

The court verdict included noting fire was caused from the overheating of an electrical regulator; the door was locked and the firemen could only enter the building after they broke the locks. Thirteen 13 students suffocated in the burning mosque.—*NLM*

President to congratulate outstanding youths in May

YANGON, 25 April—President U Thein Sein will meet and congratulate outstanding students, Red Cross Society members and scouts in early May, officials said on Friday.

A total of 146 young people and their four supervisors are now holding a gathering, that will last from 23 April to 1 May, in Yangon.

The gathering includes 34 members of the Red Cross Society, one male and one female each from states and regions across the country, 112 students from universities and colleges and 146 outstanding Red Cross members, and four supervisors.

Dr. Thar Hla Shwe, chairman of the Myanmar Red Cross Society, said: "The members of the Red

Cross Society never seek return for their help. This is the spirit of Red Cross. This assembly could share this spirit to other young people."

The assembly will include sharing knowledge about the activities of the Red Cross Society such as healthcare services, leadership skills, disaster management and first aid courses.

The assembly camp was opened on Thursday at the Transit Centre in Yangon.

The outstanding members of the Myanmar Red Cross Society will also meet with sector youths and outstanding students an assembly camp in Nay Pyi Taw in May.

The Myanmar Red Cross Society began operations in 1920 as a branch of



Members of Red Cross Society seen at the assembly camp in Yangon on 24 April.—MNA

the India Red Cross Society. After separating from the latter in 1937, MRCS

obtained official, national status in 1939.

Win Maw, Nandar Win

Draw for AFC U-19 championship competition held in Yangon

YANGON, 25 April—Myanmar will host the 2014 AFC U-19 football championship and the draw for the tournament was held in Yangon on Thursday.

The event is scheduled for Nay Pyi Taw and Yangon from 9-23 October.

According to the draw, Myanmar, Iran, Thailand and Yemen will be in Group (A); Uzbekistan, Australia, United Arab Emirates and Indonesia are in Group (B); South Korea, Japan, China PR and Vietnam in Group (C); and Iraq, North Korea, Qatar and Oman in Group (D).

Chairman of Myanmar Football Federation U Zaw Zaw made a speech at the draw ceremony, and officials of MFF explained the draw process.

Together with the MFF chairman and others, former Myanmar footballers U Than Toe Aung and U Soe Myat Minn drew lots for the groups.

Nyi Myat Thawda



Responsible persons draw for group of AFC U-19 championship competition.

PHOTO: SOE NYUNT

Non-stop Pahtana recitation ceremony ongoing in South Dagon Tsp

YANGON, 25 April—A third Non-stop Pahtana recitation ceremony is being held from Friday at the Dhamma Gawsaka chapel in Ward-57 of South Dagon Township in the southeastern part of

Yangon.

Monks in the township led by the abbot of Laymyethna Monastery are reciting the Pahtana from 25 to 27 April.

The Pahtana is one of

the most important devotional verses delivered by the Buddha and monks have been holding recitation ceremonies for ages with the aim of ensuring public safety.

Myint Than (Oxygen)



Photo shows religious community hall where Pahtana recitation ceremony is held in Yangon.—MYINT THAN (OXYGEN)

Slight earthquake jolts inside Myanmar

NAY PYI TAW, 25 April—A slight earthquake of magnitude 4.3 Richter Scale with its epicenter inside Myanmar (about 18 miles northeast of Thabeik-kyin) about 75 miles north

of Mandalay seismological observatory was recorded at 05 hrs 19 min 46 sec M.S.T on Friday, announced the Meteorology and Hydrology Department.—MNA

Class A Project of Thilawa Special Economic Zone ...

(from page 1)

MTSH received over 1,700 applications, offering to buy more than 4 million offering shares in total, reaching more than K 40 billion with over-sub-

scription of more than 1.8 million shares amounting to more than K 18 billion.

"As we announced previous, we set a cut-off at 500 shares (K 5 million in value) so that the

majority of the applicants can buy shares. So, over 90 per cent of the applicants get the amount of shares they want and the remaining 9 per cent have to buy in ratio of their applicants to the remaining shares," said Ko Tun Tun, who is responsible for

selling the shares.

MTSH will establish counters for buying and selling shares within three months so that shareholders who want can sell their shares conveniently.

MTSH is planning to refund the over subscribers soon.

NATIONAL

Vice-President attends meeting on organizing 5th Buddhist monk assembly

NAY PYI TAW, 25 April — Vice-President Dr. Sai Mauk Kham on 25 April attended a meeting on organizing the fifth Sangha assembly, the Buddhist monk association assembly.

The meeting was held at the meeting hall of Ministry of Religious Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw.

As a chairman of the organizing committee for the assembly, Dr. Sai Mauk Kham said at the meeting in Nay Pyi Taw that Sangha organizations have been founded in villages, townships, states and regions to preserve and propagate Buddhism. He said that these organizations should monitor that Buddhism was spread and practiced true to its principles and that misinterpretations or malpractices should be tackled.

He said that no Sangha assembly has been organized in the country since



Vice-President Dr. Sai Mauk Kham speaks to meeting on organizing fifth Sangha assembly—MNA

1995, and that the government will sponsor to hold this assembly when the Sasana Era 2558 is commemorated, adding that 2,558 Buddhist monks from across the country will be invited.

The assembly aims at enhancing the disciplinary rules of Buddhism and plans to add regulations.

C-in-C meets with ASEAN delegates

NAY PYI TAW, 25 April—The Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing met with ASEAN delegates who attended the

3rd Workshop on ASEAN Defence Industry Collaboration-ADIC in Myanmar at Zeyathiri Beikman in Nay Pyi Taw on Friday.

He focused on the cooperation among ASE-

AN countries to create a community with peace and stability, production of arms in ASEAN and ongoing reform in Myanmar.

MNA



Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and ASEAN delegates to 3rd Workshop on ASEAN Defence Industry Collaboration pose for photo.—MNA

Displaced villagers from Thameegalay get aid from the government

YANGON, 26 April—Union Minister for Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development U Ohn Myint together with Minister for Electric Power U Khin Maung Soe presented items donated by the president to displaced residents of Thameegalay Village near Wayakhon in Hlegu Township in Yangon on Friday.

Grand Wynn Enterprises Ltd and Toe Aung Zeya Co. also donated rice, edible oil, dry fish, tinned meat, flashlights and ready-made curries to the villagers.

The ministers inspected progress on rehabilitation in the village and the construction of tube-wells in Setkwetthit Ward in Eastern Phonyi

Modem Village.

They also presented cash for repaving in the village.

MNA

Photo shows resettlement areas for villagers of Thameegalay Village.

MNA

Union Parliament Speaker tours Thaton, Mawlamyine in Mon State



NAY PYI TAW, 25 April—Speaker of the Union Parliament and People's Parliament Thura U Shwe Mann elaborated on matters related to constitutional amendments, legislative procedures of the parliament and ongoing works for promulgation, amendment and abolition of laws in the parliament to local people during his tour

of Thaton and Mawlamyine districts in Mon State on Friday.

In meeting with parliamentarians, members of support committees, officials, responsible people of political parties and local people, he said the country is moving towards a parliamentary democracy with the burgeoning of market economic system and en-

actments of laws for the good of the people are underway.

In his speeches given at the two meetings, the Speaker welcomed people's voices for the sake of the country and called on the authorities concerned and people to enforce and adhere to the laws passed by the parliament to continue the reform process.—MNA

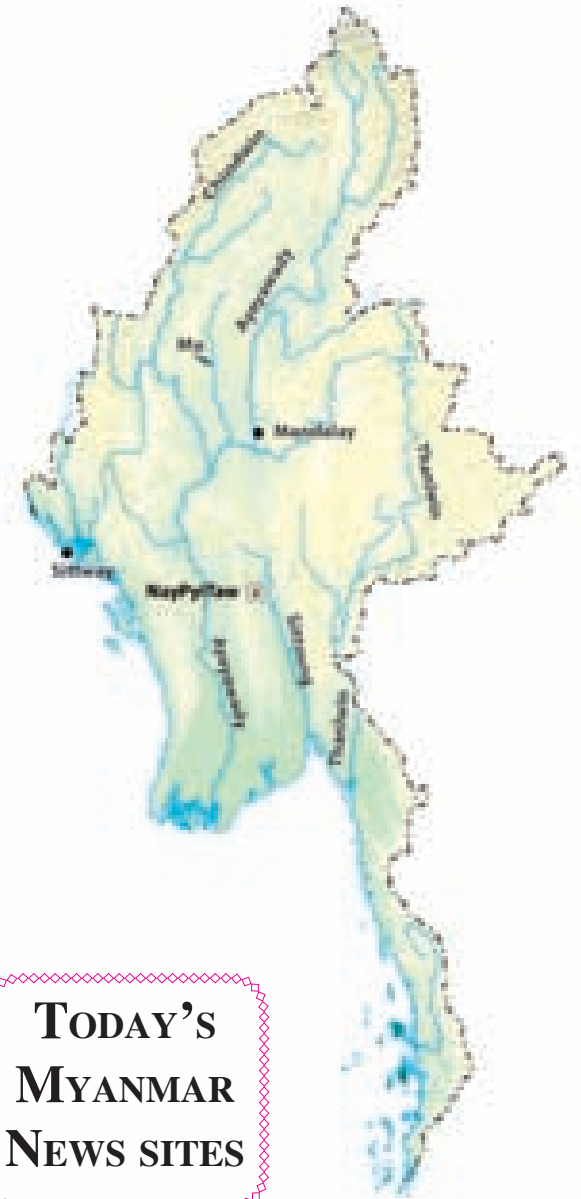


Myanmar, JICA to boost cooperation in agricultural development



NAY PYI TAW, 25 April—Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing held talks with officials of the Japan International Cooperation

Agency (JICA) on boosting cooperation in Myanmar's agricultural development, in Nay Pyi Taw on Thursday. They discussed matters related to upgrading of dams and land preparation for mechanized farming in the western part of Bago starting from this fiscal year utilising low-interest loans and Japanese ODA and establishment of South Nawin, North Nawin, Weygi and Taungnyo irrigated areas with technical assistance from JICA as soon as possible.—MNA



**TODAY'S
MYANMAR
NEWS SITES**

Mawlamyine-Dawei-Kawthoung road construction discussed

NAY PYI TAW, 25 April—Union Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lwin held a talks with a delegation led by the Deputy General Manager of China Eximbank Mr. Mei Jianping on Thursday morning to discuss Mawlamyine-Dawei-Kawthoung road construction.—MNA



Union Minister U KyawLwin poses for documentary photo together with attendees at the meeting.—MNA

Myanmar, Japan ink MoU on three grant agreements

NAY PYI TAW, 25 April—The Myanmar Government and JICA signed a grant agreement for three projects at the Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development in Nay Pyi Taw on Thursday.

Deputy Minister for National Planning and Economic Development Daw Lei Lei Thein and Ichiro Maruyama, charge d'af-

faire ai of the Japanese Embassy in Myanmar, inked the agreement on the Project for Human Resources Development Scholarship, the Project for National Single Window and Customs Modernization by Introducing Automated Cargo Clearance System and the Project for Improving Lashio General Hospital in Shan State.

Through the signing of the agreement, Myanmar will see more scholarships for its human resources development, effective customs procedures and system and improvement of medical equipment in Lashio general hospital. It can thereby contribute towards strengthening bilateral relations.

MNA

Ceremony to honour former champion athletes to be held in May

NAY PYI TAW, 25 April—Myanmar National Sports Committee and Myanmar Olympic Committee has arranged to hold a ceremony to honour athletes who brought prestige to the State and the best sportsmen and sportswomen in 2013 on 10 May in Yangon.

Gold medalists at the Asian Games and gold medalists at South-East Asian Peninsula Games and SEA Games were invited to the ceremony.

Footballers U Myo Win Nyunt, U Ye Nyunt, Captain Win Maung (Rtd), Captain Tin Aung (Rtd), U Aye Maung Gyi, U Soe Paing, U Ba Pu, U Ba Yi, Captain Tin Aye (Rtd), U Win Maung (Retired IP) and U Aye Maung Lay; track and field champions Daw Khin Khin Htwe (2), Daw Mar Mar Min, Daw Than Than, Captain Ko Ko, Daw Jennifer Tin Lay, Daw Hla Shwe and Captain Khin Soe (Rtd); volleyball champion U Tun

Lin, weightlifters U Htein Win and U Aye Win, judo champion Daw Khin Khin Mu, rowers Daw Khin Mar Oo and Daw Mya Cho Oo, tennis champion U Maung Maung Lay and wushu Champion Daw Swe Swe Thant and Daw Khaing Khaing Maw have all been invited.

For further information, dial 09 2002196 and 067 406026 of the Director of Public Sports and Education Branch.

MNA

Special Course for primary school teachers in Sittway

SITTWAY, 25 April —In order to fill teacher vacancies in Rakhine state, post-graduate youths have been assigned as daily-wage teachers in 17 townships in the state starting from the

2013-2014 academic year, Township Education Officer U Kyar Hla Tun said.

Courses for the teachers have been conducted to endow them with teaching skills.

In a special training course in Sittway Township, 13 instructors are training 34 trainees in the methods of Kyaukpyu Education College.

Sittway IPRD

Researchers grow watermelon in moulds

NAY PYI TAW, 25 April—Nay Pyi Taw Council Area is the centre of distributing agricultural knowledge to farmers across the country and also is as a research centre that introduces new methods of farming to growers.

At the 500-acre Educative Farm in the area, a

new strain of watermelon named 855 is being grown in moulds.

“Free from pests is one of the results of growing watermelon in a mould. The mould also can protect watermelon from decay when grown in places where water is not drained,” said Daw

Ei Mon Kyaw, official of Agriculture Department.

As the fruit is in the moulds, it is easy to be transported. An acre can be put under 2000 plants of watermelon.

Within 80 days the fruit can be harvested, she said.

Ko Pauk (Okka Land)



WORLD

Japan, US affirm commitment to development of ASEAN

TOKYO, 25 April — Japan and the United States have affirmed their commitment to assisting the development of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, according to a document released on Friday after a summit on Thursday between Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and US President Barack Obama in Tokyo.

“As ASEAN increasingly embraces unity toward the establishment of the ASEAN Community by 2015, we intend to deepen joint engagement and cooperation with the countries in the region,” according to a “fact sheet” issued by the White House.

Referring to bilateral tie-ups in promoting women’s empowerment in the 10-member ASEAN, the paper said Japan and the United States are working together in the so-called “WECREATE Initiative” to establish women’s entrepreneurial centres in Cambodia and Laos.

While acknowledging the “tremendous pro-

gress” Myanmar has made over the past several years in promoting democratic values, Japan and the United States reaffirmed their commitment to supporting Myanmar political and economic reform and national reconciliation efforts, said the paper titled, “US-Japan Global and Regional Cooperation.”

Citing the two countries’ coordinated response to damage caused by Typhoon Haiyan that hit the Philippines last year, Tokyo and Washington vowed to increase coordination in reducing disaster risk, providing humanitarian responses and assisting in the creation of disaster-resilient societies in Southeast Asia and around the world, it said.

Japan and the United States have committed to coordinating their capacity building assistance for maritime safety and security for Southeast Asian countries, it said.

Measures include the provision of patrol vessels, development of port facilities,



US President Barack Obama (L) attends a news conference with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe at the Akasaka guesthouse in Tokyo on 24 April, 2014. — KYODO NEWS

ties, as well as training of maritime safety officials of ASEAN members.

The two countries are also emphasizing the need to strengthen cooperation in building the capacity of

aviation safety in Southeast Asian countries.

Japan and the United States will expand cooperation with third-country partners to advance the two allies’ shared commit-

ment to security and prosperity in the Asia-Pacific region, the document said, referring to their trilateral tie-ups with South Korea, Australia and India, respectively.

The paper refers to trilateral cooperation with India, particularly in the area of maritime security in the Indian Ocean and Western Pacific.

Kyodo News

Ukraine urges Russia to pull back troops amid Moscow drills on border



Ukrainian soldiers stand guard in front of an armoured personnel carrier at a checkpoint in the village of Malinivka, east of Slavyansk in eastern Ukraine on 24 April, 2014.—XINHUA

KIEV/MOSCOW, 25 April — Ukrainian acting President Alexandr Turchynov on Thursday urged Russia to pull back its troops from the joint border following Moscow’s announcement of military exercises in response to Kiev’s “anti-terror” operation.

“We demand Russia to stop interference in Ukraine’s internal affairs, end the constant threats and blackmail and withdraw its troops from the eastern border of our country,” Turchynov said in a televised address.

He again accused Russia of fomenting

separatist movement in eastern Ukrainian regions, saying that Moscow “supports terrorists and murderers.”

Moscow had begun drills near the border with Ukraine in response to Kiev’s “anti-terror” operation, which left five pro-Moscow protesters dead, Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu said.

“The starting gun to use weapons against their own civilians has already been fired (in Ukraine). If today this military machine is not stopped, it will lead to a large number of the dead and wounded. Nor is the

situation around Ukraine being helped by the announced drills of NATO troops in Poland and the Baltic States,” Shoigu was quoted by *Interfax* news agency as saying.

Russia has to react “to such development,” the defence chief said before a government meeting in Moscow.

Shoigu also said the air forces began forming army aviation brigades and helicopter regiments that were unprecedented, adding that the troops were receiving new and upgraded versions of aircraft.

Earlier in the day, Ukrainian Interior Ministry said five “separatist militants” were killed during “counter-terror” actions at

three checkpoints set by a pro-Russia militia outside the city of Slavyansk.

Also on Thursday, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov told reporters that Moscow believed the main condition to solve the ongoing crisis in Ukraine was to “stop illegal actions of current Kiev authorities which should understand their responsibility for everything agreed upon in Geneva.”

The United States should use its influence to make the Ukrainian authorities fulfill their commitment of the Geneva agreement on Ukraine, Lavrov said after a meeting with his Lebanese counterpart Gebran Bassil in Moscow.—Xinhua

N Korea nuke test now ‘only matter of political decision’

SEOUL, 25 April — South Korea’s Defence Ministry spokesman said on Friday that North Korea has completed all preparations for a fourth nuclear test and it is now up to North Korean leader Kim Jong Un on whether to proceed with the test. “North Korea has completed all preparations to conduct a nuclear test suddenly,” Kim Min Seok said at a Press briefing.

“With all preparations done, it’s only a matter of political decision and strategic judgment for the North Korean leadership to conduct a nuclear test,” Kim said. He also said North Korea may delay the timing of the nuclear test or might try to “deceive” the world “with what appears to be a nuclear test.”

North Korea said in recent weeks it will carry out

a “new form” of nuclear test, following its earlier ones first held in 2006, 2009 and 2013. In an interview published on Friday ahead of his arrival in Seoul, US President Barack Obama warned North Korea to think twice about proceeding with a fourth nuclear test, telling a South Korean newspaper that it would have serious repercussions.

“If North Korea were to make the mistake of

engaging in another nuclear test, it should expect a firm response from the international community,” Obama said in the interview with the JoongAng Ilbo, appearing on the daily’s website.

“Pyongyang will gain absolutely nothing from another nuclear test except to deepen its own isolation from the global community,” he said.

Kyodo News

France to send four Rafale fighter jets on Baltic security duty

PARIS, 25 April — France will send four *Rafale* fighter jets to Poland next week as part of a show of NATO commitment to Central Europe and the Baltic states, which have been rattled by the escalation of tensions between Russia and Ukraine. The four warplanes will be sent to Malbork in northern Poland on 28 April on a double mission: to train the Polish air force and stand ready for air patrols over the Baltic states under NATO command, the French defence ministry said.

Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian visited Poland and the Baltics last month to reassure them on security,

and will go to Malbork on 29 April as the French pilots start their four-month mission. NATO said last week it would send more ships, planes and troops to eastern Europe to reassure allies worried by Russia’s annexation of Crimea and its massing of troops on the border with eastern Ukraine.

NATO has operated its “police the skies” mission over the Baltic states since 2004, with each alliance member state taking a turn every four months to supply planes. The United States does the job at the moment and Poland will take over in May.

Reuters

UN Security Council slams terrorist attack in Algeria

UNITED NATIONS, 25 April — The UN Security Council condemned on Thursday “in the strongest terms” a terrorist attack in Algeria, where 14 soldiers were killed by a terrorist group last week.

In a statement, the council slammed the attack in the town of Tizi Ouzou and stressed the need to combat “threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts.”

“The members of the Security Council underlined the need to bring perpetrators, organizers, financiers and sponsors of these reprehensible acts of terrorism to justice,” it said, urging all member states to cooperate actively with the Algerian authorities in this regard.

Algerian media reported on Sunday that as many as 14 soldiers were killed by al-Qaeda’s north African branch, al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb in Tizi Ouzou, about 120 km east of the capital Algiers. Following the attack, the Algerian army launched a large-scale military operation backed up by air strikes to hunt down suspected militants, the report said.

The attack came just one day after incumbent President Abdelaziz Bouteflika was announced to have won a fourth term in the North African nation.

Xinhua

5.9-magnitude quake hits South of the Fiji Islands

HONG KONG, 25 April — An earthquake measuring 5.9 on the Richter scale jolted South of the Fiji Islands at 19:51:58 GMT on Thursday, the US Geological Survey said.

The epicentre, with a depth of 63.53 km, was initially determined to be at 23.9906 degrees south latitude and 176.6986 degrees west longitude.

Xinhua



Farmers irrigate ginger seedlings in Xia Zhuang village of Funing county, north China's Hebei Province, on 24 April, 2014. Spring sowing in the province is estimated to cover 47.31 million mu (3.15 million hectares) in 2014. —XINHUA

Flood-hit Serbia fears from second water wave

BELGRADE, 25 April — After floods caused millions of euros of damages to Serbia over the past weekend and took several lives, heavy rainfall once more threatens to cause rivers to overflow.

The Republic Hydro-meteorological Service warns that heavy rainfall will last until Friday, that is expected to raise the levels of Mlava, Pek, Timok, Lim,

Jadar, Drina, South Morava, Ibar and Kolubara.

Heavy floods that struck Serbia over the weekend have caused more than 6 million euros (8.3 million US dollars) of damage to infrastructure and private property. Twenty two municipalities in Serbia have been badly struck by rivers that busted out of their waterbeds, said a statement of the government’s

commission for damage estimation published on Thursday. The commission urgently decided to allocate 500,000 euros to most needed repairs, and asked the Finance Ministry for remaining funds. The worst situation over the past weekend was in Doljevac near the southeastern city of Nis and the city of Krusevac in central Serbia.

Xinhua

Mexico rescues 44 Guatemalan illegal immigrants held hostage by traffickers

MEXICO CITY, 25 April — Mexican immigration authorities rescued 44 Guatemalan illegal immigrants and arrested six human traffickers who had taken them hostage in the southern state of Chiapas, official sources said on Thursday.

Officials from the National Immigration Institute (INM) said the illegal immigrants, among them seven women and two boys,

were being held at an INM center pending deportation procedures.

The immigrants identified their captors and said they had promised to smuggle them into the United States for varying amounts of money.

Officials said an anonymous tip led INM agents to the safe house where the immigrants were being held in Villaflores, Chiapas, which

borders Guatemala.

The six suspects, in police custody pending charges, reportedly belong to a criminal ring that operates in both Mexico and Guatemala, and is also involved in kidnapping and extortion.

The six are also wanted by the US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agency, the officials said.

Xinhua

One in ten US bridges in urgent need of repair



Cars are seen in the water as a span of highway bridge sits in the Skagit River on 24 May, 2013 after collapsing near the town of Mt Vernon, Washington late Thursday. —REUTERS

WASHINGTON, 25 April — More than 63,000 bridges across the United

States are in urgent need of repair, with most of the aging, structurally

compromised structures part of the interstate highway system, an analysis of recent federal data has found.

The report, released on Thursday by the American Road and Transportation Builders Association, warned that the dangerous bridges are used some 250 million times a day by trucks, school buses, passenger cars and other vehicles. The group, which represents the US transportation construction market, analyzed recent US Department of Transportation data for its study.

Japanese wins California clean air award

LOS ANGELES, 25 April — A former senior official of the Tokyo metropolitan government, Teruyuki Ono, became the first Japanese to be awarded a Haagen-Smit Clean Air Award given by the Californian state government.

Ono, 60, who once headed the Tokyo metropolitan government’s Bureau of Environment, is currently a managing director of the Japan Renewable Energy Foundation which was established by Softbank Corp Chairman Masayoshi Son after the outbreak in March 2011 of the nuclear disaster at the Fukushima Daiichi power plant.

The Haagen-Smit Clean Air Awards are given annually to scientists, policymakers, community leaders and educators in the world who have made significant lifetime contributions to the advancement of clean air and climate change science, technology and policy.

The year’s two other recipients are Barbara Finlayson-Pitts, a professor of chemistry at the University of California at Irvine, and James Lents, who heads the International Sustainable

Systems Research Center in La Habra, California.

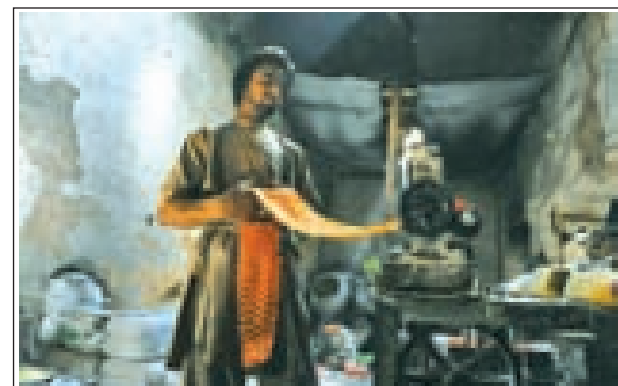
In 2008, Ono “established the Tokyo cap-and-trade programme, Japan’s first carbon trading program. That system...took effect in 2010 as a key part of Tokyo’s move to recreate itself as a low-carbon metropolis,” the state government’s awarding committee said.

Ono “has been an innovative policy leader for the past 35 years,” the committee said.

The cap-and-trade programme is aimed at curbing the emission of carbon dioxide.

In the award ceremony on Thursday in Sacramento, Ono said he was able to work out environmental policies with the help of the metropolitan government’s Environment Bureau staffers. “It is thanks to the tireless efforts of the staff of the Bureau of Environment that we were able to overcome various hurdles and implement these new programmes in Japan. I stand alone here today, but I share the pleasure of receiving this award with my many colleagues in Tokyo,” Ono said.

Kyodo News



An Afghan man makes traditional sweet at a sweet factory in Herat Province, Afghanistan, on 24 April, 2014. —XINHUA

are considered structurally deficient, and now account for more than 10 percent of all bridges.

States rely heavily on federal funds to pay for road and bridge projects but could face funding shortfalls by late August as the federal Highway Trust Fund draws closer to insolvency without congressional action.

The fund, bankrolled by an 18.4 cents-a-gallon tax on gasoline and 24.4 cents-a-gallon tax on diesel, is expected to run out of money by 2015 as fuel use in America stagnates.

Reuters

HEALTH & BUSINESS

New report calls US a 'rising star' of global manufacturing

NEWTON, (IOWA), 25 April — A new ranking of the competitiveness of the world's top 25 exporting countries says the United States is once again a "rising star" of global manufacturing thanks to falling domestic natural gas prices, rising worker productivity and a lack of upward wage pressure.

The report, released on Friday by the Boston Consulting Group (BCG,) found that while China remains the world's No 1 country in terms of manufacturing competitiveness, its position is "under pressure" as a result of rising labour and transportation costs and lagging productivity growth.

The United States, meanwhile, which has lost

nearly 7.5 million industrial jobs since employment in the sector peaked in 1979 as manufacturers shipped production to low-cost countries, is now No 2 in terms of overall competitiveness, BCG said.

The biggest factor driving the US rebound, according to BCG: cheap natural gas prices, which have tumbled 50 percent over the last decade as a result of the shale gas revolution.

Also contributing to the country's attractiveness, according to BCG, is "stable wage growth" — a euphemism for the fact that, in inflation-adjusted terms, industrial wages here are lower today than they were in the 1960s even though worker productivity has



The base of several wind turbine blades are seen outside TPI Composites in Newton, Iowa on 22 Dec, 2011.— REUTERS

doubled over the same period of time.

"Overall costs in the US," the report's authors

write, "are 10 to 25 percent lower than those of the world's ten leading goods-exporting nations other than

China" and on par with Eastern Europe.

Another standout in the rankings is Mexico, which

BCG categorizes as a "rising star" with lower average manufacturing costs than China. But the country failed to make BCG's list of Top 10 manufacturers because of other factors, including rampant crime and corruption.

BCG arrived at the rankings using a proprietary index that focuses on four major factors: wages, productivity growth, energy costs and exchange rates.

In addition to China, four other countries with reputations as low-cost production centers — Brazil, the Czech Republic, Poland and Russia — are classified as being "under pressure" in terms of their manufacturing costs.

Reuters

Behaviour therapy works over short term for young kids with OCD



NEW YORK, 25 April — A family-based cognitive behavioural therapy markedly improves symptoms in children as young as five years old with obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD), according to a new study.

The behavioural treatment, which involved parents heavily and is already known to work for older

kids and teens, left almost three quarters of the young children significantly better off, according to objective measurements.

"I really think that the results highlight this family-based cognitive behaviour therapy model as the first-line treatment for children with OCD," Jennifer Freeman, the study's lead author, told Reuters

Health.

Freeman is affiliated with the Alpert Medical School of Brown University, the Pediatric Anxiety Research Clinic at Rhode Island Hospital and the Intensive Programme for Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder at Bradley Hospital in Providence, Rhode Island.

People with OCD

have a set of compulsions - feeling compelled to do something — that cause them distress or disrupt their daily lives.

For example, a person may have an intense fear that something bad will happen unless they perform a certain action multiple times.

The condition has been found to run in families, according to the US National Institutes of Health (NIH), but its cause is still unclear. About 2.2 million US adults are affected by OCD, with approximately one-third of those having developed symptoms as children, according to NIH.

Considerable research has shown that CBT alone or in combination with anti-anxiety medicine is effective in treating OCD among older children and adolescents, Freeman and her colleagues write in JAMA Psychiatry.

Reuters

Vaccine safety scare stalls China's disease control

BEIJING, 25 April — China's health watchdog is worried that a drop in vaccination coverage driven by vaccine safety concerns will offset its achievements in limiting infectious diseases such as hepatitis B and measles.

The number of children vaccinated for hepatitis B in 10 Chinese regions declined by 30 percent at the end of last year, Li Quanle, an official with the National Health and Family Planning Commission's disease control and prevention bureau, warned ahead of World Immunization Week beginning on Friday.

Vaccination coverage for other diseases also declined by 15 percent on average, said Li, citing a survey conducted after a series of deaths in December was blamed on vaccines. The 17 deaths were initially suspected to be caused by unqualified hepatitis B vaccines manufactured by Shenzhen-based BioKangtai and use of the company's vaccines were halted. Such assumptions were later ruled out, however.

The figures show how hard it is for China, a country which has successfully protected more than 80 million

children from being infected with hepatitis B, to win back parents' confidence after scares like this. Li said now the rate of vaccinations is back on the rise, but at a very slow pace. If the situation continues, according to the official, an estimated 400,000 to 500,000 children will be susceptible to infectious diseases.

The World Health Organization (WHO) also expressed "concern" about the situation in an written interview with Xinhua on Thursday. "This is an especially tragic situation since China has made remarkable progress accelerating the control of hepatitis B through timely vaccination with safe and effective hepatitis B vaccines," said WHO China's Dr. Lance Rodewald, team leader for its Expanded Program on Immunization.

Saying he is confident in the safety and effectiveness of the vaccines used in China, Rodewald cited China's meeting international standards such as high-quality clinical trials testing vaccines, licensing, production, batch testing and vaccine safety monitoring.—Xinhua



China adds more new jobs despite slowdown

BEIJING, 25 April — China's employed population in urban areas increased by 3.44 million in the first quarter of this year, with the unemployment rate remaining low, the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security said on Friday.

The figure was slightly higher than the same period last year, although in the Jan-March period the country's economic growth dipped to its lowest level since the third quarter of 2012.

By the end of March,

the country's registered urban unemployment rate stood at 4.08 percent, almost flat compared with that of last year, said ministry spokesman Li Zhong at a Press conference.

China also worked to improve rural employment, as 7.27 million workers in rural areas were employed in local enterprises and arrangements were made for 6.49 million workers to work in other regions in the first quarter.

Nine provincial regions, including Beijing,

Shanghai and Chongqing, raised their minimum wage standards, with average increases of 13.2 percent.

By the Spring Festival, the Chinese government had retrieved delayed wages of 10.89 billion yuan (1.77 billion US dollars) for over 1.5 million migrant workers, Li said.

In the first quarter, labour security supervision organizations investigated 93,000 illegal cases, inspected 398,000 employers and urged employers to sign contracts with 536,000

employees, retrieving salaries of 14.29 billion yuan and social insurance worth 250 million yuan.

Gross revenue of social insurance funds increased 18.8 percent year on year to 912.13 billion yuan, while gross expenditures totaled 730.73 billion yuan, up 18.5 percent from a year ago, Li said.

The revenue of pension funds totaled 63.67 billion yuan in the first quarter with expenditures at 39.41 billion yuan.

Xinhua

PERSPECTIVES

Saturday, 26 April, 2014

Soaring property prices a hurdle for potential foreign investors

By Aung Khin

As Myanmar is moving to keep up with rapid industrialisation, the rising prices in the real estate sector have been posing a major problem for potential foreign investors.

Alongside an increase in foreign residents and investors, and an influx of migration from rural areas to Yangon, the shortage of affordable apartments is a major issue in Yangon.

Space in some of the few office complexes in

Yangon is roughly three times the price of a similar premise in Bangkok and five times the price of an office in Phnom Penh.

According to local realtors and construction developers, new residential units in Yangon have increased by an average of 20,000 units per year. But this can fulfill only about one-third of the demand, causing property value to soar and posing a major concern for ordinary people with a monthly income of under K 100, 000 (about US\$ 100).

At the start of 2014, rent prices have reached the highest level ever and have more than doubled since 2012. The population in Yangon is estimated to reach 10 million by 2040, from nearly six million at present.

Despite private construction companies building new apartments saying they are sold and let for affordable prices, some of them are just

600 square feet and priced over K 20 million (about US\$ 20,000). Ordinary people and low-income workers can only dream of owning these so-called affordable apartments.

To attract more foreign investment and to fulfill the basic needs of ordinary people, the country urgently needs more accommodations.

Therefore, Yangon should be transformed into a mega city with urban development programmes to catch up with neighbouring Asian cities while competing for more foreign investment.

Write for us

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

VISION

Kyi Mun

The best way to predict the future is to create it.

-Peter F.Drucker

- **Vision :**
An idea or a picture in your imagination.
The ability to think about or plan the future with great imagination and intelligence.

-Oxford Dictionary

Some Definitions of Vision

- Vision is Seeing the Future, Shaping the Future and Expecting the Future.
- Vision is what you want to become in the future.
- Vision is your DREAM for the future.
- Vision is a clear and compelling picture of the future.
- Vision is your Ideal Image of the future.
- Vision is the Golden City that you see in your mind's eyes.
- Vision is a Statement of Intentions.
- Developing a Vision is POSITIONING yourself into a certain ideal state of BEING in the future.

The Meaning of Vision

- **V for Values** - Your Core Values to be enshrined in a vision
- **I for Insight** - Liberating ideas for building your future
- **S for Strengths** - Your building blocks for your ideal state of life
- **I for Innovation** - Reinventing your BEING with NEW Ideas, Beliefs & Values.
- **O for Opportunities** - Comprehensive Resources and Chances for Progress.
- **N for Networking** - Organizing all the available forces for future building with extensive connections.

The Foundation of Vision

- What business are you in ?
- Where are you now ?
- Where do you want to be in the future ?
- How can you get there ?
- Which is the best way ?

Before building your Vision you should very thoroughly and deeply consider the above-mentioned factors.

Vision As a Common Destination

A clear, vivid picture of the future must be clearly seen and dearly cherished by all the members of the organization. The Future Golden City must be the Common Future Place for ALL. All the members of the organization must be fully convinced that the Fu-

ture Golden City belongs to all of them. Each and everyone of them must understand that they are entitled to be there and enjoy it. They must have a strong, passionate conviction that it is their common cause and collective obligation to march forward to reach their common Destination.

Content of A Vision

- **Values :**
The core values of the organization must be enshrined in the statement of Vision.

- **Insight :**
To outthink, outplan, outdo, outmaneuver, to outperform the top competitors, with new and better ideas, stronger passion, deeper morale, and more distinctive capabilities and resources.

- **Strengths :**
 - Human resource
 - Financial resource
 - Technological resource
 - Organizational resource, must be comprehensively and effectively organized and utilized.

- **Innovation :**
Strategy, Systems, Structure, Style, Skills, Staff, Shared Vision and Values must be ideally aligned and re-invented with a view to having an enduring cutting edge in the industry.

- **Opportunities :**
All the opportunities and chances for getting and enjoying greater, better, faster, cheaper and more sustainable RESULTS must be explored, seized and exploited.

- **Networking :**
Personal and business connections with all the stakeholders and the general public and the relevant authorities should be cultivated and cemented.

Why Vision Is Necessary

All future - oriented organizations, businesses and companies need the following three things;

- Conquest (of Market & Customers)
- Growth and
- Consolidation

They cannot afford to be stagnant and static, in order to survive and prosper. The natural as well as economic law is GROWTH. And sustainable growth needs FUTURE BUILDING, which in turn needs Thinking Ahead, Planning Ahead and Advancing Ahead. Hence, the need for realistic, effective VISION.

The Structure of Vision

Vision should have a structure comprising the following parts :

- **VISION** e.g. To Be a Celebrity
- **MISSION** e.g. Cultivating Breeding, Beauty & Brain—3-B Mission
- **GOAL** e.g. To Lose Weight
- **Objective** e.g. To Reduce Weight 5 lbs a month
- **Strategy** e.g. Diet & Exercise
- **Tactics** e.g. No Snack, no Sweet, no Supper,—3-S Tactic, and Aerobics, Swimming or Tennis
- **Control** e.g. Monitoring & Watching Wt. Loss
- **Reward** e.g. If successful, to reward oneself according to the measure of wt. loss

Explanation of the Structure of Vision

- **Vision** = To be the Future Ideal (Being)
- **Mission** = To plan & strive for the Future Ideal (Doing)
- **Goal** = Aiming at the Realization of the Plan.
- **Objective** = Marking the Goal with Milestones.
- **Strategy** = Executing the Plan of Action to attain the objective.
- **Tactics** = Actual performance in the objective deploying of the strategy.
- **Control** = Monitoring and Measuring the Performance
- **Reward** = Motivation & Inspiration

A Story About Vision

Once, two bricklayers were working at their work-site. An old acquaintance of theirs passed by them. He asked the first bricklayer what he was doing. The man answered that he was building a WALL.

And then, the man wanted to know what the second bricklayer was doing. The second bricklayer gave the answer that he was building a CATHEDRAL.

U Kyi Mun residing in Yangon is a consultant of NAING GROUP CO., LTD.

GOLD PRICE, FE RATE (25-4-2014)

Yangon Gold Price

Buying K 661,500 per tical: Selling K 662,500

Mandalay Gold Price

Buying K 661,400 per tical: Selling K 662,400

FE RATE

USD Buying K 961 - Selling K 966

SGD Buying K 758 - Selling K 768

Euro Buying K 1315 - Selling K 1335

NATIONAL

Myanmar's illegal drugs are now a threat at home as well as abroad



General view of Lashio's landmark traffic roundabout.

By Myat Thura

Myanmar has long been home to some of the world's most prolific opium poppy growers and some of its most notorious drug warlords.

But the "problem" has largely been seen within the country itself as one more for the rest of the world to worry about in terms of growing addiction and illegal cross-border trade than as a domestic problem.

Now, that is changing.

In northeastern Shan State bordering China, Thailand and Laos, village elders and senior police officers alike are seeing an alarming increase in crime, addiction and human degradation due to a growing drug business preying on local youth.

In Lashio, the state capital, Pastor Zaw Hpan estimates 60 percent to 70 percent of the young men in his area alone are now addicted to heroin or methamphetamines or both.

"It is very worrisome for us as there will be no reliable workforce in our community in the very near

future," Zaw Hpan, 54, said in Khite Chan, his village of about 55 families 10 kilometers outside Lashio.

Lashio, about 400 km northeast of Myanmar's administrative capital Nay Pyi Taw, is the main trading town on the route to Myanmar's border with China across which drugs for export are often smuggled.

But with a lack of law resources in the area, dealers who may in the past have looked almost exclusively to China and beyond for customers are now offering heroin and methamphetamine, virtually without difficulty, in Lashio and surrounding areas.

In the past three years especially, drug dealers arriving from elsewhere have established their own distribution channels and began offering discount prices to create market demand among a largely disaffected youth.

Community leaders have tried to stem the drug trade, which now includes many local people looking for extra cash. But Hla Tun, 59, said, "We told them to stop selling drugs, but they

over security in the border areas are major obstacles to the police in trying to clean up the drug trade, which involves not only growing opium but increasingly the production of heroin and methamphetamines.

According to the U.N. Office on Drugs and Crime, Myanmar remains second only to Afghanistan in production of opium and is far outstripping Thailand and China in production of methamphetamines.

The country is also becoming a major importer of raw materials needed to process opium and make methamphetamine tablets.

Last year, the authori-

drug program was to have wrapped up this year, but poor control in border areas and other parts of Shan State and elsewhere has seen drug production increase, not decrease recently.

Last year, drug cases were up 30 percent but enforcement has yet to stem the tide of either drug export or addiction at home where the human toll is growing.

Aung Thein, a former addict who now runs a small barber shop in a quiet corner of Lashio, said he and fellow addicts wasted precious years of their youth on heroin and meth-

and friends and relatives. They didn't want to talk to us anymore and we were abandoned by our community as we became serious addicts causing trouble to everybody," he said. "But most of us couldn't make it and I found myself now as the only one among us still alive."

The others, he said, died of drug overdoses or other complications stemming from addiction.

And, he intimated, others will end the same way if Myanmar is unable to stem the local drug trade as well as the booming drug export business.

Unfortunately for



Village elders at Khite Chan village lecturing young villagers to avoid using drugs and explaining consequences of the addiction.

refused and even reacted aggressively threatening to attack us with sticks and knives."

And Police Maj. Nay Aung of Myanmar's police anti-narcotic squad told local media recently that instability and tension

ties in Myanmar confiscated more than 10 million amphetamine tablets and the UNODC estimates that opium production in the country rose 26 percent to 870 tons, despite Myanmar having extended its "drug elimination plan" for another five years until 2019.

The 15-year anti-

amphetamines.

"I started using drugs more than 10 years ago, and it took me five years to get off them," the 35-year-old said.

But many of his friends failed to kick their habits.

"We tried to quit using drugs after we faced a lot pressure from our family

many youth in Shan State and elsewhere, that seems highly unlikely to happen soon.

Even the UNODC holds little hope for major changes until Myanmar can provide alternative ways for farmers to earn a living other than by growing opium poppies.—Kyodo

Drainage repairs being carried out in South Dagon Tsp

YANGON, 25 April—To ensure the proper flow of water in South Dagon Township, officials are

Locals in South Dagon Township are carrying out drainage in the township.
MYINT THAN (OXYGEN)

improving drainage in the township.

South Dagon Township in the southeastern part of Yangon is a satellite town founded in 1989.

The public are also assisting the cleaning drains.

Residents face water stagnation and monsoon diseases including dengue hemorrhagic fever yearly in the township and better drainage is hoped to help improve health in the area.

Myint Than (Oxygen)



China, Denmark eye closer relationship

BEIJING, 25 April—Chinese President Xi Jinping held talks with Danish Queen Margrethe II here on Thursday and the two heads of state voiced their hope to elevate their bilateral ties.

Queen Margrethe II is paying a state visit to China from Thursday to Monday at Xi's invitation, her second China trip as queen. In September 1979, she visited China as the first Western head of state to do so after China adopted its reform and opening-up policy.

During Thursday's talks, Xi said Queen Margrethe II's two visits have witnessed the historical process from the beginning to the comprehensive deepening of China's reform and opening-up, and pushed the development of the bilateral ties over the past 35 years.

The Chinese side is highly appreciative of the contribution Queen Margrethe II and the Danish royal family has made to the friendship between the two peoples, said the president.

Hailing good relationship and fruitful cooperation between the two



Chinese President Xi Jinping (L) and Danish Queen Margrethe II (R) review the guard of honour at the welcoming ceremony before their talks in Beijing, capital of China on 24 April, 2014.—XINHUA

countries, Xi noted that China has become Denmark's biggest trading partner in Asia and the second-largest overseas destination for investment.

The total trade volume between Denmark and China was more than 107 billion Danish krone (19.85

billion US dollars) in 2013.

Xi said China and Denmark's joint efforts along with other countries to transport Syria's chemical weapons to ensure their destruction has set a good example of cooperation in international affairs.

China is undergoing

an important period of advancing a new type of industrialization, IT application, urbanization and agricultural modernization while Denmark has rich experience and technological advantages in these areas, Xi said.

He suggested the two

sides cooperate more in trade, investment, agriculture, medical care, food security, energy conservation and people-to-people exchanges, especially exchanges between the youth of the two countries.

Xi also proposed the two sides make joint efforts

to advance the relationship between China and Europe at large.

"The Chinese side stands ready to work together to lead the China-Denmark comprehensive strategic partnership to a new height," said the Chinese leader.

Queen Margrethe II said she was impressed by the great changes that have taken place in China and hopes that her visit will deepen the good relationship, enhance mutual understanding and friendship and advance the reciprocal cooperation between the two nations.

After the talks, Xi and Queen Margrethe II witnessed the signing of a series of cooperative documents, involving maritime technology, energy conservation, and poverty elimination among other fields.

On Thursday, Chinese State Councilor Yang Jiechi met with Danish Foreign Minister Martin Lidegaard, who is accompanying the queen on the China tour. The two officials exchanged views on the bilateral relationship as well as regional and global issues of common concern.—Xinhua

Obama warns N Korea against 4th nuclear test



US President Barack Obama talks to the media before he bids farewell to Japan's Emperor Akihito at the Okura Hotel in Tokyo on 25 April, 2014.

KYODO NEWS

SEOUL, 25 April — US President Barack Obama warned North Korea to think twice about proceeding with a fourth nuclear test, telling a South Korean newspaper in an interview published ahead of his arrival here on Friday that it would have serious repercussions.

"If North Korea were to make the mistake of engaging in another nuclear test, it should expect a firm response from the international community," Obama said in the interview with the JoongAng Ilbo, appearing on the daily's website.

"Pyongyang will gain absolutely nothing from

another nuclear test except to deepen its own isolation from the global community," he said, echoing remarks he made amid a visit to Japan that ended earlier in the day.

Obama said if Pyongyang goes ahead with the test, Washington "will work with allies and partners around the world to increase the pressure on North Korea" and continue to impress upon China, Pyongyang's traditional ally and benefactor, "that we have a common interest in a North Korea without nuclear weapons."

"The international community has been

absolutely clear. Multiple UN Security Council resolutions require North Korea to abandon all nuclear weapons and existing nuclear programmes in a complete, verifiable and irreversible manner, and immediately cease all related activities. North Korea's failure to do so — coupled with its provocative actions, especially against South Korea — is the reason why Pyongyang is more isolated than ever."

If it continues to behave the way it has, he said, North Korea can never "obtain the respect, lasting security and economic progress it seeks."

Kyodo News

Russia demands US stop Ukraine's military operation

Moscow, 25 April—Russia on Thursday demanded that the United States force the Ukrainian authorities to halt a military operation in southeastern Ukraine and withdraw units of the armed forces.

Putting the onus on Washington to ease

tensions after Ukrainian forces killed up to five pro-Moscow rebels, the Russian Foreign Ministry said the situation "demands urgent actions to force the Kiev authorities, who are wards of the United States, to restrain themselves and not use force".

"We are counting on the United States to take urgent measures in the interests of de-escalation," it said in a statement.

"Washington must force the current Ukrainian leadership to immediately stop the military operation in southeastern Ukraine

and withdraw military units to their permanent bases."

"So far, nothing has been done to resolve this urgent task," it said. "We hope that Washington understands the full measure of its responsibility for what is happening."

Reuters

Hijacked Australian plane forced to land in Bali

JAKARTA, 25 April—A passenger plane of Australia's Virgin Blue airlines was suspected of being hijacked and forced to land at Bali airport on Friday, the Metro TV quoted an Indonesian Air Force spokesman as saying.—Xinhua

Over 500 hutments gutted in major fire in slum in Indian capital

NEW DELHI, 25 April—Over 500 hutments were gutted in a major fire which engulfed a slum in the Indian capital Friday, a senior police official said, adding that no casualties have been reported so far.—Xinhua

Venezuelan leader says talks with opposition "historic"

CARACAS, 25 April — Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro said late Thursday that talks with the opposition were heading in a "good" direction and hailed them "historic." The two sides had agreed to form working groups to deal with such issues as an end to more than two months of bloody anti-government protests and the victims of the failed coup against former President Hugo Chavez in 2002, said a statement issued after a meeting between the government and the opposition coalition Democratic Unity Roundtable on Thursday.

The Venezuelan government and the opposition coalition held two rounds of talks in early April in the company of foreign ministers of the Union of South American Nations.—Xinhua

Indian Supreme Court stays release of 7 assassins of former PM Rajiv Gandhi

NEW DELHI, 25 April — India's Supreme Court on Friday extended its stay on the release of seven assassins of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi from prison, referring the case to a five-judge Constitution Bench.—Xinhua

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

NASA tries space kits to engage kids in science and space

NEW YORK, 25 April — Making mini satellite dishes that collect signals or building remote-controlled mini Rovers such as the kind NASA has used on Mars are the types of activities that could interest kids in science, but their complexity can derail all but the most enthusiastic hobbyist.

Now, NASA, the US space agency, hopes it has found a workaround through new space kits and a collaboration with a New York-based startup called LittleBits.

NASA, through its Aura mission to study the Earth's ozone layer and climate, is working with LittleBits to develop activities around a new \$189 space kit, announced on Thursday.

Using electronic modules such as motors and dimmers that snap together, the creations will perform functions that normally might require hours of tedious tinkering or piles of

electronics components.

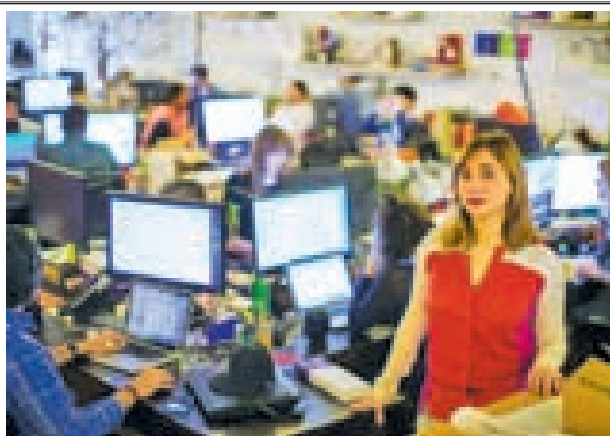
The new kits are more demanding than playing with snappable blocks like Legos, but far easier than wiring, soldering or programming.

"You don't have that frustration level," said Steve Heck, a 5th and 6th grade math and science teacher at Mulberry Elementary in Ohio who says too many students lose interest in science and space experiments when the projects become too difficult.

"You're going to get a much better student in the long run." For NASA, the partnership has a more specific goal.

"From our perspective, it was to engage kids in how NASA uses the electromagnetic spectrum," said Ginger Butcher, education and public outreach lead for the Aura mission. "We can see how much ozone is in the atmosphere. We can see features on Mars."

NASA reached out to LittleBits after Butcher saw its



LittleBits chief executive and founder, Ayah Bdeir, poses at her company's headquarters in New York on 23 April, 2014. — REUTERS

chief executive and founder, Ayah Bdeir, give a talk in 2012 about the company's online modules and decided they could be helpful for Aura's educational goals.

LittleBits is building and selling the kit while NASA is developing the activities that go along with them. NASA will not benefit financially from the sale of the kits, Butcher said.

While the playthings are designed to stay earthbound, a few lucky kids could see their creations end up in space.

Working with a company called Xcor Aerospace, Heck said he hopes to get 10 student

projects onto a suborbital flight in 2015. The students will be selected through a contest, and Heck said he believes many will submit LittleBits-based projects.

LittleBits says the kits will boost revenue as well as the company's missions of incorporating better design into electronics and increasing familiarity with electronics among the public.

"Not understanding electronics is a form of illiteracy," said CEO Bdeir. Her company is backed by venture-capital firms including the Foundry Group, Khosla Ventures and True Ventures. — Reuters

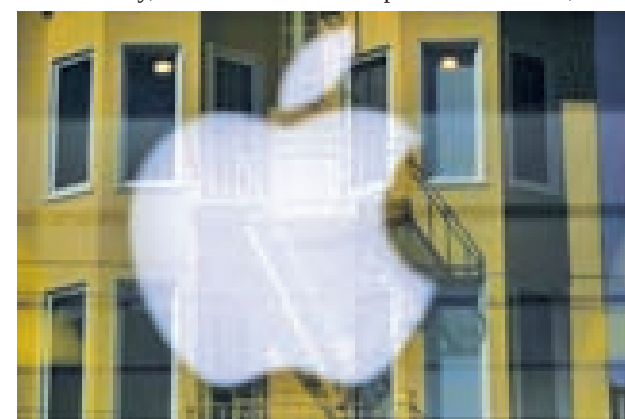
Apple, Google agree to settle lawsuit alleging hiring conspiracy

SAN FRANCISCO, 25 April — Four major tech companies including Apple and Google have agreed to settle a lawsuit accusing them of conspiring to hold down salaries in Silicon Valley, just weeks before a high profile trial had been scheduled to begin.

The settlement was disclosed in a court filing on Thursday, which did not

Schmidt told Jobs that the recruiter would be fired, court documents show. Jobs then forwarded Schmidt's note to a top Apple human resources executive with a smiley face.

Another exchange shows Google's human resources director asking Schmidt about sharing its no-cold call agreements with competitors. Schmidt, now



The Apple logo is pictured at a retail store in the Marina neighbourhood in San Francisco, California on 23 April, 2014. — REUTERS

spell out terms.

The case has been closely watched due to the potentially high damages award and a steady disclosure of emails in which Apple's late co-founder Steve Jobs, former Google CEO Eric Schmidt and some of their Silicon Valley rivals hatched plans to avoid poaching each other's prized engineers.

Tech workers filed a class action lawsuit against Apple Inc, Google Inc, Intel Inc and Adobe Systems Inc in 2011, alleging they conspired to refrain from soliciting one another's employees in order to avert a salary war.

Trial had been scheduled to begin at the end of May on behalf of roughly 64,000 workers in the class.

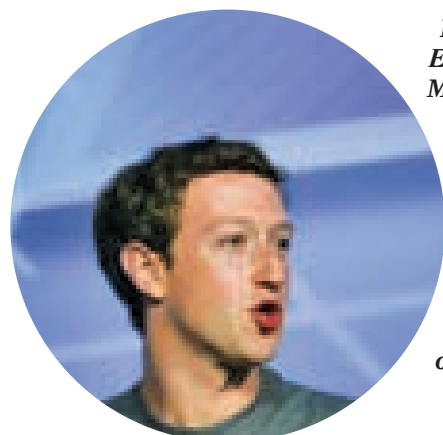
In one email exchange after a Google recruiter solicited an Apple employee,

the company's executive chairman, advised discretion. "Schmidt responded that he preferred it be shared 'verbally, since I don't want to create a paper trail over which we can be sued later,'" he said, according to a court filing. The HR director agreed. The companies had acknowledged entering into some no-hire agreements but disputed the allegation that they had conspired to drive down wages.

Spokespeople for Apple, Google and Intel declined to comment on the settlement, and an Adobe representative was not immediately available for comment. An attorney for the plaintiffs, Kelly Dermody of Lieff Cabraser Heimann & Bernstein, in a statement called the deal "an excellent resolution."

Reuters

Facebook acquires fitness tracking mobile app Moves



Facebook Chief Executive Officer Mark Zuckerberg smiles in the stage before delivering a keynote speech during the Mobile World Congress in Barcelona on 24 Feb 2014. REUTERS

SAN FRANCISCO, 25 April — Facebook Inc has acquired the maker of a mobile app that can track the distance consumers walk or run and measure the calories burned, giving the social networking company

an entree into the nascent market for fitness and health monitoring technology.

Facebook did not disclose the price it paid for ProtoGeo Oy, the 2-year-old Helsinki company that makes the Moves app. A Facebook

spokesman said the price for ProtoGeo, which has fewer than 10 employees, was not anywhere near what the company had paid for other higher-profile acquisitions recently.

Facebook has begun 2014 by going on a shopping spree, paying \$19 billion for mobile messaging service WhatsApp in February and \$2.3 billion for virtual reality headset maker Oculus VR a couple of weeks later.

Fitness tracking is attracting the attention of large and small technology companies, with companies such as Fitbit and Jawbone selling electronic bracelets that measure the wearer's activities.

In March, Google Inc announced a special version of its Android operating system aimed at smartwatches and other types of wearable computers. The Android Wear project will enable devices that can be outfitted with a variety of sensors to track a user's heart rate or measure the distance jogged, Google said. With the Moves app, Facebook can enter the market without developing its own wearable computing hardware.

The app uses a smartphone's built-in sensors to track a person's physical activity, recognizing movements such as walking, cycling and running. — Reuters

Google social networking boss Gundotra leaving company

SAN FRANCISCO, 25 April — Google Inc's head of social networking services, Vic Gundotra, is leaving the Internet search company, he said on Thursday, three years after overseeing the launch of the Google+ social network.

Gundotra, who has worked at Google for eight years, announced the move in a Google+ post. He did not give a reason or say where he was going, but related a story about a sudden death in his extended

family which made him rethink life's priorities.

"We pour our heart and soul into our work and it becomes something we love and cherish," Gundotra wrote. "But even the challenges we work on today will one day become 'and thens' as we move on to the next."

Google+ marked the company's most concerted effort to catch up with Facebook Inc in the fast-growing social networking market, but it has struggled to match

the popularity of the rival, which has 1.28 billion users. Gundotra said in October that 300 million users visit the Google+ web page every month.

David Besbris, a vice president of engineering in the Google+ division, has been picked to replace Gundotra whose departure is effective immediately, a source familiar with the matter said on Thursday. The person is not authorized to speak publicly about the matter and requested anonymity.



Senior Vice President of Engineering at Google Vic Gundotra explains that a generator has been delivered to supplement the power loss in the building, before a Google event in San Francisco, California, on 29 Oct, 2013. — REUTERS

Gundotra's exit is the latest change to Google's senior leadership. Last year Android operating system boss Andy Rubin stepped aside, and in February Salar Kamangar, head of Google's YouTube video website, was succeeded by longtime Google ad executive Susan Wojcicki.

Google Chief Executive Larry Page commended Gundotra's efforts in building the company's social networking service from scratch.

Reuters



An anti-terrorism drill is held in Beijing, capital of China, on 25 April, 2014.—XINHUA

Authority highlights laser pointers as safety concern for flights

SINGAPORE, 25 April — The Civil Aviation Authority of Singapore has highlighted laser lights like pointers as an increasing safety concern for aircraft landing and taking off at Changi Airport, local media reported on Friday.

There has been an increasing number of laser lights being shone at aircraft landing and taking off in recent years, the authority said.

Laser lights can distract pilots and compromise aviation safety, it added.

It said that there have been 16 such incidents in the first quarter of this year alone at Changi Airport.

The number was five for the whole year in 2009, and increased to 45 in 2012. There were 25 such incidents in 2013. The authority said the increase is attributable to more affordable and widespread use of handheld lasers.

The Civil Aviation Authority of Singapore has launched a campaign to raise public awareness, targeting households near the airport with circulars distributed, the *Straits Times* reported.

There are also regular enforcement patrols in the area. Under the Singapore Air Navigation Order, any person found directing

laser lights at an aircraft could face a fine of up to 20,000 Singapore dollars (16,000 US dollars).

“These reports are getting more and more frequent,” said Peter Rabot, head of air navigation services at the safety and security branch of the Civil Aviation Authority of Singapore.

Aviation experts believe the likelihood of such incidents leading to an accident is remote, but authority is not taking any chances.

The use of the pen-like battery-operated devices is regulated by the National Environment Agency and classified based on their beam power output. Licenses are required to import, possess and use very powerful lasers. But even less powerful laser pointers can be dangerous if used wrongly, the agency said.

“Even at a very low power of 5 milliwatts, when the laser is aimed directly at the eye, it will cause temporary flash blindness,” it said on its website. A split-second brief exposure from such lasers is not likely to cause permanent injury immediately because the eye will blink and move to avoid the beam, but it can lead to visual loss in later years.—Xinhua

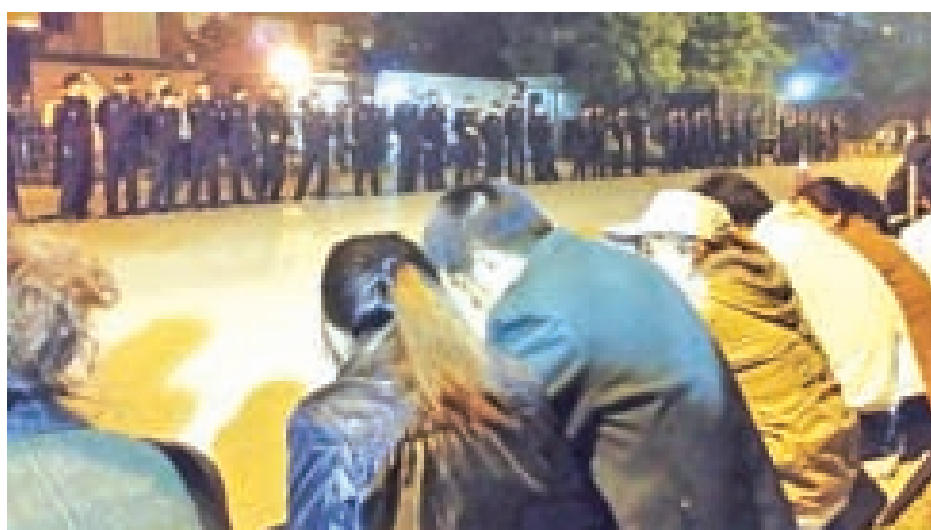
Search for missing Malaysian jet may take years

SYDNEY, 25 April — The search for missing Malaysia Airlines Flight MH370 is likely to drag on for years, a senior US defence official told *Reuters* on Friday, as an underwater search for any trace of the plane’s wreckage off west Australia appeared to have failed.

The official, speaking under condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to comment on the search effort, said two weeks of scouring the Indian Ocean floor with a US Navy submersible drone had turned up no wreckage.

He said the search for the jetliner, which vanished on 8 March with 239 people on board, would now enter a much harder phase of scouring broader areas of the ocean near where the plane is believed to have crashed.

“We went all in on this small area and didn’t find anything. Now you’ve got



Family members (front) of passengers aboard missing Malaysia Airlines flight MH370 gather for a sit-in protest as security personnel stand guard outside the Malaysian embassy in Beijing, early on 25 April, 2014. —REUTERS

to go back to the big area,” the official said. “And now you’re talking years.”

On Friday, the undersea drone *Bluefin-21* is expected to finish what may be the last of its 16-hour trips to depths of more than 4.5km (2.8 miles) searching a 10 square km (6.2 square mile) stretch of

seabed about 2,000 miles northwest of Perth.

Authorities had identified the area as their strongest lead in determining the plane’s final resting place after detecting what they suspected was a signal, or “ping”, from the plane’s black box recorder on 4 April.

But the US official said Malaysia would have to decide how to proceed with the search, including whether to bring in more underwater drones, even with the understanding that the search could continue for years without a refined search area.

Reuters

Cambodia’s highest court rules out extraditing ex-Russian billionaire Polonsky

PHNOM PENH, 25 April — Cambodia’s Supreme Court on Friday ruled that Russian ex-billionaire Sergei Polonsky, who is wanted in his homeland for embezzlement, would not be extradited. “Cambodia and Russia do not have an extradition treaty, so Cambodia cannot send Polonsky back to Russia,” said the verdict read by Judge Kim Sothavy.

Polonsky, 41, was

charged in absentia in July 2012 as part of a criminal case involving the embezzlement of over 175 million US dollars from the participants in an up-market cooperative residential construction project in central Moscow.

Cambodian authorities arrested him in November last year at a Russia’s request, but released on bail in January this year. Ben

Sun Samai, Polonsky’s lawyer, told reporters after the top court’s decision on Friday that the verdict was acceptable and gave just to his client.

Polonsky was ranked Russia’s fortieth richest man in 2008 with a fortune of 4.35 billion US dollars by *Forbes* magazine. Polonsky headed Mirax Group, a large property development company that went bankrupt

during the global economic crisis. On New Year’s Eve in 2012, he, along with two friends, locked up the crew of a yacht during a cruise off Cambodia’s southern coast and then forced the sailors to jump overboard into Cambodia’s sea. He was detained for more than three months for the accusations of violence against Cambodian sailors before released on bail.—Xinhua

Taiwan helicopter crash injures two

TAIPEI, 25 April — A military helicopter crashed into a residential building in Taiwan’s Taoyuan County on Friday, injuring two pilots on board, fire fighters said.

The county’s fire control authority said they

received the report of the crash at 10:05 am. No explosion or fire occurred, they said.

The two injured pilots have been rushed to the hospital and are in stable condition.

Xinhua



Photo taken with a cellphone on 25 April, 2014 shows a military helicopter crashing into a residential building in Taoyuan County, southeast China’s Taiwan.—XINHUA

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MV BLPL BLESSING VOY NO (1406)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV BLPL BLESSING VOY NO (1406) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 26.4.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S ORIENT EXPRESS LINE
(OEL)

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV GUNKUL-1 VOY NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV GUNKUL-1 VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 26.4.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W(6) where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S KULNATEE CO LTD

Phone No: 2301186

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV MALTE RAMBOW VOY NO (1416)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MALTE RAMBOW VOY NO (1416) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 27.4.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S MCC TRANSPORT

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF RAIL TRANSPORTATION
MYANMA RAILWAYS
COMPREHENSIVE DEVELOPMENT FOR YANGON CENTRAL RAILWAYS
STATION COMPLEX

INVITATION TO SUBMIT EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FROM DEVELOPERS

- In line with the National Development Plan, the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has been identifying the economic potentials to contribute to the country's economic development. As our endeavors for national development, Myanma Railways is committed to develop Yangon Central Railways Station area as a Rail Concerned Business and also to be the essential part of Greater Yangon city development, which will include multi-storied commercial and office complexes, hotels and serviced apartments in the planned area of 25.3 ha (62.486 acres) and will be implemented according to international tender process.
- Myanma Railways now invites Expression of Interest (EOI) from reputable local, international or joint venture developers/investors to undertake design, build and operate works for Yangon Central Railways Station area comprehensive development.
- The EOI form will be taken at Deputy General Manager, Supply Department, Myanma Railways, Corner of Theinbyu Street and Merchant Street, Botahtaung Township, Yangon, Myanmar. Developers must submit EOI in original, a duplicate copy and electronic copy of a CD ROM not later than (14:00) hours 26 May 2014. No submission by email shall be entertained.
- EOI Document and Background information of the proposed Yangon Central Railways Station Development could be obtained from the above address or from the website <http://www.yangonrailwaystation.com.mm>. Enquiries can be made by contacting e-mail: ysdev@yangonrailwaystation.com.mm or calling telephones +95 1393424; 291985 or 291994.

Managing Director
Myanma Railways
Ministry of Rail Transportation

Invitation to Open Tender

- Opened Tenders are invited by Myanmar Radio and Television, Ministry of Information, for the following machinery to be purchased in foreign currency (USD);

(a) 50 KW SW Radio Transmitter	1 Set
(b) DVB-T2 Set-top Box	100,000 Nos.
(c) Pocket Radio (2 Band, FM & MW)	50,000 Nos.
(d) Pocket Radio (9 Band, FM, MW & SW)	50,000 Nos.
- Opened Tender Forms are available from (9-4-2014) till (8-5-2014) daily between (9:30 AM to 4:30 PM) at Myanma Radio and Television, Nay Pyi Taw (Tatkone).
- Opened Tenders are to be submitted in the presence of the tender members on the (9-5-2014) between (9:30 AM to 4:30 PM) at Myanma Radio and Television, Nay Pyi Taw (Tatkone). Those tenders exceeding the closing date will not be taken into consideration.
- Rules regarding the opened tender forms; list of machinery and details are available at the following address.

Machinery Purchasing Committee
Myanma Radio and Television, Nay Pyi Taw
Ministry of Information
Phone: 067-79483,067-79135,067-79411

Ministry of Energy
Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise
(Announcement)

Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise (MOGE), a state-owned enterprise under the Ministry of Energy, is now planning to upgrade its own drilling rigs with a range of capacity for shallow, medium and deep wells and to cooperate with local and foreign partners for mutual interests to participate in future drilling activities. All interested local and foreign companies are warmly invited to come and discuss for potential business cooperation at Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise Office, Complex 44, Nay Pyi Taw.

Contact: Ministry of Energy
Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise
Phone: 067-411346/411347

N Korean patrol boats briefly
cross into S Korean waters

SEOUL, 25 April — Two North Korean patrol boats briefly crossed into South Korean-controlled waters in the Yellow Sea on Friday morning, according to South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff. The boats controlling fishing boats intruded 1 nautical mile south of the Northern Limit Line, the de facto maritime border, but retreated after the South Korean navy broadcast several warnings and fired warning shots between 4:35 am and 5:03 am.

South Korea's military is looking into whether the border intrusion was intentional and maintaining a heightened alert, an unidentified South Korean military official said, according to *Yonhap News Agency*. North Korea does not recognize the Northern Limit Line on grounds that it was unilaterally drawn by US-led UN Command after the 1950-1953 Korean War. It insists the western maritime boundary be drawn further north.—*Kyodo News*

Malaysian PM
says to release
preliminary
report on
missing flight
next week

WASHINGTON, 25 April—The Malaysian government plans to release a preliminary report next week on the Malaysia Airlines' missing flight, Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak told CNN on Thursday, more than six weeks after the flight disappeared en route to Beijing, China. "There is a likelihood that next week we could release the report," Najib first said in the interview and then stated that the report would be released next week.

The Malaysia government has already submitted the preliminary report to the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), Najib added.

The UN agency told CNN that the report, which has not been made public, includes safety recommendations for the aviation field to implement real-time tracking of commercial aircraft, the same as those recommendations made after the Air France Flight 447 disaster in 2009.

Acting Malaysian Transport Minister Hishammuddin Hussein said on Wednesday that the Malaysian cabinet had approved to establish an international investigation team to investigate the MH370 missing flight incident, which occurred on 8 March with 239 people on board the plane.

"The main purpose of the International Investigation Team is to evaluate, investigate and determine the actual cause of the incident so similar incidents could be avoided in the future," he said.—*Xinhua*

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‘The Other Woman’ serves up revenge in comic female fantasy



LOS ANGELES, 25 April — “The Other Woman” is a somewhat rare species in today’s film fauna — a comedy by women, about women and for women. But not just for women, star Cameron Diaz said, even though the film is a tale of three women who band together to take revenge on the cheating cad and reduce him to a whimpering mess.

“Everyone can relate to feeling betrayed,” said Diaz, dismissing any notions that “The Other Woman” is solely a “chick flick.”

If men don’t buy into that line, then there’s the allure of a screwball and slightly raunchy comedy with Kate Upton, the curvaceous Sports Illustrated swimsuit cover model, who makes her first serious foray into acting as the second other woman.

The film from Fox, which opens on Friday in US and Canadian theatres, follows in the footsteps of female-driven comedies “Bridesmaids” in 2011 and “The Heat,” which was the top-grossing comic film in 2013.

“The Other Woman” is expected to bring in \$18 million at the box office in its first weekend, according to Boxoffice.com, less than “Bridesmaids” with \$26 million and “The Heat” with \$39 million, although those films opened in the busier movie-going months of May and June, respectively.

Diaz, 41, plays the cool, competent lawyer Carly, who lets her guard down when she falls for Mark, a suave businessman played by Nikolaj Coster-Waldau, the Danish actor who stars in HBO’s medieval fantasy “Game of Thrones.” —Reuters

Lupita Nyong’o is People magazine’s ‘Most Beautiful Woman’

LOS ANGELES, 25 April — Oscar winning actress Lupita Nyong’o has been named *People* magazine’s ‘Most Beautiful Woman’.

The 31-year-old, who won an Oscar for her role as the slave Patsey in Steve McQueen’s *12 Years a Slave*, recently landed a contract with Lancome Paris, reports showbizspy.com.

“It was exciting and just a major, major compliment. I was happy for all the girls who would see me on (it) and feel a little more seen,” she said.

Lupita first equated beauty with what she saw on television.

“Light skin and long, flowing, straight hair. Subconsciously you start to appreciate those things that you don’t possess more,” she said.

The actress dyed her hair every colour — except blonde — when she was a teen. “It was very strange and very cold!” she says, laughing. “It was scary but I like to dare myself.” Now she says the best compliments are “when I have been called beautiful with not one drop of makeup on,” she adds.

“And also before I comb my hair or put on a pretty dress. Happiness is the most important thing.” —PTI



Lupita won an Oscar for her role in *12 Years a Slave*

Oprah Winfrey a controlling racist, says former stepmom

LOS ANGELES, 25 April — Talk show queen Oprah Winfrey has been accused of being a controlling racist by her former stepmother.

Barbara, ex-wife of Oprah’s dad Vernon Winfrey, said on a talk show that Oprah isn’t comfortable in her own skin, reports showbizspy.com.

In a new interview, Barbara shared an incident about her visit to Oprah’s Chicago condo. “Oprah got on to the intercom and announced, ‘Negroes in the house. Negroes in the house.’ She thought it was funny. I thought it was insulting. I’m older than her. I know what it means. She was reminding us of our low class,” she said.

Barbara even took shots at Oprah’s relationships with boyfriend and businessman Stedman Graham and best friend and co-anchor of CBS Gayle King.

She said Oprah and Graham are not in love and treat their relationship as a business deal. She also described Oprah’s relationship with King as bizarre and unhealthy. Barbara called off her 14-years marriage with Vernon last year when he was apparently caught cheating with a prostitute. —PTI



Oprah’s stepmother says she isn’t comfortable in her own skin



Priyanka Chopra

IIFA 2014: Priyanka Chopra on why the weekend should be named after her

NEW DELHI, 25 April — Priyanka Chopra received a rather warm Tampa Bay welcome on Thursday afternoon at a Press conference to launch the IIFA weekend. Priyanka, who’s quite the poster girl for bridging the divide between east and west, has even coined a new nickname for IIFA.

“I think that it should be called PIFA because of the fact that I am doing

so many things this IIFA weekend. Between myself and Anil (Kapoor) we’ve got it covered,” Priyanka says. Priyanka will also be standing in for Vidya Balan — who cancelled her IIFA appearance in order to vote in Mumbai — and will hold a discussion with Hollywood heavyweight Kevin Spacey on the Bollywood and Hollywood perspective. Priyanka however claims

she has no jitters and we’re guessing with her new found fit physique, courtesy the biopic of Mary Kom, Priyanka doesn’t scare easily.

Mary Kom may be highly anticipated but for the moment Priyanka has some more immediate success to share. Her latest single, inspired by Bonnie Rait, I Can’t Make You Love Me, has zoomed to the

top of the charts. As for how Priyanka deals with it when she can’t make someone love her, the actor is rather candid. “I tend to sleep a lot and eat and sulk and shut myself away in the dark,” she says.

Well, she certainly sounds like she doesn’t have time for any of these indulgences at the moment, at least with a jam-packed.

PTI

GENERAL



Vietnam's President Truong Tan Sang (C, front) poses for group photos with a delegation of Chinese veterans who helped Vietnam to gain independence from foreign colonizers and their families in Vietnam's presidential palace in Hanoi, on 23 April, 2014.—XINHUA

Cambodian court starts trials of 21 labour activists arrested in January clashes

PHNOM PENH, 25 April — The Phnom Penh Municipal Court on Friday began trials of 21 labour activists and garment workers, who were detained following violent protests three months ago.

The detainees, who are accused of intentionally causing violence and destroying property, were brought to courtrooms under tight security as dozens of union activists and relatives gathered outside the court to demand the detainees' release.

Government critic Von Pov, president of the

Independent Democratic Association of Informal Economy, is among the detainees.

The trials have been divided into four cases, corresponding to locations where they were apprehended: two in the Canada Industrial Park, one at the Stung Meanchey bridge, and one at the Yak Jing garment factory. Twenty-three people were arrested during the clashes between police and protesters on 2 and 3 January on the outskirts of capital Phnom Penh when they staged violent protests to demand a higher mini-

mum wage of 160 US dollars for the garment sector, but two of them were later freed on bail. The clashes at that time left 4 people dead and dozens injured, and cost garment factories millions of US dollars.

Am Sam Ath, a senior investigator for the rights group Licadho, said he hopes the court will drop all charges against them since they are innocent.

Dispute on minimum wages for garment workers remain hot in this Southeast Asian nation since eight pro-opposition trade unions, which represent more

than 100,000 workers, are still jointly demanding the government to increase the minimum wages to 160 US dollars a month, but the government said the demand is too high.

The current minimum wage is 100 US dollars a month.

The garment and footwear industry, the kingdom's largest foreign exchange earner, comprises 960 factories with some 620,000 workers. The sector earned 5.5 billion US dollars from exports last year.

Xinhua

US, Russia trade accusations over tension in eastern Ukraine

WASHINGTON, 25 April — US State Secretary John Kerry on Thursday accused Russia of inaction in helping ease the tense situation in eastern Ukraine, while his Russian counterpart Sergei Lavrov urged Washington to press Kiev to refrain from using force against pro-Russia protesters. The top American envoy charged Russia of refusing to take "a single concrete step in the right direction" for the past seven days, since the the United States, the European Union, Russia and Ukraine agreed in Geneva on 17 April to takes steps to de-escalate tension in eastern Ukraine, according to a statement released to the Press.

He warned that "window to change course" was

closing for Russia and the the United States was "ready to act" by imposing more sanctions on Moscow.

Meanwhile, Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov said Russia is against any violence, and the use of army against people, or backing radical nationalists, is an absolutely unacceptable form of violence. Lavrov urged the United States to use its influence to make the Ukrainian authorities fulfill their commitment of the Geneva agreement on Ukraine.

The main condition to solve the ongoing crisis in Ukraine was to "stop illegal actions of current Kiev authorities, which should understand their responsibility for everything agreed upon in Geneva on 21 February

and 17 April," Lavrov said.

Lavrov also accused the United States and the EU of attempting to stage "another Colour Revolution" in Ukraine for "an unconstitutional change of regime."

The Obama administration has ruled out a military solution to the Ukrainian crisis, but it ratchet up sanctions on Russia, targeting entities and key sectors including energy, banking, mining and defence.

The Ukrainian government resumed its "anti-terror" operations on Wednesday in several states in eastern Ukraine, where pro-Russia militants are refusing to leave government buildings under their occupation in a number of cities.

Xinhua

Scolari: Neymar will shine at World Cup

RIO DE JANEIRO, 25 April — Brazil coach Luiz Felipe Scolari says he is unconcerned by the form and fitness of Neymar ahead of the World Cup.

Despite having struggled with form and injury, Neymar has scored 17 goals in 44 appearances for Barcelona since joining the Catalan club last June.

A foot injury suffered against Real Madrid last week could sideline him for the next month, casting doubt over the 22-year-old's preparations for the World Cup, which begins on 12 June.

"If you went to Barcelona you would see that Neymar is fine," Scolari said during an event.

MYANMAR TV

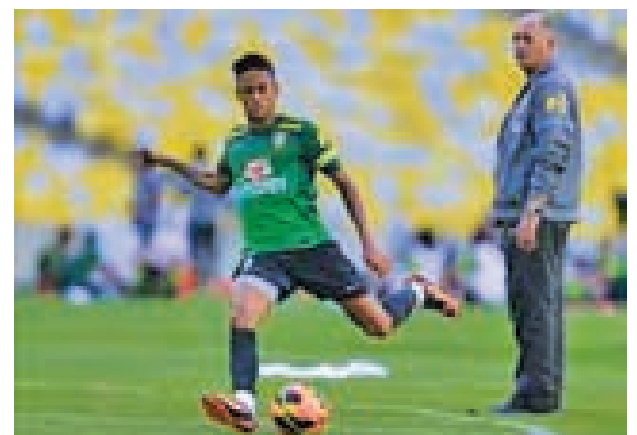
(26-4-2014, Saturday)

- 6:00 am
- 1. Paritta By Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw
- 6:25 am
- 2. Physical Exercise
- 7:00 am
- 3. News/ Weather Report
- 7:40 am
- 4. Hyper Sports
- 8:30 am
- 5. India Drama Series
- 9:00 am
- 6. News/International News
- 10:00 am
- 7. News
- 10:50 am
- 8. TV Drama Series
- 11:30 am
- 9. Game for Children
- 12:00 pm
- 10. News/International News/Weather Report
- 12:25 pm
- 11. Round Up of The Week's TV Local News
- 2:25 pm
- 12. Business News
- 3:15 pm
- 13. Teleplay
- 4:00 pm
- 14. News
- 4:25 pm
- 15. University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) Third Year (Economic)
- 5:00 pm
- 16. News
- 5:15 pm
- 17. Documentary
- 6:00 pm
- 18. News/ Weather Report
- 6:20 pm
- 19. MRTV's Youth Programme
- 8:00 pm
- 20. News/International News/Weather Report
- 9:00 pm
- 21. News
- 22. Myanmar Series

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(26-4-14 07:00am~ 27-4-14 07:00am) MST

- * Local News
- * Great Shwedagon- The Sacred Hair Relics Hailing Pogodas
- * World News
- * Waso Charity Feast
- * Local News
- * Myanmar Traditional Festival
- * World News
- * Myanmar Movie Review "Maryar: A Well Planned Trap"
- * Local News
- * Pagoda Forest in Pa-O Land
- * World News
- * Black Gold (Part-2)
- * Local News
- * A Real Dream of Accidental Gift
- * World News
- * Myanmar Invites You
- * Local News
- * Rakhine Tourist Area
- * World News
- * Trishaw Man
- * Local News
- * Journey to Unimaginable Spots (Episode-11)
- * World News
- * Charming & Fragrant Sabai
- * Local News
- * Rakhine Traditional Wedding Ceremony
- * World News
- * Kay Tu Mar Lar "The Family"
- * Local News
- * A Day In Bagan
- * World News
- * Hip-Hop & Design



Neymar and Scolari

"It's the team that isn't doing well. He is part of a group. In the national team he will perform like he always does. I spoke with him and his father and I can say that he doesn't worry me at all."

Scolari also offered support to midfielder Paulinho, often relegated to the substitutes' bench for Tottenham this year, and striker Fred, who has recently returned from injury for Fluminense.—Xinhua

Sevilla earn two-goal cushion against Valencia

BARCELONA, 25 April—Stephane MBia and Carlos Bacca were on target for Sevilla as they took a big step towards reaching the Europa League final with a 2-0 victory over Valencia on Thursday. The Andalusian side continued their good form which has seen them win nine of their last 10 La Liga games as they took advantage of Valencia's defensive weaknesses to put themselves in the driving seat in the all-Spanish semi-final. After a frantic start to the game MBia

knocked in the opening goal on the half hour mark and then Bacca added another shortly afterwards as he used his pace to get clear before finishing clinically.

"It was a good game from us against a strong rival in Valencia but despite this result it is still going to be difficult there," Bacca

told reporters.

"One of the most important things was to make sure we didn't concede a goal. We could have got a third but they also did well themselves. The game in Valencia is going to be like a final which anyone would want to play."

Sevilla's strong form in the second half of the season, which has seen them climb to fifth in La Liga, has

been largely down to their solidity in defence and midfield.

However, they lacked composure

at the back in the opening exchanges as both sides attacked at will.

Valencia had chances before MBia grabbed the opening goal as the hosts took advantage of a visiting side missing several central defenders, including first-choice Ricardo Costa.

Ivan Rakitic's free kick was nodded on by Daniel Carrico to MBia, on loan from English Championship side Queens Park Rangers, who back-heeled the ball past goalkeeper Vicente Guaita despite appearing to be in an offside position.

The visitors

were still gathering themselves from that blow when, within three minutes, Bacca doubled their advantage, bursting through the heart of the Valencia defence.

Valencia came close to reducing the arrears when an Edu Vargas shot curled just wide of the post midway through the second half and then in the final moments he hit the crossbar, but they now have it all to do at the Mestalla next week.

Reuters

Sevilla's Ivan Rakitic (C) fights for the ball Valencia's Javier Fuego (2nd L) during their Europa League semi-final first leg soccer match in Seville, on 24 April, 2014.
REUTERS



Moyes left all at sea by scale of United job, says former coach

LONDON, 25 April — David Moyes lost his job as Manchester United manager because he ignored advice and failed to appreciate the scale of the job, said Rene Meulensteen, a former coach at the Premier League club.

Moyes was sacked on Tuesday after a disastrous 10-month spell in charge, with United now certain to finish outside the Premier League's top four for the first time. Midfielder and assistant coach Ryan Giggs placed in temporary control for the final four league matches of the season while United search for a permanent successor.

Meulensteen, among a group of trusted lieutenants of former boss Alex Ferguson who Moyes removed in favour of bringing in his own backroom staff, said Moyes had aid the price for ignoring the blueprint of success forged under Ferguson.

"United were a very successful team, with many successful years behind them. The strategies in place worked. But David ignored the advice that was given to him by many of the staff in place at the time," the Dutchman told CNN.

"He opted to put his own plans in place, which he was perfectly entitled to do, but I think it backfired on him. 'I always strongly believe the performances and the results are a reflection of what is actually happening behind the door and that wasn't good enough, as simple as that.'"

Meulensteen said he had tried to impress upon Moyes that Everton, the club he was leaving behind, was not on the same scale as

the 20-times English league winners and three times European champions.

"Don't forget, David was a respected manager in the Premier League who worked for 11 years at Everton in a very good way." But I did warn him: 'Do you realise, after everything at Everton, you're going from a yacht to a cruise liner? That's how big the difference will be'."

"It's not just necessarily the work on the pitch. It's everything that surrounds Manchester United, the players, the performances, the pressure, the style, the identity."

"And I think he underestimated that. It's always easy in

hindsight but unfortunately it's cost him his position."

Meulensteen went on to manage Fulham in a three-month spell this season before he was replaced by current boss Felix Magath in February after a lengthy run without victory. That followed an even shorter spell, 16 days, in charge of Russian side Anzhi Makhachkala last year.

Meulensteen, though, said it was wrong that he, Mike Phelan and Eric Steele were let go by United.

"It's too crazy for words. I've been part of Manchester United's backroom staff for the last five years for Sir Alex Ferguson and the last five years have been proven to be the most successful in the history of Manchester United," he said.

"Now they've had a poor season, they have dropped to seventh, out of the Champions League and suddenly, after so many years of constant success, we're now asking whether Manchester United are good enough to get in the top four."

"To me, there should be nothing else and that's probably why the decision has been made because they want to be back (in the Champions League) and next year they want to be challenging for the league title."

Meulensteen's compatriot Louis van Gaal is the favourite to succeed Moyes, with Real Madrid boss Carlo Ancelotti and former United defender and now Paris St Germain coach Laurent Blanc also linked to the role.

United host relegation threatened Norwich City on Saturday. —Reuters

David Moyes



Berlusconi not to sell AC Milan

MILAN, 25 April—AC Milan president Silvio Berlusconi on Thursday dismissed the speculations that he could sell the Rossoneri. Reports which emerged in those days claimed that Singapore-based businessman Peter Lim is preparing to table an offer of 500 million euro to buy the Serie A club from the Berlusconi family.

"Milan will not be sold, and its worth is more than 500 million euro," said Berlusconi.

"Let us not joke about something sacred," he replied to a question asking if the club is worth 501 million euro.

His daughter Barbara, joint-CEO of AC Milan, said 500 million euro could only cover about half of the club's assets.

However, this does not rule out the possibility of Lim investing in Milan and buying up a large number of shares for 350 million euro. —Xinhua