President wishes Myanmar people ‘happy, pleasant, safe water festival’

NAY PYI TAW, 14 April—President U Thein Sein celebrated Thingyan at the Presidential Palace here on Tuesday, taking part in the traditional water festival that ushers in the New Year in Myanmar.

The president extended best wishes for “a happy, pleasant and safe festival” to the people of the country, while Daw Khin Khin Win joined her husband in wishing all citizens “peace of mind, health of body and a fulfilling life.”

The president and his wife presented cash awards to entertainment troupes, following their performances.

Two Vice Presidents, Dr Sai Mauk Kham and U Nyan Tun, together with their wives, presented cash awards to dance troupes.

Dr Sai Mauk Kham and wife Daw Nan Shwe Hmon expressed their wish that all people in Myanmar could possess a renewed strength of spirit and a new life in the coming year. Their New Year’s wishes also included the (See page 3)

Japan vows to assist peace process in Myanmar

By Ye Myint

YANGON, 14 April — Celebrations continued apace Tuesday on Akya Day, the first official day of the Thingyan New Year Water Festival, with hundreds of thousands of revelers dancing and throwing water along Yangon’s main roads.

The merriment followed similar scenes on Monday on Akyo Day, officially the eve of the Thingyan Festival.

Kaba-Aye Pagoda Road next to Inya Lake, 7 kilometres from downtown, drew large crowds of merrymakers for the festival which runs until 16 April.

The Merriment followed similar scenes on Monday on Akyo Day, officially the eve of the Thingyan Festival.

Kaba-Aye Pagoda Road next to Inya Lake, 7 kilometres from downtown, drew large crowds of merrymakers for the festival which runs until 16 April.

To the beat of music, throngs of Thingyan goers danced on and around water-throwing pavilions from Pyay Road to Kaba-Aye Pagoda Road and from Kandawgyi Ring Road to downtown streets.

“We danced freely and happily with the crowd,” a group of four men from India who were drenched with water told The Global New Light of Myanmar near a pandal opposite the Sedona Hotel.

“Thingyan Festival is marvelous,” added a man from the group as they joined a dancing crowd.

“I have not seen yet any brawls until now,” said a street hawker, adding that all hawkers are expected to do a brisk trade during the Thingyan period.

A taxi-driver said this year’s New Year celebration saw more revellers around the city despite there being fewer pavilions than the previous year.

As many major entertainment sites are on Kandawgyi Ring Road, revellers have to spend almost a whole day there, getting stuck in Yangon Thingyan traffic, he added.

Pyay Road, where there are few entertainment stages with water-throwing pavilions, was also filled with merrymakers in cars.—GNLM

Myanmar New Year Water Festival revelry continues in Yangon

By Ye Myint

YANGON, 14 April — Celebrations continued apace Tuesday on Akya Day, the first official day of the Thingyan New Year Water Festival, with hundreds of thousands of revelers dancing and throwing water along Yangon’s main roads.

The merriment followed similar scenes on Monday on Akyo Day, officially the eve of the Thingyan Festival.

Kaba-Aye Pagoda Road next to Inya Lake, 7 kilometres from downtown, drew large crowds of merrymakers for the festival which runs until 16 April.

To the beat of music, throngs of Thingyan goers danced on and around water-throwing pavilions from Pyay Road to Kaba-Aye Pagoda Road and from Kandawgyi Ring Road to downtown streets.

“We danced freely and happily with the crowd,” a group of four men from India who were drenched with water told The Global New Light of Myanmar near a pandal opposite the Sedona Hotel.

“Thingyan Festival is marvelous,” added a man from the group as they joined a dancing crowd.

“I have not seen yet any brawls until now,” said a street hawker, adding that all hawkers are expected to do a brisk trade during the Thingyan period.

A taxi-driver said this year’s New Year celebration saw more revellers around the city despite there being fewer pavilions than the previous year.

As many major entertainment sites are on Kandawgyi Ring Road, revellers have to spend almost a whole day there, getting stuck in Yangon Thingyan traffic, he added.

Pyay Road, where there are few entertainment stages with water-throwing pavilions, was also filled with merrymakers in cars.—GNLM

President U Thein Sein enjoys Maha Thingyan Festival at Presidential Palace.—MNA

COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF enjoys water festival

Page-3

Diplomats enjoy water festival on Maha Thingyan Akyo Day

Page-2

Changes should be followed by maturity

Page-8

Peace of Mind

Page-8
Diplomats enjoy water festival on Maha Thingyan Akya Day

Union Minister U Wunna Maung Lwin sprinkling fragrant water on a diplomat on Myanmar New Year water festival’s Akya Day. — MNA

Power pole collapses under heavy wind in southern Shan State

Nay Pyi Taw, 14 April — Strong wind on Monday destroyed Z2 suspension tower number 144 through which 132 KV national grid number 1 passes Patpin and Kalaw townships near Taunggyi, the capital of Shan State. Collapse of the transmission tower at around 2 p.m. on April 14 cut electricity distribution of Namsang, Kholam, Loilem and Mongnai townships.

After the power line was temporarily substituted with 132 KV national grid number 2 by the 35 staff members of electricity department, power could be re-distributed at around 3 p.m. — MNA

Fire stations in Salin Tsp receive new fire trucks

Nay Pyi Taw, 14 April — Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development Dr. Kan Zaw switched on a 200KVA transformer to supply electricity to Inpok Village, Salin Township, on 12 April.

Departmental officials spoke about efforts of the government for power supply to the entire nation, plans of assignment for one health staff in each village and repairing of schools.

The union minister attended the ceremony to hand over one fire truck each to Salin, Sinyabukyan and Kanbya village in Salin Township.

He also viewed progress in construction of a three-storey building at Salin Basic Education High School and visited Sinyabukyan hospital. — MNA

Revelers participate in Thingyan festival celebrations in Nay Pyi Taw

Nay Pyi Taw, 14 April — The second day of Myanmar’s traditional New Year Thingyan festival, also known as the water festival, has attracted more revelers going about in cars and motorcycles in townships here on Tuesday.

Streets in townships in and out of Nay Pyi Taw are lined with water-throwing pavilions, with dance troupes and famous artists entertaining revelers who splashed water on one another.

Charities provided traditional foods to all passers-by all day.

Delightful sights were pious people who keep the Sabbath, sit in meditation and donate foods at religious edifices in Nay Pyi Taw. — MNA

Numbers down at Thingyan pandals in first two days, observers say

By Aye Min Soe

Yangon, 14 April — Numbers have been down at water-throwing pandals during the first two days of Thingyan Festival celebrations compared to last year, some participants said Tuesday.

Some people who bought tickets to pandals for Akya Day, the second day of festivities, had been offering to sell them to others, said Hlwem Moe, 32, who attended one of the big water-throwing pandals on Kabar Aye Pagoda Road.

Celebrations began across the city Monday on the festival eve Akyo Day, with Akya Day marking the first official day of the New Year Water Festival.

Meanwhile, the price of tickets to throw water from the pandals for the final two days is increased compared to the first two days, he said.

A ticket which entitles a participant to throw water at the pandal for four days costs K50,000 at a discount, said Khin Cho Lwin, who bought a ticket one week ahead of the festivities which began Monday and will end Thursday.

A VIP ticket costs around K100,000, according to a manager of a pandal.

For revelers, a hired car costs around K150,000 per day. The Yangon City Development Committee has allowed the construction of more than 200 pandals of varying sizes to celebrate the traditional Myanmar New Year Water Festival in Yangon. More than 40 big water-throwing pandals are lined up along Kabar Aye Pagoda Road, Pyay Road and Kandawgyi Road, attracting throngs of revelers. — GNL

Water pandals crowded with revelers who enjoy water festival for Myanmar New Year on Akya Day in Yangon. — MNA

Fire stations in Salin Tsp receive new fire trucks

Nay Pyi Taw, 14 April — Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development Dr. Kan Zaw switched on a 200KVA transformer to supply electricity to Inpok Village, Salin Township, on 12 April.

Departmental officials spoke about efforts of the government for power supply to the entire nation, plans of assignment for one health staff in each village and repairing of schools.

The union minister attended the ceremony to hand over one fire truck each to Salin, Sinyabukyan and Kanbya village in Salin Township.

He also viewed progress in construction of a three-storey building at Salin Basic Education High School and visited Sinyabukyan hospital. — MNA

Revelers participate in Thingyan festival celebrations in Nay Pyi Taw

Nay Pyi Taw, 14 April — The second day of Myanmar’s traditional New Year Thingyan festival, also known as the water festival, has attracted more revelers going about in cars and motorcycles in townships here on Tuesday.

Streets in townships in and out of Nay Pyi Taw are lined with water-throwing pavilions, with dance troupes and famous artists entertaining revelers who splashed water on one another.

Charities provided traditional foods to all passers-by all day.

Delightful sights were pious people who keep the Sabbath, sit in meditation and donate foods at religious edifices in Nay Pyi Taw. — MNA

Numbers down at Thingyan pandals in first two days, observers say

By Aye Min Soe

Yangon, 14 April — Numbers have been down at water-throwing pandals during the first two days of Thingyan Festival celebrations compared to last year, some participants said Tuesday.

Some people who bought tickets to pandals for Akya Day, the second day of festivities, had been offering to sell them to others, said Hlwem Moe, 32, who attended one of the big water-throwing pandals on Kabar Aye Pagoda Road.

Celebrations began across the city Monday on the festival eve Akyo Day, with Akya Day marking the first official day of the New Year Water Festival.

Meanwhile, the price of tickets to throw water from the pandals for the final two days is increased compared to the first two days, he said.

A ticket which entitles a participant to throw water at the pandal for four days costs K50,000 at a discount, said Khin Cho Lwin, who bought a ticket one week ahead of the festivities which began Monday and will end Thursday.

A VIP ticket costs around K100,000, according to a manager of a pandal.

For revelers, a hired car costs around K150,000 per day. The Yangon City Development Committee has allowed the construction of more than 200 pandals of varying sizes to celebrate the traditional Myanmar New Year Water Festival in Yangon. More than 40 big water-throwing pandals are lined up along Kabar Aye Pagoda Road, Pyay Road and Kandawgyi Road, attracting throngs of revelers. — GNL

Water pandals crowded with revelers who enjoy water festival for Myanmar New Year on Akya Day in Yangon. — MNA
President wishes Myanmar

(from page 1)

restoration of nationwide peace as desired by the people.

Dr Sai Mauk Kham participates in water festival celebrations in Nay Pyi Taw

Nay Pyi Taw, 14 April—Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham and wife Daw Nan Shwe Hmon on Tuesday participated in the water festival celebrations at the central water-throwing pavilion of the mayor of Nay Pyi Taw as well as pavilions in Hotel Zone, according to officials.

The vice president, his wife, union ministers, deputy ministers visited the pavilions of the mayor, Shwe Than Lwin Company, Tawin Nay Pyi Taw Hotel, Hotel Max and Nay Pyi Taw FC, where they enjoyed entertainment performed by famous actors, actresses, vocalists and dance troupes.—MNA

Japan vows to assist peace process in Myanmar...

(from page 1)

Handing a letter from Myanmar President U Thein Sein to Abe, U Aung Min was quoted by the ministry as saying his president is “determined to ensure success in the peace talks.”

Myanmar’s government wants to enter political dialogue with ethnic minorities after signing a final ceasefire deal in the near future, U Aung Min was quoted as saying.

The meeting came after Myanmar’s government and 16 ethnic armed groups reached agreement March 31 on a draft ceasefire accord aimed at ending decades of armed conflict in the country.

In Tuesday’s meeting, U Aung Min, the government minister in charge of the peace talks, expressed hope for Japan’s continued assistance toward achieving national reconciliation in Myanmar.

He and Abe affirmed that 10 billion yen, or $83.5 million, in aid Japan pledged last year for a five-year period will continue to be used to improve livelihoods in conflict-affected areas, according to the ministry.

U Aung Min said that along with national reconciliation, U Thein Sein attaches importance to promoting democracy in Myanmar.

Abe said Japan expects Myanmar to ensure that it holds a general election slated for November in a “free and fair” manner.

U Aung Min is on a four-day visit to Japan through Friday.

Commander-in-Chief enjoys water festival

Nay Pyi Taw, 14 April—Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and wife joined the Thingyan New Year Water Festival pandal of the families of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief on Tuesday, the first official day of the festival.

The senior general and Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army), Vice-Senior General Soe Win, were welcomed by senior military officers and foreign military attachés to Myanmar.

Military personnel and their family members enjoyed the water-throwing festival, while entertainment was provided by the Myawady Music Band and dance troupes.

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and military personnel visited the pands of the Directorate of Medical Services and the Defence Services Acade-
**Fulltime power supply switched on in Kyaukkyan Village, Myingyan Tsp**

**MYINGYAN, 14 April** — A ceremony to launch the fulltime supply of electricity was held in Kyaukkyan Village, Myingyan Township, Mandalay Region. The ceremony was opened by the Township Administrator U Tun Thein Aung, Township Electrical Engineer U Tun Lin Aung and officials.

A ceremony to launch the transformer line at the village for supply of electricity under the supervision of Electricity Supply Enterprise. Electricians distributed pamphlets on safety of electricity for the public.

Also present on the occasion were Township Administrator U Tun Thein Aung, Township Electrical Engineer U Tun Lin Aung and officials. District engineer U Kyi Myint took price of the transformer.

**MCDC urges residents to help care for roads, drains**

** Mandalay, 14 April** — Mandalay City Development Committee has urged local residents to cooperate with the Roads and Bridges Department on maintenance of vital urban infrastructure.

The Roads and Bridges Department has built 15 bridges on 62nd streets, two more bridges on Sein Padetha Street, Mogaung Creek Bridge in Shwekyetyet village in Amarapura Town, 16 bridges on 62nd street, one on 72nd street, eight on Sagang-Mandalay Road, 16 on Prince Kanaung Road and culverts in Mandalay City.

The association led by Township Administrator U Min Min Tun and officials. Township Electrical Engineer U Htay Hla Mon plans to conduct more courses in Ayeyawady Region.

**Outstanding Mandalay bus workers receive prizes**

**Mandalay, 14 April** — The Mandalay Region Highway Bus Supervisory Committee presented awards to outstanding workers at Shwe Mandalay Hall of the committee on 12 April.

Mandalay Region Transport Minister U Kyaw Hsan presented K40.4 million for outstanding workers from 115 highway bus lines.

Also present were Head of Region Transport Planning Department U Zaw Win Naing, Head of Region Directorate of Road Administration U Nay Lin, Police Major Thein Ko Ko of No 11 Traffic Police, Township Administrator U Min Min Tun and officials.

**Training course helps law enforcement combat spread of HIV**

**Mohnin, 14 April** — A training course to help law enforcement bodies combat the spread of HIV recently began in Mohnin, Kachin State.

Mohnin District’s deputy commissioner U Aung Soe Moe said law officers need to understand their role in control of HIV infection. Some 50 staff, including police officers and officials of the General Administration Department, attended the course organized by Sao Mon social development association with the assistance of UNAIDS.

The association led by Daw Khin Hla Mon plans to conduct more courses in Myitkyina and Bhamo districts. —GNLM-001

**MCDC opens photo contest to capture festival spirit**

**Mandalay, 14 April** — The Mandalay City Maha Thinyan Festival organizing committee is holding a colour photo contest with the theme of “Happy Mandalay Thingyan”.

According to the committee, the entries must depict scenes of Mandalay’s Maha Thinyan festival in 2015. Handsome prizes will be presented to the winners, the committee said. The photographs must submit their entries as unmodified jpg files. Every contestant may submit up to four entries of 10 inches by 14 inches. Every contestant is allowed to receive one prize and one consolation prize only for their entries. The photos are to be sent to the office of Information and Public Relations Department on 29th street in Mandalay, not later than 8 am on 16 April.

— Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)

---

**Myaung Tsp commences Maha Thinyan festival**

**Myaung, 14 April** — The central pandal at the people’s square in Myaung Township, Ayeyawady Region, was opened by the Township Management Committee on 13 April.

Township Administrator U Min Min Tun extended greetings to all.

Ayeyawady Region Hluttaw MPs U Aung Win Swe and U Aung Myo Nyunt, Township Administrator U Min Min Tun and officials. —GNLM-001

---
Two-thirds of Australians have little faith in political leaders

SYDNEY, 14 April — Two-thirds of Australians don’t trust their political leaders and believe they only serve self-interest, according to a new survey released on Tuesday.

But community leaders are far more highly thought of than other categories of leaders in both trust and competence.

They are also seen as the most concerned about the wider needs of society and to take a long-term perspective on problems.

The Swinburne University report into public perceptions of leadership has also found a lack of faith in union, business and religious leaders.

Swinburne Leadership Institute executive director John Fien said the results showed there was disillusionment with politicians.

“This first survey provides a baseline ‘snapshot’ of perceptions of leadership in Australia and the results are both surprising and disturbing,” he said in a statement.

“Australians have nuanced and sophisticated perceptions of the leadership they experience in Australian society, they can and do distinguish between the capabilities of leaders in different sectors, and their expectations of these leaders. This gives added weight to the judgments they make about leadership.”

The study found that trustworthiness was closely linked to caring about the long-term future and the public interest.

Australian Labour Party voters were the most disillusioned, only 24 percent believing politicians were somewhat or very trustworthy, compared with 54 percent for Coalition voters.


distinctive articles on “The Real Singapore” website and its Facebook page between October 2013 and February this year, and an eighth for failing to produce documents ordered by a police officer.

The two have been described in local media reports as the people behind “The Real Singapore” website.

The next most popular was “The Real Singapore” website, followed by the Facebook page and the website of the southwest bureau.

The state-run Channel NewsAsia newspaper said that was set at $20,000 each and the case will be discussed in court again.

The Singapore government has pursued an open-door policy toward foreigners who are allowed to work in Singapore but are at a time when it is expected to be a major topic at the talks.

The first update since 1997 of the US-Japan defense cooperation guidelines was designed to strengthen cooperation between the US military and the Self-Defense Forces to address security threats without being bound by preset geographical operational limits.

Given that the Korean Peninsula was under Japanese rule from 1910 to 1945, South Korea is generally cautious about any increase in the activities of Japan’s SDF.

Tuesday’s talks also came at a time when Seoul has stepped up criticism of Tokyo for reasserting its territorial claim to a pair of disputed islets in the Sea of Japan in Japan’s annual foreign policy report and newly approved Japanese school textbooks.

Couple charged for sedition in Singapore

SINGAPORE, 14 April — A Japanese-Australian woman and a Singaporean man were charged for sedition in a Singapore court on Tuesday for allegedly promoting ill-will and hostility between Singaporeans and foreigners on a sociopolitical website.

Atakagi, 22, and Yang Kaiheng, 26, were each slapped with seven charges for publishing “seditious” articles on “The Real Singapore” website and its Facebook page between October 2013 and February this year, and an eighth for failing to produce documents ordered by a police officer.

The two have been described in local media reports as the people behind “The Real Singapore” website.

The next most popular was “The Real Singapore” website, followed by the Facebook page and the website of the southwest bureau.

The state-run Channel NewsAsia newspaper said that was set at $20,000 each and the case will be discussed in court again.

The Singapore government has pursued an open-door policy toward foreigners who are allowed to work in Singapore but are at a time when it is expected to be a major topic at the talks.

The first update since 1997 of the US-Japan defense cooperation guidelines was designed to strengthen cooperation between the US military and the Self-Defense Forces to address security threats without being bound by preset geographical operational limits.

Given that the Korean Peninsula was under Japanese rule from 1910 to 1945, South Korea is generally cautious about any increase in the activities of Japan’s SDF.

Tuesday’s talks also came at a time when Seoul has stepped up criticism of Tokyo for reasserting its territorial claim to a pair of disputed islets in the Sea of Japan in Japan’s annual foreign policy report and newly approved Japanese school textbooks.

Kyodo News

they claimed that an unexpected earthquake could cause a severe nuclear accident and spread radioactive materials. Kansai Electric argued that the company has taken sufficient safety measures.

All of Japan’s 48 commercial reactors had been offline by the end of September 2013 and remain inactive as none has yet completed all procedures required for a restart. Amid persistent safety concerns, the majority of Japanese remain opposed to restarting nuclear reactors.

Power companies are desperate to restart their nuclear plants amid an increase in imported fuel costs for thermal power generation in the absence of nuclear power. Kansai Electric relied heavily on nuclear power for its power generation before the Fukushima crisis triggered by a huge earthquake and tsunami.

Only two other nuclear reactors, owned by Kyushu Electric Power Co., have obtained the regulator’s safety clearance so far.—Kyodo News

Court rejects restart of Takahama nuclear reactors

FUKUI, Japan, 14 April — A court issued an injunction on Tuesday ordering Kansai Electric Power Co. not to restart two reactors at its Takahama nuclear power plant on the Sea of Japan coast that have cleared safety screening by the nation’s nuclear safety regulator. —Kyodo News

The injunction is expected immediately. The utility serving Osaka and its surrounding region is expected to appeal the decision, but will not be able to restart the reactors unless its arguments are accepted.

The court decision is likely to affect not only the utility’s resumption plans but also the government’s energy policy, which places nuclear power as a key electricity source despite the crisis at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant.

Kansai Electric hoped to restart the two reactors in November after they passed Nuclear Regulation Authority screening in February based on what the Japanese government calls “the world’s toughest safety standards” introduced after the 2011 Fukushima meltdowns.

Presidenting Judge Hideaki Higuchi at the district court also presided over a May 2014 ruling by the same court that ordered the regional utility not to restart two reactors at another nuclear power plant in the same prefecture.

In the latest case filed by residents in Fukui and elsewhere in December, the city-state has a population of 5.5 million, of which 3.3 million are Singapore citizens and the rest foreigners.—Kyodo News

The city-state has a population of 5.5 million, of which 3.3 million are Singapore citizens and the rest foreigners.—Kyodo News

S Korea, Japan begin 1st high-level security talks in 5 years

SEOUL, 14 April — South Korea and Japan began their first high-level security talks in more than five years on Tuesday.

Lee Sang Deok, director general of the North-east Asian Affairs Bureau of South Korea’s Foreign Ministry, and Junichi Ihara, director general of its Japanese counterpart’s Asian and Oceanian Affairs Bureau, are leading the talks joined by defense officials from each side.

How South Korea will deliver its stance to the Japanese side on the possible revision of defense cooperation guidelines between Japan and the United States is expected to be a major topic at the talks.

The first update since 1997 of the US-Japan defense cooperation guidelines is designed to strengthen cooperation between the US military and the Self-Defense Forces to address security threats without being bound by preset geographical operational limits.

Given that the Korean Peninsula was under Japanese rule from 1910 to 1945, South Korea is generally cautious about any increase in the activities of Japan’s SDF.

Tuesday’s talks also came at a time when Seoul has stepped up criticism of Tokyo for reasserting its territorial claim to a pair of disputed islets in the Sea of Japan in Japan’s annual foreign policy report and newly approved Japanese school textbooks.

Kyodo News

the noise caused by the drums.

A copy of the charge involving this article said the publication “has the tendency to promote feelings of ill-will and hostility between different classes of the population of Singapore.”

The rest of the seven charges were various articles, mostly in the form of letters apparently submitted to Singaporean readers, who criticized the presence of foreign workers in Singapore, including Filipino and mainland Chinese workers, and how Singaporeans were disadvantaged in the job market due to their presence.

Each of the charges carries a penalty of a fine of up to $5,000 and up to three years in jail, if convicted.
Supporters scramble for compromise on US Senate Iran bill

WASHINGTON, 14 April — US senators scrambled to shore up bipartisan support for a controversial Iran nuclear bill before a committee meeting on Tuesday that could determine whether the legislation will survive President Barack Obama’s promised veto.

The Senate Foreign Relations Committee is scheduled to debate and vote on Tuesday afternoon on the measure put forward by Senator Bob Corker, the panel’s chairman, that would give Congress a vote on any final nuclear agreement with Iran.

The committee’s Democratic and Republican leaders were trying to reach a compromise agreement on roughly 50 amendments to the bill that would change it enough to be passed by the panel with strong support from both parties.

If the panel of 10 Republicans and nine Democrats approves the legislation, it would be sent for a vote in the 100-member Senate. A close committee vote would dim its prospects in the full chamber.

Senator Ben Cardin, the panel’s top Democrat, said he and Corker were trying to work out a compromise.

“I think we can get to a place where we can deal with most of the White House concerns and maintain the purpose of the bill, which is an early congressional review and timely notice if there is a material breach (by Iran of an agreement),” he told reporters.

Corker told reporters he would give lawmakers 60 days to review a final agreement, during which the Obama administration would be barred from giving Iran most sanctions relief and members could vote on whether to approve or reject sanctions measures.

Obama promises to veto the bill in its current form. Administration officials have said it impinges the president’s authority and includes provisions that could kill any chance of reaching a final nuclear deal with Teheran.

In a sign of the importance of the issue to the White House Secretary of State John Kerry and other top administration officials were holding classified briefings for the full House and Senate on Monday and Tuesday.

Overriding a veto would require the approval of two-thirds of both the Senate and House of Representatives, meaning it would need the support of many of Obama’s fellow Democrats.

Lawmakers said it was far too early to know whether the bill would pass the Senate and House in the coming weeks, let alone win the backing of the 67 senators and 290 House members to override a veto.

Republicans hold 54 seats in the Senate and 244 in the House.

In particular, opponents want to remove a provision that would force Obama to certify that Iran has not supported any act of terrorism against the United States or any US citizen. They also want to shorten the 60-day review period. Democratic lawmakers have introduced amendments that would address both concerns.

But Republicans have introduced amendments to make the legislation more restrictive. Senator Marco Rubio, who announced his presidential candidacy on Monday, offered an amendment requiring that Iran acknowledge Israel’s right to exist. Passing the Republican amendments could doom the legislation by driving away Democrats willing to break with the White House and support a somewhat watered down version of the bill.

But Republicans have introduced amendments to make the legislation more restrictive. Senator Marco Rubio, who announced his presidential candidacy on Monday, offered an amendment requiring that Iran acknowledge Israel’s right to exist. Passing the Republican amendments could doom the legislation by driving away Democrats willing to break with the White House and support a somewhat watered down version of the bill.

German correspondent condemns Abe govt’s intervention over critical reporting

Tokyo, 14 April — A German correspondent in Tokyo has condemned the government of Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe’s control over critical reporting, asking the country to explain more to people.

Carsten Germis, who works for the Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung (FAZ), described how he was subjected to insults from Japanese Foreign Ministry (MOFA) due to one of his articles in which he criticized Abe’s historical revisionism.

“The appearance of the article, the paper’s (FAZ) senior foreign policy editor was visited by the Japanese consult general of Frankfurt, who passed on objections from Tokyo,” Germis said in the latest issue of “Number 1 Shim bun,” a journal published by Foreign Correspondents Club of Japan.

According to Germis, the diplomat further insulted him, the editor and the entire FAZ by suspecting he was a paid spy for other countries without any evidence.

The MOFA officials now seemed to openly attack critical reporting compared with the government led by the Democratic Party of Japan, Germis said, adding the ministry was using means such as visa to restrict foreign correspondents.

S Korea parliament adopts resolution denouncing Japan’s islet claim

Seoul, 14 April — South Korea’s parliament on Tuesday adopted a resolution denouncing Japan for its recent claim to the South Korea-controlled islets in the Sea of Japan and for twisting historical facts in recently approved school textbooks.

“We strongly condemn the Japanese government’s encroachment into the territorial sovereignty of the Republic of Korea and twisting the historical facts,” according to the resolution, carried by Yonhap News Agency.

Last week, Japan reaffirmed its position, both in its annual foreign policy report and also in newly approved school textbooks.

N Korea’s first lady reappears in official media reports

Pyongyang, 14 April — North Korean first lady Ri Sol Ju’s activity was reported on Tuesday by the country’s official media for the first time in four months.

She watched a men’s soccer match on Monday with leader Kim Jong Un at Kim Il Sung Stadium in Pyongyang, the Korean Central News Agency said.

It was last seen in official media reports on 17 December when she accompanied Kim in a ceremony to mark the third anniversary of the death of North Korea’s previous leader and his father, Kim Jong Il.

The football match was held as part of a series of events to celebrate the 103rd birthday of North Korea’s late founder Kim Il Sung. The anniversary, known in North Korea as the “Day of the Sun,” will take place on Wednesday.
Russia opens way to missile deliveries to Iran, starts oil-for-goods swap

Russia’s President Vladimir Putin (R) shakes hands with his Iranian counterpart Hassan Rouhani at the welcoming ceremony during a summit of Caspian Sea regional leaders in the southern city of Astrakhan, on 29 Sept, 2014. — REUTERS

Moscow, 14 April — Russia paved the way on Monday for missile system deliveries to Iran and started an oil-for-goods swap, signaling that Moscow may have a head-start in the race to benefit from an eventual lifting of sanctions on Tehran.

The talks come after world powers, including Russia, reached an interim deal with Iran this month on curbing its nuclear programme.

The Kremlin said President Vladimir Putin signed a decree ending a self-imposed ban on delivering the S-300 anti-missile system to Iran, removing a major irritant between the two countries after Moscow canceled a corresponding contract in 2010 under pressure from the West.

A senior government official said separately that Russia has started supplying grain, equipment and construction materials to Iran in exchange for crude oil under a barter deal.

Sources told Reuters more than a year ago that a deal worth up to $20 billion was being discussed and would involve Russia buying up to 500,000 barrels of Iranian oil a day.

Officials from the two countries have issued contradictory statements since then on whether a deal has been signed, but Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov said on Monday one was already being implemented.

“I wanted to draw your attention to the rolling out of the oil-for-goods deal, which is on a very significant scale,” Ryabkov told a briefing with members of the upper house of parliament on the talks with Iran.

“In exchange for Iranian crude oil supplies, we are delivering certain products. This is not banned or limited under the current sanctions regime.”

He declined to give further details. Russia’s Agriculture Ministry declared comment and the Energy Ministry did not respond to a request for comment. There was no comment from Iran.

Iran is the third-largest buyer of Russian wheat, and Moscow and Tehran have been discussing the oil-for-goods barter deal for more than a year, Russia hopes to reap economic and trade benefits if a final deal is concluded to build on the framework agreement reached in the Swiss city of Lausanne between Iran and Russia, the United States, France, Britain, Germany and China.

They have until 30 June to work out a detailed technical agreement under which Iran would curb its nuclear programme and allow international control in exchange for a lifting of economic sanctions.

US Secretary of State John Kerry on Monday raised concerns about the missile system sale with Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov, State Department spokeswoman Marie Harf said.

She said, however, that US officials do not think Russia’s actions will hurt unity between the major powers in the nuclear talks.— Reuters

UK’s Cameron to sell ‘Conservative dream’ to voters before close election

Britain’s Prime Minister David Cameron delivers a speech at St Luke’s Church Hall in Chelsea, London, on 12 April, 2015.— REUTERS

LONDON, 14 April — British Prime Minister David Cameron is expected to use the launch of his party’s manifesto on Tuesday to promote a “Conservative dream” aimed at seducing low-paid workers as he seeks to make a shift towards more positive campaigning.

Cameron will just over three weeks before what is shaping up to be Britain’s closest election since the 1970s, Cameron and his Conservatives are under pressure to put clear water between themselves and the opposition Labour Party in opinion polls, most of which have the two neck-and-neck.

One poll conducted on the eve of the manifesto launch gave the Conservatives a six-point lead over Labour, boosting party morale. But the overall trend still points to a dead heat. At stake is more than simply who will govern the $2.8 trillion economy: Cameron has promised a referendum on European Union membership while Scottish nationalists, who want Scotland’s independence, are seeking a kingmaker role.

Some Cameron allies fret that the central economic message of his campaign — that the centre-right party need another term to complete the economic recovery it has nurtured — has been too abstract and relied too heavily on dry economic data. On Tuesday, Cam eron will try to broaden that message, and, in the spirit of the late Margaret Thatcher, is expected to pledge expanded help for people to buy their own homes and to ensure that more low-paid workers no longer have to pay taxes.— Reuters


WASHINGTON, 14 April — Marco Rubio, a young senator from Florida, on Monday announced his bid for the US presidency, becoming the third Republican to enter the 2016 election.

At a rally in Miami to launch his campaign, the 43-year-old freshman senator said, “I believe our very identity as an exceptional nation is at stake, and I can make a difference as president.”

Rubio, the youngest of all the official candidates so far, said he represents a new generation as he made his bid official a day after former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton announced her bid for the Democratic nomination.

“How just yesterday, a leader from yesterday began a campaign for president by promising to take us back to yesterday,” he said. “This election is a generational choice about what kind of country we will be.”

On foreign policy, Rubio blasted President Barack Obama’s administration for making “dangerous concessions” to Iran and promised a more muscular approach in which “America once again accepts the mantle of global leadership.”

Also calling for “no longer being passive in the face of Chinese and Russian aggression” and reversing the hallowing-out of the military among other steps, he pledged “our nation will be safer, our world more stable, and our people more prosperous” if he is elected.

Rubio, of Cuban descent, was elected to the Senate in the 2010 midterm elections.

Besides Clinton, the favorite for the Democratic ticket, Republican senators Ted Cruz and Rand Paul have already announced bids for nomination, Jeb Bush, a former Republican governor from Florida, is also considered a Republican hopeful.

Kyodo News

French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius, Ukrainian Foreign Minister Pavlo Klimkin, German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier and Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov pose for a group photo in Berlin on 13 April, 2015. — REUTERS

Foreign ministers call for end to fighting in east Ukraine

Berlin, 14 April — Foreign ministers from Germany, France, Russia and Ukraine called for an end to the renewed heavy fighting in eastern Ukraine following tough talks in Berlin on Monday.

German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier told reporters the talks had been “at times very controversial” but said all participants agreed there was no alternative to the ceasefire agreement signed in the Belarusian capital Minsk in February.

“We need to ensure that the ceasefire is adhered to far more strongly as fully as possible,” Steinmeier said.

The talks took place amid a sharp spike in hostilities in eastern Ukraine over the weekend. On Monday one Ukrainian serviceman was killed and six were wounded in rebel-held territories. Steinmeier said all parties had agreed to push ahead with the withdrawal of heavy weapons from the front line and to extend this to other categories of weapons, including tanks, armoured vehicles and heavy weapons smaller than 100 mm calibre.

The foreign ministers were also all willing to support the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), which is monitoring the implementation of the ceasefire deal, further with money and personnel over the next few weeks. They also agreed to continue with an exchange of prisoners in the conflict region and to set up four working groups to deal with the humanitarian, economic and security policy questions in east Ukraine.

Steinmeier stressed, however, that the Minsk accord went beyond the ceasefire agreement and must pave the way towards elections in the rebel-held territories. “If this process stalls, then the Minsk agreement risks possibly coming off the rails ... all sides want to prevent this,” he said.— Reuters

Reuters

Changes should be followed by maturity

By Aung Khin

Change is happening every second, not only over the course of years. Both physical and mental processes arise and disappear continuously. However, these changes should bear maturity if we are to see a better world.

Age is no guarantee of maturity. Maturity can be measured through someone’s thinking, speaking and acting on feelings within the bounds of dignity. French philosopher Henri-Louis Bergson said, “To exist is to change, to change is to mature, to mature is to go on creating oneself endlessly.”

Maturity is to understand cause and effect and to avoid harming others. We experience life in all possible ways—good or bad, better or sweet, dark or light, summer or winter. We cannot avoid effects or results from root causes.

We need to look at any problem or confrontation maturely, without resorting to aggression, which can provoke retaliation. Fighting cannot ensure lasting peace. Disputes cannot be settled by power or dominance. Problems and experiences are challenges in life. These can help us develop maturity.

Change over a year or an age does not define maturity. Together with tolerance, maturity is demonstrated by the manner in which we opt to treat those who misstate or misunderstand us.

Peace of Mind

Kyi Mun

* Peace, here, means:
  1. The state of being calm and quiet. She lay back and enjoyed the peace of the summer evening. I would work better if I had some peace and quiet. He just wants to be left in peace (= not to be disturbed.) I need to check that she is all right, just for my own peace of mind. (=so that I don’t have to worry). He never felt really at peace with himself.
  2. The state of living in friendship with somebody without arguing. They simply can’t seem to live in peace with each other. She felt at peace with the world.

Let’s explore some more meanings of PEACE of MIND as follows:

- **P** for Placidity
- **E** for Equanimity
- **A** for Acceptance
- **C** for Composure
- **E** for Enduring Patience & Forbearance
- **M** for Maturity
- **I** for Insight
- **N** for Non-violence
- **D** for Detachment

**PLACIDITY**

Placidity means: Being calm, quiet and tranquil. Peace of mind, thus, means a mind full of calmness, quietness, and tranquility. Peace of mind means that one’s mind is not disturbed by greed, hatred, delusion, arrogance, pride, jealousy, stinginess, fear and guilt, etc. The mind at peace is without:

- Sensual Desires
- Ill-Will
- Sloth & Torpor
- Regret & Distraction of Thoughts
- Doubt

**EQUANIMITY**

Equanimity means: A calm state of mind and heart which means that you do not become angry or upset, especially in difficult situations. Equanimity also means that you are able to stay unflappable, cool and calm in a difficult situation. If means you are not disturbed or excited by the eight winds or the vicissitudes of life; viz.:

- Gain & Loss
- Popularity & Isolation
- Praise & Criticism
- Pleasure & Pain

Equanimous state of mind and heart transcends likes and dislikes, being entirely free from attachment to anything. Equanimity means the original mind devoid of greed (lobha), anger (dosa), Delusion (moha), pride (mana), wrong view (dukhika).

**INSIGHT**

Insight means:

1. The ability to see and understand the truth about people or situations: a writer of great insight. With a flash of insight, I realized what the dream meant.
2. An understanding of what something is like: The book gives us fascinating insights into life in Mexico.
3. The ability to see penetratively the core content through all the layers of the cover of forms and colors. One of the very remarkable insights was the wish of the two old blind parents desiring to see thedelicious son, who was on the death throes from being hit by a poisonous arrow, stand up and come to them carrying the gold vases on his shoulders (reference to the story of Suvannasāma.)

**NON-VIOLENCE**

Non-violence means: The policy of using peaceful methods, not force, to bring about political or social change. It also means not engaging in fighting or armed conflicts for solving some disagreement. It means using peaceful methods such as engaging in dialogue, give and take, negotiation, cooperation, compromising or friendly relationship.

**DETACHEMENT**

Detachment means:

1. The state of not being involved in something in an emotional or personal way. They answered with an aim of detachment. She felt a sense of detachment from what was going on.
2. The state of not being influenced by other people or by your own feelings. In judging these issues, a degree of critical detachment is required. Detachment also means a sense of not being attached or clung to somebody or something. It means non-attachment or non-clinging, or not hankering after, or not longing for anything. It means you are carefree and self-sufficient with freedom, independence of mind and not being in bondage of any sort. Detachment also means being unconditioned.

**CONCLUSION**

A unique formula for getting and enjoying Peace of Mind is:

“To Avoid all evil,
To Do good, and
To Purify your mind...”

Let’s just strive for PEACE, LOVE and JOY, with Strength, Strategy and Stamina!

Ref: 1.) Oxford Dictionary
2.) The Mature Mind by H.A. Overstreet

U Kyi Mun residing in Yangon is a consultant of NAING Group Capital Co.,Ltd.
Grassroots work vital, chief minister says

Mandalay, 14 April — Township administrators need to do grassroots work to fulfill the requirements of local residents, Chief Minister of Mandalay Region U Ye Myint told the coordination meeting of the region government at its office on 12 April. Chairman of the Township Development Affairs Committees reported on collection of tax in respective townships, while heads of the Township Settlement and Land Record Department and Forest Department discussed undertakings of their departments and challenges they face.

Residents in Muse enjoy Maha Thingyan festival on Akyo Day

Muse, 14 April — An opening ceremony for the water-throwing pandal at the junction to the former airport in Muse, Shan State, was held on Akyo Day, 13 April. It was attended by Muse District’s deputy commissioner U Kyaw Kyaw Tun, representatives from the People’s Republic of China, Commander of District Police Force Police Lt-Col Min Min Oo, departmental officials and local people. The deputy commissioner urged locals to preserve Myanmar’s fine traditions in the Maha Thingyan festival. Artists performed for the public while local people enjoyed the water-throwing festival. L Soe (IPRD)

Departmental officials focus on protection of child rights

Thanbyuzayat, 14 April — Mon State Social Welfare Department, Thanbyuzayat Township Child Rights Committee and World Vision jointly organized a workshop on child protection at the hall of the township General Administration Department on 7 April. U Ko Ko Naing, Deputy Director of Mon State Social Welfare Department as well as secretary of Mon State Child Rights Committee, Secretary of Township Child Rights Committee Daw Aye Aye Aye Maw and officials of World Vision discussed child protection, legal rights for children and activities of community-based organizations. Kyaw Win (Township IPRD)

Tourists may visit major cities in Kachin State without permission

Mohnyin, 14 April — Local authorities in Kachin State are allowing foreign tourists to freely visit the far northern towns of Myitkyina, Mohnyin, Mogaung, Bhamo and Shwegu without obtaining special permission. Permission is still required for sightseeing in other towns in the far northern part of the state. Local visitors are able to freely travel to Myitkyina, where the Ayeyawady River originates, the snow-capped mountains in Putao Township, the Hukaung tiger sanctuary in Tanai Township, Lido Road constructed in the Second World War and Indawgyi Lake in Mohnyin Township.—GNLM-001
Obama, Iraq’s Abadi to discuss Islamic State fight in White House meeting

Panama 2015

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

WASHINGTON, 14 April —Iraqi Prime Minister Haidar al-Abadi and President Barack Obama will discuss the fight against Islamic State on Tuesday at a White House meeting likely to be dominated by Iraqi requests for US arms and tension over Iran’s role on the battlefield.

In his first US trip since becoming prime minister, Abadi is expected to seek billions of dollars in US aid in drones and other US weapons to combat Islamic State, which seized much of northern and central Iraq last year.

Obama’s administration, which welcomed Abadi’s ascension after a tricky relationship with former Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki, may not agree to all of the requests.

Nonetheless, the high-profile meeting in the Oval Office is meant to convey a US stamp of approval for a leader who has sought to be more inclusive than his predecessor in governing Iraq.

Obama, who came to power on the back of a promise to end the war in Iraq, is restricted by public aversion to US entanglement in another regional conflict and congressional constraints on his budget authority.

“The US is not going to be willing to step up in terms of major military support,” said Anthony Cordesman, foreign policy expert at the Centre for Strategic & International Studies in Washington.

Obama in August authorized the first US air strikes on Iraq since the 2011 US troop withdrawal and has deployed about 3,000 American military forces to advise and assist Iraqi and Kurdish forces to fight Islamic State.

“If there are specific ideas that Prime Minister Abadi has for stepped-up assistance, then we’ll obviously consider them seriously,” White House spokesman Josh Earnest said on Monday.

“The goal is to continue the obviously deep coordination that already exists between the United States and Iraq. This is a partnership that the United States is obviously deeply invested in.”

Concern over Iran’s role in the fight against Islamic State may also feature in the Obama-Abadi talks. Iran-backed Shi’ite militias have played a major role in battling the group, an al-Qaeda offshoot that emerged from the chaos in Iraq and neighboring Syria.

A senior US general told Congress last month that the United States conditioned its entry into Iraq’s battle to retake Tikrit from Islamic State on the withdrawal of the Shi’ite militias from the clearing operation.

Nigeria’s Boko Haram abducted 2,000 women and girls

DARAK/LONDON, 14 April—Boko Haram Islamic militants have kidnapped at least 2,000 girls and women since the start of last year, turning them into cooks, sex slaves and fighters, and sometimes killing those who refused to comply, Amnesty International said on Tuesday.

The human rights group’s 90-page report based on dozens of interviews with witnesses and escaped abductees comes a year after the group seized more than 200 schoolgirls from Chibok, a community deep inside an area of northeastern Nigeria the fighters claimed as their caliphate.

The kidnapping, and a video showing the captured girls dressed in dark hijabs soon afterwards, provoked international outrage. But the majority are still missing despite Western pledges to help track them down and a Chadian attempt to broker a deal.

Abubakar Shekau, claims Boko Haram leader, Abubakar Shekau, claims the girls had been “married off” to his fighters.

Amnesty’s report said that Boko Haram, meaning Western education is sinful in Hausa, routinely rounded up women and girls after taking control of a town and held them in houses or prisons.

A 19-year-old woman told Amnesty how she had been abducted at a wedding in September 2014 alongside hundreds of female fighters. “I was among the girls trained to shoot. I was also trained how to use bombs and how to attack a village,” said the woman, who was gang-raped several times by the guerrillas and wished to remain anonymous. She told Amnesty some of those who refused to convert to Islam or to fight were dumped in a mass grave.

Many men who refuse to join Boko Haram’s ranks have also been killed. Two young men told researchers that at least 100 were executed in one day in December when the armed group took over Madagali. They survived because the killers’ knives had become too blunt to slit more throats.

“These appalling executions, the sexual violence, the recruitment of child soldiers, these are war crimes and crimes against humanity and they need to be investigated (by the Nigerian authorities),” Daniel Eyre, author of the report, said in an interview.

UN vote on Tuesday on Yemen arms embargo; Russia stance unclear

UNITED NATIONS, 14 April—The UN Security Council is due to vote on Tuesday on a resolution to blacklist the son of Yemen’s former president and a Houthi leader and effectively impose an arms embargo on the rebels who rule most of the country, diplomats said.

It was unclear how Russia would vote on the draft by council member Jordan and Gulf Arab states. Russia had unsuccessfully suggested during negotiations that the text call for an immediate ceasefire and that an arms embargo include President Abdu-Rabbu Mansour Hadi’s government, diplomats said.

The Russian UN mission declined to comment on Monday on whether it would support the resolution, abstain or veto.

Saudi Arabia launched air strikes against the Iran-aligned group in neighbouring Yemen last month with a coalition made up mainly of four Gulf Arab allies. The United States said last week it is speeding up arms supplies to the coalition.

Iran on Monday urged the formation of a new Yemeni government and offered to assist in a political transition.

The draft UN resolution would impose a global asset freeze and travel ban on Ahmed Saleh, the former head of Yemen’s elite Republican Guard, and on Abdulmalik al-Houthi, a top leader of the Shi’ite Houthi group.

Saleh’s father, former Yemen President Ali Abdullah Saleh, and two other senior Houthi leaders, Abd al-Khaliq al-Huthi and Abdullah Yahya al Hakim, were blacklisted by the Security Council in November. Yemeni soldiers loyal to the former president are fighting alongside the Houthis.

Islamic State militants breach Iraq refinery perimeter, repelled

BAGHDAD, 14 April—Islamic State militants breached the security perimeter around Iraq’s larg- est refinery in Baiji early on Monday but were beaten back by security forces and coalition airm strikes, local officials said.

The refinery was under US and international coalition air strikes, local officials said. It was unclear how the militants entered the security perimeter. Security forces drove the militants out of the nearby town of Baiji in November.

Iraq’s battle to retake Tikrit from Islamic State may also feature in the Obama-Abadi talks. Iran-backed Shi’ite militias have played a major role in battling the group, an al-Qaeda offshoot that emerged from the chaos in Iraq and neighboring Syria.

A senior US general told Congress last month that the United States conditioned its entry into Iraq’s battle to retake Tikrit from Islamic State on the withdrawal of the Shi’ite militias from the clearing operation.
Four of seven liver transplant recipients died at brand-new Kobe hospital

Kobe, 14 April — A hospital that opened in November last year in Kobe, western Japan, has seen a very high death rate among liver transplant recipients in its first four months of operation, officials at the hospital said on Tuesday.

Of the seven patients who received the transplants from living donors at the Kobe International Frontier Medical Centre in the four months through March, four died within one month after their surgeries.

The outcome prompted the Japanese Liver Transplantation Society, a group of liver transplant surgeons across the nation, to launch a probe.

Liver transplants from living donors involve removing part of a healthy person’s liver and transplanting it into a recipient, often the donor’s relative, who suffers from conditions such as liver cancer or biliary atresia — inflammation of the bile ducts causing liver damage.

The patients comprised two Japanese and two Indonesians, including two who were aged under 15 — one Japanese and one Indonesian, the hospital said. The hospital has courted overseas patients to come to Japan for surgery since its establishment.

According to a source well versed in transplantation medicine, the death rate at the hospital is "unthinkably high," and necessitates close investigation.

"The survival rate for liver transplants from living donors one year after the surgery is usually over 80 percent," the source said.

According to the hospital, several of its doctors carried out the transplants. The doctors were questioned by the transplantation society on 5 April.

We gave (patients) prior explanation that the surgery would be difficult," hospital officials said.

The hospital, led by Kyoto University professor emeritus Koichi Tanaka, a veteran liver transplant surgeon, is part of a medical industry cluster project in Kobe.

The city is part of a "strategic special zone" in western Japan designated by the central government where certain regulations are allowed to be loosened to encourage investment in the medical industry.

A Kobe official said the city is aware that patients have died.

"Our understanding is that (the hospital) takes on end-stage patients who have been deemed impossible to treat at other hospitals," the official said.

Aso to paint brighter picture of Japan economy at G-20 meeting

Tokyo, 14 April — Finance Minister Taro Aso said on Tuesday he will explain how Japan’s economy is improving as a result of the government’s “Abenomics” policy mix when he attends a meeting of the Group of 20 finance chiefs later this week.

"I will have to say that Japan’s current situation is starting to change in a favourable way compared to the previous meeting" in February, Aso told a Press conference in Tokyo ahead of the two-day meeting starting on Thursday in Washington.

He referred to an annualized real 1.5 percent growth in Japan’s gross domestic product in the October-December period, the first expansion in three quarters.

In a statement issued in the previous meeting in Istanbul, Japan was pointed to as one of several advanced economies where progress in economic recovery is slow.

The “Abenomics” policy mix centres on drastic monetary easing and massive fiscal spending.

On a planned Chinese trip to Tokyo later this week, Aso said he would reiterate Japan’s stance of seeking transparency in its governance and its screening for the provision of loans.—Kyodo News

Asia shares hesitate, Singapore stands pat on policy

SINGAPORE, 14 April — A tide of new liquidity has lifted Chinese stocks to seven-month highs and linked to the CSI300 index and the Shanghai Composite having climbed almost uninterrupted for more than five weeks.

"The flood of money spilled over into Hong Kong where the Hang Seng Index has risen 12 percent in just five sessions. On Wall Street, investors fretted that a strong dollar would constrain earnings at multinational corporations. The Dow ended on Monday down 0.45 percent, while the S&P 500 dropped 0.46 percent and the Nasdaq 0.15 percent.

Estimates for first-quarter S&P 500 results have fallen sharply since 1 January, with earnings for the period expected to have declined 2.9 percent from a year ago, Thomson Reuters data showed. Eyes are also on US retail sales data due later Tuesday for evidence that spending is picking up after a sluggish start to the year. An upbeat result would also add to the case for rate hikes from the Federal Reserve later this year, and thus add further support to the dollar.

Against a basket of major currencies, the dollar was holding steady at 99.43 and just a whisker from recent peaks. The euro drifted down to $1.0577 (0.72 pounds), having fallen as low as $1.0519 on Monday.

The yen made gains of its own after Koichi Hamanaka, an official in the Finance Ministry, told reporters earlier in the week that he was not worried about the yen’s gains.

The dollar slid a whole yen to 119.68 yen (0.68 pounds) at one stage before steadying at 120.05. The euro dived as deep as $1.26.505 yen, reaching a low not seen since June 2013. In commodities, US crude was quoted 20 cents firmer at $58.10, while Brent May crude added 22 cents to $58.15 a barrel.—Reuters

Singapore to maintain policy of modest, gradual appreciation of Singapore dollar

SINGAPORE, 14 April — The Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS) said on Tuesday that it would maintain its policy of a modest and gradual appreciation of the Singapore dollar.

The latest policy announcement came amid Singapore’s moderate economic growth, MAS said in a statement.

“There will be no change to the slope and width of the policy band, and the level at which it is centred. Singapore economy grew by 2.1 percent in the first quarter of 2015 on a year-on-year basis. This was due in part to relatively slow growth in manufacturing sector, which makes up a fifth of the economy.”

MAS adjusted its monetary policy in January, saying it would slow the Singapore dollar’s appreciation by reducing the slope of the policy band, citing the more benign inflation outlook.—Xinhua
Possible Lincoln deathbed blanket tested in Wisconsin 150 years after assassination

MILWAUKEE, 14 April — A bedspread that may have covered Abraham Lincoln as he lay dying will be tested for his blood in Wisconsin on Tuesday, 150 years to the day after his assassination.

On 14 April 1865, US President Abraham Lincoln was fatally shot while watching a play in Washington. University of Wisconsin textile expert Majid Sarmadi will test the cot- ton bedspread to determine if human blood is on the Wisconsin Historical Society artefact. “It is the most exciting thing to work on,” Sarmadi said on Monday. “It gives me goosebumps. There is no single president in history that I regard more than Lincoln.”

Lincoln was shot by John Wilkes Booth as he watched a play in Ford’s Theatre on 14 April, 1865, five days after Confederate General Robert E Lee sur- rendered his army to Union General Ulysses S Grant, effectively ending the Civil War. The president was taken across the street to the Petersen House and placed in a bed, where he died the next morning, perhaps cov- ered by the artefact headed for the lab.

Wisconsin State Journal owner Richard Lloyd Jones gave the blanket to the Wis- consin Historical Society in 1919. Jones, who was inter- ested in preserving Lincoln artefacts, acquired it from the Petersen family in 1907. The Wisconsin State Journal owner Richard Lloyd Jones gave the blanket to the Wis- consin Historical Society in 1919. Jones, who was inter- ested in preserving Lincoln artefacts, acquired it from the Petersen family in 1907. The Wisconsin Historical Society bought it from the Petersen family in 1907. The Wisconsin Historical Society is legal to take possession of the artefact for examination.

The Wisconsin Historical Society is legal to take possession of the artefact for examination. Sarmadi will test the cot- ton bedspread to determine if human blood is on the Wisconsin Historical Society artefact. “It is the most exciting thing to work on,” Sarmadi said on Monday. “It gives me goosebumps. There is no single president in history that I regard more than Lincoln.”

Lincoln was shot by John Wilkes Booth as he watched a play in Ford’s Theatre on 14 April, 1865, five days after Confederate General Robert E Lee sur- rendered his army to Union General Ulysses S Grant, effectively ending the Civil War. The president was taken across the street to the Petersen House and placed in a bed, where he died the next morning, perhaps cov- ered by the artefact headed for the lab.

Wisconsin State Journal owner Richard Lloyd Jones gave the blanket to the Wis- consin Historical Society in 1919. Jones, who was inter- ested in preserving Lincoln artefacts, acquired it from the Petersen family in 1907. The Wisconsin Historical Society bought it from the Petersen family in 1907. The Wisconsin Historical Society is legal to take possession of the artefact for examination. Sarmadi will test the cot- ton bedspread to determine if human blood is on the Wisconsin Historical Society artefact. “It is the most exciting thing to work on,” Sarmadi said on Monday. “It gives me goosebumps. There is no single president in history that I regard more than Lincoln.”

Lincoln was shot by John Wilkes Booth as he watched a play in Ford’s Theatre on 14 April, 1865, five days after Confederate General Robert E Lee sur- rendered his army to Union General Ulysses S Grant, effectively ending the Civil War. The president was taken across the street to the Petersen House and placed in a bed, where he died the next morning, perhaps cov- ered by the artefact headed for the lab.

Wisconsin State Journal owner Richard Lloyd Jones gave the blanket to the Wis- consin Historical Society in 1919. Jones, who was inter- ested in preserving Lincoln artefacts, acquired it from the Petersen family in 1907. The Wisconsin Historical Society bought it from the Petersen family in 1907. The Wisconsin Historical Society is legal to take possession of the artefact for examination. Sarmadi will test the cot- ton bedspread to determine if human blood is on the Wisconsin Historical Society artefact. “It is the most exciting thing to work on,” Sarmadi said on Monday. “It gives me goosebumps. There is no single president in history that I regard more than Lincoln.”

Lincoln was shot by John Wilkes Booth as he watched a play in Ford’s Theatre on 14 April, 1865, five days after Confederate General Robert E Lee sur- rendered his army to Union General Ulysses S Grant, effectively ending the Civil War. The president was taken across the street to the Petersen House and placed in a bed, where he died the next morning, perhaps cov- ered by the artefact headed for the lab.

Wisconsin State Journal owner Richard Lloyd Jones gave the blanket to the Wis- consin Historical Society in 1919. Jones, who was inter- ested in preserving Lincoln artefacts, acquired it from the Petersen family in 1907. The Wisconsin Historical Society bought it from the Petersen family in 1907. The Wisconsin Historical Society is legal to take possession of the artefact for examination. Sarmadi will test the cot- ton bedspread to determine if human blood is on the Wisconsin Historical Society artefact. “It is the most exciting thing to work on,” Sarmadi said on Monday. “It gives me goosebumps. There is no single president in history that I regard more than Lincoln.”

Lincoln was shot by John Wilkes Booth as he watched a play in Ford’s Theatre on 14 April, 1865, five days after Confederate General Robert E Lee sur- rendered his army to Union General Ulysses S Grant, effectively ending the Civil War. The president was taken across the street to the Petersen House and placed in a bed, where he died the next morning, perhaps cov- ered by the artefact headed for the lab.

Wisconsin State Journal owner Richard Lloyd Jones gave the blanket to the Wis- consin Historical Society in 1919. Jones, who was inter- ested in preserving Lincoln artefacts, acquired it from the Petersen family in 1907. The Wisconsin Historical Society bought it from the Petersen family in 1907. The Wisconsin Historical Society is legal to take possession of the artefact for examination. Sarmadi will test the cot- ton bedspread to determine if human blood is on the Wisconsin Historical Society artefact. “It is the most exciting thing to work on,” Sarmadi said on Monday. “It gives me goosebumps. There is no single president in history that I regard more than Lincoln.”

Lincoln was shot by John Wilkes Booth as he watched a play in Ford’s Theatre on 14 April, 1865, five days after Confederate General Robert E Lee sur- rendered his army to Union General Ulysses S Grant, effectively ending the Civil War. The president was taken across the street to the Petersen House and placed in a bed, where he died the next morning, perhaps cov- ered by the artefact headed for the lab.

Wisconsin State Journal owner Richard Lloyd Jones gave the blanket to the Wis- consin Historical Society in 1919. Jones, who was inter- ested in preserving Lincoln artefacts, acquired it from the Petersen family in 1907. The Wisconsin Historical Society bought it from the Petersen family in 1907. The Wisconsin Historical Society is legal to take possession of the artefact for examination. Sarmadi will test the cot- ton bedspread to determine if human blood is on the Wisconsin Historical Society artefact. “It is the most exciting thing to work on,” Sarmadi said on Monday. “It gives me goosebumps. There is no single president in history that I regard more than Lincoln.”

Lincoln was shot by John Wilkes Booth as he watched a play in Ford’s Theatre on 14 April, 1865, five days after Confederate General Robert E Lee sur- rendered his army to Union General Ulysses S Grant, effectively ending the Civil War. The president was taken across the street to the Petersen House and placed in a bed, where he died the next morning, perhaps cov- ered by the artefact headed for the lab.

Wisconsin State Journal owner Richard Lloyd Jones gave the blanket to the Wis- consin Historical Society in 1919. Jones, who was inter- ested in preserving Lincoln artefacts, acquired it from the Petersen family in 1907. The Wisconsin Historical Society bought it from the Petersen family in 1907. The Wisconsin Historical Society is legal to take possession of the artefact for examination. Sarmadi will test the cot-
**Claims Day Notice**

**MV Panja BHum Voy NO (048N)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV PANJA BHUM VOY NO (048N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 15.4.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses 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**

**Myanmar Port Authority**

**Agent For:** MS Wan Hai Lines Pte Ltd

Phone No: 2301185

---

**China, Singapore vow to deepen military cooperation**

Beijing, 14 April — China and Singapore pledged to deepen military cooperation in hopes of making contributions to regional peace and stability.

Chinese Defence Minister Chang Wanquan said in Beijing on Tuesday.

Chang, also a state councillor, made the remarks during a meeting with Ng Chee Meng, Singapore’s Chief of Defence Force.

Singapore attaches great importance to China-Singapore military cooperation and communication in various fields, Chang said.

Ng Chee Meng said it was his first official visit to China since taking office.

This year marks the 25th anniversary of the establishment of Singapore-China diplomatic ties.

He said his visit is “meaningful”.

Singapore is willing to further cooperation with China in the fields of delegation visits, joint training and personnel training, Ng Chee Meng said. — Xinhua

---

**Volcanic eruption drill at Mt Azuma**

Local officials take part in a drill simulating a volcanic eruption at Mt Azuma in Fukushima city in northeastern Japan on 14 April, 2015, prior to the loosening of restrictions of entry to the mountain on 17 April.—Kyodo News

---

**Weather Report**

**Bay Inference:** Weather is partly cloudy to cloudy in the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

**Forecast Valid Until Evening of the 15th April, 2015:** Rain or thundershowers are likely to be scattered in Shan, Chin and Kayah States and isolated in the remaining Regions and States. Degree of certainty is (40%).

**State of the Sea:** Strong easterly winds with moderate to rough sea are likely at times Delhiac, Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts. Surface wind speed in strong easterly wind may reach (35) mph. Seas will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters.

---

**Russian envoy visits Hiroshima after rejecting protest at nuke remark**

Hiroshima, 14 April — Russian Ambassador to Japan Evgeny Afanasiev visited the city of Hiroshima on Tuesday, after having rejected protests lodged by Hiroshima and Nagasaki against his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin’s remarks that Moscow was ready to put its nuclear forces on alert during the Crimean crisis last year.

Afanasiev offered flowers at the memorial cenotaph for atomic-bomb victims in Hiroshima during the 7th World Memorial Park and visited the museum in the park showing the devastation caused by US bombing in 1945.

Afanasiev then met with Hiroshima Mayor Kazumi Matsui who reiterated his concern about Putin’s remarks, saying it is Hiroshima’s role to convey atomic-bomb victims’ wishes to the world.

The ambassador said he is well aware of Hiroshima’s people’s feelings and that the president did not say Russia would use nukes.

Afanasiev also told reporters that reports on Putin’s remarks were distorted and that Russia is proactively working toward abolition of nuclear arms.

In a letter dated last Thursday to the mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Afanasiev said Japan’s reliance on nuclear deterrence contributes to the Japanese atomic-bomb survivors’ wish for peace, and the target of the protest should be the United States, which dropped atomic bombs on both Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Afanasiev visited Hiroshima for the first time since taking office as ambassador to Japan in 2012. Hiroshima has been inviting Russia to an annual peace memorial ceremony held on the anniversary of the 6 August bombing of Hiroshima and other Russian government officials have attended it. — Kyodo News

---

**China, S Korea, Japan agree to strengthen trilateral cooperation on water policy innovation**

GYONGJU, (South Korea), 14 April — China, South Korea and Japan on Monday agreed to strengthen trilateral cooperation on water policy innovation during the 7th World Water Forum held in South Korea’s southeastern cities of Daegu and Gyeongju.

The three countries held a trilateral ministerial meeting during the forum on Monday, bringing together China’s Vice Minister of Water Resources Jiao Yong, South Korea’s Minister of Land, Infrastructure and Transport Yoo Il-ho and Japan’s Minister of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism Ohtsuki Akihiro.

The three sides signed a joint statement to strengthen trilateral cooperation on water-related issues under the topic “Water Policy Innovation in Response to Persistent and Emerging Water Challenges”.

China’s Vice Minister of Water Resources Jiao Yong, South Korea’s Minister of Land, Infrastructure and Transport Yoo Il-ho and Japan’s Minister of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism Ohtsuki Akihiro (R-L) pose for photo after signing a joint statement during a trilateral ministerial meeting at the seventh World Water Forum held in Gyeongju, South Korea, on 13 April, 2015. China, South Korea and Japan on Monday agreed to strengthen trilateral cooperation on water policy innovation during the seventh World Water Forum held in South Korea’s southeastern cities of Daegu and Gyeongju.— Xinhua

“…we share the recognition that water policy innovation and reform should be promoted by each country in order to strengthen the core role of water resource in sustainable development, improve synergy among relevant government agencies and relevant stakeholders, enhance the resilience of water infrastructure and attract more financial investment into the water sector,” the statement said.

They also decided to share the knowledge and experience learned in above water policy innovation initiatives for improved water security in three countries.

In addition, they welcomed trilateral cooperation to share and spread achievements and success to other countries, in particular, developing nations, according to the statement.

The World Water Forum, which is held every three years by the World Water Council, is the world’s largest water-related forum that brings together around 3,500 world leaders, business people and experts. — Xinhua

---

**Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry**

**Myanmar Timber Enterprise**

**Export Marketing & Milling Department**

**Invitation for Open Tender**

**1. MYANMAR TIMBER ENTERPRISE WILL SELL TEAK & HARDWOOD ROUND LOGS AND SAWN TIMBERS BY OPEN TENDERS IN US DOLLARS. PARTICULARS OF THE OPEN TENDER SALES ARE AS FOLLOWS:**

(a) **DATE & TIME**

(b) **COMMODITIES & VOLUME**

- TEAK LOGS (1650 TONS)
- TEAK HANDSAWN & CONVERSION (386 TONS)
- HARD WOOD LOSS
- PADAUK TAMALAN (3000 TONS)
- PYNKADO KANYIN GUPJAN HNAW THTHARYING/GYING YNWIN THAYET SIT SANDAWA/YEYAM DECORATING ABOUT (1130) TONS
- HARDWOOD HANDSAWN CONVERSION PADAUK TAMALAN THAYET/THINWIN ABOUT (1130) TONS
- TAW WIN HALL KYOOGONO SEIN TOWNSHIP YANGON

(c) **PLACE**

For Further Detailed Information Please Contact MYANMAR TIMBER ENTERPRISE HEAD OFFICE AND ALSO VISIT MYANMAR TIMBER WEB-SITE www.myantimber.com

OPEN TENDER COMMITTEE

MYANMAR TIMBER ENTERPRISE

---

**For Inquiries to place an advertisement in the GNLM:**

Please email wallace.tun@gmail.com

(+95) (01) 8604532
**Tribute to late ‘German Sinatra’ is surprise Berlin hit**

Udo Juergens holds up his trophy for Lifetime Achievement during the Bambi 2013 media awards ceremony in Berlin on 14 Nov, 2013.—REUTERS

Berlin, 14 April — A German musical celebrating 20 of the top hits from pop star Udo Juergens has become the show to see in Berlin after the German-speaking world’s answer to Frank Sinatra died at the age of 80 late last year.

The musical “Ich war noch niemals in New York” (I’ve never been in New York) takes its title from one of Juergens’ easy listening “Schläger” (hit songs) and has been filling the 1,600-capacity Theater des Westens since its 25 March premiere. Juergens, who sold more than 105 million records and wrote hundreds of original tunes and covers of songs from Sinatra, Sammy Davis Jr, Bing Crosby and Matt Monro, had a 64-year career that took off after he won the Eurovision Song Contest for his native Austria in 1966.

The musical features many of his best-known hits such as “Siebenzehn Jahr, blondes Haar” (17 and Blond Hair), “Griechischer Wein” (Greek Wine) and “Aber bitte mit Sahne” (But with Whipped Cream, Please), all catchy tunes that made him a household name in Germany, Austria and Switzerland for decades.

Although he was a regular on television and in concert halls, the show’s success has surprised some critics, who guess that its timing — coming only months after his death of a heart attack in Switzerland last December — helped trigger interest. During his career, Juergens managed to attract audiences of all ages and ended his concerts with his trademark gesture — returning for encores in a bathrobe. He once performed an open-air concert before a crowd of 220,000 in Vienna in 1992.

In 1970, he played more than 200 concerts to audiences on an exhausting tour of Germany, Switzerland, Austria and then-communist Eastern Europe.

Like the ABBA musical “Mamma Mia!” that packed the Theater des Westens for a 16-month run that ended in February, the Juergens show is a light-hearted story about a love-struck couple of senior citizens in a gloomy retirement home who elope by ship to New York, a city neither had ever seen before. — Reuters

**Hollywood star Bill Murray to attend Laureus Awards**

SHANGHAI, 14 April — Hollywood actor Bill Murray, famous for iconic roles in blockbuster films such as Groundhog Day, Ghostbusters, Lost In Translation and The Grand Budapest Hotel, is to present an Award in Shanghai’s Grand Theatre at Wednesday’s Laureus World Sports Awards.

He will be joined as an Award presenter at the most prestigious honors event on the international sporting calendar by top model Karolina Kurkova. In a star-studded line-up, they will be joined by Henry Cavill, widely acclaimed for his role as Superman in the highly successful film Man Of Steel, and South Korean award-winning actress Ha Ji-won. The Awards Ceremony will be hosted for the second year by film and TV star Benedict Cumberbatch. The Laureus World Sports Awards is the premier honors event on the international sporting calendar. The winners, as voted by the Laureus World Sports Academy, the ultimate sports jury, made up of 50 of the greatest sportsmen and sportswomen of all time, will be unveiled at the globally televised event on 15 April. —Xinhua

**Musician Carlos Varela seeks to bridge US and Cuban audiences**

Musician Carlos Varela, dubbed “The Poet of Havana,” known for his subtle political lyrics, performs in concert at the National Theater in Havana on 7 Jan, 2013 in this picture released to Reuters on 12 April, 2015.—Reuters

Many people associate Cuban music only with the traditional “son” music made famous by the Buena Vista Social Club documentary and album. But Chapman said Cuba has produced many other styles of music.—Reuters

**Furious 7’ races to USD 800.5 million at box office**

LOS ANGELES, 14 April — “Fast & Furious 7” has hit USD 800 million mark at the global box office only in its second weekend. The Universal movie, the final film from the late Paul Walker, earned another USD 195 million overseas from 66 markets for a foreign total of USD 548 million.

Domestically, “Furious 7” earned USD 60.6 million to end the weekend with a 10-day total of USD 252.2 million, which is more than the USD 239 million that “Furious 6” collected in entire run, said the Hollywood Reporter.

The movie debuted in China on Sunday to USD 68.6 million — the biggest single-day gross in history for the world’s second-largest moviegoing market. Its collection in India stands at USD 20.8 million, as well as Cuban music critics and musicians.

“There is a misconception about Cuba and Cuban music in the world at large, more so in the United States because of the embargo,” Chapman said in an interview.

Many people associate Cuban music only with the traditional “son” music made famous by the Buena Vista Social Club documentary and album. But Chapman said Cuba has produced many other styles of music.—Reuters

**Mariah Carey announces #1 to Infinity’ album**

LOS ANGELES, 14 April— Singer Mariah Carey has officially announced her new album, “#1 to Infinity”, which is the re-issue of her 1998 hit album “#1”. The album will accompany her upcoming Las Vegas residency. Carey, 45, also revealed the album’s cover art, which shows her in a mini black dress teamed with a pair of black heels in the cover of the re-issue of her 1998 greatest hits album ‘#1’, reported Ace- showbiz.—PTI
Manuscript by Nazi code breaker Alan Turing sells for $1 million

New York, 14 April — A 56-page handwritten notebook that belonged to World War Two Nazi code breaker and computer pioneer Alan Turing, played by actor Benedict Cumberbatch in the film “The Imitation Game,” sold for more than $1 million at an auction in New York, Bonhams said on Monday.

Turing, a British mathematical genius, led a team of cryptographers who cracked the wartime Enigma code, which the Germans had considered unbreakable. Their work is credited with hastening the end of the war and saving lives.

Cassandra Hatton, senior specialist in Bonhams’ fine books and manuscripts department, said the result of the auction as a testament to Turing’s legacy. Bonhams declined to name the buyer.

“It reflects its importance in history. I think he is someone who merits further study, and I hope this contributes to increased interest in him and his work,” she said in an interview.

The auction also reaffirms a growing interest in scientific material, the history of computers, space, exploration and early science, she added.

Part of the proceeds from the sale will go to an unspecified charity.

The notebook, which had never been seen in public, is considered the only existing, extensive manuscript by Turing. It dates back to 1942 and was left to his friend Robin Gandy. In it Turing worked on mathematical formulas and the basics of computer science, giving insights into the workings of his brilliant mind. Gandy added his own notes between the pages of Turing’s musings and kept the notebook hidden until his death.

Turing, a homosexual, never received credit for his groundbreaking work during the war. He committed suicide in 1954 at the age of 41 while receiving hormone treatment. It was an alternative to imprisonment after he was charged with gross indecency in 1952 for having sex with a man. Homosexual sex was a crime at that time in Britain.

Sixty years after his death Turing received a rare, royal pardon by Queen Elizabeth for his gay conviction.

Cumberbatch received a best actor Academy Award nomination for his portrayal of Turing in the film, which won an Oscar for best adapted screenplay. The film is based on the book, “Alan Turing: The Enigma,” by Andrew Hodges.

“This notebook shines extra light on how, even when he was emeshed in great world events, he remained committed to free-thinking work in pure mathematics,” Hodges said in a statement.—Reuters

Workplace workouts can snag on stressful corporate culture

New York, 14 April — As evidence mounts that fit employees are productive workers, companies have slotted into the corporate routine an array of workplace workout initiatives, from in-house gyms to lunchtime yoga.

But fitness experts say even the best-intentioned get-fit efforts can founder before the demands of a corporate culture that is stressful, sedentary and increasingly round-the-clock.

“This demand for 24/7 access, this idea that I can always access you and you should intensely, immediately, respond, is a stressor, and we know from studies that chronic stress will shorten your life and ultimately kill you,” said Dr Mary Ellen Rose, a Washington, DC-based consultant for workplace health promotion.

Rose believes that even the wearable fitness bands and watches meant to keep exercisers on track can be counter-productive.

“When you’re happy and healthy, you’re more productive,” she said. “But for people who are high anxiety, monitoring every little thing becomes a stressor.”

Obesity costs employers about $73 billion annually in absenteeism and medical expenses, according to the US Centers for Disease Control.

Patrick Hitchins, co-founder of FitRankings, an Austin, Texas-based fitness tech company that ranks the fitness levels of individuals and companies, notes that most fit people in a company are usually the executives.

“For employees to perform at their best they need to fit, yet workplaces have become anti-fit and increasingly sedentary,” he said.

Hitchins believes companies have a long way to go before they see their employees as athletes rather than as cogs in a machine.

“(We need) to raise that awareness on the corporate level that its (fitness) is cheaper than a trip to the hospital,” he said.

Installing showers at the office and welcoming yoga pants at midday meetings are among the methods that Alexia Brue, co-founder with Melissa Gelula of the wellness media company Well-Go, said corporations can use in the workplace. “One of the challenges is (creating) the acceptance that you can work out at lunch and come back to the desk sweaty,” she said.

“Culturally there needs to be a shift, so workers can roll into office from their workout.”—Reuters

Cambodian sticky rice cake wins Guinness World Record

PHNOM PENH, 14 April — A giant Cambodian sticky rice cake that is 5 meters long and weighs over 4 tons was presented on 14 April, the Guinness World Record on Monday.

Organizers of Cambodian New Year events, which announced the Guiness listing, said the giant cake was prepared by 100 chefs for New Year celebrations and it took 45 hours to cook.

The giant sticky rice cake is being displayed in front of the Angkor Wat Temple for two days until Tuesday, the first day of a three-day Cambodian New Year festival.

Sticky rice cake, popular in Asian countries, is a representation of traditional Khmer food.

Apart from glutinous rice, other ingredients include pork, coconut cream, salt, garlic, black pepper, beans and sugar.

At 4.2 tons, this year’s sticky rice cake outweighs last year’s creation, which weighed 2.8 tons.—Kyodo News

myanmar international

(15-4-2015 07:00 am ~ 16-4-2015 07:00 am) MST

• Myanmar Traditional Thingyan Festival (Live)
• Myanmar Social & Charitable Association (Ep-2) (Ivivudana Hospital)
• Black Gold (P - 1)
• Mon Traditional Thingyan Rice
• Thingyan Dance
• Rattan Industry
• Marketable Goods (Live)
• Film Maker: Khin Su Kyi
• Super Traditional Fencing Form (Ep-3)
• A Lucky Boy
• News
• A Bike Ride in pursuit of Moral Art (Episode-2)
• Today Myanmar

(15-4-2015, Wednesday)

6:00 am • Paritta by Venerable Mingun Sayadaw
6:25 am • Physical Exercise
6:35 am • Classical Song
7:00 am • News / Weather Report
7:30 am • Head Line News
8:00 am • News / International News
8:35 am • The Nine precept
9:00 am • Mandalay Thingyan Festival (Live)
9:50 am • Mawlamyine Thingyan Festival (Delay)
10:10 am • Yangon Thingyan Festival (Delay)
11:10 pm • Larshow Thingyan Festival (Delay)
12:00 noon • News / International News / Weather Report

etertainment Channel

(15-4-2015, Wednesday)

6:00 am • Mono Classical Songs
6:15 am • Song and Dance of Thingyan Festival
6:35 am • Thingyan Song and Dance of Children
7:10 am • Save Our Myanmar (Cartoon)
7:15 am • Pi Yi Thu Ni Ti
8:00 pm • Song and dance of Thingyan Festival
9:55 am • News / Weather Report
10:05 am • Myanmar Movie
Liverpool back in Champions League hunt with Newcastle win

Berlin, 14 April — Bayern Munich may be missing some of their biggest names when they travel to Porto for the first leg of their Champions League last eight on Wednesday but the Germans are confident they have enough firepower to defend their favourites tag.

Chasing a second treble after winning the UEFA Cup and their first semi-final appearance but will also be without injured defenders David Alaba and Medhi Benatia. Coach Guardiola, however, will have central defender Jerome Boateng, rested in Saturday’s 3-0 win over Eintracht Frankfurt, back in the squad.

Porto, looking for a fourth successive semi-final appearance but will not be a easy game at Porto,” said club CEO Karl-Heinz Rummenigge. “We are being given the favourites tag but we have no problem with that.”

Five-time winners Bayern are looking for a fourth successive semi-final appearance but will also be without injured defenders David Alaba and Medhi Benatia. Coach Guardiola, however, will have central defender Jerome Boateng, rested in Saturday’s 3-0 win over Eintracht Frankfurt, back in the squad.

Porto, looking for their first semi-final appearance since winning the trophy in 2004, also enjoyed a successful dress rehearsal, beating Rio Ave 3-1 on Saturday.

Winger Ricardo Quaresma was again on target for them taking his tally to three goals in two matches. — Reuters

Politics, Champions League hope add spice to Europa

Brzez, 14 April — The possibility of a final between teams from Russia and Ukraine plus the chance of qualifying for the Champions League has added some spice to the Europa League which reaches the quarter-final stage on Thursday.

Napoli, in particular, will be glad of the rule change introduced this season, which allows the European League winners a back door entry into the Champions League, as their chances of qualifying through the Europa League, as their chances of qualifying through the European competition for the first time since winning the UEFA Cup.

Di Lorenzo, third in the Italian league, visit on-song Club Bruges, who are unbeaten in 14 games in the competition since entering the fray in the third qualifying round.

Michel Preud’homme’s team, who lead the Belgian league and have already won the domestic cup, will seek to revive the spirit of their 1970s heyday, when Ernst Happel led them to the European Cup and UEFA Cup finals, losing both to Liverpool.

Dynamo Kiev, the other Ukrainian side, host Fiorentina and look to be favourites versus a side who have lost their last two domestic games 3-0 against Juventus and Napoli.

Fiorentina’s big hope, as they attempt to win a European trophy for the first time since lifting the Cup Winners’ Cup in 1961, is Egypt forward Mohamed Salah, who has been in inspired form since moving on loan from Chelsea in January. — Reuters

Bayern count injuries but confident against Porto

Bayern Munich’s Thomas Mueller (L) and Robert Lewandowski celebrate their team’s third goal against Eintracht Frankfurt during their German first division Bundesliga soccer match in Munich, on 11 April, 2015. — Reuters