

Asian African Summit concludes upholding Bandung principles



President U Thein Sein attends second-day plenary session of the 10th Asian African Summit.—IPRD

JAKARTA, 23 April—The plenary session of the Asian African Summit, which this year marks the 10th anniversary of the

New Asian African Partnership, continued for a second day in Jakarta, Indonesia, on Thursday morning.

President U Thein Sein, together with other leaders of Asian and African nations, attended the session which

was adjourned in the afternoon.

The session resumed at 2 pm and concluded with a speech by the presi-

dent of Indonesia.

Leaders of Asian and African countries held frank discussions with their counterparts about

upholding the Bandung principles, named for the inaugural summit in Bandung, Indonesia.

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Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corp launches first Myanmar branch in Yangon

By Ye Myint

YANGON, 23 April — Major Japanese lender Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation on Thursday

opened its first branch in Myanmar at Yangon's Strand Square.

SMBC is one of three foreign lenders to be awarded a commercial banking

license by the Central Bank of Myanmar. Japanese rival Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi UFJ opened its first local branch a day earlier.

With its presence in

Myanmar, SMBC will offer banking services including remittances and loans to foreign companies and joint ventures, as well as to domestic banks in Myanmar. Customers will be able to open accounts denominated in kyat or US dollar.

SMBC has had a presence in Myanmar since 1996, supporting its clients here through a representative office. The new branch employs 30 local staff and will operate in Myanmar in conjunction with local partner KBZ Bank.

Mr. Hiroshi Minoura, vice-chairman of the Board of SMBC, said the bank, with four centuries of tradition, will apply all the resources of SMBC and SMFG Group and work as one to support clients and partners while contributing

(See page 3)

Myanmar rice exports set to top 2 mil. tons as China lifts import restriction

By Ye Myint

YANGON, 23 April—Myanmar's rice exports will top 2 million tons this year, with official shipments to China set to resume this May following the lifting of an import ban by Beijing, according to the Myanmar Rice Federation.

"We expect to export around 2 million tons of rice in fiscal 2015-2016, MRF Joint Secretary Dr Soe Tun said Wednesday, adding that the first batch comprising 3,000 tons of rice will be delivered to China next month.

"Myanmar exported about 1.8 million tons of rice, including 400,000 tons of broken rice, in 2014-2015 FY, up from 1.27 million in 2013-2014 FY and 1.46 million in FY 2012-2013."

Last year's export vol-

ume was the highest in 50 years, earning US \$644 million, he added.

Significantly, the United States was one of the 64 countries to import rice from Myanmar in the previous fiscal year.

"A total of 17 tons of Paw Hsan Hmwe, fragrant aroma rice, was exported to the US market," Dr Soe Tun said.

Rice exports to China have risen steadily despite Beijing officially banning shipments of the product from Myanmar in 2014. Of the 1.8 million tonnes exported last fiscal year, 1.3 million went to China, including over 230,000 tons of broken rice, accounting for 75 percent of Myanmar's total rice exports. Myanmar exported around 900,000 tons to China a year earlier.

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A bank employee stands at the Yangon Branch of Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation following the bank's opening ceremony on Thursday.

PHOTO: YE MYINT

Departmental officials join Birth Registration Activity Week



MYANAUNG, 23 April—Township officials met Wednesday to discuss Birth Registration Activity Week at the People's Hospital in Myanaung, Ayeyawady Region.

Officials of Township General Administration Department, Township Health Department, Township Immigration and National Registration Department and members of social organizations will deliver birth registrations to children under five from 4 to 8 May.

Township Medical Officer Dr Maung Maung Chit explained preparations for delivery of birth registrations to the children who previously lacked such documentation.

Win Bo
(Township IPRD)

Sinking tube-well to solve shortage of water in Myanaung



MYANAUNG, 23 April—Hot and dry weather conditions have dried out lakes and wells in Myanaung, Ayeyawady Region, leaving water in short supply for local residents.

Township Development Affairs Committee made an inspection tour of the areas with water scarcity in the township.

Under the arrangements of Township Development Affairs Supporting Committee and Township Development Affairs Committee, tube-wells were sunk on 3rd Yan Naing Aye Street in Ward 4 and Seinpan Ward as of 21 April for supply of potable water to local residents.—Win Bo
(Township IPRD)

Police carry out sanitation at religious buildings in Hpa-an



HPA-AN, 23 April—A total of 200 police and family members led by Deputy Commander of Kayin State Police Force Police Col Tun Oo participated

in sanitation at Shwe Yin Hmyaw Pagoda in Hpa-an, the capital of Kayin State, on 17 April.

Likewise, 200 police from No 22 security police branch and Kayin State police force helped with sanitation at Amitayama monastery in the last week of March.

Police in Kayin State plan to carry out sanitation tasks at health, education and religious buildings, in addition to public welfare tasks, an official from Kayin State Police Force said.—Tun Tun Htwe
(Hpa-an)

Auxiliary fire brigade members receive uniforms

HINTHADA, 23 April—Auxiliary fire brigade members received their uniforms at ceremony held at the Township General Administration Department in Hinthada, Ayeyawady Region,

on 22 April.

U San Htay, chairman of the district management committee as well as the district's deputy commissioner, gave a speech before the presentation.

The Ayeyawady Region government presented 1,544 sets of uniforms for the members. Hinthada Township's auxiliary fire brigade has 2,650 members.

Kyaw Kyaw (Hinthada)

Men's football tourney to mark 700th birthday of Sagaing City

SAGAING, 23 April—Organizers met Wednesday to arrange a men's football tournament in commemoration of the 700th birthday of Sagaing City.

A total of 36 football

teams were divided into 12 groups to play matches at the Sagaing District Sports Ground from 4 May to 10 June.

Moe Min Club will face ABY Club in the open-

ing match of the tournament on 4 May. The tournament will be sponsored by Thiri Pyanchi U Khin Maung Myint, former minister for construction.—Tin Maung
(Mandalay)

Storm victims receive assistance from well-wishers

TATKON, 23 April—A ceremony to assist victims of a violent storm that destroyed homes in Tatkon Township earlier this month was held at the hall of the Township General Administration Department

on 21 April.

Abbot Dr Ashin Sujanaçara of Thitsa Myay Natural Disasters and Education Foundation of Mandalay spoke at the ceremony, with members of the foundation handing

over 62 baskets of rice for storm victims from 496 households.

An official of Nay Pyi Taw Relief and Resettlement Department presented clothing and toiletries for the victims.

Tin Soe Lwin
(Tatkon IPRD)

Shortage of car parking adds to congestion in Mandalay

MANDALAY, 23 April—Mandalay faces a shortage of car parking spaces following a construction boom driven by population growth, tourism and international trade.

Many new developments, including hotels, have been built with inadequate parking, contributing to the congestion caused by cars left on roadsides.

Mandalay City De-

velopment Committee recently announced that those wishing to construct buildings over four storeys must provide adequate parking.—Maung Pyi Thu
(Mandalay)



NATIONAL

President U Thein Sein meets with Nepalese PM...

(from page 1)

During his Indonesian tour, President U Thein Sein met with Prime Minister Sushil Koirala of the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal on Thursday.

The meeting focused

on promotion of tourism and introducing direct flights between the two countries and the peace-building experience of Nepal.

Also present were Union Ministers Lt-Gen Ko Ko, U Wunna Maung

Lwin, U Aung Min, Dr Kan Zaw and U Ye Htut, Ambassador of Myanmar to Indonesia U San Myint Oo and Nepalese officials.

The two countries established diplomatic relations in 1960 and the prime minister had held discussions with the president at the third BIMSTEC Summit in March 2014 in Nay Pyi Taw.—MNA

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker receives Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar

YANGON, 23 April—Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann on Thursday met Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr

Yang Houlan at the Hluttaw office (Yangon branch) on Inya Road here.

Also present at the call were Pyithu Hluttaw

International Relations Committee Chairman U Hla Myint Oo and officials from the Pyithu Hluttaw Office.—MNA



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann holds talks with Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Yang Houlan.—MNA

SEAOP contributes to regional development in Made Island

NAY PYI TAW, 23 April — International oil companies that are cooperating with the Ministry of Energy are contributing to socioeconomic development of local people and South-East Asia Crude Oil Pipeline Company Limited had a communication system built for local people in Made Island in

Rakhine State.

The company built a Mobile Base Transceiver Station on the island in early 2015 and the station has been in operation since 23 March 2015. The station, which was built by Huawei Technology, cost over US\$ 300,000 and enables local people to use mobile phones.—Energy

Sumitomo Mitsui Banking...

(from page 1)

to the further economic development and growth of Myanmar.

Singapore's Oversea-Chinese Banking Corporation also opened its first branch in Myanmar the same day.

In October last year, nine foreign banks — three

from Japan and six from other countries including Australia, China, Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand — received provisional banking licenses to operate in the country. SMBC, BTMU and OCBC were the first to receive final operational licenses.

GNLM

Myanmar rice exports...

(from page 1)

According to statistics, Myanmar rice exports to Africa were down, while demand from Europe was up last year after Myanmar's preferred exporter status for the European market was restored. Rice shipments to Japan totalled only 6,000 tons in the last fiscal year.

Myanmar's \$644 million earnings from rice exports last year marked an increase from \$460 million the previous year and \$544 million in fiscal 2012-2013.

Regarding official rice trade with China, Dr Soe Tun told the Global New Light of Myanmar that the planned delivery of 3,000 tons of rice to China in May would be the first shipment under a memorandum of understanding signed in ear-



President U Thein Sein shakes hands with Prime Minister Sushil Koirala of the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal. IPRD

Union FM meets Dutch Foreign Affairs Minister

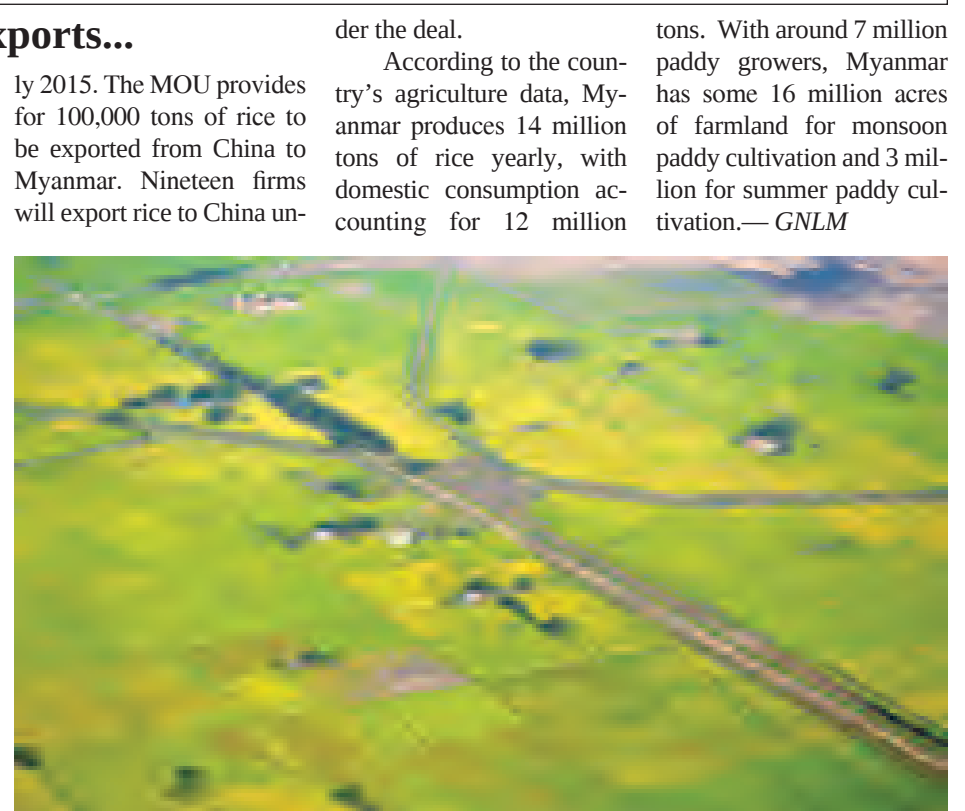
JAKARTA, 23 April—Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin met with Minister of Foreign Affairs of the

Netherlands Mr. Jan Paul Derkes at the Convention Centre in Jakarta at 4 p.m. local standard time on Thursday.—MNA

2nd gathering for veteran scouts on 29 April

YANGON, 23 April—The Temporary Myanmar Scout Committee will organize the second gathering for veteran scouts at the Diamond Jubilee Hall of Yangon University at 1 p.m. on 29 April.

All veteran scouts of wolf, blue bird, rover and ranger were invited to the gathering. The temporary committee urged them to donate commemorative equipment for scouts to the Myanmar Scouts Federation office.—MNA



A bird's eye view of paddy fields near Yangon. In the previous fiscal year, Myanmar approved US \$39.66 million worth of foreign direct investment in the country's agriculture sector. — PHOTO: YE MYINT



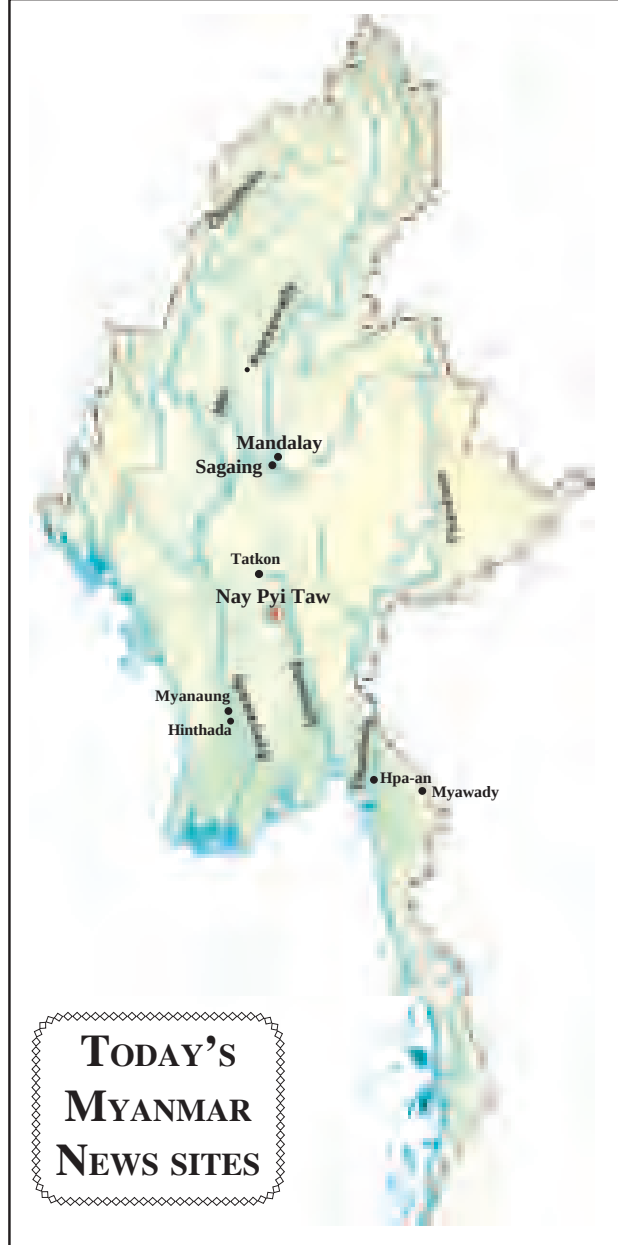
Police families donate rice, cooking oil to fire victims

MANDALAY, 23 April—Chanayethazan Township Police Force donated 12 bags of rice and 26 viss of cooking oil worth K385,200 to about 300 fire victims at the relief camp in the precinct of Shwebontha Monastery in Chanayethazan Township on 20 April.

The donations were arranged by Commander of Mandalay District Police Force Police Lt-Col Sein Tun.

On behalf of police families, commander of Township Police Force Police Major Ohn Khin and officials presented the donated goods to the fire victims.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)



Thai tourists tour Yangon, Bago, Mawlamyine during Maha Thingyan festival period



MYAWADY, 23 April—Under the supervision of the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism and arrangements of Marvellous Memory Travels & Tours, 18 Thai travellers in eight vehicles arrived in Yangon through Myawady entrance on 13 April.

The caravan of tourists stopped over in Kyaikto af-

ter the tourists paid homage at Kyaikhtyoe Pagoda.

Upon arriving in Yangon on 14 April, they visited Botahtaung Pagoda. They also paid obeisance at Chaukhtetgyi Pagoda and enjoyed the water festival at the Rakhine traditional Maha Thingyan pandal and the Yangon Mayor's central pandal on 25 April.

Squall causes damage but no injuries in Hinthada

HINTHADA, 23 April—A squall hit Hinthada, Ayeyawady Region, on 13 April evening, causing a stand to collapse at the People's Sports Ground in North Uyin Ward.

The sports ground incurred some K46.2 million worth of damage.

Two billboards on Kyauktawgyi Hillock on

Natmaw Street fell on power lines, causing a power outage. Many shops at the local market lost roofs in the squall.

Fortunately, nobody was injured in the storm.

Police and members of the Myanmar Fire Brigade removed debris from roads and residences.

District IPRD

In the evening, they paid homage at Shwedagon Pagoda.

Leaving Yangon on 16 April, they visited Kyaukpun and Shwemawdaw pagodas in Bago and proceeded to Mawlamyine

where they spent the night.

On 17 April, they visited Kyaikthanlan Pagoda and Win Sein Tawya reclining Buddha image and left for Mae Sot in Thailand in the evening.

MoHT



Teachers start teaching for students who need to sit supplementary exams

MANDALAY, 23 April—Mandalay Region basic education schools announced exam results for students from KG to ninth standard on 18 April, with a 77.24 percent pass rate for fourth standard students in the 2014-15 academic year.

Of the 102,586 students to sit fourth standard examinations across Mandalay region, 79,237

passed, while in Mandalay District, 18,689 of 23,493 fourth standard students passed, marking a 79.55 percent pass rate.

“Examination systems were changed for fourth and eighth standard students in the 2014-15 academic year,” a Mandalay Region education official said. “Education officials at district levels were empowered to examine the fourth standard students while the region and state officials were authorized to question the eighth standard students.”

“The education departments announced the list of those who need to sit the supplementary exam for respective subjects.”

From 22 to 29 April, teachers started instructing students who will sit the supplementary examination for fourth and eighth standard. From 14 to 16 May, those students must sit exams for subjects they failed.

Aung Ye Thwin

REGIONAL

Indonesia, China committed to infrastructure cooperation: Indonesian spokesman

JAKARTA, 23 April — Indonesia and China have made many commitments in infrastructure cooperation, such as high-speed railway and ports, a spokesman for Indonesia's Ministry of Foreign Affairs said here on Thursday.

For example, China is intending to invest in infrastructure projects in Indonesia, like the high-speed rail from Jakarta to Bandung, Arrmanantha Nasir told *Xinhua* on the sidelines of the two-day Asian-African summit, which will conclude later in the day.

China is also planning to invest in port projects in Indonesia, he added.

China will encourage more companies to participate in infrastructure construction and operations in Indonesia, Chinese President Xi Jinping said when meet-

ing with Indonesian President Joko Widodo in Jakarta during the summit.

Widodo welcomed Xi's proposal to increase investment in Indonesia's infrastructure. The two presidents witnessed the signing of cooperation documents on high-speed rail project after the meeting.

"The relationship between Indonesia and China is very strong," Arrmanantha said.

Speaking of the China-proposed Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), the spokesman said, "All in all, we welcome the approach of the bank."

It is important to ensure that there is adequate funding in Asia, particularly for infrastructure projects, he said, stressing that Indonesia supports the principles and concepts of the AIIB.

While addressing the summit, Xi urged Asian

and African nations to carry forward the Bandung Spirit, which highlighted solidarity, friendship and cooperation, and work together to promote the building of a community of common destiny for all mankind.

Xi's speech highlighted that Bandung Spirit is still very much relevant today in addressing global challenges particularly by Asian and African countries, Arrmanantha said.

"South-South cooperation is the key," he said, while acknowledging the importance of South-North cooperation.

"I think what's important here is a commitment by countries like China to strengthening cooperation within Asia and Africa through South-South cooperation," Arrmanantha said.—*Xinhua*

Lao PM, policymakers look to lift proceeds in face of fiscal deficit

VIENTIANE, 23 April — Laos must boost revenue collection to cover public expenditure, repay debts and foster socio-economic development, the country's prime minister has said.

Prime Minister Thongsing Thammavong made the remarks in an opening address to a three-day session attended by cabinet members, mayor of the capital, provincial governors and other senior representatives, state-run media *Vientiane Times* reported on Thursday.

Thongsing said if not addressed, fiscal imbalances would lead to chronic debt, degrading the nation's capacity to implement policy to foster economic growth and social development. "Finance, budget and revenue cannot balance with expenditure and necessary works, particularly the spending on salary and supporting allowances," Thongsing was quoted as saying.

Meanwhile, measures to address social issues including drug and substance abuse, illegal trading and

profiteering, gangsterism and the proliferation of road accidents remained to require attention, said Thongsing.

Progress on socio-economic development, budget and currency plans is on the agenda as the nation approaches the midway point in its fiscal year.

Draft amendments to the nations' constitution, for which public comment has been sought, are also set to be discussed at the meeting that concludes on Friday.—*Xinhua*

India approves ILO protocol on bonded labour

NEW DELHI, 23 April — The Indian government has approved a protocol of the International Labour Organization (ILO) to formulate a national policy to prevent and eliminate bonded labour.

"The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister

Narendra Modi, today gave its approval for placing the new Instrument adopted by the ILO-Protocol to the Forced Labour Convention ... Supported by Forced Labor Recommendation, 2013... before Parliament," an official release said on Wednesday.

Forced labour is common in India, particularly involving children.

Indian police often rescue children from forced labour with help from non-government organizations and try to reunite them with their families.—*Xinhua*

Philippine Customs head resigns

MANILA, 23 April — Philippine President Benigno S Aquino III has accepted the resignation of Customs Commissioner John Phillip Sevilla, officials said on Thursday.

Presidential Communications Operations Office

Secretary Herminio Coloma Jr said the president thanked Sevilla for his exemplary leadership in implementing reforms in the Bureau of Customs (BOC) and for his dedicated service to the nation.

"Consistent with the

President's mandate, the government is determined to pursue the reforms at the BOC and bring these to full fruition," he said.

Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima, whose agency has supervision over the BOC, said that as head of

the Customs Reform Team, Sevilla has helped grow the bureau's collections by 21 percent year on year in 2014 versus 5 percent in the pre-reform period.

He also said that the resigned Customs chief has transformed the agency "to

be one of the most radically open and transparent agencies in government, has made government regulation more efficient for doing business in the country, and has taken great strides to thwart graft, technical and outright smuggling by filing

cases, alert orders and seizures against erring importers, brokers, and officials."

Before he was appointed as BOC head in December 2013, Sevilla served for six years as undersecretary under two finance secretaries.—*Xinhua*

Drone may have landed on roof of PM's office in last few days

TOKYO, 23 April — A drone found carrying a small amount of radioactive cesium on the roof of the prime minister's office may have landed there in the last few days, investigative sources said on Thursday, as Japan beefed up security and weighed regulating drone flights.

When Prime Minister Shinzo Abe used the helipad roof on 22 March to fly to Kanagawa Prefecture for a graduation ceremony at the National Defence Academy, the four-propeller drone was not there. No staff members had entered the roof since then, the sources said.

The drone, measuring about 50 centimetres in diameter, was dry when it was found around 10:20 am on Wednesday, indicating that it got to the roof after 20 April when it rained in Tokyo.

Police officers did not routinely patrol the roof, according to the sources.

Small traces of radioactive cesium, which is rarely found in nature, were detected on Wednesday from the drone that carried a bottle of liquid and bore a radioactivity symbol sticker. The drone is believed to be one of those sold under the "Phantom" series.

Police have not ruled out the possibility that the bottle of liquid contained radioactive cesium released into the air from the crippled Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant, according to the investigative sources.

Investigators continued to analyze footage of surveillance cameras and interview people concerned, as they scrambled to find out when the unmanned aircraft flew to the prime minister's office and who was responsible.

The metropolitan police stepped up patrols at the prime minister's office and other vital facilities nearby, including the National Diet Building.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga told a regular Press conference that the government will consider regulating drone flights by developing legislation during the current Diet session.

"We should start from where we can as soon as possible," the top government spokesman said.

Japan does not have rules for flying drones at low altitudes. Pilots are required to report when they fly drones 150 metres or higher under flight routes used by regular aircraft, and 250 metres or above in other areas.

Remote-controlled drones have been used for research and other purposes in recent years, and have proven useful in natural disasters, although there have been reports of drone crashes. In January, a drone crash at the US White House sparked security concerns.—*Kyodo News*



Photo taken on 22 April, 2015, shows a four-propeller drone about 50 centimetres long on the roof of the Japanese prime minister's office in Tokyo. The drone equipped with a miniature camera and carrying a flare and 10-centimetre plastic bottle, apparently fell onto the roof from the sky. An investigative source said low-level radiation was detected from the drone, which bore a radioactivity symbol.—*KYODO NEWS*

UN chief, religious leaders stand against extremists



UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon (C) attends a Press conference on 22 April, 2015, at the UN headquarters in New York, together with leaders from various religions. They jointly attacked brutalities committed by extremists.

KYODO NEWS

S Korea says still 'open' to summit with Japan

SEOUL, 23 April — South Korea on Thursday reiterated its stance that it is willing to hold a leadership summit with Japan, but stressed it should be conducted in a way to help establish “sustainable trust” between the two neighbours.

“Our position is we are open to the summit with Japan, but such a summit should not be held only for the summit’s sake, but be held to establish sustainable (mutual) trust and to make the bilateral relationship move a step forward,

not backward,” Foreign Ministry spokesman Noh Kwang Il told reporters.

To realize the summit, “there must be progress on the issue of former ‘comfort women’ and a correct view of history by Japan’s leader,” Noh added.

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has yet to hold any bilateral summit with South Korean President Park Geun-hye, as bilateral ties remain chilled over the issue of women, mainly from the Korean Peninsula that was under Japan’s colonial rule

between 1910 and 1945, forced to work at wartime Japanese military brothels and also a territorial dispute. South Korea has demanded that Japan issue an official apology to the women and compensate them. It wants a resolution in a manner “satisfactory to the victims.”

Japan insists that issues of compensation were settled through bilateral agreements that led to the establishment of diplomatic ties between the two countries in 1965.

Kyodo News

Pope to visit Cuba en route to US, capping diplomatic role

VATICAN CITY, 23 April — Pope Francis will visit Cuba en route to the United States in September, the Vatican said on Wednesday, capping his success in bringing the former enemies together after more than half a century of frozen antagonism.

Last December, Havana and Washington announced after 18 months of secret diplomacy brokered by the pope’s diplomats and Canada that the two sides were working to reopen embassies in their respective capitals. Vatican spokesman Father Federico Lombardi did not specify how long the stop in Cuba would last, saying only that Francis had accepted invitations made by the Cuban government and the Cuban Roman Catholic Church.

It will be the Argentine pope’s first visit to the Caribbean island nation as pontiff. Both his predecessors, John Paul II and Benedict XVI, visited the island and met revolutionary leader Fidel Castro.

“The presence of his holiness in Cuba will be memorable. He will receive the warmest hospitality of the Cuban people,” Cuban Foreign Minister Bruno Rodriguez told a news conference during a visit to Brussels. He spoke after talks with EU foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini, who announced the EU and Cuba had agreed to set up



Pope Francis waves as he arrives to lead the weekly audience in Saint Peter’s Square at the Vatican on 22 April, 2015. — REUTERS

a “structured human rights dialogue” with an initial meeting in Brussels in June. That would be in parallel with talks on trade and investment that the two sides have launched.

Monsignor Jose Felix Perez of the Cuban Catholic Bishops’ Conference told *Reuters* in Havana that both Cuban President Raul Castro and US President Barack Obama had thanked Pope Francis for his mediation. “His mediation, without a doubt, was effective and in line with the Christian spirit that always brings out reconciliation as the solution to conflicts,” Perez said. Cuba had been a focal point for Vatican diplomats ever since Fidel Castro took power in 1959 and restricted church activities in what had been a staunchly Catholic country. The Vatican’s opposition to the US embargo on Cuba over the decades gave it credibility with Havana as a diplomatic broker while at the same time it had

good relations with a string of US administrations. Obama visited the pope last year and discussed Cuba. Francis later wrote personal letters to Obama and Raul Castro urging them to “initiate a new phase” in their relations. Obama and Castro met on 11 April at the Summit of the Americas in Panama, the first formal face-to-face meeting of the two countries’ leaders in more than half a century.

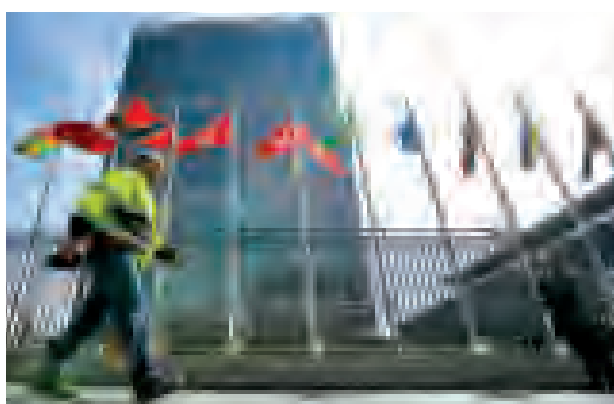
After Pope John Paul visited Cuba in 1998, Francis, who was then a bishop, wrote a book called “Dialogues between John Paul and Fidel Castro” that touched on themes such as family, education, poverty and political ideologies on the island. The pope is due to arrive in Washington on 22 September and will also visit New York and Philadelphia. He will go to the White House and Congress in Washington and address the United Nations in New York.—*Reuters*

Campaign launches to elect first female UN Secretary-General

NEW YORK, 23 April — Since its founding 70 years ago, the United Nations has been led by men, a tradition that some women’s rights advocates are determined to break when the global body elects a new secretary-general next year.

Equality Now, an international organization that campaigns for the rights of women and girls, launched an online campaign across social media on Wednesday to promote female candidates to lead the UN after current Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon steps down at the end of 2016.

The campaign aims primarily at UN ambassadors from China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom and the United States, the five permanent members of the UN Security



A man walks in front of the United Nations headquarters where the Permanent Memorial to Honour the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade “The Ark of Return” is to be unveiled in New York on 25 March, 2015.—REUTERS

Council, who traditionally select a single candidate for ratification by a majority vote of the 193 member states.

“The selection process for the next UN Secretary-General is a great opportunity to bring us

a step closer to gender equality globally,” Antonia Kirkland, legal advisor at Equality Now, said in a statement. “We are hopeful that there is more momentum now to make this a realistic possibility.”

She also raised ques-

tions about the secretive process by which permanent members of the Security Council decide on a candidate, an issue of growing concern to a number of member states and non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

“It is also vital we ensure that a transparent and fair nominations process and procedure exists, so that women can be seriously considered and are given an equal opportunity,” said Kirkland.

The UN Charter offers virtually no guidance on how a secretary-general should be selected, including no actual description of the job or list of qualifications for candidates.

The post tends to rotate among regions and in that system Eastern Europe would be the next to pro-

vide a secretary-general.

Countries may nominate candidates, but the Security Council makes the final decision behind closed doors without publishing any list of the contenders during the process or engaging in any discussion with member states.

A coalition of NGOs, including Equality Now, is asking for a more open and inclusive selection process through an online campaign called “1 for 7 billion: Find the best UN leader.” The group is planning a social media “storm” on social media platforms Twitter, Facebook and Tumblr on 27 April, when the UN General Assembly is scheduled to debate the rules governing the selection process for the next secretary-general.

Reuters

Australians warned about poisonous killer mushrooms

SYDNEY, 23 April — Health authorities in Australia have warned people not to pick and eat a variety of mushrooms which grow near oak trees.

People in Australia have been poisoned and even killed by the Deathcap mushrooms, which resemble edible ones. Mushroom expert Teresa Lebel from Victoria’s Royal Botanical Gardens said on Thursday that Deathcaps were now growing across Australia, and always near oak trees.

Symptoms of poisoning can appear similar to those of a gastrointestinal upset, while some people may not present any symptoms at all for up to 12 hours, Teresa Lebel said.—*Xinhua*

Puerto Rico officials warn government shutdown imminent

NEW YORK, 23 April — Puerto Rico's top finance officials said the government of the US territory will likely shutdown in three months because of a looming liquidity crisis and warned of a devastating impact on the island's economy.

In a letter to leading lawmakers, including Governor Alejandro Padilla, the officials said a financing deal that could potentially salvage the government's finances currently looked unlikely to succeed. It warned of laying off government employees and reducing public services "A government shutdown is very probable in the next three months due to the absence of liquidity to operate," the officials said. "The likelihood of completing a market transaction to finance the government's operations and keep the government open is currently remote."

The letter, dated 21 April, was also sent to the



A woman walks at the headquarters of the Government Development Bank of Puerto Rico, in San Juan in this file photo taken on 10 May, 2012.—REUTERS

heads of Puerto Rico's Senate and House as well as the governor. It was signed by the government's fiscal team, including the head of the Government Development Bank and the Treasury Secretary.

Puerto Rico, which has a total debt of more than \$70 billion, is trying to raise \$2.95 billion in financing, while pushing through unpopular tax reforms such as a higher value-added tax and increasing a levy on crude oil to help pay for it.

Puerto Rico is largely reliant on hedge funds for its financing needs. Those hedge funds have been pushing the government to carry out tax reforms to improve its fiscal position as a condition for providing extra financing.

Government bonds have been in steady decline in recent weeks as uncertainty grows over the prospects for the island of 3.6 million people. On Wednesday, its benchmark general obligation bonds

traded at an average 79.982 cents on the dollar, close to an all-time low.

The warning also marks a new tone of urgency from officials, who have up to now remained publicly upbeat about the prospects for getting a financing deal by the middle of May.

"A government shutdown would have a devastating impact on the country's economy, with payroll and public service cuts, with a painful recovery and of a long duration," the officials said in the letter.

The government has used hardball tactics to browbeat recalcitrant lawmakers in the past. Padilla threatened to shutdown San Juan's public transport system in November if lawmakers refused to pass an increase in the crude oil tax.

That shutdown, which could have impacted 75,000 people, was ultimately avoided and lawmakers agreed to pass the tax rise.

Reuters

Former Hewlett-Packard CEO Fiorina to launch presidential bid

4 May

WASHINGTON, 23 April — Former Hewlett-Packard Co Chief Executive Officer Carly Fiorina will launch her campaign for the 2016 US Republican presidential nomination on 4 May, the *Wall Street Journal* reported on Wednesday.

Fiorina will announce her candidacy online and hold a conference call for the media, the newspaper said, citing a person with knowledge of her plans. She would join US Senators Ted Cruz, Marco Rubio and Rand Paul as declared Republican candidates.

A spokeswoman for Fiorina would not confirm the report but did not deny it either.

"I can only say that we are not confirming this," said Sarah Isgur Flores, who also works on Fiorina's Unlocking Potential Project.

Fiorina has been appearing in states considered key to winning the Republican nomination.

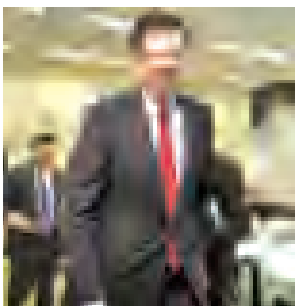


Potential Republican 2016 presidential candidate Carly Fiorina speaks at the First in the Nation Republican Leadership Conference in Nashua, New Hampshire on 18 April, 2015.

REUTERS

On Wednesday, she visited Iowa to speak in Cedar Rapids and sign advance copies of the book she is releasing on 5 May, "Rising to the Challenge," according to her Twitter feed. She also participated in a radio interview with Simon Conway, a conservative talk show host in Des Moines.—Reuters

Poland says still waiting for US to apologize for Holocaust remarks



FBI Director James B. Comey leaves after a news conference on the release of the 9/11 Review Commission report in Washington on 25 March, 2015.—REUTERS

WARSAW, 23 April — Poland was still waiting for the United States to apologize for remarks by an FBI official that it says implied complicity in the Holocaust during World War Two, a government spokeswoman

said on Thursday.

FBI director James Comey's remarks, published in the *Washington Post* last week, prompted an outcry in Poland and drew condemnation in the media and from politicians.

Poland is one of the United States' closest European allies, a relationship strengthened by the conflict in Ukraine and related tensions with Russia. Polish politicians have repeatedly called for an increased US military presence in the region. Comey's article said: "In their minds, the murderers and accomplices of Germany, and Poland, and Hungary, and so many, many other places didn't do something evil. They convinced themselves it was the right thing to do, the

thing they had to do."

Poland says the passage wrongly implied it was complicit in the Nazi genocide of European Jews.

On Thursday, government spokeswoman, Malgorzata Kidawa-Blonska, told private broadcaster TVN24: "We expect the word 'apology' from the US side."

The US State Department spokeswoman said on Monday that Comey did not intend to suggest in an article last week that Poland was responsible for the Holocaust during World War Two.

Asked by ABC-affiliated broadcaster, Wate 6, on Tuesday whether he had an apology for Poland, Comey said: "I don't. Except I didn't say Poland was re-

sponsible for the Holocaust. In a way I wish very much that I hadn't mentioned any countries because it's distracted some folks from my point." "I worry a little bit in some countries that point has gotten lost. There is no doubt that people in Poland heroically resisted the Nazis, and some people heroically protected the Jews, but there's also no doubt that in every country occupied by the Nazis, there were people collaborating with the Nazis."

Poland's deputy foreign minister Rafal Trzaskowski told public broadcaster TVP Info on Thursday: "The FBI director is trying to back out from what he said, but he didn't have the courage to apologize." — Reuters

US Senate panel passes bill for Pacific free trade deal

WASHINGTON, 23 April — A Senate panel passed a bipartisan bill on Wednesday that is expected to help speed up negotiations for an early conclusion to a US-led Pacific free trade initiative.

The bill will be referred to the plenary session of the upper house for further deliberation on whether Congress can grant President Barack Obama authority to sign trade deals, including the Trans-Pacific Partnership, only asking lawmakers to vote for yes or no.

It remains uncertain, however, whether the legislature will finally endorse the bill soon, as some lawmakers in Obama's Democratic bloc openly oppose it, citing an expected impact on the domestic economy, including risks to employment.

The Senate's Finance Committee handling trade

issues took the vote as chief negotiators from 12 TPP negotiating countries are set to resume their dialogue in the United States on Thursday aimed at making a breakthrough in the talks.

A bipartisan group of lawmakers introduced the bill for Trade Promotion Authority to the upper chamber and the House of Representatives on Thursday last week. In the lower house the Committee on Ways and Means handles the bill.

If the TPA bill is passed, it will revive the presidential authority to negotiate trade deals for the first time in eight years.

A lack of authority for the US president is thought to discourage some TPP countries from making bold proposals in negotiations out of concerns Congress could reject them.—Kyodo News

Five attacks foiled in France since Charlie Hebdo killings: PM

PARIS, 23 April — French police have thwarted five attacks, including a suspected plan to target church-goers foiled in recent days, since the Islamist killings at a satirical weekly and Jewish food shop in January, Prime Minister Ma-

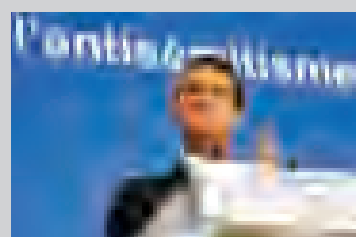
nuel Valls said on Thursday.

"Never has the threat been so high," Valls told France Inter radio, noting the fact that hundreds of French nationals were now in Syria where they risked being radicalized.

Valls was speaking a day af-

French Prime Minister Manuel Valls delivers a speech to present a plan to fight racism and anti-Semitism at the Prefecture in Creteil near Paris on 17 April, 2015.

REUTERS



ter authorities said they had arrested a 24-year-old Algerian national in Paris suspected of the murder of a woman at the weekend and an aborted plan to launch an armed attack on at least one church.

Reuters



Friday, 24 April, 2015

Politics is a form of humanism

By Kyaw Thura

IT is ridiculous to hold the view that politics is solely the concern of politicians. We should have no illusion about the importance of politics. The illusion in this sense is the difference between what we believe and what is true.

We all elect representatives to parliament to

form a government in the hope that they will best fulfill our desires and that they will keep their election promises. This, in fact, is a political illusion. Contrary to our expectations, the machinery of government is most of the time ineffective and inefficient.

Not surprisingly, no political system or government is able to keep us safe from danger, even in mature democracies. Frequent newspaper headlines speak of vicious crimes such as shootings, rapes, murders, robberies and young thugs bullying or killing people in broad daylight.

To counter these terrible consequences, we must all change our mindsets. Entering politics does not suggest seeking personal gain. It should therefore be noted that politics is a platform for serving the interests of the people from different

social strata. To put it another way, politics is a form of humanism.

There is every reason to believe that a responsible and accountable government is not an impossible dream. All the electorate is thus required to be mindful that it votes for the right people who are interested in the affairs of their own constituencies and the country as a whole.

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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.

Who cares World Peace and Security?

By Tommy Pauk

Nowadays, some kind of conflicts, dispute, violence, civil war, extremist acts, terrorist act, violations of human rights, racial discrimination and religious intolerance occur in the world. These issues are our great concern. They threaten world peace and tranquility indeed. If there is no peace in our region, our livelihoods and survival will definitely be uncertain. Why can't we solve these problems or issues properly? Preserving World peace and security is the most important task for all mankind. Realistically and tangibly, our world is a paradise for all living things in deed. It should be a peaceful paradise at all-time. Still, the space scientists have not detected or found the other planet which is fit for humans to dwell or survive on it. We should live in the world in peaceful and harmonious way.

Neglecting peace and harmony, some stupid, cruel and inhumane criminals are threatening human lives, homes and habitat on earth. The acts of Insult, injustice, inequity, invasion, provoking, suppression and animosity are the main causes for losing peace and security in the world. When peace does not prevail, the world people are insecure in their daily life.

The world leaders are striving for maintaining or restoring or stabilizing peace across the world since the world has been turned to a global village due to tremendous and ad-

vanced ICT. We get closer to each other for trade, business, diplomatic ties, cultural exchange, contributing humanitarian aids from rich countries to poor countries by means of using Information Technology. In order to carry out or deal these tasks or businesses among countries, peace and security must be guaranteed for smooth and successful international dealings. Moreover, peace, tranquility and stability must be prevalent everywhere in the world so that the people from different communities can communicate and travel to their desired destinations safely, smoothly and effectively. The leaders of superpowers have pledged that they would not use their power to intervene any independent nations in the world. However, directly or indirectly, some small countries are being meddled by a certain superpower for either economy or politics. In this case, the innocent people lose their lives, homes and the regional instability appears consequently. Some countries brazenly violate the UN Charter of Peace although they are the member states of the United Nations.

Japanese people still have nightmare about the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki which caused the most horrendous havoc in Japan. The horrific atomic bomb strikes on the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki had shocked all the human beings on earth at that time. Since then, the people from the entire world become aware of the evil of war and they protest against

any war. In addition, the warmongers as well as the countries which manufactured nuclear weapons are condemned or denounced. Undoubtedly, this activity reveals that the innocent or ordinary people across the world want genuine peace and security on earth.

(Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter sets out the UN Security Council's powers to maintain peace. It allows the council to "determine the existence of any threat to the peace, breach of the peace, or act of aggression" and to take military and nonmilitary action to "restore international peace and security". Chapter VII also gives the military staff committee responsibility for strategic coordination of forces placed at the disposal of the UN Security Council. It is made up of the Chiefs-of-staff of the five permanent members of the Council. The UN Charter's prohibition of member states of the UN attacking other UN member state is central to the purpose for which the UN was founded in the wake of the destruction of World War II: to prevent war. This overriding concern is also reflected in the Nuremberg Trials' concept of a crime against peace "starting or waging a war against the territorial integrity, political independence or sovereignty of a state, or in violation of international treaties or agreements..." (crime against peace), which was held to be the crime that makes all war crimes possible.) (Reference: Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter)

If a country has very great military and economic power, it might influence on politics and economy of any small nations. In other words, these small nations come under the hegemony and they have to pledge allegiance to the certain superpower. Obviously, this can be called unjust act, but we can't make help to the dominated country concerned. Due to the acts of violence sporadically or frequently occur in different countries in the world, the globe trotters or travelers or tourists feel insecure while visiting there. Travel agents and the respective governments of the tourist destinations must be able to provide safety and security services for them. This situation shows that such areas are lack of peace and security and the travelers are at risk indeed.

Acts of terrorism committed in some big cities in broad daylight. They took place in the supermarket and University campus. Actually these places are neither police station nor military barrack. The terrorists or barbarians target the innocent civilians and their infrastructure cruelly and recklessly. Why do the culprits or perpetrators target unarmed people of any race? This is because they want to use the innocent people as their shields or to hold hostages in order to demand ransom or some benefit from the governments concerned. Here, peace and security are not guaranteed as the terrorist act cannot be predicted or investigated beforehand. The terrorists usually make surprise attack on their targets. Sequentially, they kill

the innocent, seize the place and take the hostages. Sometimes, they commit suicide with car-bomb in the crowded areas like markets and public recreation centers etc. They intend to disrupt or destabilize peace, tranquility and security. Thus, all the world communities are affected by the threat and act of terrorists. Therefore, every community in the world has to tighten the security at their gateway. They need to thoroughly scrutinize or examine the incoming travelers from any country.

Conscientiously, we ought to find the solutions to the problems of conflicts, dispute, violence, civil war, extremist acts, terrorist act, and violations of human rights, racial discrimination and religious intolerance. Unless we can show compassion, empathy, sympathy and kindness towards others, it is hard to solve these problems properly. We have come across with the World War I and World II and the evil of war always threatens in our minds. We do not want to encounter any war which destroys human lives, animals, human settlement, and natural environment. The car-

nage and massacre of the wars make innocent people miserable and traumatic in the rest of their life. The conflicts, communal violence may vary from community to community. The root causes of these issues are misunderstanding, disagreement and act of lopsidedness indeed.

Civil wars are mainly caused by the unjust ruler or despot or disunity of the ethnic groups in the particular countries. Under these circumstances, the innocent people greatly suffer the utter devastation of war. Consequently, the war-torn countries cannot develop their economy and have to make a plan to recover from the man-made disasters. The losses of human lives and infrastructure in the war-torn country are very huge. Even then, the innocent people are hopeless to enjoy the peace and security and a series of troublesome or chaos or mayhem follows. The war victims are usually traumatized by misery and evil of war.

Unfortunately, the acts of extremists and terrorists are spreading in the world. Those extremists and terrorists have established the base camps in Africa and

(See page 9)

GOLD PRICE, FE RATE

(23-4-2015)

Yangon Gold Price

Buying K684,000 per tical: Selling K685,000

Mandalay Gold Price

Buying K683,500 per tical: Selling K684,500

FE RATE

USD Buying K 1080: Selling ----

SGD Buying K 791: Selling K797

Euro Buying K 1,145: Selling K1,165

Three armed men captured with arms and ammunition



Three armed men arrested with arms and ammunition near Aunglanchaung Village in Peletwa Township.—MYAWADY

NAY PYI TAW, 23 April — As Tatmadaw columns are combing insurgents

of the areas in Rakhine State, Tatmadaw personnel engaged in a skirmish

with armed men about 500 metres northwest of Aunglanchaung Village in Pelet-

By Khaing Thanda Lwin

YANGON, 23 April—An international day aimed at increasing the number of women pursuing careers in information and communication technologies took place for the first time Wednesday in Myanmar.

Myanmar's inaugural Girls in ICT Day was organized by the Young Women's Christian Association in conjunction with Myanmar ICT for Development Organization.

The major objectives of the celebration are to encourage young women to take an interest in information and communication technologies and seek jobs in the sector, YWCA general secretary Daw Zin

Mar Oo said.

The event also aims to encourage girls and young women to enter science and technology, engineering and mathematics fields, raise their awareness of ICT and spread information on ICT-related courses and opportunities.

According to industry observers, Myanmar has a few female professionals in ICTs.

"ICT plays an important role in improving the lives of young females," Daw Zin Mar Oo said view, adding that there are plans to stage the event again in coming years.

During the one-day event, panelists discussed use of social media and the Internet, useful mobile ap-

Young women encouraged to seek careers in ICT

plications, as well as digital security and personal security.

Many organizations around the globe celebrate Girls in ICT Day on the fourth Thursday.

According to International Telecommunication Union data, some 200 million fewer women are online than men, with women coming online later, and more slowly, than their male counterparts.

GNLM

Girls and young women actively participate in an event to mark the Girls in ICT Day in Yangon.

PHOTO: KHAING THANDA LWIN

wa Township on 22 April afternoon.

During the skirmish, Tatmadaw personnel captured Maung Kyaw Thein, 25, son of U Tun Sein, with one M-22, two magazines, 50 rounds of bullets, two grenades and one equipment set. Another M-22, 50 rounds of bullets and one magazine were also found nearby.

Tatmadaw personnel pursued the armed men who withdrew from the scene and captured Maung Than Wai, 26, and Tun Soe Naing, 23, together with one M-22, one sub-machine gun, six magazines, 160 rounds of bullets, four grenades and two equipment sets.

Tatmadaw columns are combing Peletwa area of the armed men.—Myawady

Immigration dept, NGO deliver citizenship cards to residents



DAWEI, 23 April—Staff of the Township Immigration and National Registration Department along with Norwegian Refugee Council officials issued citizenship scrutiny cards and household registrations to local residents at a monastery in Kamyawgyi Village, Launglon Township, on 20 and 21 April.

Taninthayi Region Minister for Agriculture and Livestock Breeding Dr Win Aung, Head of Township INRD U Maung Maung, U Saw Morris of NRC team and officials presented 162 CSCs and household registrations to five households.

Po Shwe Thun (Dawei)

Who cares World Peace...

(from page 8)

In Middle East and their cruel and brutal activities are often seen awfully. The lives of the people around Syria and Iraq border areas are totally not safe and they lose peace and security.

In some countries, equity, justice, human rights are ignored by the very handful of oppressors or despots or tyrants. So, people in these countries are in despair and their lives are not secured and peaceful. Due to the unjust rules and suppression, civil war or

disruption or violence takes places in these countries unpleasantly. In this situation, peace and order are lost and majority of people concerned are in crisis.

If every government across the world protects human rights, the world communities will have peace and security. Likewise, the world leaders should uphold human rights in the world. Then, there will be no conflict or violence or uprising in the world. Besides, the world leaders must adhere to the

UN charter and other regulations or principles properly so that the world peace and security can be stabilized. The leaders of the respective country and the world leaders should be wise enough to tackle the chaotic issues which threaten greatly to world peace and security. They should know the root causes and handle the cases in peaceful way for the sake of all mankind. Exchanging gunfire is not the real solution for the problems indeed. It is essential that we all must cooperate with the United Nations for world peace and security.

The issues of racial

discriminations and religious intolerance must be wisely handled and solved. Both cause chaos in the communities and the people concerned lose peace and security. Thus, they are insecure in their daily life. We are obliged to respect people of different faiths and not to insult them so that no violence will occur. Insulting other religious faith and practice can cause vulnerable consequences in the community.

If a certain country has some racial discrimination, the native people must have nationalistic sentiments. They despise, dis-

criminate and humiliate the legal or illegal immigrants. In this case, the racial bias is shown in that country. There was a prejudice against the people of color in America. e.g. African, American, Asians, Indians etc. At present, there is a little prejudice against African Americans in America. When we live in a multicultural society, we should have racial equality.

People who really love peace are responsible for maintaining or preserving peace on earth. If the pacifists, philanthropists, kind-people, noble-minded people, honest people outnumber the culprits in the world, peace and security can certainly prevail among fellow human beings. May world be free from acts of aggression, animosity, hostility and extremism!!!

Tommy Pauk is the pseudonym of U Thein Swe, who is B.A (English) and (Registered Law) R.L I. degrees holder. He has English Teaching experience at Yangon University English Department and Workers' college in Yangon, and now is working as freelance writer and English Teacher cum Translator/Interpreter for foreign firms.

Air strikes hit Houthi targets north of Yemen's Aden — residents

ADEN, (Yemen), 23 April — Warplanes from a Saudi-led coalition struck Houthi targets in and around the Yemeni cities of Aden and Ibb early on Thursday, residents in the area said, after Riyadh indicated its campaign against the Iran-allied movement would be wound down.

On Tuesday, the coalition announced an end to its month-old bombing campaign in Yemen but strikes have continued. A Saudi spokesman later said forces would continue to target the Iran-allied Houthi move-

ment as necessary. Thursday's targets included tanks being used by the Iranian-allied Houthi movement in the villages near Aden, a port in the south, the residents told *Reuters*.

In Ibb in central Yemen, residents reported an intense series of strikes early on Thursday on Houthi positions and weapon warehouses in the region.

They said targets included a military base in the town of al-Kafr, unspecified sites in Hubaysh, as well as a college on the outskirts of Ibb and another in the city

of Yarim. In Aden late on Wednesday, five Houthi militiamen were killed at a checkpoint while fighting against local forces opposed to them.

The Houthis and their army allies loyal to powerful former president Ali Abdullah Saleh are battling fighters loyal to President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi.

In the province of Dalea, eight Houthi fighters died, also at a checkpoint late on Wednesday. Heavy clashes were continuing in the area, residents said.

Reuters



A boy holds up a rifle as he joins followers of the Houthi group demonstrating against the Saudi-led air strikes in Sanaa on 22 April, 2015.—REUTERS

Aid groups express fear of renewed South Sudan fighting

JUBA, 23 April — Fighting in South Sudan's oil-producing Upper Nile State in the past two days has killed at least 38 and the toll could rise, a military spokesman said on Wednesday, while aid groups said they may be forced to trim operations.

Thousands of people have been killed and more than a million have fled their homes since fighting between supporters of President Salva Kiir and former vice president Riek Machar erupted in the world's newest nation in December 2013.

Several ceasefires have been agreed and broken and each side accuses the other of violating one announced in early February. Army Spokesman Colonel Philip Aguer said in the first incident, South Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) soldiers fought rebel forces allied to Machar outside



South Sudanese children sit outside their makeshift shelter in SPLA-IO rebel control area in the Southern part of Unity State Paynjar County on 20 March, 2015.

REUTERS

Malakal, killing 36 of them and repulsing the rest.

Aguer said in a second incident, fighting between guards protecting the governor of Upper Nile and soldiers under Johnson Olony, a Major General in the South Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) from the Shilluk tribe in Upper Nile, killed two.

Aguer said the situation had calmed down. But Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) said in a statement:

"At this moment the situation in Malakal town remains extremely volatile and it is expected that confrontations will continue in the coming hours.

"MSF teams have today been forced to suspend

some...outreach activities to remote areas hosting internally displaced people."

It said that in April alone, 4,600 people had been displaced by fighting in Malakal.

The World Food Programme said three of its workers have been missing since 1 April, when they were travelling in a convoy carrying food aid that encountered inter-communal fighting between Malakal to Melut. WFP said another WFP worker who was abducted at gunpoint in Malakal airport had still not been found.

"Because of increasing concerns about staff safety, WFP is re-assessing its ability to work in some parts of Upper Nile State," it said in a statement.

"The agency plans to temporarily reduce its operations in those areas where it no longer believes it's safe to work."—*Reuters*

Rwandan troops cross into Congo, wound soldier — Congo government

KINSHASA, 23 April — Rwandan troops crossed into eastern Democratic Republic of Congo and wounded a local soldier, the Congolese government said on Wednesday, drawing an immediate denial from a Rwandan official.

Government spokesman Lambert Mende said Congolese troops fired warning shots at Rwandan troops who entered Rutshuru territory in Congo's eastern province of North Kivu.

"The Rwandans responded by wounding one of our troops," he said.

North Kivu governor Julien Paluku also said Rwandan troops had crossed the border on Wednesday afternoon.

He added that a team

from the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region was being deployed to investigate the incident.

Rwanda's deputy permanent representative to the United Nations Olivier Nduhungirehe said on his Twitter feed in response to the alleged incursion, "This is baloney, as usual."

Congo's army has been conducting military operations since February against the Rwandan Hutu rebel group, the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR). The group's presence on Congolese soil has in the past served as a pretext for a series of Rwandan border interventions.

Reuters

Iraqi forces fight to rout Islamic State militants from Ramadi

BAGHDAD, 23 April — Iraqi security forces fought to rout Islamic State militants from the western city of Ramadi on Wednesday, slowly regaining some ground from the militant group, security and local officials said.

The insurgents began encroaching on Ramadi two weeks ago and local officials warned it was about to fall, sending more than 100,000 people fleeing their homes in and around the provincial capital of Anbar.

Security officials said Islamic State were being pushed back from sections near the military's Anbar operation command but

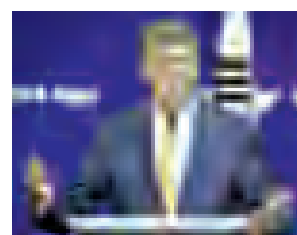
booby-traps, snipers and suicide attacks were hindering government troops from recapturing other areas they lost last week.

"We're engaged in tough guerrilla warfare in Ramadi," said an Iraqi security officer whose unit is fighting in Ramadi.

Speaking on condition of anonymity, he said the militants had dug tunnels between houses so they could carry out hit and run attacks. Anbar provincial council member Fali al-Essawi said security forces were taking their time in advancing to avoid exposing themselves to sniper fire.—*Reuters*

US concerned Iranian ships may carry arms to Yemen — Pentagon chief

MOFFETT FIELD, (California), 23 April — The United States is concerned a group of Iranian cargo ships may be carrying advanced weapons to Yemen, Defence Secretary Ash Carter said on Wednesday, as he called on Iran to avoid "fanning the flames" of the conflict with arms deliveries. Asked whether he thought weapons were on board the Iranian ships, Carter said: "We're certainly concerned about that." "And there's no reason for anybody to be delivering advanced weapons into a situation that's already gotten way beyond what is reasonable there," he told a small group of reporters,



US Defence Secretary Ash Carter

shortly before landing in California. He did not elaborate. On Tuesday, President Barack Obama said the United States had warned Iran not to send weapons to Yemen that could be used to threaten shipping traffic in the Gulf.

Washington this week deployed additional warships off Yemen's coast, partly in response to the

convoy of Iranian cargo ships in the Arabian sea.

Carter acknowledged that the movement of the US warships, including the aircraft carrier *USS Theodore Roosevelt*, gave President Barack Obama "options." But he declined to say whether the United States might attempt to board the Iranian cargo ships, if needed.

"I'm not going to tell you what the United States is prepared to do. As the president said, we have options," Carter said.

Saudi Arabia declared an end of the first phase of its campaign on Tuesday after almost a month of air strikes against the

Iranian-allied Houthis. But hours later, air strikes and ground fighting resumed and the International Red Cross described the humanitarian situation as "catastrophic". A Gulf official told *Reuters* that the new phase of the Saudi campaign would see a downscaling of military activity by the Saudi-led coalition with no further bombing of fixed military targets. On the political front, the official said, there was movement toward a dialogue.

Carter lamented the violence but voiced hope for peace efforts, saying the United States had hoped to "get the parties back to the table."—*Reuters*

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Qualcomm forecast misses as customer loss hurts mobile chip sales

NEW YORK, 23 April — Qualcomm Inc forecast current-quarter revenue and profit below analysts' expectations, saying the loss of a key customer and delays in product launches by some smartphone makers would hurt sales of its flagship Snapdragon chips.

Shares of the company, which also reported a 46 percent drop in second-quarter profit, were down about 2 percent in extended trading on Wednesday.

Earlier this year, longtime customer Samsung Electronics Co opted to use an internally developed processor for its new Galaxy S6 smartphone

and Note rather than Qualcomm's latest Snapdragon mobile chip.

The company also cut its full-year revenue and profit forecast for the second time, citing lower sales of Snapdragon chips.

"I think the recovery of the (chipset) business, given the loss of share at Samsung, will take time," Topeka Capital Markets analyst Suji Desilva said, adding that a recovery was unlikely in the near term.

Most of Qualcomm's revenue comes from selling baseband chips, which enable phones to communicate with carrier networks, but a majority of its profit comes from licensing patents for its



A man walks past Qualcomm stand while attending the Mobile World Congress in Barcelona on 3 March, 2015.—REUTERS

CDMA cellphone technology.

Hedge fund Jana Partners has been putting pressure on the company to spin off the chip business from its highly profit-

able patent-licensing business. Last week, the fund said Qualcomm's chip business was "essentially worthless" at current valuations.

On a post-earnings

conference call, the company said it had hired an "outside expert" to review the cost structure of its chip business in order to drive growth.

Qualcomm's high-margin licensing business has also had its fair share of problems. The company agreed in February to pay a fine of \$975 million (647.97 million pounds), the largest in China's corporate history, to settle a long-standing antitrust probe by the government.

Much of the decline in Qualcomm's profit for the second quarter was due to the settlement, which also requires the company to lower its royalty rates on

patents used in China.

The company forecast an adjusted profit of 85 cents-\$1 per share and revenue of \$5.4 billion-\$6.2 billion for the third quarter.

Analysts on average were expecting a profit of \$1.14 per share and revenue of \$6.50 billion, according to Thomson Reuters I/B/E/S.

Excluding items, the company earned \$1.40 per share. Revenue rose 8.3 percent to \$6.89 billion.

Analysts on average had expected a profit of \$1.33 per share and revenue of \$6.83 billion, according to Thomson Reuters I/B/E/S.

Reuters

Fresh cell therapies confirmed illegal in Switzerland



A woman passes by Swissmedic's building in Bern, capital of Switzerland, on 21 April, 2015. Peter Balzli, head of Division Communication and Media Spokesperson of Swissmedic, confirmed that all fresh cell therapies are illegal unless an authorization is issued. The therapies, which consist of injecting fresh cells, mostly from sheep fetuses or placenta into human muscle, were pioneered by Swiss doctor Paul Niehans in the early 1930s.—XINHUA

Some Apple Watch buyers to get shipments sooner than expected

SAN FRANCISCO, 23 April — Some Apple Watch buyers who thought they would have to wait until June to receive their new gadgets will get them sooner, Apple Inc said on Wednesday.

When online preorders for Apple's first smartwatch started on 10 April, many customers were surprised to see delivery times as far out as June instead of on 24 April, when the devices officially go on sale.

On Wednesday, Apple notified some buyers that they would not have to wait so long after all.

"Our team is working to fill orders as quickly as

possible based on the available supply and the order in which they were received," Apple said in a statement.

An Apple spokesman declined to say how soon the company would ship the watches or how many customers would be affected.

The Cupertino, California company previously predicted that demand would exceed supply at product launch. It has not said how many watches its customers have preordered.

In a note to clients on Wednesday, FDR analyst Daniel Ives estimated Apple would take over 2 million preorders for the watch

and ship 20 million of them in 2015.

"The longer-term consumer adoption curve for the Apple Watch remains a

major 'hot button' question among tech investors as broad customer feedback is yet to be seen," Ives wrote.

Reuters



A customer looks over an Apple Watch in Palo Alto, California on 10 April, 2015.—REUTERS

How do you tell a boy dinosaur from a girl dinosaur?

WASHINGTON, 23 April — For extinct creatures like dinosaurs known only from fossils, it is notoriously difficult to differentiate the males from the females of a species because sex distinctions are rarely obvious from the skeletons.

But in the case of the well-known Jurassic dinosaur Stegosaurus, a study published on Wednesday may provide a handy how-to guide on telling the boys from the girls based on the shape of the big bony plates protruding from its back.

Stegosaurus, which roamed the western United States about 150 million years ago, was a large, four-legged plant-eater with two rows of plates along its back, as well as two pairs of spikes at the end of its tail

to clobber predators.

The largest Stegosaurus species reached about 30 feet (9 metres). The species in this study, Stegosaurus mjosi, measured roughly 21 feet (6.5 metres).

A Montana Stegosaurus "graveyard" contained fossils of several individuals, with plates coming in two distinct varieties: some wide, others tall. The wide ones reached sizes 45 percent larger in surface area than the taller ones, which were nearly 3 feet (90 cm) high.

"Males typically invest more into their ornamentation than do females, so the larger wide plates were likely from males," said Evan Saitta, a 23-year-old paleontology graduate student at Britain's University

of Bristol whose study appears in the journal *PLOS ONE*.

"The broad, thin structure of the plates and their positioning on the back of the animal suggests that they were used in sexual display, analogous to the tail of a peacock. The broad, wide plates likely made a continuous display surface along the animal's back to attract mates, like a billboard."

To test whether the plate differences were instead because some individuals were young and others old, CT scans and microscopic analyses were performed that showed the bone tissue had ceased growing, meaning both varieties came from full-grown adults.



Illustrations of Stegosaurus with wide plates and tall plates are seen in a handout image from Evan Saitta, a student at Britain's University of Bristol.—REUTERS

Anatomical and other differences between the sexes of a single species, like a male lion's mane or a male deer's antlers, are called sexual dimorphism.

Sexual dimorphism examples have been proposed in other dinosaurs, but many scientists find those inconclusive. Saitta said the Stegosaurus plates may be "the most convincing evidence for sexual dimorphism in dinosaurs to date."

University of Bristol paleontologist Michael Benton added, "It suggests that many dinosaurs used sexual display, as birds and mammals do today, usually the males displaying or mock fighting to attract attention of females."

Reuters

WASHINGTON, 23 April — Republican Jeb Bush on Wednesday bashed Democratic 2016 presidential contender Hillary Clinton for voicing reservations about overseas trade talks, a rare issue on which the White House enjoys support from Republicans, with many Democrats opposed.

But many Democrats and their supporters, including labour unions, say free-trade deals help big corporations at the expense of American jobs.

The TPP would set trade rules and common standards and cut tariffs between the United States and 11 Pacific Rim countries. Lawmakers last week introduced legislation to give Obama “fast-track” authority. This would require Congress to vote for or against a trade deal, without the opportunity to amend it.

BELGRADE, 23 April — The Innovation Center of the Faculty of Technology and Metallurgy in Belgrade and the Fruit Research Institute in Cacak have developed a new technological process for the production of raspberry brandy, which will make it possible for raw materials to be used through the whole year. The process will allow producers to use frozen raspberry with preservation of its sensory qualities, smell and taste, another advantage being that it will be possible to produce brandy out of several times smaller amounts of fruits. Classic process requires 16 kilograms of raspberry to produce one liter of 40-percentile brandy, while the new technological process requires only 1.2 kilograms of the fruit. The brandy will cost EUR 10-15, it was said at the promotion of raspberry brandy at the Serbian Chamber of Commerce. The project's expert team stated that talks with a serious Serbian producer on the purchase of this technology or possible joint production are already underway. Radosav Cerovic from the Innovation Center said the project implemented with the support of the Ministry of Science and Technological Development is worth RSD 4.6 million.—*Tanjug*

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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV DELSOL VOY NO (028)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV DELSOL VOY NO (028) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 24.4.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY**

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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV ANNA-META VOY NO (0060)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ANNA-META VOY NO (0060) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 24.4.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S CHUN AN CHARTERING
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Phone No: 2301186

Japan museum on biggest battleship marks 10th anniversary

HIROSHIMA, 23 April — A museum featuring the Japanese battleship Yamato, built as the world's biggest during World War II, marked its 10th anniversary on Thursday, with the number of visitors expected to top 10 million this summer.

The Yamato Museum in Kure, Hiroshima Prefecture, named after the navy ship, opened in 2005 on the 60th anniversary of the war's end, displaying a 1.8-million-dollar replica of the vessel along with 17,000 historical materials. The warship was built in the western Japanese city in 1941. A total of 9.89 million people had visited the museum as of Wednesday. It is likely to draw further attention this summer for the 70th anniversary of the war's end. "I think the museum is popular because it shows both the greatness of technology used in building the Yamato and the regretful fact that it was used in the war," said Kazushige Todaka, director of the museum.

The Yamato was sunk in 1945 by US bombers in the East China Sea with 3,000 crew aboard. The museum displays a one-10th-size replica, measuring about 26 meters long and 6 metres high, which cost 210 million yen (\$1.8 million). "I came here because I wanted to learn what caused Japan to face such a dismal fate," said 66-year-old visitor Shinichi Yazawa, who travelled from Tokyo.—Kyodo News

WEATHER REPORT

FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 24th April, 2015: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Sagaing, Mandalay and Taninthayi Regions, Kachin, Shan and Chin States and isolated in the remaining Regions and States. Degree of certainty is (80%).

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Rain or thundershowers in the Southern Myanmar areas.

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From Vine to Billboard, Shawn Mendes lands chart — topping album



Canadian singer Shawn Mendes performs at the 2015 Juno Awards in Hamilton, Ontario, on 15 March, 2015. —REUTERS

LOS ANGELES, 23 April — Teen singer Shawn Mendes, who grew a devoted fanbase as a Vine star on social media, landed at No 1 on the US weekly Billboard 200 album chart on Wednesday, ousting the “Furious 7” soundtrack from the top spot.

“Handwritten,” the debut record from 16-year-old Mendes, sold 106,000 albums, 103,000 songs and 4.8 million streams, tallying a total of 119,000 units.

Billboard said Mendes is the youngest artist to notch No 1 on the album chart since another social media star-turned-singer, Justin Bieber, topped the chart in 2010 at age 16.

Last week’s chart-topper, the soundtrack to Universal Pictures’ blockbuster film “Furious 7,” dropped to No 2 this week with 79,000 units, while country singer Reba’s latest album “Love Somebody” debuted at No 3 with 62,000 units.

Other new entries in the top 10 of the Billboard 200 include rapper Tyler the Creator at No 4 with “Cherry Bomb” and hard rockers Halestorm at No 5 with “Into the Wild Life.”

The Billboard 200 chart tallies album sales, song sales (10 songs equal one album) and streaming activity (1,500 streams equal one album).

On the Digital Songs chart, Wiz Khalifa and Charlie Puth’s “See You Again,” the emotional tribute to late “Furious 7” star Paul Walker, held the top spot with 375,000 downloads.—Reuters

Sandra Bullock is People magazine’s 2015 most beautiful woman

NEW YORK, 23 April — Oscar-winning actress Sandra Bullock was named the world’s most beautiful woman in 2015 by *People* magazine on Wednesday and laughed when she heard about the honour.

“No, really. I just said, ‘That’s ridiculous,’” she told the magazine.

Bullock, 50, who won a best actress Academy Award in 2010 for her role in “The Blind Side,” said she found beauty in her role as a mother to her 5-year-old son, Louis. “Real beauty is quiet. Especially in this town, it’s

just so hard not to say, ‘Oh, I need to look like that,’” she said about Los Angeles. “The people I find most beautiful are the ones who aren’t trying.”

Bullock also credits her healthy diet, including green juice, and working out up to five times a week for helping to keep her grounded and balanced.

But it is her son who gives her the most joy.

When Louis asked her why she had wrinkles, Bullock told him some of the lines on her face were from laughing so much.

“You’re not old, you’re just happy,” she quoted him as replying.

Bullock follows other Hollywood stars such as Lupita Nyong’o, Gwyneth Paltrow, Jennifer Lopez and Julia Roberts who have received the honour in previous years of the magazine’s annual beautiful people issue. Bullock will be providing the voice of a super villain in the upcoming 3D computer-animated comedy film “Minions.”

The special issue of the magazine will hit newsstands on Friday.—Reuters



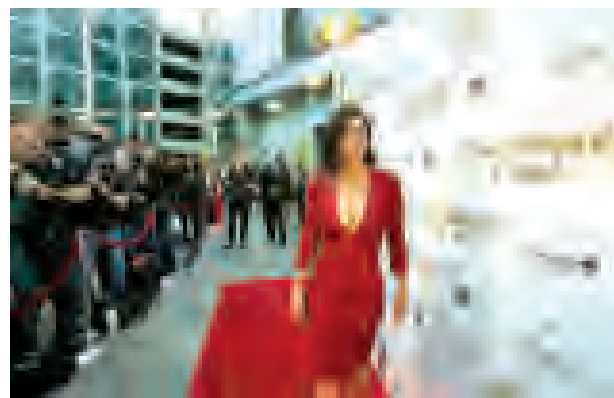
Oscar-winning actress Sandra Bullock

Cox makes directorial debut with “Just Before I Go”

LOS ANGELES, 23 April — US actress Courteney Cox goes behind the camera in her new feature film “Just Before I Go” and the “Friends” star says she has been bitten by the directing bug.

The movie, which stars “American Pie” actor Seann William Scott, tells the story of a man who wants to go back to his hometown to make amends before killing himself.

Cox, known for her roles in television series “Cougar Town”, comedy hit “Friends” and the “Scream”



Director of the movie Courteney Cox arrives at the premiere of ‘Just Before I Go’ in Los Angeles, California on 20 April, 2015.—REUTERS

horror movie franchise, said taking the director’s chair

for the first time for a feature film was “a natural transi-

tion”.

“I’ve been doing this for so long and watching and getting bored during certain things and noticing how it’s made more as time went on,” she said at the premiere of the film on Monday.

“It’s perfect for someone who kind of suffers from acute awareness like I do and I love directing. It’s something I’ll keep doing.”

Cox was joined on the red carpet by her fiancé, Snow Patrol alternative rock band member Johnny McDaid, as well as her ex-husband, US actor David

Arquette and their daughter Coco.

“She’s a master. She’s done it a long time. She does a lot of “Cougar Towns,” Arquette said. “She’s directed some short films. To see her make the leap into a really wonderfully huge heart indie film, it’s a lot of fun.”

The film’s star Scott said of Cox: “I just thought she was brilliant ... I just thought her instincts were really impressive.”

“Just Before I Go” opens in US cinemas on 24 April.

Reuters

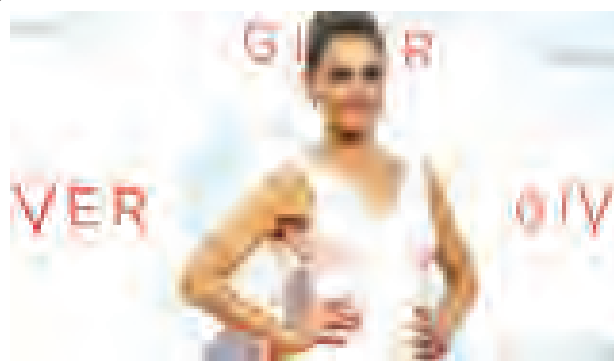
Katie Holmes producing victim advocate drama for Cinemax

LOS ANGELES, 23 April — Actress Katie Holmes has teamed with former “Sons of Anarchy” co-executive producer Mike Daniels for a character-driven action drama, which has been sold to Cinemax.

Based on characters conceived together by both Holmes and Daniels, the untitled show follows a vic-

tims’ rights advocate who is attacked by a stalker and then returns to the streets of her crime-ridden past to seek justice, reported Deadline.

Daniels will write the script and will serve as the show runner. He and Holmes will executive produce. There are no current plans for Holmes to star, though that is a possibility, subject



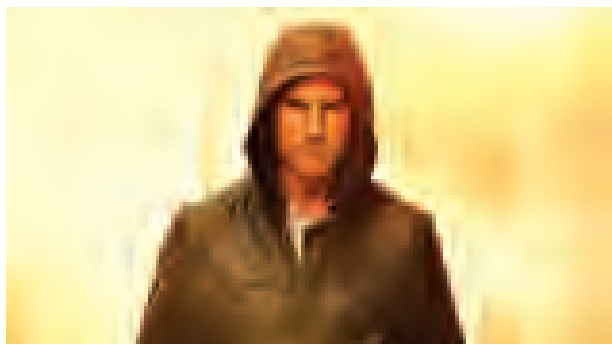
Actress Katie Holmes has teamed with former “Sons of Anarchy” co-executive producer Mike Daniels for a character-driven action drama, which has been sold to Cinemax.

PTI

to availability.

This marks Universal TV’s first project for Cinemax.—PTI

Tom Cruise scared to do plane stunt in ‘Mission: Impossible 5’



Tom Cruise said being a part of Mission Impossible’s fifth installment, which hits theaters on 31 July, is a “dream come true”.—PTI

LOS ANGELES, 23 April —Tom Cruise has revealed he was “scared” to hang on the side of a plane 5,000 feet in the air for his upcoming film “Mission: Impossible

Rogue Nation”.

“I was scared!,” Cruise told the audience at CinemaCon in Las Vegas, while playing footage of that harrowing scene. “As always,

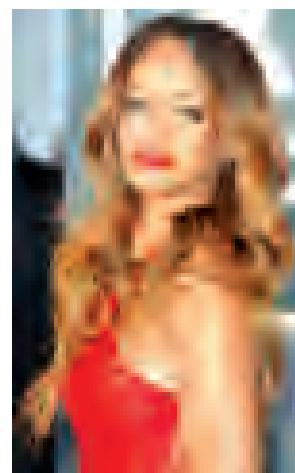
I will do everything I can to entertain an audience and put as many people into your theaters... I’m an aerobatic pilot and I’ve always wanted to do that,” he added.

Cruise, 52, said being a part of the franchise’s fifth installment, which hits theaters 31 July, is a “dream come true”. “This movie has a tremendous amount of action of course, but also intrigue and mission twists,” he said.

He had filmed it in eight times to perform the death-defying stunt. “He’s actually out there doing these things. He really did it.”

PTI

Rihanna has revealed new track ‘James Joint’



Rihanna

NEW YORK, 23 April — R&B superstar Rihanna has revealed new track ‘James Joint’. The 27-year-old singer posted an ex-

cerpt from her forthcoming album “in celebration of 420”, reported *Huffington Post*. 420 is an annual holiday celebrated by marijuana enthusiasts around the world.

Rihanna recently spoke candidly about controlling her public image via social media, admitting that she doesn’t “give a dick” about privacy anymore.

An unreleased duet between Chris Brown and Rihanna, ‘Put It Up’ recently surfaced online. Rihanna previously unveiled the powerful music video for her new song ‘American Oxygen’.—PTI

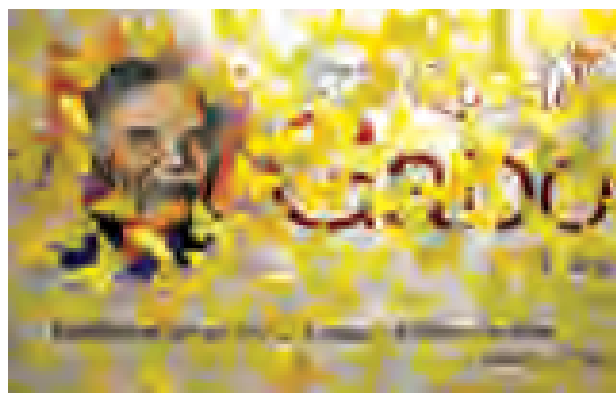
GENERAL

Colombia honours Gabriel Garcia Marquez at Bogota book fair

BOGOTA, 23 April — Colombia is honouring author Gabriel Garcia Marquez at its largest literary event a year after his death, paying tribute to the Nobel Prize winner known for his fantastical blend of magic and realism.

Bogota's International Book Fair opened its doors on Tuesday with a special commemoration for the Colombian-born writer, who passed away at his home in Mexico City in April last year, aged 87.

Widely-loved works including "One Hundred Years of Solitude" helped him win the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1982 when he was honoured for his novels



Yellow papers butterfly cutout with messages are seen on a banner with an image of Nobel Prize-winning novelist Gabriel Garcia Marquez, on the first anniversary of his death, at a bookstore in Mexico City on 17 April, 2015. — REUTERS

and short stories "in which the fantastic and the realistic are combined in a richly composed world of imagination." That book tells the

story of the Buendia family in the fictional village of Macondo, which is based on the town of Aracataca close to Colombia's Caribbean

coast where Garcia Marquez was born and raised.

Fair organizers have displayed the author's books and pictures and brought the world of Macondo to life in a special exhibit.

"We are all Macondo. Macondo is this country. Macondo is the Caribbean. Macondo is any place on this planet where people identify with the dramas of the people of Macondo," said Piedad Bonnet, organizer of the display. Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos helped inaugurate the fair, saying Gabriel Marquez was remembered "with passion and tenderness".

Events run until 4 May.—Reuters

Serbia sells Yugoslav-era film studio, rights to iconic movies



A man passes "Avala Film" in Belgrade on 26 Feb, 2013. —REUTERS

BELGRADE, 23 April — Serbia sold a famed Yugoslav-era film studio on Wednesday for eight million euros (\$8.59 million), signing away the rights to an archive of classic cinematography over the protests of filmmakers and cinema buffs.

Founded in the wake of World War Two by Yugoslav leader Josip Broz Tito, Avala Film produced or co-produced hundreds of movies including a host of much-loved classics including the 1967 winner of the Cannes Film Festival's Palme d'Or, "I Even Met

Happy Gypsies". The studio, located on a hill on the outskirts of Belgrade, fell into disrepair with the collapse of the Yugoslav federation in war in the 1990s.

Bankruptcy proceedings began in 2011, drawing warnings from Serbia's film community that the state risked losing a valuable part of its national heritage.

As the sale neared, a petition was started seeking to exclude the film archive from the privatisation process, without success.

On Wednesday, it was sold to Filmway, which is registered as being founded one month ago with capital of 60,000 dinars, or about 500 euros (\$537). The legal representative is listed as

Michel Babic, a French citizen. Filmway takes ownership of 21,642 square metres of studios and office space including actors' suits, rights to the Avala Film archive, costumes, props and a mock Italian city recalling the studio's glory days.

Critics say the sale of the rights is indicative of a lack of state care and funding for culture and the arts in Serbia, where the privatisation process has for years been mired in corruption.

Dozens of people gathered in front of the Privatisation Agency to protest. "Our film history should not be forgotten," said Luka Ozegovic, a student at Belgrade's Faculty of Dramatic Arts.—Reuters

Ocean output rivals big nations' GDP, but resources eroding

OSLO, 23 April — Economic output by the world's oceans is worth \$2.5 trillion a year, rivaling nations such as Britain or Brazil, but marine wealth is sinking fast because of over-fishing, pollution and climate change, a study said on Thursday.

"The deterioration of the oceans has never been so fast as in the last decades," Marco Lambertini, director general of the WWF International conservation group, told Reuters of the study entitled "Reviving the Ocean Economy".

Ocean output, judged as a nation, would rank seventh behind the gross domestic product of Britain and just ahead of Brazil's on a list led by the United

States and China, the study said. The report, by WWF, the Global Change Institute at Queensland University in Australia and the Boston Consulting Group, estimated that annual "gross marine product" (GMP) was currently worth \$2.5 trillion.

That included fisheries, coastal tourism, shipping lanes and the fact that the oceans absorb carbon dioxide from the air, helping to slow global warming. The study did not estimate the rate of decline in GMP.

Lambertini said the report aimed to put pressure on governments to act by casting the environment in economic terms and was a shift for the WWF beyond stressing threats to creatures

such as turtles or whales.

"It's not just about wildlife, pretty animals. It is about us," he said.

The report, for instance, values carbon dioxide absorbed from the air

at \$39 per tonne, drawing on estimates by the US Environmental Protection Agency to judge damage from warming such as more flooding or risks to human health.—Reuters



Fish swim in the Mediterranean sea on the south coast of the Balearic island of Mallorca, Spain on 20 Aug, 2006. —REUTERS

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Flawless 100-carat diamond sells for \$22.1 million at NY auction

NEW YORK, 23 April — An eye-popping, 100-carat diamond, the highlight of a magnificent jewels sale in New York on Tuesday, sold for \$22.1 million, Sotheby's auction house said.

The perfect classic emerald-cut D colour diamond, which is about the size of a walnut and was mined by De Beers in southern Africa, was purchased by an anonymous buyer via a telephone bid. It had a pre-sale estimate of \$19 million to \$25 million.

Gary Schuler, the head of Sotheby's jewellery department in New York, said the gem is the definition of perfection. "The colour is whiter than white, it is free of any internal perfections, and so transparent that I can only compare it to a pool of water," he explained.

The \$22.1 million price, which includes the buyer's premium, fell short of the \$30.6 million world record price paid for a 118.28 carat white diamond in Hong Kong in 2013. Sotheby's said only six perfect diamonds weighing more than 100 carats have been sold at auction in the last 25 years.

A flawless pink diamond, dubbed the "Pink

Star," set a world record price for a gemstone at auction when it sold for \$83.02 million in Geneva in 2013.

Schuler said the distinguishing characteristic of the huge diamond sold on Tuesday is its size and beautiful shape. Originally weighing over 200 carats, its owner spent more than a year perfecting its cut and polish. Sotheby's said that from 1990 to 2013 the price per carat for a 100-carat perfect diamond had risen from \$125,000 to \$260,000.

The diamond was the top selling item in a sale of more than 350 jewels that were expected to sell for a total of more than \$50 million. Other highlights include a pear-shaped purplish pink diamond weighing 6.24 carats that has a pre-sale estimate of up to \$3.5 million as well as a blue diamond and coloured diamond ring weighing 6.06 carats that could bring in as much as \$4.5 million.

Two Cartier Art Deco jewels, a rare platinum, emerald, sapphire, lapis lazuli and diamond pendant necklace as well as a ruby, emerald and diamond bracelet, will also be auctioned.—Reuters

YANGON, 23 April— Myanmar national women's football team will leave Yangon International Airport on Friday morning for Bangkok, Thailand, to play against Thai national women's team in a tune-up match on 26 April before the AFF Women's Championship 2015.

Myanmar team will leave for Ho Chi Minh City of Vietnam on 29 April evening.

Myanmar is included in the Group (A) together with Australia U-20, Indonesia, Laos and Thailand in the AFF Women's Championship.

Myanmar will meet

Myanmar to meet with Vietnam in debut of AFF Women's Championship 2015



with host Vietnam in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

in the debut of the championship at 6 p.m. Myanmar

standard time on 2 May. *MFF*

Hernandez late show ends Real's Atletico jinx

MADRID, 23 April — Javier Hernandez's late strike kept Real Madrid on course for a record-extending 11th European Cup crown with a 1-0 win over 10-man Atletico Madrid in a tense quarter-final at the Bernabeu on Wednesday.

The first leg ended 0-0 and the tie appeared to be heading for a first goalless draw after two legs in Champions League knockout history until James Rodriguez slipped a pass through to Cristiano Ronaldo in the 88th minute.

The Portugal forward unselfishly squared for Hernandez and the Mexican striker stroked the ball past Atletico goalkeeper Jan Oblak to seal a 1-0 aggregate victory, Real's first win over Atletico in eight matches this season. It was a bitter blow for Diego Simeone's men, who went toe to toe with the team that beat them in last year's final until playmaker Arda Turan was dismissed for a second booking 14 minutes from time and Hernandez applied the killer blow. "It was my turn to score but this is for everyone," an emotional Hernandez, who is on loan at Real from Manchester United, told with Spanish television.

"Atletico are a worthy opponent," added the 26-year-old, who was play-

ing only due to an injury to Karim Benzema. "Thank God, we were the worthy winners."

Real coach Carlo Ancelotti, missing injured regulars Gareth Bale, Benzema and Luka Modric, started with Hernandez up front with Ronaldo and centre back Sergio Ramos pushed forward into a defensive midfield role. Seeking to become the first team to retain the trophy in the Champions League era, Real had the upper hand in terms of possession and chances in a cagey first half. Ronaldo forced a good save from Oblak with a 32nd-minute free kick before racing through with a clear site of goal a minute before halftime. Oblak was again equal to the challenge, racing out to block Ronaldo's fierce shot and deflect the ball away for a corner. Real threatened immediately at the start of the second period when Isco threaded a pass through for Hernandez but he scuffed his shot wide of the far post. Atletico hopes suffered a massive blow when Arda picked up a second yellow for a foot-up challenge on Ramos and he was distraught as he trudged off to a cacophony of whistles. The draw for the semi-finals is on Friday, with Barcelona, Bayern Munich and Juventus joining Real in the pot.—Reuters



Real Madrid's James Rodriguez in action with Atletico Madrid's Jesus Gamez during UEFA Champions League Quarter Final Second Leg at Estadio Santiago Bernabeu in Madrid, Spain on 22 April, 2015.—REUTERS

Juventus do perfect Italian job to knock out Monaco

MONACO, 23 April — A trademark display of grit and resilience earned Juventus a goalless draw at Monaco as the Italian side qualified for the Champions League semi-finals for the first time since 2003 with a 1-0 aggregate victory on Wednesday.

Juve, the first Italian team to reach the last four of Europe's premier club competition since Inter Milan in 2010, were under the cosh throughout.

Chances were scarce, however and the visitors held firm against a Monaco side, who lacked the experience and cutting edge to

overturn the deficit from the quarter-final, first leg.

The hosts, who eliminated Arsenal in the previous round, dominated possession and Geoffrey Kondogbia was a big influence in midfield but Leonardo Jardim's side did not have the guile to penetrate Juve's massed defensive ranks.

It was a case of youth versus experience as Juventus's Andrea Pirlo and Patrice Evra had 30 more Champions League appearances than the whole home side's starting team and Monaco's lack of nous was ex-

posed as the match wore on.

"We went through thanks to our desire to sacrifice, to fight, to reach our goal," Juventus keeper Gianluigi Buffon told BeIN Sport.

"I think Juve deserved their qualification. Maybe not for today's game but for that mindset."

Monaco were well on top in the early stages and Kondogbia hit a fierce 20-metre strike that flew just over the bar, while Bernardo Silva's low cross was almost deflected into his own net by Andrea Barzagli in the 15th minute.

Kondogbia continued to shine in midfield and had another chance but shot straight at Juve keeper Gianluigi Buffon, before the visitors, who were without injured midfielder Paul Pogba, began to wake from their slow start as the match wore on. They nearly found a way through when Pirlo's pass looked bound for Stephan Lichtsteiner on the edge of the box before Danijel Subasic snatched the chance away from him.

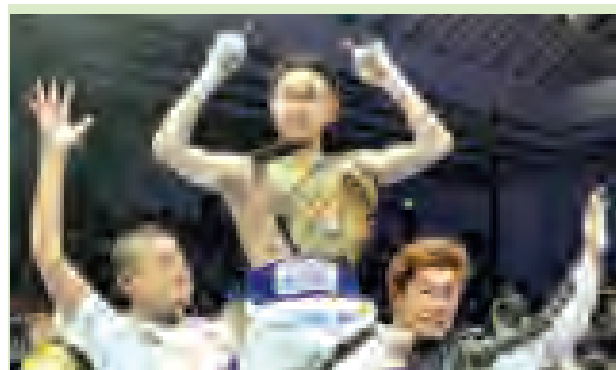
Juventus began to look increasingly fragile on the left side of their defence and Chilean midfielder Arturo Vidal was lucky not to concede a penalty when he appeared to bring Kondogbia down in the box, but referee William Collum waved play on. Jardim replaced midfielder Jeremy Toulalan with Dimitar Berbatov at halftime and added fresh blood up front by switching Anthony Martial with Valere Germain 14 minutes from time, but it failed to unsettle Juventus, who saw the game out comfortably.

The last time Juventus reached the last four they went on to make the final in 2003, before losing to AC Milan on penalties.

Reuters



Juventus goalkeeper Gianluigi Buffon (L) and his team mate Patrice Evra (C) challenge Monaco's Aymen Abdennour (2nd L) during their quarter-final second leg Champions League soccer match at the Louis II stadium in Monaco on 22 April, 2015.—REUTERS



Japanese boxer Kazuto Ioka (C) is carried by his father Kazunori (L) and uncle Hiroki after defeating Juan Carlos Reveco of Argentina to win the WBA flyweight championship at Osaka Prefectural Gymnasium on 22 April, 2015.—KYODO NEWS

Ioka seizes 3rd weight class championship

OSAKA, 23 April — Japan's Kazuto Ioka won the WBA flyweight championship on Wednesday with a 2-0 decision over champion Juan Carlos Reveco at Osaka Prefectural Gymnasium.

Ioka, who failed to win the IBF flyweight crown last May, had previously won world championships in the minimumweight and light flyweight divisions. He matched Koki Kame-

da as the second Japanese fighter to win world titles in three different weight classes. The 18 bouts Ioka needed to win his third world title was the fewest ever.

"I fought back after being backed up to the cliff's edge (after my previous title attempt)," Ioka said. "I was able to apply pressure and win thanks to everyone's support."

Ioka, 26, improved to

17-1. Reveco, a 31-year-old from Argentina, was attempting to defend his title for the eighth time. His career record fell to 34-2.

On the undercard, Katsunari Takayama defeated Thailand's Fahlan Sakkreerin Jr to successfully defend his IBF minimumweight title for the first time. The fight was stopped in the ninth round due after the challenger's eyes were closed by bleed-

ing after a head butt. The 31-year-old Takayama called it a frustrating fight.

"It was very hard to knock him out," Takayama said. "It was a fight that brought out some of my faults. Had the fight gone on it would have ended in a TKO."

Takayama's record improved to 29-7 with one draw and 11 wins by knockout.

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