

President U Thein Sein attends opening ceremony of 2015 Asian-African Summit

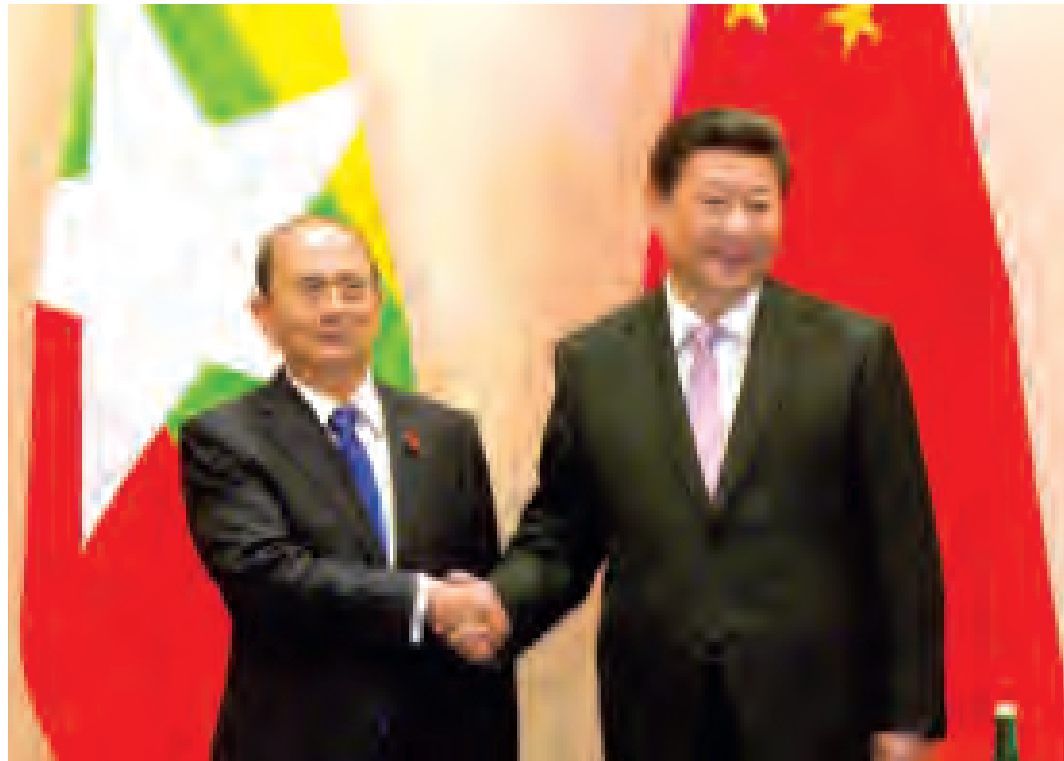
JAKARTA, 22 April—President U Thein Sein attended the opening ceremony Wednesday morning of the Asian-African Conference Commemoration Indonesia 2015 in Jakarta.

Leaders and representatives from more than 100 countries and international organizations will join the summit and a series of events under the theme “Strengthening South-South Cooperation to Promote World Peace and Prosperity.”

Indonesian President Mr Joko “Jokowi” Widodo made opening remarks at the summit.

President U Thein Sein also made a speech, saying that along with Indonesia, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and India, Myanmar was one of the five countries that organized the inaugural conference in 1955.

The first large-scale Asian-African conference, also known as the Bandung Conference, was held among mostly



President U

Thein Sein

shaking

hands with

Chinese

President Xi

Jinping.

MNA

newly independent states in Bandung, Indonesia from April 18 to 24, 1955.

The conference adopted a 10-point declaration on promotion of world peace and cooperation, incorporating the principles of the United Nations Charter.

President U Thein

Sein pledged Myanmar will try to promote peace, stability and prosperity of Asian and African countries.

President U Thein Sein met with Bangladeshi Prime Minister

Sheikh Hasina at the Jakarta Convention Centre at 3:30 p.m. local time, discussing the establishment of a business corridor among Bangladesh, China, India and Myanmar.

The president then discussed with Chinese President Xi Jinping the promotion of bilateral ties, peace and stability at border areas between the two countries, (See page 3)

Fisheries export earnings drop by US \$100M in 2014-15 FY

By Aye Min Soe

YANGON, 22 April—Myanmar earned nearly US \$420 million from fisheries exports in fiscal 2014-2015, roughly US\$ 100 million less than the previous year, the Ministry of Commerce said Wednesday.

Myanmar’s fishery industry has been crippled for three consecutive years by lack of support from the government and weak investment, the Myanmar Fisheries Federation said.

Meanwhile, Myanmar’s fishery industry is struggling to expand its share of overseas markets, including the European Union, due to difficulty accessing the financial support needed for vital infrastructure improvements, it said.

Myanmar’s fisheries exporters face many challenges to expand their share of the European market, currently sending 5 per cent of their products to the EU and more than 50 per cent to China.

Currently, the fisheries sector is focusing on the breeding industry as fish resources in Myanmar’s seas are declining.

“The private fishery sector has many challenges ranging from ice to fishing boats,” U Myo Nyunt, Secretary of the Myanmar Fisheries Products Processors and Exporters Association, said at a workshop of fish exporters last month. “So we need to prepare to overcome the challenges.

“For example, we need to upgrade our factories because foreign

By Ye Myint

YANGON, 22 April—A comprehensive policy for Myanmar’s automotive sector will be drafted in the next “three to six months,” paving the way for foreign automakers to establish assembly plants in the country, a meeting in Yangon heard Wednesday.

The meeting, to discuss the formation of a committee to develop the policy, brought together the private sector and government officials, including diplomats and representatives from Japanese and Korean automotive manufacturers.

“It will take the committee the next three to six months to accomplish its task,” Dr So Tun, Chairman of Myanmar Automobile Manufacturers and Distributors Association said.

Comprising 12 or 13 members from the Republic of the Union of

Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Myanmar Engineering Society and the MAMDA, the committee will draft the policy in

cooperation with the ministries of Industry, Commerce, Finance, and Rail Transportation, the MAMDA chairman added. “The formulation

of the policy is drawing attention from foreign countries seeking opportunities to set up auto plants in Myanmar, (See page 3)



With relaxation of regulations for importing vehicles, the internal car market has become a booming sector in Myanmar.

PHOTO: CREDIT TO WORLD BANK MYANMAR

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Union minister inspects hydropower project

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Japanese banking giant opens branch in Yangon

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Military column arrests 2 armed insurgents, seizes ammunition in Rakhine State

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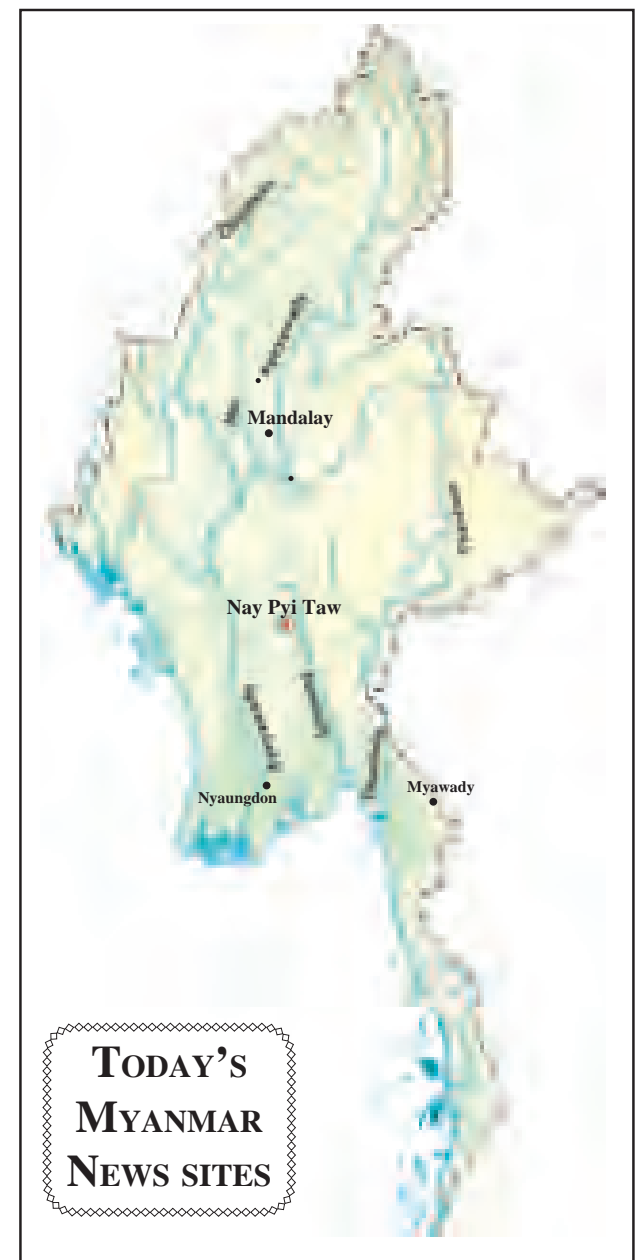
Land reform should benefit the poor

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Donations invited for construction of Dhammayon

MANDALAY, 22 April— Under the auspices of Abbot Bhaddanta Issariya of Thitsa Mandating Monastery in Chanmyathazi Township, Mandalay, local residents assisted the building of a new Dhammayon for Ward 9. Well-wishers presented cash donations, including K3 million by U Kyaw Tun Naing and wife Daw Ma Khaing Khaing Win and family, and K2 million by Ko Kyaw Soe and wife Ma Thet and family, to officials of the construction committee. At present, the building of the Dhammayon is 40 percent complete.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)



Township authorities pay respect to senior citizens



MYAWADY, 22 April — A ceremony to pay respect to older persons was held in conjunction with the an event to release fish in

Myawady, a border town in Kayin State, on Myanmar New Year's Day, 17 April. Amyotha Hluttaw representative U Than

Oo, District deputy commissioner U Lwin Ko Oo, Commander of District Police Force Police Lt-Col Moe Nyo and township of-

officials together with social organization members paid respect to 262 residents over 80 at the building in the precinct of Shwemyinwun Pagoda.

They also donated cash and gifts to the aged.

The deputy commissioner and party then released fish into the Thaungyin River.

Tun Tun Oo (Myawady Town)

Housing projects in Mandalay to resettle local residents

MANDALAY, 22 April— The Department of Human Settlement and Housing Development under the Ministry of Construction is building modern and low-cost residential precincts to accommodate government

personnel in Mandalay.

The DHSHD in cooperation with private construction companies is building condominiums, nine-storey buildings and shopping centres at the Seiktaramahi Housing

Project in Chanayethazan Township.

Upon completion, government service personnel formerly residing at the Pyidawtha Housing will be resettled at the new buildings.

The department is also implementing the Myayi Nanda low-cost housing project comprising 27 four-storey buildings in Chanmyathazi Township. According to the department, a plan is under way to construct 20 more five-storey buildings in 2015-16 fiscal year.

Maung Pyi Thu (Mandalay)



Authorities seek help maintaining historic Fort Thabyetan

MANDALAY, 22 April— Authorities have asked local residents to help with the maintenance of historic Fort Thabyetan, located near Inwa Bridge in Amarapura Township, Mandalay District.

Construction of the fort, built to repel enemies marching on Yadanabon Royal Palace, began on 3 December, 1874 during the

reign of King Mindon, and was completed on 1 January, 1879 in the time of King Thipaw.

Forts were also built in Asaykhan Ward of Sagaing and Hsinkyon Village in Inwa city, forming a triangle of fortifications across the Ayeyawady River.

In the Third Anglo-Myanmar War, more than 2,000 troops were

ready to fight the invaders but were ordered to stand down by the Royal Palace.

At present, Fort Thabyetan is being maintained by the Department of National Museum and Library of the Ministry of Culture. Parts of the fort require maintenance, the department said.

Maung Pyi Thu (Mandalay)



President U Thein Sein sends message of felicitations to State of Israel

NAY PYI TAW, 23 April—U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr. Reuven Rivlin, President of the State of Israel, on the occasion of the Independence Day of the State of Israel, which falls on 23 April 2015.—MNA

President U Thein Sein attends opening ceremony...

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Chinese contributions to Myanmar's peace-making process and development of the Kyaukphyu special economic zone in Rakhine state.

The two leaders also exchanged views on building the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road, which is a major component of the "Belt and Road" development framework announced by Chinese President Xi Jinping in late 2013.

U Thein Sein and Xi Jinping also discussed bilateral cooperation in various sectors such as



President U Thein Sein poses for documentary photo together with leaders of Asia and Africa at the opening ceremony of Asian-African Conference Commemoration Indonesia 2015 in Jakarta.—MNA

agriculture, industry, finance, electrical energy, as well as rural development and poverty allevia-

tion programmes and the establishment of the Asian Infrastructural Investment Bank.—MNA

Union FM sends message of felicitations to State of Israel

NAY PYI TAW, 23 April—U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr. Avigdor Lieberman, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the State of Israel, on the occasion of the Independence Day of the State of Israel, which falls on 23 April 2015.

MNA

President U Thein Sein holds talks with Bangladeshi Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at the Jakarta Convention Centre.

MNA



Myanmar automobile policy due in '3 to 6 months,' opening way for...

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as Myanmar has not yet adopted a policy, unlike other countries including ASEAN members," he said.

Thailand's auto industry accounts for 12 percent of the country's GDP and employs between 400,000 and 700,000 people following its adoption of a comprehensive policy, he said.

Moreover, standards in the policy will prevent Myanmar from becoming a dumping ground for old cars when the ASEAN Economic Community launches in 2015.

International auto assemblers including Nissan and Suzuki are looking at setting up manufacturing facilities in Myanmar, he

added.

According to statistics, around 85 million cars are produced globally every year, of which 4.5 million come from ASEAN – mainly Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia.

Regarding contents of the policy, he told the Global New Light of Myanmar it would include safety standards as well as rules on phasing out old cars based on registration or manufacturing dates, as well as ruling on the importation of right-hand or left-hand drive vehicles.

Japan is assisting the policy formulation process, and a national forum on the policy will be held, he added.

GNLM

Japanese banking giant opens branch in Yangon

YANGON, 22 April—The Bank of Tokyo Mitsubishi UFJ on Wednesday opened its first branch in Myanmar in Yangon's Botahtaung Township.

The ceremony to mark the opening of the branch was attended by Governor U Kyaw Kyaw Maung of the Central Bank of Myanmar, BTMU CEO Mr Go Watanabe, Deputy Govern-

nor U Set Aung, Ambassador of Japan to Myanmar Mr Tateshi Higuchi and Yangon Region Finance Minister Daw San San Nwe.

At the ceremony, the governor said Myanmar has given banking licenses to foreign banks to operate in the country and that he was proud that BTMU, one of the largest banks in Japan,

was opening its first branch in Myanmar.

BTMU was established in 1919 and is one of the main businesses of Mitsubishi UFJ Financial Group with 75 overseas branches in 40 countries. It has about 770 branches in Japan. In his speech, the governor expressed his hope that BTMU would cooperate with local banks and share

its banking knowledge with its Myanmar counterparts.

At the ceremony, Chief Executive Officer Mr Go Watanabe of BTMU and Ambassador of Japan to Myanmar Mr Tateshi Higuchi made speeches. BTMU donated cash for human resources development training schools at the ceremony.

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Outstanding youths to take relaxation at recreation camps

NAY PYI TAW, 22 April—A total of 176 outstanding youths each have been selected from eighth and ninth standard and matriculation for 2014-15 academic year.

Bagan recreation camp will be opened for eighth standard students, Inlay

camp for ninth standard students and Ngwehsaung camp for matriculation students from 25 April to 5 May. They will have the opportunities to attend the scout training course, meet with old outstanding students and participate in excursion tours.

The combine recreation camp for all outstanding youths will be opened at Wunna Theikdi Sports Village in Nay Pyi Taw from 5 to 8 May. The youths will go sightseeing in Nay Pyi Taw.

Media may contact Dr Soe Myint Tun (head

of Bagan Camp) on 09-2003236, U Chit Swe (head of Inlay Camp) on 09-5213555, U Aung Kyaw Tun (head of Ngwehsaung Camp) on 09-8532296 and U Soe Win (head of Nay Pyi Taw combine camp) on 09-402513549.

Education

4 toll gates set to open in Mandalay District

MANDALAY, 22 April— Four toll gates in Htonbo, Aungpinle, Shwekyin and Shwekyetyet will collect fees from road users in Mandalay District as of 1 May, 2015.

The toll gates will allow exemptions for passenger buses, military

vehicles, police vehicles, ambulances, fire trucks, departmental vehicles and government ferries including vehicles that have registered in Mandalay Region.

Daily tolls for vehicles will range from K2,000 for those under 1 ton to

K10,000 for those over 5 tons.

The vehicles from other regions and states may contact the Revenue Department of Mandalay City Development Committee for permanent running in Mandalay City.

Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)



MCDC, well-wishers provide assistance for fire victims



MANDALAY, 22 April— Mandalay City Development Committee donated 45 bags of rice to fire victims at the Dhammayon of Shwebontha Monastery in Chanayethazan Township on Tuesday afternoon.

Development Affairs Committee U Soe Myint Aung handed over donations for fire victims to ward administrator U Ko Ko Naing.

On 20 April, Daw Khin Lay Myint, owner of Orchid Hotel and Orchid Jewellery Shop, and family

donated food and water to households of victims.

A total of 259 fire victims are being accommodated at the temporary camp in the precinct of the monastery.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)

Myanmar Football Academy (Mandalay) to recruit new trainees

MANDALAY, 22 April— Myanmar Football Academy (Mandalay) will shortlist its trainee intake through a selection trial for the 2015-16 academic year at the school on 16 and 17 May.

Youths may apply to enter the U-11 and U-13 football teams of the academy. The candidates must be born in 2004 and 2005. They must be at least four feet and four inches

in height.

The candidates are to submit applications together with three passport-sized photos, original copies of birth registration and household registration, as well as citizenship scrutiny card. The applicants are to contact the staff officers of Township Sports and Physical Education Department.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)

Irrigation Department upgrades lakes, small dams in Yamethin Tsp

YAMETHIN, 22 April— Township authorities su-

pervised the dredging of 15 lakes and small dams in Yamethin Township, Mandalay Region, in fis-

cal 2014-15, funded by the Mandalay Region Government.

The Irrigation Department dredged the lakes and small dams in rural areas of the township, upgrading the bunds of lakes, dredging drains and repairing retaining walls, while also building spillways and sluice gates.

The improved lakes and small dams are ready to supply water for agricultural purpose and drinking.

Hlaing Than Tint (Yamethin)



Visitors enjoy water festival at Nyaungchaungtha Beach

NYAUNGDON, 22 April—Nyaungchaungtha Beach located in Yankin Sanyar Village, Nyaungdon Township, Ayeyawady Region, attracts local and foreign visitors.

The beach, 34 miles from Yangon, is near the confluence of the Ayeyawady River and Panhlaing River.

“We can take relaxation at the beach by enjoying fresh air and tasting hygienic foods,” said a picnicker from Mandalay.

People from Nyaungdon Township and around

Yangon City relaxed at the beach during the Maha Thingyan festival period.

“We take a rest at the beach free from pressures of works,” said a visitor. “I think breathing fresh air will contribute towards our health.” “Visitors enjoyed this year’s water festival at the beach, in larger numbers than previous years,” a floating hotel owner told media.

About 500 people regularly visit the beach daily, according to local residents.—*Tun Kyaw (Nyaungdon)*



Japan to help train 350,000 people in Asia, Africa over 5 yrs



Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe addresses a summit of Asian and African leaders in Jakarta on 22 April, 2015.
KYODO NEWS

JAKARTA, 22 April — Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on Wednesday pledged the country's assistance in the training of as many as 350,000 people in Asia and Africa over the next five years as part of efforts to ensure "quality growth" and eradicate poverty in the two continents.

"Japan's resolve is to turn growth in Asia and Africa into an enduring,

not ephemeral, event. With that resolve in mind, over the next five years, we are going to help as many as 350,000 people throughout the region acquire technology expertise and industrial knowledge," Abe said in an address on the first day of a two-day summit of Asian and African leaders in Jakarta.

Specifically, Japan plans to assist the promotion of the Japanese "kosen," or polytechnic, system in Asia and Africa, as well as the development of higher engineering education facilities in Egypt, India and Malaysia, for example, according to government officials.

"Hand in hand with the young and ambitious in Asia and Africa, we will foster them into a generation that will shoulder their countries' industrial development," Abe said, stressing that Japan "stands behind the empowerment of women."

The pledge came on

top of Japan's provision of \$300 billion in official development assistance to promote economic development in Asia and Africa over the past 60 years. Tokyo has also dispatched about 140,000 experts to the two areas for human resource development.

In the address, Abe expressed Japan's "deep remorse" over World War II, but did not offer a "heartfelt apology" to the people of Asian nations affected by Japan's "colonial rule and aggression" during and before the war.

These phrases, which then Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi used in the 2005 Asian-African Summit, were part of a landmark statement Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama issued 15 August, 1995, to mark the 50th anniversary of the war's end.

Abe has said he upholds the Murayama statement "as a whole," and that he therefore sees no need to repeat exactly the

same language in the 1995 statement in a statement he plans to issue in August to mark the 70th anniversary of the war's end. China and South Korea, however, want him to clearly state these phrases in public.

The 2015 Asian-African Summit is part of events to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the Asian-African Conference, also known as the Bandung Conference, which affirmed the principles of "refraining from acts or threats of aggression or the use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any country" and "settlement of all international disputes by peaceful means."

"Japan, with feelings of deep remorse over the past war, made a pledge to remain a nation always adhering to those very principles throughout, no matter what the circumstances," Abe said.

"We should never allow to go unchecked the

use of force by the mightier to twist the weaker around," he said, apparently taking aim at China's muscle-flexing to press its territorial claims in the East and South China seas. "The wisdom of our forefathers in Bandung was that the rule of law should protect the dignity of sovereign nations, be they large or small."

In the wake of terror incidents such as the killing of two Japanese nationals by Islamic State extremists in Syria, the prime minister condemned "despicable terrorism" around the world and said, "We must give no haven to terrorists anywhere in the world."

As part of Japan's efforts to boost growth in Asia, the country will host a summit in July with five ASEAN states situated along the Mekong River at which the leaders are expected to craft a new strategy for Tokyo to contribute to sustainable development of the Mekong region be-

yond 2015.

The five Mekong states are Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam. They form the Association of Southeast Asian Nations together with Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines and Singapore.

"I say to you that Asian and African nations are no longer Japan's aid recipients," Abe said. "They are Japan's partners for growth."

Similarly, Japan and Africa will hold an African development summit next year for the first time in Africa. The Tokyo International Conference on African Development, which Japan cosponsors with the United Nations, the World Bank and the African Union Commission, has taken place every five years in Japan since 1993.

"Whether we build up human capacities or infrastructure, all will be an investment into the future," Abe said.—*Kyodo News*

China's Xi calls for fairer int'l order for developing countries

JAKARTA, 22 April — Chinese President Xi Jinping on Wednesday called for the creation of a fairer international order, one that reflects the new realities of Asia and Africa as the influence of the two continents has grown much bigger than before.

Speaking at a meeting of Asian and African leaders in Jakarta, Xi said countries of the two regions should collaborate more to build international economic and financial systems that are "more just, equitable and inclusive" in order to facilitate development. Xi's remarks come as China moves to expand its international role by pushing forward new projects such as the Beijing-led Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank and construction of modern "Silk Road" of overland and maritime trade routes connecting Asia, Europe and Africa. In his commemorative speech on the 60th anniversary of the Asian-African Conference, Xi urged industrialized countries to boost aid for developing countries without imposing political conditions and to assume more responsibility for narrowing gaps in development.

Calling for a new type of international relations structured by "win-win" cooperation and mutual respect, he suggested that the age of Asia and Africa, which together account for about a half of the world's growth, has arrived, six decades after the first conference of the two continents was held in 1955 in Indonesia's

Bandung.

Xi said China has decided to extend zero-tariff treatment by the end of this year to 97 percent of imported products from all least-developed countries with which it has diplomatic relations.

He also said China will provide training opportunities for 100,000 people from developing countries in Asia and Africa over the next five years.

China's rapid rise, both economically and militarily, is reshaping the power configuration in the world, and its policies are increasingly affecting developed and developing countries alike.

It is widely expected that China will use the new investment bank, which will be set up by the end of this year with 57 founding members, to finance building the overland and maritime routes, in what is also known as the "One Belt, One Road" initiative.

The first such conference, attended by leaders and representatives from 29 Asian and African countries in 1955, was held on the back of increasing frustration over an international order defined by the Cold War between the United States and the Soviet Union.

Those countries, which were mostly newly independent and opposed to colonialism, had sought to stay out of the bipolar confrontation, while China at the time endeavoured to keep Asia from falling under strong influence of the United States.

Kyodo News

Super storm lashes Australian east coast for third day

SYDNEY, 22 April — A cyclonic storm lashing Australia's east coast for a third day was declared a catastrophe on Wednesday after destroying houses, cutting power to more than 200,000 homes and causing millions of dollars of damage in Sydney and other cities.

The Bureau of Meteorology warned that a second storm cell was gathering at sea north of Sydney, with gale force winds of up to 100 km per hour (62 miles per hour) and heavy winds hitting the coast.

Several international flights to and from Sydney Airport were diverted, while the port of Newcastle, the world's biggest coal export port, was closed.

"We still have some difficult

hours ahead of us as this weather pattern continues to move through," New South Wales state premier Mike Baird told reporters.

"It's still very dangerous," he said. "We're seeing a continuation of the wind, rain, flash flooding."

Three people, two men and a woman, were found dead on Wednesday in the town of Dungog, about 200 km (125 miles) north of Sydney. Media reports described them as elderly and said they were trapped in their homes as floodwaters rose.

The State Emergency Services said three people were missing near the town of Maitland, around 165 km (100 miles) north of Sydney, after their cars were washed

away by flood waters.

Amateur video showed a house in Dungog floating away as floodwaters swept through the town.

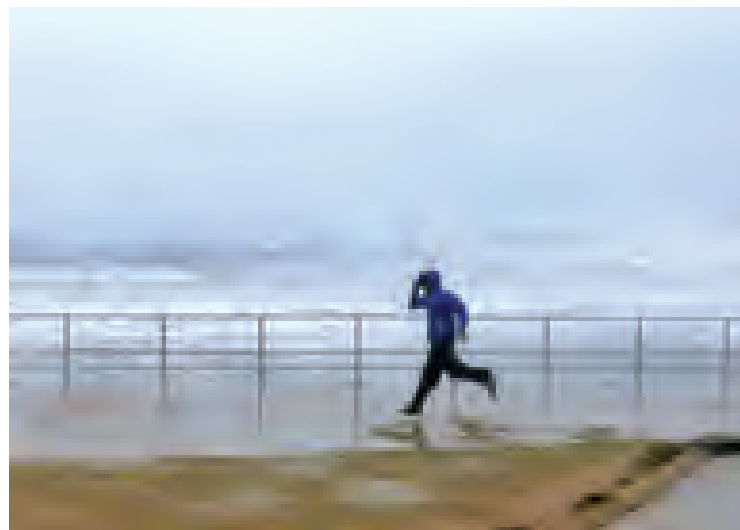
The Insurance Council of Australia declared the storms a catastrophe on Wednesday as thousands of claims worth hundreds of millions of dollars rolled in.

"There's no doubt there will be a natural disaster declaration ... and obviously we want to get on with the job of recovery as quickly as we possibly can," Baird said.

Cyclone-strength winds of up to 135 kph (85 mph) and heavy rain across the state have uprooted trees, some crushing cars, and snapped power poles. Transport networks have been hit, with train stations and roads flooded and traffic lights knocked out.

Three hospitals were without power and had to rely on generators and hundreds of schools were closed.

A spokeswoman said there was no timeframe for reopening the port of Newcastle, which last year sent out 159 million tonnes of thermal and steel-making coal. Prices for coal cargoes delivered next month from Newcastle GCLNWCPFBMc2 have soared 10 percent since the beginning of the week to \$68 a tonne as traders expected export delays due to the storm.—*Reuters*



A man runs past heavy seas as sand is blown by heavy winds inland at Sydney's Bondi Beach, on 21 April, 2015.—REUTERS

50-cm drone with camera found on roof of prime minister's office

TOKYO, 22 April—A four-propeller drone about 50 centimetres long equipped with a miniature camera has been found on the roof of the prime minister's office in Tokyo, police said on Wednesday.

The drone, which was also carrying a flare and a 10-centimetre plastic bottle, apparently fell onto the

roof from the sky, the Metropolitan Police Department said. A staff member of the prime minister's office found the drone around 10:30 am. An investigative source said a low level of radiation was detected from the drone, which bore a radioactivity symbol.

"We don't think it poses any danger," a gov-

ernment source said. When asked about the possibility that it was an attempted terrorist act, the source said "We don't know."

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe is currently in Indonesia for the Asian-African conference where he delivered a speech on Japan's contributions to global peace. The prime minister's office is located in the central Tokyo and near government ministries and the National Diet Building.

In January, a drone crash at the US White House spurred security concerns.

Japan has no rules regarding low-flying drones and no official licenses are required to fly them. There are around 20,000 drones in the country, according to the Japan UAS Industrial Development Association.

Under the aviation law, people do not need to report to authorities unless they fly drones at an altitude of 150 metres or higher under flight routes used by regular aircraft, and 250 metres or higher in other areas, the transport ministry said.—*Kyodo News*



Investigators are examining a camera-equipped, 50-centimetre drone under the sheet, that was found on the roof of the prime minister's office in Tokyo on 22 April, 2015. The pilotless aircraft apparently fell from the sky and was found at around 10:30 am by a member of staff.—*KYODO NEWS*

France warns Indonesia of damage to ties over death-row Frenchman

LONDON, 22 April—Indonesia will face repercussions from France if it goes ahead with the execution by firing squad of a Frenchman convicted of drug offences, Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius said on Tuesday.

Serge Atlaoui lost an appeal for a retrial. He is among 10 convicted traffickers, including two Australians, due to be executed despite appeals for clemency from their governments.

"We remain hopeful for clemency but we are extremely pre-occupied by this decision and this death threat which, if carried out, would obviously have consequences for the relationship between this country and France," Fabius told a news conference. Two weeks ago, the Australians lost a challenge to the Jakarta administrative court's decision not to hear an appeal against President Joko Widodo's refusal to grant them clemency.

Indonesia has harsh penalties for drug trafficking and resumed executions in 2013 after a five-year lull.—*Reuters*



Death row inmate Serge Atlaoui of France (C) is escorted by police as he leaves Tangerang District Court after signing documents for his judicial review in Tangerang on 1 April, 2015.

REUTERS

South Korea says reaches deal with US to revise nuclear energy pact

SEOUL, 22 April—South Korea and the United States reached a deal on Wednesday to revise a 40-year-old agreement that has limited South Korea's ability to enrich uranium for nuclear power generation and to reprocess spent fuel, the foreign ministry in Seoul said. No further details about the revised agreement were immedi-

ately available.

Officials of the two countries are scheduled to initial the revised agreement later on Wednesday in Seoul, the ministry said.

South Korea operates 23 atomic plants that provide one-third of the country's power needs, and has pushed for greater liberty to manage its nuclear fuel and sought to revise the original

pact with Washington so it can reprocess spent fuel.

Nuclear reactors add a total of 750 tonnes of spent fuel every year to the 13,300 tonnes that filled 71 percent of its wet and dry storage capacity as of 2013, according to operator Korea Hydro and Nuclear Power Co Ltd, owned by state-run Korea Electric Power Corp.

Reuters

In North Korea, solar panel boom gives power to the people

SEOUL, 22 April—In a country notorious for a lack of electricity, many North Koreans are taking power into their hands by installing cheap household solar panels to charge mobile phones and light up their homes.

Apartment blocks in Pyongyang and other cities are increasingly adorned with the panels, hung from balconies and windows, according to recent visitors to the isolated country and photographs obtained by *Reuters*. "There must be at least a threefold increase in solar panels compared to last year," Simon Cockerell, who visits North Korea regularly as general manager of Beijing-based Koryo Tours, told *Reuters* from Pyongyang. "Some are domestically made, so that may have driven prices down."

North Korea has long suffered from electricity shortages which plunge large parts of the country into darkness, providing a stark contrast in night-time photos taken from space to prosperous and power-thirsty South Korea.

The soaring sales of cheap and easily-installed solar panels reflect rising

demand for electricity in North Korea as incomes rise and people buy electronic goods like mobile phones and the "notel" media player that need regular charging. North Korea, one of the poorest countries in the world, is home to 2.5 million mobile phone users, about 10 percent of the population. Once reserved for Workers' Party cadres, solar panels and voltage stabilisers are now sold openly both in markets and the hardware section of Pyongyang department stores, where small 20 watt panels cost just under 350,000 won — \$44 at the widely-used black market exchange rate where a dollar is about 8,000 won, instead of the official 96 won.

Obtaining accurate data from North Korea is difficult, but roughly 10-15 percent of urban apartments in a series of recent photographs in North Korean cities obtained by *Reuters* appeared to have small solar panels attached to windows or balconies.

Whether that number translates nationally is unclear, but regular visitors have noted a significant increase in solar panel use

across the country in recent months, either in urban areas or in one case in the backyard vegetable plot of a rural house.

Private solar panels are not illegal in authoritarian North Korea, where in recent years the government has tacitly allowed greater economic freedoms. However, some local authorities may demand a bribe for permission to install them, a defector said. Electricity supply in North Korea is prioritised for factories or areas of political importance, but those with money or connections are often

able to tap those lines illegally. The country could be generating about 33 terawatt-hours of electricity a year, or just 7 percent of what South Korea generates, according to Tristan Webb, a former British Foreign Office analyst who visited North Korean power plants in 2013.

North Korea suffers from dry winters where Siberian winds can keep temperatures below freezing for months. The state exports much of its mined coal and relies heavily on hydro power, meaning electricity is in especially short supply

in winter.

"We can heat our homes with a heater powered by a solar panel," said Kim Yeong-mi, a North Korean defector who came to the South in 2012.

Pyongyang is home to a solar panel factory, and state propaganda has said the technology is in "effective use" in solar-powered lamp posts in other cities. North Korea is trying to use renewable energy to "make up the shortage of electricity," state media said on Tuesday. "Develop and make effective use of wind, tidal, geothermal and solar

energy!" was one of a barrage of slogans released by the ruling party in February.

A typical solar power set-up includes a panel, battery, and inverter for charging phones or powering appliances. Private car ownership remains rare in North Korea, but car batteries are popular in households to store power for blackouts.

In the Chinese city of Dandong on the frontier with North Korea, large red signs outside shops advertise solar panel and battery kits, aimed at traders from across the border. At one shop, the largest set-up on sale produces enough power to run a TV, laptop, mobile phone, fridge, washing machine, rice cooker and even an electric blanket - all increasingly common household goods for moneyed North Koreans.

"North Koreans didn't really buy solar panels from us until two years ago," said Yang Yanmeng, a trader in China's Shandong province who has been selling solar panels since 2012.

"Now, up to 80-90 percent of our company's products are sold to North Koreans," he told *Reuters* by phone.—*Reuters*



Solar panels face the sun from balconies of an apartment building in Pyongyang.

REUTERS

Britain, France urge UN action on Middle East, NZ drafting text

UNITED NATIONS, 22 April — Britain and France urged the United Nations Security Council on Tuesday to set a framework to broker peace between Israel and the Palestinians as council member New Zealand said it had started working on a draft resolution to kick-start the process.

France said last month that it planned to begin talks on a draft text to lay out “parameters” for ending the Middle East conflict and that it hoped to win over the United States, which has traditionally shielded its ally Israel from any UN action.

The United States has said it would “reassess” its options on US-Israel relations and Middle East diplomacy after Israeli

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu took a stand against Palestinian statehood during his election campaign.

Palestinians seek a state in Gaza, the West Bank and East Jerusalem, lands Israel captured in 1967.

“It’s the responsibility of this council to adopt a consensual and balanced resolution that sets the parameters of a final status and a timeline for the negotiations,” French UN Ambassador Francois Delattre told a council meeting.

France and New Zealand signalled that now was the time for the Security Council to act after Israel held its election last month and before the US presidential campaign ramps up ahead of a No-

vember 2016 poll.

“We have been working on a text that might serve the purpose of getting negotiations started,” said New Zealand’s UN Ambassador Jim McLay.

He added that New Zealand was prepared to see how the French-led push for a resolution played out first.

“We have not seen the latest French text, but if it has a chance of succeeding, New Zealand stands ready to engage and to be helpful,” McLay said.

Britain’s UN Ambassador Mark Lyall Grant said that Britain saw merit in a council resolution “setting out the parameters for a peaceful and negotiated solution.”

“But this will require proper consultation to

achieve the full backing of the council,” he told the council.

In December, the United States voted against a Palestinian-drafted resolution calling for an Israeli withdrawal from the occupied West Bank and East Jerusalem and the establishment of a Palestinian state by late 2017.

US Ambassador to the United Nations Samantha Power said Washington remained committed to a two-state solution.

“It is critically important that leaders urgently reengage in efforts to achieve peace, which is the most effective way to prevent such tension from escalating, as it has too many times before,” Power told the Security Council.

Reuters

“Bully” New Zealand PM apologizes for pulling waitress’s ponytail again and again



New Zealand Prime Minister John Key

WELLINGTON, 22 April —New Zealand Prime Minister John Key apologized on Wednesday for pulling the ponytail of a

waitress who accused him of bullying, media reported.

The unnamed waitress in an Auckland cafe said on a blog site that Key had pulled her hair over several months and initially she thought he was being “playful and jolly”.

However, she said Key kept pulling her hair when he visited the cafe over a six-month period and she became increasingly annoyed.

“He was like the

school yard bully tugging on the little girl’s hair trying to get a reaction, experiencing that feeling of power over her,” the waitress said in the blog.

She said she finally confronted Key in late March and threatened to hit him if he did not stop. She said Key returned to the cafe and gave her two bottles of red wine and said sorry.

Key, en route to Turkey for the commemoration of World War One

battles, said he visited the cafe, close to his house, often and he had a “fun relationship” with the staff.

“There’s always lots of horsing around and sort of practical jokes and that’s all there really was to it,” he told reporters during a stopover in Los Angeles.

“...I realised she had actually taken offence because it was all in the context of a bit of banter that was going on and so I obviously immediately apologized for that.”—Reuters

Obama says US has warned Iran not to send weapons to Yemen

WASHINGTON, 22 April — President Barack Obama said on Tuesday the US government had sent “very direct messages” to Iran warning it not to send weapons to Yemen that could be used to threaten shipping traffic in the region.

The Pentagon said on Tuesday the presence of a large convoy of Iranian cargo ships in the Arabian Sea was one factor in the US decision to deploy additional warships in the waters off war-torn Yemen.

But Army Colonel Steve Warren, a Pentagon spokesman, dismissed reports the carrier *USS Theodore Roosevelt* and cruiser *USS Normandy* had been sent to the region to intercept Iranian ships carrying arms to Iranian-backed Houthi rebels fighting forc-

es loyal to the US-backed Yemeni president. In a televised interview on Tuesday on MSNBC’s “Hardball,” Obama said Washington

had been “very straightforward” with Teheran about the issue. “Right now their ships are in international waters.

There’s a reason why we keep some of our ships in the Persian Gulf region and that is to make sure that we maintain freedom of

navigation,” Obama said. ““What we’ve said to them is that, ‘If there are weapons delivered to factions within Yemen that could threaten navigation, that’s a problem,’” he added. “And we’re not sending them obscure messages. We send them very direct messages about it.”

The Pentagon spokesman Warren said he did not believe Navy warships patrolling the region had been in direct contact with the Iranian flotilla of nine cargo ships.

He said the United States did not know what the Iranian cargo ships were carrying and declined to say whether the US warships would stop and board Iranian vessels if they attempted to enter Yemeni territorial waters.—Reuters



The aircraft carrier *USS Theodore Roosevelt* (CVN 71) operates in the Arabian Sea conducting maritime security operations in this US Navy photo taken on 21 April, 2015. —REUTERS

Italy PM Renzi urges collective EU action to tackle migrant trafficking



Italian Prime Minister Matteo Renzi gestures as he talks during a joint news conference with Malta’s Prime Minister Joseph Muscat at Chigi Palace in Rome on 20 April, 2015. REUTERS

ROME, 22 April — The European Union must take a collective stand to tackle migrant trafficking at its source in African countries, Prime Minister Matteo Renzi said on Wednesday.

Renzi, in an address to the lower house of parliament after hundreds died in the latest Mediterranean disaster at the weekend, said the EU should have a more visible role, with UN backing, in sub-Saharan countries where migrants originate.

Speaking a day before an extraordinary summit of EU leaders on the crisis, he said he was very optimistic that the bloc could “change tack” on migration issues.

Up to 900 migrants were feared dead after their boat sank on its way from Libya in the night between Saturday and Sunday, leading to calls for more concerted action to stop the flow of people fleeing war and hardship in

Africa.

The EU on Monday agreed to a 10-point plan to prevent more tragedies, including reinforcing its patrolling operations in the Mediterranean by giving them more money and equipment.

Under the plan, the bloc would also make a systematic effort to capture and destroy vessels used by people smugglers.

Reuters

France says foiled suspected church attack by heavily armed man

PARIS, 22 April — French police are holding a heavily armed man they suspected of planning an imminent armed attack on one or two churches in France, Interior Minister Bernard Cazeneuve said on Wednesday.

The man, a 24-year-old information technology student, was arrested on Sunday in the southeastern 13th arrondissement of Paris. A car was also seized along with handguns, other weapons and bulletproof vests, Cazeneuve said. An Interior Ministry source said the man was an Algerian national. “Detailed documents that were also found established beyond doubt that the individual was planning an imminent attack, probably on one or two churches,” Cazeneuve said.

France heightened surveillance of potential attackers by its intelligence services and has boosted to about 10,000 the number of troops patrolling sensitive sites after Islamist militants killed 17 people in January in attacks on the offices of the Charlie Hebdo satirical weekly and a Jewish food shop.—Reuters

PERSPECTIVES

Thursday, 23 April, 2015

Land reform should benefit the poor

By Aung Khin

Food, shelter and clothing are basic human needs. Among them, shelter is the most fundamental, yet it is denied to many people in Myanmar who are homeless or living as squatters. Their plight tarnishes the country's image.

Land confiscation has become a hot topic since the country opened up its economy to the global market. With skyrocketing property prices amid a huge inflow of foreign investment, land prices have increased in both urban and

rural areas. In some rural areas connected to major highways, many local dignitaries have purchased paddy farms and applied to reform them into residential plots.

Land reform cannot be avoided as the population increases and the country's economy develops. However, land plots should be used for those living in homelessness and as squatters. Wealthy persons purchase paddy farms and set up fences for their own interests. Land record officials in the respective areas have approved land reform from paddy farms to other uses.

Large land plots changed from paddy farms should be used for the poor. Instead of giving such favour to the wealthy, housing projects should be developed for the homeless.

Many local business tycoons have received many paddy fields and established industrial zones or luxury real estate. These projects have been beneficial to their own wealth. While such land reform processes may not be illegal, they are

certainly inhumane to grassroots people.

If low-priced housing projects cannot be established for ordinary people, living costs will continue increasing and purchasing power will decrease, despite rising incomes. While a handful of tycoons are benefiting from the resources of the country, the majority of ordinary people are struggling to fulfil their fundamental needs— food, shelter and clothing.

To ensure the sustainable development of the country and happiness of the people, land reform plans should favour the ordinary people of the country.

Write for us

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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.

Yangon Thingyan and Hmyaw-zin-gyun

Dr. Saw Mra Aung

The afternoon sky of Yangon was partly clouded. It was well over 1 pm (of 14 April 2015). The day-time temperature decreased more than that of the previous days. I, on the persistent requests of my younger sisters, set out in a taxi for the Hmyaw-zin-gyun (Island of Watch Tower) at Kandawgyi (Royal Lake) near the foot of Singuttara Hill where the golden Shwedagon pagoda stands stately. As it seemed to be the recess for the water-throwers and revellers, the water-throwing pandals on the road-sides were almost empty. The traffic was even lighter than that of the normal days. Our car reached the gate into Hmyaw-zin-gyun within half an hour. We espied a long queue of cars of various kinds, shapes, models and types waiting for the entry permission. We were forcibly discharged across the road from the gate by the taxi-driver who was restless with the thought of looking for other passengers. We had to join the people filing into the Hmyaw-zin-gyun through the gate. As the entry fee per head was 300 kyats and we were five in total, we had to pay 1500 kyats.

In fact, Hmyaw-zin-gyun is not an isolated piece of land surrounded on all sides by water. It is just a sprawling landscape jutting out into the vast water stretch of Kandawgyi. It is so wooded by perennial

trees such as banyan trees, mango trees, tamarind trees, coconut-palms, other unknown species, etc that the atmosphere is cool and pleasant. No doubt, it can serve recreational purposes. When we got into the compound, a sea of people of different ages, styles and colours—we found everywhere—under the trees, inside the restaurants, on the foot-path constructed out of wooden planks along the water edge. It was noisy with the Thingyan songs – both traditional and pop. I noticed everyone was wearing a happy look on his or her face. All were up with the festive mood. Some boys were sprinkling perfumed water over some stylish girls.

To be open, I had been to Hmyaw-zin-gyun only once before. But at that time, I was taken by a friend of mine in his car and just had a light lunch at a restaurant together with my friends, exchanging pleasantries. Then I went back home straight in my friend's car also. I had no chance to observe the environs. So Hmyaw-zin-gyun was still totally strange to me this time also. I was such a home-keeping fellow that I have never been exposed to an atmosphere that noisy. I felt giddy at the sounds of the songs made louder through sound-boxes and the great multitude of the people. I did not know where to go and sit down. So I took my heart and just followed my sisters. I saw rows of restaurants along the bunds of the lake, all of

which were congested with people. We first decided to take shelter under a shady tree growing a mound beyond the restaurants from the intense April sun. But to our disappointment, the foot of every tree which could provide a good shade was already occupied by the visitors of Hmyaw-zin-gyun. To our last resort, we had to choose a restaurant which was at the water-edge. Gaily walked we into the restaurant. Alas! Every table inside the restaurant was already taken by people. The waiters and waitresses were as busy as a bee plying from the table they were assigned at to the kitchen. So we had to stand amidst the tables, being at a loss for a few moments what to do - whether to remain or to go out. I tried to catch the eye of the waiters and waitresses. But our effort came to futility. Our patience was overtaxed and we became overcome with shyness resulting from negligence. Oh! How painful the feeling of relegation was! Only when we were on the verge of leaving the unsociable restaurant out of embarrassment, one of my sisters noticed that a table at the furthest end of the restaurant became vacant. We all, without seeking consensus beforehand, rushed unconsciously but concurrently towards it so that we could take it before another group occupied it. Since it was at the far end of the restaurant, it was to my liking. It was by a shady tree growing at the water-edge. At that instant, a waiter came near-by. We had to bribe

him with tip money into providing us with his prompt services. We ordered four coffees, a plate of fried potato chips, and a pot of Chinese tea. The waiter gave us a strange look. We could not interpret his look. Only when we observed the tables near ours, could our puzzlement be solved. We were contradictory to all inside the restaurant. All tables occupied by people, especially young men and women under 30 years, were full of beer-tins or alcohol-bottles of different brands, local or foreign made, and various Chinese dishes scattered about. Apart from young men, young women helped themselves to beers and alcohols to their heart's content. Some of them were being intoxicated with beer. Most young men were wearing long pants and jean jackets or shirts or sport-shirts. But some girls were wearing just shorts and vests, exposing part of their belly. It seemed that they did not feel uneasy at all due to their eye-catching over-exposed dresses.

I also noticed that some reveling young people photographed themselves care-freely with their hand-phones and uploaded the photographs immediately onto the face-book. To my amazement, they did not seem to be worried at all that their misbehaviors would spread to different places of the world through the internet in a jiffy and that they could be humiliated and depreciated. I wondered why our young gener-

ation was deprived of self-respect and self-esteem to that extent, when this face-book culture infiltrated into our society, how far this culture could spoil the morality of the young people, into whose hands we were to hand over the future of our nation and why the responsible personnel did not enact and enforce effective laws to protect this face-book culture which could have transboundary impacts. In fact, I was a school teacher. So I had to deal with young people daily. I was not a fogy nor a traditionalist. I tried to keep myself updated by reading as many books as I could lay my hands on and having recourse to other channels. I had no objection to the proper use of the internet. But care should be taken not to abuse it.

I looked around again. The table adjacent to ours was taken by a couple of lovers in their teens. Both were drinking beer light-heartedly. Both were wearing black spectacles which I thought would be priced at more than a lakh kyats. To be frank, I had never thought of wearing such expensive spectacles no matter how rich I would be. Out of great surprise, we watched them. They did not care a damn about the people nearby. Drinking beer of the boy did not bother the girl at all and the boy did not mind the girl's drinking it either. While looking at them, I was precipitated into envisaging how a woman would feel when she had to sleep together with a drunkard husband throughout the night. But I, at the same time, thought the life of the

husband of a drunkard wife would be more humiliating and miserable, especially in the Myanmar society where the two world—protecting Dhammas (Lokapala Dhammas)—moral shame for doing misdeeds (Hiri) and moral fear for doing misdeeds (Ottappa) are prized and preserved. I did not mean that all young men must be teetotal but that they should know do's and don'ts. I never thought of putting blame on them. They alone should not be held accountable for their misdeeds. I, as a school teacher, had always wanted to nurture young men to be physically, mentally and morally good. I confessed that the thought that we school teachers were also responsible to some degree for the misbehaviors of the youngsters would often prey on my mind from today onwards.

When it came to nearly 3 p.m, I stood up to return home. But my sisters forbade me from doing so under the pretext of wanting to watch the stage show to be conducted by the Iron Cross Musical Band at 3 p.m. I had to resign myself to the cherished desire of my beloved sisters. So we marched again towards the stage-show, shouldering our way through the park jam-packed with revellers. Half on the way, we had to cross a small vaulted concrete bridge under which a stream flowed out to join the water stretch of Kandawgyi. From the mound where the bridge was, some boys were dashing down into that sub-confluence and sporting about merrily in the water in

(See page 9)

NATIONAL

Union minister inspects hydropower project

NAY PYI TAW, 22 April — Union Minister for Electric Power U Khin Maung Soe, together with Chief Minister U Sao Aung Myat of Shan State and officials, inspected the Upper Kengtawng Hydropower Project being built on the Namtain Creek on Tuesday.

Aye San of the Hydropower Projects Implementation Department reported to the union minister and party on construction of the main dam, tunnels, sluiceways and other facilities. After hearing reports, the union minister urged the officials to exert efforts for timely completion of the project,

meeting construction standards and implementing measures for prevention of natural disasters.

Afterwards, the union minister and party viewed the project site.

After the completion of the project, the dam will generate 267 million kilowatt-hours of electricity per

year.

The union minister and party proceeded to the Kengtawng Hydropower Plant and inspected the generators. The plant can generate 377 million kilowatt-hours of electricity and supplies power for regional development tasks.

MNA

Public information for remonstrations

The New Society Party headquartered at No 106/108 at the corner of Myanma Gonyi Road and 91st Street in Mingala Taungnyunt Township, Yangon Region, registered by the Union Election Commission as a political party announced public remonstrations in the dailies dated 10-3-2015 with its title, flag and emblem.

According to the directive of the Union Election Commission, the party submitted changes of its flag and emblem.

It is hereby announced that those who want to remonstrate with the UEC about the party's flag and emblem may submit a complaint along with the strong evidences within seven days starting from issuance of this announcement in line with Section 14 (d) of the Political Parties Registration Rules.

Flag of New Society Party



Emblem of New Society Party



Union Election Commission

Military column arrests 2 armed insurgents, seizes ammunition in Rakhine State



Two armed group members arrested with arms and ammunition.—MYAWADY

NAY PYI TAW, 22 April — Government military columns arrested two armed insurgents and ammunition after clashes with them in Rakhine state on Tuesday morning.

Two armed insurgents — Kyaw Naing, 35, and Maung Ba Aye, 26 — were arrested with weapons and other ammunition.

While clearing the area and chasing other insurgents in the afternoon, some sorts of ammunition and food items were found stored in 16 huts.

Military units are now trying to get rid of insurgents to restore peace and stability of the western Myanmar state.—Myawady

Fisheries export ...

(from page 1)

countries have questioned our fisheries' standards, but most factories are still struggling because they have not yet received loans from banks." The Netherlands is assisting with on-line services, but its help is limited by the financial constraints stemming from the United States' sanctions on Myanmar, he added.

The US sanctions, which have yet to be lifted, have been the biggest barrier to accessing banking services in foreign countries, U Myo Nyunt said.—GNLM

Developing an efficient fish breeding method and implementing a systematic approach to fishing from the sea and rivers are the two biggest challenges for Myanmar's fishing industry, according to Myanmar Fisheries Federation.

PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE



Yangon Thingyan...

(from page 8)

the intense sun-rays charged with high percentage of ultra-violet. What a great hazard to their health! No security staff prohibited them. Everyone shut their eyes to their misbegotten action. I did not know who was responsible to ban them from that irrational action. But I saw an ambulance not far from the bridge. When we got to the stage-show, it had already started. An ocean of the audience had already been present before the stage. We had to elbow our way into the audience as far as a place from which we

could see the vocalists on the stage. As the stage was under some shady tall trees and the audience was hosed down by water-pipes from all sides, we did not suffer the attacks of the intense heat of the scorching sun. I noticed that some audience sang together with vocalists, dancing with their hands held up. The whole atmosphere echoed with the songs sung in unison and the musical notes amplified by the high powered sound-boxes. While listening to the songs, I remembered the classical songs we sang in front of Inya Hostel and Malar Hos-

tel to the medalin played by my friends on some summery nights during my university days. After three vocalists had finished singing, we returned from Hmyaw-zin-gyun.

To my understanding, Thingyan is a Myanmar cultural festival held on the cusp between the two consecutive years to bid a farewell to the by-gone year and to welcome the forth-coming year. Throwing water at one another during Thingyan symbolizes washing away the impurities of the old year. In other words, it can be said this festival is an auspicious occasion we make a wish or a resolution

that the consequences of our offences committed in the old year be removed and our new works to be undertaken with renewed strength and vigour in the new year be accomplished. At the time of making a wish or a resolution, it is necessary for our minds to be serene and concentrated and to be free from mental defilements. Only then our prayers would be answered and our wish realized immediately. Instead, if we are being intoxicated with alcohol at that time, our minds would be distracted and beclouded with delusion (Moha) or ignorance (Avijjha) and our prayers and wishes would never

Human trafficking summit to take up case of Myanmar fishermen

By Khaing Thanda Lwin

YANGON, 22 April — ASEAN members plan to discuss the plight of Myanmar fisherman used as forced labour on Indonesian boats at a summit on human trafficking this week in Brunei, the head of Myanmar's anti-trafficking police unit said Tuesday.

Police Brig-Gen Win Naing Tun, head of the Myanmar Police Force's Anti-Trafficking in Persons Division, said the case of the fishermen, reported by

the Associated Press on 25 March, will be taken up at the 28th ASEAN Heads of Anti-trafficking Specialist Unit (HSU) Meeting from 22-23 April.

The meeting aims to implement a judicial system among ASEAN countries for trafficked victims and to forge close international cooperation to reduce the number of human trafficking cases, Pol Brig-Gen Win Naing Tun told The Global New Light of Myanmar on Tuesday.

GNLM

come true. Therefore, drinking beer and alcohol should be a taboo during Thingyan. Wearing of eye-catching over-exposed clothes runs counter to the dressing way of the Myanmar which emphasizes moral shame and moral fear for misdeeds. This can arouse greed (Lobha), thereby causing undesirable events like crimes, violence, etc. However, to my delight, the reveling young people at Hmyaw-zin-gyun seemed to be more patient, flexible, civilized and understanding than those of previous years. Some of them, despite being intoxicated with alcohol, did not exchange harsh speech,

insults and blows. As the stretch of land in front of the stage-show was crammed with audience, it was hard for the late comers to secure a standing room. But, surprisingly, the early comers, especially young men, willingly made way for the elderly people and girls and helped them get the room. They did not tease or mock at the girls mischievously. This showed that the mindset of our younger generation started to change. At any rate, I hope that Thingyan will assume a more and more typical Myanmar cultural festival in the years to come.

Taleban announce plans to ramp up attacks in Afghanistan

KABUL, 22 April — The Afghan Taleban announced the start of its annual spring offensive on Wednesday, warning it would ramp up attacks on foreign embassies and government officials as well as military targets.

"If the foreign occupiers really want to relieve themselves from this nuisance of fighting, they should immediately withdraw," the Taleban said in a statement.

The Islamist militant group has been fighting the Afghan government and its foreign backers since it was ousted from power by US-backed Afghan forces in 2001.

It typically intensifies its military efforts when warmer weather facilitates the transit of fighters and weapons.

This year's offensive has been dubbed "Azm" or "Resolution" — similar to the name chosen for the NATO-led coalition's two year "Resolute Support" mission that started in January.

The Taleban made no mention of the much discussed peace process, which the Afghan president said was close to restarting several months ago.

Afghan and foreign officials say hopes for talks have flickered out and many expect the upcoming fighting season to be the most violent yet.

Last year was the worst for civilians since the United Nations began keeping records in 2009, with more than 10,000 civilians killed or injured in the conflict in 2014.—Reuters

Militias in southern Yemen say will keep fighting Houthis

ADEN, 22 April — Militiamen in southern Yemen said late on Tuesday they would continue fighting Iran-allied Houthi rebels until they drove them out of the region, despite Saudi Arabia saying it would end air strikes against the insurgents.

Houthi and militia fighters clashed on the streets of the southern city of Aden for much of Tuesday night after the Saudi announcement, residents told Reuters.

"The end of (the Saudi-led) Operation Decisive Storm does not mean that the southern resistance will end its operations on the ground," a statement by the southern group said.

"This front will not stop its fight until all the south is purified from the Houthis and pro-Saleh forces," a statement by the group said.

The southern resistance movement has brought together southern civilians, former army officers and members of the southern secessionist movement Herak to oppose the Houthis who are fighting alongside troops loyal to former Yemeni president Ali Abdullah Saleh.

Saudi Arabia announced on Tuesday it was ending a month-long campaign of air strikes against the Houthi rebels who seized large areas of Yemen and said it would back a political solution to bring

peace to its war-ravaged neighbour.

Saudi Arabia said a new phase called "Operation Restoring Hope" would now begin in which political, diplomatic and military action would be combined but the main focus would be on the political process.

One Aden resident said the Saudi an-

nouncement had left locals confused.

"We don't know what the aim of the decision is," Malek al Hawlabi said. "Saudi says it secured its borders and ended its operation ... (Does) that means it gave up on Aden and the south or how do we explain this decision?"

Reuters



Smoke is seen at a damaged street, caused by an 20 April air strike that hit a nearby army weapons depot, in Sanaa on 21 April, 2015.—REUTERS

Turkey says Mursi sentencing increases concern about Egypt's democracy



Ousted Egyptian President Mohamed Mursi looks on from behind bars, along with other Muslim Brotherhood members at a court in the outskirts of Cairo on 21 April, 2015.—REUTERS

ISTANBUL, 22 April — Turkey is very concerned by the sentencing of ousted

Egyptian President Mohamed Mursi to 20 years in prison, the country's foreign ministry said on Wednesday.

"The judicial ruling concerning former President Mursi ... increases the concerns regarding the future of democracy in Egypt," the ministry statement said.—Reuters

Saudis end air campaign in Yemen, seek political solution

DUBAI, 22 April — Saudi Arabia announced on Tuesday it was ending a month-long campaign of air strikes against the Houthi rebels who seized large areas of Yemen and said it would back a political solution to bring peace to its war-ravaged neighbour.

Iran, which has supported the fellow Shi'ite Houthis, welcomed the ceasefire, which followed months of factional fighting between the militant group and forces loyal to the government, which was driven out of the capital Sanaa.

"Operation Decisive Storm has achieved its goals ... (including) removing the threat to Saudi Arabia and neighbouring countries, especially in terms of heavy weapons," said a statement carried by Saudi state news agency SPA.

It said a new phase called "Operation Restoring Hope" was beginning. It would combine political, diplomatic and military action but would focus on "the political process that will lead to a stable and secure future for Yemen."

Saudi spokesman Brigadier General Ahmed Asseri said the alliance may still target Houthis. "The coalition will continue to prevent the Houthi militias from moving or undertaking any operations inside Yemen," he told reporters in Riyadh.

The White House on Tuesday also welcomed Saudi Arabia's announcement.

"The United States welcomes today's announcement by the government of Saudi Arabia and its coalition partners of the conclusion of Operation Decisive Storm in Yemen," said Alistair

Baskey, a spokesman for the White House National Security Council.

The Saudis called for a quick resumption of UN-facilitated talks to try to get a peaceful political arrangement for Yemen, which has a long history of internal fighting.

Saudi Arabia had earlier signalled a change in its mission by ordering its National Guard, widely regarded as the kingdom's best equipped military ground force, to join the campaign, but did not say what role it would play.

The bloodshed in Yemen, racked by fighting between factions supported by different regional powers, had continued earlier in the day. At least 40 people, most of them civilians, were killed in two air strikes.

One raid hit a security building in Haradh near Yemen's border with Sau-

di Arabia, killing seven soldiers and 13 civilians. Twenty people died in another strike in Ibb province when a bridge was hit as militia members drove across.

The Houthis and military units loyal to the powerful former president Ali Abdullah Saleh have taken swathes of territory and forced the current president, Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi, into exile in Saudi Arabia.

The conflict created desperate shortages of food and other supplies in Yemen, where sea and airports are closed. Houthi politburo member Mohammed al-Bukhaiti accused the United States of worsening the "siege" on the country by sending warships to the waters off Yemen.

The United States said on Monday an aircraft carrier and guided-missile

cruiser had gone to the waters off Yemen to join seven other US warships already in the area.

The Pentagon said the ships were there to ensure freedom of navigation through the area, which is vital to oil shipping and controls approaches to the Red Sea and the Suez Canal.

It said the ships were also watching a flotilla of Iranian cargo vessels that had approached Yemen. The UN Security Council has imposed an arms embargo on the Houthis, and the Saudi navy has imposed a naval blockade around the country.

President Barack Obama warned Iran on Tuesday not to send weapons to Yemen that could be used to threaten shipping traffic in the region.

"What we've said to them is that, 'If there are weapons delivered to fac-

tions within Yemen that could threaten navigation, that's a problem,'" he said. "And we're not sending them obscure messages. We send them very direct messages about it."

Washington wants to maintain pressure on the Yemen-based al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula, one of the militant movements most active groups, which it fears may take advantage of the chaos to extend its grip and plan further attacks on the West.

The World Health Organization said on Tuesday that 944 people were reported killed and 3,487 wounded in Yemen in the four weeks up to Friday.

Rana Sidani, a WHO representative, said the toll only covered data reported to the Ministry of Health by hospitals and the actual number of casualties was likely much higher.

Reuters

BUSINESS & HEALTH

Japan stocks at 15-year peak, oil down as Saudi ends Yemen air campaign

TOKYO, 22 April — Japanese shares rallied to a 15-year high on Wednesday on expectations of improved corporate earnings, while oil sagged after Saudi Arabia ended its military campaign in Yemen, easing tensions in the energy-rich Middle East.

Japan's Nikkei rose 1.1 percent to a high not seen since April 2000, with foreign investors buying on hopes of a strengthening recovery in the world's third-biggest economy and growth in corporate earnings. In a mixed session for the region South Korea's Kospi gained 0.5 percent and Chinese and Hong Kong shares also rose. Australian, Malaysian and Indonesian stocks fell.

MSCI's broadest index

of Asia-Pacific shares outside Japan stood flat.

Asian equities have found support from Chinese measures to spur lending and combat a slowing economy. On Sunday, China's central bank cut the reserve requirement ratio for the country's lenders in the second reduction in two months. "The last few weeks have seen a flurry of measures on the regulatory, economic, and political front in China. Even though not all news was bullish for equities, we view these developments as favorable for China in the medium-term," Brown Brothers Harriman said in note to clients.

US stocks were mixed overnight, with the Dow slipping on uninspiring earnings reports while the



Pedestrians walk past an electronic board showing the stock market indices of various countries outside a brokerage in Tokyo on 10 April, 2015. —REUTERS

Nasdaq closed near a record high following a proposed biotech merger.

In currencies, the euro was little changed

at \$1.0720 after a choppy session overnight that took it between \$1.0660 and \$1.0782.

The common currency

had been buffeted this week by worries cash-strapped Greece may default on its debt. The euro found some respite after euro zone finance ministers moved away from fixing a deadline for Athens to come up with fiscal reforms.

Greek Finance Minister Yanis Varoufakis cited signs of convergence on Tuesday between Greece and its lenders to help the euro, although the market remained cautious.

"The chance that any meaningful progress will be made is still extremely slim especially since the Germans refuse to release additional bailout funds without a credible reform plan from Greece," Kathy Lien, Managing Director of FX Strategy for BK Asset

Management, said in a note.

The dollar was steady at 119.70 yen after gaining 0.4 percent overnight.

The Australian dollar rose 0.6 percent to \$0.7758 after three straight days of losses as key measures of inflation were slightly higher than forecast and cooled expectations of the Reserve Bank of Australia cutting interest rates in May.

In commodities, crude oil extended losses after Saudi Arabia's announcement that it would end its three-week operation against Iran-allied Houthi rebels in Yemen eased tensions in the Middle East.

Brent crude was down 0.7 percent at \$61.65 a barrel after tumbling more than 2 percent overnight.

Reuters

Sony trims FY 2014 net loss estimate to 126 bil yen from 170 bil yen



People look at devices at the Sony stand during the Mobile World Congress in Barcelona on 5 March, 2015. —REUTERS

TOKYO, 22 April — Sony Corp on Wednesday revised its group net loss estimate to 126 billion yen (\$11 million) for the business year 2014 ended March from the previously forecast 170 billion yen, citing recent improvement in performance in its finance, video game and other businesses.

The Japanese electronics company raised its group operating profit out-

look for the year to 68 billion yen from 20 billion yen estimated in February. It expects 8.21 trillion yen in sales, up from 8 trillion yen expected earlier.

Sony said results of its finance, music and some of its home electronics businesses are likely to have outperformed earlier expectations. The company will report its earnings for the just ended business year on 30 April. —Kyodo News

Gold slips as dollar firms; Greek debt crisis eyed

SINGAPORE, 22 April — Gold gave up some of its overnight gains on Wednesday as the US dollar firmed after earlier losses, with investors keeping their attention focused on the Greek debt crisis and its impact on the currency markets.

Spot gold eased 0.3 percent to \$1,198.80 an ounce by 0342 GMT, after gaining 0.5 percent on Tuesday. "Gold is closely tracking the US dollar at the moment. There isn't any big economic data so investors are following the Greek drama," said Ronald Leung, chief dealer at Lee Cheong Gold Dealers in Hong Kong.

A strong rally in stock markets was also keeping investors out of gold, Leung said. Japanese shares rallied to a 15-year high on Wednesday on expectations of improved corporate earnings.

Gold, often seen as

a safe-haven investment, tends to see a drop in demand when equities are doing well. The dollar held firm against a basket of major currencies on Wednesday, after putting up a mixed performance overnight.

Greece, which is quickly running out of cash, pledged to its euro zone partners in February that by the end of April it would agree with creditors on a comprehensive list of reforms to get 7.2 billion euros remaining from its bailout. But no package will be ready by Friday, when euro zone ministers are to meet in Riga, and it was also unlikely one will be ready by the end of the month, according to a senior euro zone official.

Prolonged uncertainty over the debt crisis — which if unresolved could see Greece exiting the euro zone — could boost de-

mand for bullion, seen as a safe-haven, though the resulting strength in the dollar could limit gains.

In a reflection of investor sentiment, SPDR Gold Trust, the world's largest gold-backed exchange-traded fund, said its holdings rose 0.45 percent to 742.35 tonnes on Tuesday.

Traders were also eyeing activity in the physical

markets.

India, the top bullion consumer, celebrated the gold-buying festival of Akshaya Tritiya on Tuesday. Gold purchases started slowly, despite a fall in local prices, as hard times in rural areas have hit demand and many buyers are holding back because they expect prices to fall even further.

Reuters



Women look at jewellery at a shop in a gold market in Basra, southeast of Baghdad on 14 Feb 2015.

REUTERS

Measles vaccine not linked to autism, even in high-risk kids

WASHINGTON, 22 April — The measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) vaccine does not increase the risk of autism, even among children considered at a high risk for the disorder, according to a study of about 95,000 children with older siblings.

The MMR vaccine controversy began in 1998, after the British medical journal The Lancet published a fraudulent research paper connecting the vaccine with autism. The paper was later retracted,

and studies over the past 15 years have consistently showed no evidence to support the alleged association.

Despite this, surveys of parents who have children with autism suggested that many believe the MMR vaccine was a contributing cause. This belief, combined with knowing that younger siblings of children with autism are already at higher genetic risk for the disorder compared with the general popula-

tion, prompted these parents to avoid vaccinating their younger children.

Researchers at the Lewin Group, a US healthcare consulting firm, examined the incidence of autism in 95,727 US children, who all have older siblings. Among these children, 1,929, or 2 percent, have an older sibling with autism.

Overall, 994 children in the study were diagnosed with autism during follow-up. Of those, 134 had a sibling with the con-

dition. The other 860 did not.

The MMR vaccination rate for children with non-autistic siblings was 84 percent at two years old and 92 percent at five years old. In contrast, the rate for children with autistic siblings was 73 percent at two years old and 86 percent at five years old.

The researchers reported Tuesday in the US journal JAMA that they found no difference in the incidence of autism be-

tween the vaccinated and unvaccinated children, regardless of whether their older siblings had the disorder.

In an accompanying editorial, Bryan King of the University of Washington and Seattle Children's Hospital said: "The only conclusion that can be drawn from the study is that there is no signal to suggest a relationship between MMR and the development of autism in children with or without a sibling who has

autism."

"Taken together, some dozen studies have now shown that the age of onset of ASD (autism spectrum disorders) does not differ between vaccinated and unvaccinated children, the severity or course of ASD does not differ between vaccinated and unvaccinated children, and now the risk of ASD recurrence in families does not differ between vaccinated and unvaccinated children," King wrote. —Xinhua

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV MOROTAI VOY NO (YF261R)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MOROTAI VOY NO (YF261R) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 22.4.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV EVER ABLE VOY NO (404N)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV EVER ABLE VOY NO (404N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 23.4.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
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AGENT FOR: M/S EVERGREEN SHIPPING
LINE**

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV ESM CREMONA VOY NO (122W)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ESM CREMONA VOY NO (122W) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 23.4.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S ORINET OVERSEAS
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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV NEW ENERGY VOY NO (02/15)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV NEW ENERGY VOY NO (02/15) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 23.4.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T-1 where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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Phone No: 2301186

Poland to buy US Patriot missiles, French helicopters



Polish and US soldiers look at a Patriot missile defence battery during joint exercises at the military grounds in Sochaczew, near Warsaw, in this file picture taken on 21 March, 2015.—REUTERS

WARSAW, 22 April — Poland said on Tuesday it would buy Raytheon Co's Patriot missiles from the United States and provisionally selected French Airbus Group helicopters as it speeds up the modernization of its military amid tensions with Russia.

The choice of suppliers, in deals potentially worth \$8 billion, strikes a trans-Atlantic balance as Eastern Europe's largest economy re-arms itself on NATO's frontline while edging toward a bigger role in Europe's defence industry.

"For the armed forces' technical modernization and the Polish armed forces' resilience to be effective, the so-called anti-missile shield ... had to become the priority of priorities," said Polish President Bronislaw Komorowski.

Poland will enter exclusive talks with the US government on the Patriot missile defence system. It plans to buy eight missile batteries by 2025, including two within three years of signing.

A consortium of France's Thales and European group MBDA was also competing for the \$5 billion

missile defence contract — the largest in Poland's military history.

The United States said it welcomed the announcement from its stalwart NATO ally.

The programme "is expected to generate at least \$2.5 billion in US export content — that means supporting American jobs at home and growing our manufacturing base," US State Department spokeswoman Marie Harf said in a statement.

Poland, a NATO member since 1999, had accelerated the process to select a supplier for the missile system after Russia's annexation of Ukraine's Crimea Peninsula last year prompted great concern among NATO members in Eastern Europe.

Since the end of the Cold War, Poland has usually kept closer defence and security ties with the United States.

But in the past few years, policymakers have been lobbying for a stronger security relationship with the rest of Europe, especially after the Obama administration scaled back its missile defence shield plans in East-

ern Europe.

Poland also named the Caracal EC725 of Airbus Helicopters as its preferred choice in a \$3 billion utility helicopter tender, subject to army testing, dropping US and Italian competitors.

It trimmed the potential order from an original 70 helicopters to 50. This would still represent Poland's biggest defence acquisition from Western Europe since the end of the Cold War. Deliveries could begin as early as 2017.

The helicopter decision was seen as delicate because rival bidders Sikorsky, United Technologies Corp's helicopter unit in the United States, and AgustaWestland, owned by Italy's Finmeccanica, have factories in Poland whose unions had warned of job losses.

A French defence official said the Caracal helicopters and their Turbomeca engines would both be assembled in Poland as part of a wide-ranging industrial pact. Airbus has offered what could evolve into "fifth nation" status for Poland alongside its Western European founders to support its bid.

The official said Poland had monitored France's decision last year to suspend delivery of warships to Russia over its role in the Ukraine crisis, but denied any explicit link between that move and Poland's decision to buy French hardware. Poland said that because of "changing security circumstances," it had decided to speed up a separate acquisition of attack helicopters. Four companies have expressed interest in supplying some 30 units in a deal already brought forward by two years in light of the crisis in Ukraine.—Reuters

Record 234,360 foreigners visit Hiroshima A-bomb museum in FY 2014



Kenji Shiga, head of the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum,

HIROSHIMA, 22 April — The number of foreigners visiting the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum rose by some 34,000 from a year earlier to a record 234,360 in fiscal 2014 that ended in March, the museum said on Wednesday.

An official of the museum attributed the rise to such factors as favourable word-of-mouth opinions on some US travel websites and the growing number of foreign tourists to Japan amid the weaker yen and fast-growing budget airlines.

The total number of visitors dropped 69,000 to 1.31 million, which the official attributed to the museum's partial closure due to renovation work.

The Hiroshima National Peace Memorial Hall for the Atomic Bomb Victims, located within the Peace Memorial Park along with the museum and related facilities, said it also saw a record of 252,599 visitors in fiscal 2014, up from 214,572 the previous year. It opened in 2002.

Kyodo News

South Korea seeks bigger role in global arms bazaar

SEOUL, 22 April — When South Korean president Park Geun-hye stopped off in Peru this week, her diplomatic tasks included drumming up interest in her country's home-grown light fighter jets. While Park did not come away with a new contract, state-run Korea Aerospace Industries (KAI) is in the running for a contract to supply Peru with 24 of its FA-50 fighter jets, worth as much as \$2 billion (1.3 billion pounds).

Park's efforts are part of a broader push to turn the South Korean defence industry into an export powerhouse.

With South Korea's arms makers experiencing sluggish domestic growth, its defence exports have gone from \$144 million in 2002 to \$3.6 billion last year, with an average annual gain of 31 percent over the past five years.

The industry, developed mostly with American technology during a decades-long standoff with North Korea, is hoping to sustain that growth by sell-

ing beyond its main export markets in Southeast Asia into Latin America, Europe and the United States.

"They've got a strong combination of technology, skills, reasonable costs, an export-driven economy, and a domestic defence market that's large enough to justify home-grown products," said Richard Aboulafia, vice president at the Virginia-based Teal Group.

Although it is a close ally of the United States, South Korea lacks the diplomatic baggage that hinders some players in the global arms trade, such as China, Israel and Russia. Regional rival Japan only relaxed its ban on weapons exports last year.

"There are no negative geopolitical strings attached," said Tim Huxley, executive director of the International Institute of Strategic Studies in Asia.

South Korea was the 13th biggest exporter of major arms in 2014, up from 30th eight years ago, according to IHS A&D Balance of Trade 2015.—Reuters

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MARRIAGE ANNOUNCEMENT



Ei Nandar & Hein Min Soe

Khin Maung Thaw and San San Soe of Bowling Green, Kentucky, the United States of America, originally from Zigon, Bago division of Myanmar announce the marriage of their daughter, Ei Nandar to Hein Min Soe, son of U Nyan Thein and Daw San San Htwe from Hpa An, Kayin State of Myanmar.

Ei Nandar is the granddaughter of U Khin Maung and Daw Khin Yee of Zigon, Bago division of Myanmar. She is employed by Perdue Farms Incorporation of Beaver Dam, Kentucky, United States of America.

Hein Min Soe is grandson of U Ngwe Khaing and Daw Thein Tin of Mawlamyaing, Mon State of Myanmar. He is employed by Myanmar Electric Corporation of Hpa An, Kayin States, Myanmar.

The wedding will be at 8:30 a.m. April 23, 2015 at groom's residence and food serving ceremony to the honorable abbot and monks to be held at 10:45 a.m. at "Ah Tu La" monastery of Hpa An, Kayin State. All of relatives and friends are invited. Invitations are being sent to families and out-of-town guests.

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV MOUNT BOKOR VOY NO (001N)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MOUNT BOKOR VOY NO (001N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 17.4.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S YANG MING LINE**

Phone No: 2301185

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV MERATUS GORONTALO VOY NO (099N)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MERATUS GORONTALO VOY NO (099N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 22.4.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S YANG MING LINE**

Phone No: 2301185

WEATHER REPORT

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 23rd April, 2015: Rain or thundershowers are likely to be scattered in Upper Sagaing Region, Kachin, Chin and Shan States and isolated in the remaining Regions and States. Degree of certainty is (60%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Seas will be moderate in Myanmar waters.

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**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV DYNAMIC OCEAN 18 VOY NO (-)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV DYNAMIC OCEAN 18 VOY NO (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 23.4.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.I.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S G LINK EXPRESS PTE LTD.**

Phone No: 2301191/2301178

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV THAI BINH 68 VOY NO (-)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV THAI BINH 68 VOY NO (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 18.4.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W (1) where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S G LINK EXPRESS PTE LTD.**

Phone No: 2301191/2301178

One dead, 20 sick with Botulism symptoms after church potluck

COLUMBUS, 22 April — One person has died and at least 20 others were sick with symptoms of food-borne Botulism following a weekend church potluck in Ohio, hospital officials said on Tuesday.

The Fairfield Medical Centre said in a statement that the patients, five of whom were in a critical

condition, had all attended a picnic at Cross Pointe Free Will Baptist Church in Lancaster on Sunday.

The US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention had sent anti-toxin to treat the sick, the hospital said, while local health officials investigated the cause of the outbreak.

Botulism is a rare but

potentially fatal paralytic illness caused by a nerve toxin that is produced by certain bacteria, according to the CDC.

Symptoms include drooping eyelids, slurred speech and muscle weakness, which can progress to paralysis of the limbs and respiratory muscles, the CDC said.

The hospital said Botulism is not contagious, so there is no threat to the public at-large or people at the hospital. Symptoms generally begin showing up within 36 hours of eating the contaminated food, but can start as many as 10 days after, the hospital said.

Reuters

Sienna Miller, Jake Gyllenhaal in Cannes jury



Hollywood actors Sienna and Jake Gyllenhaal

LONDON, 22 April — Hollywood actors Sienna Miller and Jake Gyllenhaal will join five other members and jury presidents Joel and Ethan Coen at the 68th Festival de Cannes.

Some of the biggest names in cinema from Canada, Spain, the United States, France, Mali, Mexico and the United Kingdom are part of the prestigious jury this year.

The jury is made up of nine distinctive voices – four

women and five men – each with the same voting rights. They will decide the prize winners in Competition section. The winners will be announced on 24 May.

Spanish actress Rossy de Palma, French actress-director Sophie Marceau, Miller, Gyllenhaal, Mali singer-songwriter Rokia Traore, Mexican director Guillermo del Toro and Canadian writer-director Xavier Dolan are part of the jury this year.

PTI

Ben Affleck says he regrets asking PBS to edit out slave-owning ancestor

LOS ANGELES, 22 April — Actor Ben Affleck said Tuesday he regretted asking a PBS documentary show profiling his ancestors to not include a relative who was an owner of slaves, saying he was embarrassed by the revelation.

Affleck's ancestry was traced by Harvard scholar Henry Louis Gates Jr, known as Skip, for an episode in the second season of his Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) series "Finding Your Roots," in which well-known personalities can discover more about their family history.

"I didn't want any television show about my family to include a guy who owned slaves. I was embarrassed. The very thought left a bad taste in my mouth," Affleck said in a statement on his Face-

book page.

"I regret my initial thoughts that the issue of slavery not be included in the story," he added.

Representatives for PBS and Gates did not respond to requests for comment.

The issue came to light after anti-secrecy website Wikileaks released a searchable database of more than 30,000 documents that were stolen by hacker from Sony Corp's Sony Pictures Entertainment in a massive cyber attack last year.

Affleck said in his statement that Gates had final say in what was included in the episode, which aired last October, and he had "lobbied" Gates on what elements of his family history to use in the show.



Actor Ben Affleck testifies before a Senate Appropriations State, Foreign Operations and Related Programs Subcommittee hearing on "Diplomacy, Development, and National Security" on Capitol Hill in Washington on 26 March, 2015.

REUTERS

The Oscar-winning actor-director added that he assumed the show "will respect your willingness to participate and not look to include things you think would embarrass your fam-

ily." "While I don't like that the guy is an ancestor, I am happy that aspect of our country's history is being talked about," he said.

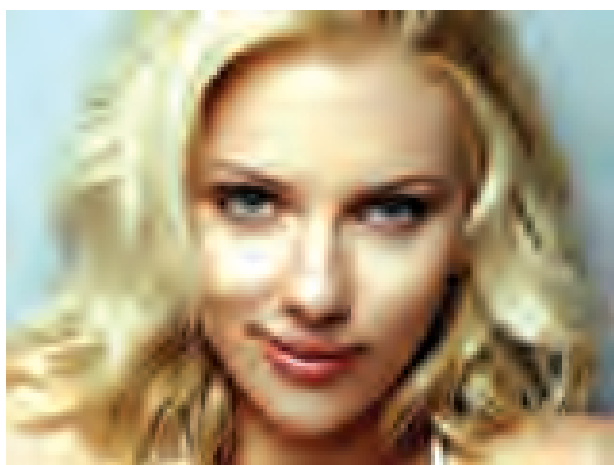
Reuters

Scarlett Johansson, co-stars reunite at 'Avengers 2' London premiere

LONDON, 22 April — After hitting Hollywood and South Korea, the star cast of "Avengers: Age of Ultron" has invaded London.

Scarlett Johansson, Robert Downey Jr, Mark Ruffalo, Chris Evans, Chris Hemsworth, and Jeremy Renner hit red carpet for the special screening.

The Black Widow depicter looked chic in a colourful Balmain jumpsuit that she paired with YSL shoes and Bvlgari earrings. Her male co-stars all looked dapper in tailored suits. They were joined by other stars like Aaron Johnson, Elizabeth Olsen, Paul



Scarlett Johansson

Bettany, and director Joss Whedon at the Westfield London for the European premiere.

The superhero movie

has hit international theaters but will not arrive in until 1 May.

It will be Whedon's last "Avengers" movie after

he directed the first two installments.

The next entries "Avengers: Infinity War Part I" and "Avengers: Infinity War Part II" are set to be helmed by Anthony and Joe Russo.

"Yeah it's sort of like sending your kid off to college, it's like wow, they really don't need me anymore, do they?" Whedon said on the red carpet.

"At the same time it's like, 'My kid's gone, party all night!' You know, I'm going to pick my actual kids up from school, I'm going to read books, it's going to get crazy," Whedon added.

PTI

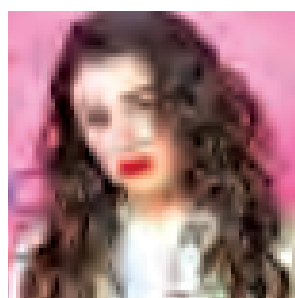
I don't want to be a role model: Charli XCX

LONDON, 22 April — Singer Charli XCX says she has told her fans and followers to expect mistakes from her.

The 22-year-old "Boom Clap" hitmaker has urged her fans not to consider her a role model, because it is inevitable she

will make mistakes as her career progresses, reported Female First.

"Even though I probably am [a role model], because certain people look up to me, that's never been an aim of mine. But I understand that's a responsibility that comes with the



territory, even if you don't ask for it. "I'm OK with that, as long as they know I'm definitely gonna make some mistakes along the way," she said.—PTI

Charli XCX says it is inevitable she will make mistakes as her career progresses.—PTI

Nicole Perlman, Meg LeFauve to write 'Captain Marvel'

LOS ANGELES, 22 April — Marvel has confirmed "Captain Marvel" will be penned by female writers Nicole Perlman and Meg LeFauve. Perlman is credited with hit movie "Guard-

ians of the Galaxy" and LeFauve wrote the upcoming film "Inside Out".

They will now help bring superhero Carol Danvers to the big screen in her first solo cinematic adven-

ture due in theaters on 2 November, 2018, reported Aceshowbiz.

No director and actress has been announced for "Captain Marvel", which will become Marvel's first

superhero movie led by a female character, but Adam McKay could be a contender to helm the project since Kevin Feige says McKay is being eyed for all future Marvel flicks.—Reuters

Madonna denies texting during off-broadway performance



LOS ANGELES, 22 April — Madonna's representative has denied reports that the pop diva was texting during a performance of Hamilton at New York City's Public Theater.

"It's not true. She was invited backstage four different times. She texted post show when they were doing their fundraising pitch. Madonna had already made a generous donation," her rep Liz Rosenberg addressed the incident in a statement.

Tony winner Lin-Manuel Miranda, the star, author and composer for the show, had made a pointed reference to an unnamed

celebrity audience member, who practised poor theatre-going etiquette.

"Tonight was the first time I asked stage management NOT to allow a celebrity (who was texting all through Act 2) backstage #no-selfiefor you," Miranda had tweeted.

The tweet was later deleted but according to sources it was Madonna who was texting throughout the night. The "Rebel Heart" hitmaker had received flak from film critic Charles Taylor for reportedly texting during a screening of "12 Years a Slave" at the New York Film Festival.

Reuters

Nishikori cruises into Barcelona 3rd round

BARCELONA, 22 April — World No 5 Kei Nishikori started his title defence at the Barcelona Open with a convincing 6-3, 6-4 win over Russia's Teymuraz Gabashvili in their second-round match on Tuesday.

Nishikori, the top seed here, never lost his serve and dismissed his 85th-ranked opponent in a little over an hour. "I played a good two sets today," said Nishikori. "It wasn't easy for my first match on clay this year, but I served great. It's always special to come



Defending champion Kei Nishikori of Japan hits a return to Russia's Teymuraz Gabashvili during their second-round match of the Barcelona Open in the Spanish city on 21 April, 2015. Nishikori won 6-3, 6-4.

KYODO NEWS

back and defend the title here, where there are such great facilities."

Nishikori will meet either No 15 seed Santiago Giraldo, the player he beat in the 2014 final, or Joao Sousa in the next round.

Nishikori is now 22-5 on the season, including his eighth ATP World Tour title at Memphis and a runner-up finish in Acapulco.

Last year, the Japanese ace became the first Asian player to capture the Barcelona Open championship. It was also his first clay-court title win.—Kyodo News

Bayern dreaming of treble after 'amazing' 6-1 victory

MUNICH, 22 April — Bayern Munich's 6-1 demolition of Porto on Tuesday for a spot in the Champions League semi-finals was just what the doctor ordered for an injury-plagued team chasing a treble.

Despite a string of absences, including Ar-

jen Robben, David Alaba, Franck Ribery and Medhi Benatia, and internal turmoil following the sudden departure of their long-time doctor, Bayern were sublime in the first half scoring five times.

"It is difficult to find the right words to explain this,"

Bayern's Thomas Mueller, whose goal made him Germany's all-time top scorer in the competition with 27, told reporters. "It could not have worked better than it did. "A lot was said before the game about us but to play such a first half is absolutely amazing."

Bayern, with Bastian Schweinsteiger back from injury but left on the bench, struck three times in 13 minutes and added two more late in the first period to blow away the Portuguese and wipe out the 3-1 first leg deficit.

"Now we can joke about it but it was a huge piece of work. When you're with you back to the wall then sometimes that is a good thing," Mueller said.

"There are times in a season when you win something from a game and that was one such game," he added, referring to the confidence boost from such an important victory.

Bayern, who could clinch the Bundesliga title this weekend and are also in the German Cup semi-finals, are attempting to repeat their 2013 treble-winning season and add a sixth European crown to their collection of silverware.

Reuters



Bayern Munich players celebrate after the match. — REUTERS

Neymar double helps brilliant Barcelona down PSG

BARCELONA, 22 April — Neymar scored twice as Barcelona reached the Champions League semi-finals for the seventh time in the last eight seasons by comfortably beating Paris St Germain 2-0 on Tuesday to complete an emphatic 5-1 aggregate victory.

The Nou Camp crowd were brought to their feet for Neymar's first goal as midfielder Andres Iniesta ran from his own half, skipping past three challenges, before delivering a perfect pass for the Brazilian, who rounded keeper Salvatore Sirigu and slid the ball home after 14 minutes.

PSG offered little resistance as Barca swept the

ball around midfield and the Catalan side went further in front when Neymar headed home a curling cross from fullback Dani Alves after 34 minutes.

Barca eased off in the second half and were happy to hold on for a victory that keeps them on course to repeat their treble success of 2009. "We did the same that we did in Paris, we came out and played our game and scored the goals we needed," Neymar said in an interview with Spanish television broadcaster TVE.

"I think we are on good form, in the Champions League, in La Liga, everything and hopefully we can continue the same way."

PSG were without injured duo Thiago Motta and Thiago Silva but they did have former Barca striker Zlatan Ibrahimovic and Marco Verratti back from suspension.



Neymar scores the second goal for Barcelona. —REUTERS

Their Brazilian defender David Luiz, who had a torrid time against Luis Suarez in the first leg, was booked after just three minutes for a reckless challenge on Ivan Rakitic.—Reuters

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Chelsea face striker crisis ahead of Arsenal showdown



Diego Costa

LONDON, 22 April — but still supporting #Ebola-Response," said the 37-year-old Ivory Coast forward on his Twitter account. Chelsea go into Sunday's game holding a 10-point lead over second-placed Arsenal and manager Jose Mourinho may have to thrust one of his young strikers into the fray.

Spain striker Diego Costa has only just returned to training after missing two games with a recurring hamstring injury while a calf strain sidelined France forward Loic Remy for last Saturday's 1-0 win over Manchester United.

Didier Drogba featured against United but sustained an ankle injury that kept him out of Monday night's 12th Match Against Poverty, a game in St Etienne dedicated to the victims of the Ebola epidemic in Africa.

"Disappointed not to be able to play the #MAP2015 because of an ankle injury

but still supporting #Ebola-Response," said the 37-year-old Ivory Coast forward on his Twitter account. Chelsea go into Sunday's game holding a 10-point lead over second-placed Arsenal and manager Jose Mourinho may have to thrust one of his young strikers into the fray. Dominic Solanke, 17, was on the bench against United and could be promoted to the starting line-up while former West Bromwich Albion forward Isaiah Brown, 18, is another option for Mourinho.

Costa is the third highest scorer in the league this season, his first at Chelsea, with 19 goals. Remy has been his main understudy and grabbed important goals in the 3-2 victory at Hull City on 22 March and in the 2-1 win over Stoke City on 4 April.— Reuters



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