Activists demand release of jailed reporter, some who under arrest

By Aye Min Soe

YANGON, 29 April — Three days after journalists held a meeting to seek ways to give protection to journalists from arbitrary arrest, around 20 activists took to the streets in downtown Yangon on Tuesday to protest sending journalists to prison.

The protestors, carrying banners reading “We demand to release the Democratic Voice of Burma journalist Zaw Pe and other journalists who are under arrest,” gathered outside Yangon Region High Court and marched to Sule Pagoda where they prayed for the release of the journalists.

Zaw Pe and the father of a student, were charged with trespassing and disturbing a civil servant after they visited the Magway Region Education Department in August, 2012 to conduct an interview about a Myanmar-funded scholarship programme.

Both got a one year jail sentence on April, 2014. “Regardless of the cases in which journalists got jail sentences, we should see both sides. Generally, a case brought to court means that there are aggressive action on both sides (the journalist and local authority). The cases concerned with journalists should be settled with negotiation between respective media and local authorities before the cases were brought to a court. At a time when the new government is holding peace negotiation at a table with armed ethnic groups, handing down a prison sentence to a journalist is very oppressive,” said U Kyaw Min Swe, secretary of Myanmar Press Council (Interim) and journalists, at the recent gathering of journalists.

The journalists pointed out the weakness of the rule of law as Zaw Pe got a prison sentence for trespassing and disturbing a civil servant only when the new Media Laws, which guarantees rights to journalists, was approved by the parliament and signed by the president.

Ko Thiha, the correspondent of NHK, has suggested to improve the skills of local reporters in townships to become more professional as some reported have abused their positions by threatening news sources with (unflattering) coverage in the news media.

“The weakness of the new media laws is that they do not include the fact that which action will be protected or not, and if people start organizing politically around their religious identity or around their ethnic identity as opposed to organizing around principles of justice and rule of law and respect and democracy, then we can actually start seeing conflicts inside those countries that could move Myanmar in a very bad direction—particularly, if you’ve got a Muslim minority inside of Myanmar right now that the broader population has historically looked down upon and whose rights are not fully being protected.

Now, that’s not unique to Myanmar. Here in Malaysia, this is a majority Muslim country. But then, there are times where those who are non-Muslims find themselves perhaps being disadvantaged or experiencing hostility. In the United States, obviously historically the biggest conflicts arose around race. And we had to fight a civil war and we had to have a civil rights movement over the course of generations until I could stand before the president.

One is we should hold a seminar with participation of representatives from the government, law experts and media to clarify what dangers are posed to media and the other one is we, media, should improve ourselves to have high level of professional skills,” Ko Thiha said.

The new press laws have encouraged more investigative journalism and critical reporting and also offered “protection” of journalists from arbitrary arrests.

“The weakness of the new media laws is that it does not include the fact that which action will be taken against the authorities who does not give answer to reporters,” a lawyer said.
Union Parliament Speaker discusses ownership disputes in delta region

Nay Pyi Taw, 29 April — The Speaker of the National Parliament U Khin Aung Myint and his delegation visited Kotha Taungmaw Parahita monastic school in Loikaw Township of Kayah State on Monday morning, meeting with the head monk.

As part of the visit, K 150 million including relief items were donated to religious, educational and social welfare organizations in Kayah State. — MNA

National Parliament Speaker visits monastic school in Kayah State

Nay Pyi Taw, 29 April — Union Minister at the President Office U Tin Naing Thein held a work coordination meeting on preparing the President’s excellence awards presentation ceremony on Tuesday at his office in Nay Pyi Taw. Officials from the committees reported on the progress of preparations to the Union minister, who urged the attendees to join hands in order to successfully hold the ceremony and dinner. — MNA

President’s excellence awards presentation ceremony planned

Nay Pyi Taw, 29 April — Nearly 500 scouts from across the country gathered in PyinOoLwin on Tuesday to take an oath, vowing to carry out voluntary services in the future.

The scouts’ voluntary work will include sanitation services, planting trees and carrying out public welfare services. At the gathering which was also attended by U Ye Myint, the Chief Minister of Mandalay Region, officials said that more scouts groups will be formed in the future with students from 78 schools. The scouts were banned from 1964 and have only been operating again since December, 2012, with 1,000 boys and 1,000 girls active members. — MNA

2014 Scout Youths Get-together

PyinOoLwin Camp

From 29 April to 2 May 2014
President holds talks with New Zealand ambassador, Japanese guests

Nay Pyi Taw, 29 April—President U Thein Sein met separately with New Zealand Ambassador Anthony John Lynch and Former Prime Minister of Japan Yoshihiko Noda and party on Tuesday morning at the Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the meeting with the ambassador, they discussed further strengthening relations between Myanmar and the New Zealand, human resources development and providing technical assistance to Myanmar.

With Noda, they focused on cooperation in banking services, development of Thilawa special economic zones and implementation to upgrade the Yangon-Mandalay Railway.

President U Thein Sein meets with Former Prime Minister of Japan Yoshihiko NODA in Nay Pyi Taw.—MNA

Healthcare reform needed to improve Myanmar health standards

Nay Pyi Taw, 29 April—Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham called in Nay Pyi Taw on Tuesday for reform to improve the standard of Myanmar’s healthcare system, which is facing criticism.

Despite an four-fold increase in the health budget over the past three years, there has been no significant progress in the healthcare standard provided to the public, he said at the meeting.

He stressed the need to make both short-term and long-term plan during the remaining two years earmarked for providing effective healthcare to the public.

He also highlighted the importance of setting up an affordable health system that includes raising health standards, preventive medicine, human resources development in the health sector, medical education to meet requirements in infrastructure, human resources and medicine and medical equipment, it is impossible to make health care service perfect, the vice-president added.

He pointed out upper income people from Myanmar spent US$200 million overseas for medical treatment, saying that emergence of one or two hospitals of international standard as soon as possible through private sector, public sector or public-private partnership is needed to keep that sort of expenditure at home.

He added that middle-class patients have not received services meeting their satisfaction.

To better serve lower income citizens, he urged the setting up of an effective community-based healthcare system.

While taking about human resources development in the health sector, he called for transforming medical education to meet emerging health worker shortage problem.

Next, the vice-president heard reports presented by members of National Health Committee and left instructions, making a vow to create a happy and healthy working environment for the health workforce.

The meeting was the first of the 19-member National Health Committee formed in February, 2014. The old committee formed in 1990 convened 44 work coordination meetings during the 19-year period until 2009.—MNA

Senior Myanmar, Yunnan officials discuss trade

Nay Pyi Taw, 29 April—Union Minister for Commerce U Win Myint and Qiu He, deputy secretary of the CPC Committee of Yunnan Province, discussed trade sector development between Myanmar and China at the Ministry in Nay Pyi Taw on Tuesday.

The Union Minister said that trade is improving yearly thanks to easing the trade regulations and he expressed thanks for an invitation to the 22nd Kunming Trade Fair, which plays a crucial role in trade development between the two countries.

He added Chinese aid helps improve export of agricultural produce from Myanmar and cooperation in trade development in border areas.

Qiu noted Yunnan-Myanmar trade is among the biggest contributors to trade relations between China and Myanmar and he welcomed Myanmar entrepreneurs to participate in trade fairs in China. He also said he would ensure various departments will be linked to expedite release of certificates needed for steady import of agricultural products from Myanmar into Yunnan.—MNA

President U Thein Sein poses for documentary photo with New Zealand Ambassador Anthony John Lynch.—MNA

President U Thein Sein’s radio message to broadcast on 1, 2 May

Nay Pyi Taw, 29 April—A radio message to be delivered by U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, will be broadcast by radio on 1 and 2 May. Myanmar Radio, Mandalay FM, Pyinsawady FM, Shwe FM, Cherry FM, Padamya FM, FM Bagan and Thazin Radio will broadcast the message at 7 am, 11 am, 6 pm and 8 pm.—MNA

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham addresses National Health Committee Meeting.—MNA

President U Thein Sein meets with Former Prime Minister of Japan Yoshihiko NODA in Nay Pyi Taw.—MNA
2014 tax law and amendments explained in Mandalay

Mandalay, 29 April—Officials explained the 2014 Union tax law and amendments at Mandalay City Hall on Monday.

In the clarification, U Than Zaw Win, head of Mandalay Region Internal Revenue Department, said taxes have been eased. Accordingly, people who have income of K 2 million and above for one year exceeded 21% basic reliefs, stipends for spouse and children, and life insurance need to pay taxes on sliding scale. U Than Zaw Win also explained amendments of taxes on real estate and vehicles.

Thiha Ko Ko
(Mandalay)

Nursing trainees get their uniforms in Mandalay

Mandalay, 29 April—The trainees of the 23rd nursing diploma course of Mandalay Nursing Training School received their uniforms on Monday.

The nursing-uniform presentation ceremony was held at Royal Thazin Hall in Chammyathazi Township with an address of by the Rector of Mandalay Nursing University Prof. Dr Marlar Win.

Assistant Director of Mandalay Medical Department Daw Mya Mya Lay explained nursing ethics and Headmistress of the Mandalay Nursing Training School Daw San San explained nursing ethics.

Dr Marlar Win and officials presented uniforms to the trainees and prizes to outstanding students.

Thiha Ko Ko
(Mandalay)

Firemen donate blood to mark 68th Anniversary Fire Brigade Day

Nay Pyi Taw, 29 April—To mark the 68th Anniversary Fire Brigade Day, 400 members of Fire Services departments in eight townships in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area carried out social welfare tasks in the compound of Nay Pyi Taw General Hospital on Tuesday.

As well, 29 fire brigade members donated blood at the hospital.—Shwe Kokko

Villager injured in mine blast in Kayin State

Myawady, 29 April—A 24-year old man was severely injured when he stepped on a landmine in Kayin State recently, officials said Tuesday. The incident occurred during work when the man, identified as Aung Myin Htay of Dawna Ward in Myawady Township, was picking djenkol beans along Myawady-Kawkareik Road near Thangmannyin-aung Village. Police said the man was rushed to Myawady District General Hospital for medical treatment.

Tun Tun Oo (Myawady Border Town)

Shwe Mandalar Expo 2014 commodity exhibition to be held on 1-4 May

Mandalay, 29 April—Shwe Mandalar Expo 2014 commodity exhibition will be held at Mandalay City Hall from 1 to 4 May.

More than 100 companies will sell Japanese and Korean cars, other vehicles, boats, electronic materials, furniture, healthcare materials, construction materials, home decorations, food, cosmetics and fashion materials, agricultural medicines, utensils and mobile phones at the exhibition.

There will also be a King & Queen of Mandalay 2014 beauty competition and entertainment during the exhibition.

Thiha Ko Ko
(Mandalay)

More than 100 people receive free dental care in southern Myanmar

Palauk, 29 April—A 45-member dental care team has provided free treatment and medicine to 120 patients in Taninthayi Region in southern Myanmar on 28 April morning.

Prior to the treatment at a hospital in Palauk Sub-Township, the patients were asked about oral hygiene and educated on how to take care of their teeth in future.

Leader of the dental health team Dr. Thein Tun Oo of the University of Dental Medicine in Yangon also gave a lecture on dental and oral health.

Palauk IPRD
High-speed vessels to operate on Myeik-Kyunsu route

Myeik, 29 April—Kyantaingaung (3), a vessel on the Myeik-Kyunsu route, operated four times daily from Myeik to Kyunsu in Taninthayi Region in the past. Plans to now use higher speed vessels were submitted to officials due to a decrease in passenger numbers and some other difficulties, according to the vessel owners.

Myeik is a seaport town and TaTkon, Fortune and Aeye Yanadi vessels operate Dawei-Myeik-Kawthong routes along the coastal area in the region through a rotation system. Kyantaingaung and Dohtawywa vessels run the Myeik-Taninthayi route for convenience of local people. The Myeik-Kyunsu route will be run by high-speed vessels and residents who reside in island villages in Kyunsu Township will get smoother water transportation opportunities.

The fare for the 45-minute run Myeik-Kyunsu return is Kyat 1000.

Planning and Investment Subcommittee of the Union Government (Delivery Unit) meets local people

Myeik, 29 April—A meeting between the Planning and Investment Subcommittee of the Union Government (Delivery Unit) and local people took place in Pearl Yadana Hall in Myeik, Taninthayi Region on Tuesday. First, the Chairman of Planning and Investment Subcommittee of the Union Government Deputy Minister for National Planning and Economic Development Daw Le Le Thein explained undertakings of the delivery unit, its aims and purpose of formation.

Region Minister for Planning and Economic U Thein Lwin then reported on arrangements made for planning and economic development in the region. The meeting was also attended by region parliament representatives U Thet Naing and U Aung Hsan Lin, Myeik Township National Parliament Representatives U Moe Myint and U Tin Shan, district/township departmental officials, members of the management supportive development committee and social organization, entrepreneurs, NGOs and INGOs—Moe Hein (Myeik)

Rubber farm workers in Dawei get medical treatment

Myitta, 29 April—A mobile medical team has brought health services to 75 workers at a Rubber Farm owned by Dawei Naga Co., in Ward-2 in Myitta Sub-township in Dawei District.

Number of tricycle taxies on increase in Tatkon Tsp

Tatkon, 29 April—The number of tricycle or tuk-tuk taxies in Tatkon Township of Nay Pyi Taw is increasing due to the high demand, locals have said.

As Nay Pyi Taw does not have a public transport network, people are depending on the tuk-tuk taxis to run errands or conduct business.

According to a local in Mein Village of Htantaungyi Village-tract, “I always rent tricycles when I go to town. The tuk-tuks are much faster and more convenient than bullock carts.”—Township IPRD

Man, cows die in electric wire mishap

Mandalay, 29 April—A man and two cows killed on Saturday in Mandalay Region when a damaged electric power line fell on them. The incident occurred in Kumethabyatha Village in Myittha Township as Thein Htay Zaw, 28 and U Toke Phyu, 65, and their two cows walking under a power line that suddenly broke and landed on them.

Thein Htay Zaw and the two cows were electrocuted.

Mini book corners opened for residents in Ottarathiri Tsp

Nay Pyi Taw, 29 April—To help raise reading habits among the people, officials from the Information and Public Relations Department added the mini book corners on Monday in Shwenanitha Ward in Ottarathiri Township of Nay Pyi Taw and gave an education talk.

Deputy Head of Ottarathiri District IPRD Daw Soe Sanda Waing talked about the advantages of reading and how to seek general knowledge through books to the residents at the administrative office of the ward.—District IPRD

Squall, hail stones hit Sagaing, no one injured

Mohnyin, 29 April—On Friday evening, hailstorms, squalls and heavy rain hit in Kani Township in Sagaing Region in central Myanmar.

No one was injured and locals expressed some relief at lower temperatures accompanying the storms.

But an official from the Meteorology and Hydrology Department warned people need to be aware of the possibility of natural disasters when storms hit and should always be alert for adverse weather announcements from the department. Region IPRD
The military agreement between the two countries was the cornerstone of Obama’s first visit to the Philippines, the United States’ oldest ally in the region. The deal, which will have an initial 10-year term, sets the framework for a beefed-up rotation of US troops, ships and warplanes through the Philippines.

Obama said the accord and his visit — part of a four-nation swing through Asia — demonstrated the US commitment to a “re-balancing” of resources and diplomacy towards the fast-growing region. That commitment has been in doubt as the United States has focused on conflicts in the Middle East and Afghanistan.

“Deepening our alliance is part of our broader vision for the Asia Pacific,” Obama said.

The US president further stressed solidarity with the Philippines as Manila seeks international arbitration over disputed islands in a tense standoff with Beijing.

“International law must be upheld. Freedom of navigation must be preserved,” Obama said.

“Disputes must be resolved peacefully and not by intimidation or by force.”

China claims most of the South China Sea, but the Philippines, Malaysia, Vietnam, Brunei and Taiwan also have overlapping claims to parts of those waters.

Earlier this month, a small Philippine government ship needed to evade a blockade of Chinese coastguard vessels to deliver food, water and fresh troops to a disputed shoal in the Spratly Islands.

The Philippines is seeking United Nations arbitration challenging China’s “nine-dash-line” that stretches deep into the South China Sea and the maritime heart of Southeast Asia. —Reuters

Manila, 29 April

US President Barack Obama said on Monday a new military pact between the United States and the Philippines is testimony to America’s “ironclad” commitment to defend the southeast Asian nation.

The US president’s comments came against the backdrop of tensions between the Philippines and an increasingly powerful China over remote uninhabited islands in the South China Sea. “Our commitment to defend the Philippines is ironclad and the United States will keep that commitment because allies never stand alone,” Obama said.

Sweating profusely in an unairconditioned gymnasium packed with US and Filipino soldiers, veterans and their families, the president said joint US-Filipino rescue efforts after November’s Typhoon Yolanda were the modern-day version of the bravery shown by both country’s troops during World War Two.

N Korea starts live-fire drill near tense western sea border

Washington, 29 April

US Secretary of State John Kerry said on Monday that he had never spoken of Israel as a country linked to apartheid, an episode in the stalled Israeli-Palestinian peace talks that was sparking an outcry both at home and abroad.

“I will not allow my commitment to Israel to be questioned by anyone, particularly for partisan, political purposes, so I want to be crystal clear about what I believe and what I don’t believe,” Kerry said in a written statement.

“Israel is a vibrant democracy and I do not believe, nor have I ever stated, publicly or privately, that Israel is an apartheid state or that it intends to become one,” he added.

Kerry denies remarks linking Israel to apartheid

Miami, 29 April

A new advocacy group calling for the United States to change its policy towards Cuba launched an advertising campaign on Monday with posters on the Washington DC metro system showing President Barack Obama and urging him to “stop waiting.”

“The metro ads by the group #CubaNow are designed to highlight economic changes happening in Cuba. The group believes the 52-year-old US embargo against the communist-ruled island has not worked,” said CubanNow director Ric Herrero.

The group said its mission, unlike other Cuba policy groups, was specifically focused on changing US thinking about Cuba policy. While the group opposes the embargo, it recognised that overturning it in Congress is an uphill battle and other ways can be found to change policy, such as allowing all Americans to travel to Cuba.

“There’s plenty the President can do within his existing authority,” said #CubaNow founding member Andres Díaz, a Cuban-born former Obama administration official at the Department of Commerce. #CubaNow was founded by a group of mostly younger generation Cuban Americans. Herre ro was inspired to discuss its funding.

The group’s launch coincides with the fifth anniversary of Obama’s 2009 steps allowing Cuban-Americans to travel freely to visit relatives in Cuba as well as send remittances. —Reuters

A North Korean soldier observes activities in the south of the truce village of Panmunjom in the demilitarised zone (DMZ) separating North Korea from South Korea, about 35 km (22 miles) north of Seoul, on 25 Sept, 2013.—Reuters

New group, #CubaNow, tells Obama it’s time to change Cuba policy

Washington, 29 April

US President Barack Obama speaks to military troops at the Fort Bonifacio Gymnasium in Manila, on 29 April, 2014.—Reuters

Obama says US commitment to defend Philippines “ironclad”
Tripoli, 29 April — Jordan has agreed to handover a Libyan Islamist to Tripoli to secure the release of its ambassador kidnapped in the North African country two weeks ago, Libya’s state news agency LANA said.

Jordan’s ambassador to Libya, Fawaz al-Itan, was snatched by gunmen who demanded the release of Mohamed Dersi, a Libyan Islamist militant jailed for life in 2007 for plotting to blow up the main airport in Jordan.

Sohar Banun, an undersecretary in Libya’s justice ministry, said both countries had agreed that the ambassador would be released in exchange for Jordan reducing Dersi’s sentence and allowing him to complete his jail term in Libya, LAN said.

“The Jordanian authorities expressed their total readiness to solve this crisis, confirming that the ambassador will be released in exchange for reducing the term of the Libyan prisoner and sending him home to complete his sentence,” he said according to the agency.

“The crisis will be solved according to a memorandum of understanding between the two countries,” said Banun, who heads a department taking care of Libyans jailed abroad.

He gave no details or time frame, and there was no immediate comment from Jordanian or Libyan officials.

Analysts have said agreeing to the kidnappers’ demand could set a dangerous precedent for Jordan, which is an important US ally in the fight against al-Qaeda. Kidnappings have become commonplace in Libya, with foreign diplomats often the targets.

Libyan Islamists have also seized two Tunisian diplomats to demand the release of fellow militants jailed in Tunisia for attacking security forces there in 2011, according to the Tunisian government. Banun hinted at movement in efforts to get the Tunisians released.

Regarding the file of Libyans jailed in Tunisia — Tunisia confirms its wish to cooperate with the Libyan government, especially with the kidnapping of the Tunisian diplomats,” he said according to LAN.

He did not elaborate.

The weak interim government has been unable to disarm former rebels and Islamist militants who fought in the uprising that deposed leader Muammar Gaddafi in 2011 and who have formed increasingly powerful and violent militias. Two weeks ago the interim prime minister resigned after just a month into the job, saying gunmen had tried to attack his family.

—Reuters

United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon (C) poses for a picture with Kazumi Matsui (R), mayor of Hiroshima, and Tomihisa Taue, mayor of Nagasaki, before their meeting at the UN headquarters in New York, on 28 April, 2014. The UN Security Council on Monday unanimously adopted Resolution 1540 on nuclear non-proliferation. —Xinhua

Tripoli, 29 April — The last deployment of US troops arrived in the Baltics with four British fighter jets on Monday as NATO steps up efforts to reassure its allies of Russian tensions with the West over Ukraine.

Four British Royal Air Force Typhoon fighter jets landed in Siauliai air-base in northern Lithuania, the first of 12 fighters that will boost air patrols in the Baltics, and 150 US troops were deployed to the Amber air base in Estonia.

The three Baltic states of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania have small military forces and have been warily watching Russia reassuring itself in its former dominions.

A total of 600 US troops have now been deployed to Poland and the Baltics for infantry exercises, where they are expected to remain on rotation until the end of the year.

“Clearly we are here to reassure our Baltic allies that we are able to protect their airspace, should it be needed,” RAF commanding officer Simon Halme told reporters in Siauliai, standing in front one of the Typhoons.

Siauliai airport, a major military base in Soviet times, lacks modern infrastructure, so the UK squadron will be housed in temporary hangars built on the tarmac. Mission headquarters are housed in a block of metal containers clustered nearby. —Reuters

Japan says Jordan to handover jailed Islamist to get kidnapped ambassador

Japanese Defence Minister Itsunori Onodera (for L) holds talks with his Australian counterpart David Johnston (for R) in Perth, Australia, on 28 April, 2014. —Kyodo News

The premier also said he will pitch Japan’s growth strategy and policy of proactively contributing to global peace during his trip.

In Brussels, Abe will visit the headquarters of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization on 6 May to meet with its Secretary General Anders Rasmussen.

Abe begins 6-nation European tour to strengthen ties

UN chief calls for creating necessary conditions for Iraq poll

United Nations, 29 April — UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on Monday urged necessary conditions for Iraq’s parliamentary elections so that all Iraqis can have their say on the future of their own country.

In a statement issued by his spokesperson on Monday night, Ban said the upcoming parliamentary elections, to be held on Wednesday, mark “an important milestone in Iraq’s democratic transition and can contribute to greater peace and stability in the country.”

Ban welcomed the progress made by the Independent High Electoral Commission in holding these elections on time and in line with national commitments and international standards, the statement said. Meanwhile, the UN chief strongly condemned the wave of violence and terrorist attacks that have targeted political leaders, candidates and electoral staff ahead of the elections and conveyed his deepest condolences to the families of those affected.

“ ‘He urges all political leaders and personalities to create the conditions necessary to enable all Iraqi men and women to participate in the electoral process and to have their say on the future of their country,” said the statement. More than 1 million security personnel, detainees and patients started the early voting in Iraq’s parliamentary elections on Monday when a wave of attacks targeted polling stations across the country, leaving at least 20 people dead and some 50 others wounded. —Kyodo

“... Tunisia confirms its wish to cooperate with the Libyan government, especially with the kidnapping of the Tunisian diplomats,” he said according to LAN.

He did not elaborate.

The weak interim government has been unable to disarm former rebels and Islamist militants who fought in the uprising that deposed leader Muammar Gaddafi in 2011 and who have formed increasingly powerful and violent militias. Two weeks ago the interim prime minister resigned after just a month into the job, saying gunmen had tried to attack his family. —Reuters

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Obama stresses importance of...

(from page 1)
you as a President of Af-
ican descent. (Applause.)
But of course, the job is not
done. There is still dis-
crimination and prejudice
and ethnic conflict inside
the United States that we
have to be vigilant against.
So my point is all of us
have within us biases
and prejudices of people
who are not like us or were
not raised in the same faith
or were not like us or were
not in the same family
or come from a different
ethnic background. But
the world is shrinking. It’s
getting smaller. You could
think that way when we
were all living separately
in villages and tribes, and
we didn’t have contact with
each other. We now
have the Internet and smart
phones, and our cultures are
all colliding. The world has
gotten smaller and no
country is going to succeed
if part of its population is
put on the sidelines be-
cause they’re discriminated
against.
Malaysia won’t suc-
cceed if non-Muslims don’t
have opportunity. (Appl-
ause.)
President Obama made a visit to Myanmar
in November 2012 to offer strong support to
the government of President U Thein Sein for
cementing civilian rule in the Southeast Asia
country. That visit did not emphasize on US’s policy
on Asian region.
While Myanmar is making sweeping re-
forms, territorial disputes of regional countries
and power balance of giant economies are hap-
pening in the region. At this juncture, Myanmar
should complete its peace-making process by
taking lessons on regional problems which are
the hindrances of economic development in the
region.
In fact, the powers are competing for their
influence on regional affairs through their allies.
Myanmar should develop its own strength with-
out letting miserable policies occur again.

APD Director calls for vigilance, reforms to
sustain Asia’s momentum in global growth

The IMF director reaff-
irmed Asia’s momentum
is set to improve to 5.5 per
cent in 2014–15 with the
help of growth drivers im-
proved external demand, ro-
bust labour markets, and
strong credit growth.

But he warned of new
and old risks Asia still faces
and stressed the need to pre-
pare for the risks ahead with
monetary and financial poli-
cies. He added growth in
China and Japan could fall
below expectations, with
negative spillovers for the
rest of the region and called
for curbing rapid domestic
credit growth in Asia’s de-
veloping and frontier econo-
 mies to address domestic
and external imbalances.

Rhee highlighted the im-
portance of removing of
structural impediments to
growth and improvement in
the business climate in
emerging, frontier and
developing economies in the
region.

The meeting in Hong
Kong followed a briefing on
Asia-Pacific economic pros-
pects for 2014 at the IMF’s
2014 Spring Meetings in
Washington, D.C. more than
two weeks ago.

The IMF publishes five
Regional Economic Out-
look reports biennially,
covering Asia and Pacific,
Europe, the Middle East
and Central Asia, Sub-Saharan
Africa, and the Western
Hemisphere.

Recent economic de-
velopments and prospects
for the respective region
are discussed, policy challenges
analyzed and current issues
explored in each report.

In Washington, ahead of
the release of the Asia and
Pacific Regional Economic
Outlook Report, Rhee said
Asia-Pacific will remain
the world’s most dynamic
region and continue to have
Asia’s growth this fiscal
year.

On Myanmar, he high-
lighted inclusive growth
for regional and ethnic groups
is very important for long-
term overall growth, espe-
cially this year, saying
growth is expected to reach
more than 7 per cent.

He also called for ad-
dressing income inequalities
in the early stage of growth
to avoid the same mistakes
that many Asian have en-
countered, particularly as
real estate prices can soar
when outside capital flows
to a country, seriously ex-
cacerbating income inequal-
ity.

The IMF is working
with the Central Bank of
Myanmar for financial sta-
bility and banking sector
development in Myanmar.
Female-dominated Noble Profession in Myanmar &
A Teacher Is Many Things

(Continued from yesterday)
4/ A teacher is an example.

Of the many jobs the teacher has, one of the most basic is that of being an example to his students and to all who think of him as a teacher. Many teachers are uncomfortable with this aspect of teaching. They may think that they are not good enough to be an example to others; they may want to be free of the responsibility of being an example for others. Being an example is a part of teaching that no teacher can escape. When a teacher refuses to accept and fulfill this aspect of teaching, he greatly reduces his effectiveness. Accepted and used with skill, this aspect makes teaching much more meaningful. The quality and power of the teacher’s example vary according to the character and effectiveness of the teacher. The more effective the teacher is, the more powerful he is as an example. The variety of ways the example of the teacher expresses itself in daily work are:

a/ Basic attitudes toward important problems—success, failure, teaching, learning, human ability, love, truth, human relation, religion, work.

b/ Speech: the use of language as the chief means of expressing thought.

c/ Work habits:

d/ Attitude toward experience and mistakes:

e/ Dress:

f/ Human relations:

g/ Thought processes:

h/ Emotional habits:

i/ The system of likes and dislikes which reflect a person’s values.

j/ Judgment: skills used in evaluating all kinds of situations.

k/ Health: the quality of the body, mind, and emotions which reflect in amount of energy, the way one views life, and a true joy in living.

l/ General styles of living:

5/ A teacher is a searcher.

The teacher is a seeker or searcher. He knows not and knows that he knows not, and therefore is himself a fine subject for teaching and learning. For many teachers, this aspect of teaching may be the most painful of them all. Having long acted as an authority, as one who knows, the teacher may think it is not proper to be one who seeks, one who does not know. For other teachers, the growing teacher is satisfying to be one who is forever searching for truth and understanding. The teacher as seeker is a true seeker. He does not merely claim to seek; he really does seek. The teacher’s attitude of not knowing and of searching is easily felt and copied by students. The teacher’s continual seeking to know assures the students that not knowing is natural to life, and is a means of growth rather than a limitation. The teacher as a seeker, one who is in a process of inquiry alive and growing, he is truly a researcher. A teacher as searcher, like the curious child, asks many questions. He is not afraid of the questions or rather he considers them the most important part of the learning process. Nor is he afraid of his own questioning and even stronger doubts. He considers these as a sign of his close relationship with the child, the great need to know and understand. It may be said that the proper balance between that which one knows and believes, and that which one does not know and is seeking to know, enables the individual to have the sureness and commitment to define knowledge and the freedom needed for growth. No balance in life is more difficult to accomplish or more important for the quality of human life than this one. The teacher as seeker will always try to accomplish this goal of balance.

6/ A teacher is a counselor.

The teacher is a counselor for his students and often for their parents. He may not have special training as a counselor and may not wish to counsel people. Many teachers believe that counseling is too much like trying to govern other people’s lives and so they are uncomfortable in this situation. Yet to be a teacher at any level is to be a counsellor. The learner, often lonely and troubled by difficult problems, will go to his teacher for help. Indeed the learning situation is the very soul out of which the questions of life arise. A teacher will want to understand this counselling aspect of his work and try to do it well. Confidence and respect between teacher and student will continue by protecting the students’ trust. There is always a danger that an adult will consider unimportant a matter that a student considers very important. In reality, the kind of counselling a teacher does seems to be simply giving a friend the benefit of one’s own experience. If the student has to learn by himself, but there are times when he can ask about some of the major problems and how they have best been dealt with. If he will profit greatly from an understandable, helpful answer from one who has special experience. Further, it will probably be better if the counsel is asked for, that wise teacher carefully avoids forcing either counsel or confidence upon the student.

7/ A teacher is a creator.

The teacher is both a creator and one who ex- erties creativity in others. To understand the process of teaching, we need to explain what creativity means. Man often limits himself by his own opinions and ideas about things and people. Thus our idea of human ability has often been incorrect because of false standards. The meaning of truth or love has been limited by what we can know or feel. The creative person, for example, is everywhere in the living world. We can see the creative process of nature in the growth of plants and the activities of animals, and in the wind and the rain that shape the rocks and hills. Man shares in these and other aspects of the creative process. His making of physical things has been greatly extended beyond animal activity, as seen in buildings, tools, games, roads, inventions. The creativity in the mental area has been almost unbelievable: literature, art, music, philosophy, law, science. These all depend on the greatest creation of all in the mental area: language.

The teacher as creator senses the unlimited creative potential of his students. All his activities are guided by this realization. He is himself a creator. Our idea of creativity and creating should be extended until it includes all possible forms of making things. The teacher should be interested not so much in himself as in the thing created and in the creator. The classroom presents an excellent opportunity for developing the very rewarding ability of en- joying the creative work of one’s associates. If the teacher is quick to notice the areas in which various students may be very creative, the group can work together and enjoy one another’s work.

8/ A teacher is an authority.

The teacher is an authority: one who knows and knows that he knows. He must know—not everything, and not anything completely, for that is impossible, but what he knows. The term “teacher” demands it, for does not teaching mean knowing something to teach? Questions made by students will never cease as long as the young must learn, as long as man at any age desires to know. The teacher must be willing and able to say, “I do not know,” for this will often be true, and for the teacher, truth is precious. However, it must not be necessary for him to say, “I do not know” too often or about too many things, for then he will not be able to be a teacher. The wise teacher does not deny or lessen the importance of what he knows; nor does he make others believe that he knows when he real- ly does not. Surely the teacher is not perfect, but as an authority he knows more and is more than those he teaches. Yet the problem still remains: There is much he knows; there is more he does not know.

The teacher as one who truly knows “carries” his accomplishment lightly and naturally. This principle was once stated in the flowing way: “Wear your learning, like your watch, in a private pocket; do not merely pull it out to show you have one. If you are asked what o’clock it is, tell it; but…not…hourly and unasked like the watchman.” This attitude enables the authority to meet the learner with ease and respect. Such a teacher neither worships the one who knows more nor dislikes the one who knows less, but meets everyone equally. Such a teacher builds respect for knowledge, its power, its limitations, and its relation to human growth.

9/ A teacher is an spinner of vision.

The teacher provides a vision of greatness for his students. He sees their varied potential as human beings. As a provider of a vision of greatness the teacher is a spin- ner of sharing with students of all ages this idea of the worth and meaning of each individual. There are numerous sources of the vision of greatness from which the teacher may get help: science, art, music and the literature of the world, to name only a few. We must understand that the dream or vision will always be beyond the accomplishment. As accomplishment approaches vision, it is natural to man to extend and broaden the vision.

10/ A teacher is a doer of routine.

With some skill, the teacher does a large num- ber of sometimes tiring and often boring routines. If these activities are poorly done or not done at all, they can harm the teacher’s effectiveness in all other aspects of his teaching. Further, if the teacher begins to dislike these routines, his general atti- tude toward teaching may be harmed. Suffice it to say that the teachers’ role is of great importance in nur- turing future’s leaders. It is firmly believed that we owe it to train and retain the service of good and able teachers, as promptly as we can.

Ref: A teacher is many things by Earl V Pullias and James D. Young 1968 Indiana University Press

(Concluded)

Myanmar, Japan eye closer cooperation on infrastructure development

NAY PYI TAW, 29 April—Union Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lwin held talks with a Japanese delegation led by Yoshikado Noda, the Prime Minister of Japan. The talks for cooperation in infrastructure development, focusing on the Prime Minister of Myanmar and Japan will be cemented through cooperation in development projects.

Noda also expressed belief the meeting would help boost cooperation between the two countries.

During the meeting, the managing director of Public Works gave an account of acquisition of assistance from Japan for infrastructure development in Myanmar.
Cave-in at subway construction site kills two

LANZHOU, 29 April — Two workers were killed after a cave-in at a subway construction site in Lanzhou City in northwest China’s Gansu Province, local authorities said on Tuesday.

The accident happened at about 11:30 pm on Monday at a construction site on Subway Line 1 as the two workers were preparing to lay the sewage pipelines in a 3-metre-deep tunnel.

They were buried in the collapse and died at the scene. The cause of the accident is being investigated.

Fire breaks out at Indian PM’s Office

NEW DELHI, 29 April — A fire broke out at the Indian Prime Minister’s Office in the national capital on Tuesday morning, a senior police official said.

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh or his staff were, however, not there at the time of the incident, he said on condition of anonymity.

“Six fire engines have been pressed into service to douse the flames. But it is not clear whether any important file has been destroyed in the fire,” the official said.

A probe has been ordered to ascertain the cause of the fire, he added.—Xinhua

Japan to deny visas to 23 Russians over Ukraine

TOKYO, 29 April — The Japanese government said on Tuesday it will deny visas to 23 Russian nationals including government officials as part of its additional sanctions against Moscow for its lack of visible action to reduce tensions in Ukraine.

Tokyo announced the measures following decisions on Monday by the United States and the European Union to impose additional sanctions against Russia, including asset freezes and visa bans, for Moscow’s failure to meet an 17 April accord with them and Ukraine to take steps to de-escalate tensions in eastern Ukraine.

Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida told reporters on Tuesday at Narita airport, “We need to call on Russia to restrain itself and act responsibly.”—Kyodo News

Plane dives to 75 metres above waters in Okinawa, nobody hurt

TOKYO, 29 April — The transport ministry said on Tuesday a plane of Japanese budget carrier Peach Aviation Ltd the previous day dived to 75 metres above the sea in Okinawa Prefecture while trying to land at Naha airport, after a pilot “misunderstood” instructions from air traffic controllers. None of the 59 passengers and crew members aboard the Airbus A320-200 was injured as the aircraft turned upward to avoid a crash and landed safely after being alerted by a ground proximity warning system, the ministry said.

The 45-year-old Argentine captain of the plane, which headed for Naha from Ishigaki Island, a remote island in Okinawa, said he mistakenly believed the controllers had told the aircraft to descend as it approached the airport, according to the ministry.

The plane made a descent to the sea at around 7 kilometers north of the airport. Visibility is believed to have been low at that time due to rain.

The Japan Transport Safety Board is set to probe the incident by sending investigators to Kansai Airport, where Peach Aviation is based. The plane departed from Ishigaki Island at 11:02 am on Monday and landed at Naha at 12:10 pm after the warning system was activated at 11:47 am, according to the ministry.

An official of the Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism Ministry said the aircraft was in “a dangerous situation as it could have crashed into the sea.”—Kyodo News

"Abenomics" generates modest spillovers in Asia so far

NEW YORK, 29 April — Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe’s raft of economic policies, dubbed “Abenomics,” has delivered a “significant pickup in growth” in Japan, but the impact on other Asian economies has so far been “modest,” the International Monetary Fund said in a report.

The lending agency said it had suggested in a previous analysis that the policy set of monetary easing, fiscal stimulus and growth strategy would create positive spillovers such as encouraging capital flows into these countries after it was unveiled following Abe’s ascension to power in December 2012.

But these effects were found to vary across economies and “spillover effects within Asia so far have been modest,” the IMF said in the Regional Economic Outlook report on Asia and the Pacific.

The IMF said Japan’s export recovery has been slower than initially forecast, which could be attributable to factors such as geopolitical tensions with China, an expectation by America to answer ten questions about the energy law, from how the country will avoid large-scale corruption?, Cuaron asked. Congress is currently hashing out the fine print of the energy reform through a series of so-called secondary laws that are due to be approved in the coming months.

From his official twitter account, Pena Nieto thanked Cuaron for the questions and said the government would answer them once the secondary laws were presented. “Your questions enrich the debate and will help Mexicans to understand the reaches and benefits of the reform more precisely,” he tweeted.—Reuters

Police commandos display their skills during a passing out parade, upon the completion of their three-month training at Pakistan Rangers (Punjab) Headquarters in eastern Pakistan’s Lahore on 28 April, 2014. About 105 policemen completed their commando training on Monday to combat terrorism.—Xinhua

Director Alfonso Cuaron (R) and environmentalist Shehersaze Goldsmith arrive at the 2014 Vanity Fair Oscars Party in West Hollywood, California on 3 March, 2014. —REUTERS

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San Francisco, 29 April — Google Inc said it has begun testing its self-driving cars on city streets, a crucial new phase in its quest to eventually make the technology a standard feature in automobiles.

After several years of testing self-driving cars on freeways, where driving conditions are more predictable, Google in the past year shifted its focus to city street driving, the company said in a post on its official blog on Monday.

Google said it had driven thousands of miles on the streets of Mountain View, California, a small suburban community where the company maintains its headquarters roughly 35 miles South of San Francisco. Google’s driverless cars rely on video cameras, radar sensors, lasers and a database of information collected from manually driven cars to help navigation, according to the company.

“A mile of city driving is much more complex than a mile of freeway driving, with hundreds of different objects moving according to different rules of the road in a small area,” wrote Chris Urmson, the director of Google’s self-driving car project in the blog post on Monday.

“We’ve improved our software so it can detect hundreds of distinct objects simultaneously — pedestrians, buses, a stop sign held up by a crossing guard, or a cyclist making gestures that indicate a possible turn,” Urmson said.

Google is one of several companies, including automakers Nissan Motor Co, Volkswagen AG’s Audi and Toyota Motor Corp, testing self-driving car technology. Both Nissan and Mercedes-Benz parent Daimler AG say they plan to start selling self-driving cars by 2020.

Yahoo ramps up video effort with new online comedy video series

SAN FRANCISCO, 29 April — Yahoo Inc bolstered its line-up of online video programming on Monday with two original comedy series and a new Web channel that will stream live concerts.

The two comedy series, which Yahoo will show on its website next year, are the first long-form original comedies in Yahoo’s growing selection of online videos. Each series will consist of eight 30-minute episodes which Yahoo will post on its website all at once. The new programmes underscore the struggling Web portal’s efforts to bolster its traffic and its advertising revenue by streaming more video programmes on its website. Yahoo operates some of the world’s most frequently visited online destinations, but its revenue has been stagnant for several years.

Online videos are particularly appealing to Internet companies such as Yahoo because of the high-priced video ads that can be sold alongside the programmes.

Other Space, a “galactic adventure” set in the 22nd century, is being created for Yahoo by Paul Feig, who directed the film Bridesmaids and who created the Futurama and Geek television series. Sun City Saints, which follows the owner of a fictional pro basketball expansion team, is the product of executive producer Mike Tollin and director Bryan Gordon, whose resumes include TV shows such as Smallville, One Tree Hill and Curb Your Enthusiasm.

A Yahoo spokeswoman declined to discuss the financial terms involved in the video deals. Yahoo also announced a new partnership with concert promoter Live Nation that will involve streaming one live concert every day beginning in the summer. Internet companies are increasingly rushing to produce original online video programming, as consumers spend more time on the web and as devices such as the Roku and Microsoft Corp’s Xbox allow consumers to stream online video straight to their television sets.

Study in Europe eclipses notion home in the sun equals happiness

LONDON, 29 April — Sun seekers who leave northern Europe for warmer climes are marginally less happy than those left behind, a study found.

A sample of more than 300 migrants from Belgium, Switzerland, Germany, the Netherlands, France and Britain who resettled in Mediterranean countries found that they were slightly less satisfied with life than a much larger sample of 56,000 people living in northern countries.

The sun lovers scored 7.3 out of a possible 10 on average on a “happiness” scale while the stay-at-homes came in at an average of 7.5 percent, according to the study released on Wednesday by Dr David Bartram, a senior lecturer in the Department of Sociology at England’s University of Leicester.

“The key finding from the analysis is that people from northern Europe who migrated to southern Europe are less happy than the stayers in northern Europe,” Bartram said.

He said the migrants had higher incomes than the average in their new country and some theories had predicted that this would make them happier.

The reverse proved to be the case, he said, perhaps because “migration itself can be disruptive to other dimensions of people’s lives — social ties, sense of belonging — possibly with consequences for their happiness. "Perhaps any positive subjective consequences were outweighed by negative consequences arising from the more general disruptive effects of international migration on one’s life,” he said in a statement.

Utah sperm swap ‘unacceptable’ but still unexplained: university docs

WASHINGTON, 29 April — A University of Utah committee investigating reports that a Salt Lake City fertility clinic worker artifically inseminated a patient with his own sperm called the practice “unacceptable.” But it said it could not determine whether the switch was intentional.

The university committee, which is being created for the clinics and frequently registered sperm donor at Reproductive Medical Technologies Inc, claimed genetic testing revealed that, instead of her husband, a lab technician who fathered their daughter in the early 1990s. The technician, Tom Lippert, has since died.

The committee of three university physicians, tasked with reviewing the case and making recommendations to the institution, said in a report released on Thursday that it was unclear how the Brumun switch occurred or whether it was accidental or done on purpose.

“Either explanation is unacceptable from the perspective of the committee and, presumably, the Brumans and any other couples who might be similarly affected,” the report said. Lippert, who had a criminal record, was hired without a background check in 1988 and worked part-time at both RMT and the Community Lab, the report said. He was also a registered sperm donor at the clinics and frequently supplied samples.

Cost of cyber attacks on British companies rises

LONDON, 29 April — The financial damage to British companies from cyber security breaches has doubled in the past year, according to a government-commissioned survey released on Tuesday.

Though the number of companies hit by information security breaches was down on the previous 12 months, the survey found that the severity and impact of attacks has increased. The average cost of the worst cyber security breach for big companies was between £600,000 pounds ($1 million) and 1.2 million pounds, up from 450,000-850,000 pounds in the 2013 survey.

Cable this year said that cyber defences were becoming increasingly sophisticated, requiring businesses to strengthen their defences.

Royal Bank of Scotland reported in December that an attack by hackers had caused problems for customers accessing their accounts. British Business Secretary Vince Cable this year said that cyber security is a “top-tier international security priority” and key industries, including finance, energy and transport, have been told to improve plans to protect against disruption to essential services.

Handout photo courtesy of the Nevada Department of Motor Vehicles shows what the Google self-driven car sees while navigating the road network in Las Vegas, Nevada, on 1 May, 2012. —Reuters

A Yahoo logo is pictured in front of a building in Rolle, 30 km (19 miles) east of Geneva, in this file picture taken on 12 Dec, 2012. —Reuters

Yahoo by Paul Feig, who directed the film Bridesmaids, which followed the owner of a fictional pro basketball expansion team, is the product of executive producer Mike Tollin and director Bryan Gordon, whose resumes include TV shows such as Smallville, One Tree Hill and Curb Your Enthusiasm. A Yahoo spokeswom\n
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Japan requests to join international expert panel on MH370 probe

**KUALA LUMPUR, 29 April —** Malaysian Defence Minister Hishammuddin Hussein said here on Tuesday that Japan had requested to participate in the international expert panel for the missing plane investigation during his meeting with his Japanese counterpart Itsunori Onodera.

He said they welcomed Japan to join the international expert panel, as it was credible and transparent, and involved the whole world. “This is where I’ve seen that we have no problem to get these people come on board, because the world wants to know about MH370,” he said, adding that what they found would probably change the aviation history, not only on the civil side, but also on the military side.

He said the search and recovery operation had entered the phase of deep sea search, with only a limited number of countries and companies having the equipment to carry it out.

As to the report that Japan had announced to withdraw from the search operation, Hishammuddin said the Japanese defence minister just asked him what assistance Japan could provide. —Xinhua

**Around China: Unmanned helicopters help Chinese farmers**

**HEFEI, 29 April —** Each April, farmers in east China’s Anhui Province turn to protect crops from pests and disease, but for those who work the wheat fields in Liuzhai Village, the job has been made a little easier with help from above.

In this village in Boszhou City, several unmanned remote-control helicopters were busy spraying pesticides over the fields. “I cannot imagine that four helicopters finished spraying farm chemicals on 1,000 mu (66.7 hectares) of land within two hours,” said Liu Baohua, a villager from Liuzhai Village.

Zhang Kunyi, the technician who controlled the helicopters, said that each helicopter can carry about 15 kilograms of pesticides to spray 20 to 25 mu of land. Liu said it used to take farmers two days to cover that amount of land. In addition to fatigue from carrying heavy pesticides while working, farmers were often soaked in health-threatening chemicals, Liu said.

The crop-dusting helicopters have not only improved farming efficiency, but also protect farmers from poisonous pesticides.

Along with Anhui, unmanned helicopters have also become popular in farming in the provinces of Hubei, Henan, Hebei, Shandong and Jiangxi since 2012, according to Zhou Liru, chairman of Boszhou City Traffic Intelligence Aviation Plant Protection Technology Co., Ltd., where the helicopters were produced. —Xinhua

**Investors wary as anti-Vietnamese feeling grows in Cambodia**

On 29 April, Cambodians have long borne a grudge against the Vietnamese. The country was caught between Vietnamese kingdoms and for generations, many Cambodians have believed Vietnam wants to take over their land.

At various times, Cambodian politicians have found it useful to play up that fear. In late 1978, Vietnamese forces invaded to overthrow the Khmer Rouge who vilified Vietnam and launched cross-border raids. Vietnam occupied Cambodia for the next 11 years.

Recently, the resurgence of anti-Vietnamese sentiment, seeking to capitalize on Hun Sen’s association with long-ruling Prime Minister Hun Sen’s association with the Cambodian National Rescue Party (CNRP) has stoked anti-Vietnamese sentiment, —Reuters
A UH-1 helicopter of Uruguay’s Air Force participates in the multinational exercise “Cooperation III”, a rescue drill in the province of Pisco, Ica’s department, Peru, on 28 April, 2014. Peru’s Air Force will participate in the multinational exercise “Cooperation III”, with the collaboration of 13 armed forces of the continent, for support in case of natural disasters as earthquakes and tsunami. —Xinhua

Maldives seeks investors for countrywide ferry system

Male, 29 April — The Maldives government has begun to seek investors for establishing a countrywide sea transport ferry network, on a joint venture partnership basis with the government, local media said here on Tuesday. The government is looking for international investors who can overcome the geographical challenges in a feasible manner and establish a modern, comfortable and fast ferry network across the country.

Upon completion, the new ferry system will go across 20 atolls between 179 transit islands.

According to the local media, the current ferry system is inadequate and unable to meet demand for access to proper medical facilities, education and employment opportunities. “To the party that undertakes this project, the government will award two islands for a period of 50 years, exempted of land rent, to develop tourist resorts,” an official from the Ministry of Transport and Communications said. —Xinhua

THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF ENERGY
MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE
(2014)

Open tenders are invited for supply of the following respective items in United States Dollars and Myanmar Kyats.

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<th>Sr.No</th>
<th>Tender No</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<td>Spares for Rig Engine/Rig Pump Ex HDD Rig</td>
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<td>9 5/8” Float shoes and Collars (P-110, 5 1/2”)</td>
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--- Tender Closing Date & Time ---

- Tender Closing Date & Time - 26-5-2014, 16:30 Hr.
- Tender Document shall be available during office hours commencing from 29th April, 2014 at the Finance Department, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, No (44) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

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**ENTERTAINMENT**

**Cannes has majority female jury, first time since 2009**

PARIS, 29 April — New Zealand director Jane Campion will head a jury of five women and four men for this year’s Cannes international film festival — its first majority female judging panel since 2009.

The world’s most prestigious international film festival, which made the announcement on Monday, has often been criticized for giving short shrift to women in cinema.

Campion is the only female director ever to win the festival’s top prize, the Palme d’Or, which she secured with her 1993 film “The Piano”.

Joining her will be American director Sofia Coppola and actresses Lea Seydoux of France, Leila Hatami of Iran and South Korea’s Jeon Do-yeon, the festival said.

Also on the panel will be American actor Willem Dafoe, Mexican actor and director Garcia Bernal, Chinese director Jia Zhangke and Danish director Nicolas Winding Refn.

Two of the 18 feature-length films in competition this year were made by women - Japanese director Naomi Kawase’s “Still the Water” and Italian director Alice Rohrwacher’s “Le Meraviglie”.

**Kickstarter, rappers De La Soul headline Webby Award winners**

NEW YORK, 29 April — Crowdfunding website Kickstarter veteran hip-hop group De La Soul and a Harvard University professor on Monday won Webby Awards, the annual honours for Internet excellence.

They were joined by the likes of R&B singer Beyonce, vacation rental site Airbnb and Twitter Inc’s video app Vine as headlining winners of the awards, which will be celebrated next month in New York.


The Webby Awards recognize websites, online video, social media, apps and interactive advertising.

The awards are given by the International Academy of Digital Arts & Sciences. This year’s judges include Kevin Spacey and Dana Brunetti, producers of Netflix’s Emmy-winning documentary series "House of Cards.

**Wedding bells for Naomi Watts, Liev Schreiber?**

LOS ANGELES, 29 April — Celebrity couple Naomi Watts and Liev Schreiber are reportedly contemplating getting married.

The couple, who have sons Sasha and Samuel Kai together, had apparently planned a wedding in 2008 as well but it could not take place, reported Radar Online.

“While Naomi and Liev have had their ups and downs, including a cancelled New Year’s Eve wedding that they’ve finally worked out their differences and are rethinking marriage,” a source said.

Liev helped in boosting the actress’ confidence which was said to be affected after receiving criticism for her 2013 movie "The Impossible".

“While Noami and Liev have had their ups and downs, Liev played a huge role in getting her confidence back so she could carry on with the four more films she had in production,” the source added.

**Beyonce, Jay Z will tour together this summer**

LOS ANGELES, 24 April — Beyonce and Jay Z, pop music’s first couple, will tour together for the first time this summer, the R&B singer and rapper announced on Monday.

Beyonce, 32, and Jay Z, 44, who have collaborated on several songs together, will begin their 16-date North American “On The Run” tour on 25 June at Sun Life Stadium in Miami.

They will also perform concerts at the Rose Bowl in Pasadena, California, and MetLife Stadium in East Rutherford, New Jersey, as well as in Toronto and Winnipeg, Manitoba.

The tour promoted by Live Nation Entertainment Inc will finish on 5 August at San Francisco’s AT&T Park.

The couple, who married in 2008 and have a daughter, most recently scored a hit with the song “Drunk in Love.” Earlier hits together include “Crazy in Love” and “03 Bonnie & Clyde.” — Reuters

**New “X-Men” movie to premier in China**

BEIJING, 29 April — “X-Men: Days of the Future Past”, the latest of the X-Men franchise, will hit Chinese and US cinemas on the same day, 23 May, announced Twentieth Century Fox’s microblog on Monday.

The new X-Men movie will be the fifth Hollywood import in 2014 to be released simultaneously in China and the United States, after “Jack Ryan: Shadow Recruit”, “Need for Speed”, “Captain America: Winter Soldier” and “Rio 2.” In 2013, only three films were screened in this way.

Earlier screening and promotions involving big stars are becoming a popular way for Hollywood companies to tap into the Chinese, now the world’s second largest, movie market.

Insiders suggest that simultaneous release can help avoid spoilers and piracy, where a large number of people watch downloaded films. Timely screening also helps more film stars to visit China.

The movie features Chinese star Fan Bingbing. In March, Chinese fans received Chris Evans and Scarlett Johansson (Captain America), Andrew Garfield (Spider Man) and Johnny Depp (Transcendence).

Twentieth Century Fox has not announced any specific plans for promotions in China.

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General

US storm system that killed 16 causes tornado in Mississippi

VILONIA, (Ark), 29 April — A ferocious storm system caused a twister in Mississippi and threatened tens of millions of people across the US Southeast on Monday, a day after it spawned tornadoes that killed 16 people and tossed cars like toys in Arkansas.

“On the whole,” he said, "I was very excited... I felt like a kid again and that stuff I didn't have the guts to do before. Basically, it's actually fun, I'm sort of experimenting with stuff I didn't have the guts to do before. Basically, he's not swimming as far, he's only been training once a day.”

While Rio may still be more than two years away, Phelps and Bowman did give away some clues about their short-term plans. Phelps will swim again at another USA Grand Prix meet in Charlotte, North Carolina next month before heading to Colorado for intense high-altitude training. In their previous incarnation, Bowman put Phelps through a torturous training routine to get him into shape to cope with a heavy race schedule but Phelps has dramatically cut back on his workouts this time even though he piled on almost 40 pounds (18 kilograms) in retirement. And although neither man will talk about which races they may compete in at Rio, Bowman has already indicated that it will be less races and shorter events. “His training is much different, it's actually half and in some cases a third of what he used to do,” Bowman said.

What “we’re doing wouldn’t work for 17 swims in eight days but it might work for six or seven swims in shorter races.”

"It's actually fun, I'm sort of experimenting with stuff I didn't have the guts to do before. Basically, he's not swimming as far, he's only been training once a day.”

The only thing Phelps would publicly confirm about his future plans was that he was ditching the 400 meters individual medley the most grueling, long-bursting event on the Olympic swimming schedule, which he won at Athens and Beijing but lost in London.

Rescue workers, volunteers and victims have been sifting through the rubble of what is left of homes after a tornado hit the town of Vilonia on 28 April, 2014.—Reuters

People sift through the rubble of what is left of homes after a tornado hit the town of Vilonia on 28 April, 2014.—Reuters

People search through the rubble of destroyed houses a day after a tornado hit the town of Vilonia, Arkansas on 28 April, 2014.—Reuters

Signs all encouraging for Phelps in comeback

PHOENIX, 29 April — He did not win any gold medals or set any world records but Michael Phelps ticked all the boxes he needed in his comeback to competitive swimming.

Only time will tell whether Phelps will stick with his comeback and swim at the 2016 Rio Olympics and possibly add to his mind-boggling collection of 18 gold medals.

But for now, the signs are all good. The 28-year-old deliberately chose a relatively low key meet in suburban Phoenix for his return and competed in just two events but there were enough signs to show he can do it if he wants to. “On the whole,” he told reporters on Friday. “I think it felt pretty good. "I was very excited... I felt like a kid again and that was the coolest thing about it.”

Despite his staggering achievements, Phelps and longtime coach Bob Bowman have always been coy about revealing their plans and nothing has changed. Both insist they have not hatched any long term plans and are sticking to the sportsman’s mantra that they are taking things one day at a time although a clearly relaxed Phelps said he was enjoying himself and his times indicated he was already in good shape. “I was just kind of literally getting my feet wet again,” he said.

"This is one meet, it's one race. It’s a long way from whether I decide to continue or not, but this was awesome.”

“I’m really excited about how things went and I do know what I need to do if I want to continue and want to swim faster and obviously I like swimming faster and every race.”

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Reuters
Newcastle’s Pardew targets top 10 amid fan unrest

LONDON, 29 April — Under-fire Newcastle United manager Alan Pardew vowed to arrest their slide and finish in the top 10 after they suffered a 3-0 loss at Arsenal on Monday, extending their dismal run to six straight league defeats.

 Ninth-placed Newcastle looked limp in defence and toothless in attack as they struggled to live with Arsenal’s attacking flair and Arsene Wenger’s side raced into a 2-0 lead thanks to goals from Laurent Koscielny and Mesut Ozil.

 Brazil expects and hopes to kill off ghost of 1950

SAO PAULO, 29 April — With a passionate crowd behind them, a savvy coach and a settled team enjoying a sparkling run of form Brazil are hot favourites to lift a record sixth World Cup this July.

After their quarter-final defeat to the Netherlands four years ago, coach Dunga was replaced by Brazil’s callow group of youngsters into one capable of great things.

The way they waltzed through the Confederations Cup last year, defeating Uruguay and Italy on the road to a 3-0 final drubbing of world champions Spain, was unforgettable and instilled a belief in the side missing for the best part of a decade.

Brazil have won seven games in a row and 13 of their last 14, and fans no longer wonder whether they can win the competition, they are expecting it.

The worry, however, is whether they have peaked too early.— Reuters

Juventus move to within touching distance of Serie A title

ROM, 29 April — Juventus came back from 4-1 behind to beat Sassuolo 3-1 on Monday and moved within one win of their third straight Italian Serie A title.

With three games to go this season, Antonio Conte’s side extended their lead over Roma to eight points thanks to goals from Carlos Tevez, Claudio Marchisio and Fernando Llorente.

The Turin giants could win their third Scudetto in a row if they beat Atalanta at home in seven days’ time, or if Roma fail to win at Catania 24 hours earlier.

Simone Zaza put the hosts ahead in the ninth minute after meeting striking partner Nicola Sansone’s pass and fired the ball past Gianluigi Buffon.

Juventus did not manage their first meaningful effort until the 22nd minute when Tevez shot a volley wide of the left-hand post after being teed up by Giorgio Chiellini.

The Argentine striker equalized 10 minutes before the break when he sent a powerful shot past Sassuolo goalkeeper Gianluca Pegolo.

Marchisio made it 2-1 for the visitors 13 minutes after the interval as he caressed a low finish beyond Pegolo after being picked out by Andrea Pirlo’s deft ch ip over the Sassuolo backline.

Tevez nearly scored a brace when he struck the crossbar with a curling effort 13 minutes from time. Juve did claim the third goal that their second-half dominance merited when Llorente turned home substitute Stephan Lichtsteiner’s cross in the 76th minute.— Xinhua

New Zealand’s Pardew targets top 10 amid fan unrest

YANGON, 29 April — The Myanmar national and Myanmar National League club Nay Pyi Taw FC will play friendly matches against Singapore Lions XII at Thuwana Youth Training Center in Yangon, the Myanmar Football Federation (MFF) said on Tuesday.

The President of Myanmar Taekwondo Federation is seen together with champions Aung San Club at awarding ceremony for Summer Taekwondo Competitions for 2014.— Photo: MAY

Myanmar, Nay Pyi Taw FC to play friendlies against Singapore Lions XII

YANGON, 29 April — Myanmar Taekwondo Federation organized the Federation’s President Cup Summer Taekwondo Dancing Competitions at Thuwana stadium on Tuesday. Altogether six clubs participated in the single, double and group events. Aung San Club emerged champions in the tourney. —NLM

A photo of a soccer match in Yangon.