

Rakhine youths participate in fragrant grinding festival

YANGON, 12 April—Rakhine youths joined the 12th Rakhine traditional fragrant grinding festival (Yangon) at the Dhammayon of Rakhine State in the eastern part of Shwedagon Pagoda, Bahan Township, on Sunday, with a speech by Rakhine ethnic affairs minister of Yangon Region U Zaw Aye Maung.

Chairperson of Rakhine literature and culture group Daw Khin Saw Tint and patron Daw Nu Mra Zan explained disciplines for the fragrant grinding festival.

Fifteen teams comprising 10 members each namely MraukU, Maung-taw, Yathedaung, Pauktaw, Kyaukpyu, Manaung, Ponnagyun, Myebon, Buthidaung, Sittway, Myinbyan townships and Rakhine youths, Laytaung station,



Rakhine ethnic philanthropists of Mingaladon and Laywady Kalarekkhita participated in the festival.

Officials presented prizes to the winning teams.

Zaw Min Latt

Rakhine damsels participate in traditional fragrant grinding festival in Yangon.

ZAW MIN LATT

Weather expert forecasts temperature drop with rain showers during Thingyan Festival

By Aye Min Soe

NAY PYI TAW, 11 March – Temperature are expected to drop during the Thingyan Festival as rain showers are likely to fall in some regions, according to a top-weather expert.

Rain showers are expected over Kachin State,

Chin State, Kayah State and eastern and northern parts of Shan State, Bago Region, Nay Pyi Taw, Bago Region and Taninthayi Region while the weather in remaining parts of the country are likely to be cloudy, with a 60-percent likelihood of such weather during the water

festival which begins on April 13 and ends on 16 April, said U Tun Lwin, a former director-general of the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology Sunday, in a Facebook post.

Myanmar Meteorology and Hydrology Department issued a weather forecast at 7 pm Sunday for

Monday that rain or thundershowers are likely to be scattered in Taninthayi Region and Shan State and isolated in the remaining Regions and States, with a 60 percent degree of certainty.

Isolate rain or thundershowers are expected over lower Myanmar are-

as over the next two days, the State-run department's forecast said.

With rain showers, relief from the ultra-violet (UV) rays can arrive in some parts of Myanmar which is experiencing dangerous level of the UV index, U Tun Lwin said.

Myanmar weather expert U Tun Lwin also warned people in eastern part of Shan, Kayah and Kayin states to be alert to the possibility of thunderstorms, lightning, isolated heavy falls, gale force winds and hailstones on April 13 and 14 due to cumulus clouds in those areas.

Thunderstorms mostly happen in April and May in Myanmar.

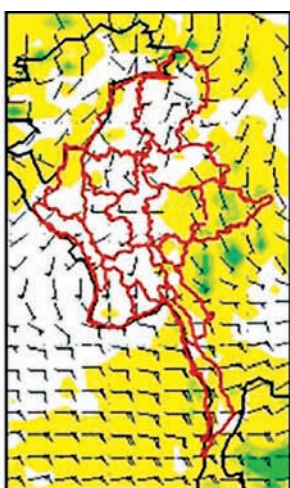
GNLM

of clothes.”

For the convenience of donors, Myanmar Clothing Bank has plans to create a website and open branches in all regions and states in the future, U Win Kyawt Hmu said at a press conference last month.

“Apart from money, we collect unused materials, especially clothes, to

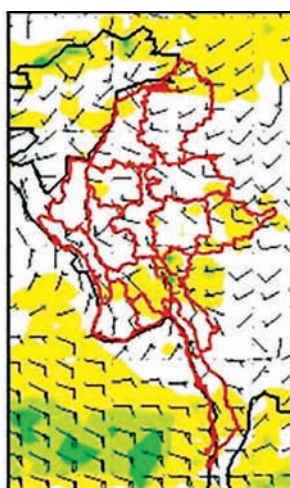
Akyo Day (13-4-2015)



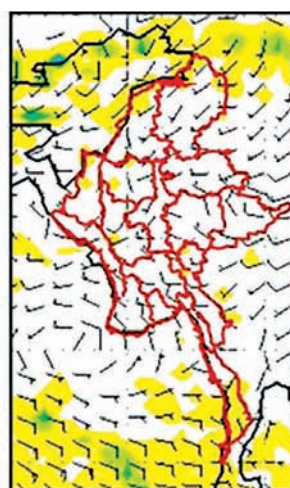
Akya Day (14-4-2015)



Akyat Day (15-4-2015)



Atet Day (16-4-2015)



Myanmar Clothing Bank to help needy people in Yangon's suburb

By Khaing Thanda Lwin

YANGON, 12 April— Myanmar Clothing Bank is planning a donation drive for needy people in Yangon's suburban areas

in late April, according its founder.

When asked about their choice of suburban areas, Moe Myint Oo told

The Global New Light of Myanmar that most people on the outskirts of Yangon lead a hard life.

Previously, the charity body provided clothes and toys to children studying at

monastic education schools in Yangon and its environs.

Currently it has collected a variety of hand-me-down clothes, with the founder saying “We have collected a containerload

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Sittway gets its first ever lift bridge

SITTWAY, 12 April— A bridge was opened in Sittway, Rakhine State, on Sunday, with the chief minister saying that the bridge will ensure safe transportation and contribute a lot to the development of the state.

Chief Minister U Maung Maung Ohn said the Satyoekya bridge is a lift bridge, the first of its kind in Rakhine State. The bridge spanning the Satyoekya creek was constructed by the ministry of border affairs, the local government and Asia Metal Construction Company.

(See page 3)

support the poor.”

Founded in 2014, MCB aims to collect donations in downtown areas and provide direct assistance to orphans and street children, elderly and needy people, and victims of natural disasters and conflicts.

Interested donors can dial +95995151642 for further information.—GNLM

Rural laterite road ready to serve locals



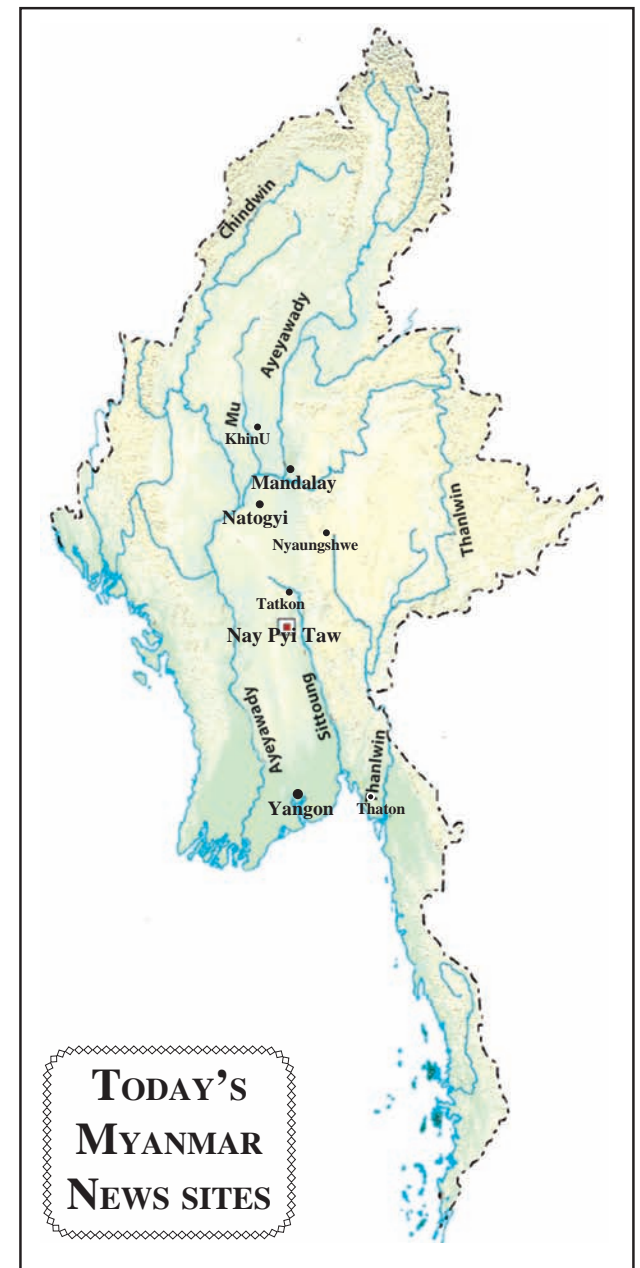
KHINU, 12 April—Department of Rural Development has completed maintenance of the KhinU-Hngetpyaw village rural road with its fund in 2014-15 fiscal year. The department spent K43.40 million on repairing the 5,100-foot-long and 12-foot-wide laterite road. In the past, the laterite road with damages could not give smooth transport service to the local people in rainy season.—*KhinU Soe Wai*

Myoma Band plans to perform entertainments in Mandalay City

MANDALAY, 12 April—The decorated float with silver swan statue used by amateur Myoma band in 1376 Myanmar Era's Maha Thingyan festival has been decorated with modern designs as of 6 April. Artist Tin Aung led decoration of the vehicle with lightings and designs. The designs of 1978's silver swan decorated float will be improved with modern ones, manager of the band U Sonny said. Mandalay dwellers have been encouraging Myoma Band for its decorated float in successive

eras. "We have filled the decorated one with light blue colour. This year, the vehicle has been installed four silver swan statues made of teak this year. In 1978, the decorated float was installed with six swan statues. This year, the band will perform entertainment with three vehicles. Vocalists and musicians will present songs and music depicting Thingyan festival to the local residents. On Akyo Day, 13 April, we will go to Maha Muni Buddha Image at first and then perform entertainments. In the afternoon, we schedule to visit Central Pandal of the Mandalay Mayor," the manager said.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)



Township GAD informs local people of development tasks

NATOGYI, 12 April—Township General Administration Department has spent K9,372.909 million on undertaking 439 projects in education, health, lakes, electrification, water supply and other development tasks during the four-year period. Wellwishers donated K188.42 million to be spent on six projects while Pyidaungsu Hluttaw allotted K1,281.55 million for 141 projects during the period from 2011 to 2015 fiscal year. Moreover, Union budget shared K1,900.09 million for 104 development projects in the township. Township GAD office put up vinyl posters on funds and development projects in respective fiscal years.

Htay Myint Maung



Local residents to receive potable water from tube-wells in Natogyi

NATOGYI, 12 April—Township Development Affairs Committee will supply water free of charge to Ward 7 and Ward 8 in Natogyi, Mandalay Region, in 2015-16 fiscal year, Chairman of Township DAC U Than Htaik Aung told media. Two tube-wells have been sunk in 2014-15 fiscal year to supply potable water to the local residents through pipelines. A tube-well has been sunk in Ward 1 to fulfill the needs of water of local residents, he added.—*Khin Zar Mon Myint (Law)*

Dwellers may release fingerlings into moat

MANDALAY, 12 April—Fingerlings are available at near Mingala Bridge in front of Mandalay City Development Committee on 26th Street for enabling Mandalay city dwellers to perform meritorious deeds on Myanmar New Year Day, 17 April. The fingerlings will be sold to the people as of 8 am to release them into the moat. But, the authorities will not allow any other fingerlings to be released into the moat.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)



NATIONAL

Union Energy Minister discusses investment opportunities of foreign companies in Myanmar

NAY PYI TAW, 12 April — Union Minister for Energy U Zeyar Aung attended the First Singapore Forum together with ministers, deans of diplomats and politicians and economists and heads of international economic organizations at Shangri-La Hotel in Singapore on 10 and 11 April.

At the panel discussion, the union minister discussed present situation in Asian region, geo-politics, energy sufficiency and security, an important role of ASEAN in development of Asia, reform process of Myanmar in political, economic and social sectors, regional cooperation, strategic situation of Myanmar

for future prospects and development of Asia and investment opportunities of foreign companies in Myanmar.

The forum focused on geo-politics and economic prospects of Asia, regional work process and important role of technology in the region.

MNA

Senior citizens receive cash assistance provided by government



Union Minister Dr Daw Myat Myat Ohn Khin gives cash assistance to older person.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 12 April — Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Daw Myat Myat Ohn Khin presented a certificate of honour signed by the President and K200,000 to Daw Aye Kyi,

105 years old, in Myothit Ward, Myaung Township, Sagaing Region on Saturday.

The union minister also presented cash assistance and certificate to 106 years old Daw Thuang in

Bayintnaung Ward in Myinmu Township.

An official of Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications donated K5 million to Sagaing School for the Blind to the union minister at the school.—MNA

Attorney-General of the Union to attend 54th Annual Session of the Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization

NAY PYI TAW, 12 April — Attorney-General of the Union Dr Tun Shin and party left for China on Saturday to attend the 54th Annual Session of the

Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization in Beijing, the People's Republic of China from 13 to 17 April.

The delegation was

seen off at Yangon International Airport by Chinese Ambassador Mr Yang Houlan, Yangon Region Advocate-General U Kyaw Moe Naing, Yan-

gon Region Law Officer U Khin Maung Maung, district law officers of the region and officials of the Chinese Embassy.

MNA

Myanmar survivors from sunken Russian fishing trawler arrive back in Yangon

YANGON, 12 April — Surviving Myanmar sailors from a sunken Russian fishing trawler have arrived back here by air on Sunday.

The Myanmar Embassy helped 22 Myanmar sailors fly back home from Russia through South Korea.

The Dalny Vostok

sank in the sea of Okhotsk on 1 April, killing 54 of 132 crew members on board, with 15 reported missing, according to reports. Rescue teams were reportedly able to save 63 crew members. High wind and overload were blamed for the shipwreck.

The vessel was carrying

78 Russians and 54 other nationals, of whom 42 were Myanmar.

Magellan Company, which owns the sunken trawler, has pledged compensations of rubles equivalent to US\$3,000 each to 22 Myanmar survivors and rubles equivalent to \$15,000 each to 16 dead

and four crew members whose bodies have not yet found.

The bodies of dead Myanmar sailors will be brought on a chartered flight to Myanmar on 15 April, according to reports on the Myanmar Embassy in Russia.

MNA

People need to cooperate with government for electrification

NAY PYI TAW, 12 April — Supply of electricity is the first priority of government for the people, Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development Dr Kan Zaw told local people at launching a power line to electrify Wetthaik-Tegon village in Salin Township, Magway Region on Saturday.

People of the remaining villages in the township need to cooperate with the government for electrification on a self-reliant basis, he added.

While in Salin, the union minister attended the ceremony to donate an ambulance and hospital equipment to the township hospital.

He also visited Linzin and Salin dams and Linzin Basic Education High School.

MNA



Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development Dr Kan Zaw presents equipment for solar panel to local resident.—MNA

Sales of alcohol banned for Nay Pyi Taw Thingyan

NAY PYI TAW, 12 April — Authorities have outlawed sales of alcohol within the environs of water-throwing pandals during Thingyan, Myanmar's New Year water festival, in Nay Pyi Taw.

It is aimed at avoiding brawls caused by alcohol consumption, said officials, adding that

skimpy clothing is also banned.

As this year's Nay Pyi Taw Thingyan is planned to be in full swing, nine water-throwing pavilions built in Nay Pyi Taw Hotel Zone will welcome the festival with merrymaking crowds and entertainers as of the first day (Akyo Day) of Thingyan.

There will be traffic police and full strength of police members at every pandal in the zone, said Nay Pyi Taw police, adding that deployment of more police members than the previous year could reduce unwanted criminal cases.

Than Oo (Lemyathnar)

Sittway gets its first ever lift...

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The chief minister and officials inspected the durability of the bridge.

He also oversaw the replacement of conduit

pipes and the overlaying of tar on Minbargyi Road in Sittway, which one of the four main entrance roads to the township.

He also attended the opening of a new gymnasium in the township.

Rakhine State IPRD



The opening ceremony of Satyoekya bridge in progress in Sittway.—RAKHINE STATE IPRD

Natogyi-Mahlaing road improves transport service in Natogyi Tsp

NATOGYI, 12 April—Cargo trucks smoothly run along a 26-mile Natogyi-Mahlaing road by taking a few hours.

Thanks to the road, the vehicles do not need to pass Myingyan and Taungtha townships.

The trucks with the load of cement drive along Natogyi-Mahlaing Road.

Natogyi Township Department of Rural De-

velopment spent K80.4 million on construction of a 1.3-mile asphalt road from Magyikan to Phalangon village in 2014-15 fiscal year. Meanwhile, Mahlaing Township DRD placed asphalt on the road at the border of two townships. Efforts of two township authorities could implement the construction of Natogyi-Mahlaing road.

Htay Myint Maung



Products of petrified wood marketable in Natogyi Township



NATOGYI, 12 April—Entrepreneurs in Natogyi seek foreign market of export products for petrified wood, U Than Lwin of Ingyin Gabar Shop said.

Various works of petrified wood take a share of domestic market but entrepreneurs eager to showcase their products at the international trade fair. The Mandalay Region Minister for Commerce arranges display of petrified wood products at the China's Trade Fair in Nanning to be held soon, he added. Although raw materials of petrified wood are rare in Natogyi Township, the decorated products are marketable. More than 20 companies produce decorated petrified wood products in Natogyi Township.—*Khin Zar Mon Myint (Law)*

Geo-tubes at Inlay Lake control flow of water to lower areas

NYAUNGSHWE, 12 April—Irrigation Department built a geo-tube, one mile upstream of Bankan Village in Nyaungshwe Township, Shan State, so as to control flow of water from Inlay Lake.

The 150-foot-long and 100-foot-long geo-tubes were built at the 220 feet wide creek. Motorboats can drive along a 70-foot-wide

waterway. Thanks to the geo-tubes, the water level is rising gradually.

Shan State government allotted K170 million on construction of geo-tubes. The facilities can control flow of water from the lake to the downstream areas to some extent. When water level is high at the lake, water will flow over the geo-tubes.—*Nay Myo Thurein*

Youths show skills in Chinlone sport in training course

THATON, 12 April—Trainees of Myanmar traditional Chinlone course 1/2015 demonstrated their sports skills in concluding the course at the Chinlone gymnasium of the township near Thaton District sports ground on 10 April.

16 boys and one girl, totalling 17 attended one-month course as of 18

March. They showed their skills in groups and individuals.

Myanmar inserted Chinlone sports into the 27th SEA Games. Likewise, the Chinlone sports has been allowed in the 28th SEA Games to be held in Singapore and agreed to insert it into the 29th SEA Games to be held in Malaysia.—*Thet Oo (Thaton)*



Earthen pots occupy market share during Thingyan festival

NYAUNGSHWE, 12 April—Atar pots (earthen pots) are marketable in Shan State as an activity of Maha Thingyan festival.

Kyauktaing village in Inlay region, Nyaungshwe Township, sends earthen pots to the market.

Local pottery industries mainly produce

Atar Thingyan pots and drinking water pots in Tabaung and Tagu (March and April) yearly. Moreover, local pottery makers produce different sizes of vases, stoves, cup of oil lamp and toys made of clay.

These pots are sent to the market in Nyaungsh-

we, Taunggyi, Phekon and Loikaw. They sell K300 per Atar pot depending on the sizes, a local resident said.

Kyauktaing Village in Nyaungshwe Township is engaged in production of earthen pots for many years.

we, Taunggyi, Phekon and Loikaw. They sell K300 per Atar pot depending on the sizes, a local resident said.

Nay Myo Thurein

Local residents enjoy electricity through solar panels

TATKON, 12 April—A ceremony to launch supply of electricity through solar panel in the precinct of monastery in Kyaunggon Village, Tatkon Township, on 10 April.

Deputy Head of Township General Administration Department

U Sanay Tun handed over documents related to electrification of solar panel to village administrator.

Officials switched on the supply of electricity to the village.

Kyaunggon Village is located 40 miles east of Tatkon. Nay Pyi Taw

Council Area assigned duty to Min Yazar Company to install solar panels and related equipment at 209 houses in the village with K41.8 million contributions in 2014-15 fiscal year.

Tin Soe Lwin (Township IPRD)

China-led AIIB will be lean, clean and green

BEIJING, 12 April — The China-led Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) will be lean, clean and green, its interim chief said, playing down concerns over transparency and standards governing the institution.

The \$50 billion bank, expected to start operations by the end of the year, is attracting a growing list of countries, from Britain to India to New Zealand.

The AIIB is seen as a potential rival to established lenders the World Bank and Asian Development Bank, which are dom-

inated by the United States and Japan.

“Lean is cost effective; clean, this bank will have zero-tolerance on corruption; green means it’s going to promote the economy,” China’s *Xinhua* news agency quoted Jin Lique, secretary general of the bank’s multilateral interim secretariat, telling a forum in Singapore on Saturday.

The bank would not be run politically, Jin said.

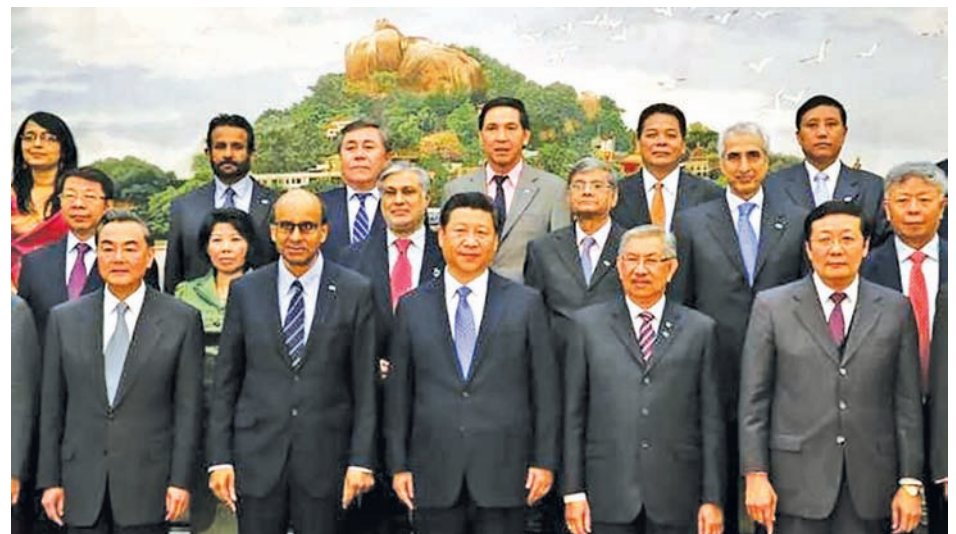
“AIIB is a bank, not a political organization or political alliance. This guaranteed that it would be impossible to operate in

an untransparent way,” he said.

More than 40 countries have applied to join the AIIB, with the United States and Japan being notable absentees.

The United States, worried about China’s growing diplomatic clout, suffered a diplomatic reverse after trying to dissuade its allies from joining the Chinese initiative.

Washington has questioned whether the AIIB will have sufficient standards of governance and environmental and social safeguards.—Reuters



China’s President Xi Jinping (front C) poses for photos with guests at the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank launch ceremony at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing on 24 Oct, 2014.—REUTERS

Voting begins in key local elections across Japan

TOKYO, 12 April — Voting began on Sunday morning to choose governors, mayors and local assembly members across Japan, in the first of two rounds of unified quadrennial local elections.

On Sunday voters are casting ballots to pick governors in 10 prefectures and mayors in five government-designated major cities, as well as assembly members in 41 of Japan’s 47 prefectures and in 17 of the country’s 20 major cities. Voting stations will close at 8 pm and the ballots will be counted the same day. Results are expected to emerge on Sunday night for gubernatorial and mayoral races, and early Monday for assembly elections.

A second round of local polls is set for 26 April to elect mayors and city assembly members in other areas. Revitalizing regional economies amid Japan’s declining population was the foremost campaign issue in the local elections, which are held simultaneously every four years to cut election costs and improve voting rates. Japan’s ruling and opposition parties are trying to shore up their support bases to brace for upcoming national contests, including one for the House of Councilors next year.

The outcome of the local polls is being closely watched as the ruling Liberal Democratic Party has failed to win strong voter support in recent gubernatorial contests, despite its convincing victory in the House of Representatives election last December.

Prime Minister Shinzo



People cast votes at a polling station in the city of Osaka on 12 April, 2015, as the first of two rounds of unified quadrennial local elections to choose governors, mayors and local assembly members is held across Japan.—KYODO NEWS

Abe has vowed to prioritize revitalizing regional economies, saying his government will make sure the benefits of his “Abenomics” stimulus package are shared across the country.

In the 10 gubernatorial elections to be decided on Sunday, the ruling and opposition blocs are squaring off in just two prefectures — Hokkaido and Oita. There is no head-on competition in the other eight prefectures of Kanagawa, Fukui, Mie, Nara, Tottori, Shimane, Tokushima and Fukuoka.

In Hokkaido, Gov Harumi Takahashi is seeking a fourth term, backed by the LDP and its junior coalition ally, the Komeito party. She is being challenged by Noriyuki Sato, a former television anchor backed by the Democratic Party of Japan and other opposition parties. In Oita, Gov Katsusada Hirose, who is seeking a fourth term with the backing of the LDP and Komeito, is pitted against Ban Kugimiya, a former Oita city mayor effectively

backed by the DPJ. Of the five mayoral elections, the race in Sapporo is the only one fought between the ruling and opposition parties. Former central government bureaucrat Nana Honma, who is backed by the LDP, is running there against former Sapporo deputy mayor Katsuhiko Akimoto, backed by the DPJ.

A focal point in the 41 prefectural assembly elections is whether the LDP can secure a majority of the 2,284 seats being contested for the first time in unified local elections since 1991. Also gaining attention is whether the DPJ can retain its 314 pre-election seats amid its waning popularity.

In Osaka, prefectural and city assembly elections are seen as a litmus test for Osaka Mayor Toru Hashimoto’s plan to integrate the administrative functions of the prefectural and city governments and reorganize the city of Osaka into five wards in April, 2017. A city referendum on the plan will be held next month.

Kyodo News

Vietnamese officials see promising development in ties with China

HANOI, 12 April — Senior Vietnamese officials have hailed their ruling party chief’s recent visit to China, saying it generated an important prerequisite for healthy and sustainable bilateral relations between the two countries as well as regional and global peace, stability, cooperation and development.

General Secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam (CPV) Nguyen Phu Trong paid an official visit to China from 7 to 10 April, where he had talks with Chinese President Xi Jinping and met with other top Chinese leaders including Premier Li Keqiang. The two sides released a China-Vietnam joint communique. According to a CPV online newspaper report on Sunday, Vietnamese Defence Minister Phung Quang Thanh said during Nguyen’s meetings with Chinese leaders, the two countries decided to work together for mutual benefits through the signing of important cooper-

ation agreements, especially in the fields of economy, transport and people-to-people exchange. The agreements included one on the United Nations peacekeeping cooperation between Vietnamese and Chinese defence ministries. He said the defence ministers of all members of the Association of the Southeast Asian Nations will meet with their Chinese counterpart in China in November to seek to reinforce defence cooperation. Vietnamese Minister of Industry and Trade Vu Huy Hoang said via the meetings, the two countries affirmed that they are close economic partners.

On the basis of a two-way trade value of 60 billion US dollars in 2014, the two countries have set a target of 70 billion US dollars by 2017. Hoang said China promised to create favourable conditions for Vietnam to conduct trade promotion activities more effectively, adding that Vietnam has completed procedures need-

ed for the opening of its first trade promotion office in China’s Chongqing and is about to put similar agencies into operation in other Chinese localities.

Hoang believed that with Nguyen’s successful China visit, economic ties between the two countries will become even closer in terms of both quality and quantity. Meanwhile, Minister of Planning and Investment Bui Quang Vinh highlighted the signing of a large number of socioeconomic cooperation documents, including one on reviewing the plan on Vietnam-China socioeconomic cooperation for the 2012-2016 period.

Vinh said that in August he will lead an inter-sector delegation to work with the Chinese side on infrastructure cooperation projects, including the feasibility study on Vietnam’s Lao Cai-Hanoi-Hai Phong express railway which will be linked with China’s Yunnan province.

Xinhua

S Korean president calls for cooperation with DPRK on trans-boundary river management

DAEGU, (South Korea) 12 April— South Korean President Park Geun-hye on Sunday called for boosting cooperation with the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK) on trans-boundary rivers management.

Park made the remarks at the opening ceremony of the 7th World Water Forum(WWF) which kicked off in South Korea’s southeastern city of Daegu on Sunday afternoon.

The forum, which

held every three years organized by the World Water Council, is the world’s largest water related forum that bring together around 3,5000 world leaders, business people and experts to discuss the water challenge.

Addressing the opening ceremony, Park emphasized the significance of effectively managing trans-boundary rivers where international water disputes mainly happened.

She hoped that a practical solution could

be worked out during the World Water Forum to solve international water disputes and contribute to the world peace.

Park said tensions between South Korea and the DPRK could be eased if linking water routes connecting both sides.

She said South Korea plans to create a dialogue channel through which Seoul and Pyongyang can meet to start with the co-management of rivers passing through the two sides.—Xinhua

Hiroshima survivors: haunted 70 years on, determined to remember

HIROSHIMA, 12 April — Hiroshi Harada remembers how his leg sank into one of the bodies blocking a narrow Hiroshima street 70 years ago, as he fled the spreading fire ignited by the atomic bomb.

“My leg slid deep into one of them. Then it was very hard to pull my leg out ... To escape, I had no choice,” said Harada, the 75-year-old former head of an atomic bomb museum.

Later that day, a woman grabbed Harada, then just 6 years old, by the leg and asked for water. He stepped back in horror to find a chunk of flesh from her hand sticking to his leg.

As the 70th anniversary of the world’s first nuclear attack approaches, many survivors still find it too painful to talk about. But with their ranks dwindling, others are determined to pass on their experiences to younger generations.

“The number of survivors will be shrinking and their voices getting smaller,” Harada said. “But Hiroshima needs to keep on sending a message to the world that things like this should never happen again.”

Hiroshima survivors often refrain from talking about their experiences even with their own children, some from a feeling that the past is too horrific and others from fear of discrimination against themselves and their offspring.



A child pays respect at the cenotaph at Hiroshima Peace Park on 29 Nov, 2014. The inscriptions on the cenotaph read, “Let all the souls here rest in peace, for we shall not repeat the evil”. —REUTERS

This year’s anniversary comes as Prime Minister Shinzo Abe seeks to ease the constraints of Japan’s postwar, pacifist constitution on the military.

Critics fear that could lead the nation again down a mistaken path to war, while proponents argue the change is needed to deter growing regional threats.

A US bomber dropped the atomic bomb on Hiroshima on 6 August, 1945, killing about 140,000 by the end of the year, out of the 350,000 who lived in the city. The city still has some 60,000 survivors but their average age is approaching 80.

The United States

dropped a second atomic bomb on Nagasaki three days after Hiroshima. Japan surrendered on 15 August.

Shortly after the bombing, 15-year-old Shigeo Ito was hurrying home and was asked by a woman to help rescue a person trapped under a collapsed house. He ignored the plea since fire was approaching the bridge he needed to cross to get home.

“Even long after that, I could not help feeling ashamed of myself every time I saw that bridge,” said the 84-year-old Ito, who now lectures to school children about his experience. Shuntaro Hida, 98,

was an army surgeon at the time of the bombing. When he first went out after the explosion, he saw a woman with what he thought were tattered clothes hanging from her torso. Then he realised he was seeing her sloughed-off skin.

For Hida, however, the real horror of the nuclear attack lay in its often invisible health effects. “The cruellest aspect of a nuclear attack is not the savage destruction of human bodies or visible burns, but its life-destroying after-effects,” said Hida, who treated and advised some 10,000 atomic bomb survivors.

Hiroshima began to see an increased number of leukaemia patients five years after the bombing.

Fumiaki Kajiya, 76, lost his sister to the atomic bomb blast. Their parents had moved her to a rural area to keep her safe, but just before the bombing, they brought her back to the city, succumbing to her pleas to stay with the family.

Kajiya’s mother would weep for hours on end in front of the Buddhist altar as 6 August came around every year. Kajiya now performs “picture shows” for children with hand-drawn art to pass on the horror of the atomic bomb.

“If we forget Hiroshima, the world would be a dangerous place,” Kajiya said.—Reuters

Obama optimistic about Iran nuclear deal despite Khamenei’s comments



US President Barack Obama holds a news conference at the conclusion of the Summit of the Americas in Panama City, Panama on 11 April, 2015. —REUTERS

PANAMA CITY, 12 April — US President Barack Obama expressed optimism on Saturday that major world powers and Iran could finalize a deal to curb Iran’s nuclear programme despite strong words this week from the country’s Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

Obama downplayed Khamenei’s demands that a final deal result in an end to all sanctions on Iran, telling reporters at the Americas summit in Panama that Khamenei and others in Iran were addressing their own internal politics. “Even a guy with the title ‘Supreme Leader’ has to be concerned about his own constituencies,” Obama said. “There may be ways of structuring a final deal that satisfy their pride, their optics, their politics, but meet our core practical objectives,” Obama said at the news conference.

Iran and world powers reached a framework nuclear agreement on 2 April that would require Iran to shut down parts of its nuclear programme that could

be used to build a bomb, and accept intrusive inspections, in exchange for the West lifting economic sanctions.

Negotiators need to finalize technical details by 30 June.

“What I’ve always said, though, is that there’s the possibility of backsliding,” Obama said, noting the final deal would require tough talks and may not result in a deal that he would sign.

But he blasted some US Republican senators who have argued against the deal, including Arizona Senator John McCain, who told a conservative radio show this week that he found Khamenei’s interpretation of the deal more credible than that of Secretary of State John Kerry, who has said sanctions would be lifted in phases and “snap back” in place if the deal is violated.

“That’s not how we’re supposed to run foreign policy, regardless of who is president or secretary of state,” Obama said. Obama said he has talked to the top Republican and Democratic senators on the Senate Foreign Relations committee about the role for the US Congress in assessing the final deal. Kerry is expected to brief lawmakers this week. “What I’m concerned about is making sure that we don’t prejudge it, or those who are opposed to any deal whatsoever try to use a procedural argument essentially to screw up the possibility of a deal,” Obama said.—Reuters

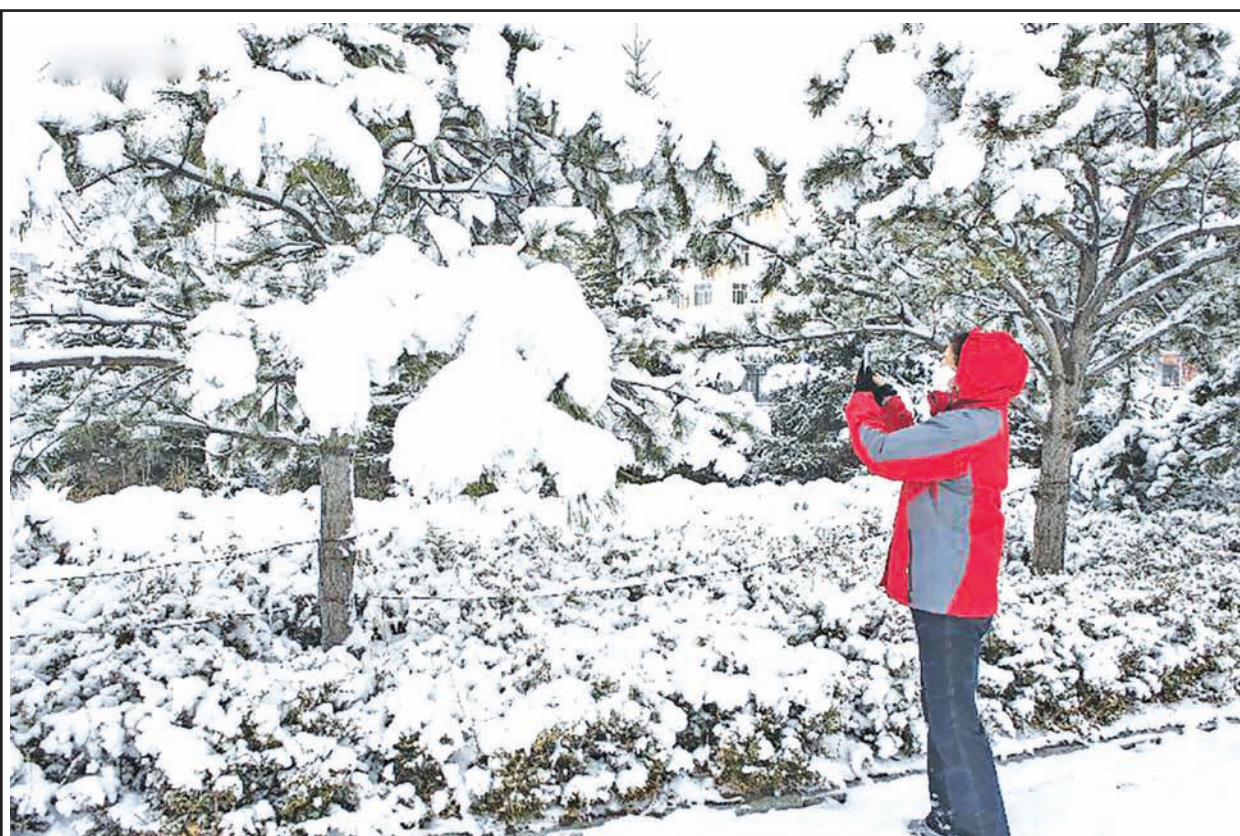
Japan, US, S Korea defence officials to meet in Washington

TOKYO, 12 April — Japan, the United States and South Korea will hold a meeting of senior defence officials this coming week in Washington, where they are expected to discuss the North Korean nuclear and missile issues, the Japanese Defence Ministry said on Sunday.

Hideshi Tokuchi, Japan’s vice minister of defence for international affairs, will meet with US

Assistant Secretary of Defence David Shear and Yoo Jeh Seung, deputy minister for policy of the South Korean National Defence Ministry, on Thursday and Friday, it said.

Tokuchi will also call for arranging a meeting between Japanese and South Korean defence ministers in late May during an Asian security gathering in Singapore, according to the ministry.—Kyodo News



A resident takes photos of snow scenery in Jingpeng Town of Hexigten Banner (County), north China’s Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region on 12 April, 2015. Snowfall hit parts of Inner Mongolia over weekend.—XINHUA

WORLD

Clinton tries again to crack 'highest glass ceiling' with White House bid



Former US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton

NEW YORK, 12 April — Hillary Clinton will take another stab at cracking what she calls “the highest and hardest glass ceiling” on Sunday when she starts a long-awaited second run for the White House as the prohibitive Democratic front runner.

Clinton’s campaign for the November 2016 election will emphasize her plans to address economic inequality and will tout the historic nature of her bid to become the first woman US president, aides say.

But after decades in the public eye as the wife of former President Bill Clinton, a US senator and secretary of state, she could face a challenge in showing a more down-to-earth side while connecting with ordinary voters.

Clinton will also have to quell a controversy over her work use of a private email account while secretary of state, which Republicans have said is a

sign of her penchant for secrecy. Clinton has said she used the single email account for convenience and should have used government email, but violated no rules.

Clinton, who lost a heavyweight Democratic nominating battle to Barack Obama in 2008, will announce her campaign on video and social media, a Democrat familiar with her plans said. She will travel later in the week to Iowa, which holds the first nominating contest in early 2016.

In a memo made public on Saturday, Clinton’s campaign manager Robby Mook told staff while the goal was for Clinton to win the presidency, the campaign was not about her but “everyday Americans.”

“We are humble: we take nothing for granted, we are never afraid to lose, we always out-compete and fight for every vote we can win. We know this campaign will be won on the ground, in states,” he said in the campaign memo, titled “We Are Hillary for America.”

Many Democrats have eagerly awaited Sunday’s announcement since the day in June 2008 when Clinton pulled out of her primary battle against Obama with an expression of regret that she could not crack “that highest and hardest glass ceiling this time.”—Reuters

US, Cuba leaders meet for 1st time in over 50 yrs in rapprochement

PANAMA CITY, 12 April — The leaders of the United States and Cuba on Saturday held a meeting for the first time in more than 50 years in a historic rapprochement between the Cold War foes who severed diplomatic ties in 1961.

“This is obviously a historic meeting,” US President Barack Obama said before he and Cuban President Raul Castro began face-to-face talks on the sidelines of the Summit of the Americas in Panama following talks by telephone on Wednesday.

“I think we are now in a position to move on a path towards the future,” he said before pool reporters.

Obama and Castro discussed the completion of the State Department review of Cuba’s designation as a sponsor of terrorism, and Obama informed Castro that the next step is

near and that he would be making a decision in the “coming days,” according to a senior administration official.

Cuba is “not a threat” to the United States, Obama told reporters afterward. The two countries have already had three

rounds of talks on normalizing diplomatic ties since Obama announced a major policy change on Cuba in December.

Castro, speaking after Obama before their talks, said his side is willing to discuss every issue with Washington, including hu-

man rights and the freedom of press, “but we need to be patient — very patient. Some things we will agree on; others we will disagree.” The two leaders also discussed “practical” issues preventing the opening of embassies in Havana and Washington, with Obama stressing the importance of US diplomats needing to move around, according to the administration official.

The talks mark the first significant meeting between the two countries since Castro’s older brother, Fidel Castro, toppled the US-backed regime in a 1959 revolution that soon led the Caribbean-island nation to ally with the Soviet Union.

In December, the two countries announced they would seek to improve relations, opening the way to restoring diplomatic ties.

Kyodo News



Leaders of North, Central and South America attend the seventh Summit of the Americas in Panama City on 10 April, 2015. US President Barack Obama (far R in 2nd row) and Cuban President Raul Castro (2nd from L in 2nd row) shook hands in a groundbreaking meeting on the sidelines of the summit the same day.—KYODO NEWS

Most Brazilians favour impeachment, but few see Rousseff gone

SAO PAULO, 12 April — Almost two thirds of Brazilians favour the impeachment of President Dilma Rousseff over a corruption scandal at state-run oil company Petrobras, but roughly as many doubt it would drive her from office, according to a poll released on Saturday.

The survey by polling firm Datafolha showed 63 percent of respondents support impeachment in light of the widening police investigation into a huge kickback scheme at Petroleo Brasileiro SA, as the oil giant is formally known.

Still, 64 percent said

they did not expect the scandal would be enough to cut short Rousseff’s second term, which began in January.

Opposition parties have played down the prospects for impeachment, although they have lent support to protests against Rousseff, including a demonstration scheduled for Sunday.

Rousseff herself is not under investigation in the still-expanding Petrobras probe. She says she knew nothing about the bribery and price-fixing racket that allegedly cost the company billions of dollars while she

was chairwoman from 2003 to 2010.

Brazilians remain sceptical of Rousseff’s account, according to the Datafolha poll. Of those surveyed, 57 percent said she knew about the graft and allowed it to happen. An additional 26 percent said she knew but could do nothing to stop it.

As the police investigation has gathered steam, implicating senior Petrobras executives, major engineering firms and elected officials, Brazilians have also expressed increasing concern about how corruption is holding their country back.

In the Datafolha poll, 22 percent of respondents said corruption was the biggest problem confronting Brazil, just behind the 23 percent who named the country’s health care system. In a July survey, 14 percent said corruption, well behind the 38 percent who said health care.

The latest survey by Datafolha, one of the most respected pollsters in Brazil, confirmed the findings of polling firm MDA, which found last month that 60 percent of respondents favoured Rousseff’s impeachment.

Reuters

British PM Cameron’s Conservatives lead Labour as UKIP falls

LONDON, 12 April — British Prime Minister David Cameron’s Conservatives took a two percentage point lead over the opposition Labour Party as support for the UK Independence Party fell ahead of the 7 May general election, an Opinium survey showed.

The closest British election in a generation has flummoxed seasoned politicians, diplomats and financiers who are poring over opinion polls and Westminster seat predictions to see who might rule the \$2.8 trillion economy.

Opinion polls indi-

cate neither the Conservatives nor Labour will win an overall majority in the 650-seat parliament as surveys show millions of voters are flocking to once marginal parties, especially in Scotland and England.

The poll for the Observer newspaper, put the Conservative Party up three points on 36 percent and the Labour Party up one point on 34 percent.

But significantly for the Conservatives, who have seen millions of their core voters flirt with the UK Independence Party (UKIP) led by Nigel Farage, support for UKIP fell three points to 11 percent, the lowest level

in the poll since 2012.

Support for UKIP, which wants Britain to quit the European Union, to slash immigration and to return Britain to what supporters say was once a proud self-governing nation, has declined in some other recent national polls.

The net approval rating for Farage, a 51-year-old former metals trader who told Reuters last month that Cameron’s party might win the most seats, fell seven points to minus 20 percent.

The Liberal Democrats were unchanged on 7 percent, Opinium said in a statement, while the Scottish National Party (SNP),



Britain’s Prime Minister David Cameron delivers a speech to Conservative Party supporters and activists during an election campaign event in Wadebridge, south-western England on 7 April, 2015.—REUTERS

which wants Scotland to become independent, was unchanged on 4 percent.

The UK-wide result for the SNP hides a significant strength in the first-past-the-

post electoral system: Their support is all concentrated in Scotland.

A forecast based on a YouGov poll on Friday showed the SNP would win

up to 53 of the 59 seats in Scotland, which could give the nationalists a kingmaker position in the next parliament.

Labour, which in 2010 won 41 of the 59 seats in Scotland, admits that a strong showing for the SNP could scupper Labour leader Ed Miliband’s chances of ousting Cameron as prime minister.

The Opinium poll, carried out between 8 and 9 April, showed that Cameron’s personal net approval rating was plus 2 percent, while Miliband’s rating had fallen three points to minus 18 percent.

Reuters

PERSPECTIVES

Monday, 13 April, 2015

People learn from tangible facts

By Myint Win Thein

Politicians, regardless of their ideologies, are required to listen to public voice and employ the power of people as much as they can to march towards the better future for the country. Unfortunately, some politicians fail to listen to public voice mistake opinions

for facts and accuse other who have seen the facts of pessimists while talking of themselves as optimists who can foresee the brighter future for the country. The fact is that such brighter future for the country will never be reached within the lifetime of such politicians.

People who are accused of pessimists are even branded as hardliners and forced to leave their organizations concerned. However, for laymen on the street, it is not very difficult to distinguish between facts and opinions since they are suffering social woes due to these facts of truth. They cannot enjoy the fruits politicians are dreaming because the fruits exist only in their opinion.

As a result, some politicians saw the truth a lot later than people on the street and echo what

ordinary people have been saying for decades. Being late in politics stalls progress and has to pay a price. However, such politicians continue to pretend to have achieved a significant success. It is just their own opinions.

People learn from tangible facts not from what politicians say.

Write for us

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

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

Thinking in Advance for Better Tomorrow

Hand Washing Saves Millions

By San Shwe Aung

Personal hygiene is very important for everyone to perform. We clean ourselves everyday. We do bathing, brushing our teeth, cutting our nails, washing our clothes and washing our hands. Once a child can take care of him/herself, parents teach how to practice basic hygiene. From the childhood to adolescence to adulthood, we learn gradually from the parents, teachers and elders to take care of our personal hygiene. From kindergarten to primary to middle & high school classes, students learn progressively about personal hygiene from the teachers. Hand washing with soap is one of the most important personal hygiene behaviors. At critical times hand washing must be practiced by all including children, adults and elderly people in our community to avoid a number of diseases.

Why Hand Washing is important

Every year, 1.7 million children do not live to celebrate their fifth birthday because of diarrhea and pneumonia. Hand washing with soap is among the most effective and inexpensive ways to prevent diarrheal diseases and pneumonia. This simple behavior can save lives, cutting deaths from diarrhea by almost one-half and deaths from acute respiratory infections by nearly one-quarter. Hand washing with soap can make a significant contribution to meeting the Millennium Development Goal of reducing deaths

among children under the age of five by two-thirds by 2015.

WHO Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council (WSSCC), UNICEF, Water and Sanitation Program at the World Bank are major leading world bodies in promoting hand washing with soap through media, seminars, functions and campaigns particularly commemorating on 15th October of every year called "Global Hand Washing Day". That is the global advocacy day dedicated to increasing awareness and understanding about the importance of hand washing with soap as an effective and affordable way to prevent diseases. Global Hand Washing Day is an opportunity to design, test, and replicate creative ways to encourage people to wash their hands with soap at critical times.

Hand washing as Non-pharmaceutical interventions (NPIs)

Non-pharmaceutical interventions (NPIs) are actions, apart from getting vaccinated and taking medicine, that people and communities can take to help slow the spread of illnesses like influenza (flu). NPIs are also known as community mitigation strategies. Outbreaks of seasonal flu occur every year, usually during the beginning of rainy season through early winter in Myanmar. A flu pandemic occurs when a new flu virus emerges among people, causing illness region-wide. It is important to learn how to slow the spread of flu if a pandemic does occur.

Many of actions also can help during a regular flu season. Getting vaccinated is the best way to prevent the flu. However, since a pandemic flu virus is new, a vaccine may not be available right away. When NPIs are used together and early in a pandemic, they can be effective in slowing the spread of flu. Germs like flu viruses can spread easily in places where many people are in close contact with one another, so NPIs are especially important in community settings like schools, workplaces, and mass gatherings. Hand washing with soap is one of most effective NPIs which can help prevent diseases. In addition, NPIs also may be effective in slowing the spread of other infectious diseases. Keeping hands clean through improved hand hygiene is one of the most important steps we can take to avoid getting sick and spreading germs to others. Many diseases and conditions are spread by not washing hands with soap and clean, running water. If clean, running water is not accessible, as is common in many parts of the world, use soap and available water. If soap and water are unavailable, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol to clean hands.

When should we wash our hands?

- Before, during, and after preparing food
- Before eating food
- Before and after caring for someone who is sick
- Before and after treating a cut or wound

- After using the toilet
- After changing diapers or cleaning up a child who has used the toilet
- After blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing
- After touching an animal, animal feed, or animal waste
- After handling pet food or pet treats
- After touching garbage

How should we wash our hands?

- Wet your hands with clean, running water (warm or cold), turn off the tap, and apply soap.
- Lather your hands by rubbing them together with the soap. Be sure to lather the backs of your hands, between your fingers, and under your nails.
- Scrub your hands for at least 20 seconds. Need a timer? The "Happy Birthday" song from beginning to end twice.
- Rinse your hands well under clean, running water.
- Dry your hands using a clean towel or air dry them.

What should we do if we don't have soap and clean running water?

Washing hands with soap and water is the best way to reduce the number of microbes on them in most situations. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol. Alcohol-based hand sanitizers can quickly reduce the number of microbes on hands in some situations,

but sanitizers do not eliminate all types of germs.

Hand sanitizers are not as effective when hands are visibly dirty or greasy. Some advocate to use ash as an alternative to soap but ash also can not kill all germs either.

How do we use hand sanitizers?

- Apply the product to the palm of one hand (read the label to learn the correct amount).
- Rub your hands together.
- Rub the product over all surfaces of your hands and fingers until your hands are dry.

5 Facts about Hand Washing

(1) Hand Washing with soap is a "do-it-yourself-Vaccine" that prevents infections and saves lives.

Human feces (excreta) is the main source of the germs that cause diarrhea, including shigellosis, typhoid, and cholera, all other common endemic gastro-enteric infections, and some respiratory infections such as influenza and pneumonia. A single gram of human feces can contain 10 million viruses and one million bacteria. These pathogens originate in human feces and are passed from an infected person to a new one through skin contact, food, and other routes. Hand washing with soap after contact with fecal material—from using the toilet or cleaning a child—prevents the transmission of the bacteria, viruses, and protozoa that cause diarrheal diseases.

Because hand washing can prevent the transmission of a variety of pathogens, it may be more effective than any single vaccine. Studies have found that children living

in households where there is active hand washing promotion and available soap have half the rates of diarrhea compared to children who do not have these. Promoted on a wide enough scale, hand washing with soap can be thought of as a "do-it-yourself vaccine" because it is easy, effective, and affordable.

Diarrheal Disease: A review of more than 30 studies found that hand washing with soap cuts the incidence of diarrhea by nearly half. Diarrheal diseases are often described as water-related but more accurately should be known as excreta-related, as the germs come from fecal matter. These germs make people ill when they enter the mouth via hands that have been in contact with feces, contaminated drinking water, unwashed raw food, unwashed utensils, or smears on clothes. Hand washing with soap breaks the cycle. The figure on the right shows the effectiveness of hand washing with soap for reducing deaths due to diarrhea in comparison to other interventions.

Acute respiratory infection: Acute respiratory infections like pneumonia are the leading cause of death in children under the age of five. Evidence suggests that better hand washing practices—washing hands with soap after defecation and before eating—could cut the infection rate by 25 percent. The full effect might turn out to be even bigger; a recent study in Pakistan found that hand washing with soap reduced the number of pneumonia-related infections in children under the age of five by more than 50 percent.

(See page 9)

ARTICLE

Three Periods of Age

Tin Shein; CEO, MICPA

WE all know what is meant by age. Age is a span of human life. According to our cultural tradition, age is reckoned in terms of periods. They are the first, second, and third periods of life. Our present life-expectancy is generally estimated at about 75 years. However, there may be people in our living memory who have lived to the age of 90 years and beyond. Of course, their number may be very few indeed. Now the 75-year life-expectancy can again be divided into the three periods of age. Then the first 25 years represent the first period; the second 25 years cover the second period; and the last 25 years comprise the third period. As we all know, our life span is very short as compared with the past centuries that our human civilization has passed through since the dawn of history. So it is up to us to make the most of the short time we have to live on this earth by doing whatever we can not only for the benefit of ourselves and our families, but for the welfare of the society we belong to, and our own country, as well. "Simple living and high thinking without any malice and ill will towards anybody" is the motto that we must strive to live by all our life. Only by so doing could we have fulfilled our obligations to all as good citizens. In every relationship there must be "give and take" without which it would be difficult to build up harmonious and ever-lasting relationships with other people, be they social or business ones. If we try to have all "take" without any "give" on our part in any social or business dealings, we will surely become odd-men-out, who nobody would wish to do anything with and distance themselves from us. We shall be seen as self-centered opportunists, who are out to take advantage of other people in our self interests without compunction in any situation.

Now, to come back to my topic, wise men of old say that we must spend the first period of our age in pursuit of learning, the second period acquiring wealth and the third period in the practice of religion. So this age-old adage is a good guide for us to live our life in comfort and in peace to the very end of our days on this earth. So, first and foremost, we have to try to get a good education. By education is meant general education which includes graduate degrees in arts and science as well as professional education which includes graduate degrees

in medicine, engineering, law, accounting, computer science. Even here there are many challenges we have to encounter and overcome before we can get a good education. If we are born into well-off families either in cities or in the countryside, the chances of our getting a good education are very good, especially when the parents themselves are educated persons who know the value of education in life. But, on the other hand, if we happen to be born into poor families in the countryside who have a hard time to keep body and soul together themselves, they will think nothing of sending their children to school; they will have, by force of necessity, use their labor on their farms and in other agricultural activities in order to supplement their family income. For such people the prospects of acquiring a good education for their livelihood are indeed very poor.

Even though our parents are well enough to send us to school, unless we put hard efforts into our studies either at high schools, universities or other higher-learning professional institutions in our youth, a good education will undoubtedly be beyond our reach, and we are very likely to end up as blue-collar workers later in life. Thus, we will have great difficulty making our living in our middle life. We won't be able to find a good job that will provide us with a comfortable standard of living. Thus we will have to do without what they call creature comforts. That means we will have to lead a hard life for the rest of our days. With a good education, however, we will find it easier to pile up wealth in the second period. And only then will we be able to live quite comfortably and without worry in our middle and old age. Another reason why wealth is necessary in our second period is because we may then fall into marriage and consequently have children of our own, and as parents, we need to have saved up enough money to educate them properly in order that we may discharge our parental duties to our children completely.

Lastly, when the third period comes around, we as Buddhists must turn our thoughts away from mundane affairs as much as possible and devote a greater part of our leisure time to the serious study and practice of meditation as a way to escape from the rounds of rebirths. If enough wealth has not been accumulated in middle age, we will have to continue to struggle hard for a decent living well into old age. And then we won't have much free time left over for serious practice of religion in the twilight years of

our life. But the majority of people, except for some fortunate ones, have to go on working well into old age, the circumstances of life, into which fate has thrown them, being what they are.

In the third period of life we come face to face with old age. Old age is the period that we all have to pass through in the natural course of things. Some people fear old age, because once they enter upon old age, they are bound to be up against the infirmities and ills of old age that will hamper them in their physical activities. It is time for us to remember that though the spirit is willing, the flesh is weak, as the saying goes. Moreover, it is not too much to say that in old age we have come nearer to the final destination of our life-journey than in the first and second periods. In the *Summing Up*, W Somerset Maugham said: "In youth the years stretch before one so long that it is hard to realize that they will ever pass, and even in middle age, with the ordinary expectation of life in these days, it is easy to find excuses for delaying what one would like to do but does not want to; but at last a time comes when death must be considered".

On the other hand, though the fear of death haunts most people, there are some who have no fear of old age. They say old age has its own compensations. The things we consider to be important in youth are found to be no longer so in old age. Moreover, with old age come maturity of mind, the lessening of passions, envy, greed, hatred, at least to a certain extent, if not all, and last but not least, wisdom. Old age is also the time for us to wind up our affairs of life and prepare for the final passage out of our present life and beyond. After all is said and done, the most important thing for us to do is to follow the advice of wise men of old—to acquire a good education in youth, accumulate as much wealth as possible in middle age and practice religion in old age. Only then will be able to live our life fully and make the most of it. For us Buddhists old age also is the high time we took stock of the merits and demerits we have accumulated consciously or unconsciously throughout our lives. If we find the demerits to be rather on the high side, we must devote more of our time to do religious studies and "vipassana" meditation practice, purifying our minds from fetters of passions, lust and evil thoughts. It will pave the way for us to achieve the stage of stream winner—sottapana. Last but not least, we must practice the teaching of all Buddhas: "Do what is good; avoid doing evil things and purify your mind." Only then will we be able to gain entry into the higher planes of existence in our after-life.

Hand Washing Saves...

(from page 8)

Intestinal worm and skin and eye infection: Though not as extensive and robust as the research evidence for diarrheal disease and respiratory infections, studies have shown that hand washing with soap reduces the incidence of skin diseases, eye infections like trachoma, and intestinal worms, especially ascariasis and trichuriasis.

(2) *Hand washing promotion is extremely cost-effective when compared with other frequently funded health interventions.*

A \$3.35 investment in hand washing promotion brings the same health benefits as an \$11 investment in latrine construction, a \$200 investment in household water supply, and an investment of thousands of dollars

in immunization. Investments in the promotion of hand washing with soap can also maximize the health benefits of investments in water supply and sanitation infrastructure and reduce health risks when families do not have access to basic sanitation and water supply services. Cost is not typically a barrier to hand washing practice; almost all households in the world already have soap—though it is commonly used for laundry, dishwashing, or bathing.

(3) *Everyone can improve their own health by washing hands with soap, especially after using the toilet and before touching food.*

One person's clean hands prevent disease transmission to others. A whole family's clean hands can significantly improve the

family's health and reduce incidence of common illnesses. An entire classroom, office, or community with clean hands effectively stops disease in its tracks. Everyone, from young to old, can wash their hands and develop the habit of washing at critical moments, such as after going to the toilet and before handling food or eating.

(4) *Washing hands with water alone, a common practice around the world, is significantly less effective than washing hands with soap. Proper hand washing requires soap and only a small amount of water.*

Washing your hands in water won't always dislodge grease and dirt, and when the grease and dirt stays on your hands, so do the germs. Soap breaks down germ-carrying grease and dirt and facilitates rubbing and friction. With

proper use, all soaps are equally effective at rinsing away the germs that cause disease.

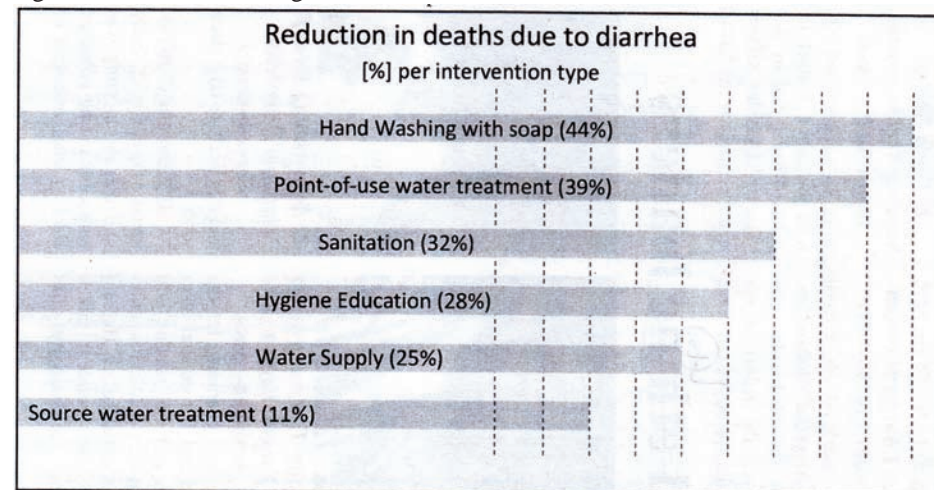
(5) *Critical moments for hand washing are after using the toilet and cleaning a baby bottom and before handling/eating food.*

Hands are the principal carriers of disease-causing germs. Hands should be washed with soap after using the toilet, after cleaning

a child's bottom (or any other contact with human excreta, including that of babies and children), and before any contact with food, such as before eating or before preparing food. Children and adults should also wash their hands after playing or working outside, touching animals and their dwellings.

Reduction in death due to diarrhea: The follow-

ing table shows that hand washing alone is a leading contributor to the reduction of death (44%) due to diarrhea globally. With combination of other water, sanitation and hygiene intervention, a significant reduction of death due to diarrhea diseases will be realized. So let us wash our hands with soap in critical times.



Source: Global Hand Washing Day Planner's Guide by FHI 360

Syrian Kurds battle Islamic State in northeast

BEIRUT, 12 April — At least two dozen Islamic State fighters have been killed in northeastern Syria in a battle with Kurdish forces supported by US-led air strikes, a Kurdish official and a group monitoring the war said on Saturday.

Ten members of the Kurdish YPG militia were also killed in the fighting in Hasaka province, a strategically important region that borders Turkey and Iraq and where Islamic State has recently lost ground, said Nasir Haj Mahmoud, a Kurdish official, speaking by phone.

“Daesh is trying to open new front,” Mahmoud said, using an Arabic term for Islamic State. He said the death toll among Islamic State fighters was as high as 41, and the dead included foreign fighters.

The latest battle between the enemies began when Islamic State fighters launched an attack between

the towns of Tel Tamer and Tel Hamis, which the Kurdish militia seized from Islamic State in February,

Mahmoud said.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a UK-based organization



Kurdish People's Protection Units (YPG) fighters man an anti-aircraft weapon in the Assyrian village of Tel Jumaa, north of Tel Tamer town on 5 March, 2015.—REUTERS

that monitors the war using a network of sources on the ground, said two dozen Islamic State fighters had been killed in fierce battles in the area.

Islamic State is still holding some 200 Assyrian Christians abducted from villages near Tel Tamer in February. There has been no word on their fate.

In recent weeks, Islamic State has mounted frequent attacks in areas far from its eastern strongholds in government- and rebel-held areas further west.

These have included an attempt to seize a Palestinian refugee camp on the Damascus outskirts, attacks on rival insurgents in Aleppo province, and a massacre in a village in a government-held part of Hama province.

The assaults are all well beyond the areas targeted to date in the US-led aerial campaign focused mostly in the east and north.

Fighters believed to be members of Islamic State staged an attack on Friday in an area near a military airport in the southern province of Suweida, the Observatory reported.

It said at least 20 soldiers and pro-government militiamen were killed in the fighting, in addition to 15 insurgents.

The state news agency said the army had thwarted an attempt by Islamic State militants to infiltrate two villages in the area. It published a photo appearing to show the bodies of at least nine militants killed in the fighting.

Reuters

Ten killed in new fighting in Libya's Benghazi

BENGHAZI, 12 April — Ten people have been killed in the eastern Libyan city of Benghazi in fighting between army forces and Islamist groups, medics said on Saturday.

A tank battalion and armed youths fought with forces belonging to the Majlis al-Shura, a collection of armed groups including Islamist militants, in a southern district for much of Friday, army officials said.

As well as the 10 soldiers killed, some 55 were wounded, medics said on Saturday, when much of the city was quiet after gunfire had been heard in several districts the day before.

The fighting mirrors the wider struggle in the oil-producing North African state where two governments and parliaments, allied to rival armed groups, are vying for control almost four years after the ousting of Muammar Gaddafi.

The unrecognized government, which controls the capital Tripoli, in western Libya, has pledged to the back the Islamists in the east after the forces of the internationally recognized government launched an offensive against them in October.

The army, which is loyal to the official government, expelled the Isla-

mists from the airport area and from several camps the army had lost during the summer.

But fighting has been raging on in several other parts.

The recognized prime minister, Abdullah al-Thinni, was forced to leave Tripoli in August for the eastern city of Bayda when a group called Libya Dawn seized the capital.

The Tripoli government, which is backed by some Islamist groups, said it would support Majlis al-Shura.

Part of Majlis al-Shura is the Islamist militant group of Ansar al-Sharia,

blamed by Washington for an assault on the US consulate in Benghazi 2012, which killed the US ambassador.

“The national salvation government confirms ... giving full support, without limits, to Majlis al-Shura troops,” it said in a statement posted on the cabinet website. It gave no details.

The Tripoli rulers have not been recognized by the United Nations or world powers. Both sides have fought each other on several fronts, undermining six months of UN mediation efforts which have produced little progress.

Reuters

Saudi king relieves health minister, second in a month



Saudi Arabia's King Salman is seen during US President Barack Obama's visit to Erga Palace in Riyadh on 27 Jan, 2015.—REUTERS

DUBAI, 12 April — Saudi Arabia's King Salman has relieved Health Minister Ahmed al-Khatib of his post, removing a second minister handling social welfare issues in the space of a month as he reshapes the cabinet soon after coming to the throne.

Mohammed bin Abdulmalik bin Abdullah Al Al-Sheikh will be acting health minister, state news agency SPA said in a brief report on Saturday. It did not say why Khatib was relieved.

In early March, Salman removed the housing minister, a day after pledging to speed efforts to end a shortage of homes in his first address to the nation since becoming monarch in late January.

This followed a cabinet reshuffle in late January

in which Salman appointed new ministers to several portfolios including agriculture, education and information. He also reorganized the policy-making apparatus, abolishing some committees and creating a new economic council chaired by his son.

Social welfare problems such as a lack of affordable housing, uneven provision of health care and unemployment are key political issues in Saudi Arabia.

Since taking the throne, Salman has appeared willing to tackle them aggressively. Last month the cabinet approved the politically sensitive idea of taxing undeveloped land in order to force more land out into the market and ease the housing shortage.

Reuters

Reuters Iraq bureau chief threatened, denounced over story

LONDON, 12 April — The Baghdad bureau chief for Reuters has left Iraq after he was threatened on Facebook and denounced by a Shi'ite paramilitary group's satellite news channel in reaction to a Reuters report last week that detailed lynching and looting in the city of Tikrit.

The threats against journalist Ned Parker began on an Iraqi Facebook page run by a group that calls itself “the Hammer” and is believed by an Iraqi security source to be linked to armed Shi'ite groups. The 5 April post and subsequent comments demanded he be expelled from Iraq. One commenter said that killing Parker was “the best way to silence him, not

kick him out.”

Three days later, a news show on Al-Ahd, a television station owned by Iranian-backed armed group Asaib Ahl al-Haq, broadcast a segment on Parker that included a photo of him. The segment accused the reporter and Reuters of denigrating Iraq and its government-backed forces, and called on viewers to demand Parker be expelled.

The pressure followed an 3 April report by Parker and two colleagues detailing human rights abuses in Tikrit after government forces and Iranian-backed militias liberated the city from the Islamic State extremist group. Two Reuters journalists in the city

witnessed the lynching of an Islamic State fighter by Iraqi federal police. The report also described widespread incidents of looting and arson in the city, which local politicians blamed on Iranian-backed militias.

A Reuters spokeswoman said the agency stood by the accuracy and fairness of its report. Facebook, acting on a request from Reuters, removed a series of threatening posts this week.

The threats appear to be part of a broader power struggle in Iraq. The country is divided between its Shi'ite Muslim majority, which now dominates the government, and its Sunni Muslim minority, which held sway under

the late dictator Saddam Hussein. Prime Minister Haidar al-Abadi, a moderate Shi'ite, is attempting to defeat Islamic State — a radical Sunni offshoot of al-Qaeda that has seized huge portions of Iraqi territory — while at the same time trying to mend fences with the broader Sunni community.

The Iraqi military is rebuilding following its collapse last June. That has forced Abadi's government to rely on a constellation of Shi'ite paramilitary forces backed by Iran. The paramilitary forces, which include Asaib Ahl al-Haq, routinely denounce Western media coverage of Iraq's internal conflict.

Reuters

BUSINESS & HEALTH



Peru striker Guerrero in Dengue scare

RIO DE JANEIRO, 12 April — Corinthians and Peru international striker Paolo Guerrero has been taken to hospital with symptoms of Dengue fever, the Brazilian club said on Saturday. The 31-year-old was admitted to Sao Paulo's Sao Luiz hospital com-

plaining of high fever, nausea and aches. "His condition got worse on Saturday and we decided to take him to hospital," Corinthians doctor Julio Stancati told Lancenet. "We suspect he could have Dengue fever and are waiting for exam results." Guerrero was ruled out

of Corinthians' Sao Paulo state league quarterfinal against Ponte Preta on Saturday. If Dengue is confirmed, he will miss the club's Copa Libertadores group match against defending champions San Lorenzo in Sao Paulo on Thursday.

Capped 56 times for Peru, Guerrero is Corinthians' top scorer in 2015 with 12 goals from 17 matches. Dengue is a mosquito-borne tropical disease whose symptoms include fever, skin rashes, headache, muscle and joint pains. In rare cases it can develop into the life-threatening dengue hemorrhagic fever. *Xinhua*

US meat industry bought more human antibiotics to 2013: FDA

CHICAGO, 12 April — Sales of medically important antibiotics in the United States for use in livestock jumped by 20 percent between 2009 and 2013, federal regulators said on Friday, although recent statements by producers suggest those figures could be dropping. Between 2012 and 2013, the US Food and Drug Administration said its annual report, domestic sales and distribution of antibiotics approved for use in food animals increased 3 percent. Companies such

as Tyson Foods Inc and Perdue Farms have said in the past year, however, they have either reduced or eliminated the use in chicken barns and poultry hatcheries of antibiotics used on humans. "A lot of these announcements came in either late 2013 or in 2014, so we don't really expect to see that reflected in the data we're looking at right now," said Gail Hansen, a senior officer for Pew Charitable Trusts' antibiotic resistance project. "At some point, though,

we should be seeing a decrease." What specific antibiotics are being fed to which animals, and in what volume and for what reasons, is not clear. Trade group North American Meat Institute told Reuters it supports the voluntary guidelines FDA released in 2013 for drug makers and agricultural companies to phase out antibiotic use as a growth enhancer in livestock. However, "it is hard to glean much information about what the (FDA) re-

port means as far as the key issue of antibiotic resistance is concerned," said Betsy Booren, the group's vice president of scientific affairs. Public health advocates, along with some lawmakers and scientists, have criticized the long-standing practice of using antibiotics in livestock, saying it is fueling the rise of antibiotic-resistant bacteria. Agribusinesses defend the practice, saying animal drugs are needed to help keep cattle, pigs and chickens healthy, and increase production of meat for US consumers.



A woman waits at a meat counter in the Broadway Market in Buffalo, New York on 10 April, 2011.—REUTERS

New US offshore oil drilling rule planned: New York Times

WASHINGTON, 12 April — The United States is planning to impose a major new regulation on offshore oil and gas drilling to try to prevent the kind of explosions that caused the catastrophic BP Plc (BP.L) oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico, the *New York Times* reported on Friday, citing Obama administration officials. The Interior Department could make the announcement as early as Monday, the paper said. It is timed to coincide with the five-year anniversary of the BP (BP.L) disaster, which killed 11 men and sent millions of barrels

of oil spewing into the gulf. The rule is expected to tighten safety requirements on blowout preventers, devices that are the last line of protection to stop explosions in undersea oil and gas wells, the *Times* reported. The White House did not immediately respond to a request for comment. The explosion of the Deepwater Horizon oil rig in 2010 was caused in part when the buckling of a section of drill pipe led to the malfunction of a supposedly fail-safe blowout preventer on a BP well, the paper said. The regulation comes as the

Obama administration is taking steps to open up vast new areas of federal waters off the southeast Atlantic Coast to drilling, a decision that has infuriated environmentalists, the *Times* reported. It will be the third and biggest new drilling-equipment regulation put forth by the Obama administration in response to the disaster, the *Times* said. In 2010, the Interior Department announced new regulations on drilling well casings, and in 2012, it announced new regulations on the cementing of wells.—Reuters

India's February industrial output grows at 5 percent, fastest in 3 months



Employees work inside an iron factory on the outskirts of Jammu on 3 Feb, 2015.—REUTERS

NEW DELHI, 12 April— India's industrial output growth accelerated to 5.0 percent in February, its fastest pace in three months, mainly driven by growth in capital goods and consumer goods sectors, government data showed on Friday.

Analysts polled by Reuters were expecting the output to grow 2.4 percent compared with a upwardly revised 2.8 percent growth in January.

India plans to release industrial output data based on a new methodology and use a different base year for calculating the index in the next few months, a senior government official at the statistics ministry told Reuters on Thursday.

The industrial output data with 2004/05 as base year has become less relevant now after the government changed the methodology as well as the base year for GDP calculations in February. The revised base year for GDP is 2011/12.—Reuters



An offshore oil platform is seen in Huntington Beach, California on 28 Sept, 2014. REUTERS

Iran's state TV social media accounts hacked

ABU DHABI, 12 April — Iran's Arabic-language state TV network Al Alam said on Sunday its Twitter account had been hacked and a false report was posted that an Iran-allied rebel leader in Yemen had died.

Al Alam has covered the crisis in Yemen since

Saudi Arabia and Arab allies launched air strikes against the Shi'ite Houthi movement this month.

The air strikes have raised tensions between Shi'ite Muslim Iran and Sunni Saudi Arabia, who are vying for influence amid sectarian wars shaking the region.

The false news on Houthi leader Abdel Malek al-Houthi's death was tweeted by Al Alam's account on Saturday, and several later posts published contact information for the channel's reporters around the region.

The channel said it was working on restoring

its account.

Al Alam's Youtube channel also appeared to be hacked, and a video was posted of a song praising Saudi King Salman bin Abdulaziz with the Saudi flag as a backdrop.

The station was taken off the air by Arab satellite operators based in Egypt

and Saudi Arabia in November.

US-allied Arab governments have watched with alarm as Iran's influence has spread in the wake of the 2003 US invasion of Iraq and the rise of Iranian-backed armed groups throughout the region.

Reuters

Six Greenpeace activists leave Arctic-bound oil rig

LOS ANGELES, 12 April — Six Greenpeace activists rappelled down from an oil rig in the Pacific Ocean on Saturday after spending six days living on the structure to protest against drilling in the Arctic, the environmental organization said.

The multinational team climbed aboard Polar Pioneer, an oil rig leased by Royal Dutch Shell Plc that is bound for the Arctic, on Monday as it was being transported by a heavy-lift vessel about 750 miles (1,210 km) northwest of Hawaii.

Worsening weather conditions that were expected to bring high swells led the six activists to leave the oil rig on Saturday, a Greenpeace representative said in an email.

They climbed down into inflatable boats and returned to the Greenpeace ship Esperanza, which had been stationed in the area in recent days and which had brought the activists out into the Pacific Ocean for the protest.

Shell said the protesters had jeopardized their safety and that of the crew assigned to the oil rig.

The company had filed a complaint in federal court in Alaska seeking an order to remove the activists. On Saturday evening, a judge granted a restraining order against Greenpeace to prevent a repeat of the protest, Royal Dutch Shell spokeswoman Kelly op de Weegh said in an email.

"We're always open to an honest discussion about the challenges and benefits of exploring for energy in the Arctic, but we cannot condone Greenpeace's unlawful and unsafe tactics," she said.

Greenpeace said its team of activists did not interfere with the crew transporting the oil rig. The organization had earlier said on its website that the activists had enough supplies to last for several days on the rig.

"I might be climbing off this oil rig, but this is merely a transition into the next step of saving the Arctic," American Aliyah Field, one of the six activists, said in a statement.

Reuters



Photo taken on 12 April, 2015, shows collapsed cable-supporting posts on the railway tracks between JR Kanda and Akihabara stations in central Tokyo. The collapse suspended part of the operations of the Yamanote and Keihin-Tohoku lines for more than nine hours.—KYODO NEWS

TOKYO, 12 April — The Japanese and US governments plan to share information on suspicious satellites and "space junk" in Earth orbit under the newly included field of space in revised bilateral defence cooperation guidelines, sources close to Japan-US relations said on Saturday.

The guidelines, to be updated on 27 April for the first time since 1997, will provide for cooperation on Space Situational Awareness (SSA), or detecting and identifying objects in orbit, and on maritime surveillance from space, the sources said.

The move is likely to serve as a deterrent to China, which is ramping up its presence both at sea and in space, including the development of anti-satellite weaponry.

The tie-up on space, sometimes called the "fourth battlefield" after land, sea and air, represents a further integration of Japanese and US defence forces.

In talks on Wednesday, Japanese Defence Minister Gen Nakatani and US Defence Secretary Ashton Carter affirmed Japan-US cooperation in the field of space, including

Japan, US defence guidelines call for sharing info on space

the establishment of a new working-level taskforce.

Japan and the United States have recognized space weaponry development — brought to the fore by China's 2007 anti-satellite missile test — and an increase in the amount of dead satellites and other space junk as factors impeding the peaceful use of space.

The revised defence guidelines will specify the importance of SSA, and the United States has urged Japan to boost its capacity in the field, the sources said.

The countries also plan to reconsider the manner of cooperation between Japan's Self-Defence Forces and the US Strategic Command's Joint Space Operations Centre, which handles US space surveillance, the sources said.

The United States is decentralizing its satellite systems so satellites maintain some level of functioning in the event of attack.

As part of that process, it plans to turn to Japan's network of "quasi-zenith satellites" in addition to

its own global positioning system, the sources said.

Information sharing on global maritime surveillance has the potential to better equip Japan and the

United States to ensure the security of sea lanes and respond to tsunamis and other disasters.

Japan and the United States also plan to expand

cooperation on space with other countries holding similar values, with a view to devising a global framework on the use of space, the sources said.—Kyodo News

Gunmen attack S Korean embassy in Libya's Tripoli

TRIPOLI, 12 April — Unknown gunmen on Sunday attacked the South Korean Embassy in Tripoli, leaving two guards dead and one wounded, according to security sources.

The armed group travelling in a car fired a hail of bullets in front of the embassy compound, security officer Mabrouk Abu-Bakr told Xinhua.

He said the incident was committed by the Islamic State group, but he did not elaborate on the

motives of the attack.

Tripoli fell to the hands of the armed Islamist coalition Libya Dawn last August, when the internationally recognized Libyan government retreated to the eastern town of Tobruk. The city has been plagued by bomb attacks, assassinations and kidnappings.

Several embassies, including those of Egypt and the United Arab Emirates, have been targeted by militants in similar attacks.—Xinhua



Students of Vilnius university bring desserts to celebrate the Day of Physicists in Vilnius, Lithuania, on 11 April, 2015. Physics students of Vilnius University have held activities in April since 1969 to celebrate the Day of Physicists. The most important part of the celebration is a parade with a symbol of a mobile dinosaur, and its slogan is "dinosaurs have become extinct, but physicists have survived".—XINHUA

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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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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A year after ferry disaster, safety concerns persist in South Korea

SEOUL, 12 April — Nearly a year after her 16-year-old daughter was among 304 people killed when an overloaded ferry capsized, Park Eun-mi says not much has changed when it comes to safety in South Korea.

"Even after what we've been through, I wonder why society doesn't change, and how people so quickly forget," said Park, surrounded

in her apartment by photographs of her daughter, who is among nine victims of the ferry disaster whose body has yet to be recovered.

Public safety was mostly an afterthought in South Korea's decades of rampant economic growth, defined by an attitude of "pali, pali," or "hurry, hurry."

The Sewol ferry disaster on 16 April last year led to much soul-searching - the

majority of the victims were, like Park's daughter, teenagers on a school outing. The ship was structurally unsound and the rescue operation was widely criticized as botched. But despite increased public awareness and government efforts to foster a culture of safety, data points to little improvement. The total number of ship accidents in South Korea, for example, rose in

2014 as did the incidence of fires and the number of people killed in them.

Even the government acknowledges its own efforts to improve public safety, including the creation of a massive new 10,000-person ministry, will take years to make a significant difference.

"To ensure safety, we need budget and time ... and we need to change the

mindset," Park In-yong, the retired navy admiral who heads the newly formed Ministry for Public Safety and Security, said on Thursday.

The sprawling ministry's mandate ranges from rescue operations and disaster response to elevator safety.

Sceptics say it is a political fix that merely moves functions around.

"I know even after three years on this job, people still won't be satisfied," Park, the minister, said.

On 30 March, the government unveiled a "master plan for safety innovation," which at a cost of 30 trillion won (\$27.45 billion) would establish a control center for disaster management, improve response to accidents and highlight the importance of prevention.—Reuters

WEATHER REPORT

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 13th April, 2015: Rain or thundershowers are likely to be scattered in Taninthayi Region and Shan State and isolated in the remaining Regions and States. Degree of certainty is (60%).

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

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Photo taken on 10 April, 2015 shows the scene of an accident site in Taichung, southeast China's Taiwan. A steel beam fell from a crane at a light rail construction site in central Taiwan's Taichung City on Friday afternoon, killing at least four people and injuring four others, the city government said.—XINHUA

One killed in grenade blast in NE India

NEW DELHI, 12 April — At least one person was killed and three others injured on Sunday in a grenade blast in Borjhar district of India's northeastern Assam state, said local media.—Xinhua

A film on Barack Obama's first date with wife in works

US
President
Barack
Obama &
Michelle
Obama



LOS ANGELES, 12 April — Producer Glendon Palmer is developing a film “Southside With You”, which is inspired by the first 1989 date of US President Barack Obama with now wife Michelle Obama.

At that time the President was a young firm summer associate and his wife was known as lawyer Michelle Robinson.

The story follows the couple on a date that took them from the Art Institute of Chicago to a screening of Spike Lee’s “Do the Right Thing” to the site of their first kiss outside of an ice cream parlour, reported Deadline.

Tika Sumpter (‘Get on Up’) will star as Michelle, 51. Casting is underway for the role of Barack Obama, 53.

Richard Tanne makes his directorial debut with the project based on his screenplay.—PTI

Britney Spears teases new Iggy Azalea track

LOS ANGELES, 12 April — Pop star Britney Spears has teased the music video and lyrics for her new track with Iggy Azalea, ‘Pretty Girls’, on Twitter.

The singer posted an image of herself seemingly filming the promo clip, alongside a caption of what appears to be lyrics, reported Ace Showbiz.

Azalea has already spoken out about the single, saying “it’s a true duet” after she rewrote some of the track.

‘Pretty Girls’ is expected to be released in May.—PTI

Britney has previously teased ‘Pretty Girls’ with another tweet of dancers in a rehearsal studio.



Ian McKellen to star in ‘Beauty and the Beast’



LOS ANGELES, 12 April — ‘The Hobbit’ star Ian McKellen has joined Emma Watson to star in Disney’s live action “Beauty and the Beast”.

The actor, who portrayed Gandalf in the Peter Jackson’s movies, will star as the Beast’s loyal butler Cogsworth, who is turned into a clock due to a curse, reported Variety.

Dan Stevens has been previously cast as the

Prince, Watson will star as Belle, Luke Evans will star as Gaston, Josh Gad will portray Gaston’s sidekick LeFou, and Emma Thompson will portray Mrs Potts.

Other cast members include Kevin Kline as Belle’s father. Bill Condon is directing the movie from a script written by Stephen Chbosky.

The film is slated to release on 17 March, 2017 in the US.—PTI

Selena hologram to go on tour 23 years after murder

LOS ANGELES, 12 April — A hologram of the late singer Selena is to go on tour in 2018.

The Tejano icon – who was murdered 20 years ago – will release a posthumous album and go on tour in the form of a hologram, according to her official Facebook page, reported CNN.

“Acrovirt, LLC announces the launch of Selena The One, the development of a walking, talking, singing, and dancing, digital embodiment of iconic singer, Selena,” the post said.

“Acrovirt is working in collaboration with Selena’s immediate family and cutting-edge scientists to enable new productions for her many fans. ‘Selena The One’ will release new

songs and videos, will collaborate with current hit artists, and aims to go on tour in 2018.”

The project will be funded by an Indiegogo campaign that launches on 16 April and aims to raise USD 500,000.

Various deceased performers have been turned into holograms for live performances in recent years, including Tupac Shakur and Michael Jackson.

Selena had several hits in the early 1990s including ‘Bidi Bidi Bom Bom’ and ‘Dreaming of You’, and was the subject of the 1997 movie “Selena” starring Jennifer Lopez.

The singer was shot and killed in 1995 at the age of 23 by her friend and fan club founder Yolanda Saldívar.—PTI

Saregama puts 1.1-lakh-song library online for free listening

MUMBAI, 12 April — In a move that brings cheers to Indian music lovers across the globe, popular publishing label Saregama-HMV, has put up its entire library of 1.10 lakh songs in 14 languages online for streaming free and also downloading it at a nominal price.

“We have created an online store which will allow people to buy our content. For sampling, we are offering the entire length of the song rather than only in parts,” the RP-Sanjiv Goenka Group company managing director Vikram Mehra told PTI.

He said Saregama works with some of the popular online music streaming companies at present who act as a distributor for the content. With its own online store, it is going one step further and giving the consumers a chance to interact with it directly.

“Beyond this, it’s been forcing people to indulge in piracy as they don’t have a medium to access the collection. Even in piracy, there are chances that a person may not get a particular track or album which she is looking for,” Mehra said, adding all this will be resolved through the store.

The users will be able to listen to all the tracks by streaming them for free, following which they can

download a track by paying as low as Rs 9 per song.

“We are giving 10 downloads of a single song across multiple devices on a single ID on payment of Rs 9,” he said, adding all the songs are on a high fidelity of 320 kbps, which maximises the quality.

Mehra said with the advances in speakers, people are getting frustrated by the low fidelity sound of 64kbps or 128 kbps. Sare-

gama is also working on launching a special service wherein users will be able to get uncompressed files for downloads by paying extra, Mehra said. He also said this may get launched by next month.

The online store is on a website at present and the company is also working on launching a smartphone application which will allow for a seamless sampling and downloading, which will also be launched next month, he said. Mehra said the company conducted a consumer research on the subject which led to the launch of this store.

The large Indian diaspora spread across the world will also be very interested in such a service, the research has shown, Mehra added.

He, however, declined to give any revenue expectations from the newly launched product.—PTI



Popular publishing label Saregama-HMV, has put up its entire library of 1.10 lakh songs in 14 languages online for streaming free and also downloading it at a nominal price.—PTI

GENERAL

Fist pumps and roars as Woods turns back clock



Tiger Woods of the US hits a drive off the second tee during third round play of the Masters golf tournament at the Augusta National Golf Course in Augusta, Georgia on 11 April, 2015.—REUTERS

AUGUSTA, 12 April — The ferocious fist pump was back and the roars echoed around Augusta National once again for Tiger Woods, who turned back the clock during his first nine in the third round of the Masters on Saturday. Woods, returning from a two-month hiatus from competition, and a two-year absence from Augusta due to back surgery last

year, was his old self in a rousing, four-under-par charge in his first nine holes that took him to six-under. The 39-year-old American was hitting pin-seeking approach shots that gave him tap-ins for birdies, and chipped up close for other chances to the delight of his huge gallery. The four-times Masters winner ran off three

successive birdies from the second hole in a charge reminiscent of the heyday of the 14-times major champion. He had four birdies without a bogey on the front side.

“I’m starting to get my feel back, my distance control on my shots,” said Woods, who had two more birdies and two bogeys on the back nine to post 68 for a 210 total, 10 shots off the pace. “I missed a couple of shorties on six and seven, and I had my chances to make this a really special round today,” said Woods, who bogeyed the last after hitting into trees on the right off the tee.

“If I made a couple more putts the score realistically should have been six or seven (under par) today.”

Woods was paired with Sergio Garcia of Spain, with whom he has had an icy relationship over the years.

The two had very little interaction, and the focus

fell on Woods as Garcia posted a modest 71 to stand three-under for the tournament.

Woods had some adventures on the back nine, escaping potential danger at the par-five 13th after pulling his drive way left.

The errant shot moved former US Ryder Cup captain Paul Azinger to call it, “one of the most shocking tee shots I have ever seen,” on the BBC broadcast.

The former world number one cursed his poor tee shot, but got a good lie on pine straw, punched out to the middle of the fairway and made birdie.

Woods refused to give up hope of another green jacket.

“You just never know. That’s the thing about this golf course,” he said.

“We don’t know what the committee is going to do — if they’re going to give us some accessible, easy eagle pins or tuck them and make this golf course difficult.”—Reuters

Smithsonian sending Hawaiian shipwreck artifacts to Kauai for display

LOS ANGELES, 12 April — Artifacts recovered from an 1824 shipwreck of a Hawaiian king’s yacht will soon go on display at a museum on the island of Kauai. The Smithsonian Institution in Washington is moving to the Kauai Museum some 1,250 lots of artifacts from the shipwreck which experts say open a window into cultural change in the archipelago from its period of westernization. The objects from the collection will be put on show for the public in the coming weeks.

The royal yacht sank in Kauai’s Hanalei Bay in 1824 and left objects ranging from a conk horn to grindstones buried under sand, until Smithsonian curator Paul F Johnston led a team that recovered them in numerous dives between



A watercolor by Captain Richard W. Rogers depicts a scene with both historical and archaeological information of the shipwreck of an 83-foot long ship which belonged to King Kamehameha II, aka Liholiho, the second king of Hawaii, courtesy of the Smithsonian National Museum.—REUTERS

1995 and 2000. The artifacts demonstrate how Hawaii was undergoing social change under the leadership of King Kamehameha II, who

owned the yacht, Johnston said. For instance, there were Hawaiian weapons such as “canoe breakers,” which were rocks that had been attached to a rope,

along with Western objects of warfare such as musket balls. There also were stones from a Hawaiian bowling game called Ulu Maika, along with a checker from a Western checkerboard, Johnston said.

Remnants of the ship itself mostly washed away over the decades. It was built in Massachusetts in 1816 as America’s first ocean-going yacht, under the name “Cleopatra’s Barge.” Kamehameha bought it in 1820 with about a million pounds of sandalwood, Johnston said. Johnston, curator at the Smithsonian’s National Museum of American History, said he had held onto the artifacts until now because he was writing a book about the shipwreck.

Reuters

US Capitol lockdown ends after man shoots himself dead

WASHINGTON, 12 April — A man shot himself dead in front of the US Capitol on Saturday, police said, sparking a temporary security lockdown at the complex on one of the busiest days for tourists in Washington.

The man, who was wearing a backpack and had carried a rolling suit-

case and a sign to the site, fired a single shot at himself, Capitol Police Chief Kim Dine told reporters.

Dine said the man’s sign bore a social justice message but he did not elaborate.

Authorities said they placed the Capitol on a lockdown as a precaution. A bomb squad technician

examined the suitcase and the backpack and officials later gave the all-clear, lifting the lockdown after more than two hours.

“There seems to be no nexus to terrorism or anything related to that,” Dine said.

The incident occurred as Congress was out of session and few lawmakers

were in town. But the city was crowded with tourists visiting for the popular Cherry Blossom festival.

The disturbance blocked traffic but did not appear to disrupt most visitors to Washington.

Robert Bishop, a real estate developer from Annapolis, Maryland, who was visiting Washington

mitv Myanmar International

(13-4-2015 07:00 am~ 14-4-2015 07:00 am) MST

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| * Myanmar Traditional Thingyan Festival (Live) | * Natural Mineral Water |
| * News | * News |
| * Myanmar Traditional Identity (EP- 2) | * A Day Out With Sarah (EP-7) |
| * Myanmar Chinthe (Myanmar Lion) | * Today Myanmar “Sesame Export” |
| * Myanmar Agarwood | * News |
| * Myanmar Traditional Art Bronze Casting | * Taste Of Myanmar (Milk Noodle) |
| * News | * Up Against The Tide |
| * Auspicious and Traditional Thingyan | * News |
| * Thingyan Dance | * Climate Context: Harmful UV Rays |
| * Naw Bu Baw’s Mountain | * News |
| * [Doctor][Painter] | * Discovering Tribes “Gaybar Kayin” |
| * News | * Beach Food Delivery |
| * Herbal Medicine By Thurein (Ta Bin Dine Mya Nan) (Vitis) | * News |
| * News | * Short Trip With Steve (Mon State) |
| * Young with Colour | * Thingyan Dance |
| | * News |
| | * Gold: King Of All Metals |

MRTV News Channel in Brief

(13-4-2015, Monday)

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|---|--|
| 6:00 am | 2:30 pm |
| • Paritta by Venerable Min Gun Sayadaw | • Head Line News |
| 6:25 am | 3:00 pm |
| • Physical Exercise | • News/International News |
| 6:45 am | 3:35 pm |
| • Documentary | • People’s Talks |
| 7:00 am | 4:00 pm |
| • News / Weather Report | • News |
| 7:30 am | 4:35 pm |
| • Yangon Thin Gyan Festival (Opening Live Broadcasting) | • University Of Distance Education (TV Lectures) - Third Year (Botany) |
| 8:00 am | 5:30 pm |
| • News / International News | • Mandalay Thin Gyan Festival (Opening Live Broadcasting) |
| 8:30 am | 6:15 pm |
| • Head Lin News | • Songs of Thingyan Festival |
| 9:00 am | 7:50 pm |
| • News / International News | • Documentary |
| 9:35 am | 8:00 pm |
| • Documentary (ASEAN) | • News / International News / Weather Report |
| 10:35 noon | 9:00 pm |
| • Songs of Thingyan Festival | • News / International News / Weather Report |
| 11:35 pm | • Teleplay (Part-1) |
| • MRTV’S Youth Program | • TV Drama Series |
| 12:00 pm | |
| • News / International News / Weather Report | |

were in the area at the time, Bishop said. “Everybody started ducking and started to run,” he said. Washington’s Metropolitan Police Department, which is handling the investigation into the man’s death, had not released his name late on Saturday.

Reuters

Ramsey goal helps Arsenal edge closer to Chelsea

LONDON, 12 April — Arsenal's improbable late run at the Premier League title gained momentum with a 1-0 victory at struggling Burnley on Saturday, an eighth straight triumph that moved them within four points of leaders Chelsea.

Arsene Wenger's side did not have to be at their best to overcome an organized Burnley side who remained second from bottom. The visitors scored early through Aaron Ramsey and then eased through largely unthreatened.

While Chelsea, who visit Queens Park Rangers on Sunday, have two games in hand, Wenger's side host the leaders in two weeks knowing victory could spark an attack of the jitters at Stamford Bridge.

Elsewhere, Aston Villa beat Tottenham Hotspur 1-0 with a goal from Christian Benteke while Jamie Vardy netted in stoppage time to secure a 3-2 win at West Bromwich Albion for bottom club Leicester City.



Arsenal's Aaron Ramsey scores their first goal against Burnley during their Barclays Premier League at Turf Moor on 11 April, 2015.—REUTERS

It was a miserable afternoon for Sunderland who were thrashed 4-1 at home by Crystal Palace with Yannick Bolasie scoring a 12-minute hat-trick. Hull City were beaten 2-0 at Southampton.

Leicester are on 25 points but have a game in hand on most of their relegation rivals. Burnley and QPR, who have six matches left, are on 26 points, Hull have 28, Sunderland 29 and

Villa 32. The day's other games between Swansea City and Everton and West Ham United and Stoke City ended in 1-1 draws.

Arsenal trailed Chelsea by 13 points in January but have put together a remarkable run of results that has lifted them on to the shoulders of their London rivals.

Wenger's team were ruthless in their demolition of Liverpool last weekend and were more workman-

like as they dismissed Sean Dyche's battle-hardened strugglers.

The goal arrived in the 12th minute when Ramsey shot high into the net from close range after a series of Arsenal efforts had been blocked by desperate Burnley challenges.

Arsenal have produced their best run of form since they enjoyed a nine-match winning streak on the way to their last title in 2004 but

Wenger has downplayed the importance of this month's clash with the leaders.

"I don't think our game against Chelsea will decide the title," he told the BBC. "They have two games in hand and we have to just keep going."

"We have promised ourselves to do as well as we can until the end and then we will see where we stand." Villa took another step towards safety after Benteke's first-half header sank Spurs as manager Tim Sherwood enjoyed a winning return to his former club. The visitors, who moved up to 15th, are six points clear of the relegation zone and one place and three points above Sunderland whose battle to avoid the drop suffered a damaging blow.

Murray made it six goals in six games for Palace with a powerful far-post header three minutes after the break before Bolasie's superb treble, the second of which was a beautiful chip into the far corner, ended

the contest. The relegation battle remained a congested dogfight after Leicester continued their escape bid at West Brom, whose celebrations of 'Aistle Day', in memory of former striker Jeff Astle, were spoiled.

Wearing an all-white kit to match the one they wore in the 1968 FA Cup final when Astle scored the only goal, West Brom twice took the lead before Vardy fired a low shot across Boaz Myhill to win the game.

Graziano Pelle struck his first goal in 15 games for Southampton, who moved up to fifth on 56 points, two ahead of Liverpool and five behind fourth-placed Manchester City who take on Manchester United at Old Trafford on Sunday.

Stoke City's Marko Arnautovic scored in stoppage time to snatch a point at West Ham and Swansea equalled their highest ever points tally (47) in a Premier League season following their draw with Everton.

Reuters

Real close gap after Barca let 2-0 lead slip

BARCELONA, 12 April — Barcelona's lead at the top of La Liga was cut to two points on Saturday as they squandered a two-goal advantage to draw 2-2 at Sevilla while Real Madrid powered their way to a 3-0 home win over Eibar.

Neymar set up Argentine Lionel Messi for Barca's first goal and the Brazilian then converted an inch-perfect free kick after 31 minutes but a determined Sevilla, who are now unbeaten in 32 home games, never gave up.

Ever Banega struck a 30-metre drive into the corner that Claudio Bravo failed to keep out in the 38th minute and, after chances at both ends, substitute Kevin Gameiro grabbed the equaliser six minutes from time.

"We were the better side but in the second half they pushed more and the game was more even," Barca midfielder Sergio Busquets told reporters. "Whether it is just or not, it's what happened and we have to accept it."

Elsewhere, Santi Mina hit four goals and Joaquin Larrivey scored twice as Celta Vigo crushed Rayo Vallecano 6-1 while Thomas Parthey's double helped Almeria sweep past Granada 3-0.

Cristiano Ronaldo



Barcelona's Neymar (L) challenges Sevilla's Grzegorz Krychowiak (C) and Victor Machin 'Vitolo' during their Spanish first division soccer match at Ramon Sanchez Pizjuan stadium in Seville on 11 April, 2015.—REUTERS

continued his hot streak with the opening goal as second-placed Real won while Antoine Griezmann came to the rescue of Atletico Madrid, who are third, with his second of the game after 78 minutes earning the champions a 2-2 draw at Malaga.

Ronaldo struck a free kick from distance and the ball moved deceptively in the air to catch out keeper Xabier Irueta and put Real 1-0 up after 21 minutes at the Bernabeu.

The World Player of the Year's form dropped after Christmas, coinciding with Real losing top spot,

but he has now bounced back with eight goals from four games.

Real were missing several regular starters against Eibar, who posed little threat, and Javier Hernandez nodded home the second after 31 minutes.

Jese Rodriguez completed the scoring from the edge of the area seven minutes from the end.

Barca now have 75 points, two more than Real with seven games to go, while Atletico are on 66.

"It was a good result for us particularly with the players missing," said Real

full back Alvaro Arbeloa.

"We played with those who haven't had that many minutes so far this season but they responded well and it showed the strength that we have in the squad."

Without a La Liga goal in almost two months, the pressure was growing on Neymar but he responded well and it appeared as though Barca would walk away with a victory. Neymar found Messi and he curled the ball into the corner of the net after 14 minutes before striking a free kick himself that nestled in the top corner.

Reuters

Under-fire Ibra helps PSG to French League Cup glory

PARIS, 12 April — Zlatan Ibrahimovic, facing multiple suspensions, struck twice to lift Paris St Germain to a crushing 4-0 victory over Bastia and a record fifth French League Cup triumph on Saturday.

Bastia defender Sebastien Squillaci was sent off for the foul which led to Ibrahimovic's 21st-minute penalty and the Sweden striker rifled in a shot from the edge of the area to double the lead just before halftime.

Ibrahimovic is banned from the Champions League quarter-final first leg against Barcelona on Wednesday due to a red card in the last round against Chelsea and is serving a four-game Ligue 1 suspension for insulting comments about a referee.

Champions PSG cruised through the second half and substitute Edinson Cavani powered in a late header before producing a clinical finish to ensure his team retained the Cup and stayed on course for a domestic treble.

They lead Ligue 1 by a point from Olympique Lyonnais with seven games left and play Ligue 2 Auxerre in the French Cup final on 30 May.—Reuters



Paris St Germain's Zlatan Ibrahimovic celebrates on the pitch after defeating Bastia during their French League Cup final soccer match at the Stade de France stadium in Saint-Denis, near Paris on 11 April, 2015.—REUTERS

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