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## Obama stresses importance of youth joining in US-ASEAN cooperation



US President Barack Obama.

NAY PYI TAW, 29 April —A transcript of a question and answer session between US President Barack Obama and young leaders from Association of Southeast Asian Nations at the University of Malaya in Kuala Lumpur on Sunday is available on the White House website.

In his opening remarks, Obama highlighted the importance of the youth in Southeast Asia in promoting US-ASEAN cooperation.

During the Q&A Obama elaborated on his interest in social activities and voluntary services and gave an account of functions of his administration while

answering the first question from a Cambodian youth who asked about his dream and whether Obama had achieved his dream.

Next, Obama took the question from a Myanmar youth and Obama's answer is part of the transcript available on the White House website.

**Presenter:** Thank you, Mr. President. We now have a question from the social media, which we've been collecting over the week.

**President Obama:** Okay.

**Q:** The question comes from our friend from Burma, from Myanmar. And he asks: To Mr. President,

what would be your own key words or encouragement for each of us leaders of our next generation while we are cooperating with numerous diversities such as different races, languages, beliefs and cultures not only in Myanmar, but also across ASEAN? Thank you.

**President Obama:** Well, it's a great question. If you look at the biggest source of conflict and war and hardship around the world, one of the most if not the most important reasons is people treating those who are not like them differently. So in Myanmar right now, they're going through a transition after decades of repressive government, they're trying to open things up and make the country more democratic. And that's a very courageous process that they're going through.

But the danger, now that they're democratizing is that there are different ethnic groups and different religions inside of Myanmar, and if people start or-

ganizing politically around their religious identity or around their ethnic identity as opposed to organizing around principles of justice and rule of law and democracy, then you can actually start seeing conflicts inside those countries that could move Myanmar in a very bad direction—particularly, if you've got a Muslim minority inside of Myanmar right now that the broader population has historically looked down upon and whose rights are not fully being protected.

Now, that's not unique to Myanmar. Here in Malaysia, this is a majority Muslim country. But then, there are times where those who are non-Muslims find themselves perhaps being disadvantaged or experiencing hostility. In the United States, obviously historically the biggest conflicts arose around race. And we had to fight a civil war and we had to have a civil rights movement over the course of generations until I could stand before  
(See page 8)

## Activists demand release of jailed reporter, some who under arrest

By Aye Min Soe

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

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

Zaw Pe and the father of a student, were charged with trespassing and disturbing a civil servant after they visited the Magway Region Education Depart-

ment in August, 2012 to conduct an interview about a Japanese-funded scholarship programme.

Both got a one year jail sentence on April, 2014.

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

(Interim) and journalists, at the recent gathering of journalists.

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

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

"We should approach the current situation between media and author-



Activists protest sending journalists to jail.—PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

ities through two ways. One is we should hold a seminar with participation of representatives from the government, law experts and media to clarify what dangers are posed to media and the other one is we, media, should improve

ourselves to have high level of professional skills," Ko Thiha said.

The new press laws have encouraged more investigative journalism and critical reporting and also offered "protection" of journalists from arbitrary

arrests.

"The weakness of the new media laws is that it does not include the fact that which action will be taken against the authorities who does not give answers to reporters," a lawyer said.

NAY PYI TAW, 29 April — Union Parliament and People's Parliament Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann elaborated on land ownership disputes at a meeting with locals in Patheingyi Region on Monday.

The Speaker said that the present government is facing protests against land grabbing cases in many areas, especially in Ayeyawady Region. He said there was much unoccupied land in that area in the past and investors were invited to make use of it when locals did not have enough capital to do so. Companies which cultivate at least 5,000 acres were allowed to export 50

percent of their produce.

Thura U Shwe Mann said that some companies had to return the land to the government as they were not able to operate without loss, not only in the farming, but also in the fishery sector.

He also said that land disputes cannot be avoided, but should be solved according to the law.

The Speaker stressed that the government and parliament are now discussing how to solve land disputes.—MNA

**Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann meets officials and local people in Patheingyi Region.—MNA**

## Union Parliament Speaker discusses ownership disputes in delta region



## Nay Pyi Taw hosts 2014 ICMCI Asia-Pacific Hub Meeting

NAY PYI TAW, 29 April — 2014 Asia-Pacific Hub Meeting of International Council of Management Consulting Institutes took place at Myanmar International Convention Centre on Monday, attended by Union Ministers U Soe Thane, Dr Kan Zaw and U Ohn Myint, experts abroad and investors.

In his address, Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development Dr Kan Zaw invited foreign investors and developers to invest in Myanmar as the country is opening up. He expressed his belief the meeting would produce more ways and means to seek cooperation among business partners and allow them to discover new frontiers in "the land of opportunities."

Union Minister U

Ohn Myint received a vehicle, Mobile School, equipped with 22 computers and related accessories donated by the Institute of Management Consultants Myanmar for the Ministry of Livestock Breeding, Fishery and Rural Development.

The Mobile School will visit rural areas to conduct computer courses for young men, vocational training courses for rural people and small business financial management courses for rural housewives soon. It is targeted to provide educational services to 20,000 rural people with the use of one mobile school a year.

Plans are to increase the number of the mobile schools to 100 to enable two million people to have access to education annually.—MNA

## National Parliament Speaker visits monastic school in Kayah State

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

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

MNA

**Speaker U Khin Aung Myint on his visit to Loikaw.—MNA**



## President's excellence awards presentation ceremony planned

NAY PYI TAW, 29 April — Union Minister at the President Office U Tin Nang Thein held a work co-

ordination meeting on preparing the President's excellence awards presentation ceremony on Tuesday at his office in

Nay Pyi Taw.

Officials from the committees reported on the progress of preparations to the Union minister, who

urged the attendees to join hands in order to successfully hold the ceremony and dinner.

MNA

## Nearly 500 scouts take oath in PyinOoLwin



Scout youths seen at opening of recreation camp (PyinOoLwin).—MNA

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

The scouts' voluntary work will include sanitation services, planting trees and carrying out public welfare services.

At the gathering which was also attended by U Ye Myint, the Chief Minister of Mandalay Region, officials said that more scouts groups will be formed in the future

with students from 78 schools.

The scouts were banned from 1964 and have only been operating

again since December, 2012, with 1,000 boys and 1,000 girls active members.

MNA

### 2014 Scout Youths Get-together



PyinOoLwin Camp



From 29 April to 2 May 2014

## NATIONAL

## President holds talks with New Zealand ambassador, Japanese guests

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

During the meeting with the ambassador, they discussed further strength-

ening relations between Myanmar and the New Zealand, human resources development and providing technical assistance to Myanmar.

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



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



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

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

NAY PYI TAW, 29 April—A radio message to be delivered by U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Un-

ion of Myanmar, will be broadcast by radio on 1 and 2 May. Myanma Radio, Mandalay FM, Pyinsawady FM, Shwe FM, Cherry FM,

Padamya FM, FM Bagan and Thazin Radio will broadcast the message at 7 am, 11 am, 6 pm and 8 pm.—MNA

## Senior Myanmar, Yunnan officials discuss trade

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

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

He added Chinese aid

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

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

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



## Healthcare reform needed to improve Myanmar health standards

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

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

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

He also highlighted the importance of setting up an affordable health system that includes raising health standards, preventive medicine, treatment and rehabilitation as a long-term plan

and curative care service, which is taking care of tens of thousands of patients daily as a short-term plan.

Without fulfilling requirements in infrastructure, human resources and medicine and medical equipment, it is impossible to make health care service perfect, the vice-president added.

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

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

To better serve lower

income citizens, he urged the setting up of an effective community-based health-care system.

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

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

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

## 2014 tax law and amendments explained in Mandalay



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

In the clarification, U Than Zaw Win, head of Mandalay Region Internal Revenue Department, said taxes have been

eased. Accordingly, people who have income of K 2 million and above for one year exceeded 21% basic reliefs, stipends for

spouse and children, and life insurance need to pay taxes on sliding scale. U Than Zaw Win also explained amendments of taxes on real estate and vehicles.

Thiha Ko Ko  
(Mandalay)

## Nursing trainees get their uniforms in Mandalay

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

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

Assistant Director of Mandalay Medical Department Daw Mya Mya Lay explained nursing ethics and Headmistress of the Mandalay Nursing Training School Daw San San Oo outlined plans for trainees to gain practical experience.

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

Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)



## Villager injured in mine blast in Kayin State

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

Tun Tun Oo (Myawady Border Town)

**TODAY'S  
MYANMAR  
NEWS SITES**

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

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

More than 100 companies will sell Japanese and Korean cars, other vehicles, boats, electronic materials, furniture, healthcare materials, construction materials, home decorations, food, cosmetics and fashion

materials, agricultural medicines, utensils and mobile phones at the exhibition.

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

Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)

## More than 100 people receive free dental care in southern Myanmar

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

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

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

Palauk IPRD

## Firemen donate blood to mark 68<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Fire Brigade Day

NAY PYI TAW, 29 April— To mark the 68<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Fire Brigade Day, 400 members of Fire Services departments in eight townships in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area carried out

social welfare tasks in the compound of Nay Pyi Taw General Hospital on Tuesday.

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



## Anti-Myitsone Dam activists arrive in Mohnyin

MOHNYIN, 29 April— An activist group of 29 men, seven women and two monks marching to Myitsone Dam in Kachin State from Yangon since 23 March to try to shut down the Myitsone Dam Project, arrived in Mohnyin, Kachin State, on Monday.

The group was divided into two in Mandalay to further strengthen mobilization, seek more public participation and broaden understanding of their quest among the people.

One half of the group is marching to Myitsone Dam Project on the east bank of Ayeyawady River.

Along the way, the ac-



tivists signed a warning letter in over 50 townships that they will be taken action under Section 18 of the Law on Peaceful Assembly and Peaceful Procession, but, officials warmly welcomed the activists and gave nec-

essary assistances to them, said group leader Ko Ye Htut Khaung. When they arrive in Myitsone, they will erect a stone inscription and the day will be regarded as "Ayeyawady Day", he added.—*NLM-001*

## LOCAL NEWS

## High-speed vessels to operate on Myeik-Kyunsu route

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

Myeik is a seaport town and Taingfaing, Fortune and Ayeyanadi Vessels operate Dawei-Myeik-Kawthoung routes along the coastal area in the region through a rotation system. Kyantaingaug and Dohtawywa Vessels run the Myeik-Taninthayi route for convenience of local people. The Myeik-Kyunsu route will be run by high-speed vessels and residents who reside in



island villages in Kyunsu Township will get smoother water transportation opportunities.

The fare for the 45-minute run Myeik-Kyunsu return is K1000. Kyantaingaug (9) high-

speed vessel is now operating to Sakhanthit, Kanmaw, Mawkhaungtone, Aleman, Chaungkaphe, Kyeini-

taung, Kyeinmetaung and Kantaw Villages starting 6 am daily.

*Moe Hein (Myeik)*

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

MYEIK, 29 April—A meeting between the Planning and Investment Subcommittee of the Union Government (Delivery Unit) and local people took place in Pearl Yadana Hall in Myeik, Taninthayi Region on Tuesday. First, the Chairman of Planning and Investment Subcommittee of the Union Government Deputy Minister for Na-

tional Planning and Economic Development Daw Le Le Thein explained undertakings of the delivery unit, its aims and purpose of formation.

Region Minister for Planning and Economic U Thein Lwin then reported on arrangements made for planning and economic development in the region. The meeting was also attend-

ed by region parliament representatives U Thet Naing and U Aung Hsan Lin, Myeik Township National Parliament Representatives U Moe Myint and U Tin Shan, district/township departmental officials, members of the management supportive development committee and social organization, entrepreneurs, NGOs and INGOs.—*Moe Hein (Myeik)*

## Rubber farm workers in Dawei get medical treatment

MYITTA, 29 April—A mobile medical team has brought health services to 75 workers at a Rubber

Farm owned by Dawei Naga Co., in Ward-2 in Myitta Sub-township in Dawei District.

Members of the team shared knowledge on prevention of malaria, and distributed pamphlets to them.

*Township IPRD*

## Number of tricycle taxis on increase in Tatkon Tsp



TATKON, 29 April—The number of tricycle or tuk-tuk taxis in Tatkon

Township of Nay Pyi Taw is increasing due to the high demand, locals have

are much faster and more convenient than bullock carts.”—*Township IPRD*

said.

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

According to a local in Meinn Village of Htantawgyi Village-tract, “I always rent tricycles when I go to town. The tuk-tuks

## Squall, hail stones hit Sagaing, no one injured



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

No one was injured

and locals expressed some relief at lower temperatures accompanying the storms.

But an official from the Meteorology and Hydrology Department warned people need to be aware

of the possibility of natural disasters when storms hit and should always be alert for adverse weather announcements from the department.

*Region IPRD*

## Mini book corners opened for residents in Ottarathiri Tsp

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

Deputy Head of Ottara District IPRD Daw Soe Sanda Waing talked about the advantages of reading and how to seek general



knowledge through books to the residents at the ad-

ministrative office of the ward.—*District IPRD*

## Obama says US commitment to defend Philippines “ironclad”

MANILA, 29 April — US President Barack Obama said on Monday a new military pact between the United States and the Philippines is testimony to America’s “ironclad” commitment to defend the southeast Asian nation.

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

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



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

The military agreement between the two countries was the centrepiece of Obama’s first visit to the Philippines, the United States’ oldest ally in the region.

The deal, which will

have an initial 10-year term, sets the framework for a beefed-up rotation of US troops, ships and warplanes through the Philippines.

Obama said the accord and his visit — part of a

four-nation swing through Asia — demonstrated the US commitment to a “re-balancing” of resources and diplomacy towards the fast-growing region.

That commitment has been in doubt as the

United States has focused on conflicts in the Middle East and Afghanistan.

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

The US president

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

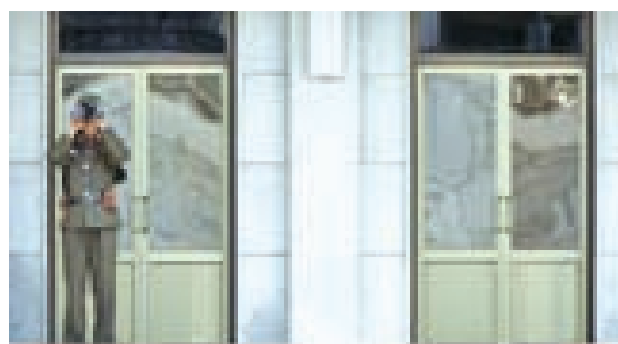
“International law must be upheld. Freedom of navigation must be preserved,” Obama said. “Disputes must be resolved peacefully and not by intimidation or by force.”

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

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

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

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



A North Korean soldier observes activities in the south of the truce village of Panmunjom in the demilitarised zone (DMZ) separating North Korea from South Korea, about 55 km (34 miles) north of Seoul, on 25 Sept, 2013.—REUTERS

SEOUL, 29 April — North Korea started a live-fire drill near the tense western sea border around 2 pm on Tuesday, prompting Seoul to prepare a military response in case shells fall south of the disputed demarcation line, South Korea’s Joint Chiefs of Staff said.

Earlier in the day, North Korea notified South Korea it would conduct a live-fire drill later Tuesday near the western maritime border between the countries, according to the South’s Joint Chiefs of Staff.

According to the notice, sent around 8:50 am, the drill would be held in two areas near the sea border known as the Northern

Limit Line, a South Korean military official said.

In response, the South informed the North of its readiness to react strongly if the shells fall south of the border, the official said.

Seoul has ordered fishing boats to halt activities near the area. The two Koreas exchanged artillery fire on 31 March in the same area when the North held a live-fire drill and residents on a front-line island in the Yellow Sea evacuated to shelters.

South Korea said it returned fire into North Korean waters after shells from a North Korean live-fire drill fell south of the disputed western sea border.

Kyodo News

## Kerry denies remarks linking Israel to apartheid

WASHINGTON, 29 April — US Secretary of State John Kerry said on Monday that he had never spoken of Israel as a country linked to apartheid, an episode in the stalled Israeli-Palestinian peace talks that was sparking an outcry both at home and abroad.

“I will not allow my commitment to Israel to be questioned by anyone,

particularly for partisan, political purposes, so I want to be crystal clear about what I believe and what I don’t believe,” Kerry said in a written statement.

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

“Anyone who knows anything about me knows that without a shred of doubt.”

He cited his strenuous efforts to broker a peace deal between the Israelis and Palestinians for over one year as his concrete support for Israel.

The top American envoy was facing a call for resignation and sharp rebuke over his alleged

remarks that Israel risks becoming “an apartheid state” if there is no two-state solution to its conflict with the Palestinians.

“Secretary Kerry has proven himself unsuitable for the position he holds ... John Kerry should offer President (Barack) Obama his resignation,” said Senator Ted Cruz on Monday.

Xinhua

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

MIAMI, 29 April — A new advocacy group calling for the United States to change its policy toward Cuba launched an advertising campaign on Monday with posters on the Washington DC metro system showing President Barack Obama and urging him to “stop waiting.”

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

“It’s time to bring the conversation on US-Cuba policy into the 21st century,” said #CubaNow director Ric Herrero.



Commuters walk past a poster urging US President Barack Obama to change US policy towards Cuba at the McPherson Square Metro stop in Washington on 28 April, 2014.—REUTERS

The group said its mission, unlike other Cuba policy groups, was specifically focused on changing US thinking about Cuba

policy. While the group opposes the embargo, it recognised that overturning it in Congress is an uphill battle and other ways can

be found to change policy, such as allowing all Americans to travel to Cuba.

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

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

## WORLD

## US troops, British planes deployed to Baltics over Ukraine

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

## Libya says Jordan to handover jailed Islamist to get kidnapped ambassador

TRIPOLI, 29 April — Jordan has agreed to handover a Libyan Islamist to Tripoli to secure the release of its ambassador kidnapped in the North African country two weeks ago, Libya's state news agency LANA said on Monday.

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

Sohar Banun, an undersecretary in Libya's justice ministry, said both countries had agreed that the ambassador would be released in exchange for

Jordan reducing Dersi's sentence and allowing him to complete his jail term in Libya, LANA said.

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

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

He gave no details or time frame, and there was

no immediate comment from Jordanian or Libyan officials.

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

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

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

He did not elaborate.

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



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

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

Kyodo News

## Japanese defence minister in Australia



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

## UN chief calls for creating necessary conditions for Iraq poll

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

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

country.”

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

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

## PERSPECTIVES

Wednesday, 30 April, 2014

## At the end of US President's Asia trip

By Aung Khin

US President Mr. Barak Obama completed his seven-day tour of Asia on Tuesday after visiting four countries of Japan, South Korea, Malaysia and the Philippines.

The goals for this long-awaited visit were ambitious for reassuring allies that the United States is still committed to a pivot to Asia, secure new deals to expand trade, and send a message to China that his country has its allies' backs in territorial disputes.

Despite Obama was welcomed by the pag-

eantry in Japan, South Korea and Malaysia, over-all the trip reminded the US of the difficulties America faces in expanding its role in the region. The US and Japan mentioned progress on trade talks, but they delayed the adoption of the Trans-Pacific Partnership, a comprehensive pact that is expected to cut trade barriers in twelve Asia-Pacific nations.

The White House has announced the United States and the Philippines would enter into a new strategic defense pact that would allow for more American troops in Southeast Asia, which China criticized an attempt to balance its own presence in a region where land water are in constant dispute. Obama denied that it is neither for countering China, nor containing China.

President Obama made a visit to Myanmar in November 2012 to offer strong support to the government of President U Thein Sein for cementing civilian rule in the Southeast Asia country. That visit did not emphasize on US's policy

on Asian region.

While Myanmar is making sweeping reforms, territorial disputes of regional countries and power balance of giant economies are happening in the region. At this juncture, Myanmar should complete its peace-making process by taking lessons on regional problems which are the hindrances of economic development in the region.

In fact, the powers are competing for their influence on regional affairs through their allies. Myanmar should develop its own strength without letting miserable policies occur again.

### 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.

## Obama stresses importance of...

(from page 1)

you as a President of African descent. (Applause.) But of course, the job is not done. There is still discrimination and prejudice and ethnic conflict inside the United States that we have to be vigilant against.

So my point is all of us have within us biases and prejudices of people who are not like us or were not raised in the same faith or come from a different ethnic background. But the world is shrinking. It's getting smaller. You could think that way when we were all living separately in villages and tribes, and

we didn't have contact with each other. We now have the Internet and smart phones, and our cultures are all colliding. The world has gotten smaller and no country is going to succeed if part of its population is put on the sidelines because they're discriminated against.

Malaysia won't succeed if non-Muslims don't have opportunity. (Applause.) Myanmar won't succeed if the Muslim population is oppressed.

No society is going to succeed if half your population—meaning women—aren't getting the same

education and employment opportunities as men. (Applause.) So I think the key point for all of you, especially as young people, is you should embrace your culture. You should be proud of who you are and your background. And you should appreciate the differences in language and food. And how you worship God is going to be different, and those are things that you should be proud of. But it shouldn't be a tool to look down on somebody else. It shouldn't be a reason to discriminate.

And you have to make sure that you are speaking out against that in your daily life, and as you emerge as

leaders you should be on the side of politics that brings people together rather than drives them apart. (Applause.) That is the most important thing for this generation. And part of the way to do that is to be able to stand in other people's shoes, see through their eyes. Almost every religion has within it the basic principle that I, as a Christian, understand from the teachings of Jesus. Do unto others as you would have them do unto you. Treat people the way you want to be treated. And if you're not doing that and if society is not respecting that basic principle, then we're going backwards instead of going forward.

And this is true all around the world. And sometimes, it's among groups that those of us on the outside, we look — they look exactly the same. In Northern Ireland, there has been a raging conflict — although they have finally come to arrive at peace — because half or a portion of the population is Catholic, a portion is Protestant. From the outside, you look — why are they arguing? They're both Irish. They speak the same language. It seems as if they'd have nothing to argue about. But that's been a part of Ireland that has been held back and is poor and less developed than the part of Ireland that didn't have that conflict.

In Africa, you go to countries — my father's country of Kenya, where oftentimes you've seen tribal conflicts from the outside you'd think, what are they arguing about? This is a country that has huge potential. They should be growing, but instead they spend all their time arguing and organizing politically only around tribe and around ethnicity. And then, when one gets on top, they're suspicious and they're worried that the other might take advantage of them. And when power shifts, then it's payback. And we see that

in society after society. The most important thing young people can do is break out of that mindset.

When I was in Korea, I had a chance to — or in Tokyo rather — I had a chance to see an exhibit with an astronaut, a Japanese astronaut who was at the International Space Station and it was looking at the entire globe and they're tracking now changing weather patterns in part because it gives us the ability to respond to disasters quicker. And when you see astronauts from Japan or from the United States or from Russia or others working together, and they're looking down at this planet from a distance you realize we're all on this little rock in the middle of space and the differences that seem so important to us from a distance dissolve into nothing.

And so, we have to have that same perspective — respecting everybody, treating everybody equally under the law. That has to be a principle that all of you uphold. Great question. (Applause.) Let me call on the — I'm going to go boy, girl, boy, girl so that everybody gets a fair chance. Let's see, hold on. This gentleman right here, right there with the glasses. (Applause.) There you go.

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



**Mr. Changyong Rhee taking a floor at press briefing in Washington, D.C on 11 April.**

PHOTO: YE MYINT

By Ye Myint

Now is the time for vigilance and reform to be continued to secure short-run financial stability and sustain Asia's leadership in global growth, Mr. Changyong Rhee, director of IMF's Asia and Pacific Department, said at the Asia Pacific Regional Economic Outlook press

conference in Hong Kong on Monday.

The IMF director reaffirmed Asia's momentum is set to improve to 5.5 per cent in 2014–15 with the help of growth drivers improved external demand, robust labour markets, and strong credit growth.

But he warned of new and old risks Asia still faces and stressed the need to prepare for the risks ahead with monetary and financial policies. He added growth in China and Japan could fall below expectations, with negative spillovers for the rest of the region and called for curbing rapid domestic credit growth in Asia's developing and frontier economies to address domestic and external imbalances.

Rhee highlighted the importance of removing of structural impediments to growth and improvement in

the business climate in emerging, frontier and developing economies in the region.

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

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

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

In Washington, ahead of the release of the Asia and Pacific Regional Economic Outlook Report, Rhee said

Asia-Pacific will remain the world's most dynamic region and continue to have steady growth this fiscal year.

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

He also called for addressing income inequality in the early stage of growth to avoid the same mistakes that many Asian have encountered, particularly as real estate prices can soar when outside capital flow into a country, seriously exacerbating income inequality.

The IMF is working with the Central Bank of Myanmar for financial stability and banking sector development in Myanmar.

### GOLD PRICE, FE RATE (29-4-2014)

#### Yangon Gold Price

Buying K 662,400 per tical: Selling K 663,400

#### Mandalay Gold Price

Buying K 662,300 per tical: Selling K 663,300

#### FE RATE

|             |        |   |         |        |
|-------------|--------|---|---------|--------|
| USD Buying  | K 961  | - | Selling | K 966  |
| SGD Buying  | K 760  | - | Selling | K 770  |
| Euro Buying | K 1315 | - | Selling | K 1335 |

## ARTICLE

# Female-dominated Noble Profession in Myanmar & A Teacher Is Many Things

Kin Mg Oo

(Continued from yesterday)

## 4/ A teacher is an example.

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

- a/ Basic attitudes toward important problems—success, failure, teaching, learning, human ability, love, truth, human relation, religion, work.
- b/ Speech: the use of language as the chief means of expressing thought.
- c/ Work habits:
- d/ Attitude toward experience and mistakes:
- e/ Dress:
- f/ Human relations
- g/ Thought processes:
- h/ Emotional habits
- i/ The system of likes and dislikes which reflect a person's values.
- j/ Judgment: skills used in evaluating all kinds of situations.
- k/ Health: the quality of the body, mind, and emotions which reflects in amount of energy, the way one views life, and a true joy in living.
- l/ General styles of living:

## 5/ A teacher is a searcher.

The teacher is a seeker or searcher. He knows

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

## 6/ A teacher is a counselor.

The teacher is a counselor for his students and often for their parents. He may not have special training as a counselor and

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

## 7/ A teacher is a creator.

The teacher is both a creator and one who excites creativity in others. To understand this aspect of teaching, we need to explain what creativity means. Man often limits himself by his own opinions and ideas about things and people. Thus our idea of human ability has often been incorrect because of false standards. The meaning of truth or love has been limited by what we can know or feel. The creative process is at work everywhere in the living world. We can see the creative process of nature in the growth of plants and the activities of animals, and in the wind and the

rain that shape the rocks and hills. Man shares in these and other aspects of the creative process. His making of physical things has been greatly extended beyond animal activity, as seen in buildings, tools, games, roads, inventions. The creativity in the mental area has been almost unbelievable: literature, art, music, philosophy, law, science. These all depend on the greatest creation of all in the mental area: language.

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

## 8/ A teacher is an authority.

The teacher is an authority: one who knows and knows that he knows. He must know—not everything, and not anything completely, for that is impossible, but he must know much. The term "teacher" demands it, for does not teaching

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

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

## 9/ A teacher is an inspirer of vision.

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

## 10/ A teacher is a doer of routine.

With some skill, the teacher does a large number of sometimes tiring and often boring routines. If these activities are poorly done or not done at all, they can harm the teacher's effectiveness in all other aspects of his teaching. Further, if the teacher begins to dislike these routines, his general attitude toward teaching may be harmed.

Suffice it to say that the teachers' role is of great importance in nurturing future's leaders. It is firmly believed that we owe it to train and retain the service of good and able teachers, as promptly as we can.

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

## Myanmar, Japan eye closer cooperation on infrastructure development

NAY PYI TAW, 29 April—Union Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lwin held talks with a Japanese delegation led by Yoshihiko Noda, former prime minister of Japan, on further cooperation in infrastructure development at his office in Nay Pyi Taw on Tuesday.

The minister said he

is hopeful of getting Japanese financial and technical assistance to development infrastructure and housing projects in Myanmar. He also elaborated on ongoing projects and said bilateral friendship between Myanmar and Japan will be cemented through cooperation in development projects.

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

During the meeting, the managing director of Public Works gave an account of acquisition of assistance from Japan for infrastructure development in Myanmar.

MNA

## Mexican film director challenges President on energy reforms

MEXICO CITY, 29 April — Oscar-winning Mexican film director Alfonso Cuarón challenged President Enrique Peña Nieto to answer tough questions about reforms opening up the state-run energy industry to the private sector, in a letter published by national newspapers on Monday.

The reforms, approved late last year, will end state oil giant Pemex's [PEMX. UL] monopoly in a bid to boost private investment in the sector. The government hopes it will help growth in Latin America's second biggest economy and increase oil production which has fallen by a quarter since 2004.

The quick passage of the reforms through the national legislature drew sharp criticism and fuelled loud protests from Mexico's left, which views the state's appropriation of oil interests in 1938 as sacred.

"The legislative and democratic process of these reforms was poor and lacked deep discussion," said Cuarón, who this year became the first Latin American to win an Oscar for best director with his



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

space thriller "Gravity".

"The dissemination of its contents was done in the context of a propagandistic campaign that avoided public debate," he said in the full-page advertisement.

Cuarón, 52, went on to challenge Peña Nieto to answer ten questions about the energy law, from how the country will avoid graft to how it plans to protect the environment as

powerful foreign interests enter the market.

"Multi-million dollar contracts will be derived from the approved reform. In a country with such a weak (and often non-existent) rule of law like ours, how can you avoid large-scale corruption?" Cuarón asked. Congress is currently hashing out the fine print of the energy reform through a series of so-called secondary laws that

are due to be approved in the coming months.

From his official twitter account, Peña Nieto thanked Cuarón for the questions and said the government would answer them once the secondary laws were presented.

"Your questions enrich the debate and will help Mexicans to understand the reaches and benefits of the reform more precisely," he tweeted. — Reuters

## "Abenomics" generates modest spillovers in Asia so far

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

The lending agency said it had suggested in a previous analysis that

the policy set of monetary easing, fiscal stimulus and growth strategy would create positive spillovers such as encouraging capital flows into these countries after it was unveiled following Abe's ascension to power in December 2012.

But these effects were found to vary across economies and "spillover effects within Asia so far have been modest," the IMF said in the Regional Economic

Outlook report on Asia and Pacific.

The IMF said Japan's export recovery has been slower than initially forecast, which could be attributable to factors such as geopolitical tensions with China, an expectation by firms that the yen's depreciation is temporary and a decline in the attractiveness of Japanese goods.

The agency noted a pickup in Japan's

foreign direct investment and bank lending to Indonesia, Thailand and Vietnam but it was "essentially in line with past trends," the report said.

Looking to Japan, the report said the initial impact of Abenomics "has been strong but it appears to be waning.

While acknowledging Abenomics' positive impact in raising inflation and inflation forecasts, the IMF said private investment has yet to recover decisively and wage growth has remained modest.

Apart from monetary easing, a few concrete measures have been announced in economic reforms such as special economic zones, farmland consolidation and engagement in talks for a trans-Pacific partnership free trade agreement, the report noted. "But further steps, including implementation of announced measures, are needed," it said.

Kyodo News

## Cave-in at subway construction site kills two

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

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

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

Xinhua

## Fire breaks out at Indian PM's Office

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

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

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

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

## Japan to deny visas to 23 Russians over Ukraine

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

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

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

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

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

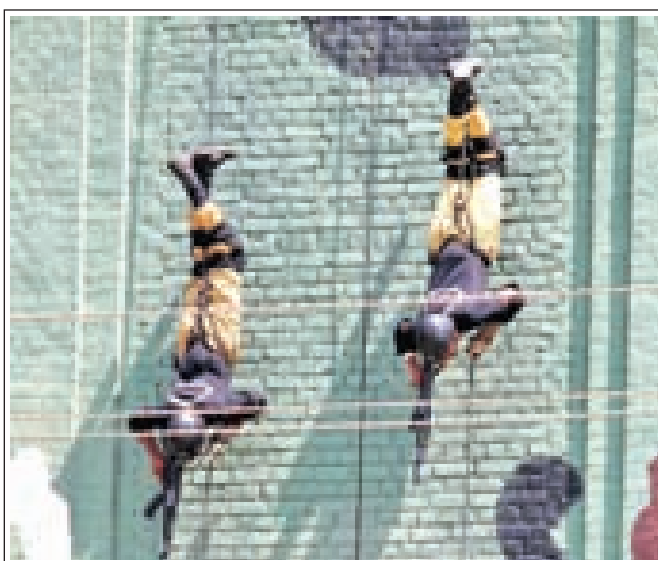
The 45-year-old Argentine captain of the plane, which headed for Naha from Ishigaki Island, a remote island in Okinawa, said he mistakenly believed the controllers had told the aircraft to descend as it approached the airport, according to the ministry.

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

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

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

Kyodo News



Police commandos display their skills during a passing out parade, upon the completion of their three-month training at Pakistan Ranger (Punjab) Headquarters in eastern Pakistan's Lahore on 28 April, 2014. About 165 policemen completed their commando training on Monday to combat terrorism at Pakistan Ranger (Punjab) Headquarters in Lahore.—XINHUA

## SCIENCE &amp; TECHNOLOGY

## Google says self-driving car tests now focused on city driving

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

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

Google said it has driven thousands of miles on the streets of Mountain View, California, a small suburban

community where the company maintains its headquarters roughly 35 miles South of San Francisco. Google's driverless cars rely on video cameras, radar sensors, lasers and a database of information collected from manually driven cars to help navigation, according to the company.

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

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

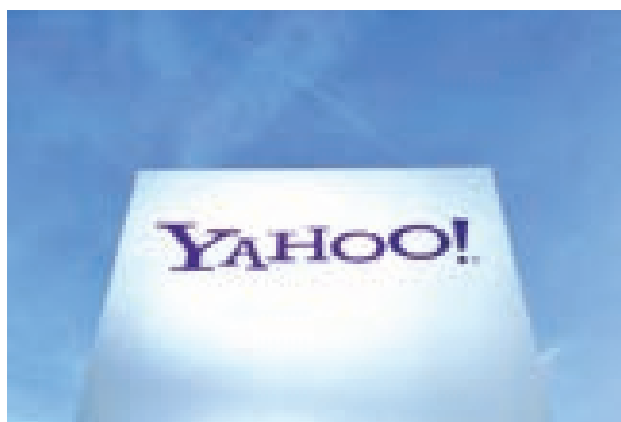
Google is one of several companies, including automakers Nissan Motor Co, Volkswagen AG's Audi and Toyota Motor Corp, testing self-driving car technology. Both Nissan and Mercedes-Benz parent Daimler AG say they plan to start selling self-driving cars by 2020.

Reuters



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

## Yahoo ramps up video effort with new online comedy video series



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

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

The two comedy series, which Yahoo will show on

its website next year, are the first long-form original comedies in Yahoo's growing selection of online video. Each series will consist of eight 30-minute episodes which Yahoo will post on its website all at once. The new programmes underscore

the struggling Web portal's efforts to bolster its traffic and its advertising revenue by streaming more video programmes on its website. Yahoo operates some of the world's most frequently visited online destinations, but its revenue has been stagnant for several years.

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

Other Space, a "galactic adventure" set in the 22nd century, is being created for Yahoo by Paul Feig, who directed the film Bridesmaids and who created the Freaks and Geeks television series. Sin City Saints, which follows the owner of a fictional pro basketball expansion

team, is the product of executive producer Mike Tollin and director Bryan Gordon, whose resumes include TV shows such as Smallville, One Tree Hill and Curb Your Enthusiasm.

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

## Utah sperm swap 'unacceptable' but still unexplained: university docs

WASHINGTON, 29 April — A University of Utah committee investigating reports that a Salt Lake City fertility clinic worker artificially inseminated a patient with his own sperm called the action "unacceptable" on Thursday, but said it could not determine whether the switch was intentional. Practices at two now-closed Salt Lake-area clinics came into question last year when Pamela Branum, who was artificially inseminated at Reproductive Medical Technologies Inc, claimed genetic testing revealed that, instead of her husband, a lab technician had fathered their daughter in the early 1990s. The technician, Tom Lippert, has since died.

The committee of three university physicians, tasked

with reviewing the case and making recommendations to the institution, said in a report released on Thursday that it was unclear how the Branum switch occurred or whether it was accidental or done on purpose.

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

Reuters

## Study in Europe eclipses notion home in the sun equals happiness

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

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

The sun lovers scored 7.3 out of a possible 10 on average on a

"happiness" scale while the stay-at-homes came in at an average of 7.5 percent, according to the study released on Wednesday by Dr David Bartram, a senior lecturer in the Department of Sociology at England's University of Leicester.

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

He said the migrants had higher incomes than the average in their new country and some theories had



predicted that this would make them happier.

The reverse proved to be the case, he said, perhaps because "migration itself can be disruptive to other dimensions of people's lives — social ties, sense of belonging — possibly with consequences for their

happiness. "Perhaps any positive subjective consequences were outweighed by negative consequences arising from the more general disruptive effects of international migration on one's life," he said in a statement.

Reuters

## Cost of cyber attacks on British companies rises

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

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

Cyber attacks on compa-

nies in Europe and the United States have increased in regularity and severity in recent years as "hacktivists" and criminals become increasingly sophisticated, requiring businesses to strengthen their defences.

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



**Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen (C-R) meets with Haoliang Xu (C-L), assistant to the United Nations Secretary General and director of UNDP's Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific, in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, on 29 April, 2014. Haoliang Xu is visiting Cambodia to update the progress and challenges of UNDP projects that have been implementing in the country.—XINHUA**

## Japan requests to join international expert panel on MH370 probe

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

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

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

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

## Around China: Unmanned helicopters help Chinese farmers

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

In this village in Bozhou City, several unmanned remote-control helicopters were busy spraying pesticides over the fields.

"I cannot imagine that four helicopters finished spraying farm chemicals on

1,000 mu (66.7 hectares) of land within two hours," said Liu Baohua, a villager from Liuzhai Village.

Zhang Kunyi, the technician who controlled the helicopters, said that each helicopter can carry about 15 kilograms of pesticides to spray 20 to 25 mu of land.

Liu said it used to take farmers two days to cover that amount of land. In addition to fatigue from carrying heavy pesticides while working, farmers were often soaked in health-threatening chemicals, Liu said.

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

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

Xinhua

## South Korean president apologizes for ferry disaster

SEOUL, 29 April — South Korean President Park Geun-hye on Tuesday apologized for the ferry sinking, saying that the government had failed to prevent the disaster.

Addressing a Cabinet meeting which was broadcast on the national television, Park said "I am sorry to the people and heavy hearted that many precious lives were lost."

"How should I apologize for the failure to prevent the accident and for the insufficient initial response in order to comfort the pains and sufferings (of relatives of the victims) even for a moment," the South Korean president said.

Park promised that she would create a government agency in charge of dealing with such large-scale accidents.

"We should have a firm determination to make the entire safety system of the Republic of Korea from scratch," the president said.

Park said the Cabinet should come up with safety measures for the people with an attitude to remodel the country. The South Korean government has been criticized for being slow and incompetent in dealing with the disaster. Responding to the public anger, South Korean Prime Minister Chung Hong-won resigned on Sunday.

"The right thing for me to do is to take responsibility and resign," Chung told a nationally-televised Press conference, 11 days after the accident that is one of the country's worst maritime disasters.

"Keeping my post too great a burden on the administration," Chung said.

The prime minister apologized on behalf of the government for the deadly accident and its less-than-effective early response measures.

The Sewol ferry with 476 people aboard, most of them students and teachers, sank off South Korea on 16 April. Officials have confirmed 187 dead.—Xinhua



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

PHNOM PENH, 29 April — It took just one word to fire up the mob that beat Tran Van Chien to death after a minor road accident in the Cambodian capital, Phnom Penh.

The 30-year-old carpenter was standing among onlookers on 16 February when someone shouted "yuan," a term widely seen as derogatory to the hundreds of thousands of ethnic Vietnamese who call Cambodia home. Seconds later, the crowd turned on Tran Van Chien.

"There were so many people I couldn't help," recalled his sister, Tran Yaing Chang, shuffling through photos of his funeral. "He was killed instantly."

Cambodians have long

borne a grudge against the Vietnamese.

For centuries Cambodia was caught between more powerful Thai and Vietnamese kingdoms and for generations, many Cambodians have believed Vietnam wants to take over their land.

At various times, Cambodian politicians have found it useful to play up that fear.

In late 1978, Vietnamese forces invaded to overthrow the Khmer Rouge who vilified Vietnam and launched cross-border raids. Vietnam occupied Cambodia for the next 11 years.

Recently, the resurgent opposition Cambodia National Rescue



**A Vietnamese woman walks near her house on the banks of the Mekong river in Phnom Penh on 11 March, 2014.—REUTERS**

Party (CNRP) has stoked anti-Vietnamese sentiment, seeking to capitalize on Hun Sen's association with long-ruling Prime Minister Vietnam.—Reuters

## ADVERTISEMENT &amp; GENERAL

## CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

## MV PAC AQUILA VOY NO (008KY)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV PAC AQUILA VOY NO (008KY) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 30.4.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of B.S.W 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 VISA SHIPPING LINE PTE**

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

## CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

## MV KOTA RESTU VOY NO (RSU381)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA RESTU VOY NO (RSU 381) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 30.4.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT  
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY  
AGENT FOR: M/S ADVANCE CONTAINER  
LINES**

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

## CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

## MV CSC TAIHAI VOY NO (EAL-03)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV CSC TAIHAI VOY NO (EAL-03) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on ETA-01-05-2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of Myanma Port Authority 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 ECL (S'PORE) PTE LTD.**

Phone No: 2301191/2301178/2301177

## CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

## MV NOBLE BREEZE VOY NO (043N)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV NOBLE BREEZE VOY NO (043N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 30.4.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT  
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY**

**AGENT FOR: M/S INTERASIA LINES**

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

## CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

## MV KOTA TAMPAN VOY NO (TPN15A)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA TAMPAN VOY NO (TPN15A) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 30.4.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT  
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY**

**AGENT FOR: M/S ADVANCE CONTAINER  
LINES**

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

TRADE MARK  
CAUTION NOTICE

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(Intl Class 1)  
Any fraudulent imitation or unauthorized use of the said trademark or other infringements whatsoever will be dealt with according to law.

Aung Naing Moe, Advocate  
May Phyo Kin, H.G.P.  
For: Altacor Inc.  
Myanmar Global Law Firm  
Ph: 0973220023  
Dated: 30 April 2014

THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR  
MINISTRY OF ENERGY  
MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE  
(8/2014)

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

| Sr.No | Tender No        | Description                                                               | Remark |
|-------|------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|
| (1)   | IFB -001(14-15)  | Skid Mounted Water Transfer Pump with Motor Driven (700 gpm, 700 ft head) | US\$   |
| (2)   | IFB -002(14-15)  | API Class 'G' Cemeny (1,000) Ton                                          | US\$   |
| (3)   | IFB -003(14-15)  | Spare for HDD Rig                                                         | US\$   |
| (4)   | IFB -004(14-15)  | Spares for Rig Engine/Rig Pump Ex HDD Rig                                 | US\$   |
| (5)   | IFB -005(14-15)  | Assorted Sizes of Drilling Rock Bits                                      | US\$   |
| (6)   | DMP/L-001(14-15) | B-40, B-60 & B-80 Shale Shaker Screens                                    | KS     |
| (7)   | DMP/L-002(14-15) | CCTV Camera and Accessories                                               | KS     |
| (8)   | DMP/L-003(14-15) | 18R 22.5-20 PR Radial Tyre Complete Set and 20.5 x 25-24 Ply Tyre         | KS     |
| (9)   | DMP/L-004(14-15) | 6.0 Sqmm Wire Cable and Heat Shrink Tube                                  | KS     |
| (10)  | DMP/L-005(14-15) | 9 5/8" Float shoes and Collars (P-110, 53.5 lb/ft)                        | KS     |

-Tender Closing Date & Time - 26-5-2014, 16:30 Hr.

Tender Document shall be available during office hours commencing from 29<sup>th</sup> April, 2014 at the Finance Department, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, No (44) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.  
Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise  
Ph: +95 67 - 411097/411206

MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY  
HOLIDAY NOTICE

As the wharves, warehouses and Chellan Offices of Yangon Port will be closed on the 1<sup>st</sup> MAY 2014 (World Workers Day) 13<sup>th</sup> MAY 2014 (Fullmoon Day of KASON), Loading, unloading and delivery for goods will be received on Payment as Holiday fees.

Maldives seeks  
investors for  
countrywide  
ferry system

MALE, 29 April — The Maldives government has begun to seek investors for establishing a countrywide sea transport ferry network, on a joint venture partnership basis with the government, local media said here on Tuesday. The government is looking for international investors who can overcome the geographical challenges in a feasible manner and establish a modern, comfortable and fast ferry network across the country. Upon completion, the new ferry system will go across 20 atolls between 179 transit islands.

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



A UH-1 helicopter of Uruguay's Air Force participates in the multinational exercise "Cooperation III", a rescue drill in the province of Pisco, Ica's department, Peru, on 28 April, 2014. Peru's Air Force will participate in the multinational exercise "Cooperation III", with the collaboration of 13 armed forces of the American continent, for support in case of natural disasters as earthquakes and tsunamis.

XINHUA

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

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

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

*The Guardian*, a British newspaper, won the best website practices award for its interactive online feature on the cache of government documents leaked by former US National Security Agency contractor Edward Snowden.

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

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

online drama "House of Cards."

Every category in the Webby Awards has a "People's Voice" award selected by a public vote. This year, about 500,000 people voted.

Kickstarter, which lets groups and individuals fundraise online, was honoured as the "breakout" of the year in how it has made "crowdfunding" a viable option for helping people get new projects off the

ground.

De La Soul, founded in 1987, was given the artist of the year award for making its catalog of music available online for free downloads.

Harvard professor and political activist Lawrence Lessig, 52, was awarded a lifetime achievement award for co-founding Creative Commons, a copyright license system that makes it easier for creators and users

to share intellectual property.

Musicians Bob Dylan, Arcade Fire and Pharrell Williams all won Webby Awards for their online music videos. Beyonce was honoured for her website Beyonce.com while her rapper-husband Jay Z received a Webby for his mobile phone app that let people download his "Magna Carter ... Holy Grail" album.

Reuters



Kelvin Mercer, also known as Posdnuos, of "De La Soul" performs at the Coachella Music Festival in Indio, California on 18 April, 2010.— Reuters

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

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

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

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

Joining her will be American director Sofia Coppola and actresses Carole Bouquet from France, Leila Hatami of Iran and South Korea's Jeon Do-yeon, the festival said.

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

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



Director Jane Campion poses during a photocall for the film "Bright Star" at the 62nd Cannes Film Festival 15 May, 2009. Twenty films are competing for the prestigious Palme d'Or which will be awarded on 24 May.—Reuters

## Wedding bells for Naomi Watts, Liev Schreiber?



Naomi and Liev had also planned a wedding in 2008. PTI

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

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

"While Naomi and Liev have had their ups and downs, including a cancelled New Year's Eve wedding right before 2008, they've finally worked out their differences and are rethinking marriage," a source said.

Liev helped in boosting the actress' confidence which was said to be affected after receiving criticism for her 2013 film *Diana*.

"She was totally broken hearted over that movie and Liev played a huge role in getting her confidence back so she could carry on with the four more films she had in production," the source added.

PTI

## Beyonce, Jay Z will tour together this summer

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

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

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

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

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

## New "X-Men" movie to premier in China

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

The new X-men movie will be the fifth Hollywood import in 2014 to be



released simultaneously in China and the United States, after "Jack Ryan: Shadow Recruit", "Need for Speed", "Captain America: Winter Soldier" and "Rio 2". In 2013, only three films were screened in this way.

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

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

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

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

Xinhua

## GENERAL

## US storm system that killed 16 causes tornado in Mississippi

VILONIA, (Ark), 29 April — A ferocious storm system caused a twister in Mississippi and threatened tens of millions of people across the US Southeast on Monday, a day after it spawned tornadoes that killed 16 people and tossed cars like toys in Arkansas and other states. A tornado went through Tupelo, Mississippi in the northern part of the state at about 3 pm (1800 GMT), damaging hundreds of homes, downing power lines and toppling trees, Mississippi Governor Phil Bryant told CNN.

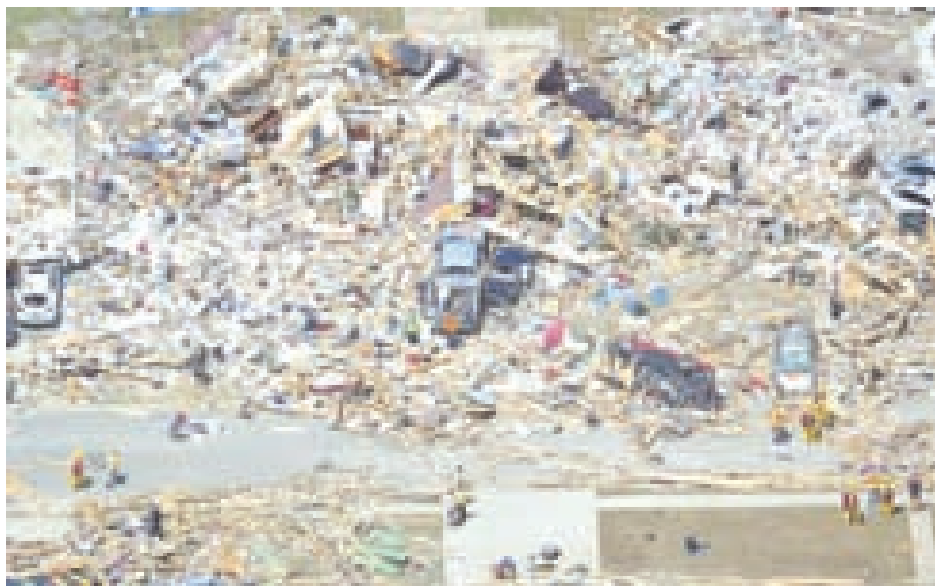
There were no immediate reports of deaths or injuries after six instances of tornadoes touching down in the state.



*A lone resident surveys the damage following a Tornado that destroyed much the city in Tupelo, Mississippi on 28 April, 2014.—REUTERS*

“It is not over. This is going to be a prolonged storm,” Bryant said.

Parts of Alabama, western Georgia and Tennessee also were at risk as the storm system that produced the series of tornadoes headed east toward the Mid-Atlantic states.



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

Rescue workers, volunteers and victims have been sifting through the rubble

thorities said produced the first fatalities of this year’s US tornado season. He previously told a news conference 16 had been killed but later said there was a mistake in calculation. Nine of the victims came from the same street in the town of Vilonia, with a population of about 4,100, where a new intermediate school set to open in August was heavily damaged by a tractor trailer blown into its roof. A steel farm shop anchored to concrete was erased from the landscape. Beebe told reporters of the capricious nature of tornadoes. He said a woman died when the door of her home’s reinforced safe room collapsed, while a father and three daughters survived by seeking shelter in a bathtub that was flipped over in winds that leveled the house.

One person was killed in neighbouring Oklahoma and another in Iowa, state authorities said.—Reuters



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

in the hardest-hit state of Arkansas, looking for survivors in central Faulkner County where a tornado reduced homes to splinters, snapped power lines and mangled trees. Arkansas Governor Mike Beebe said at least 14 people died statewide in the storm that au-

## MYANMAR TV

(30-4-2014, Wednesday)

- 6:00 am**  
1. Paritta by Mingun Sayadaw
- 6:30 am**  
2. Physical Exercises
- 7:00 am**  
3. News/ Weather Report
- 7:20 am**  
4. Myanmar Language
- 8:30 am**  
5. India Drama Series
- 9:00 am**  
6. News/ International News
- 9:40 am**  
7. Documentary (ASEAN)
- 10:15 am**  
8. Documentary
- 11:00 am**  
9. TV Drama Series
- 12:00 pm**  
10. News/International News/Weather Report
- 3:15 pm**  
11. Teleplay
- 4:00 pm**  
12. News/ Weather Report
- 4:20 pm**  
13. University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) First Year (Physics)
- 4:40 pm**  
14. Documentary
- 5:00 pm**  
15. News
- 5:30 pm**  
16. India Drama Series
- 6:00 pm**  
17. News/ Weather Report
- 6:50 pm**  
18. TV Drama Series
- 7:00 pm**  
19. News
- 8:00 pm**  
20. News/International News/Weather Report
- 8:50 pm**  
21. People Talks
- 9:00 pm**  
22. News
- 23. Monthly Weather Report**

## MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(30-4-14 07:00am~  
1-5-14 07:00am) MST

- \* Local News
- \* A Study Tour to Khakaborazi Museum (Putao)
- \* World News
- \* Kyeikhteeoye: Welcome All
- \* Local News
- \* Preserving Myanmar Handicrafts
- \* World News
- \* A Tea Business: Pankwan (Part-1)
- \* Local News
- \* Snow Flakes...Scenic Confluence...to Kachin State
- \* World News
- \* The Pride of Myanmar “Traditional Handicraft”
- \* Local News
- \* A Day Life of Kayan Padaung Tribe
- \* World News
- \* Dhamma School
- \* Local News
- \* Me N My Travel With Maria ( Night Market of Pyay)
- \* World News
- \* A village where old traditions prevails
- \* Local News
- \* History of Wishfulfilling Mai-Lamu Pagoda
- \* World News
- \* The Art of Making Glaze Ware
- \* Local News
- \* Choral Dance by Female Dancers
- \* World News
- \* Marketable Goods-(Myanmar Arts & Handicrafts)
- \* Local News
- \* “Myanmar’s Traditions and Culture” Tea
- \* World News
- \* Made in Myanmar “Mixxo”

## Signs all encouraging for Phelps in comeback

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

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

But for now, the signs are all good. The 28-year-old deliberately chose a relatively low key meet in suburban Phoenix for his return and competed in just two events but there were enough signs to show he can do it if he wants to.

“On the whole,” he told reporters on Friday. “I

think it felt pretty good.

“I was very excited... I felt like a kid again and that was the coolest thing about it.”

Despite his staggering achievements, Phelps and longtime coach Bob Bowman have always been coy about revealing their plans and nothing has changed.

Both insist they have not hatched any long term plans and are sticking to the sportsman’s mantra that they are taking things one day at a time although a clearly relaxed Phelps said he was enjoying himself and his times indicated he was already in good shape.

“I was just kind of literally getting my feet wet again,” he said.

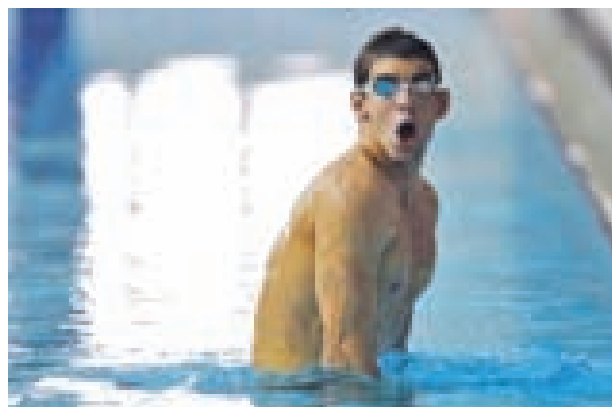
“This is one meet, it’s

one race. It’s a long way from whether I decide to continue or not, but this was awesome.”

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

While Rio may still be more than two years away, Phelps and Bowman did give away some clues about their short-term plans. Phelps will swim again at another USA Grand Prix meet in Charlotte, North Carolina next month before heading to Colorado for intense high-altitude training.

In their previous incarnation, Bowman put Phelps through a torturous training



*US Olympic medallist Michael Phelps teaches Chinese Special Olympics athletes how to swim during an event in the Special Olympics in Shanghai on 1 Aug, 2011.*

REUTERS

routine to get him into shape to cope with a heavy race schedule but Phelps has dramatically cut back on his workouts this time even though he piled on almost 40 pounds (18 kilograms)

in retirement. And although neither man will talk about which races they may compete in at Rio, Bowman has already indicated that it will be less races and shorter events. “His training is

much different, it’s actually half and in some cases a third of what he used to do,” Bowman said.

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

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

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

Reuters

## Local Sports

## Taekwondo dancing competitions at Thuwana Stadium

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



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

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



Press conference on friendly match between Nay Pyi Taw FC and Lions XII.—PHOTO : SHINE HTET ZAW

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

Tuesday.

Nay Pyi Taw FC will play against Singapore on 30 April and the national team will play the Lions on 2 May.

"Our team is comprised of only Singaporean players and they all are playing in the Malaysian Super League," said Head

Coach of Singapore Lions XII Fandi Ahmad.

Ten of the players are also on the Singapore national team.

"We are very lucky to play friendly game against the Myanmar team that is preparing for AFC Challenge Cup 2014 under former Singapore

coach Raddy Avramovic. These two friendly games will be beneficial to us very much as Nay Pyi Taw FC also reached the knock-out stage in the AFC Cup. So, we will strive for achieving good results with our starting line-up," Ahmad said.

Singapore Lions XII was Malaysia Super League champion in 2013. Myanmar Head Coach Avramovic said he believes the friendly matches will benefit Myanmar before the AFC Challenge Cup and he pledged that he will try to ensure a suitable result in the event.

"I want to express thanks to the MFF for the friendly matches and it will be good experience for us as we are preparing for the AFC Cup," said Nay Pyi Taw FC Head Coach U Myo Hlaing Win.

Shine Htet Zaw

## Brazil expects and hopes to kill off ghost of 1950

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

After their quarter-final defeat to the Netherlands four years ago, coach Dunga was replaced by Mano Menezes who reshaped the team and gave debuts to young, agile players such as Neymar, Oscar, Fernandinho and Paulinho.

In turn Menezes made way for old favourite Luiz Felipe Scolari in December 2012 and the man who guided Brazil to their fifth World Cup triumph in 2002 has since added both steel and guile to the undoubted

flair in the squad.

Crucially he rallied fans behind the team and, in just six months, turned Menezes's callow group of youngsters into one capable of great things.

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

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

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

## Juventus move to within touching distance of Serie A title



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

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

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

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

Juventus did not manage their first meaningful effort until the 22nd minute

when Tevez shot a volley wide of the left-hand post after being teed up by Giorgio Chiellini.

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

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

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

## Newcastle's Pardew targets top 10 amid fan unrest

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

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

France striker Olivier Giroud headed a third after the break and unhappy with their dreary run of form, the Newcastle fans voiced their frustrations with chants of "It's six (defeats) in a row, Alan Pardew, it's six in a row".

"I think they are frustrated," Pardew told reporters. "I think we had 2,000 here tonight who made this long, long trip."

"All I can do as a manager is make sure I do this job to the best of my ability. We have been top 10

all year, this recent run is not something I'm hiding from. We should have performed better in this run and we have got to finish in the top 10."

Newcastle are three points ahead of 11th-placed Crystal Palace with two Premier League games left, the last of which is at table-toppers Liverpool.

Pardew, who has been at Newcastle since 2010 and signed an eight-year contract extension in 2012, believes fans' criticism will impact on the team's confi-

dence but hopes they will bounce back with a home win over struggling Cardiff City on Saturday.—Reuters



Newcastle United manager Alan Pardew