THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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President U Thein Sein visits Indonesia for Asian-African Summit

NAY PYI TAW, 21 April— President U Thein Sein left Nay Pyi Taw for Indonesia on Tuesday morning to attend the Asia-African Summit and related meetings.

The president will attend the summit, also known as the Bandung Conference, on April 22 and 23 in Jakarta, and he is due to attend the 60th anniversary celebration of the Asian-African Conference and the 10th anniversary of the New Strategic Asian-African Partnership at the invitation of Indonesian President Joko Widodo.

Vice Presidents Dr Sai Mauk Kham and U Nyan Tun, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win, senior ministers and officials from the Indonesian embassy in Myanmar saw off the president and union ministers Lt-Gen Ko Ko, U Aung Min, Dr Kan Zaw and U Ye Htut at Nay Pyi Taw International Airport. The president and Myanmar delegation arrived at Halim Perdana Kusuma International Airport in Jakarta at 2:20 pm local time. The Myanmar delegation was welcomed by Indonesian social minister, the mayor of Jakarta, senior military officials and Myanmar ambassador to Indonesia.

President U Thein Sein and the delegation visited the families of the Myanmar embassy in the evening.

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President U Thein Sein being welcomed by officials on his arrival in Jakarta, Indonesia.—MNA

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Myanmar approves $8 billion worth of foreign investment in 2014-15 FY

By *Ye Myint*

YANGON, 21 April — Myanmar approved foreign investment totaling US $8.01 billion from 211 companies for the 2014-2015 fiscal year across 12 sectors, according to the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration.

Among the sectors attracting foreign direct investment during the fiscal year ending 31 March, oil and gas sector topped the list at $3.22 billion, followed by transport and communication with approved capital of $1.68 billion and manufacturing with $1.5 billion.

The real estate sector attracted $0.78 billion while $0.36 billion was approved for the hotel and tourism sector.

DICA's data showed approved foreign direct investment nearly doubled from $4.1billion in fiscal 2013-2014 to $8.01 billion in 2014-2015. Myanmar expects to receive $6 billion in the current fiscal year.

From fiscal 1988-89 to 2014-2015, the approved amount of foreign investment in Myanmar reached a total $54.23 billion, coming from 895 permitted companies from 38 countries.

As of the previous fiscal year that ended on 31 March 2015, 633 existing foreign enterprises from 33 countries had so far invested $44.16 billion in 11 sectors, including oil and gas, power, manufacturing, transport and communication, mining, hotel and tourism, real and industrial estate, agriculture and livestock and fisheries.

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***The Myanmar government approved foreign investment worth US $0.78 billion in fiscal 2014-2015 in the country's real estate sector.* PHOTO: WORLD BANK MYANMAR**

New Year's Message from EU Ambassador Roland Kobia on 16 April 2015

On the occasion of Maha Thingyan, I would like to send my warmest wishes to all the people of Myanmar.

Over the past four years, the country has embarked on an important and necessary process of transition and reform. The EU has endeavoured to accompany and support the ongoing transition from the beginning. Thanks to sustained collective efforts of the Myanmar people, progress has been made, notably in the areas of social and economic development as well as towards reaching a lasting peace agreement.

The New Year promises to be particularly important. I wish the people of Myanmar that the general elections will be remembered as an important step of the transition towards democracy and that further progress can be made on the road towards lasting peace and legal improvements in Myanmar.

In the spirit of partnership, we look forward to continue assisting Myanmar in the reforms and peace process, and to contributing to the continued political, economic and social development of the country. Therefore, besides political and trade support, the EU will assist Myanmar in reaching its objectives with more than1 billion Euros of development aid in the form, of no-refundable grants, in particular in the areas of rural development, education, governance and peace-building, amongst others.

So let me once again wish you and your families a Happy Myanmar New Year, good health, prosperity and every possible success for 1377.

Myanmar Hnit Thit Kuu Mingalarbar!

Well-wishers, residents pay respects to older persons

MANDALAY, 21 April — A ceremony to pay respects to senior citizens over 70 was held at the hall of Basic Education High School No 19 in West Pyigyi Pyawbwe Ward in Chanayethazan Township, Mandalay, on 19 April.

Ward administrator U Ko Ko Naing, well-wisher U Arnt Kyi and wife Daw Moe Moe of Moe Arnt Jewellery Company donated one sarong, one shirt, K10,000 and one nine-piece bead made of jade to each older person.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)

10 dead, 127 injured in Mandalay Region's Maha Thingyan festival

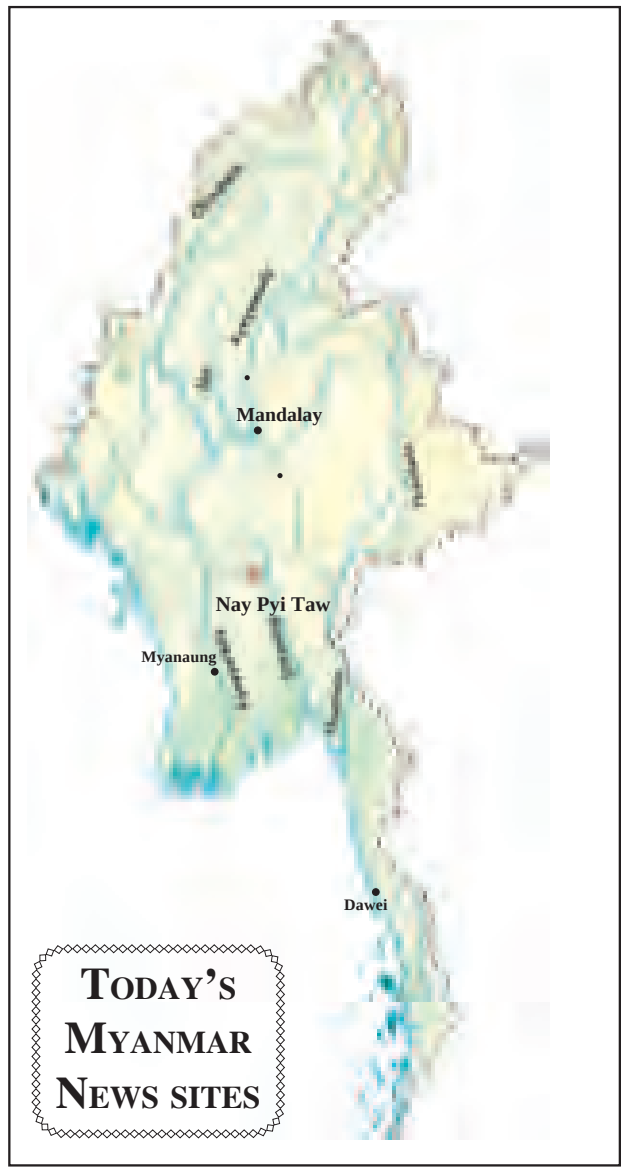
MANDALAY, 21 April —A total of 45 traffic accidents left 10 dead and 127 injured during the 2015 Maha Thingyan festival in Mandalay Region, according to the office of No 11 Traffic Police Branch.

During the 2014 Maha Thingyan festival period, 12 revellers were injured in three traffic accidents.

Authorities took action against one car driver and 318 motorcycle riders in 2015, in comparison with 35 cases in 2014.

Traffic police, local station officers and staff of the Development Affairs Committee worked together to control the traffic congestion during the Maha Thingyan period.

Aung Ye Thwin



TODAY'S MYANMAR NEWS SITES

Waste water kills fish in Taungthaman Lake

MANDALAY, 21 April— An inflow of industrial waste water has killed hundreds of fish in Taungthaman Lake in Amarapura Township, Mandalay.

The waste water was not purified before it was drained into Payantaw Creek, causing fish to die from a lack of oxygen in the lake.

Responding to a complaint, the head of the Mandalay Region Fisheries Department inspected the lake on 12 April and conducted tests on water where dead fish were found.

"We are removing dead fish around the lake," an official of Taungthaman Lake fish breeding industry said. "Moreover, we sprayed water to prevent the death of more fish in waste water."

Taungthaman Lake is a popular spot for tourists and locals. However, the number of revellers at the lake for this year's water festival was down from previous years due to the bad smell caused by the dead fish, a local resident said.

The waste water left more than 160 kilograms of dead fish from six species. The official of the lake buried the dead fish.

Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-printing House)

Globetrotters visit Zaygyo Market in Mandalay

MANDALAY, 21 April— Tourists pay visits to Mandalay, the cultural city of Myanmar, in groups and as individuals.

On 17 April morning, tourists visited Zargyo Market on 84th street in Chanayethazan Township by trishaw.

The tourists from the United States, Britain, Australia, France and Belgium went round downtown Mandalay by bicycle, motorcycle and trishaw.

October to January is peak season for overseas arrivals in Mandalay.

Maung Pyi Thu (Mandalay)

President U Thein Sein visits Indonesia for Asian-African...

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As many as 34 heads of state and government, including the Chinese president and the Japanese prime minister, will take part in the event. Additionally, 77 countries have confirmed their participation in the gathering with 3,600 delegates.

Six international organizations — the United Nations, ASEAN, Asian Development Bank, African Union, Arab League and South Centre — will attend the conference.

The first Asian-African Conference was held in 1955 in the Indonesian city of Bandung amid the emerging psychological cold war between two blocs – East and West. The Bandung Spirit later turned into the new Asian-African Strategic Partnership in 2005.

MNA

***President U Thein Sein meets families of Myanmar Embassy in Indonesia.*—MNA**

Laukkai IDPs return home as peace restored in area

LASHIO, 21 April— Residents who fled away from armed conflict in Kokang self-administered zone are now returning home on Tuesday morning as peace has been restored in the area.

Authorities sent 234 inhabitants of 74 households with the use of ve trucks from Lashio, the city of northern Shan State.

Fighting which broke out on the 9 February in Laukkai area between the Tatmadaw and the Kokang insurgents.

Zaw Lwin (Lashio)

Myanmar approves $8 billion...

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China remains the top foreign investor in Myanmar, with 74 Chinese firms having invested $14.7 billion since 1988-89. Singapore was the second-largest source of FDI in Myanmar with $8.5 billion. In terms of the number of firms investing in the country, Singapore topped the list with 118 companies, followed by the Republic of Korea with 100 firms and Hong Kong with 85 firms. In terms of foreign investment by permitted enterprises, the power sector topped the list with more than $19 billion, accounting for 35.63 percent, followed by oil and gas with more than $17 billion and manufacturing with nearly $5.5 billion, according to DICA statistics. — *GNLM*

Dr Tun Shin attends 54th AALCO conference in Beijing

***Attorney-General of the Union Dr Tun Shin delivers address at 54th Annual Session of the Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization.*—MNA**

NAY PYI TAW, 21 April— Dr Tun Shin, Attorney-General of the Union, addressed the 54th Annual Session of the Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization (AALCO) in Beijing, China, on 13 April, officials said.

In his speech, the attorney general said his country has been on a march to democracy since the State Constitution shaped the three pillars of legislative, executive and judicial powers.

Myanmar endorses and exercises the arbitration rules of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law and the New York Convention, with the enactment of laws on international cooperation against money laundering and terrorism.

At the meeting, Myanmar legal experts read out research papers on a legal course of action against extremism and terrorism and the role of UNCITRAL in investment contracts included in the subject of international trade law.

The Bandung Conference in 1955 gave birth to the Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization (AALCO), with Myanmar, a founding member, attending the conference annually. With its secretariat in New Delhi, India, the organization has 47 member countries.

MNA

Weather expert warns of thunderstorms in eastern parts of country

By *Aye Min Soe*

YANGON, 21 April — Myanmar's former top weather official on Tuesday warned people in eastern parts of the country to be alert to the possibility of thunderstorms from April 23 to 27 following similar warning for northern Thailand.

Dr Tun Lwin, former director-general of the Meteorology and Hydrology Department of Myanmar, has warned people in hilly areas of Shan, Kayah, Mon and Kayin states, which are closed to western Thailand, to be alert to landslides and flash flood due to isolated heavy rain caused by cumulus clouds.

Similarly, rainfalls with thunder are expected over Kachin State, Chin State, Rakhine State and upper Sagaing Region, the weather expert said.

He also suggested operators of vessels in rivers in those areas be alert to tornadoes which can occur during thunderstorms.

Lightning, thunder, isolated heavy falls, gale force winds and hailstones may also occur due to the presence of cumulus clouds.

Thunderstorms mostly happen in April and May in Myanmar.

Since 1980, the country has seen an increase in the number of thunderstorms.

Meanwhile, extreme readings on the ultraviolet (UV) index persist in most parts of Myanmar while Kachin, Kayin, Rakhine states, along with northern Shan State, are experiencing very high UV levels, according to Dr Tun Lwin.

Myanmar's Meteorology and Hydrology Department has also forecasted isolated rain or thundershowers over Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay and neighbouring areas Wednesday, with a 60 percent degree of certainty.

The weather for Yangon and its neighbouring areas on Wednesday is expected to be partly cloudy, with 60 percent likelihood, the department said.

GNLM

Five insurgents caught after engagement with army in Paletwa

NAY PYI TAW, 21 April — Rakhine insurgents were in retreat on 17 April, following engagement with government troops in the region of Paletwa, an area that lies between Chin State and Rakhine State, officials said.

A tip-off by local people on 19 April enabled the army columns to raid their hideouts, resulting in the arrest of five insurgents and the seizure of arms and ammunitions.

The government troops are now on patrol, making sure the insurgents do not sneak into Rakhine State. —*Myawady*

Five captured Rakhine insurgents seen with arms and ammunition.
MYAWADY

Chinese vice president meets chair of Cambodia's Funcinpec Party

BEIJING, 21 April — Chinese Vice President Li Yuanchao met with chair of Cambodia's Funcinpec Party Norodom Ranarith on Tuesday.

Li said China attached high importance to relations with Cambodia, and was ready to forge a community of shared interests, destiny and responsibility with neighbouring countries through the Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road initiatives.

He also called for continuous high-level engagement and more exchanges between the Funcinpec Party and the Communist Party of China.

Ranarith, son of king Norodom Sihanouk, said the Cambodian royal family and the Funcinpec Party will always support a friendly relationship and cooperation between Cambodia and China.

Ranarith, who led the Funcinpec Party to win Cambodia's general election in 1993, was re-elected chairman of the party in January this year.

Xinhua

Chinese Vice President Li Yuanchao (R) meets with Chairman of Cambodia's Funcinpec Party Norodom Ranarith in Beijing, capital of China on 21 April, 2015. —XINHUA

Lower house approves speaker's resignation, selects successor

TOKYO, 21 April — The House of Representatives approved the resignation of former speaker Nobutaka Machimura at a plenary session on Tuesday and selected his successor, lower house Budget Committee chairman Tadamori Oshima. Machimura, who held the post for 119 days, is the first speaker to resign partway through the term since Kenzaburo Hara in 1989. Oshima's experience in steering Diet proceedings, including a long period as chairman of the Liberal Democratic Party's Diet Affairs Committee, is expected to help the party when debate heats up over national security bills to be deliberated from mid-May.

Oshima, 68, faces new duties including overseeing a committee of experts tasked with drafting electoral system reform, currently debating how to rectify an imbalance in the weight of votes between voting districts. Hailing from an Aomori Prefecture constituency, Oshima first entered the lower house in 1983 and has been re-elected 10 times. As well as chairing the Diet Affairs Committee, he has served as vice president, secretary-general and in other important roles in the party.

Former Chief Cabinet Secretary Takeo Kawamura of the LDP will replace Oshima as House of Representatives Budget Committee chairman.

Kyodo News

Tadamori Oshima, former vice president of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, addresses the House of Representatives in Tokyo on 21 April, 2015, after being elected as lower house speaker. Oshima replaced Nobutaka Machimura, who stepped down for health reasons. — KYODO NEWS

Thailand makes largest seizure of smuggled African ivory

Thai customs officials show on 20 April, 2015 in Bangkok, about 4 tons of African ivory worth around $6 million they have seized in the Thai capital in what they say is the largest confiscation of the kind in Thailand. The 739 elephant tusks were being smuggled from the Democratic Republic of Congo, hidden in bags of beans in a container that arrived on 18 April in Bangkok from Malaysia.
KYODO NEWS

BANGKOK, 21 April — Thai customs on Monday seized about 4 tons of African ivory worth around $6 million that was being smuggled from the Democratic Republic of Congo, in what customs officials say is the largest confiscation of the kind in Thailand.

The 739 elephant tusks were found at Bangkok port on a container that arrived on Saturday from Malaysia, the officials said. The tusks were hidden in bags of beans in the container, which was supposed to be transporting 14 tons of beans from Congo to Laos, they said.

The ivory was believed to have been scheduled to be delivered to a company in Laos, which apparently had planned to sell them to buyers in countries such as China, Thailand and Vietnam.

In 2014, Thai customs seized a combined total of about 100 kilograms of ivory in 11 cases. This year, it had earlier confiscated about 30 kg in two cases.

Kyodo News

Australia's east coast battered by cyclone-like storm

SYDNEY, 21 April — A cyclonic storm battered Australia's east coast on Tuesday killing three people, washing away houses, cutting power to more than 200,000 homes and stranding a cruise ship off the coast in mountainous seas.

Cyclone-strength winds of up to 135 kph (85 mph) uprooted trees, some crushing cars, snapped power poles and tore off roofs and building awnings.

Huge waves, reaching 11.2 metres (33 feet) offshore, pounded beaches. Rail links to the north and south of Sydney were cut and many roads in Australia's largest city were flooded.

New South Wales (NSW) state premier Mike Baird said conditions were forecast to become even worse and asked workers to head home as soon as possible.

"We are calling for bosses to be flexible, people to make arrangements in an orderly way to start to head home ASAP," Baird told a news conference.

"It is a huge storm event that is wreaking havoc across NSW at the moment. Again, what our priority has to be at the moment is to get through the next few hours and protect life at every opportunity," he said.

A woman and two men were found dead on Tuesday in the town of Dungog, one of the worst-hit areas about 200 kms (125 miles) north of Sydney, police said. Media reports described them as elderly and said they were trapped in their homes as floodwaters rose.

Amateur video showed a house in Dungog floating away as floodwaters swept through the town.

"We've got a lot of low-lying houses in the township near rivers and unfortunately a lot of those houses have gone under," Dungog Shire community centre manager Sarah U'Brien told the Australian Broadcasting Corp.

The deluge saw nearly a month's worth of rain dumped on Sydney in 24 hours, data from the Australian Bureau of Meteorology showed.

The NSW State Emergency Service (SES) said it had received more than 3,000 calls for help and had to carry out 19 flood rescues. Three hospitals were without power and had to rely on generators and some 45 schools were closed.

"The consistent gale-force winds ... are actually cyclonic in some areas with gusts up to 135 kilometres per hour," SES Deputy Commissioner Steven Pearce told the ABC.

The destructive storm, which was sitting just off the coast just north of Sydney, whipped up giant seas that closed many beaches, including world-famous Bondi Beach.

The wild weather closed Sydney Harbour to commercial shipping, forcing a cruise ship with some 2,500 passengers to wait off the coast, battered by big swells.

Reuters

A loader moves tons of sand pushed by strong winds and rain onto a coastal road in Sydney's beachside suburb of Cronulla on 21 April, 2015. — REUTERS

*India's new naval stealth destroyer Visakhapatnam sails into the Arabian Sea during its launch at Mazagon Dock in Mumbai, India on 20 April, 2015. The new warship, Visakhapatnam, is named after a port city in the southern Indian state of Andhra Pradesh and it will be able to operate in nuclear, biological and chemical atmosphere, sources said.—*XINHUA

S Korea's Park voices regret over prime minister's offer to resign

SEOUL, 21 April — South Korean President Park Geun-hye has expressed deep regret over Prime Minister Lee Wan Koo's offer to step down over allegations of involvement in a bribery scandal, her office said on Tuesday.

"I feel the agony of the prime minister," Park said in a written comment released in Lima, Peru, where she is on a four-day state visit, according to *Yonhap News Agency*.

Park, who is scheduled to return from a four-country trip to South and Central America on Monday, is expected to accept Lee's resignation.

She also called on prosecutors to conduct a thorough investigation to get to the bottom of the scandal. Lee did not host a regular Cabinet meeting on Tuesday morning, which is among his responsibilities while the president is away. In his place, Deputy Prime Minister Choi Kyung hwan presided over the meeting.

Lee earlier on Tuesday conveyed his intention to step down to Park over the scandal, in which he is alleged to have accepted 30 million won (about $27,700) in cash from a business tycoon who was found dead in an apparent suicide earlier this month while under a corruption investigation. Lee has denied the allegations.

Kyodo News

Iran to continue nuclear talks with "strong will": president

TEHERAN, 21 April — Iran has "strong will" to continue the nuclear talks with the world powers, and it hopes the other side can display the same will, Iran's President Hassan Rouhani said here on Tuesday.

"We hope to reach an agreement on generalities and on the details in the next two months," he said before departing Teheran for Indonesia to attend the Asia-Africa meeting.

The probable agreement will pave the ground for the cooperation between Iran and the region as well as the Asian countries, and "it will be in the interest of everyone," he said.

Rouhani left Teheran on Tuesday to attend an event in the Indonesian city of Bandung to mark the 60th anniversary of the Asian-African Conference.

Back to 1955, Asian-African Conference marked an important milestone in the history of Asian and African countries. The delegates from 29 participating countries gathered in Bandung, Indonesia to discuss peace, security, and economic development in the midst of emerging problems in many parts of the world.—*Xinhua*

S Korea criticizes Abe's offering to war-related shrine

SEOUL, 21 April — South Korea on Tuesday criticized Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe for sending a ritual offering earlier in the day to the war-linked Yasukuni Shrine in Tokyo.

"Japanese political leaders should realize that showing admiration and gratitude to such a shrine is tantamount to negating the premise under which Japan has returned to the international community," South Korean Foreign Ministry spokesman Noh Kwang Il told journalists.

Noh reiterated South Korea's position that the shrine honours "Class-A war criminals who had been found guilty in the International War Tribunal for the Far East as having played a leading role in the war of aggression."

Abe sent a "masakaki" tree offering to the Shinto shrine during its three-day annual spring festival through Thursday in an apparent bid to appease his conservative supporters.

Meanwhile, Noh said South Korea hopes Abe will uphold views of history held by past Japanese governments in speeches he plans to deliver in Indonesia this week and during a visit to the United States next week.

"We hope the Japanese government should not miss good opportunities like the Bandung conference and a speech in the US Congress and clearly shows it is upholding such Japanese government's views of past history to neighbouring countries and the international society," Noh said.

Noh noted this year holds "symbolic importance" as the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II and the 50th anniversary of normalization of diplomatic relations between South Korea and Japan.

On 15 August, 1995, in a landmark statement marking the 50th anniversary of Japan's defeat in the war, then Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama said Japan caused "tremendous damage and suffering" to the peoples of Asia and other countries through its colonial rule and aggression, and expressed "feelings of deep remorse" and "heartfelt apology."

The wordings were used in 2005 by then Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi on the occasion of the 60th anniversary.

Abe is scheduled to deliver a speech during a summit to mark the 60th anniversary of the Asian-African Conference, also known as the Bandung conference, to be held in Jakarta on Wednesday and Thursday.

He is also scheduled to deliver a speech before a joint session of the US Congress during a visit to the United States next week.

Kyodo News

Abe sends ritual offering to war-linked Yasukuni Shrine

TOKYO, 21 April — Prime Minister Shinzo Abe sent a ritual offering on Tuesday to Tokyo's war-linked Yasukuni Shrine, which has been a source of diplomatic friction between Japan and several of its Asian neighbours.

Abe, who is scheduled to leave for Indonesia later in the day to attend an international conference, is likely to refrain from visiting the Shinto shrine during its three-day annual spring festival through Thursday.

By dedicating a "masakaki" tree offering, Abe apparently hopes to appease his conservative supporters who want him to pay a visit to the shrine, while leaving room for improving ties with China and South Korea.

Abe is scheduled to deliver a speech at the Asian-African Conference to be held in Indonesia on Wednesday and Thursday, and another during his visit to the United States next week.

His remarks are under international scrutiny ahead of his planned statement this summer to mark the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II.

Yasukuni Shrine honours wartime Prime Minister Gen Hideki Tojo and other convicted Class-A war criminals, along with over 2.4 million of the nation's war dead.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga said at a Press conference on Tuesday that the prime minister sent the offering "in a private capacity."

"It is not a matter on which the government should state a view," Suga said.

Abe's visit to the shrine in December 2013 not only drew immediate rebukes from China and South Korea that suffered Japan's wartime brutality, but also prompted the United States to express disappointment at Japan's exacerbating tensions with its Asian neighbours. He dedicated masakaki offerings during the spring and autumn festivals last year.

*Photo shows a ritual offering dedicated by Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on 21 April, 2015 to Tokyo's war-linked Yasukuni Shrine, which has been a source of diplomatic friction between Japan and several of its Asian neighbours. The "masakaki" tree offering was made under his name.—*KYODO NEWS

In recent months, signs have emerged of a thaw in Sino-Japanese relations, hurt by differing perceptions of wartime history and territory. Abe held talks with Chinese President Xi Jinping last November, setting up a series of bilateral exchanges.

But ties between Japan and South Korea remain chilled over the issue of "comfort women" who worked in wartime Japanese military brothels. Abe has yet to hold any bilateral summit with South Korean President Park Geun-hye.

Other political heavyweights, including Health, Labour and Welfare Minister Yasuhisa Shiozaki, former House of Representatives Speaker Nobutaka Machimura and House of Councillors President Masaaki Yamazaki, also gave masakaki offerings, while Seiichi Eto, a special adviser to Abe, visited the shrine.

Kyodo News

Argentine prosecutor dismisses case against president

Argentina's President Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner

BUENOS AIRES, 21 April — An Argentine prosecutor on Monday dismissed allegations that President Cristina Fernandez tried to derail an inquiry into the bombing of a Jewish centre in 1994, likely marking the end of the case.

Federal prosecutor Javier De Luca was assigned by Argentina's top appeals court after the case had already been rejected by a lower court in February, a decision upheld by a lower appeals court on account of "lack of evidence."

"There has been no crime," De Luca told *Reuters*. In his official statement, he said his decision was "equivalent to a definitive sentence."

The allegations against Fernandez were originally leveled by prosecutor Alberto Nisman, who was found dead in his flat with a bullet wound to the head on 18 January the day before he was due to testify about them to parliament.

Nisman had accused Fernandez of trying to cover up allegations made in Argentina courts that Iran was involved in the truck bombing of the AMIA Jewish Community center in Buenos Aires in order to clinch a grains-for-oil deal with Teheran.

Iran denies any involvement in the bombing.

Nisman's mysterious death spawned a slew of conspiracy theories, some involving Fernandez.

Her government has sought to discredit Nisman. Last week it made accusations that Nisman received salary kick-backs from the IT specialist who had been working with him on his original investigation into the bombing.

Fernandez's cabinet chief said Nisman spent the embezzled money on champagne, women and lavish vacations. The accusation prompted outrage from the opposition, adding fuel to a scandal over Nisman's death that has rocked Argentina for three months.

The president on Sunday published a statement on her personal website in which she stated that Nisman had said hedge fund manager Paul Singer could help the Jewish community. Argentina has fought a long court battle with Singer over its defaulted debt and vilified hedge funds as "vultures."

On her website, Fernandez criticized Israeli policies on Iran. She also wrote, "For many of us, peace is the best tool to achieve greater global security. It's a shame that a powerful few have not yet understood that."

Reuters

Auschwitz bookkeeper goes on trial in Germany

LUENEBURG, (Germany), 21 April — A 93-year-old former bookkeeper at Auschwitz went on trial in Germany on Tuesday, accused by prosecutors of being an accessory in the murder of 300,000 people, though he was not involved in any actual killing at the notorious Nazi death camp.

The trial of Oskar Groening, who was 21 and by his own admission an enthusiastic Nazi when he was sent to work at Auschwitz in 1942, is significant because it may be one of the last big Holocaust trials. Seventy years after the end of World War Two very few suspected Nazi criminals are still alive.

The case is also unusual because Groening, unlike many of the other SS men and women who worked at concentration camps, has spoken openly about his time at Auschwitz in interviews, in part, he says, to counter Holocaust denial.

He has talked in detail about the horrible crimes he witnessed at the camp, but because he never killed anyone, he sees himself as legally innocent.

Groening's job at Auschwitz was to collect the belongings of deportees after they had arrived at the camp by train and already been put through a selection process that resulted in many being sent directly to the gas chambers.

He inspected their luggage, removing and counting any bank notes that were inside, and sending them on to SS offices in Berlin, where they helped to fund the Nazi war effort.

Thomas Walter, a lawyer for survivors who are plaintiffs in the case, told reporters before the start of the trial that the aim was to "give back some dignity which they lost forever in the gas chambers of Auschwitz."

Groening's lawyer Hans Holtermann says his client's actions did not go far enough to make him an accessory to murder and until recently the German justice system agreed with him.

In 1985, prosecutors in Frankfurt decided not to pursue the case against Groening and dozens of other concentration camp workers, saying there was no causal link between their actions and the killings that occurred around them. Only two years ago, they declined a new request to take up the case.

Defendant Oskar Groening awaits the start of his trial in a courtroom in Luneburg on 21 April, 2015.—REUTERS

Prosecutors in Hanover disagreed, emboldened by the case of Ivan Demjanjuk, who in 2011 was convicted of being an accessory to mass murder despite there being no evidence of him having committed a specific crime during his time as a guard at the Sobibor extermination camp.

The charges against Groening relate to the period between May and July 1944 when 137 trains carrying roughly 425,000 Jews from Hungary arrived in Auschwitz.

At least 300,000 of them were sent straight to the gas chambers, the indictment says. Six million Jews were murdered by the Nazis during the Holocaust.

In an extensive interview with German magazine *Der Spiegel* in 2005, Groening said he felt "nothing" when he saw Jews being taken to the gas chamber.

"If you are convinced that the destruction of Judaism is necessary, then it no longer matters how the killing takes place," he said, describing his feelings as a young SS officer.

"At some point you are there and the only thing left is the feeling: I am part of this necessary thing. A horrible thing — but necessary," he told the magazine.

Hedy Bohm, an Auschwitz survivor from New York who is attending the trial, said she wanted to see Groening declared guilty but saw no need for him to go to jail at the age of 93.

"Those who commit crimes today must know they will be held responsible in the future," she said. "And never again will they be able to just plead 'I'm a cog in the machinery, I didn't kill'."—*Reuters*

Former UK PM Major says Scottish nationalists risk destabilizing Britain

LONDON, 21 April — Britain's stability would be threatened if a future Labour government cut a deal with Scottish nationalists, John Major, the country's former Conservative prime minister, will warn on Tuesday, saying "mayhem" and political blackmail would ensue.

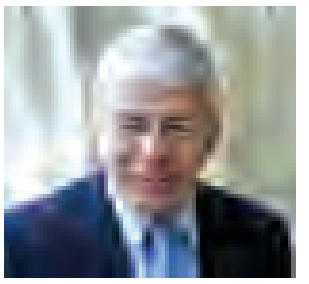
Major's intervention comes ahead of a knife-edge 7 May election in which neither the Conservatives nor Labour are expected to win an outright majority, teeing up a possible deal between Labour and a resurgent Scottish National Party (SNP), which wants Scotland to break away from the United Kingdom.

"This is a recipe for mayhem," Major will say, in his first significant intervention in the election campaign, according to advance extracts of his speech.

"At the very moment our country needs a strong and stable government, we risk a weak and unstable one — pushed to the left by its allies, and open to a daily dose of political blackmail."

The SNP has rebounded after leading a failed bid for independence last year and is on track to virtually wipe out Labour in Scotland. Predicted to emerge as the third largest party by seats, it hopes to parlay success at the ballot box into holding the balance of power after the election.

SNP leader Nicola Sturgeon has said she could work with Labour on an informal basis, but has ruled out a deal with Conservative Prime Minister David Cameron.



Former British Prime Minister John Major arrives for a memorial service for the broadcaster David Frost at Westminster Abbey in London on 13 March, 2014.—REUTERS

Cameron said on Sunday he was taking advice from Major, the last Conservative leader to win an outright majority when in 1992 he secured a shock win against a confident Labour.

"Labour would be in hock to a Party that — slowly but surely — will push them ever further to the Left," Major will say, warning that Labour leader Ed Miliband would have to sacrifice the interests of the rest of the United Kingdom to keep Sturgeon's support.

Some senior Conservatives are uneasy about their party's tactic of talking up the SNP threat to court voters, fearing it risks stoking English nationalism and breaking a broader cross-party coalition against the SNP.—*Reuters*

Vehicle blast injures two in Israeli criminal incident: police

JERUSALEM, 21 April — An explosion in a parked vehicle in southern Israel on Monday wounded at least two people in a suspected criminal incident, police said.

Luba Samri, a police spokeswoman, said an assailant threw a fragmentation grenade at the vehicle in the port city of Ashdod, and that a man and a woman had been treated for shrapnel injuries.

Earlier, police had said they could not rule out a nationalist motive for the attack.

Reuters

Police detain suspect after fire at British Embassy in The Hague

AMSTERDAM, 21 April — Dutch police detained a man in connection with a fire at the British Embassy in The Hague on Tuesday, they said in a tweet.

"One man has been detained in relation to the fire at the British embassy this morning," the Twitter message said. "The cause of the fire is being investigated."

Nobody was injured in the fire, which broke out at 7:30 am (0530 GMT) and has been extinguished, Dutch public television reported.—*Reuters*

Air strike on missile base in Yemen capital kills 25, wounds hundreds

SANAA, 21 April — An air strike on a Scud missile base in the Houthi-controlled Yemeni capital Sanaa triggered a big explosion that killed 25 people and wounded almost 400 on Monday, state news agency *Saba* said.

Saudi Arabia has led an alliance of Sunni Arab countries in air strikes against the Iran-allied Shi'ite Houthi group and army units loyal to ex-president Ali Abdullah Saleh. "Twenty-five citizens were killed and more than 398 were wounded, mostly women and children, according to a preliminary figure after the Saudi aggression's bombing today," said the agency, which is run by the Houthis. The number could not be immediately verified, but medical sources told *Reuters* at least 15 people had been killed and scores wounded.

***Smoke rises during an air strike on an army weapons depot on a mountain overlooking Yemen's capital Sanaa on 20 April, 2015.*—REUTERS**

The blast hit the base on Faj Attan mountain beside the Hadda district, home to the presidential palace and many embassies, blowing out the windows of homes for kilometres around and sending a tall mushroom cloud into the air.

Resident Adel Mansour said it was the largest explosion in more than three weeks of bombing by the Saudi-led coalition. "For the first time since the start of the bombing the windows of my house smashed," Mansour said. "My children are terrified and one of my relatives fainted because of the force of the blast." The campaign has repeatedly targeted the Faj Attan facility along with other military bases and airports in Sanaa and throughout the country.

Iran summoned Saudi Arabia's envoy to Teheran on Monday over the explosion near its embassy in Sanaa, Iranian state TV said.

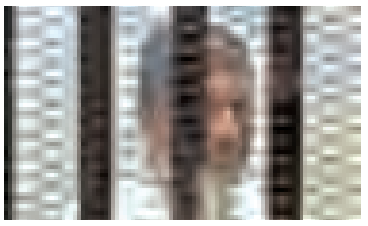
The Shi'ite Islamic Republic has repeatedly summoned the Sunni-ruled kingdom's envoy over disputes arising from a conflict seen as a struggle for influence between the two regional powers. Indonesia's foreign minister Retno Marsudi told reporters in Jakarta his country condemned the air strike after two of the country's diplomatic staff were wounded and its embassy was damaged. The explosion also killed three workers at the headquarters of a television station, Yemen Today, owned by ex-president Saleh, employees told *Reuters*. Brigadier General Ahmed Asseri, Saudi spokesman for the campaign, told state news outlet SPA the operation had entered a "new phase".

"The next phase will focus on the movements of militias, protection of civilians, and support the evacuation and relief," he added, in an announcement that suggested over three weeks of pounding military bases across the country had run its course. A Saudi border guard was killed and two troops wounded by gun and mortar fire from Yemen on Sunday evening, the kingdom's interior ministry said. Several members of Saudi Arabia's forces have been killed in the campaign against the Houthis.

The movement's leader Abdel-Malek al-Houthi said in a televised speech on Sunday that the group believed its northern neighbor sought to invade and occupy Yemen, but that his people had the right to resist "by any means".

Reuters

After tasting power, former Egyptian president Mursi sent to prison



Former Egyptian President

CAIRO, 21 April — Muslim Brotherhood leader Mohamed Mursi was sentenced to 20 years in prison without parole on Tuesday, nearly three years after he was declared Egypt's first freely elected president. Mursi stood in a cage in court as judge Ahmed Sabry Youssef read out the ruling against him and 12 other Brotherhood members, including senior figures Mohamed el-Beltagy and Essam el-Erian. The sentencing was broadcast live on state television. The men were convicted on charges of violence, kidnapping and torture stemming from the killing of protesters during demonstrations in 2012. They were acquitted of murder charges, which carry the death sentence. Displaying a four-finger salute symbolizing resistance to the state's crackdown on Islamists, defendants chanted "God is Greatest". The ruling is the first against Mursi, who says he is determined to reverse what he calls a military coup in 2013 staged by then army chief, now president, Abdel Fattah al-Sisi. After toppling Mursi following mass protests against his rule, Sisi proceeded to crush the Brotherhood, which he says is part of a terrorist network that poses an existential threat to the Arab and Western worlds. The Brotherhood says it is a peaceful movement that will return to office through people power, even though demonstrations have fallen to a trickle. Egypt's deep state apparatus — the Interior Ministry, intelligence services and army — now appears to have a tighter grip than ever on the biggest Arab state. While Mursi has become far less relevant, even within the Brotherhood, Sisi became president after elections last year, winning over many Egyptians who overlooked widespread allegations of human rights abuses for the sake of stability. Western powers who called for democracy declined to use leverage against Sisi, the latest military man to seize power. Mursi, who rose through the ranks of the Brotherhood before winning the presidency in 2012, was a polarizing figure during his troubled year in office, which followed the fall of veteran autocrat Hosni Mubarak in 2011. His policies alienated secular and liberal Egyptians, who feared that the Brotherhood —the main opposition to Mubarak for decades and popular among many Egyptians for its charity work — was abusing power. Protests erupted in late 2012 after Mursi issued a decree expanding presidential powers — a move his supporters say was necessary to prevent a judiciary still packed with Mubarak appointees from derailing a fragile political transition. Those demonstrations led to the deaths of protesters, for which prosecutors argued that Mursi and other Brotherhood leaders were responsible. Mursi and his co-defendants deny the charges.—*Reuters*

US man sentenced to 18 years for Bali suitcase murder

DENPASAR, (Indonesia), 21 April — An Indonesian court on Tuesday sentenced a US man to 18 years in prison for the murder of his girlfriend's mother, whose body was found stuffed into a suitcase on the resort island of Bali. Tommy Schaefer, from the Chicago area, was arrested with his girlfriend, Heather Mack, last August after staff at a luxury hotel discovered the body of Mack's mother, Sheila von Wiese-Mack, in an abandoned suitcase in a taxi.

Schaefer was charged with premeditated murder after he said in court he had killed Wiese-Mack in self-defence.

Mack was charged with being an accessory to murder and a verdict on her case also expected later on Tuesday. Schaefer was seen crying in court after presiding Judge Made Suweda announced the murder verdict and sentence in Denpasar District Court. "Although I do take full responsibility for my actions, I am not a murderer," Scahefer told *Reuters* after hearing the verdict. It was not immediately clear if the defence planned to appeal.

Bali police, assisted by the US Federal Bureau of Investigation, conducted a four-month investigation into the killing, including a re-enactment with the defendants at the luxury hotel where the victim's body was found with bruises on her arms and broken fingers.

Other evidence submitted to prosecutors included CCTV footage showing the couple speaking to a taxi driver after dropping the bloodied suitcase along with other luggage outside the hotel.

Reuters

Bomb explodes at Spanish embassy in Libyan capital

TRIPOLI, 21 April — A bomb exploded in front of the Spanish embassy in the Libyan capital late on Monday, residents said, the latest in a string of attacks on foreign missions in the North African country. "We heard a loud explosion," said a Tripoli resident living next to the embassy.

Spain's *El Mundo* newspaper said nobody had been hurt as Spain, like most Western and Arab countries, had pulled out its diplomats in summer during weeks of heavy fighting between rival armed groups in Tripoli.

Pictures posted on social media showed some damage at the building's wall. There was no immediate claim for the attack or comments from Tripoli officials.

Militants loyal to Islamic State have claimed a string of killings of foreigners as well as attacks on embassies and oilfields in Libya. Islamic State militants have exploited chaos in the North African country where two governments allied to a host of armed groups are fighting for control four years after the ousting of Muammar Gaddafi. On Sunday, the group claimed the killing of around 30 Ethiopan Christians, two months after the beheading of 21 Egyptian Copts on a Libyan beach.

Libya's internationally recognized government has been based in the east since a rival faction called Libya Dawn seized Tripoli in August, setting up a rival administration.

Reuters

Ammunition depot blast kills two in S Afghanistan

KANDAHAR, (Afghanistan), 21 April — At least two passers-by were killed while 21 others injured on Tuesday in an explosion of an ammunition depot in Kandahar, the capital of Kandahar Province in southern Afghanistan, police said.

"The huge explosion took place at around 07:45 am local time at the Mirwas Mina area of the city. The blast was caused after ammunition in a police station depot was exploded accidentally," General Rahmatullah Atrafi, deputy provincial police chief, told *Xinhua*.

Two civilians, including a woman, were killed in the explosion, the police official said, adding that "among those injured were eight police personnel of the police station." "An investigation was launched into the incident. Details will be revealed later on the day," the police chief said, ruling out militants' involvement in the incident. The blast severely damaged shops, vehicles and houses around the site. Nearly 3,700 civilians were killed and more than 6,800 others wounded in conflicts and Taleban-led attacks in 2014, according to official figures released by UN mission in the country. Officials blamed the attacks on Taleban insurgents and other armed groups, which left vast majority of the civilian deaths and injuries.

Xinhua

PERSPECTIVES

Wednesday, 22 April, 2015

Check, recheck and countercheck plans

By *Aung Khin*

When we set plans in motion, we often do so with a fixed route toward our goal. However, we need to review and preview the plan we choose. We cannot definitely foresee all possible issues along the way. Some matters may come up while we are implementing our plans. Therefore, we need to check, recheck and countercheck as much as possible what we are doing.

Before we construct a highway we can choose the most appropriate routes to ensure less impact on the environment. This is suitable for only the infrastructural sector. Nevertheless, when the plans and the goals are related to social matters, we need to choose a more flexible approach.

Although we have set the rules and practices to reach the goal, we are sometimes required to adjust our activities in relation with emerging issues to avoid setbacks. We cannot apply the same processes as we would when physically constructing something. We need to consider social matters.

Flexibility cannot be defined as cowardice or the lack of determined effort. We should conquer milestones through understanding and consideration of existing situations.

Obstinate refusal to meet actual conditions cannot bear fruit. Plans on a destination should be counterbalanced by reality. Efforts should be checked, rechecked and counterchecked, like looking at oneself in the mirror. Even when we are driving a car, we also need to check the rear-view mirror and wing mirrors to safely reach our destination.

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.

Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish "Letter to the Editor" that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.

Let's be more careful with what we eat

By *Myo Myint*

Until a person becomes seriously ill, he/she does not know the value of good health, nor the cost and time needed for medical treatment, nor the burden caused to one's family, nor the many inconveniences that have to be faced. In this fast-paced age with its so called modern conveniences, there are many factors that can have an impact on one's health. However, the most closely associated with health is the food one consumes. Due to improved transportation, rise in entrepruenism, better storage and packaging, better income, and a rise in the spirit of adventurism to savour new things, the variety of both foreign as well as local foods available on the market has grown enormously. To mention just a few from overseas, one can now find grapes from South Africa, dates from Saudi Arabia, kiwifruit from New Zealand, sausages from Germany, canned soups from the USA, soy sauce from China, ice cream from Singapore, butter from Australia, chicken from Thailand, frozen parata from India, etc. on the shelves of local supermarkets. So also, to give a few examples from within the country, vegetables from Shan State, medicinal herbs from Kachin State, apples from Chin State, green tea from Kayah State, coffee from Kayin State, seafood from Rakhine State, pamelo from Mon State, beans and pulses from Mandalay and Bago Regions, cooking oil from Magway, fresh vegetables from Ayeyawady Region, and dried fish from Taninthayee Region are all readily available in local markets. Some restaurants offering regional dishes in Yangon even have ingredients delivered daily from the regions concerned, as they want to provide authentic flavours of regional dishes. Similarly, the number of processed, ready-to serve, bottled and canned foods, both from abroad and within the country, available in shops has also grown enormously in recent times. Restaurants and food stalls serving food of a variety of ethnicity, quality and prices have also sprouted in cities and towns all over the country testifying to the increasing dependence on shops to fulfil the daily meal requirements of people.

The growing availability of a wide range of food, sources and forms may sound like great news for those who like to enjoy new tastes, variety, and convenience, and at a cheaper cost than cooking at home. Moreover, fast foods, tinned and ready to cook food, and cooked food offered by supermarkets, may be a boon for harassed working wives, mothers and single persons who have little time either to shop for food or to cook. However, news items regarding food safety that appear frequently in newspapers should cause alarm to many. Some unscrupulous, ruthless, greedy, foreign and local businessmen illegally import low quality, expired and contaminated foods that may also contain additives including health affecting dyes and preservatives, without giving any thought to the extent of trouble they would cause naive consumers including young children. In addition, items like milk products, cooking oil, and any other kind that can be adulterated are all susceptible to it and often have serious health consequences. Also cause for apprehension are various taste enhancing powders being promoted by recipes and advertisements and used in large quantity in preparing many of the dishes served at restaurants and food stalls to which people have become addicted and that may affect their health in the long term. There is also dramatic increase in use of fertilizers to quicken growth and increase the size of vegetables and fruits, and widespread use of chemically enhanced animal feed so that marine, meat, poultry and dairy products may be harvested quickly. Fruit and vegetables are also being sprayed with chemicals to make them look fresh, to lengthen their shelf life, and in the case of fruit, to prevent them from ripening quickly, or to make them ripen early. Therefore, if one thinks carefully about contemporary foods, many can be said to be poisoning our system slowly in the guise of being tasty, nutritious, attractive and convenient.

Food prepared in styles which have become popular with young people such as barbecuing, chargrilling, done rare in the form of salads, or fish and meat being eating raw, may in some cases, affect a person's health if consumed regularly. It is also worrying that the number of young working people living away from home and dependent on roadside stalls for cheap meals are increasing, and as a consequence, public health authorities must strive to ensure that food is prepared hygienically in restaurants and food stalls and those involved in preparing and serving food have no contagious diseases. This may increase the workload of municipal and health authorities but it can be redressed by appointing more staff who can be paid by charging restaurants and food stalls for checking and certifying that their food is safe.

From a layman's point of view, to protect ourselves from food that causes harm to our health, we should:

1. eat more home-cooked meals and avoid restaurant and food stall foods, ready-made foods and snacks that contain additives, as much as possible
2. consume more fresh vegetables and fruits, and less rich, oily, and excessively sweet, sour, and salty food as recommended by doctors
3. be wary of bigger than normal fruit, vegetables, fish and poultry that may be a sign of excessive use of chemicals, and try to eat more organic food
4. avoid using as much as possible taste enhancers when cooking as they can cause health problems
5. learn to cook using less oil as Myanmar dishes tend to be too oily
6. be cautious of local as well as foreign foodstuffs that are too cheap, as they may have passed their expiry date, contaminated, or adulterated
7. make sure that food you have outside your home is hygienically prepared and served
8. learn the nutritional value of food to be able to ensure a healthy diet both for oneself and one's family
9. support prosecution of those who sell food that endangers people

In conclusion, food, which is one of the basic needs of human beings, can both contribute to lengthening as well as shortening the lifespan of human beings. It is therefore important to educate all citizens about what food to eat, what to avoid and the dangers posed by unhealthy food. In this connection, those involved in food production and supply chains must also be educated so that they do not endanger consumers knowingly, or unknowingly. Children too must be educated about the dangers of unhealthy food at school as well as by their parents so that they are familiar with food that promotes good health from young. Consumer protection associations must be strengthened to effectively carry out their responsibilities which should include educating consumers on how to protect their rights and lodge complaints when they are affected. Similarly, food and drug authorities must be provided with the financial, technical and staff resources they need to effectively carry out their main responsibility of protecting society from greedy, selfish persons who temper with food using various means to make huge profits and affecting the health of many and causing untold misery.

POEM:

A Very Happy New Year

The Myanmar Era of 1377 will be ushered in
on the seventeenth of April two thousand fifteen
at the end of Myanmar Thingyan Water Festival after,
four days of pouring cool, refreshing water on each other
to relieve the heat of summer and bring in the New Year
leaving both the mind and the body fresher and cleaner.
Performing meritorious deeds by all, young and old,
seeking temporary refuge in the religious fold,
donating generously to the welfare
of the poor and those in despair,
gaining merits for all to share
to be blessed throughout the coming year
with good health, wealth and happiness for all, afar and near.

Lokethar

MESC ready to provide services to residents

MANDALAY, 21 April—Mandalay Electricity Supply Corporation under the Ministry of Electric Power provides 24-hour electricity service to residents of Mandalay Region.

Electricity users may make complaints to township electrical engineers whenever they face any difficulty in consuming electricity. The companies responsible for maintenance and supply of electricity will respond to the residents' needs.

Residents may dial 09-2052910 for the head office of the Mandalay Electricity Supply Corporation, 09-2046105 for the PyinOoLwin office, 09-2151439 for Kyaukse, 09-2201974 for Meiktila, 09-2216647 for Myingyan, 09-2174497 for Yamethin, 09-2040285 for NyaungU, or 02-65666 for the call centre to leave messages for any of the offices.

Local residents may contact the respective electrical engineer offices for installation of electric meters at their homes. The electricians will install electric meters at buildings located within 300 feet of a power line.

Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-printing House)

Outstanding students to attend camps in Bagan, Inlay, Ngwehsaung

DAWEI, 21 April—Outstanding students heard words of advice from the Chief Minister of Taninthayi Region U Myat Ko at the hall of No 1 Basic Education High School in Dawei, Taninthayi Region, on Tuesday.

The chief minister urged the students from eighth standard to matriculation to do their utmost to contribute to the country.

The chief minister presented K630,000 to three supervisors and 18 students.

The outstanding students from eighth standard will attend a camp at Bagan, those for ninth standard will go to a camp at Inlay and those for matriculation will attend Ngwehsaung.

Po Shwe Thun (Dawei)

Mobile libraries provide service to Dhammayon

MANDALAY, 21 April—The Zatiman mobile library in West Thiri Marlar Ward, Aungmyethazan Township, is available to give service to Dhammayon in wards of Aungmyethazan and Chanayethazan Townships, Mandalay Region, until 29 April.

"Our association will allow local youths to borrow books during summer holidays," an official of the Zatiman Youth Readers Association, which runs the library, said. "Mobile libraries of our association carry more than 1,000 books on various subjects."

The authorities of ward Dhammayon may contact the association on 09-444035825.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)

Fire victims receive assistance from donors

MANDALAY, 21 April—A fire destroyed 22 houses in Pyigyi Pyawbwe Ward, Chanayethazan Township, on 20 April, leaving 259 people homeless.

The fire, cause by an overheated TV safeguard regulator, broke out at Block No 268 on 32nd Street between 33rd and 88th streets.

People who lost their homes are being housed at a relief camp in the precinct of Shwebontha Monastery on 33rd Street.

U Aung Htay and wife Daw Lei Lei Win (Lonkhin Lodging and Aung Chan Thar Department Store) and family of 32nd Street in Chanayethazan Township donated foodstuff and purified drinking water to the fire victims.

Personnel of the Township Health Department are providing medical care to the victims by opening a clinic at the Dhammayon of the monastery with the assistance of members of the Township Red Cross Brigade.

Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)

Sinking tube-well to solve water shortage

MYANAUNG, 21 April—As earthen lakes and artesian wells were dried out in the hot season in Ward 4 of Myanaung, Ayeyawady Region, laypersons of the abbot of Weluwun Pariyatti monastery in the township sank a tube-well at the residence of Ko Maung Zaw on 3rd Yannaingaye Street on 20 April.

U Than Myint-Daw Yi Yi Win of Aungzeya Street in Ahlon Township donated K1.5 million for sinking a tube-well while U Min Min Tun and wife Daw Thanda Win donated K1 million for construction of the water tank.

Members of Myitta Shin blood donors association participated in sinking the tube-well.

Nay Win Zaw (Myanaung)

Taco Bell opens Tokyo outlet, returns to Japan after 20-yr absence

TOKYO, 21 April — Taco Bell Corp, a major US fast food chain, opened a restaurant in Tokyo's Shibuya Ward on Tuesday, returning to the Japanese market ahead of the 2020 Tokyo Olympics after an absence of about two decades. The fast food giant's return to Tokyo comes as other US casual dining chains consider entering the Japanese market to capitalize on a tourism boom ahead of the big sports event, with the number of foreign visitors expected to continue rising on eased visa rules and an expanded range of tax-free items.

Joining forces with Japanese restaurant franchise operator Asrapport Dining Co, Taco Bell, known for Mexican-inspired food such as tacos and burritos, is looking to open more outlets in Japan.

The US fast food chain entered the Japanese market in the 1980s but pulled out of the country, except for US military base locations, in the early 1990s due to sluggish sales.

At its Dogenzaka outlet in Shibuya — one of the busiest districts in Tokyo packed with shopping and dining outlets and a center for youth fashion and culture — Taco Bell has started to serve food products including Japan-only menu items such as "Shrimp & Avocado Burrito" and "Taco Rice."

More than 200 people lined up before the outlet opened at 10 am Tuesday with a countdown and applause. Many of them were non-Japanese, including tourists from abroad.

"I'm very excited. I would often go to Taco Bell when I studied in the United States. I'm feeling kind of nostalgic," Takuya Yamaguchi, 34, said after biting into a taco.

"We believe that Taco Bell holds strong growth potential and will enable us to create a new quick service restaurant category by cultivating the strong latent demand for Mexican-inspired food within Japan," Shusaku Higaki, Asrapport Dining's chief executive, said in a release when his company reached the franchise agreement with the US partner.

In Japan, the fast food market has been struggling to deal with a rapidly graying population, but many restaurants are now making efforts to attract more foreign tourists ahead of the Tokyo Olympics.

Fast food chains outside Japan are also aiming to capitalize on the business opportunity.

Shake Shack Inc, a chain that grew out of a roadside burger stand in New York, and 800 Degrees Neapolitan Pizzeria, operating mainly in California, are planning to open their first overseas restaurant in Tokyo in 2016.

Last year, the number of foreign travelers arriving in Japan soared 29.4 percent from the previous year to a record 13.41 million, the government said earlier this year. Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's government has pledged in its economic growth strategy that it will raise the number of foreign tourists to Japan to over 30 million in 2030.

Taco Bell currently operates over 6,000 restaurants worldwide and has a plan to add 1,300 restaurants outside the United States by 2023. Asrapport runs more than 400 "izakaya" pubs and barbecue restaurants in Japan.

Kyodo News

People line up along a street in front of a newly-opened Taco Bell restaurant in Tokyo on 21 April, 2015. The US fast food chain, known for Mexican-inspired foods, returned to the Japanese market after an absence of about two decades.
KYODO NEWS

Breath test for malaria possible, Australian researchers say

CANBERRA, 21 April — Malaria, the tropical disease responsible for the deaths of half a million people each year, could soon be diagnosed with a quick and simple breath test, Australian researchers announced on Tuesday.

The researchers found that normally undetectable distinctive chemicals are increased markedly in the breath of those with the mosquito-born disease, giving hope that a cheap, portable system could replace blood tests.

While the researchers from the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization (CSIRO), Queensland Institute of Medical Research Berghofer (QIMR Berghofer) and Australian National University (ANU) have only trialled with volunteer patients given controlled malaria infections, the signs are promising.

"What is exciting is that the increase in these chemicals were present at very early stages of infection, when many other methods would have been unable to detect the parasite in the body of people infected with malaria," Dr Stephen Trowell, Research Group Leader at CSIRO said in a statement.

"In addition to its potentially better sensitivity, human breath offers an attractive alternative to blood tests for diagnosing malaria."

The research, published on Tuesday in *the Journal of Infectious Diseases*, identified four sulphur-containing compounds whose levels varied across the time course of the malaria infection.

Researchers said sulphur containing chemicals, that had not previously been associated with any disease, changed in a consistent pattern over the course of the malaria infection.

"Now we are collaborating with researchers in regions where malaria is endemic, to test whether the same chemicals can be found in the breath of patients," Trowell said.

"We are also working with colleagues to develop very specific, sensitive and cheap 'biosensors' that could be used in the clinic and the field to test breath for malaria."

The disease, named by the medieval Italians in reference to the foul-smelling air around swamps and marshes, was responsible for 200 million cases worldwide in 2013, according to the World Health Organization.—*Xinhua*

Oil prices dip as US stockpiles seen rising

SINGAPORE, 21 April — Oil prices dipped slightly on Tuesday but remained near a 2015 peak reached last week as expectations of another rise in US stockpiles and near-record-high Saudi Arabian output were balanced by rising tension in the Middle East.

Crude prices have climbed around 18 percent since the start of April due to mounting concern over conflict in Yemen, with the US navy saying on Monday it had sent an aircraft carrier and a guided-missile cruiser into waters near the country. Prices were also supported by speculation about falling US output after the domestic oil rig count hit 2010 lows. Still, US commercial crude oil inventories are forecast to have increased by 2.4 million barrels last week, rising for the 15th consecutive week, a preliminary *Reuters* survey showed.

Brent crude for June delivery LCOc1 was down 7 cents at $63.38 a barrel by 0349 GMT, after settling flat on Monday.

US crude for May delivery CLc1, which expires later in the day, was down 8 cents at $56.30 a barrel, after settling 64 cents higher.

US Senator Lisa Murkowski said on Monday she would introduce legislation this year to allow US crude exports, saying the Obama administration should not dare lift sanctions on Iran before scrapping the US crude export ban.

Saudi Oil Minister Ali al-Naimi told Reuters in Seoul that the No 1 crude exporter expected to produce at near record highs of around 10 million bpd in April. Analysts warn that OPEC's ability to cope with an unexpected surge in demand is diminishing fast.

Reuters

First infant MRI study finds babies feel pain 'like adults'

LONDON, 21 April — The brains of babies "light up" in a similar way to adults when exposed to the same painful stimulus, suggesting they feel pain much like adults do, researchers said on Tuesday.

In the first of its kind study using magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), scientists from Britain's Oxford University found that 18 of the 20 brain regions active in adults experiencing pain were also active in babies.

Brain scans of the sleeping infants while they were subjected to mild pokes on the bottom of their feet with a special rod — creating a sensation "like being poked with a pencil" — also showed their brains had the same response to a slighter "poke" as adults did to a stimulus four times as strong, suggesting babies have a much lower pain threshold.

"Obviously babies can't tell us about their experience of pain and it is difficult to infer pain from visual observations," said Rebeccah Slater, a doctor at Oxford's pediatrics department who led the study.

"In fact some people have argued that babies' brains are not developed enough for them to really feel pain... (yet) our study provides the first really strong evidence this is not the case."

Even as recently as the 1980s it was common practice for babies undergoing surgery to be given neuromuscular blocks but no pain relief medication.

Last year, a review of neonatal pain management in intensive care found that although these babies experience an average of 11 painful procedures per day, 60 percent do not receive any kind of pain medication.

"Our study suggests that not only do babies experience pain but they may be more sensitive to it than adults," Slater said. "If we would provide pain relief for an older child undergoing a procedure, then we should look at giving pain relief to an infant."

The research looked at 10 healthy babies aged between one and six days and 10 healthy adults aged 23 to 36. During the study the babies, accompanied by their parents and by doctors, were put in an MRI scanner where most of them fell asleep.

MRI brain scans were then taken as the babies were poked on the bottom of their feet, and compared with scans of adults exposed to the same stimulus. The findings were published in the journal *eLife*.—*Reuters*

Pee-power toilet to light up disaster zones

LONDON, , 21 April — A toilet that uses urine to generate electricity will soon light up dark corners of refugee camps after being tested by students in the UK. The pioneering toilet, the result of collaboration between global aid agency Oxfam and the University of the West of England in Bristol, uses live microbes which feed on urine and convert it into power.

Led by Professor Ioannis Ieropoulos, the scientists developed microbial fuel cells that use bacteria grown on carbon fiber anodes that feed on urine, breaking it down and generating electricity which is stored in a capacitor. They used up to 24 of these microbial fuel cells in 2013 to prove that urine could produce enough electricity to power a mobile phone. For the pee-power toilet they are using 288 fuel cells, though a thousand-unit cell stack is planned for the next version of the device.

Ieropoulos believes it's the abundant, free supply of urine that makes the pee-power toilet so practical for aid agencies to use in the field.

"We were challenged by Oxfam to think about lighting urinals that they would use in refugee camps. So this is the result of that conversation. And it's basically a live trial to demonstrate the microbial fuel cell technology over a long period of time; how it can continuously generate electricity from urine in real time," he said.

The prototype cubicle resembles toilets used in refugee camps by Oxfam to make the trial as realistic as possible. The microbial fuel cells that convert the urine into power are stacked underneath the urinal and can be viewed through a clear screen.

Conveniently located near the University of the West of England's student bar, the toilet was successfully tested by students who found it produced enough electricity to power four LED light bulbs in the cubicle.

Ieropoulos even theorized that the student's urine could prove particularly potent: "We're hoping to see some improved performances from people coming out of the bar after the consumption of certain beverages. But we have seen, at least in the lab, we have seen that there is a difference between the morning sample compared to the later in the day sample, because it's more concentrated."

The experiments in Bristol began about 14 years ago. In that time the harvesting of electricity from urine has advanced rapidly through several generations of microbial fuel cells. The latest models use ceramic cylinders with a continuous stream of urine passing through them, with the electricity collected by an energy harvesting board.

"Traditionally in the microbial fuel cell we would have two half cells and a membrane separating the two cells. In this case, the microbial fuel cell chassis and membrane is the ceramic material. So the outside is the bacterial anode, or the negative terminal of the fuel cell; and the inside is the positive cathode. The ceramic is there to allow to exist as a microbial fuel cell, but also to allow ions to flow through from the anode to the cathode," explained Ieropoulos, adding that it's the continuous cascade of urine through a series of fuel cells that keeps up the electricity production by constantly 'feeding' the bacteria.

Andy Bastable, head of water and sanitation at Oxfam, said the pee-power toilet could vastly improve women's safety in deprived countries that often have poorly lit sanitation zones.

"By lighting bits of the camp using this technology we can create a safe environment so that women can go out, use the toilets at night, do things at night in a safer environment," he said.

Oxfam hopes to have the first toilet sent out to a refugee camp within the next six months, and after testing will be rolled out more widely, initially in camps, but possibly also in other places without electricity.

"This urine bio-fuel cell technology could be used for many things, such as charging mobiles phones, any applications involving low electricity current like dosing pumps. It could be used outside of the camp environment; in any poor community that doesn't have electricity at night it would be a game-changer for them," added Bastable.

Reuters

Sony unveils new Xperia phone even as it retrenches in mobile

An employee poses with Sony's new Xperia Z4 smartphone after a news conference in Tokyo on 20 April, 2015.—REUTERS

TOKYO, 21 April — Sony Corp (6758.T) on Monday unveiled a new high-end Xperia handset featuring an aluminium frame and a 5.2-inch screen, showing it is still in the smartphone race even as it scales down its struggling mobile operations.

The launch of the new flagship model comes amid a painful restructuring at the Japanese consumer electronics giant which has thrown the future of its smartphone division into doubt, with top executives saying an exit cannot be ruled out.

But as the company focuses on cutting costs rather than growing its mobile market, the division still needs investment in new products and marketing to maintain Sony's brand and hold off a more rapid deterioration.

Sony said the Xperia Z4 would be available in Japan around the middle of the year, though it did not provide a launch date, details on carrier partners or price. The handset would be available in four colours and was slightly thinner than the previous Z3.

Hiroki Totoki, who was appointed last year to turn around the mobile unit, said Sony was targeting the upper end of the market where rivals such as Samsung Electronics Co Ltd (005930.KS) and Apple Inc (AAPL.O) dominate.

"There's a broad variety in the prices of smartphones, from around $100 (67 pounds) to $1,400 at the upper end," he told a news conference. "We want to focus in the upper half of that."

Sony's mobile division has fallen far behind high-end rivals such as Samsung and Apple, while at the low end it is battling pricing pressure from Asian manufacturers such as China's Xiaomi Inc.

The company whose Walkman and Trinitron TV once played a critical role in the global entertainment industry has struggled in recent years to come up with trend-setting gadgets.

Sony announced in February that it would scale down its weaker operations such as TVs and mobile phones to focus instead on more successful products such as video games and camera sensors.

Chief Executive Kazuo Hirai has not ruled out an exit from weak operations, amid a restructuring that has so far seen the company sell off its personal computer division and spin off the TV business.

In February, he said the Japanese consumer electronics firm would no longer pursue sales growth in smartphones.

Reuters

SpaceX says rocket recovery failure due to throttle valve problem

WASHINGTON, 21 April — Private space firm SpaceX said on Saturday an engine throttle valve problem was to blame for the failure of its second attempt to land the Falcon 9 rocket's first stage on a drone ship in the Atlantic Ocean. "Cause of hard rocket landing confirmed as due to slower than expected throttle valve response," SpaceX founder and CEO Elon Musk wrote in a tweet.

The problem, however, seems to be easy to fix. "While the rocket does look rather tall and tippy, a stable landing is no problem with proper throttle response," Musk said. SpaceX made its second attempt to land a Falcon 9 first stage on the drone ship on Tuesday, during the launch of its sixth cargo mission to the *International Space Station.* The first stage did land on the ship but came down "a little bit too hard," leading to a tip-over and a subsequent explosion.

The company's first attempt in January ended in a crash on the boat, because the rocket's steering fins ran out of hydraulic fluid.

Musk revealed that another attempt will be made in two months, during the launch of its seventh cargo mission to the space station.—*Xinhua*

Humanoid robot starts work at Japanese department store

TOKYO, 21 April — Dressed in a kimono and smiling, Aiko Chihira greets shoppers at the entrance of Tokyo's Mitsukoshi department store. But Chihira is no regular employee — she is a humanoid robot. Developed by Toshiba last year, the robot made its debut at the store on Monday in a new role interacting with customers.

Speaking Japanese, Chihira, which has human-like features and blinks, can also be programmed to speak in other languages such as Chinese.

"It would be good if we can have her provide guidance, or recommend various things in Chinese," said Hitoshi Tokuda, Toshiba's new business development division group manager.

"... People can be looking around and think, 'Oh if Aiko is around, she can speak Chinese'. That's what I hope will happen."

Toshiba has said Chihira has 43 motors which allow it to move. The robot is also programmed to do Japanese sign language.

At Monday's unveiling, Chihira accompanied Japanese opera singer Shoko Iwashita in a performance.

Visitors look at a kimono-clad android robot (L) named Aiko Chihira, developed by Toshiba Corp, at the reception desk of Nihonbashi Mitsukoshi department store in Tokyo on 20 April, 2015.—REUTERS

"I would like you to listen to the song that I've put a lot of effort into," the robot said.

After the performance, in which it appeared as if Chihira had lip-synched, the robot asked for applause for Iwashita.

Chihira, currently not programmed to respond to customer complaints or questions, is not the only robot to work in retail. Last year, Nestle said it would enlist SoftBank Corp's humanoid robots, Pepper, to help sell its coffee makers at home appliances stores across Japan.—*Reuters*

Japan to host 2020 UN congress on crime prevention

TOKYO, 21 April —The Japanese government said on Tuesday the country will host a UN congress on crime prevention in 2020.

The UN Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice is the largest international conference in the field of criminal justice and has been held every five years since 1955.

The decision to hold the 2020 conference in Japan was made at the 13th gathering of the congress, held from 12 to 19 April in Doha, Qatar, where Tokyo announced its candidacy for the next host.

Japan has hosted the event once before, in Kyoto in 1970. A specific host city in Japan for the next conference has yet to be decided.

"We want people from all over the world to experience pervasion of governance by law in Japan during the year when the Tokyo Olympics will be held," a Justice Ministry official said.

Attended not only by justice ministers and prosecutors general of UN member states but also academics, experts and members of nongovernmental organizations, the congress has had an impact on policies and strengthened international cooperation on transnational organized crime.

Kyodo News

Japan's maglev train sets new world speed record of 603 km per hour

KOFU, (Japan), 21 April — A magnetically levitated train run by Central Japan Railway Co set a world speed record of 603 kilometres per hour on Tuesday during a manned test run on an experimental track, the railway company said.

The train broke the previous world record of 590 km per hour set by itself on Thursday. No major problems have been observed so far as JR Central prepares for the start of its maglev train services in 2027.

The test was conducted using new LO-series cars on the track between Uenohara and Fuefuki in Yamanashi Prefecture, west of Tokyo, the company said. The test will mark the end of high-speed test runs.

Under JR Central's plan, the maglev train link will first open between Shinagawa, the Tokyo terminal for the service, and Nagoya, capital of the Chubu central Japan region, in 2027.

The new train will connect the two cities, located 286 km apart, in 40 minutes, compared with 88 minutes on the shortest route taken by the current shinkansen bullet train operated by the company. It is expected to run at a maximum 500 km per hour during commercial operations.

JR Central aims to start train services between Nagoya and Osaka in 2045, the company said.

Kyodo News

Photo shows a magnetically levitated train operated by Central Japan Railway Co making a test run on an experimental track in the city of Tsuru, Yamanashi Prefecture, central Japan, on 21 April, 2015. The train set a world speed record of 603 kilometres per hour during a manned test run, breaking its own previous record of 590 kph.—KYODO NEWS

Lone pilot of solar plane on round-the-world leg in China

Solar Impulse 2 takes off from Jiangbei International Airport in Chongqing Municipality, southwest China on 21 April, 2015. Solar Impulse 2, the world's largest solar-powered plane, left Chongqing on Tuesday morning and headed for Nanjing, capital of east China's Jiangsu Province.—XINHUA

CHONGQING, 21 April — Solar Impulse 2 took off from southwest China's metropolitan of Chongqing on Tuesday for its second stop in China, and sixth stop on its around the world adventure.

Powered by more than 17,000 solar cells installed on its wings, Solar Impulse 2 is circumnavigating the globe to promote green energy. The plane left at 6:08 am, with pilot Bertrand Piccard at the controls for the 1,190 kilometre flight to the eastern city of Nanjing. The journey is expected to take at least 16 hours, as wind can affect the speed of the solar powered plane.

The plane landed in Chongqing on 21 March after leaving Myanmar just over 20 hours earlier, the fifth leg of its landmark journey.

A brief stop had been planned in Chongqing before leaving for Nanjing, but the next leg was postponed due to unsuitable weather conditions. The team stayed in Chongqing for 21 days, the longest stay in a city since the plane left Abu Dhabi, its starting point, earlier in March.

Co-pilot Andre Borschberg had been scheduled to fly the plane on its next leg from Chongqing, however, he had to return to Switzerland because of health problems.

During the extended stay in Chongqing, Piccard and Borschberg attended a number of exchange activities and visited some tourist sights.

On 31 March, Chongqing Bashu Middle School welcomed Piccard and Borschberg, who spoke with students about the plane, solar technology and energy saving.

The team are expected to be involved in more promotional and exchange activities in Nanjing.

The around the world adventure will take in 12 stops. After the sixth leg to Nanjing, the plane will depart for the most arduous leg of its journey, a 8,172 kilometre, 120 hour odyssey across the Pacific to Hawaii.—*Xinhua*

New York Times wins Pulitzers for West Africa Ebola coverage

NEW YORK, 21 April — *The New York Times* won two prestigious Pulitzer prizes on Monday for coverage of the Ebola outbreak in West Africa, described by the Pulitzer board as courageous and vivid journalism that engaged the public and held authorities accountable.

The Pulitzer for Public Service, announced at Columbia University, went to Charleston, South Carolina's Post and Courier for its series on domestic violence.

The Pulitzers honour extraordinary work in US journalism, literature, drama and other areas and bring welcome attention and recognition to newspapers and websites.

"Till Death Do Us Part" by the Post and Courier probed why South Carolina is among the deadliest states in the country for women. Doug Pardue, one of a four-person team that produced the series, said it pushed the state legislature to pursue greater protection for abused women.

"I'm glad to see that journalism is awarded for this type of reporting," said Pardue. "It's a story that touches so many people."

For its Ebola coverage, *The New York Times* staff won the prize for international reporting and freelancer Daniel Berehulak won for feature photography.

The St Louis Post-Dispatch won for photographic coverage of the Ferguson, Missouri, riots. Editor Gilbert Bailon said the staff had suffered emotionally and physically while covering the violence that followed the shooting death of an unarmed black teen by a white police officer.

"It's a very personal story. Some staff faced tear gas directly; some were deeply involved in efforts to get the community to heal," he said.

The Seattle Times staff won for coverage of a deadly landslide, and *Washington Post* reporter Carol Leonnig won for coverage of security lapses at the Secret Service.

The Wall Street Journal won a prize in investigative reporting for "Medicare Unmasked," the first reporting Pulitzer for the newspaper since 2007, when it was purchased by News Corp.

New York Times reporter Eric Lipton won for investigative reporting on how lobbyists can sway congressional leaders and state attorneys general.

The Pulitzer for explanatory reporting went to Zachary Mider of Bloomberg News for showing how US corporations dodge taxes. It is the first Pulitzer for the New York-based news agency.

Joan Biskupic, Janet Roberts and John Shiffman of *Reuters* were explanatory reporting finalists for their use of data analysis to illustrate the extraordinary access of an elite group of lawyers to the US Supreme Court.

Ned Parker and a *Reuters* team of reporters were finalists in international reporting for their work on the disintegration of Iraq and rise of ISIS.

The local reporting prize went to Rob Kuznia, Rebecca Kimitch and Frank Suraci of the *Daily Breeze of Torrance*, California, for their look at corruption in a small, cash-strapped school district.

The feature writing prize went to Diana Marcum of the *Los Angeles Times* for drought coverage.

The commentary prize went to Lisa Falkenberg of the Houston Chronicle. Mary McNamara of the *Los Angeles Times* won for criticism and the editorial writing prize went to Kathleen Kingsbury of *The Boston Globe.*

The editorial cartooning prize went to Adam Zyglis of *The Buffalo News.*

The fiction award went to Anthony Doerr for "All the Light We Cannot See," published by Scribner, and the drama prize went to Stephen Adly Guirgis for "Between Riverside and Crazy."

The history prize went to Elizabeth A Fenn for "Encounters at the Heart of the World: A History of the Mandan People," published by Hill and Wang, and David I. Kertzer won the prize for biography for "The Pope and Mussolini: The Secret History of Pius XI and the Rise of Fascism in Europe," published by Random House. Gregory Pardio won the prize for poetry for "Digest," Elizabeth Kolbert won in general nonfiction for "The Sixth Extinction: An Unnatural History" and the music prize went to Julia Wolfe for "Anthracite Fields."—*Reuters*

Replica of Osaka city on display at Legoland Discovery Centre

A diorama replica of the landmarks and townscapes of Osaka, made with more than one million Lego blocks, is on display at the LEGOLAND Discovery Centre in the city of Osaka on 21 April, 2015. The centre will be officially opened on 23 April.—KYODO NEWS

Gov't panel to decide Japan's world heritage 2017 candidate by July

TOKYO, 21 April — A Japanese government panel said on Monday it will decide on a UNESCO World Cultural Heritage site candidate for 2017 by the end of July.

The panel currently has four candidates including Jomon archaeological sites in Hokkaido, northern Tohoku, and other regions and the Sado complex of heritage mines, primarily gold mines.

Mozu-Furuichi Kofungun, ancient tumulus clusters and Okinoshima Island and related sites in Munakata region are also among the candidates.

The relevant Agency for Cultural Affairs' council will conduct hearings with local municipality offices to assess the significance of their sites and examine their capabilities for conservation before making a final decision.

The government will submit a recommendation letter to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization by 1 February after obtaining Cabinet approval.

The Jomon sites in Hokkaido, Aomori, Iwate and Akita in northern Japan are a group of archaeological sites representing a culture that occupied the Japanese archipelago for nearly 10,000 years, while the Sado complex in Niigata is known for gold and silver mining techniques being introduced from home and abroad over a period of more than 400 years, according to the UNESCO website.

The Mozu-Furuichi Kofungun in Osaka are tumulus clusters built between the late 4th and early 6th centuries that include the largest one in Japan in scale. The Okinoshima Island sites in Fukuoka are made up of the isolated island of Okinoshima which floats in a rich natural environment and is one of East Asia's greatest ritual sites.

The government is seeking World Heritage designation of old industrial facilities in Fukuoka and seven other prefectures for 2015 and Christian locations in Nagasaki and Kumamoto for the following year.—*Kyodo News*

China friendship group voices shock at New Zealand-US spying reports

WELLINGTON, 21 April — Leaders of New Zealand's main China friendship organization expressed dismay on Tuesday at reports that New Zealand and US spy agencies planned to jointly hack into Chinese diplomatic communications in Auckland.

Senior members of the New Zealand China Friendship Society (NZCFS) attacked Prime Minister John Key's attempt to downplay the alleged plan, which was revealed in documents from US National Security Agency (NSA) whistleblower Edward Snowden.

"If there is any truth in this, I would hope that the New Zealand government would have the courage and decency to apologize and commit to not continuing with these actions," NZCFS national president Dave Bromwich told *Xinhua*.

The NZCFS had been working hard for 60 years to establish a sincere relationship with China and the allegations undervalued that work.

"I would have to say that, assuming these allegations are true, it shocks me and disappoints me," Bromwich said in a phone interview.

"I really query why they think they can get away with it. I don 't think it's the sort of thing we as a country should be involved in," he said.

"We should value our neutrality. This is not a friendly action. "

NZCFS national vice president of the northern region George Andrews said he and northern region members had been frequent and welcome guests at functions in the Chinese Consulate and visa office in Auckland.

"We would never have dreamed that the contacts between the consulate and the visa office would have been invaded in this way, " Andrews told *Xinhua* in a phone interview.

"It seems to me an affront to the consulate and the relationship between us," he said.

Andrews said he was disappointed at the argument that such spying was "routine these days" and he dismissed Key's claim that the Snowden documents were stolen and unconfirmed.

"Saying they are not confirmed is about the lamest response imaginable it just reflects the hollowness of the position they 're trying to defend," said Andrews.

The NZCFS was formed in 1952 by followers of Rewi Alley, who helped in China's war against Japanese aggression, and maintained contacts between the two countries until diplomatic ties were established in 1972.

The Herald on Sunday newspaper reported that the plan to tap data flowing between the Chinese Consulate and its visa office in Auckland was run by New Zealand's Government Communications Security Bureau (GCSB) and the NSA.

An April 2013 document said the plan had verbal approval, said the report.

But it was unknown if the plan went ahead because, as sign-off was being sought, Snowden walked out of his job with a mass of top secret documents.

The Chinese embassy in New Zealand issued a statement Sunday, saying China was concerned about the report and attached great importance to the cyber security issue.

"We will firmly safeguard our security interests and continue to guarantee our cyber and information security with concrete measures," said the statement.

New Zealand Prime Minister John Key on Monday said his country had a very open relationship with China and he would welcome any discussion about the reported spying on Chinese consulate in Auckland with Chinese officials.

Asked if plans were underway to spy on Chinese communication, Key said in a television interview that "I'm not going to go into those details."

Xinhua

WEATHER REPORT

BAY INFERENCE: Weather is partly cloudy in the Andaman Sea and South Bay and generally fair elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 22nd April, 2015: Rain or thundershowers are likely to be scattered in Upper Sagaing Region, Kachin and Chin States, isolated in the remaining Regions and States. Degree of certainty is (60%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Seas will be moderate in Myanmar waters.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Continuation of isolated rain or thundershowers in the Upper Myanmar areas.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 22nd April, 2015: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

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Philipp Rosler, member of the Managing Board of the World Economic Forum, Hun Sen, Prime Minister of Cambodia, Joko Widodo, President of Indonesia, Nguyen Xuan Phuc, Deputy Prime Minister of Vietnam and Arkady Dvorkovich, Deputy Prime Minister of Russia (from L to R) attend the World Economic Forum on East Asia 2015 in Jakarta, Indonesia, on 20 April, 2015.
XINHUA

S Korean prime minister offers to resign over bribery scandal

SEOUL, 21 April — South Korean Prime Minister Lee Wan Koo has submitted a letter of resignation to President Park Geun-hye over his alleged involvement in a bribery scandal, the presidential office confirmed on Tuesday.

Park, who is currently on a state visit to Peru, called his resignation "extremely regrettable" and called for a thorough investigation.

Kyodo News

Fans welcome returning Paul McCartney in Osaka

OSAKA, 21 April — Former Beatle Paul McCartney was warmly welcomed by about 500 fans as he touched down in Osaka on Monday morning for a five-date concert tour of Japan, having pulled out of a tour of the country in May last year due to ill health.

McCartney, 72, appeared in the arrivals lobby of Kansai International Airport at around 8 am, prompting cheers and excitement from a horde of assembled fans.

The fans held up record sleeves and messages written in English, to which McCartney replied "Good morning" in Japanese. He is scheduled to play five concerts in Tokyo and Osaka.

One fan planning to attend Tuesday's concert in Osaka, Hironobu Miyaki, 47, brought along his daughter's ukulele and was overcome with emotion when McCartney signed the instrument.

"I think I'm going to cry," Miyaki said.

Kyodo News

Former Beatles member Paul McCartney (C), accompanied by his wife Nancy Shevell, waves at his fans as he arrives at Kansai International Airport in Osaka Prefecture on 20 April, 2015 for a concert tour in Japan.—KYODO NEWS

Britain's Old Vic honours Kevin Spacey for key artistic role

Actor Kevin Spacey Actor Kevin Spacey poses on the red carpet for the 'Die Goldene Kamera' (Golden Camera) awards ceremony in Hamburg, on 27 Feb, 2015. **REUTERS**

LONDON, 21 April — Stars of stage and screen have paid tribute to Hollywood actor Kevin Spacey at a special gala event as his 11-year tenure at London's The Old Vic theatre comes to an end.

The two-times Academy Award winner took over as artistic director in 2003 and is widely credited with helping turn around the once struggling theatre.

Sunday night's gala was hosted by "Downton Abbey" actor Hugh Bonneville who praised Spacey's work at the theatre.

"Not only has he brought his own stage talent as an actor to The Old Vic and given it that bit of Hollywood glamour, if you like, because he is such an amazing stage, as well as screen, actor, but he's really dug the roots of The Old Vic deeper than they were before," he said on the red carpet.

"They've brought actors from America, actors from Britain together and have spread that stage talent all over the world, so where do you start? He can do everything. And he can play the harmonica."

Spacey, 55, has starred in nine productions at the theatre, including the critically acclaimed "Richard III".

"What Kevin's done is literally made a massive difference to what was an old building that, actually, nobody came to," Sally Greene, The Old Vic Chief Executive, said.

The star of "The Usual Suspects", "American Beauty" and Netflix political thriller "House of Cards" won a Special Award at the London theatre Olivier Awards this month in acknowledgement of his work at The Old Vic. The theatre, which opened in 1818 and has seen a host of names such as Laurence Olivier, John Gielgud and Peggy Ashcroft perform on its stage, has appointed theatre director Matthew Warchus as Spacey's successor.

Reuters

"The Golden Era" scoops top prize at Hong Kong Film Awards

HONG KONG, 21 April — A biographical drama about Chinese writer Xiao Hong emerged as the big winner at the Hong Kong Film Awards, scooping best film as well as best director for Ann Hui. "The Golden Era", a three-hour movie depicting the novelist's short life in 1930s China, also won in the best cinematography, best art direction as well as best costume and make up design categories. The Mandarin-language movie was co-produced by both Hong Kong and mainland China film companies. While such co-productions are common, Hui said Hong Kong should also make more films with local characteristics.

"I think Hong Kong should have its own film industry apart from co-productions with China, because even a province would like to have its local colour and see its way of life in the films," she said at the ceremony's red carpet on Sunday night. "Hong Kong has a tradition of local films and has very distinct particulars about certain people and about certain subjects that are banned in China — triads, horror stories, horror mixed with kung fu, kung fu mixed with comedy, that kind of genre in China right now is censored."

Hui also won best director at the Asian Film Awards and Golden Horse Film Festival for the film.

Hong Kong actor Sean Lau won best actor for his performance in "Overheard 3" and China's Zhao Wei won best actress for her role in Chinese-Hong Kong film "Dearest" at Sunday's annual ceremony, currently in its 34th year.—*Reuters*

Hong Kong director Ann Hui On Wah (L) reacts after winning the Best Film award for her movie "The Golden Era'' during the Hong Kong Film Awards on 19 April, 2015.—REUTERS

Prognosis unclear for daughter of late singer Whitney Houston—lawyer

LOS ANGELESE, 21 April — Bobbi Kristina Brown is expected to live a long life, but her prognosis remains unclear, an attorney for her father Bobby Brown said on Monday, clarifying the singer's remarks at a weekend concert that she was awake months after being found unresponsive in her bathtub.

"I can say today, Bobbi is awake. She's watching me," Brown told concert-goers at the Verizon Theatre in Grand Prairie, Texas, according to a video posted on the website TMZ.

But the prognosis for his 22-year-old daughter with the late pop singer Whitney Houston remains unclear, said his attorney, Christopher Brown, in a statement on Monday.

"Doctors have indicated that she will have a long life," he said in a statement. "However, Bobbi Kristina is presently embarking on a rehabilitation process and the quality of her life will not be known for years to come."

Bobby Brown's wife, Alicia Etheredge-Brown, noted in the statement that her husband was "in an emotional state" when he spoke at the concert on Saturday.

"He is encouraged by the steps that Bobbi Kristina has made since her hospitalization," she said. "She has made it out of ICU, opened her eyes, and started a rehabilitation that will be long and hard."

Bobby Brown added: "We thank everyone that supports Bobbi Kristina and God is hearing our prayers."

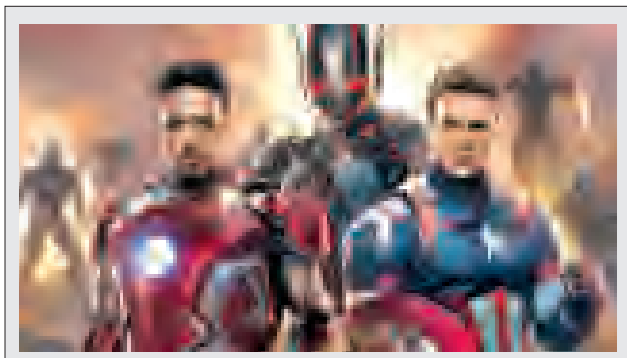
TMZ said Bobby Brown's sister Tina posted on Facebook that Bobbi Kristina Brown "woke up and is no longer on life support."

The celebrity news website and CNN later quoted unnamed sources as saying comments suggesting that Bobbi Kristina Brown's neurological condition had improved were untrue. Citing sources it said were connected to the Houston family, TMZ reported the aspiring singer remains on a ventilator.

Bobbi Kristina Brown was discovered on 31 January face down and unresponsive in a bathtub in her suburban Atlanta home. Few details about her condition have been released since.

In March, she was transferred from Emory University Hospital in Atlanta to a rehabilitation center, according to her family. Houston, a six-time Grammy Award winner and actress, drowned in a hotel bathtub in Beverly Hills, California, in February 2012 at the age of 48. Cocaine and heart disease contributed to her death, according to authorities.

Reuters



'Avengers: Age of Ultron' credits scene lands online

LOS ANGELES, 21 April — A footage that shows what appears to be a credits scene from "Avengers: Age of Ultron" has made its way online. The video sees a certain superhero supposedly making a surprise appearance in "The Avengers" sequel, reported Ace Showbiz.

"Age of Ultron" is scheduled to make its way out in India on 24 April, a week before its US release. Producer Kevin Feige and director Joss Whedon previously said that the movie would not have a post-credit scene but there would be a short scene that would pop up shortly after the credits start. Robert Downey Jr will return as Iron Man, Chris Evans as Captain America, Chris Hemsworth as Thor, Mark Ruffalo as Hulk, Scarlett Johansson as Black Widow, Jeremy Renner as Hawkeye, and Samuel L. Jackson as Nick Fury. Aaron Johnson is added as Quicksilver, Elizabeth Olsen as Scarlet Witch, James Spader as Ultron, and Josh Brolin as Thanos.

PTI

Meryl Streep funds initiative to help women screenwriters

NEW YORK, 21 April — US actress Meryl Streep is among the funders of a new initiative to support women screenwriters in a film industry dominated by men.

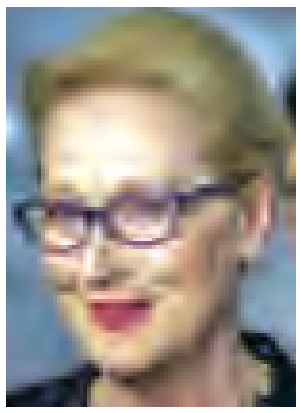
The Writers Lab, run by New York Women in Film and Television (NYWIFT) and announced at the Tribeca Film Festival, will provide mentorship to eight women screenwriters over the age of 40 at a location in upstate New York in September.

Screenwriters Kirsten Smith (Legally Blond, Ten Things I Hate About You) and Gina Prince-Bythewood (The Secret Life of Bees, Beyond the Lights) are among the mentors.

Streep, who was credited with "generous support" of the initiative by NYWIFT, has long championed women's rights.

A study released in January by the San Diego State University's Centre for the Study of Women in Television and Film found that there are still few women working behind the camera in Hollywood's top-grossing films.

Seventeen percent of key off-screen figures - which includes directors, writers, producers, executive producers, editors and cinematographers - were women in 2014, the study found, a 1 percentage point rise from 2013 but unchanged from 1998.



Actress Meryl Streep arrives for "An Evening of SeriousFun Celebrating the Legacy of Paul Newman'' event in New York on 2 March, 2015. —REUTERS

Last year, the head of the jury at the Cannes film festival screenwriter-producer-director Jane Campion criticised the lack of women directors in the film industry, saying it is "undemocratic." "I think you'd have to say there's some inherent sexism in the industry," she said. —*Reuters*

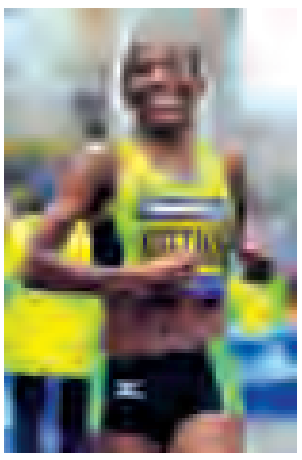
African marathoners tops at Boston two years after bombing

BOSTON, 21 April — Ethiopian runner Lelisa Desisa finished first in the Boston Marathon on Monday, reclaiming the top spot in a race he last won two years ago when it was struck by a deadly bombing attack.

Caroline Rotich of Kenya led the women's field, affirming African athletes' dominance at the race.

Desisa, who famously gave his winner's medal to the city following the 2013 bombing, pulled ahead to sprint down Boylston Street alone, finishing with a time of 2 hours, 9 minutes and 17 seconds.

"Strong Boston!" Desisa shouted after he crossed the finish line, in a version of the "Boston Strong" motto that became the city's rallying cry after the April 15, 2013, attack that killed three and injured 264.



Caroline Rotich of Kenya crosses the finish line to win the women's division of the 119th Boston Marathon in Boston, Massachusetts on 20 April, 2015.— REUTERS

He has no plans to donate this year's medal.

"This medal is, I think it is for me," Desisa told reporters. Kenya's Rotich had a more dramatic finish, besting Ethiopia's Mare DiBaba in a sprint down Boylston Street, turning in a time of 2 hours, 24 minutes and 55 seconds.

Security was high near the start line in Hopkinton, along the 26.2 mile (42.16 km) course and around the finish line in Boston, in recognition of the bombing, one of the most visible attacks on US soil since 11 September, 2001. Desisa unseated reigning champion Meb Keflezighi of California, whose 2014 victory marked the first time that a US man had won the race in three decades.

Keflezighi, who finished eighth, crossed the line hand-in-hand with another US runner, Hilary Dionne, who finished 15th in the women's field.

"I've never met her. I had to sprint hard to catch up with her to do that," Keflezighi said afterward. "It was fun to do that."

The top US male finisher was Dathan Ritzenhein, of Michigan, who finished seventh. The elite men's and women's fields kept large packs for the first half of the race, with runners mindful of the early breakaway that set the stage for Keflezighi's 2014 victory.

Desisa, 25, ran shorter events before switching his focus to marathons in 2013, when he surprised the field at Boston with his fast performance. He started the race in 2014 but walked off the course with an injury.

Rotich, 30, was born in Kenya but attended high school in Japan. She has posted top-ten performances at top marathons in Tokyo, New York and Chicago.

Reuters

California court rejects city's tiered water rates

LOS ANGELES, 21 April — A state appeals court ruled on Monday that a southern California city's tiered water rates, developed in an effort to combat overuse during the state's ongoing drought, violated the state's Constitution.

The three-judge panel for the state's 4th District Court of Appeal sided with taxpayers of the Los Angeles-area city of San Juan Capistrano, who filed a lawsuit against the city's plan to charge differing rates based on water usage. The judges said in the 29-page opinion that the cost schedule was unconstitutional because it made some consumers pay more for water than it cost the government to provide it, violating a voter-approved proposition. "We do hold that above-cost-of-service pricing for tiers of water service is not allowed by Proposition 218 and in this case, [the city] did not carry its burden of proving its higher tiers reflected its costs of service," they wrote.

A drought sign is seen in a field near Buttonwillow, California on 20 April, 2015. — REUTERS

The panel sent the case back to a lower court, adding that the rate tiering can be legal if a connection between pricing and costs can be demonstrated.

The ruling comes as a potential blow for municipalities attempting to find solutions for the state's ongoing drought. *The Los Angeles Times* reported that at least two-thirds of water providers in the state use some type of tiered system, including the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power.—*Reuters*

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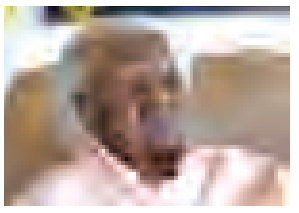
"Everything comes from above," says world's oldest living person



Jeralean Talley, 115, sits in the living-room of her home in Inkster, Michigan on 18 April, 2015. —REUTERS

INKSTER, (Michigan), 21 April — Jeralean Talley, the world's oldest-known living person, will celebrate her 116th birthday in Detroit next month thanking God for her longevity.

Born on 23 May, 1899, Talley climbed to the top of a list kept by the Gerontology Research Group, which validates the ages of the world's longest-living people, after Gertrude Weaver died at 116 in Arkansas this month.

"Everything comes from above. Everything just comes from above," Talley told *Reuters*, surrounded by her family, at her one-storey home in the Detroit suburb of Inkster.

Talley was born in Georgia and moved to Michigan in 1935 with her husband, Alfred Talley, for his job at a Ford plant. He died in 1988. Sharing apple pies from McDonald's with the youngest member of her five-generation family, two-year-old Armmell Holloway, Talley said: "I feel just like I feel. I feel good."

Talley, who worked in a laundry washing and ironing, lives with her daughter, Thelma Holloway, 77. Pictures of Martin Luther King Jr and John F Kennedy hang on the wall in the house Talley and her husband built in 1963.

Holloway said her mother would not have predicted the election of a fellow black person as US president, in the shape of Barack Obama.

"It's amazing. I never had no thoughts about nothing like this. And then she got a chance to be here and see a black president and all that," Holloway said. "That's history. She had no idea about that and neither did I."

She said her mother has maintained an active lifestyle, bowling until she was 104, and that the family plan to take her out for dinner on her 116th birthday.

Talley now mostly stays at home or visits family members' homes and remains active in the New Jerusalem Missionary Baptist Church in Inkster, where a front row seat is kept for her.

"She enjoys fishing. She goes fishing every year, but it's not quite time," Holloway said. "Maybe sometime in June she'll get around to going."

Reuters

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Wednesday, 22 April, 2015

Mourinho plan worked very well against United — Fabregas

Chelsea manager Jose Mourinho

London, 21 April — Chelsea playmaker Cesc Fabregas has saluted the strategy employed by Jose Mourinho for Saturday's 1-0 win over Manchester United, a victory that took the Londoners 10 points clear at the top of the Premier League.

Towering midfielder Marouane Fellaini was instrumental in United's run of six successive victories leading up to the game at Stamford Bridge and manager Mourinho decided to tinker with his side in order to deal with the Belgian's threat.

Instead of picking Fabregas in the holding role with Nemanja Matic, Chelsea pushed the Spaniard further forward and brought young French defender Kurt Zouma into the side alongside the big Serb.

"We had to put someone on Fellaini, especially for the long balls, so yes our style changed," Fabregas told the club's website (www.chelseafc.com) on Monday.

"I thought Zouma did extremely well. I think his future is as a centre back but he can do the job very well in central midfield when it's needed.

"He played very well against Spurs in the final of the Capital One Cup, he played well against West Ham away (in the league) and again this weekend. He's a top, top boy," said Fabregas.

"If I played there normally I would struggle a bit more to deal with long balls and the physical aspect of the game. That's why Mourinho is who he is and has won what he has won. The plan worked very well."

Chelsea, who lifted their first trophy of the season when they beat Tottenham Hotspur 2-0 in the League Cup final last month, will effectively seal the Premier League title with a win at second-placed Arsenal on Sunday.

"We are level on games now, we are 10 points in front and we don't want to give them hope to put pressure on us," the 27-year-old Spanish international said of his former club Arsenal.

"We have to put in a good performance because we know the Emirates is always a difficult place to go.

"We want to give satisfaction to the supporters. It's been five years for them without winning the Premier League title, for me it's been 27 years, so I'd love to win it as soon as possible."—*Reuters*

I am used to threat posed by Djokovic, says Nadal

Rafael Nadal of Spain reacts during his semi-final match against Novak Djokovic of Serbia at the Monte Carlo Masters in Monaco on 18 April, 2015.—Reuters

Barcelona, 21 April — A red hot Novak Djokovic is being tipped to end Rafa Nadal's stranglehold at Roland Garros in June but the Spaniard dismissed the threat as being no different to those he has faced before.

The Serbian world number one has been an unstoppable force in recent weeks, winning 17 matches on the bounce and becoming the first man to win the season's first three Masters title.

He comfortably beat Nadal on his beloved red clay in last week's Monte Carlo Masters semi-finals, and the nature of Djokovic's 6-3, 6-3 mauling means plenty are backing him to complete his collection of grand slam titles this year by winning his first French Open.

But as far as Nadal is concerned, 2015 is no different to 2013, 2012 or even 2011.

"Djokovic was good in 2011, in 2012, 2013 as well as in 2015. Sometimes you win more and some you win less," Nadal, who has triumphed at the French Open in nine of the last 10 years, told reporters at the Barcelona Open.

"It is difficult to win everything all the time. Djokovic was as good then in 2011 as he is now. He had an impeccable year in 2011 as well as he is having in 2015.

"I have to congratulate him.

"The rest of the players have to accept that at the moment he is the world number one with all he has achieved this year," added Nadal, who has had a patchy year after making his comeback in January following another lengthy injury and illness break.

"This year I have to do things right, get back to a very high level to face him on the court," Nadal said.

"Tennis-wise, I feel a lot better than a few weeks ago. I am going to try to get as far as I can and to play as well as I can, topping the level I showed in Monte Carlo."—*Reuters*

Real's Rodriguez may hold key amid injury crisis

Real Madrid's James Rodriguez celebrates his goal against Malaga during their Spanish First Division soccer match at Santiago Bernabeu stadium in Madrid, on 18 April, 2015.—Reuters

Madrid, 21 April — With Real Madrid facing an injury crisis ahead of Wednesday's Champions League clash with Atletico Madrid attention will be on talisman Cristiano Ronaldo to lead them through but James Rodriguez may hold the key.

Real coach Carlo Ancelotti will be without playmaker Luka Modric and forward Gareth Bale while striker Karim Benzema's knee injury may be more serious than first thought and he will also miss the quarter-final, second leg.

As well as the injury absences, attacking fullback Marcelo is suspended for the decider at the Bernabeu with the tie standing at 0-0 from the first game.

Ancelotti must improvise by either playing two, rather than the usual trident, in attack as he has often done in the absence of Bale or by pushing Rodriguez forward on to the right wing to take the place of the Welshman.

Rodriguez has been in impressive form since his return from injury at the beginning of April with Real winning all four league games.

The Colombian stood out in a sluggish performance by Real in Saturday's 3-1 La Liga win over Malaga when he scored a fine 25-metre goal, won a penalty and provided defensive cover in midfield.

Now, in the absence of Modric, who is set to be the player that Real will miss most against Atletico, it is Rodriguez who can provide similar passing and build-up play.

Ronaldo's strike against Malaga brought up his 50th goal of the season but he struggled after Christmas without the support from midfield of Modric or Rodriguez.

"The best player was James because he gave a lot of quality to the team," Ancelotti told a news conference after the Malaga victory.

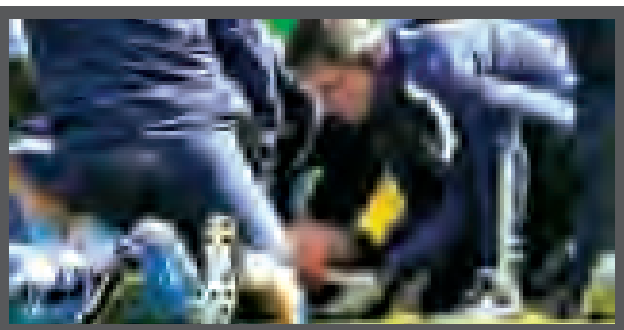
Atletico will try to take advantage of the absentees to get some revenge for their defeat in last season's Champions League final and are led in attack by Antoine Griezmann who is in a rich vein of form.

"He has scored important goals all season and is giving a lot to the team," fellow forward Raul Garcia told reporters.

The Frenchman hit a double in Atletico's 2-1 win over Deportivo La Coruna on Saturday.

"The final is in the past. It would have been nice to win but this is another match. The team is playing very well and we are in a positive mood," added Garcia.—*Reuters*

No fracture for Man City's Silva



Manchester City's David Silva receives treatment after sustaining an injury during Manchester City and West Ham United, Barclays Premier League, at Etihad Stadium on 19 April, 2015.—Reuters

London, 21 April — Manchester City playmaker David Silva has been given the all-clear by doctors after it was feared he may have fractured his cheekbone.

The Spain midfielder went to hospital after suffering a facial injury during the 2-0 Premier League victory over West Ham United on Sunday.

Silva received treatment for nearly 10 minutes and was carried off on a stretcher after being struck by the elbow of West Ham midfielder Cheikhou Kouyate. "Tests confirm @21LVA did not suffer a fracture," City said on their Twitter account of the player who wears the number 21 shirt.

Silva tweeted that he had been allowed to leave hospital on Monday.

"All the tests have gone well and I'm already home," he said. "The 3 points is what was important." City's victory meant the league champions remained fourth in the table, 12 points behind runaway leaders Chelsea.

Reuters

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