

# NEWS IN brief

### Netanyahu behind in poll race

AFP, Jerusalem

Final opinion polls published yesterday put Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's rightwing Likud party four seats behind its centre-left rival with four days to go before a general election. A poll in the top-selling Yediot Aharonot newspaper showed the Zionist Union winning 26 of the 120 seats in the Israeli parliament, or Knesset, against 22 for Likud.

### N Korea fires seven missiles into sea

AFP, Seoul

North Korea fired seven ground-to-air missiles into the sea off its east coast on Thursday in an operation supervised by leader Kim Jong-Un amid heightened military tensions. South Korea's Defence Ministry said yesterday. A ministry spokesman said Kim was understood to have been on hand when the missiles were fired early Thursday evening from a site near the eastern town of Sondok.

### Skier hit by plane in French Alps

AFP, Lyon

A Polish skier was seriously injured Thursday when she was hit by a light aircraft careering down the slopes of a resort in the French Alps. The ski-equipped single-propeller Jodel plane had failed to take off from the snowy high-altitude runway near the ski area at Avoriaz. The pilot was unable to stop the plane, which slid down the slopes, narrowly missing a group of children and passing under a chairlift before clipping the woman and nearly severing her hand.

### MERS kills 10 in Saudi Arabia

AFP, Riyadh

Ten more people have died in Saudi Arabia from the MERS virus since last week, health ministry data showed yesterday, adding to a surge in cases over the past month. The latest deaths occurred between March 6 and 12, mostly in the capital Riyadh, bringing to 17 the number of MERS deaths so far this month, according to the ministry. A total of 950 people have been infected with MERS since it was first identified in the kingdom in 2012, and 412 of them have died.

### ISIS trap: 16 Indonesians held

CNN ONLINE

Turkish officials have detained 16 Indonesian citizens who confessed they were planning to cross the border into Syria, Indonesia's foreign ministry said. The group comprises a man, four women, three girls and eight boys, said spokesman Arrmanatha Nasir.

### Spy who helped UK teens is Syrian: Turkey

REUTERS, Ankara

An alleged spy detained in Turkey for helping three British girls cross into Syria is a Syrian national working for a country in the US-led coalition against Islamic State, the Turkish foreign minister said yesterday. Mevlut Cavusoglu announced on Thursday that a spy who had assisted the three London school girls, now believed to be on territory controlled by Islamic State, had been caught, but did not give the suspect's nationality. The three girls, two aged 15 and one 16, flew to Istanbul from London on Feb. 17 and then onwards to Syria, where more than 200,000 have been killed in a civil war. Their families have appealed to them to return.



Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi (L) prepares to shake hands with Sri Lankan President Maithripala Sirisena during a meeting at the Presidential Secretariat in Colombo, yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

## India urges security ties

### Announces slew of steps to steer Sri Lanka away from China

AFP, Colombo

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi called for greater security cooperation with Sri Lanka yesterday during a landmark visit to the strategically located Indian Ocean island, whose drift towards China has raised concerns in New Delhi. Modi told Sri Lanka's parliament a "strong foundation of security" in the Indian Ocean was necessary for regional prosperity, as he began the first official visit to the island by an Indian premier in 28 years.

Sri Lanka is a midway point on one of the world's busiest international shipping lanes and lies just across the water from India, but Beijing has asserted growing strategic influence in recent years as it seeks to secure its trading routes. Modi has made clear his ambition to reassert India's dominance in its own backyard since taking office, and his comments underscored the rivalry between the two neighbours, although he did not mention China by name.

"A future of prosperity requires a strong foundation of security for our countries and peace and stability in the region," Modi told the 225-member assembly. "We should expand the maritime security cooperation between India,

Sri Lanka and Maldives to include others in the Indian Ocean area."

Modi said he and new President Maithripala Sirisena had agreed to set up a task force to focus on an "ocean economy" that could have strategic interests for both.

India has traditionally regarded Sri Lanka as within its sphere of influence, and was furious last year when Rajapakse allowed two Chinese submarines to dock in Colombo.

Beijing also bankrolled a major

The figure includes a \$1.5 billion currency swap to help stabilise Sri Lanka's currency.

He said India would help develop a regional petroleum hub in the north-eastern port city of Trincomalee, a strategic staging post for allied forces during WWII.

Modi will become the first Indian prime minister to visit the northern Tamil stronghold of Jaffna during his two-day visit.

He yesterday urged the new government to give greater autonomy to the region, which was hit hard by the country's 37-year civil war and remained heavily militarised after the conflict ended in 2009.

Tamils should be able to live "a life of equality, justice, peace and dignity in a united Sri Lanka," Modi said in Colombo shortly after holding talks with Sirisena.

Sirisena has promised to work on reconciliation between the Tamils and the Sinhalese majority after ousting Rajapakse, who oversaw the brutal military suppression of a separatist rebellion in 2009.

Modi is the first Indian prime minister to visit the island since Rajiv Gandhi in 1987, and Sirisena said after their meeting he wanted to "turn a new page in our relations".

### MODI'S LANDMARK SRI LANKA TOUR

expansion of the island's infrastructure under its former president Mahinda Rajapakse.

But his successor has worked to reduce the country's dependence on Beijing and last month ordered a suspension of China's biggest investment project, a \$1.4 billion new city on reclaimed land next to Colombo's main sea port.

Modi pledged Indian financial aid amounting to \$1.81 billion during his visit, part of a tour of Indian Ocean islands that took in Mauritius and the Seychelles.

## Putin spokesman denies baby rumours



AFP, Moscow

Russian president appears to be back at the Kremlin after a mysterious disappearance that had people wondering if the Russian leader might be seriously ill or at risk of a coup. But a Swiss newspaper says the Russian playboy was just in Lugano for the birth of his lovechild.

In an article titled Es ist ein Mädchen! or "It's a Girl," the paper Bilk claims that Putin and his alleged 32-year-old lover, Olympic gymnast Alina Kabayeva, welcomed their daughter at the private Santa Anna di Sorgeno clinic in the Italian-speaking canton of Ticino on the Italian border—a favorite playground for wealthy Russians.

But a spokesman for Putin yesterday denied rumours swirling in the European media that a baby had been born to the Russian leader.

"Information that a child has been born to Vladimir Putin is not true," Dmitry Peskov told Forbes Russia.

The Russian Twittersphere has been alive with speculation over the whereabouts of the typically omnipresent 62-year-old, after he cancelled several meetings this week.



Palestinian children play amidst debris of houses that were destroyed during the 50-day war between Israel and Hamas militants in the summer of 2014, in the Gaza Strip town of Beit Hanun, yesterday. Palestinians throughout the West Bank and Gaza Strip are hoping Israel's general election will bring about change, but even if it does, many still doubt their lot will improve.

PHOTO: AFP

## Suu Kyi's party to compete in Myanmar vote despite block

REUTERS, Bangkok

The party of Myanmar opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi will contest the general election this year even if there is no change in the constitution to allow the Nobel laureate to become president, one of the party's top leaders said on Friday.

The National League for Democracy would have more power to push for an end to the military's veto over charter changes and remove the obstacles to her presidency if it wins the election, NLD Central Executive Committee Secretary Nyan Win said.

"We are going to compete," he told Reuters in an interview. "First, we need the majority in parliament. After that, we will be in a stronger position and we hope we can change the constitution."

The NLD had not previously committed to competing in the election, prompting speculation Suu Kyi was using participation as a bargaining chip in negotiations with the government.

Without Suu Kyi, who spent nearly two decades under house arrest for campaigning for democracy, the election would have

lacked international legitimacy. Foreign governments lifted sanctions after 49 years of military rule ended in 2011 on condition of further democratic reforms.

The NLD and the government have been in a standoff over the constitution, which reserves a quarter of parliamentary seats and key government posts for the military and bars Suu Kyi from the presidency because her sons are foreign nationals.

Barring Suu Kyi from the presidency made no sense, U.S. President Barack Obama said in November. The U.S. has said it wants to see free and fair elections in Myanmar this year, but that was impossible without constitutional change, Nyan Win said. "The election may be free, but it won't be fair," he said.

The NLD is considering alternative candidates for the presidency but has yet to decide on one, he said.

It would not back former general Shwe Mann, the speaker of parliament and chairman of the ruling Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP), to avoid angering the NLD's rank and file, he said.



## Cyclone Pam hits Vanuatu

CNN ONLINE

Tropical Cyclone Pam, one of the strongest storms seen in the South Pacific in years, has made a direct hit on the capital of Vanuatu, Port Vila.

Satellite imagery shows the eye of the massive Category 5 storm making landfall on a small island in central Vanuatu.

Tropical Cyclone Pam is the strongest storm ever to make landfall since the devastating Super Typhoon Haiyan hit the Philippines in 2013. Pam currently has sustained winds of 165 mph (270 kilometers per hour) with gusts of up to 200 mph (325 kilometers per hour), triggering concerns of torrential rainfall, flooding and landslides.

Cyclone Pam has triggered watches and warnings in the Solomon Islands and New Zealand.

The storm is expected to weaken after leaving the Vanuatu island chain and could affect New Zealand's North Island by late Sunday or Monday.

## Career Opportunity

The HKD Outdoor Innovations Ltd. a foreign owned Korean based 100% export oriented Readymade Garments Manufacturing Industry located at Karnaphuli Export Processing Zone (KEPZ), Chittagong is looking for talented Human Resources for the following positions who will be the Human Capital of the Company:

<b>1. Name of the post</b>	: Director/GM (Marketing & Sales).
No. of vacancy	: 01
Education	: Minimum Graduation.
Experience	: At least 10 years' practical experience in the large renowned Readymade Garments Manufacturing Industries. Out of total job experience minimum 05 years as a GM/Director/Head of Marketing and Sales having strong network of world famous buyers including local agents.
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<b>2. Name of the post</b>	: GM (HR, Admin. & Compliance).
No. of vacancy	: 01
Education	: Post Graduation from any discipline with PGDPM/PGDHRM from BIM.
Experience	: At least 10 years' practical experience in the large renowned Readymade Garments Manufacturing Industries. Vast practical knowledge in HR, Admin. & Compliance specially in Structural, Fire & Electrical safety issues of Alliance and Accord.
Age	: Within 45 years.
Communication	: Sound in Speaking, Listening, Reading and Writing in English.
<b>3. Name of the post</b>	: GM (Production).
No. of vacancy	: 01
Education	: Minimum Graduation.
Experience	: At least 15 years' practical experience in the large renowned Readymade Garments Manufacturing Industries specially in any renowned woven garments factory.
Age	: Within 45 years.
Communication	: Sound in Speaking, Listening, Reading and Writing in English.
<b>4. Name of the post</b>	: Manager (Industrial Engineering).
No. of vacancy	: 01
Education	: B.Sc in Industrial Engineering or equivalent.
Experience	: At least 08 years' practical experience in the large renowned Readymade Garments Manufacturing Industries specially in any woven renowned garments factory (Sri Lankan candidates are preferable).
Age	: Within 35 years.
Communication	: Sound in Speaking, Listening, Reading and Writing in English.

Eligible interested candidates are requested to send their Resume to the following address to Head of HR or through e-mail [recruitment.garments@hkdbd.com](mailto:recruitment.garments@hkdbd.com) on or before 30<sup>th</sup> March, 2015.

Company Information:  
**HKD Outdoor Innovations Limited**  
 Plot No. 45-50, Sector-02, KEPZ, North Patenga, Chittagong

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