

to alcohol consumption, according to police.

More than 50 blood donors of the association are on call, most of whom are staff and monks, the association chairwoman told the Global New Light of Myanmar.

"We donate blood mostly to Yangon Children's Hospital that receives many patients with

blood diseases like haemophilia and blood cancer, but we also makes blood donation to other hospitals if necessary," she said.

A 30-year-old donor U Zaw Aye said, "I love donating blood because I want to help people's lives. My blood type, O, can be given to people with any blood type."

"A donation can help save up to three people," said Daw Mi Mi Aye, who said more donors

were needed.

Since its establishment in 2011, the MBDA has donated 6,000 bottles of blood. In addition to blood donation, the association has provided cash assistance of over K6,600,000, including to disaster victims and others in difficult circumstances.

It is also planning to conduct a fund-raising activity in Yangon this year, the chairwoman said.

GNLM



Blood donors of MBDA make blood donation at Yangon Western Hospital in April.

PHOTO: WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/MBDABLOODDONOR

Risk of Ebola spreading to other countries appears to be falling: WHO

GENEVA, 11 April—West Africa's Ebola epidemic still poses a threat to other countries but the risk of it spreading internationally appears to be diminishing as the areas affected shrink, the World Health Organization (WHO) said on Friday. The UN agency declared in August 2014 that the world's worst Ebola outbreak, which began in December 2013, represented a "public health emergency of international concern" that forced health officials worldwide to shore up defences.

The WHO's Emergency Committee, comprising

independent experts who conferred on Thursday, was "absolutely firm" in maintaining that view, said Dr Bruce Aylward, WHO Special Representative for the Ebola Response. In a statement, the Committee said that due to better prevention and control activities across West Africa, "the overall risk of international spread appears to have further reduced since January with a decline in case incidence and geographic distribution in Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea." But there was "no place for complacency" and the goal remained

eliminating the deadly hemorrhagic fever.

Thirty confirmed cases of the virus were reported in the past week, the smallest number in nearly a year, the WHO said on Wednesday. Liberia reported no cases in the week to 5 April, Sierra Leone reported nine and Guinea 21.

The virus has killed 10,587 people out of 25,556 known infections, according to the WHO.

The outbreak's epicenter, in Guinea Forestiere, has "gone quiet" and foreign medical experts and laboratories are being shifted to coastal areas with

more intensive spread, Aylward said.

"There are still substantive risks, they are not at zero (cases) by any stretch, but they may be now on track to achieve their goal of really being down to only disease in that coastal area by the time the rainy season hits in about a month. The experts urged all countries to "avoid any unnecessary interference with international trade and transport".

These included border closures, flight cancellations, refusal of entry, and quarantining of travelers returning from the region,



The World Health Organization (WHO) logo is pictured at the entrance of its headquarters in Geneva, on 25 Jan, 2015.—REUTERS

the statement said.

Some 40 countries still implement additional measures beyond the recommended health measures and a number of airlines have not resumed flights, it said.

Falling Ebola cases make completing big clin-

ical trials on experimental vaccines a challenge, with the best hope resting on a study in Guinea, Aylward said. Last month, Guinea started testing an experimental vaccine from Merck and NewLink Genetics on affected communities.

Reuters

Shell needs to go beyond oil price bet in BG deal

LONDON, 11 April — When it comes to forecasting the oil price, big companies play their cards very close to their chests.

But the 50 percent premium that Royal Dutch Shell (RDSa.L) agreed to pay this week in a stock and cash deal to acquire smaller rival BG (BG.L) says a lot about Shell's expectations for a swift recovery in oil prices.

The beauty of the deal and the upside, though, won't be in the bold bet on oil prices rising to \$90 per barrel turning good, say investors and analysts as they urge Shell to use the deal as an opportunity to review its portfolio and geography.

"The upside comes in the deal becoming a catalyst for change in transforming the upstream business over the next 4-5 years in a way that the previous pivot towards North American onshore really failed to do, in our view," UBS said on Thursday.

Pascal Menges from



Shell logos are seen on fuel pumps at a petrol station in west London, in this 29 Jan, 2015 file photo.—REUTERS

the Lombard Odier Global Energy fund said Shell's deal heralded a scrabble by Big Oil to improve the overall quality of portfolios.

"Management will have their work cut out to execute the deal and generate synergies and assets

sales. The risk of indigestion is not small," he said.

Analysts from Barclays agreed that because the BG deal brings Shell rich reserves and production outlook in Brazil, it hoped it would prompt the company to slow down or relinquish less competitive

assets. "This includes high breakeven projects such as Shell's heavy oil portfolio in Canada, assets difficult to develop such as those in the Arctic and projects in geopolitically unstable regions such as those in Iraq and onshore Nigeria," it said.—Reuters

Kyushu Electric to install huge electricity storage battery

FUKUOKA, 11 April — Kyushu Electric Power Co plans to install a huge battery to store electricity generated by renewable energy such as solar and wind, company officials said on Friday.

Kyushu Electric, which serves Japan's southernmost main island, plans to install a battery

with around 300,000 kilowatt-hours of storage capacity by the end of next March utilizing government subsidies, the officials said. The battery will be one of the largest in Japan, they said.

After the 2011 Fukushima nuclear crisis, Japan launched a feed-in tariff scheme under which power

utilities are obliged to purchase electricity generated from renewable sources at fixed prices.

However, Kyushu Electric and other utilities temporarily stopped buying that electricity last year after new suppliers flooded into the solar business, exceeding the utilities' transmission capacity. The

suspension dealt a blow to government plans to promote renewable energy.

The battery installation is expected to allow Kyushu Electric to ensure stable supply of renewable-source electricity regardless of weather conditions and buy more electricity from new suppliers.—Kyodo News

Used car sales in Japan drop to record low in FY 2014

TOKYO, 11 April — Sales of used vehicles in Japan, excluding minivans, dropped 6.9 percent in fiscal 2014 from a year earlier to 3,672,206 units, posting a record low since the start of comparable data in 1978, an industry body said on Friday.

The Japan Automobile Dealers Association attributed the second straight year-on-year fall to flagging sales of new vehicles after last April's consump-

tion tax hike. "With stagnant sales of new vehicles, it would be hard for the used vehicles market to grow," an association official said.

In the year ended in March, sales of used passenger cars fell 7.4 percent to 3,205,169 units, while those of used trucks dropped 3.9 percent to 377,047 units, and those of used buses decreased 0.4 percent to 12,696 units.

Kyodo News

Number of vehicle recalls in Japan hits record high in FY 2014

TOKYO, 11 April — The number of vehicle recalls reported by automakers in Japan rose 19.8 percent from the previous year to hit a record high in fiscal 2014, the transport ministry said on Friday.

A total of 9,557,888 vehicles were recalled in the year ending 31 March, reflecting massive recalls linked to auto parts maker Takata Corp's faulty air bags, according to the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism.

In connection with Takada's parts, automakers

such as Honda Motor Co, Toyota Motor Corp and Nissan Motor Co recalled roughly 2.19 million vehicles, accounting for about 20 percent of the total.

Five recalls affected more than 500,000 vehicles each, contributing to the rise in the overall number, the ministry said.

In April last year, Toyota recalled about 920,000 vehicles under four models, including the Vitz, due to defects in driver seats. The number of affected units was large as several models used common parts.

Kyodo News

Nokia explores sale of map business, source says



A man walks past the Nokia stand while attending the Mobile World Congress in Barcelona on 5 March, 2015.—REUTERS

NEW YORK / HELSINKI, 11 April — Nokia is considering selling its maps business known as HERE, a source familiar with the matter said on Friday, pushing up shares in the Finnish company as well as its network gear rival Alcatel-Lucent.

After the exit from handsets, analysts have seen little synergies between the map unit and Nokia's mainstay network gear business. Nokia has hired a financial adviser to

explore a sale of the unit, the source added.

Bloomberg first reported news of the sale on Friday.

A Nokia spokeswoman declined to comment.

Shares in Nokia closed 5.57 percent higher while those in France's Alcatel-Lucent closed 4.82 percent higher. The two companies have reportedly held on and off merger talks in recent years.

Shares in Dutch navigation company TomTom

surged more than 11 percent after the news broke.

"We have estimated that HERE's value is around 3.3-4.8 billion euros (2.39-3.48 billion pounds), and in a possible deal the price should be more than that," Inderes Equity Research said on its Twitter account.

Nokia sold its once-dominant phone handset business to Microsoft last year, leaving it with its core network equipment business, HERE as well as its patent division.

HERE last year had net sales of around 969 million euros with an operating profit of 31 million euros. The unit has signed several orders from the car industry recently.

Nokia bought HERE's predecessor Navteq for 5.7 billion euros in 2007. The Nokia website says HERE's maps were included in 10 million new cars sold in 2013, and that the unit's maps also power "mobile devices, connected devices and enterprise solutions."—Reuters

Backlogged orders as shoppers get close-up look at Apple Watch

SAN FRANCISCO / PARIS, 11 April — Customers preordering Apple Inc's (AAPL.O) smartwatch on Friday will have to wait at least a month for delivery, a sign of strong early demand for company chief Tim Cook's first new major product.

People flocked to Apple's stores around the world to get a close-up look at the Apple Watch, the tech company's foray into the personal luxury goods market, with Apple predicting demand would exceed supply at product launch.

Cook, interviewed on

cable television channel CNBC, said initial orders were "great" for the device, available for preorder online and to try out in stores by appointment, but not to take home.

"We view this as an indication of solid demand paired with very limited supply," Piper Jaffray analyst Gene Munster wrote in a note to clients. "We continue to expect modest sales in the June quarter as demand ramps over time."

A key factor in the watch's success will be demand once an initial wave of interest from Apple en-

thusiasts subsides.

The watch goes on sale officially on 24 April, online and through appointments in shops, including trendy fashion boutiques in Paris, London and Tokyo, part of Apple's strategy of positioning the wearable computer as a must-have accessory.

But soon after online preorders opened on Friday, Apple's website listed shipping times in June for some models of the watch and four to six weeks for others.

There was immediately brisk bidding on eBay for confirmed orders for watches, with hundreds of sellers looking to make a few hundred or even thousand dollars by passing on their watches, once received.

Testing Apple's mastery of consumer trends, the watch is an untried concept for the Cupertino, California-based company. It straddles a technology market accustomed to rapid obsolescence and luxury goods whose appeal lies in their enduring value.

Reuters



A selection of Apple Watches is shown in Palo Alto, California on 10 April, 2015.—REUTERS

Liquid metal discovery paves way for shape-shifting robots

BEIJING, 11 April — It may look like nothing more than a small ball of metal, but the shape-shifting and self-propulsion abilities of a liquid metal alloy discovered by scientists at China's Tsinghua University has captured the imaginations of scientists and science-fiction fans across the world.

Professor Liu Jing and his team have created what they believe could prove the first step toward developing a robot similar to the infamous T-1000 shape-shifting, liquid metal

assassin from the Terminator movies.

The device is made from a drop of metal alloy consisting mostly of gallium, which is a liquid at just under 30 degrees Celsius. Last year they discovered that an applied electrical current causes the gallium alloy to drastically alter its shape. Changing the voltage applied to the metal allowed it to 'shape-shift' into different formations. When the current was switched off, the metal returned to its original drop shape.

But the team made

their biggest breakthrough when they realized that bringing it into contact with a flake of aluminum caused a reaction creating hydrogen bubbles that allowed it to move of its own accord. Liu said it was able to 'fuel' itself for about an hour.

"The machine has two processes. One is to create gases like hydrogen. Part of these gases form the propulsion. There's also something important, in fact very important, which is the electricity generated behind the alloy. So this galvanic battery creates an internal

electrical power, and this type of electricity will very easily lead to stretching of the surface of the liquid metal in an asymmetrical pattern, and this pattern leads to rotations inside the liquid metal, and the process of these rotations will set the liquid metal in motion in a certain direction," he said.

While the scientists are still learning more about the properties of the metal, Liu believes it could have a variety of medical applications, for example delivering medicine in blood

vessels.

"At present it has potential to become a robot, but a robot for the veins. So apart from a robot for the veins it could for example [be used in] people's windpipes and digestive system, it may perhaps be able to carry out some medical tasks, for example transporting some medicines," he said, adding that scientists would of course first have to ensure that there would be no side-effects to ingesting the metal.

As for comparisons to the deadly machine in the

Terminator movies, Liu said that while the thought of his discovery bearing resemblance to the T-1000 did make him chuckle, he hoped that his robot would work for the good of mankind.

"Perhaps people think it's like the Terminator but I think to a certain extent the Terminator's not very good, he wasn't good for mankind. So we hope that if in the future we can really make a soft robot, we hope that it can be a more human-like robot," he said.

Reuters

Mountain gorilla's genome reveals extensive inbreeding

WASHINGTON, 11 April — Mountain gorillas are extensively inbred but this phenomenon represents an adaptation rather than a risk for the survival of the critically endangered apes, according to an international research that sequenced the animals' genome for the first time.

"Mountain gorillas are a critically endangered subspecies, only few hundred survive in the wild in two locations in tropical east Africa," Yali Xue, first author from Britain's Well-

come Trust Sanger Institute, told *Xinhua*.

"Very detailed field studies have been carried out on them by primatologists for decades, but very little is known about their genetics," Xue said.

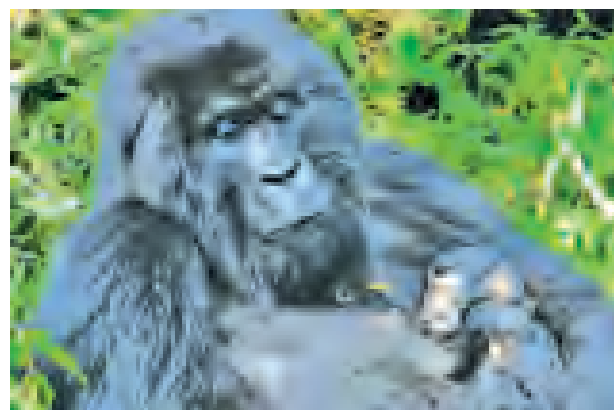
There are four kinds of gorillas: mountain, eastern lowland, western lowland and cross river, but mountain gorillas are the only great ape species that have not had their whole genome sequenced, she said.

For their study, Xue and colleagues sequenced

seven mountain gorillas from Africa's Virunga region and compared the genomes of these animals

with those of three other Gorilla subspecies.

"We found evidence of extensive inbreeding,"



Xue said. "Mountain gorillas are genetically different from other gorillas, have experienced prolonged population decline over the past million years, resulting in very low genetic diversity."

Typically, inbreeding increases the threat from disease and environmental change, but the new study showed that for mountain gorillas, it also results in the elimination of many harmful genetic mutations from the population.

By analyzing the var-

iations in each genome, the researchers discovered that mountain gorillas have survived in small numbers for thousands of years, far longer than previously thought. "So, with suitable human help for their conservation, they should be able to survive for thousands of years to come," said an optimistic Xue.

The study, involving researchers from Britain and five other countries, was published in the Friday issue of the US journal *Science*.—Xinhua

Nigerians to vote for powerful governors in state elections

LAGOS, 11 April — The final stage of Nigeria's election will begin on Saturday with state governorship polls, two weeks after a presidential vote saw an incumbent leader unseated at the ballot box for the first time.

The 36 governors are among the most powerful politicians in Africa's biggest oil producer and top economy, controlling budgets larger than those of small African nations and wielding influence that can decide who goes on presidential tickets.

Voting starts at 8 am.

With so much at stake, candidates in past polls have often played dirty, snatching ballot boxes, manipulating voter turn-out and engaging in thuggery and intimidation.

Muhammadu Buhari beat President Goodluck Jonathan last month with 15.4 million votes against

13.3 million, in a vote that was considered free and less violent than past polls.

Yet for many Nigerians, who their governor is matters more than who sits in the faraway capital Abuja.

"It will be slightly dirtier, a bit rougher in some places. Locals are more invested in the process around them. The federal government is like a no man's land," said Folarin Gbadebo-Smith, head of Nigeria's Centre for Public Policy Alternatives.

Legislative polls also shifted power away from the People's Democratic Party (PDP), which has run Nigeria since the end of military rule in 1999, to the All Progressives Congress (APC). It left the APC with a majority in both houses.

The APC is seeking to build on its gains, while the PDP will hope it can claw back power, especially in two battlegrounds — the megacity of Lagos, the

country's economic engine generating up to a third of its GDP, and the oil hub of Rivers.

Both are currently APC, Rivers only because its sitting governor defected. Both could be magnets for trouble, as could the northern swing state of Kaduna, which saw hundreds killed in sectarian violence after the 2011 presidential election.

In all 30 states hold elections, with six sitting them out since they had by-elections in the last few years.

"The Nigerian army has directed all units to remain vigilant... to prevent any attempt to endanger the lives of Nigerians," the army said in a statement on Friday.

Biometric voting cards that were used for the first time in last month's poll and helped prevent fraudulent practices like multiple voting or ballot box stuffing,



Ad hoc workers of the Independent National Electoral Commission are seen near electoral materials at Larmorde primary school at the S/dawaki polling ward in Jalingo on 10 April, 2015.—REUTERS

will again be used.

"The card reader is the only way that rigging on a large scale can be stopped in this country," Abubakar Momoh, of the Independent

National Electoral Commission (INEC) told *Reuters*.

Outgoing APC Lagos governor Babatunde Fashola is credited with transforming a megacity of some 21 mil-

lion and an economy twice the size of Kenya's through infrastructure projects, although he has also been criticized for slum clearance.

Reuters

Pakistan gets first women-only auto-rickshaw to beat male pests

LAHORE, (Pakistan), 11 April — A Pakistani environmentalist, fed up with being groped and harassed by male auto-rickshaw drivers, has launched her own service exclusively for women passengers and drivers in her home city of Lahore — with just the one rickshaw on the road so far.

Zar Aslam, president of Pakistan's non-profit Environment Protection Fund,

said she once narrowly escaped kidnapping by a rickshaw driver when she was a student, which triggered the idea of launching her "Pink Rickshaw" service.

Pakistan is notorious for sexual abuse of women, euphemistically known as "Eve-teasing". Offenders often go unpunished within a legal system that can treat the victims as the guilty party. "This is another step

towards women's financial and professional empowerment," Aslam told *Reuters* at her home in Lahore, showing off her first rickshaw.

"I and my co-workers face harassment by male auto drivers or by passers-by while waiting for public transport."

The "rickshaws" are covered three-wheel motorcycles and Aslam bought one to start with, added fans,

doors and headlights and painted it pink and white.

The plan is to have at least 25 up and running by the end of the year, with the Aslam looking out for sponsors. "One auto costs 300,000 rupees (about \$3,000), therefore it cannot be done without sponsorship from donors," she said, adding that the government has not offered any assistance.

Reuters

Afghan aid workers found dead; 100 students hospitalised after meal

KABUL, 11 April — Authorities in western Afghanistan are investigating whether 100 schoolboys who were hospitalised on Saturday were poisoned, police said, a day after five aid workers kidnapped by the Taliban were found dead.

The boys, ages 10 to 14, fell sick after they ate beans from a vendor out-

side the school who told them the meal would help them pass their examinations in the western city of Herat, according to Abdul Jabar Rozi, Herat's police chief.

The vendor was arrested later on Saturday and an investigation launched into whether the food was deliberately tainted, he said.

Reuters



US Ambassador to Japan Caroline Kennedy (C) poses for a photo with students of Tokyo Metropolitan Engei High School in the Japanese capital's Setagaya Ward on 10 April, 2015, during an event marking the 100th anniversary of donation of 40 dogwood trees — one of which is still alive at the high school — from the United States to Japan. The donation in 1915 as a symbol of friendship between the two countries was a return gift after Japan donated cherry trees to the United States.

KYODO NEWS

Electricity, corruption among top obstacles for business in Albania

TIRANA, 11 April — Electricity supply, competition from the black market economy and corrupt practices are identified as top business obstacles in Albania, according to a new analysis published by the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development on Friday.

Access to electricity is the biggest problem for companies in Albania, the report said.

Competition from the

shadow economy, where companies are usually not registered or seek to avoid taxes by under-reporting revenues, employee numbers or the wages they pay, remains a key obstacle for small and medium enterprises, the report said.

Corruption is listed as the biggest problem faced by large enterprises, and tax administration and access to land are among the chief constraints for new enterprises, it said.

The latest survey showed that over the last five years, firms felt considerably less constrained by the court system or issues linked to business licensing and permits and workforce skills.

Improvements in courts and bureaucratic procedures were mainly the result of measures taken by governments, such as improvements in corporate governance standards in line with European Union

standards, equipping courts with electronic case-management systems or the introduction of one-stop shops for registering new businesses.

Inadequate workforce skills have become a less severe obstacle due to a reduced demand for and an increased supply of skilled workers as well as an increased return migration into the transition region in the wake of the global financial crisis.—*Xinhua*

Free, anonymous kidney donation sparks chain of similar transplants in Italy

MILAN, 11 April — For the first time in Italy, a patient received a kidney "for generosity" from a stranger, which created a domino effect leading to a total of six transplants, local authorities said on Friday.

The donor, a woman from the Italian northern city of Pavia, is unidentified as the Italian legislation makes it illegal to be paid for an organ, according to local reports.

Based on a law intro-

duced in 2010, it is possible, however, to donate a kidney as an act of altruism, Rai State Radio reported.

"Today we tell you the extraordinary story of a person who without any personal interest and mak-

ing personal sacrifice has activated a virtuous chain that has led six people to having a life opportunity," Health Minister Beatrice Lorenzin told a Press conference in Rome.

Xinhua

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

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S YANG MING LINE**
Phone No: 2301185

WEATHER REPORT

BAY INFERENCE: Weather is partly cloudy in the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 12th April, 2015: Rain or thundershowers are likely to be isolated in Upper Sagaing, Mandalay and Taninthayi Regions, Kachin, Shan, Chin, Kayin and Mon States and weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining Regions and States. Degree of certainty is (60%).

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers in the Southern Myanmar areas.

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Chinese airlines to fly more routes to Japan on tourism boom

BEIJING, 11 April — Chinese airlines have applied to operate more routes between China and Japan, with low-cost carrier Spring Airlines set to start flight services connecting four Chinese locations with Nagoya, central Japan, in June, China's Civil Aviation Administration said on Friday.

China Southern Airlines and Hainan Airlines also applied for routes to Japan as the country has become a popular destination for Chinese travelers for tourism, shopping and dining. Spring Airlines plans to offer direct flight services connecting Shanghai, Hefei in Anhui Province and Harbin in Heilongjiang Province with

Nagoya and a route from Hohhot in the Inner Mongolian Autonomous Region transiting Shijiazhuang in Hebei Province to Nagoya.

China Southern Airlines is set to start flights between Shanghai and Osaka and between Shanghai and Fukuoka in May, while Hainan Airlines plans to fly between Beijing and Osaka beginning in June.

Hainan Airlines had previously operated flights linking Beijing and Naha, Okinawa Prefecture, but had effectively withdrawn from the Japanese market after suspending the services in 2012 amid deteriorating relations between Japan and China.—Kyodo News

Manchester flying high as it sets new record of 22.3 mln passengers

LONDON, 11 April — Manchester Airport reported on Friday it had broken its all-time passenger record with 22.32 million passengers flying through Britain's third biggest airport in the last financial year.

The passenger number beat the previous record set in 2006 when 22.26 million journeyed through Manchester.

The new record in the airport's 77-year history represents growth of 7.5 percent year on year, with March 2015, the final month of the financial year, seeing growth close to 10 percent.

Ken O'Toole, the airport's managing director said: "We have worked closely with our airline partners to cement and maintain this continued growth, increasing capacity and frequency on existing routes, plus confirming new services, particularly to serve demand that exists from Manchester in the long-haul market."

Recent long-haul growth out of Manchester Airport includes Cathay Pacific adding a service to Hong Kong, which makes Manchester the only airport outside of London with a direct, non-stop service to China.

"With Manchester Airport having spare runway capacity, we can offer an alternative to traveling via a congested London airport. We have made great headway to unlock the spare capacity at Manchester and are in talks with a range of carriers to further capitalize on the potential we offer," O'Toole said.—Xinhua



Stewardesses display new uniforms in Singapore, on 10 April, 2015. SilkAir, a regional unit of Singapore Airlines, launched a new collection of uniforms for its over 500 cabin crew on Friday. The new one-piece uniform comes in two variations — aqua-blue for junior crew and plum-red for senior crew. The new uniform, created by local fashion designer Alexandria Chen, marks SilkAir's fourth uniform change over 26 years and will roll out on all flights on 15 April. —XINHUA

Unidentified oil leaks into water channel near Yellow River

LANZHOU, 11 April — Oil from an unidentified source leaked into a water channel linking to the Yellow River in northwest China's Gansu Province, authorities said on Friday.

The environmental protection bureau of Lanzhou City has been cleaning the oil from the water channel, which was previously used to discharge floods from the Yellow River.

A spokesperson with the bureau said pollutants in the nearby Yellow River have not been detected and authorities have cut off water supply from the river.

On Friday morning, Xinhua reporters at the site saw two workers collecting the oil, which was leaked

from the crevice of the levee. A gas station near the water channel was closed on Thursday, but it is unsure if the oil leakage was related to the station, the spokesperson said.

The bureau plans to dig out the levee to further investigate where the oil came from, he said, adding that the unidentified oil was found on Thursday morning.

However, according to a domestic media report, residents in Lanzhou had claimed that oil was found on the water of the channel and spread pungent smells in early March.—Xinhua



At Tribeca Film Festival, movies make room for live performances

NEW YORK, 11 April — From a crime thriller based on a memoir to a zombie drama set in small-town America or peeks into the lives of a ballerina and a singer, the 2015 Tribeca Film Festival is showcasing a varied mix of movies along with live dance, music and comedy.

Since it started more than a decade ago, the festival has become a showcase for independent and documentary works, as well as a launching pad for new

talent and a testing ground for innovative filmmaking.

“We had no idea of the particular way it would go,” said Robert De Niro, the Oscar winner and co-founder of the festival. “We’re happy it has lasted this long, and my hope was always that it would become part of the New York tradition.”

“Live From New York!”, a documentary about the NBC late-night comedy sketch show “Saturday Night Live,”

kicks off the festival on Wednesday.

Nearly 100 feature-length films will be shown before the festival closes with a special screening and cast reunion of the gangster classic “Goodfellas” to mark the film’s 25th anniversary.

“A Ballerina’s Tale,” about American Ballet Theatre soloist Misty Copeland will be paired with a special dance performance, and the screening of “Mary J Blige - The London Ses-

sions” will be followed by a concert by the singer.

“The idea is to extend the cinematic experience,” said Genna Terranova, the director of the festival.

Tribeca will mark the centenary of Frank Sinatra’s birth with screenings of three of his films and live performances by Tony Bennett and others. The surviving members of British comedy troupe Monty Python will also reunite for the 40th anniversary of “Monty Python and the

Holy Grail.”

“We want to look forward because we are a festival that is about innovation,” said Terranova, “but at the same time look back and are tipping our hats by creating these special events.”

The festival will feature 67 world film premieres, including “Maggie,” with Arnold Schwarzenegger as a farmer whose daughter is infected with a zombie virus, and Oscar winner Patricia Ar-

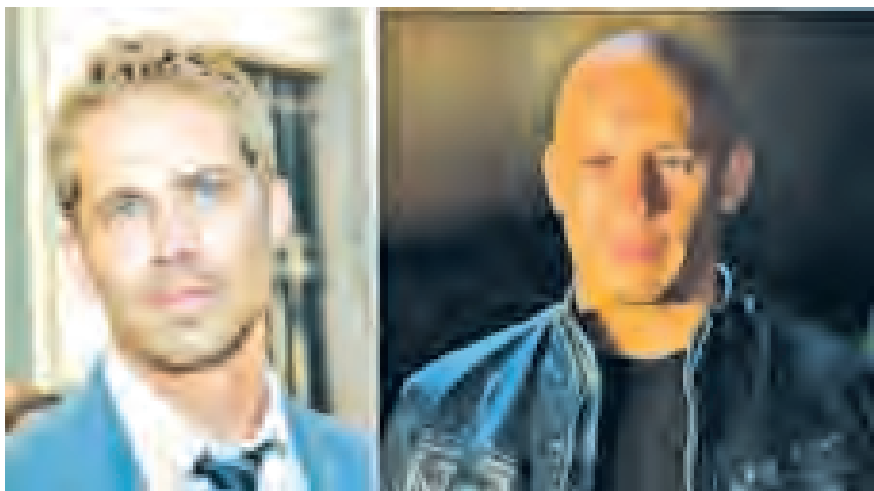
quette in “The Wannabe.”

“The Adderall Diaries,” a thriller with James Franco and Amber Heard will debut at the festival, and Glenn Close, Sam Waterston and Kristen Stewart head an ensemble cast in “Anesthesia.”

De Niro, producer Jane Rosenthal and investor Craig Hatkoff started the festival to revitalize the downtown neighbourhood following the 2001 attacks on the World Trade Centre.

Reuters

Vin Diesel sings Paul Walker tribute song ‘See You Again’



Actor Vin Diesel dedicated a song “See You Again” to his “Fast and Furious” co-star and close friend Paul Walker.—PTI

LOS ANGELES, 11 April — Actor Vin Diesel has sung a few lines of the song “See You Again”, dedicated to his “Fast and Furious” co-star and close friend Paul Walker, who died in an accident two years back.

The actor broke into the rendition of the “Furious 7” track, originally sung by Wiz Khalifa and Charlie Puth, during an interview to promote his and the late star’s latest film, reported Aceshowbiz.

Walked died aged 40. The shooting of “Furious 7” was completed with the help of his two brothers.

PTI

Kathy Bates joins ‘American Horror Story: Hotel’



Emmy-winning actress Kathy Bates

LOS ANGELES, 11 April — Emmy-winning actress Kathy Bates has joined the “American Horror Story: Hotel” cast that includes Lady Gaga, Matt Bomer, Wes Bentley, Chloe Sevigny and Cheyenne Jackson.

Co-creator Ryan Murphy announced Bates’ inclusion via his Twitter

account this afternoon that the 66-year-old actress, who appeared on both Coven and Freak Show, will return for season five’s Hotel, and she will be in charge of the titular location, reported Entertainment Weekly.

“AHS: Hotel” will premiere this fall on FX.

PTI

Robert De Niro to play Enzo Ferrari in biopic

LOS ANGELES, 11 April — Hollywood star Robert De Niro is set to play the titular role in the biopic of famous Italian motorsport entrepreneur, Enzo Ferrari.

De Niro, 71, will also produce ‘Ferrari’, which is expected to begin production later this year in the late engineer’s home country, reported Aceshowbiz.

‘Ferrari’ is scripted by ‘Nixon’ scribes Stephen J Rivele and Christopher Wilkinson.

The biopic will reportedly cover a period from 1945 to the 1980s. Clint Eastwood is apparently interested in directing the film. It is unclear if the movie will be filmed in Italian or English.—PTI



Hollywood star Robert De Niro

Zayn Malik needs to get his head together: Simon Cowell



Music mogul Simon Cowell believes that the young singer Zayn Malik needs some own time to get his head together.—PTI

LOS ANGELES, 11 April — Music mogul Simon Cowell, who discovered Zayn Malik and the other One Direction members, believes the young singer

needs some own time.

“He’s a fantastic singer. Look, he’s got to get his head together a little bit. He needs some time on his own, as he said, to be a

normal 22-year-old, which he’s gonna have,” he said.

Cowell, who signed One Direction to his record label Syco Records after they finished third on the UK’s “The X Factor” in 2010, went on expressing his support for Zayn and the remaining One Direction members.

“I’ve always said to all of them, the future’s bright depending on what you want to do. We’ve always hoped that One Direction would stay together for a long time and my hunch is it still will. They’re just too good for everything to stop now.”

PTI

Oscars next year on 28 February

LOS ANGELES, 11 April — The Academy has come up with the the dates for the 88th, 89th and 90th Oscar presentations.

The Academy Awards

will take place on 28 February, 2016, 26 February, 2017, and 4 March, 2018, respectively.

The 88th Academy Awards will be held at the

Dolby Theatre at Hollywood & Highland Centre in Hollywood, and will be televised live by the ABC Television Network.

PTI



The 88th Academy Awards will be held at the Dolby Theatre at Hollywood & Highland Centre in Hollywood.—PTI

GENERAL

Smokers to be banned from Austria's cafes

VIENNA, 11 April—After years of heated public debate, Austria's government decided on Friday that it will ban smoking in cafes and restaurants in 2018, having passed a law six years ago that forced eateries to seal off non-smoking areas.

The chamber of commerce said it was looking at taking legal steps against the ban in a country famed for its cafe culture and where smoking is above European averages. France, Britain, Italy and some German provinces have introduced similar bans.

Cafe owners who go completely smoke-free by July 2016 will get a special one-off bonus to offset costs

at least partially.

"We are strengthening the protection of non-smokers in Austria, but also take into account the interests of businesses which have already invested in the spatial separation of smokers and non-smokers," APA news agency quoted Conservative Economy Minister Reinhold Mitterlehner as saying.

But not everyone was convinced.

"Incredible. What are we going to do? You know that Austrians like to smoke when they drink coffee," said Elzin Nicevic, manager of a cafe on Vienna's Ring boulevard.

The head of Austria's right-wing Freedom Party, Heinz-Christian Strache,



A public ashtray is pictured in front of a sign marking a no-smoking zone in Vienna on 10 April, 2015.

REUTERS

whose party is neck and neck in opinion polls with the two centrist coalition parties, said he would scrap the law should his party win parliamentary elections in 2018.

"We don't need enforced joys such as this failure of a law," the heavy smoker said of the bill, which parliament is expected to pass within months.

Reuters

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18-year-old Homeless World Cup star on way to soccer career

LONDON, 11 April—After scoring 33 goals for his country in the Homeless World Cup last year, Pdraig McKissock has joined a team in Northern Ireland that shares his ambition of rising above difficulties.

McKissock attracted

media attention for his performance in the international tournament and was approached by many of the top soccer teams of Northern Ireland.

Speaking to *Kyodo News* after a day of training with his team, McKissock

said he has not slept in a bed in over a year after he had to leave his home.

He said, "I know I can play better football. There's more to learn so just hopefully I'll get where I want to and I'll not be sleeping on the sofa." He first joined an initiative that uses soccer to bring change to people in marginalized communities, which then led him to represent Northern Ireland at the 2014 Homeless World Cup in Chile.

McKissock, who looks up to Real Madrid forward Cristiano Ronaldo, scored five goals against Denmark in the final to win the Action Totale Cup for his country.

Common for many soccer players, his breakthrough came as a substitute after a teammate's injury.

He said, "I don't mean in a bad way, but thank God he got injured. I could show

them that I was capable of playing for the team, and I wouldn't have got this far if I hadn't." Although several top teams expressed an interest in him, McKissock joined Bangor FC in Northern Ireland's top amateur league, as he felt he would have more opportunity to play.

Bangor FC Chairman Trevor Best recounts that they "honed in" on McKissock after hearing about his performance in the Homeless World Cup.

"This guy here has potential," he said, speaking to *Kyodo News* a few months after McKissock joined the team. Best added, "Our Under 19s coach has actually already asked if he can use him, but Pdraig said to me he has never played at his own age level, only above. So that's an indication of how good he is."

Kyodo News

Chelsea to sign Brazilian midfield starlet, reports

RIO DE JANEIRO, 11 April—Chelsea have struck a deal with Atletico Paranaense to sign Brazilian starlet Nathan, local media reported on Friday.

The 19-year-old is expected to travel to London next week for a medical check and to sign a permanent contract, according to the Terra news portal.

It is understood Chelsea have agreed to a seven million-euro fee for the midfielder.

Nathan has been capped 20 times for Brazil's under-20 team and made 14 first-team appearances for Atletico last year.

He has caught Chelsea's eye with his performances in a No 10 role behind the striker but has also been deployed on the left and right of midfield.

Nathan would be the fifth Brazilian in Jose Mourinho's squad, joining Oscar, Filipe Luis, Ramires and Willian. —*Xinhua*

PSG boycott Canal+ for Ibrahimovic's 4-game ban

PARIS, 11 April — Ligue 1 champions Paris Saint-Germain announced on Friday to boycott Canal+ until the end of the season as their coverage of Zlatan Ibrahimovic's rant last month played a big part of the Swede's four-game ban.

The Swedish striker was handed the suspension for his foul-mouthed outburst after his sending off against Bordeaux in the first division league's 29th round on 15 March.

"In 15 years, I have never seen such a referee. In this shit country..." said the Swede while walking

towards the changing rooms following his side's 3-2 defeat to Bordeaux.

"The country does not deserve the PSG. We are too good for them," said the 33-year-old who lost his temper after scoring two goals but not able to save his side from losing.

His rant against France was heard and captured in footage by TV channel Canal Plus. The clip was posted online and soon went viral.

Ibrahimovic later issued an apology through the PSG's website, insisting he wasn't speaking about the nation as a whole.

With the four-match ban, he will miss PSG's Ligue 1 games against Nice, Lille, Metz and Nante, as well as the Champions League quarterfinal first leg hosting Barcelona after having seen red in his last CL outing at Chelsea. Ibrahimovic, however, will be able to play against Bastia in Saturday's League Cup Final. Following the ban, the French champions have announced they won't speak to Canal+ until 30 May.

"Club directors have made the decision to not longer make public declarations near journalists or

in front of cameras of the group Canal+ until Saturday, 30 May," said the club in a statement.

"Heavily sanctioned, PSG, which is one of the most publicized clubs and one that generates the strongest television audiences, does not want to take the risk of exposing itself to new sanctions related to unhappy comments provoked by an arbitrary, contestable decision." Marseille have announced a similar boycott after Canal+ camera footage played a big part in Dmitri Payet's two-game ban.

Xinhua

MRTV News Channel in Brief

(12-4-2015, Sunday)

- | | | | |
|-------------------|--|-----------------|--|
| 6:00 am | • Paritta by Venerable Min Gun Sayadaw | 12:50 pm | • Myanmar Movies (Part-1) |
| 6:30 am | • Physical Exercise | 2:35 pm | • Myanmar Movies (Part-2) |
| 6:45 am | • Documentary | 3:00 pm | • News/International News |
| 7:00 am | • News / Weather Report | 3:35 pm | • Business News |
| 7:30 am | • Head Line News | 4:00 pm | • News/Weather Report |
| 7:35 am | • Business News | 5:45 pm | • People's Talks |
| 8:00 am | • News / International News | 6:15 pm | • Songs of Thingyan Festival |
| 9:35 am | • Weekly Entertainment | 7:35 pm | • Documentary (Women in Myanmar Society) |
| 10:30 am | • Head Line News | 8:00 pm | • News / International News / Weather Report |
| 10:50 am | • Songs of Thingyan Festival | 8:35 pm | • Public Debate (Part-2) |
| 12:00 noon | • News / International News / Weather Report | 9:00 pm | • News |
| 12:35 pm | • Round up of the Week's International News | | • Tasty Trip |
| | | | • Sing & Enjoy |

MRTV Entertainment Channel

(12-4-2015, Sunday)

- | | | | |
|----------------|---------------------------------------|----------------|---------------------------------------|
| 6:00 am | • Alinka Wutyi Music Troupe | 6:45 am | • Song and Dance of Thingyan Festival |
| 6:20 am | • Song and Dance of Thingyan Festival | 7:00 am | • Teleplay |
| 6:35 am | • Pyi Thu Ni Ti | 7:10 am | • Myanmar Video |
| | | 8:40 am | • Sing & Enjoy |

Yadanabon FC conducts football course for local youths



MANDALAY, 11 April — The summer basic football course, conducted by Yadanabon FC, concluded at Aungmyay Mandalay Stadium in Aungmyethazan Township, Mandalay, on 9 April. U Zaw Win of Yadanabon FC presented certificates to 200 youth trainees.

The youths attended the training course from 15 March to 8 April.

“We are satisfied with efforts of the youth trainees in the course,” U Zaw Win said. We have a plan to open one more course next year.”

Tin Maung (Mandalay)

Tiger shows flashes of old magic at the Masters

AUGUSTA, (Georgia), 11 April — Tiger Woods, competing this week after a two-month absence to retool his game, showed flashes of his old magic as he fired his best score at the Masters in four years in Friday’s second round.

The former world number one has been under intense scrutiny after struggling badly with his chipping when last seen on the PGA Tour but he played solidly at steamy Augusta National to card a three-under-par 69.

That left Woods at two-under 142, a distant 12 strokes behind pacesetter American Jordan Spieth but delighted to be in contention after working hard to resurrect his game.

“I was at a pretty low

one (point) in my career,” Woods said after mixing four birdies with a bogey to climb into a tie for 14th when he ended his round.

“To basically change an entire (swing) pattern like that and put it together, put it in a position where I can compete in a major championship like this is something I’m very proud of.”

Woods, who plunged to 111th in the rankings as he struggled to return to form following back surgery last year and his fifth swing change, again struggled with the pace of Augusta National’s heavily contoured greens.

“I had a hard time getting the ball close to the hole,” said Woods. “You expect certain putts

to roll out, but they’re not rolling out.”

Watched by huge galleries, Woods made a fast start, hitting a superb approach to seven feet at the par-four first and rolling in the birdie putt as shouts of “Watch out, Tiger’s back” and “Come on Tiger, let’s go” rang out.

His only bogey came at the par-three sixth, his tee shot ending up just off the back of the green from where he had 45 feet to the flag but hit a weak chip that advanced just 20 feet.

Woods immediately rebounded in birdie-birdie style, draining a 25-footer at the tricky seventh and hitting his third shot at the par-five eighth to two feet.

Reuters

United’s Van Persie ‘not fit enough’ for derby — Van Gaal

LONDON, 11 April — Manchester United striker Robin van Persie has failed in his bid to be fit for Sunday’s Premier League derby against Manchester City, manager Louis van Gaal said on Friday.

Van Persie scored the winner the last time United beat City — a 3-2 away victory in December 2012.

The Netherlands international has returned to training after suffering an ankle injury in United’s defeat by Swansea City in February, but Van Gaal said the game against City

at Old Trafford had come too soon for his compatriot.

“Van Persie is not fit enough to play,” the Dutchman told a news conference.

“I don’t think (defender) Luke Shaw is fit enough to play. But I cannot say they are not fit. In my opinion, they are not fit to play.”

United’s recent fine form — they have won their last five Premier League games — has lifted them to third in the table, eight points behind leaders Chelsea but one ahead of

City. Van Gaal has found success by using Wayne Rooney further forward, Juan Mata on the right, and Marouane Fellaini as a deep-lying target man, anchored by a midfield combination of Michael Carrick and Ander Herrera.

But Van Gaal, asked whether club record signing Angel Di Maria had done enough to force his way into the team against City, said he was not afraid to tinker with his line-up.

“Never change a winning team’ is an English expression, but I always

have my eyes open,” he said.

“It’s also an obligation to the substitutes that you have, to compare players. You have to see also the quality of your opponent and you make a decision with the staff I have.

“Not only Angel (is pushing for a starting place), but every player who is training in the first squad are pushing because they want to do their utmost.

“I played 11 v 11 today (in training) and the team in white was very



Manchester United manager Louis van Gaal

good — the white team was not the basic line-up, so they are pushing always, and I like that. I said that to all of them, that I like the fighting spirit of every one of them.”—*Reuters*

Stakes high for Nadal as he heads for Monaco

LONDON, 11 April — Rafa Nadal posted a photo of himself hosing down the court after practising at home in Mallorca this week before heading to Monte Carlo for the first of three Masters 1000 claycourt events en route to the French Open.

The Spaniard will enjoy pouring cold water too on the notion his reign as king of the claycourts is in peril. It is not the first time Nadal has begun the grueling European swing with questions about his form.

Invariably his answer is emphatic, sweeping through to Roland Garros where he grinds his rivals into the dirt.

Nadal’s year has so far been on the back-burner.

Most felt his run to the Australian Open quarter-finals exceeded expectations after nearly half a year recovering from wrist problems and appendicitis.

What has followed, however, has given ammunition to the critics who say the 28-year-old 14-times grand slam champion has lost his mojo. Beaten by Italian Fabio Fognini on clay in Rio, he rebounded to win the Buenos Aires title but looked out of sorts on the hardcourts of Indian Wells and Miami — losing to Milos Raonic and Fernando Verdasco.—*Reuters*

Kompany fighting to be fit for Manchester derby

LONDON, 11 April — Captain Vincent Kompany is a doubt for Manchester City as they prepare for Sunday’s derby at Manchester United seeking to halt an alarming dip in form.

Kompany, who turned 29 on Friday, sustained a hamstring injury in the Premier League defeat to Crystal Palace on Monday.

“Vincent will be assessed for a problem he got last week,” manager Manuel Pellegrini told a news conference on Friday.

“We will see tomorrow if he will play or not. It is always better to play with Kompany, but if he can’t play, we have a squad.”

City have lost three out of five Premier League games since the beginning of March, and have fallen to fourth in the table, nine points behind leaders Chelsea and one behind third-placed United.

It is the first time this season that City have been lower in the table than their neighbours.

Pellegrini — whose job is under threat, according to British media reports — would not say whether he believes his team can still overhaul Chelsea in the race for the title.

“All that is in my mind is just to think about winning the next game you play, and that is the derby against United,” the Chile-

an told reporters.

“Never is a draw a good result. I understand we are not having the away results we want. 2015 is not a good year for us for this, but the motivation is to win, always.”

He said he was not surprised that United have improved significantly under manager Louis van Gaal.

“Louis van Gaal’s teams are offensive teams who try to win titles,” Pellegrini said. “United bought a lot of very good players in the summer: (Angel) Di Maria, (Ander) Herrera, (Radamel) Falcao, (Juan) Mata the season before and (Daley) Blind.

“They bought a lot of



Manchester City’s Vincent Kompany looks dejected after Barcelona’s first goal during UEFA Champions League Second Round Second Leg at The Nou Camp, Barcelona, Spain on 18 March, 2015.—REUTERS

very good players — the strange thing was why they weren’t doing it before, but it’s no surprise (they have improved).

“I don’t like to compare — always when you make these comparisons,

there are a lot of things you don’t analyse.”

Pellegrini confirmed that striker Wilfried Bony will miss the derby at Old Trafford with ankle and knee injuries.

Reuters