

## Eight Chinese carrying small arms nabbed in Sagaing Region

NAY PYI TAW, 26 April— Eight Chinese carrying small weapons were arrested Friday afternoon 20 kilometres southwest of Mandalay, the Ministry of Home Affairs said.

Security forces tried to stop a Toyota Double Cub automobile at 3-Mile checkpoint in Tamu Township, Sagaing Region, at 4:20 pm, but they continued driving into the town. While security members

chased the car, they made a U-turn and were finally seized at the 3-Mile checkpoint 15 minutes later.

The authorities confiscated an automobile, eight small arms, 1,860 bullets, 31 grenades, five walkie-talkies, a map of Myanmar labelled in Chinese, three combat knives, four mobile phones, eight military uniforms and a pair of binoculars.

(See page 3)



## Investment in Yangon Railway Station Complex Project to reach US\$2-2.5 bilion



Artist's Impression of the Yangon Railways Station Yard.

By  
Aye Min Soe

Investment in the Yangon Central Railway Station area comprehensive development project will reach US\$2-2.5 billion, Deputy Minister for Rail Transportation U Myint Thein said Saturday.

Myanma Railways has invited Expressions of Interest (EOI) for the project that is to be implemented over more than 62 acres of Myanma Railways land and urged local and international or joint venture developers/investors to undertake design-and-build work for the project after one month.

"We will implement the project in accordance with the international tender process and will choose the winner of the tenders for the project in the third week of November. This project will ensure transparency," the deputy minister told reporters Saturday.

The project is expected to launch in February or March, 2015, he added.

To implement the project, Myanma Railways is working together with an international consulting firm to decide whether the project should be a joint-venture or BOD project.

"Regarding this project, the priority should be given to the joint-venture system," the deputy minister said.

Annually around K 40-

45 billion is paid in subsidy to Myanma Railways by the government.

"We can develop rail-concerned business according to international practices to be able to reduce the annual subsidy. This project is a business development of Myanma Railways," the deputy minister said. "Meanwhile, we must try to ensure harmonization between operational development and business development."

According to sources, the area where Yangon Central Railway Station area comprehensive development is sited is not included in the restricted area of high-rise buildings in which the height of buildings are restricted to 470 metres above sea level.

So far, the Resettlement Action Plan and the Conceptual Plan for the project have already drawn, according to MR sources.

In the first phase of the project, staff families of the MR living in quarters would be resettled and the factories of MR in the project area would be relocated.

"Their living standard at the new places would be higher than current, and they are satisfied with their resettlement," the deputy minister said.

## IMF, multilateral agencies agree to promote assistance to Myanmar's financial sector development

By Ye Myint

The International Monetary Fund on Friday issued a press release regarding the First Conference on Financial Sector Technical Assistance Coordination hosted by the Central Bank of Myanmar in Nay Pyi Taw.

According to the release the New Light of Myanmar received from the IMF

Press Centre, participants in the conference agreed to promote sequenced, coordinated and complementary assistance to the financial sector in Myanmar.

The conference also focused on the participants' commitments to coordinating their delivery of technical assistance to the financial sector in Myanmar and sharing their plans, programs, and advice to avoid

technical assistance duplication, the IMF said.

It is learnt that agreements to hold meetings every six months, form a number of sub-sectors to carry forward their work plans and develop milestones for monitoring performance were reached at the conference.

The release said the conference followed an informal donor meeting in

Washington, D.C. last year where the CBM governor called on development partners to increase communication for improving Myanmar's financial sector.

The IMF asserted in its release that the Fund is working with CBM and other multilateral agencies to document financial sector support strategies in Myanmar.

Participants in the conference were the Asian Development Bank, the International Finance Corporation, the IMF, Livelihoods and Food Security Trust Fund (LIFT), the Toronto Centre: Global Leadership in Financial Supervision, and the World Bank and bilateral development partners—Bank Negara Malaysia, Bank of Thailand, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit, Financial Services Agency of Japan, Japan International Cooperation Agency, and the United Kingdom Department for International Development.



Photo shows IMF Headquarters Building-2 where 2014 Spring Meetings in progress in early April.—PHOTO: YE MYINT



## Inscriptions depicting three repositories of Buddhist scriptures in Gon Shan language to be set up at Tachilek Shwedagon Pagoda

TACHILEK, 26 April — A ceremony to mark the setting up of stone inscriptions depicting the three repositories of Buddhist scriptures in Gon Shan Language took place at a prayer hall on the platform of Shwedagon Pagoda in Tachilek, Shan State on Wednesday.

Senior monks, offi-

cials and local wellwishers attended the ceremony and the stone inscriptions were laid in the hall. State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Chairman Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kumarabhivamsa delivered a sermon and the congregation shared the merits gained.

It took 2,400 days to

complete carving the stone inscriptions in Gon Shan language in Mandalay. Wellwishers spent K1,440 million for 2,400 stone inscriptions that will be set up on the platform of the pagoda and in the hall. So far 715 inscriptions have been set up at the pagoda.

Maw Gyi (Triangle Area)

## Summer crops thrive in Sagaing Region

SAGAING, 26 April— With the increase in irrigation availability, tropical crops such as summer paddy, mung beans and sesame plants are thriving in Sagaing Region this year.

U Khin Maung Nyunt, head of the Sagaing Region Agriculture Department, said irrigation facilities, including river-water pumping stations and artisan wells built in Sagaing have

extended the growing season for summer crops, including long-staple cotton.

The new facilities should mean people in Myinmu, Ayadaw and Sal ingyi townships are likely to have more income this year, he added. According to local farmers, it takes an investment of about K70,000 per acre to grow mung beans and generally an acre will produce about 15 baskets for a profit per acre around K350,000.

The cost of irrigation water per acre of summer paddy is about K9,000, about K3,000 for other crops.

Myo Min Tun (Monywa)



Photo shows summer paddy field in Sagaing Township.  
MYO MIN TUN (MONYWA)

## Myanmar prepares for Presidential Scholarship Programme

YANGON, 26 April— The first meeting on preparation for the Presidential Scholarship Programme was held in Yangon on Friday.

The members of the programme selection presented their activities in Diamond Jubilee Hall at Yangon University, attended by union ministers.

This scholarship programme is aimed to pro-

vide access to pragmatic and long-term learning opportunities for outstanding students and to nurture the qualified new generation for the welfare of the country, officials said.

At the meeting, Union Ministers U Soe Thane and U Tin Naing Thein made suggestions about the programme.

Aung Naing

## Water, water everywhere around Pyu



PYU, 26 April—People around of Pyu Township in Bago Region are delighted to see water supply from Pyu Creek as daily temperatures have reached by 107.

The persistently high

temperatures had led to water scarcity in rural areas of the region where locals affected by drought did not have access to clean water for them and their livestock.

The Pyu Creek hydro-

power project dammed the creek, but the release of stored water on 20 April has filled the creek to as high as 5 feet and brought much need water to about 30 villages.

Myint Oo-Pyu

## Chinese spurring demand for Myanmar cucumbers

MAHLAING, 26 April— Strong demand from Chinese consumers is helping cucumber-growers in central Myanmar make more money from their crops this year.

U Ye Sint, a farmer in Mahlaing Township in Mandalay Region, said: "The local farmers sell their cucumbers directly to the Muse market (in Shan State) and as the demand

for cucumber is high this year, our income has increased."

Cucumbers can be harvested 75 days after the plants are sown and this year the revenue of K2.5

million acre is easily leaving a handsome profit of around K1 million an acre, he said.

Muse Township is on the border with China.

Than Zaw Minn



## NATIONAL

## President U Thein Sein felicitates South African counterpart

NAY PYI TAW, 27 April — U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr. Jacob Gedleyihlekisa Zuma, President of the Republic of South Africa, on the occasion of the Freedom Day of the Republic of South Africa, which falls on 27 April 2014.

U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has also sent a message of felicitations to Her Excellency Ms. Maite M Nkoana-Mashabane, Minister of International Relations and Cooperation of the Republic of South Africa.—MNA

## Shan State must establish synergy through cooperative interactions among racial groups, vice-president says

NAY PYI TAW, 26 April — Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham stressed Saturday the importance of establishing synergy through cooperative interactions among racial groups in Shan State.

He was giving a welcome speech to members of eight Lashio-based cultural troupes at the Mingala Thiri Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw.

He called for unity among races in Shan State, the country's largest state with the biggest ethnic diversity, saying that forming a force with high synergy can address challenges of ethnic differences in the state with five self-administered zones/divisions and seven national race affairs ministers.

He pointed out that poverty and racism are



Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham cordially greets members of eight Lashio-based cultural troupes.—MNA

inextricably linked as conflicts prevail in racist countries around the world. Prosperity can be

brought about by a performance-based system that helps to level the playing field for individuals and groups.

MNA

## Ministry of Finance clarifies 2014 Union Budget Law and Taxation Law

NAY PYI TAW, 26 April — The Ministry of Finance held meetings Friday to clarify the 2014 Union Budget Law and Taxation Law at the ministry's Internal Revenue Department (Head Office) in Nay Pyi Taw.

Union Minister for Finance U Win Shein called on government organizations to understand a change in that budgeting system,

which is moving towards a plan-based budget system, stressing the need to propose ordinary and capital expenditures and to follow rules and regulations when spending money.

As the government is improving a budget that is accountable and transparent, it is required for departments and enterprises to take care of points highlighted by Parliament, he

added.

The meeting continued with Deputy Minister Dr Lin Aung giving an account of matters related to the budgeting process for 2015, procedures to be adhered by the government organizations in budgeting, rules and regulations for spending budget, inviting tenders and surplus budgets.

Regarding the 2014 Union Taxation Law and Internal Revenue Laws, the minister said the ministry

will pass the Union taxation law yearly after submitting it to parliament as of the 2014-2015 fiscal year. Tax exemptions and tax relief will be allowed in accordance with the provisions of the Union Taxation Law and under the agreement of the Union government, he added.

He also called for collaboration and coordination between the ministries concerned in tax collection for the good of the country.

MNA

## Yangon looks to upgrade 1,500-bed Yangon General Hospital

YANGON, 26 April—A work coordination meeting on upgrading the 1,500-bed Yangon General Hospital and solving the traffic congestion in downtown Yangon took place on Saturday at Yangon Region Government Office hall.

During the meeting, the Union ministers, deputy ministers and the region chief minister focused on plans to extend buildings at the 100-year-old hospital,

progress on construction of Bayintnaung Bridge-2 and relocation of Toll Gate in Hlinethaya Township to reduce traffic congestion in the town.

After the meeting, they inspected machines in the operating room and progress on construction of the operating theatre complex, cyclotron vault and PET/CT facilities building project, the bridge and the toll gate.—MNA

## Eight Chinese carrying small...



Photo shows weapons seized from eight Chinese in Tamu Township.—MNA

(from page 1)

According to preliminary investigation, three of the Chinese are from Sichuan Province, one is from Guangxi, one from Hubei, one from Guizhou, and two from Anhui.

Through an interpret-

er, one of the suspects said they were receiving military training at Mainekyat village in the Kokang special region but killed an officer and drove off in the car. The investigation into the incident continues.

MNA

Photo shows 1500-bed Yangon General Hospital.—MNA



## Umbrella hoisting ceremony to be held in Hsipaw Tsp

HSIPAW, 26 April—Monks, officials and well-wishers in Hsipaw Township will soon hoist an umbrella atop of the renovated World Peace Pagoda.

The 100-year old pagoda on Kutlonnamtpa Hill in Hsipaw Township in northern Shan State was constructed by Sawbwagyi Sasawchel.

The authorities, monks and donors held a meeting on the umbrella hoisting ceremony on Thursday.

*Sai (Hsipaw)*



## Self-reliant library kept open in Thazi Tsp

THAZI, 26 April—A self-reliant library named Yadanatheik was launched in Myatnikwin Village in Mandalay Region.

At the library opening ceremony on Thursday, Region Parliament Representative U Moe Myint Thein spoke and urged people to maintain libraries in the township.

Wellwishers donated publications, cash and a Set-top Box for the library through the township administrator.

Local people contributed K3.5 million to the library.

*Tun Tun (Thazi)*



## Mobile library brings reading materials to public

YANGON, 26 April—In order to enrich general knowledge among rural people, the Information and Public Relations Departments continuously bringing mobile libraries to the offices, social organizations and wards across the country.

The department also brought a mobile library to the Immigration and National Registration Department on Friday so staff and others rent aesthetic and general knowledge books for two-weeks.

*Shwe Taing Lwin*



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## Road construction completed in Meiktila Tsp

MEIKTILA, 26 April—A new Meiktila-Thaphan tarred road has been completed, funded by the rural development department with the aim of ensuring better transportation in the township.

The 4-mile road was constructed by tender winner Myanmar Land Com-

pany.

People from more than 20 villages in Kyaukbyukon, Nyaungzout, Thaphan and Kyaukpyukon village-tracts in Meiktila Township in Mandalay Region will benefit from the new road.

*Thein Myint Kyaw (Meiktila)*

*Staff from IPRD are choosing books to rent from mobile library.—SHWE TAING LWIN*

## Five mini book corners added in Ahlon Tsp



YANGON, 26 April—As part of efforts to raise reading habits across the country, the Information and Public Relations Department is increasing numbers of mini book corners in

public areas.

In the Ahlon Township in Yangon Region, officials added five mini book corners on Friday at the police station, the township Immigration and National

Registration Department, the township court, Kanbawza Bank and Timber Enterprise. Now, 11 book corners welcome readers.

*Tin Maung Oo (Ahlon)*



## WORLD

## South Korea, US pledge firm response to North Korea

SEOUL, 26 April — North Korea represents a threat not just to Asia but to the United States, US President Barack Obama said on Friday, as he and South Korea's President Park Geun-hye warned they would respond firmly to any "provocations".

In March, the North warned it would not rule out a "new form" of atomic test to boost its nuclear deterrent after the UN Security Council condemned Pyongyang's launch of a mid-range ballistic missile into the sea east of the Korean peninsula. Recent satellite data shows continued work at the nuclear test site in North Korea, although experts analysing the data say that preparations do not appear to have progressed far enough for an imminent test.

"When North Korea is threatening further provocations and publicly discussing the possibility of a further nuclear test, President Obama's visit to South Korea will send a firm message that North Korea's provocations will



South Korean President Park Geun-hye (R) and US President Barack Obama look at each other during a joint news conference after their meeting at the presidential Blue House in Seoul on 25 April, 2014.—REUTERS

not be tolerated," Park told a joint Press conference.

The two presidents were speaking after a summit in Seoul, the second stop of a four-nation Asia tour for Obama.

Obama hopes his tour will reassure allies in the region that Washington will keep its promise of rebalancing some of its resources toward the fast-growing countries of East Asia. He has had to strike a balance

between showing the United States will be a counterweight to China without offending Beijing, which worries Washington wants to contain its growth and influence.

Obama said he hoped China would use its influence to rein in its North Korean ally. Beijing called again on Friday for a resumption of stalled talks between North Korea, itself, the United States,

South Korea and Russia.

Park said the process—known as the six-party talks—would be rendered "useless" by a fourth nuclear test. The two leaders said that North Korea's recent bluster provided grounds for delaying a scheduled transfer of operational control over South Korean troops in 2015 to Seoul from the US-led United Nations Command.

Reuters

## German minister says 4 Germans among detained OSCE observers in Ukraine

BERLIN, 26 April — German Defence Minister Ursula von der Leyen said late Friday that four Germans were among the international military observers who had been reportedly detained in eastern Ukraine.

Earlier in the day, the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry said Kiev had lost contact with a military mission of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) deployed in Ukraine's eastern region of Donetsk.

A spokesman of the ministry said preliminary information suggested the OSCE observers might have been kidnapped by pro-Russia protesters who took control of several cities in Donetsk.

Ursula von der Leyen said increased clues were showing that a 13-member OSCE group had been detained, adding that three German observers and their interpreter were on the mission, according to the

Bild newspaper.

The minister said the German Foreign Ministry had set up a crisis management team and the German government would use all its diplomatic channels to establish contact with the missing people again.

A leader of pro-Russia protesters in Sloviansk told the *Bild* on Friday that they seized a bus of OSCE observers in the east Ukrainian city, including five Ukrainian soldiers who were accused of spying.

"They are not hostages but prisoners of war," he claimed.

The OSCE said the military observers came from five European countries: three are from Germany, and one each from the Czech Republic, Denmark, Poland and Sweden.

They were sent to Ukraine last month to monitor political and security situation in the country following pro-Russia protests in its eastern region.

Xinhua

## As Iraq violence grows, US sends more intelligence officers



An explosion is seen during a car bomb attack at a Shi'ite political organization's rally in Baghdad, on 25 April, 2014.—REUTERS

WASHINGTON, 26 April — The United States is quietly expanding the number of intelligence officers in Iraq and holding urgent meetings in Washington and Baghdad to find ways to counter growing violence by Islamic militants, US government sources said.

A high-level Pentagon team is now in Iraq to assess possible assistance for Iraqi forces in their fight against radical jihadists from the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), a group

reconstituted from an earlier incarnation of al-Qaeda, said two current government officials and one former US official familiar with the matter.

The powerful ISIL, which seeks to impose strict sharia law in the Sunni majority populated regions of Iraq, now boasts territorial influence stretching from Iraq's western Anbar province to northern Syria, operating in some areas close to Baghdad, say US officials.

Senior US policy officials, known as the "Deputies Committee," met

in Washington this week to discuss possible responses to the deteriorating security outlook in Iraq, said a government source, who spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the subject matter.

The source did not know the outcome of the meeting.

White House spokeswoman Bernadette Meehan declined to comment.

The meetings underscore how Iraq's instability is posing a new foreign policy challenge for President Barack Obama,

who celebrated the withdrawal of US troops more than two years ago. Despite the concern, officials said it remains unclear whether Obama will commit significant new resources to the conflict. Four months after

Iraqi Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki declared war on Sunni militants in Iraq's western Anbar province, the fighting has descended into brutal atrocities, often caught on video and in photographs by both mili-

itants and Iraqi soldiers.

Iraqi soldiers say they are bogged down in a slow, vicious fight with ISIL and other Sunni factions in the city of Ramadi and around nearby Falluja.

Reuters

### 33 killed, 90 wounded at election rally in Iraq

At least 33 people were killed and 90 others wounded in a series of bombing attacks at a parliamentary election rally in Iraq's capital city of Baghdad on Friday, an Interior Ministry source said.

The three back-to-back attacks, one roadside bomb and two car bombs, struck as supporters of the Sadiqun bloc, the political wing of

Iraqi Shiite Islamist group Asaeb Ahel al-Haq, were holding a parliamentary election rally near a sports club in eastern Baghdad, the source said.

The Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, an al-Qaeda breakaway group, has claimed responsibility for the deadly attacks in a statement, but the authenticity of the claim could not be

independently verified.

The militant group said its members carried out the bombings to avenge the killing and torturing of Sunnis by Shiite militias. The attack came just less than one week from Iraq's 30 April parliamentary elections, the first in the country since the withdrawal of US troops in late 2011.

Xinhua



An explosion is seen during a car bomb attack at a Shi'ite political organization's rally in Baghdad, on 25 April, 2014. REUTERS

# UN set to lift Ivory Coast diamond ban, tweak arms embargo

UNITED NATIONS, 26 April — The UN Security Council is set to partially ease a decade-long arms embargo on Ivory Coast and lift a ban on diamond exports, diplomats said on Friday, despite claims by UN experts the measure failed to stop illicit trafficking of rough diamonds.

The West African country, emerging from a decade-long crisis that culminated in a brief war in 2011, has been pressing the Security Council to end the diamond embargo that was put in place in 2005 the wake of an initial 2002-2003 civil war.

A French-drafted resolution circulated among the 15 council members proposes lifting the diamond ban and easing the 2004 arms embargo to allow government forces to purchase light weapons



An employee checks diamonds at a jewellery factory in a file photo.—REUTERS

without the approval of a UN committee.

The government will still have to notify the committee of any purchases.

The council is due to adopt the resolution next

week. "There is consensus," said one council diplomat, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The Security Council made a similar change last year to an arms embargo

on Somalia to allow the government in Mogadishu to strengthen its security forces.

With the UN peace keeping force in Ivory Coast reducing its size,

diplomats said the council also wants Abidjan to be able to bolster its forces.

Another council diplomat, speaking on condition of anonymity, said lifting the diamond embargo would help wipe out the illegal trade, which he said had been bolstered by the ban.

Ivory Coast received a clean bill of health in November from the Kimberley Process, the body tasked with preventing the sale of so called "blood diamonds" from fuelling armed conflict.

The draft resolution, obtained by *Reuters*, states that the diamond ban would be terminated "in light of progress made towards Kimberley Process Certification Scheme (KPCS) implementation and better governance of the sector."

*Reuters*

## Kenya lauds Chinese development projects

NAIROBI, 26 April — The Kenyan government on Friday lauded various development projects, particularly on infrastructure, undertaken by Chinese companies in the country, saying they have spurred growth. Transport Cabinet Secretary Michael Kamau also underscored the crucial role of these projects which could nurture the next generation of technology savvy Kenyans.

Kamau singled out the standard gauge railway among the projects with the potential for immense technology transfer to Kenya since independence.

"Investing in the railway is paramount because it will address a weak point in transport logistics comprising roads and aviation infrastructure," he said during a meeting with Huang Danhua, vice chairwoman of China's State owned Assets Supervision and Administration Commission of the State Council.

The railway will be constructed in three phases with phase I starting from Mombasa to Nairobi, Phase II will begin from Nairobi to Malaba while the last phase will start from Malaba to Kampala, Uganda and expected to be completed by March 2018.

*Xinhua*

## World leaders to attend World Economic Forum on Africa in Nigeria

LAGOS, 26 April — Ten heads of states and no fewer than 900 delegates have registered to participate in the World Economic Forum on Africa to be held in Abuja in May, the organizer said on Friday.

The Media Coordinator of the forum Ogbo Okiti said participants from 70 countries, including 30 African countries will attend the forum themed "Forging Inclusive Growth, Creating Jobs" from 7 May to 9 May.

Okiti said more than 50 top chief executive officers of big global firms would participate in the forum and described the number as "unprecedented".

"It is the first time the summit will hold in West Africa and it is an unprecedented opportunity for both cultural and economic

diplomacy for Nigeria and the region," he added.

"The summit is also holding in the year that Nigeria marks its centenary and coincides with the celebration of the country being the largest economy in Africa," he said.

The Nigerian Minister of Finance Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, had on 15 April written to all confirmed delegates to the forum, assuring them of adequate security in the federal capital.

"In total, over 6,000 security personnel consisting of police and army will be deployed to secure area of about 250 square kilometers," she said in the letter.

Nigeria's President Goodluck Jonathan on Thursday also reassured the international community of the safety of participants to the forum.—*Xinhua*



Bolivia's President, Evo Morales (L), participates in a ceremony to commemorate the 123rd anniversary of an army military college, in La Paz, Bolivia, on 25 April, 2014. XINHUA

## UNICEF calls for more efforts to support malnourished children in CAR

GENEVA, 26 April — Children treated for severe malnutrition in the largest in-patient center of Central African Republic (CAR) during the first quarter this year have tripled in number compared to last year, the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) announced on Friday.

Statistics from

UNICEF showed that the first three months this year saw nearly 680 children treated for severe acute malnutrition with medical complications at Bangui Pediatric Hospital, the largest in-patient nutrition treatment centre in the country, in contrast with the figure of 214 over the same period last year.

Having highlighted

that the majority of families in CAR have been unable to plant their crops or earn their living and lacked access to safe water, sanitation and health care, UNICEF warned that the number of malnourished children in the African country would continue to rise sharply.

It was estimated that 28,000 children would

suffer from severe acute malnutrition this year in the country, with their lives and future health deeply threatened.

"Here in CAR, more children will die from malnutrition and related diseases than from bullets," said Souleymane Diabate, UNICEF Representative in Central African Republic in a statement.—*Xinhua*

## WWII bomb successfully defused in northern Italy

MILAN, 26 April — An undetonated World War II bomb discovered in northern Italy was successfully defused by a bomb disposal team on Friday, local media reports said.

The 1,800 kg English bomb, which was found still imbedded beneath the earth near the northeastern city of Vicenza, was defused after the evacuation

of nearly 30,000 residents.

Nearby roads within a 2,500-metre radius outside a US military base were closed due to precaution, according to ANSA news agency.

"It is an operation that will find a new approach to the (bomb disposal) field because of some new procedures that had never used so far," the head of Italian

civil protection Franco Gabrielli was quoted as saying by *La Stampa* newspaper.

Gabrielli was on the spot following the operation, which reportedly took hours, along with local authorities.

The disposal of the explosive device ran smoothly and efficiently, according to Vicenza Mayor Achille Variati.—*Xinhua*



United States Defence Secretary, Chuck Hagel, waves at the Guatemalan Air Base, in Guatemala City, capital of Guatemala, on 25 April, 2014. Hagel is on a three day visit to Mexico and Guatemala. XINHUA

## HEALTH &amp; BUSINESS

# German expert says depression, anxiety rise in rich countries

VIENNA, 26 April—A dramatic increase in the number of treated cases of emotional disorders has been observed in industrialized countries, a Germany expert said here Thursday.

Depression and anxiety disorders are on the rise and are closely attached to significant changes in personal goals and objectives in broader society, President of the German Society of Psychology Juergen Margraf was quoted as saying by the *Wiener Zeitung* newspaper.

Margraf, also a professor at Ruhr University Bochum, pointed to “spectacular data” to show the changes in many regions of the world, along with an observation of the increase in narcissism, seen through things such as pop songs increasingly using the words “I, me, mine” compared to 20 years ago.

This is manifested in a move in broader society from internal to external goals, such as an increase in the value placed on status and money and less about relationships and the search for meaning, he told a meeting of



the Austrian Psychological Society in Vienna.

Margraf said positive emotions are very important for mental well-being, and could lead to increased life expectancy of up to 10 years.

People thus need positive activities daily, he said,

adding that positive feelings should be experienced at least three times as much as negative feelings each day. If that is not the case, the probability to sink into depression increases rapidly.

The huge increase in the use of pharmaceutical

drugs against anxiety and depression could not bring lasting changes to the current situation, he said. Some studies show they can only have short-term effects, or even more negative effects in the long run.

Xinhua

# Volvo Group reports Q1 growth in mature economies, China

STOCKHOLM, 26 April—Volvo Group reports market growth in mature economies of North America, Western Europe and Japan in the first quarter of 2014, while markets in emerging economies have weakened apart from China, said the group in a statement on Friday. In the first quarter of 2014, net sales of Volvo Group rose by 13 percent to 65.6 billion Swedish kronor (10 billion US dollars) compared to the same period of last year, according to the statement.

Meanwhile, operating income excluding restructuring charges amounted to 2.6 billion Swedish kronor in the first quarter, compared to 496 million Swedish kronor last year.

The European market grew by 15 percent in the first two months this year, with growth mainly from Western Europe, particularly from Britain, Germany and France.

Also the North American market grew by seven percent, mainly from compact equipment, driven by rental and housing.

In the Chinese market,

the market growth reached 27 percent compared to last year, mainly contributed by the increase in the first two months.

However, in total Asian market, excluding China, the growth was only four percent above 2013, driven by the strong market growth of 38 percent in Japan during the first quarter, while India and South East Asia showed a further decline.

Furthermore, the group reports decrease in South Africa of 11 percent, mainly caused by Brazil after the majority of the large government deals had been delivered in 2013 as well as low demand for commodities impacting markets across the region.

The Volvo Group, headquartered in Gothenburg of Sweden, is one of the world's leading manufacturers of trucks, buses, construction equipment and marine and industrial engines, which also provides complete solutions for financing and service. In 2013 the Volvo Group's net sales amounted to about 273 billion Swedish kronor.—Xinhua

# Cholesterol drug users may use pills as a license to overeat

NEW YORK, 26 April—People who take the common cholesterol-lowering drugs known as statins may feel a false sense of security and eat a bit more, according to a new study.

Researchers found that US adults taking statins in 1999-2000 were eating fewer calories than people not taking the drugs, but statin users were eating about the same amount as non-users by 2009-2010.

“We believe that physicians need to reemphasize the importance of a healthy lifestyle to statin-users,” Dr Takehiro Sugiyama told *Reuters Health* in an email.

He is the study's lead

author from the University of Tokyo in Japan.

Eating excess calories and fat would not only compromise the cholesterol-lowering effect of statins, he said. It would also increase a person's risk of becoming obese and developing diabetes.

Statins — such as Lipitor, Zocor and Crestor — inhibit the production of cholesterol, which is used to build new cells and keep the body functioning. Too much cholesterol increases a person's chances of developing heart disease and fatty deposits in blood vessels, however.

Under new recommen-

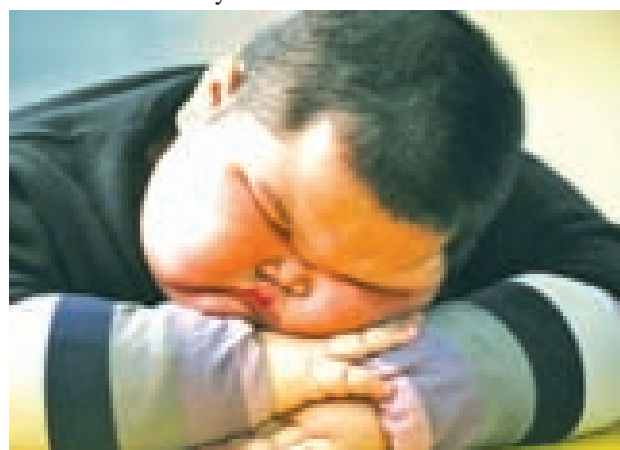
dations from the American College of Cardiology and the American Heart Association, the number of US adults eligible to take the drugs may reach 56 million.

The new guidelines deemphasize the use of LDL or “bad” cholesterol as a measure of when to put people on the drugs. Instead, doctors are encouraged to take several risk factors into account to target people at high risk for heart attacks or strokes.

Previous studies had found no evidence that statin users eat more after being prescribed the drugs, the authors write in *JAMA Internal Medicine*. Use of the drugs has increased substantially since those studies were conducted, however.

For the new study, the researchers used data from a national survey of US adults that's conducted every two years.

They found that statin users were consuming about 2,000 calories per day in 1999-2000, on average, compared to about 2,179 calories per day among non-users.—Reuters



# Wall Street Week Ahead: A burst of energy with Exxon, Chevron on tap



NEW YORK, 26 April—Since late February, when investors fell out of love with biotechnology and other high-flying stocks, the market's fuel has been oil.

Energy names have been the best-performing sector in the S&P 500 since 25 February when the selloff in high-growth stocks began. The sector will look to build on recent gains when bellwethers Exxon Mobil Corp (XOM.N), Chevron Corp (CVX.N) and ConocoPhillips (COP.N) report results next week.

The rotation to value has

limited the broader market's selloff. That could continue: Morgan Stanley said in a recent note that strong rotations to value names are usually followed by longer periods of value leadership.

Energy sector funds have attracted inflows in nine of the past 10 weeks; flows have averaged \$488.9 million weekly over the last four weeks, the most since March 2011, according to Lipper, a Thomson Reuters company. On a total return basis, energy .TRGSPE is up more than 7 percent since 25 February, compared with a

gain of just over 2 percent for the S&P 500 .TRGSPC and a loss of 1.8 percent on healthcare .TRGSPA, the worst-performing sector in that period.

“These big energy companies that pay dividends and have solid buyback programmes are more defensive in nature as long as the price of the underlying commodity holds up,” said Mike O'Rourke, chief market strategist at JonesTrading in Greenwich, Connecticut.

Both Exxon and Chevron rank among the top 10 dividend payers in terms of absolute dollars, according to S&P Dow Jones Indices. With a price-to-earnings ratio of 14.2, significantly below the S&P 500's 17.8, energy should continue to attract investors as the rotation to value continues.

“A lot of the major oil companies are entering the next phase of their life cycle, where there's more of an emphasis on profitability and cost control,” said Faisal Khan, senior oil equity analyst at Citi in New York.

Reuters

## PERSPECTIVES

Sunday, 27 April, 2014

## Substandard foods are threatening the future of Myanmar's new generation

By Aung Khin

**M**asures for food safety should be taken with scientific disciplines throughout manufacturing processes, including handling, preparation, and storage of foods in ways that prevent foodborne illness.

Some research reveals that one-third of Myanmar children under 5 years of age are stunted with 8 per cent dangerously thin for their age, contributing to almost 15 per cent of child deaths each year. Children with wasting are

nine times more likely to die early than a well-nourished child.

The underlying causes of malnutrition in Myanmar include inadequate food, poor hygiene practices, limited access to safe water and basic health services, and inappropriate infant and young child feeding practices.

A report by WHO warned poor nutrition affects Myanmar socially and economically. For example, if stunting could be reduced by 10 per cent, two-thirds of children could complete primary school instead of half. If nutrition interventions could have 99 per cent coverage in the country, the lives of some 10,000 Myanmar children could be saved.

Many Myanmar children are now consuming junk food sold at the roadside stalls or at their schools. Most of these ready-made cheap snacks have not been approved by Food and Drugs Administration. Primary school children who get K 100 (0.1 US dollar) from their parents each day cannot avoid such substandard food. This situa-

tion has caused serious health problems for the children.

Myanmar already has the National Food Law, and parliament is now drafting the Consumer Protection Law. However, the food safety measures taken in the country are still weak. A food safety law should be enacted for the people. Local consumers still lack the protection of food safety. Current attempts to deal with the problem in the country have little effect to address making and importing substandard foods. Regulatory and legal systems should be tightened to prevent the exploitation of criminal counterfeiters in favour of a secure future for the next generations.

### Write for us

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

## Adopt rather than buy - happy ending for one of Myanmar's street dogs

By Kerstin Winter, NLM editor

I found "Nigel" at the end of March on my way home from work. He was lying under a bush, unable to lift his head, using his last remnant of energy to whimper for help in a heart-wrenching voice that echoed across a deserted township on the outskirts of Nay Pyi Taw.

The 2-month old emaciated and multiple-diseased street puppy was going through the same agony and suffering that countless other street dogs go through without the luck of someone making a snap decision to save a life.

I pulled him out of the bush and carried him home, not knowing what I would get myself into, but full of pity for the furry bag of skin and bone. Sleepless nights followed, with Nigel howling, suffering from cramps, and producing alien-like tapeworms the size of a small snake that would only come out after hours of intense "labour". With no access to a veterinarian for the first week, all I could do was

rub his bloated belly to comfort him and disinfect open, pus-filled wounds covered in flies.

When I finally got out of the secluded suburb — where our newspaper was located before we relocated to Yangon — the driver took me and Nigel to a vet clinic in Pyinmana Township, a shack with no facilities or medicine. The vets, however, wrote me a list of things to buy in the pharmacy, and Nigel's rocky road to recovery began.

Three weeks later our newspaper moved to Yangon and with Nigel still not walking there was no question about him coming with us. He had in the meantime become the office mascot of the New Light of Myanmar, with most staff members doting on him.

As I still haven't found an apartment in Yangon and the hotel I am staying at refused to let me keep a dog, I had no choice but to ask our office staff U Kyin Shwe, who had often looked after Nigel in Nay Pyi Taw, to

foster him.

"Nigel" has learnt to walk again, and is now the much loved center of attention to U Kyin Shwe's extended family in Thakayta, where play dates with his cousin's dog Kiki are the day's highlight.

"I love all animals and it is great to see how much he has progressed. A few weeks I had to carry him and hold him when he needed the toilet and now he is running around with Kiki. He is like one of our children now, but when I first brought him to my house the neighbours thought it was strange to bring back a street dog. But I explained to them that he had been very sick and is still on the road to recovery," he said.

Injured and sick animals stand no chance in this survival-of-the-fittest environment where dozens of scarred big dogs will nearly maul each other to death over a scrap of food.

"Saving one dog won't change the world, but it will change the world for that dog," it says on a sign in the Royal Veterinary Clinic in Yangon's Bahan Tsp, where Dr. Myat Oo has been helping street dogs for many years.

"If you really want to save a dog, bring it to the nearest vet and get it dewormed, vaccinated and spayed," he said. "Some people give the dogs contraception, but all that happens is a late pregnancy and then the fetuses and mothers die. Dogs must be sprayed," the vet stressed, adding that many vets will treat a street dog for free or for a discounted price.

One of his regular visitors is Corinne Edmonds

who has come to Dr. Oo with a street dog that had to have one leg amputated.

"I found her near my house. She had been hit by a car and her leg was already rotting. She was very dirty and looked terrible, and I don't think many people would have wanted to help her. Dr. Oo amputated her leg. I named her Valentine as I found her on Valentine's Day," she said.

Valentine is Corinne's 10<sup>th</sup> dog, but she says it is easy to care for strays. "They have a much better immune system than pedigrees and are not prone to sickness like purebreds. They are also highly intelligent, having survived on the street so long and are easy to train, and they are very grateful and loving," she said.

Corinne is 70 years old and says she has been rescuing animals for most of her life. "So many injured dogs here, either bitten by others or hit by cars. Once I found one whimpering in an open drain and I took it home, but it died shortly after."

She said people should not turn a blind eye to the suffering around them, and even as little as giving them some food or a bowl of fresh water will already make a huge difference to a dog, simply by showing them that they are not left alone in their struggle for survival.

Dr. Oo said that street dogs are generally gentle and that people should not be afraid to approach a sick or injured dog.

"Canine distemper, parvovirus, kennel cough, rabies and heartworms are the most common diseases for street dogs here and all can be treated," he said.

It is vital to watch the reaction of a dog when approaching.

A little patience might be required, talking to overly anxious dogs in a calm and friendly tone and getting down on the same level with them for a while before picking them up.

Puppies, injured and sick — unless rabid — will generally not object to being picked up.

Nigel seems to know his luck as "He is clean and never cries unless he needs to go to the toilet. He is gentle and playful and the whole family loves him, he is now like one of our children," U Kyin Shwe said.

166, Email: terryl.rae.just@gmail.com

**The shelter is NOT a dumping ground for unwanted pets!**

**Vets in Pyinmana Township, Nay Pyi Taw:**

Dr. Aung Kyaw Moe 09-256-262-588 (speaks basic English)

Dr. Win Soe 09-492-163-48 (no English)

**Vets in Yangon:**

Dr. Myat Oo, Royal Veterinary Clinic

No. 287, Shwe Gon-Daung Road, Bahan Township,

Phone: 09-86-160-37

Dr. Aye Min, Phone: 095133208

Dr. Myint Wynn, Paing



**U Kyin Shwe and his son are now taking care of "lucky" Nigel and say he has become a much-loved family member.**

**If you would like to help a sick or injured street dog, simply pick it up and bring it to the nearest vet or contact the Yangon Animal Shelter to volunteer or make a donation.**

**Yangon Animal Shelter:** No. 328, Yan Nya Ward, Aung Thabyay Road, Pele, Mingalardon

Contact: Daw Roza, 95-1-548-117, Email: honey-melon17@gmail.com

Terry Just, 95-1-534-

Phyo Vet clinic, 006, Building 4, Myaing Hay Wun Housing 6th, Mayangon, Phone: 095186391

May Vet Clinic, Dr. Soe Min Lin, #2, Bldg. 17, Kan St. Kamayut Tsp, Hlaing-Myint Mo Housing Est., Phone 09 7313 3112

Dr. Kyaw Na Oo, Phone: 09 86 28721/095015586

Moe Vet clinic, 55, Min Ye Kyaw Swar St, Ahlon Tsp, phone 09-5118052



**Nigel had multiple diseases and could not walk for three weeks, with around-the-clock dogsitting required.**

## Pegu, an urban and commercial centre in Mon-Myanmar Kingdoms Part III

Pegu received a new Palace three years after Bayint Naung became King. In Myanmar chronicles the construction of the new Palace “Kamboza Thadi” was recorded as follows:

“On Friday the 13<sup>th</sup> waxing moon of the month of Nattaw (December) in the Sakarit year (Myanmar Era) 915 (1553 A.D) the construction of the new Palace began. The site chosen for the new Palace was named Kamboza Thadi. In the surrounding of the Palace were built houses for the queens, princes, princesses, lesser queens, concubines, and Royal Treasury (Gold), Royal Treasury (Silk), Royal Treasury (Bronze) and Store House for Pusoes (Men’s elongated sarongs). On the 6<sup>th</sup> waxing moon of the month of Tabodwe (February) in the same Sakarit year ME 915, His Majesty entered the New Palace Complex from the Kheyima Dwara Gate and took residence in the Palace...”

The grandeur of the new Palace was admired by the two foreigners Caesar Fredrick, a Venetian merchant and Fariar Y. Sousa, a Portuguese traveler historian who themselves saw the Palace. Caesar Fredrick speaks of Kamboza Thadi as follows:

“The King’s Palace is in the middle of the cities, made in form of a walled castle, with ditches full of water round about it. The lodgings within are made of wood, all over gilded with find pynacles, and verie costly worke, covered with plates of gold. Truly it may be a King’s house.”

Y. Sousa describes it thus:

“He built a Palace as a city. The least part of its beauty was rich Painting and Gilding, for the roofs of some apartments were covered with plates of solid gold. Some rooms were set with statues of Kings and Queens of massy gold set with stones, as big as life.”

### Reconstruction of Pegu

Thirteen years after the building of the new Palace, Pegu was reconstructed. Many factors necessitated the modernization and extension of the city, as well as urbanization of the vicinities. The city became two congested with increasing population. As more and more natives and foreigners came to live at the Capital, squalters’ quarters crapped up close to the Palace city causing ugliness to the city scape and posing danger to the royal security. Embassies arrived to present credentials and presents to the King and conduct diplomacy with him. The envoys needed befitting accommodations in the Palace City. The following except from U Kala’s chronicle tells us why Pegu was reconstructed.

“The Crown Prince supplicated to His Majesty that when foreign envoys arrived it would not be proper if there were no turrets, moat, ditches etc, which were some of the seven features of a Royal Capital. Nobles and ministers seconded the Crown Prince ...”

“Therefore Court Astrologers were consulted. Then the towns people were requested to send one person from each household to contribute labour. On Thursday the 10<sup>th</sup> waxing moon of the month of Tazaungmone (November) in the Sakarit year 928 (1566 A.D) the hill on the east of the city was dug for earth to fill the lowland on the west. A multitude of labour contributors looked like ants at work.”

“On Friday the 5<sup>th</sup> waxing moon of the month of Nattaw (December) in the Sakarit year 928 (1566 A.D) a new golden capital “Hanthawad-

dy” measuring 3400 square tars, the great wall around the precincts of the Shwe Hmaw Daw Pagoda and the library for keeping Tipitakas (Three canonical Religious Texts) were constructed simultaneously.

“Then on Thursday the fullmoon day of Nattaw Gate posts were set up. On Friday the 5<sup>th</sup> waxing moon of the month of Tabaung [March] the digging of the moat was first begun.”

After the construction of the new city Hanthawaddy, Pegu became a twin cities, the old and the new, the old for the native and foreign merchants and the new for the King and royal households, nobilities, gentry, royal guests and envoys, his service men, horses and elephants. Caesar Fredrick’s arrival in Pegu coincided with the completion of the new city. He gives us the following description of its splendour and beauty.

“By the Help of God we cam safe to Pegu, which are two cities, the old and the new, in the old citie are the merchant strangers and Merchants of the countries, for there is the greatest doings and

### *Maha Saddhamma Jotika dhaja Sithu Dr. Khin Maung Nyunt*

the greatest trade. This citie is not verie great, but it hath very great Suburbs.

“In the new Cities is the palace of the King, and his abiding place with all his Barons and Nobles, and other gentlemen. And in ye time that I was there, they finished the building of the new citie. It is a great citie, very plain and flat, and 4-square, walled round about and with ditches at compasses the walls about with water, in which are many crocodiles, it hath no drawe Bridges, yet it hath twentie gates, five for every square on ye walls. There is manie places made for sentinels to watch, made of wood and covered of guilt with gold. The streets there of are faryest that I have seen. They are as straight as a lyne from one gate to another, and standing at the one gate, you may discovers to the other, and they are as broad as 10 or 12 men may ride abreast in them, and these streets that be thwart are fayre and large. These streets, both on the one side and on the other, are planted at the doores of the houses. Nut trees of India which make a verie commodious shadows. The houses be made of wood “and covered with a kind of tiles in forme of cups, Verie necessarie for their use.”

There was one Myanmar high ranking official of that time who arrived in the new city of Pegu. He was a messenger-errant as well court poet despatched there by his master the Lord of Pyay. He was Pyay Nawade. After seeing the new city he could help but composed a three-stanza ratu poem in which he described the marvel and grandeur of Hanthawaddy. The twenty city gates, five on each side of the square walled city built by the Lords of the vassal states bearing their names were enumerated in the first stanza as:

(1) Zimme (2) Ohn Paung (3) Mo-hnyin (4) Mo-Kaung (5) Dawei (6) Kaley (7) Mo-ne (8) Nyaung Shwe (9) Thayawaddy (10) Thein-ni (11) Tawinthayee (12) Ayuthiya (13) Martaban (14) Pa Khan (15) Pathein (16) Thayey Khitaya (17) Inwa (18) Taungoo (19) Linzin and (20) Dalla.

From the first stanza we learn that there were ten

main roads running straight and several streets crossing one another at right angle, all lined both sides with shady flowering and fruiting trees, that there were 109 Spires gilt and carved on the city walls and that the moat around the city walls was 20 tars wide.

The second stanza tells us religious monuments of high architectural skill and artistic design, great buildings, beautiful parks, orchards, and gardens in the outskirts of the city.

In the third stanza were described the monthly festivals held in the city where in the nobilities and commoners joyously participated.

### Pegu, as a Commercial Centre

Pegu as a booming commercial centre was best describes by Caesar Fredrick. Regarding the trade of Pegu he says

“Now the commodities that come from S. Tome are the only merchandize for that place, which is the great quantity of cloth made there, which they use in Pegu: which cloth is made of bombast”

“Woven and painted so that the more that kind of cloth is washed, the more livelier they shine their colours, so that a small bale of it will cost a thousande or two thousande Duckets. Also from S. Tome they layde Great store of red yarne, of Bombast With a root which they call Saia, as aforesaid, which Colour will never out. With which merchandize everie year there goeth a great ship from S. Tome to Pegu of great importance, and they usually depart from S. Tome to Pegu the 10 or 11 of September.”

“Also their Goeth another Great Ship from Bengale, every yeere laden with ferie cloth of bombast of all sorts which arriveth in the harbor of Pegu. This harbor is called Cosmin.”

“From Malacca to Martaban, there cometh many small ships and great laden with peper, sadolo, Procellam from China, Camfora, Bruneo, and other merchandize.”

“The Ships that come from Meca, enter into the part of Pegu and Cirion, and those ships bring cloth of wood, scarlets Velvets, opium and chickens (The chickens are pieces of gold worth sterling 7 shillings) by which they lose, and they bring them because they have no other thing that is good for Pegu: but they esteem not the losse of them, for that they make such great garine of their commodities that they Carrie from thence out of that Kingdome.”

The way of trade in Pegu was described as follows:

“They that goe to Pegu to buy jewels, and if he will doe well: it behoveth him to be a whole yeere there to doe his businesse, if he will doe it well. For if so he cannot doe anie thing well, for the Brevity of the time, because that when they custome Their Goods in Pegu that came from S. Tome in their Shippes: it is as if were about the Nativtie, and When they have customed their Goods, then they must “sell it for credite, for a Moneth or two and Then at the beginning of March the shippers depart.”

“The merchants that come from S. Tome, take for the paiment of their Goods, Gold and Silver, which is never wanting there. And eight or ten daies before their departure, they are satisfied: also they may have rubies in paiment, but they maks no account of them.”

*To be continued.*

# US, EU seen imposing sanctions on Russia on Monday



Russian military helicopters are seen in a field outside the village of Severny in Belgorod region near the Russian-Ukrainian border, on 25 April, 2014.—REUTERS

WASHINGTON, 26 April — The United States and the European Union are expected to impose fresh sanctions on Russian individuals on Monday in response to Moscow's alleged efforts to destabilize eastern Ukraine, sources familiar with the matter said.

The sources, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the EU was expected to name 15 previously unidentified individuals to be sanctioned

and would focus on those whom it believes are responsible for the unrest in Ukraine.

The United States was expected to sanction individuals and entities, they said, with the US list of individuals expected to include "cronies" of Russian President Vladimir Putin.

The sources said the one thing that might prevent the EU and the United States from moving ahead with the sanctions on Monday would be a sudden re-

versal of what they say is Russian-sponsored separatist movements in eastern Ukraine.

"There will be some overlap, but it won't be huge overlap," said one of the sources familiar with the plans, saying some EU nations remain concerned about sanctioning associates of the Russian leader.

"You will find a European list much more connected to actions on the ground, and an American list more focused on

cronies and entities," the source added.

Moscow denies allegations it is directing the separatists, who have taken control of large parts of eastern Ukraine over the past three weeks.

But the White House said US President Barack Obama and European allies agreed on Friday that Russia had escalated tension in the region, where the rebels have declared an independent "People's Republic of Donetsk".—Reuters

## EU pledges to support Ukraine with "European-style" reform

BRUSSELS, 26 April — The European Union (EU) told Ukraine on Friday that the 28-member bloc is committed to supporting the country in implementing a European-style reform.

The EU Commissioner for Enlargement and European Neighbourhood Policy Stefan Fule and acting Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ukraine Andrii Deshchysia met in Prague on Friday to discuss the situation in the east of Ukraine and further steps to implement EU support to the country.

He said there was no

doubting on the EU's firm commitment to providing strong political and financial backing to Ukraine.

The European Commission at the beginning of April created a support group to help Ukraine implement the "European agenda for reform," encompassing political and economic reforms agreed with Kiev based on the needs of the country.

The Commission is currently working with Ukrainian authorities to identify areas where European technical and financial assistance is most needed.—Xinhua

## Nepal's Parliament passes landmark bill on transitional justice mechanism

KATHMANDU, 26 April — Nepal's Parliament has passed a landmark bill concerning the formation of transitional justice mechanism to look after the war-era human rights violations and provide justice to the victims, sources said on Saturday.

The Parliament passed the bill on the formation of Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) and Commission on Enforced Disappearance (CED) late Friday night. The formation of TRC and CED is a major

part of Nepal's peace process initiated in 2006 when a 10-year violent civil war ended. It came as a major pre-requisite by the opposition party the UCPN (Maoist) before the country's constitution drafting process starts.

After the passage of the bill, the Nepalese government will initiate the process of appointment of chairperson of the commissions. According to the bill, there would not be pardon on serious human rights violations such as rape and murdering.

Xinhua

# Obama reminds North Korea of US 'military mighta'

SEOUL, 26 April — President Barack Obama said on Saturday the United States did not use its military might to "impose things" on others, but that it would use that might if necessary to defend South Korea from any attack by the reclusive North.

The North warned last month it would not rule out a "new form" of atomic test after the UN Security Council condemned Pyongyang's launch of a mid-range ballistic missile into the sea east of the Korean peninsula.

Obama and South Korean President Park Geun-hye presented a united front against North Korea at a joint news conference following their summit on Friday, warning that they would respond firmly to any "provocations" by Pyongyang which routinely threatens the United States and South Korea with destruction.

"We don't use our military might to impose these things on others, but we

will not hesitate to use our military might to defend our allies and our way of life," Obama told cheering US forces at the Yongsan garrison on a sunny spring morning. "So like all nations on Earth, North Korea and its people have a choice. They can choose to continue down a lonely road of isolation, or they can choose to join the rest of the world and seek a future of greater opportunity, and greater security, and greater respect—a future that already exists for the citizens on the southern end of the Korean peninsula."

North Korea is already subject to UN sanctions over its previous three atomic tests. Recent satellite data shows continued work at the nuclear test site in North Korea, although experts analyzing the data say that preparations do not appear to have progressed far enough for an imminent test.

Adding to tensions surrounding Obama's visit

to South Korea, the North announced on Friday it had detained a 24-year-old American this month who demanded asylum after arriving in the country on a tourist visa. Obama is using his week-long Asia tour to

try to ease doubts among US allies about his promise to "rebalance" military, diplomatic and economic resources toward the fast-growing Asia-Pacific region.

He has sought to strike a balance between showing

the United States will be a counterweight to China without alienating Beijing, which worries that Washington wants to contain its growth and influence. Obama and Park also urged

China, North Korea's main ally, to uses its influence to help rein in its unpredictable neighbour.

Underscoring the vast differences between the economically dynamic South and the impoverished North, Obama met earlier with a business roundtable in Seoul where he hailed the benefits of a US-South Korea trade agreement that took effect in 2012.

Obama's visit came at a time when South Koreans remain preoccupied with the aftermath of the sinking of a ferry carrying hundreds of youngsters, one of the worst tragedies to hit the country in modern times.

Stressing a deep US-bond with South Korea during his visit, Obama has expressed condolences to Park and the Korean people. More than 300 people drowned or are missing and presumed dead after the 16 April sinking. Investigations are focused on human error and mechanical failure.

Reuters



US President Barack Obama waves after delivering a speech at US military base Yongsan Garrison in Seoul, South Korea, on 26 April, 2014.—REUTERS

## SCIENCE &amp; TECHNOLOGY

## Apple offers to fix rare fault in older iPhones



A clerk arranges Apple's iPhone 5C phones on racks bearing the logo of China Mobile, at a mobile phone shop in Beijing on 23 Dec, 2013.—REUTERS

SAN FRANCISCO, 26 April—Apple Inc has offered to replace faulty on-off buttons on the iPhone 5, a rare glitch that it said on Friday affected “a small percentage” of the previous-generation smartphones.

Apple said on its user-support page that “iP-

hone 5 models manufactured through March 2013 may be affected by this issue,” in which the button, also known as a sleep/wake mechanism, stops functioning or works only intermittently.

It did not say how many phones were shipped with the faulty mechanism.

Owners can type in their iPhone serial numbers on Apple's website to see if their phones qualify for a fix, then either take their gadgets to a store or mail them in to be repaired.

“Apple will offer the service free of charge to iPhone 5 customers with models that exhibit this

issue and have a qualifying serial number,” spokeswoman Teresa Brewer said in a statement on Friday.

Apple rarely initiates large-scale repair programmes for its products, and iPhone glitches are rare. The company prides itself on hardware engineering and design, particularly for a flagship phone that yields more than half its revenue.

In a 2010 incident dubbed “Antennagate,” the company famously admitted that its iPhone 4 may experience signal loss when handled a certain way. The company subsequently offered free phone casings to correct the issue.

Apple began selling the iPhone 5S and the cheaper 5C in late 2013. In the first quarter, it moved a better-than-expected 43.7 million phones, helped by the gadget's increasing popularity in markets like Japan and China.

Reuters

## Swiss lab ‘nano chisels’ world's tiniest magazine cover

ZURICH, 26 April—A laboratory in Switzerland has created the smallest magazine cover in the world, using a tiny chisel to create an image so minute that 2,000 of them could fit on a grain of salt.

Scientists carved the 11x14-micrometre image of two pandas that appeared on last month's cover of the *National Geographic Kids* magazine onto a polymer using technology similar to 3D printing.

“My idea was to do something similar to chiseling a rock, but just to do it on a nano-scale,” said Urs Duerig, a scientist at IBM in Switzerland and one of the inventors of the machine.

The device, roughly the size of a family refrigerator, used a tiny chisel with a heatable silicon tip 100,000 times smaller than a sharpened pencil point to cut out the image.

The technology could

be used to make transistors, as well as nano-sized security tags to prevent the forgery of money, passports and artwork, scientists involved said.

“The application range is quite broad,” said Felix Holzner, chief executive of SwissLitho, a startup to which the IBM technology has been licensed. “It's like a 3D printer on a microscopic scale — you can make any structure you want but a million times smaller with this machine.”

At the moment, the high-tech machines, which cost around 500,000 euros (\$691,500), are intended as research tools rather than for use in the production industry, Holzner said.

National Geographic Kids, which commissioned the project, will unveil its Guinness world record title for the smallest magazine cover in Washington, DC on Friday.—Reuters



Physicist Urs Duerig looks into a prototype of an IBM NanoFrazor 3D nano printing tool at a laboratory of IBM Research in Rueschlikon, near Zurich, on 23 April, 2014.

REUTERS

## Homegrown high-precision positioning system put to use

BEIJING, 26 April—A self-developed positioning system with high precision went into application in China on Friday, further beefing up the capability of the country's satellite navigation system.

Xihe, named after an ancient Chinese god, was developed by the National Remote Sensing Centre of China (NRSCC) under the Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST). It has an outdoor accuracy of one metre and an indoor accuracy of 3 metres, the

NRSCC said. Xihe can identify and connect with various satellite navigation systems, including China's homegrown Beidou, which many other positioning systems cannot identify.

It has undergone trials in Beijing, Shanghai and Tianjin, according to the NRSCC.

Jing Guife, NRSCC deputy director, said that the system will play an important role in many areas, including positioning, transportation and the Internet of Things.—Xinhua

## US judge rules search warrants extend to overseas email accounts

NEW YORK, 26 April—Internet service providers must turn over customer emails and other digital content sought by US government search warrants even when the information is stored overseas, a federal judge ruled on Friday.

In what appears to be the first court decision addressing the issue, US Magistrate Judge James Francis in New York said Internet service providers such as Microsoft Corp or Google Inc cannot refuse to turn over customer information and emails stored in other countries when issued a valid search warrant from US law enforcement agencies.

If US agencies were required to coordinate efforts with foreign governments to secure such information, Francis said, “the burden on the government would be substantial, and law enforcement efforts would be seriously impeded.”

The ruling underscores the debate over privacy and technology that has intensified since the disclosures by former National Security Agency contractor Edward Snowden about secret US government efforts to collect huge amounts of consumer data around the world. “It showcases an increasing trend that data can be anywhere,” said Orin Kerr, a law professor at George Washington

University who studies computer crime law.

The decision addressed a search warrant served on Microsoft for one of its customers whose emails are stored on a server in Dublin, Ireland. In a statement, Microsoft said it challenged the warrant because the US government should not be able to search the content of email held overseas.

“A US prosecutor cannot obtain a US warrant to search someone's home located in another country, just as another country's prosecutor cannot obtain a court order in her home

country to conduct a search in the United States,” the company said. “We think the same rules should apply in the online world, but the government disagrees.”

The company plans to seek review of Francis' decision from a federal district judge.

Microsoft has recently emphasized to its customers abroad that their data should not be searchable by US authorities and said it would fight such requests.

In a company blog post in December, Microsoft's general counsel, Brad Smith, said it would “as-

sert available jurisdictional objections to legal demands when governments seek this type of customer content that is stored in another country.”

The search warrant in question was approved by Francis in December and sought information associated with an email account for a Microsoft customer, including the customer's name, contents of all emails received and sent by the account, online session times and durations and any credit card number or bank account used for payment.

Reuters



A staff member shows an electronic product, which can be connected with mobile phones with bluetooth technology, during the 2nd China (Shanghai) International Technology Fair in Shanghai, east China, on 24 April, 2014. The fair kicked off here on Thursday.—XINHUA

# Fresh avalanches dash last hopes for blighted Everest season

KATHMANDU, 26 April — Fresh ice avalanches struck on a perilous route where 16 Everest sherpas were killed last week, hiking officials said on Friday, making it almost certain that no one will summit the world's highest mountain from Nepal during this year's climbing season.

"Teams are leaving, it's over for all," said leading climber Alan Arnette on his website. "Time to mourn and regroup."

Many expeditions abandoned base camp this week after an 18 April avalanche killed 16 guides who were cracking ice and fixing ropes on the upper reaches of the Khumbu Icefall. The single deadliest disaster on the 8,850-metre (29,035-foot) Himalayan mountain, the incident has shocked the mountaineering community and highlighted the disproportionate risks that Nepali guides run for a few thousand dollars to help foreign climbers reach the summit.

Californian mountain guide Adrian Ballinger said that even before the



Mount Everest (C), the world highest peak, and other peaks of the Himalayan range are seen from air during a mountain flight from Kathmandu on 24 April, 2010. — REUTERS

latest avalanches, there had been an exodus of teams from base camp due to the aggressive behaviour of a group of younger sherpas there. He said these sherpas were determined to ensure that no one scaled

Everest from the south side during this year's climbing season, which ends around 25 May. It would be the first year of no summits since commercial climbs took off in the mid-1990s, though there will be at-

tempts on the north side from Tibet.

"I could see fresh avalanches falling at the same spot that was hit last week," Ang Tshering Sherpa of the Nepal Mountaineering Association (NMA)

said in Kathmandu after returning from base camp. No one was hurt in the latest avalanches as there was no one on the unstable Khumbu Icefall.

Ed Marzec, a 67-year-old Californian who had

hoped to become the oldest American to scale Everest, said there was a "crack" of ice as he was waiting on Thursday for a plane to take him off base camp.

"The sherpas say the ice conditions have changed so much and so rapidly, they have created extremely dangerous conditions which prevent finding a safe route to the summit," he said in comments emailed by his friend, Daniel Beer.

Ballinger told *Reuters* by phone from Kathmandu that when he left base camp early on Thursday afternoon there were only 40-50 climbers still there hoping to make an ascent. They had a similar number of sherpas, though even they had gone to villages lower down because they felt threatened by other guides.

About a week ago there had been more than 600 people there. Two big teams that were still holding out on Thursday later declared their expeditions were over, Arnette said.

*Reuters*

## Indian Ocean undersea hunt for MH370 set to be extended

PERTH, (Australia), 26 April — The undersea search for missing Malaysia Airlines Flight MH370 is to be extended beyond the small area identified as its most likely resting place as the quest for any sign of the missing plane enters its 50th day on Saturday.

The submarine drone *Bluefin 21* has so far searched about 95 percent of a 10 square km (6.2 square mile) area of the Indian Ocean seabed, pinpointed after the detection of acoustic pings believed to be from the plane's black box flight recorders.

*Bluefin 21* had to abort the search on Friday and resurface due to a software malfunction. Technicians fixed the drone overnight and its 14th, 16 hour trip to the sea floor at depths of more than 4.5 km (2.8 miles) was underway on Saturday. "If no contacts of interest are made, *Bluefin-21* will continue to examine the areas adjacent to the 10km radius," Australia's Joint Agency Coordination Centre (JACC) in charge of the search said in a statement. Flight MH370 disappeared without a trace on 8 March flying from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing

with 239 people on board.

The search for MH370 is the longest and most expensive in aviation history, with ships and aircraft from some two dozen nations taking part. The air and sea search continued on Saturday with up to 8 military aircraft and 11 ships.

A US defence official told *Reuters* on Friday that the sea search is likely to drag on for years as it enters the much more difficult phase of scouring broad-

er areas of the ocean near where the plane is believed to have crashed.

Speaking under condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to comment on the search effort, the official said Malaysia would have to decide how to proceed with the search, including whether to bring in more underwater drones.

The Australian and Malaysian governments are under pressure to show

what lengths they are prepared to go to in order to give closure to the grieving families of those on board flight MH370.

Malaysia is also under growing pressure to improve its disclosure about its investigation. Prime Minister Najib Razak told CNN on Thursday his government would make public a preliminary report into the plane's disappearance next week.

*Reuters*



The Phoenix International Autonomous Underwater Vehicle (AUV) Artemis, also known as the Bluefin-21, is prepared for deployment from the Australian Defence Vessel Ocean Shield in the search for missing Malaysia Airlines Flight MH370 in the Southern Indian Ocean in this undated picture released on 21 April, 2014 by the Australian Defence Force.—REUTERS

## Cambodian top court denies extradition of Russian tycoon

PHNOM PENH, 26 April — Cambodia's top court on Friday denied an extradition request for a Russian tycoon wanted by the Russian government in an embezzlement case.

Kim Sothavy, presiding judge at the Supreme Court, said that due to the lack of an extradition treaty between the two countries, Cambodia cannot send Sergei Polonsky back to Russia.

Cambodian police arrested the tycoon in November last year in the country's southwestern coastal town of Sihanoukville for alleged embezzlement following a request

by the Russian authorities.

According to an arrest warrant at the time of his arrest, Polonsky, 41, is accused of committing offenses in Russia and then fleeing to Cambodia.

The warrant said a Russian judge sent the suspect's name to Cambodia on 13 August, requesting Polonsky's arrest for committing "embezzlement" in Moscow from 2008-2009.

He was on an international wanted list accused of defrauding dozens of people in a housing construction project, Russian media reported.

*Kyodo News*

## Three police killed, 15 people injured in bomb blasts in Thailand

BANGKOK, 26 April — Three police officers were killed and at least 15 people wounded in a bomb attack in southern Thailand's Pattani Province on Friday, police said.

The attack occurred in the evening during a fishing competition in Saiburi district. The explosive device was hidden in a piece of cement near the event's security tent where police were deployed and was

detonated by remote control. Three police officers died at scene while at least 15 people, including some police officers, were injured and taken to hospital.

Since violence in the predominantly southern provinces of Yala, Pattani and Narathiwat erupted in 2004, Thai authorities estimate that more than 6,000 people have died in the insurgency.

*Kyodo News*

## ADVERTISEMENT &amp; GENERAL

### Ministry of Energy Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise (Announcement)

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

Contact: Ministry of Energy

Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise

Phone: 067-411346/411347

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## Giant rubber duck to visit Vietnam's southern HCM City

HO CHI MINH CITY, 26 April — A 18-meter-tall rubber duck, which has captivated people across the world, will travel to Vietnam's southern Ho Chi Minh (HCM) City on Sunday and be displayed at the Crescent Lake in the Phu My Hung residential area until 31 May, local media reported on Saturday.

Sitting atop a giant custom-built pontoon, the rubber duck is inflated by internal fans that will be connected to power sources via cables beneath the surface of the lake. Designed by Dutch artist Florentijn Hofman,

the rubber duck started a tour named "Spreading Joys around the World" in 2007. Since then, it has been marveled at by millions of viewers all over the world. HCM City will be the 16th venue where it is displayed.

During its five-week display in the city, various events like photo contests, artistic performances and celebrity visits will be held. Of particular interest will be the creative forced-perspective photography options that will be afforded by frames located around the Crescent Lake.

Xinhua

## Connecticut high school girl killed in apparent prom dispute

MILFORD, (Connecticut), 26 April — A 16-year-old girl was stabbed to death on Friday by a classmate at their Connecticut high school, and authorities were investigating reports the boy was enraged that she had rejected his invitation to the prom, police said.

The victim, Maren Sanchez, a junior at Jonathan Law High School in Milford, was pronounced dead at the hospital shortly after the 7 am attack, Milford Police Chief Keith Mello told a news conference.

A police statement later on Friday said a 16-year-old boy was charged as a juvenile offender with her murder. His identity has been withheld because of his age, and he remains in custody, police said.

He is accused of



*Students gather to spray paint a rock in front of Jonathan Law High School in honour of Maren Sanchez who was killed at the school in Milford, Connecticut on 25 April, 2014.—REUTERS*

stabbing Sanchez near a stairwell in the school and lacerating her neck, chest and face with a knife that was recovered at the scene, the police statement said.

"There was blood on her neck. It was awful," said 16-year-old Sam Garcia, a junior at the school, as he walked home after

officials closed the school soon after the incident. "I saw the girl lying on the stretcher when they took her out."

The incident took place on the morning of the junior prom, which was set to begin at 7 pm at a banquet hall in nearby Stratford. Because of the incident, the

prom will be rescheduled, school officials announced.

Police were investigating reports from students that the girl had turned down the boy's invitation to the prom.

The boy, who is also a student at the school, is expected to be arraigned on Monday at the juvenile court in New Haven, police said. The Milford Superior Court will rule on whether the boy will be prosecuted as an adult or a juvenile, police said.

Edward Kovac, a cousin of Sanchez, read a statement from the victim's family on Friday afternoon, saying: "We are shocked and devastated."

"Maren should be celebrating at her prom this evening, with her friends and classmates," he said. "Instead, we are mourning her death."—Reuters



*A 300,000 tonner Panamanian supertanker berths at Qinglanshan wharf of Quanzhou Port in Quanzhou, southeast China's Fujian Province, on 25 April, 2014. The berth of the 300,000 tonner supertanker on Friday marked the open of Qinglanshan wharf, which is the first 300,000 tonner wharf in Fujian Province. The 455-meter long, 40-meter wide Qinglanshan wharf, locating in Maizhou Bay of Fujian Province, is among the wharfs for the largest ships in China.—XINHUA*

## UN Middle East envoy welcomes Palestinian reconciliation process

UNITED NATIONS, 26 April — In meeting Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas on Thursday, UN Middle East envoy Robert Serry welcomed the reconciliation process to be implemented after a deal was announced between Abbas' Fatah party and the Hamas movement. That was disclosed by UN spokesperson Stephane Dujarric at a regular briefing at the UN headquarters in New York on Friday.

Dujarric quoted Serry, the UN Special Coordinator for the Middle East Process, as saying that he "was assured that this agreement will be implemented under the leadership of the President and on the basis of the PLO commitments."

During the meeting, Serry confirmed "the United Nations continued support for unity on this basis as the only way to reunite the West Bank and Gaza under

one legitimate Palestinian Authority, welcoming this process which includes long-overdue Palestinian elections." He also "underlined the importance for the parties, at this critical juncture, to refrain from measures that run counter to creating an environment for continued meaningful negotiations."

Under an agreement announced Wednesday, the Fatah party and the Hamas movement will start discussions to form a unity government within five weeks and hold general parliamentary and presidential elections within six months.

The agreement, largely hailed by Palestinian factions, "disappointed" and irked Israel and the United States, both of which have branded the Hamas movement as a terrorist group.

Xinhua

## Chinese, Romanian companies to extend cooperation on nuke plant construction

BUCHAREST, 26 April — China General Nuclear Power Corporation and Romanian energy producer Nuclearelectrica on Friday signed an additional act to extend the validity period of their cooperation intention letter for six months until 31 December.

"The extension of the validity period for the Letter of Intent confirms China General Nuclear Power Corporation's interest in the Project for nuclear Units III and IV of Cernavoda nuke plant, but also the technical and economic feasibility of the project," Daniela Lulache, General Director of Nuclearelectrica, was quoted as saying by the official Agerpres news agency.

The two companies signed the letter of intent in November 2013, on the occasion of Chinese Premier Li Keqiang's visit to Bucharest.

The document set down the framework for cooperation in regards to the project development.

According to the feasibility study done by Ernst & Young, the total investment costs amount to around 6.45 billion euros (8.93 billion US dollars).

The planned two new reactors will have a total installed capacity of 1,400 MW.

Cernavoda Nuclear Power Plant is the only such center in Romania. At present, units I and II, completed in 1996 and 2007, respectively, together produce about 18 percent of electricity consumption in the country.

The nuclear reactors at Cernavoda use Canadian CANDU technology.

Xinhua

## Justin Bieber allegedly celebrates egg pelting in security video

LOS ANGELES, 26 April — Home surveillance footage appears to show pop singer Justin Bieber celebrating and laughing with friends after allegedly pelting a neighbour's home with eggs in January, according to an affidavit filed by the Los Angeles County Sheriff.

Bieber, 20, has not been charged with a crime in the case, but if he were, it could complicate the pop star's other current legal proceedings in Miami and Toronto.

Bieber's residence in Calabasas, California, north of Los Angeles was searched by authorities on 14 January in the vandalism case and the affidavit was filed last month to obtain a search warrant for the singer's Instagram photo-sharing account.

The affidavit, released on Friday, said Bieber is observed to be "high-fiving" with a group of males



Canadian singer Justin Bieber

and "Bieber and the other males appeared to be laughing and celebrating," the affidavit said.

The neighbour alleges that Bieber threw raw eggs at his home. If investigators determine that Bieber might have caused more

than \$20,000 (11,899.10 pounds) in damage to the home, he could be charged with a felony.

The singer's trial in Miami on driving under the influence, resisting arrest and using an expired license charges is set to

begin in July. In February, Bieber was charged with assaulting a limousine driver in Toronto.

The Canadian singer has since moved from his home in suburban Los Angeles.

Reuters

## India's 'Bollywood Oscars' in Florida for US debut

TAMPA, (Florida), 26 April — Celebrities and dignitaries from India and the United States descended on Florida this week for the "Bollywood Oscars," an awards event making its first-ever US stop with the aim of creating deeper ties between the two countries.

The International Indian Film Academy's awards show set for Saturday has been compared to the Super Bowl in terms of its security needs, traffic management and planning. But its expected worldwide viewership of 800 million far surpasses the championship American football game's 111.5 million viewers on average in 2014.

The film academy's choice of Tampa, home to Florida's third-largest South Asian community, to host its first US-based awards show in the event's 15-year history came as a happy surprise to some fans.

"I jumped out of my seat," said Rubia Qureshi, 22, a local resident who grew up watching Bollywood films, known for their distinctive and elaborate song-and-dance performances. "I'm the biggest fan." Qureshi and her mother, who is of Pakistani heritage, joined hundreds of others eager to snap photos of movie stars as they arrived at the Tampa airport and walked the industry's signature green carpet. Fans were so excited at the arrival of actress Deepika Padukone on Wednesday that they knocked over a security barrier. Other celebrities taking part in the event include American actors John Travolta and Kevin Spacey as well as India's Anil Kapoor, best known to US audiences for his 2008 role in "Slumdog Millionaire," and Shah Rukh Khan, an actor who has more than 7.4 million followers on Twitter.

Reuters

## Courtney Cox finds dark humour in suicide in 'Just Before I Go'

NEW YORK, 26 April — Movies such as "It's a Wonderful Life," have explored the subject of a life re-examined when contemplating suicide, but Courtney Cox takes a darkly comic approach to that life-or-death question in her feature film directorial debut.

The story of a vacant, aimless pet store worker named Ted who decides he is "done" with life, "Just Before I Go" begins with the dejected 40-year-old bobbing underwater while narrating his tale of woe on the soundtrack. The film then travels back in time several weeks to explore just how he got there.

Ted, played by "American Pie" veteran Seann William Scott, embarks on an odyssey back to his Massachusetts hometown to confront childhood tormenters who range via flashback from an extortionist jock bully to a nasty math teacher who relishes cruelly humiliating the boy in front his classmates.

But Ted's journey becomes a tale of the unexpected. The bully has evolved into a sensitive, remorseful widower raising a son with Down Syndrome on his own. And the math teacher lies in a stupor in an institution as Ted unleashes a volley of pent-up rage,

only to be interrupted by the woman's granddaughter, (Olivia Thirlby), who decides to film Ted's suicidal saga.

Hollywood veterans Connie Stevens and Diane Ladd are also on hand as Ted's mother and an Elvis impersonator, respectively.

"It's a heartfelt story, but it's also outrageously funny, so I was very attracted to the tone of it," said Cox, 49, best known

for her days as Monica on hit comedy "Friends," and now starring in the sitcom "Cougar Town," for which she has directed some episodes.

"What makes me laugh in real life is anything inappropriate," added Cox, who is also one of the producers of the independent film, which premiered Thursday night at the Tribeca Film Festival.

Reuters



Actress Courtney Cox



Bollywood Actress Priyanka Chopra (C) and Actress Sonakshi Sinha and Anil Kapoor (R) entertain the crowd ahead of the 15th International Indian Film Academy Awards in Tampa, Florida on 24 April, 2014.—REUTERS

## 'Scandal' actor Columbus Short leaving hit ABC show

LOS ANGELES, 26 April — "Scandal" actor Columbus Short said on Friday he would not be returning to the hit ABC drama for its next season, a month after the actor was arrested on a felony battery charge.

Short, 31, who plays Harrison Wright opposite actress Kerry Washington's Olivia Pope character, said in a statement that he "must confirm my exit from a show I've called home for 3 years."

"Everything must come to an end and unfortunately the time has come for Harrison Wright to exit

the canvas," he added, without providing details on the reason for his departure.

ABC, owned by Walt Disney Co., did not comment on Short's exit from the salacious political drama from hit show creator Shonda Rhimes, which ended its third season last week.

Short was charged with felony battery from a March incident in which he allegedly punched and

knocked out a male guest at a Los Angeles restaurant.

Reuters



## GENERAL

## Acknowledgement

We are thankful to the specialists, doctors, nurses and staff of Bahosi Hospital, 30<sup>th</sup> Street Clinic and Home Medicare Service and private physiotherapists for their care and treatment given, to all members of Holy Trinity Cathedral Church and to all relatives and friends for their prayers and comfort during the recent illness of **Mr. Donald Minus** who fell asleep in Jesus on 20 April 2014.

We are also thankful for the arrangements at the Church, to all priests, relatives and well-wishers who attended the funeral services at Church and Yayway Cemetery on 23 April 2014.

**Bereaved family**

## Senior official in China's Qinghai faces corruption probe

BEIJING, 26 April — China is investigating a senior official in western Qinghai Province for graft, the ruling Communist Party's corruption watchdog said late on Friday, making him the latest target in a crackdown on corruption.

Mao Xiaobing — the party secretary of Xining, the capital of Qinghai — is "suspected of serious discipline violations" and is being investigated, the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection (CCDI) said in a one-line statement on its website.

It gave no further details but in China the term discipline violations is generally used to denote corruption.

President Xi Jinping has said endemic corruption threatens the party's very survival and has vowed to go after high-flying "tigers" as well as lowly "flies".

Reuters

## MYANMAR TV

(27-4-2014, Sunday)

- 6:00 am**  
1. Paritta By Venerable Mingun Sayadaw
- 6:20 am**  
2. Physical Exercise
- 7:00 am**  
3. News/ Weather Report
- 7:20 am**  
4. MRTV's Youth Programme
- 8:30 am**  
5. Amazing World
- 9:00 am**  
6. News/International News
- 9:55 am**  
7. Beautiful ASEAN
- 10:15 am**  
8. Documentary
- 11:00 am**  
9. Gitadagale Phwintbarohn
- 12:00 pm**  
10. News/International News/Weather Report
- 12:25 pm**  
11. Round Up of The Week's TV International News
- 2:40 pm**  
12. Documentary
- 3:50 pm**  
13. Performance With Song
- 4:00 pm**  
14. News
- 4:15 pm**  
15. University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) First Year (Myanmar)
- 5:00 pm**  
16. News
- 5:15 pm**  
17. Sing & Enjoy
- 6:00 pm**  
18. News/ Weather Report
- 6:20 pm**  
19. Cartoon Series
- 8:00 pm**  
20. News/International News/Weather Report
- 9:00 pm**  
21. News
- 22. New Melody**

## MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(27-4-14 07:00am~ 28-4-14 07:00am) MST

- \* Local News
- \* Cruising to Precious Islands
- \* World News
- \* Snake Dancer
- \* Local News
- \* Myanmar National Poet and Literary Icon "Min Thu Wun" (Part-IV) (Political Life and Remembrance)
- \* World News
- \* Myanmar Weaving
- \* Local News
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- \* Pagoda Forest in Pa-O Land
- \* World News
- \* Black Gold (Part-2)
- \* Local News
- \* A Real Dream of Accidental Gift
- \* World News
- \* Myanmar Invites You



Photo taken on 25 April, 2014 shows micrographic archives reading area of the newly-built Liaoning Provincial Archives in Shenyang, capital of northeast China's Liaoning Province. The archives, which will be opened to the public at 8:30 am on 1 May, will provide free query service to citizens who are entitled to look through declassified documents dating back to Ming and Qing dynasties (1368-1911).—XINHUA

## US examining Marshall Islands' nuclear lawsuits, defends record

WASHINGTON, 26 April — The United States said on Friday it was examining lawsuits filed by the Marshall Islands against it and eight other nuclear-armed countries that accuse them of failing in their obligation to negotiate nuclear disarmament. The Marshall Islands filed the lawsuits on Thursday in the United States and The Hague. The tiny republic in the Pacific

Ocean was used for US nuclear tests in the 1950s.

The US State Department, however, defended the US record on disarmament and said its stockpile of nuclear arms had been cut by 80 percent since the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, commonly known as the NPT, took effect in 1970.

"The US is dedicated to achieving the peace and

security of a world without nuclear weapons, consistent with our obligations under the (NPT)," the State Department said in a statement.

"We have a proven track record of pursuing a consistent, step-by-step approach to nuclear disarmament — the most recent example being the New START Treaty," the State Department said, referring

to a 2010 nuclear arms reduction pact with Russia.

The Nuclear Age Peace Foundation, a US-based non-partisan advocacy group supporting the action by the Marshall Islands says the United States plans to spend an estimated \$1 trillion on nuclear weapons in the next three decades and currently possesses nearly half of the world's 17,300 warheads.—Reuters

## England, Scots, Wales, Ireland make Euro 2020 bids

LONDON, 26 April—England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland submitted bids to UEFA on Friday to host matches at the 2020 European Championship which is being staged across the continent for the first time.

The English FA said it had expressed an interest in two packages — to be either host city for both semi-finals and the final or one of the 12 group-stage packages on offer.

The FA of Wales announced separately that it had bid for a package of three group games plus a last-16 or quarter-final.

Matches would be staged at Wembley and Cardiff's Millennium Stadium under the proposals,

with Scotland putting forward Hampden Park and Ireland aiming to use Dublin's Aviva Stadium.

Ireland, which had been exploring a joint bid with Wales and Scotland before European soccer's governing body decided to use different cities to mark the tournament's 60th anniversary, hopes to host four games in a government-backed application.

Just under 30 countries are expected to apply to host games and the full list of bidders is due to be published on Saturday with a final decision announced by UEFA in Geneva on 19 September.

Euro 2020 will be held at 13 venues across

the continent, a departure from the tradition of sole or neighbouring host nations, to mark the tournament's 60th anniversary.

FA general secretary Alex Horne recognised UEFA would have many strong bids but held up London's recent record of hosting big events.

"We are bidding for either of the two packages... and with our recent experience of hosting two UEFA Champions League Finals in the last four years we believe that Wembley Stadium and London represent a strong bid for UEFA to consider," he said.

England hosted the 1996 European Championship.—Reuters



Firefighters try to extinguish fire at the site of a flash explosion on three light crude tanks at the refinery plant of Shaanxi Yancheng Petroleum Group in Yan'an City, northwest China's Shaanxi Province, on 26 April, 2014. The incident occurred at 1:48 am on 26 April, burning three people at the refinery. Rescuers rushed to fight the fire and send the injured people to a local hospital. As of 6 am, rescuers have put the fire under control and set up five intercept dams at upper reaches of the nearby Luohe River to prevent the pollution risks. Local government authorities have relocated 300 residents in the nearby village.—XINHUA

# I've never slept better, says Liverpool manager Rodgers

Liverpool's manager  
Brendan Rodgers



LONDON, 26 April—Liverpool are feeling no pressure despite being three games away from the club's first English league championship in 24 years, manager Brendan Rodgers said on Friday.

Five points ahead of Sunday's visitors Chelsea and six clear of Manchester City, who have played one game fewer, Liverpool are hot favourites to win the Premier

League for the first time, after finishing only seventh last season.

"People talk about pressure but it's absolutely wonderful," Rodgers told

reporters. "I haven't slept better. It's why we work, and whatever happens we'll have had a brilliant season."

Having beaten City 3-2 a fortnight ago, Liverpool have now been helped by Chelsea having to contend with two Champions League semi-final matches and threatening to field a weakened side at Anfield.

Rodgers sympathises, saying that City suffered when they had to play four days after the Liverpool defeat and could only draw with bottom club Sunderland.

"There is a cost if Chelsea play the same team on Sunday and Wednesday," he said.

"You saw that with Manchester City. On the Wednesday they played Sunderland and had a real cost. Jose won't want to go down that route."

Rodgers, a former Chelsea coach who worked under Mourinho at the club, nevertheless added

that it would be "hugely disrespectful" to any players brought in who were deemed to be weaker ones.

"Chelsea are an outstanding team with lots of good players and a world-class manager," he said. "Whatever team they put out will be more experienced than ours. Jose is a winner who won't give up (on the title)."

"We know it's a significant game yet again but if you look over the course of the games and our last 11, there's been lots of significant games in there that we've won. It's another big hurdle for us but it's what it is, it's the three points at the end of it."

Liverpool will assess the fitness of former Chelsea forward Daniel Sturridge over the weekend. He suffered a hamstring strain against City and missed the last game at Norwich, in which Liverpool recorded their 11th successive win, scoring 38 goals in the process.—Reuters



Manchester United's Ryan Giggs attends a news conference at Old Trafford in Manchester, northern England on 31 March, 2014. REUTERS

## Ferguson backs Giggs for permanent United job

LONDON, 26 April — Former Manchester United manager Alex Ferguson believes Ryan Giggs is the ideal person to take over as the club's full-time manager. Giggs, 40, was put in temporary charge of United after the club sacked David Moyes on Tuesday, ending his dismal 10 months at Old Trafford.

"I think that he (Giggs) is the one man they should go to really," Ferguson, who had handpicked Moyes as his successor, was quoted as saying in the British media on Saturday.

"He's got 20-odd years of experience at Manchester United. I signed him as a kid at 13 years of age. He's gone through the gamut of emotions at the club — he's experienced all the highs and

lows. "He knows exactly what's needed to be a Manchester United player and I was so pleased he brought Paul Scholes back in, and Nicky Butt of course — two great professionals."

"They understand the club, they are hard workers, they are straight as a die. So you have got the right combinations there, there's no doubt about that."

A Dutch newspaper reported on Saturday that Netherlands head coach Louis Van Gaal has reached an agreement with the Premier League club. Van Gaal, who has coached Barcelona, Ajax Amsterdam and Bayern Munich in a distinguished career, has said he will step down from the national team after the World Cup in July.—Reuters

## Roma brush Milan aside to keep title hopes alive

ROME, 26 April — AS Roma kept their slim title hopes alive as a stunning Miralem Pjanic goal and a Gervinho tap-in earned a 2-0 home win over AC Milan and a ninth straight Serie A victory on Friday.

The result cut the gap between second-placed Roma and Juventus to five points before the league leaders visit relegation-threatened Sassuolo on Monday (1845 GMT). Roma's Bosnia midfielder Pjanic skipped past three players before calmly firing home two minutes from the break and Ivorian Gervinho tapped in the second goal at the end of a lightning-quick counter attack after 65 minutes to down sorry Milan.

"The first 15 minutes we were very slow with the ball but we grew over the course of the first half," said Roma coach Rudi Garcia. "I'm happy because we beat Fiorentina and we've beaten Milan, two quality teams, and we can still dream of the

title." Roma's team, beautifully conducted by 24-year-old Pjanic, recovered from their poor start to play exhilarating football and are now on a club record 85 points after winning their 26th match this season, also a record for the Rome outfit.

If Antonio Conte's Juventus side win on Monday to

reclaim an eight-point lead with three games left to play, their third title in a row will be little more than a formality.

"Sassuolo will be a hard match for Juventus because they played in the Europa League (Thursday's 2-1 defeat at Benfica) and have the (second leg) match next Thursday," said Garcia. "I know it's difficult to play after and before

a European game." Milan's comprehensive defeat brought a five-match winning streak to an end and is a dent in their hopes of securing a place in the Europa League for next season.

Clarence Seedorf's side stay seventh, level on 51 points behind Parma, who visit Cagliari on Sunday (1300 GMT), and five adrift of fifth-placed Inter Milan before their rivals host third-placed Napoli, who have 68 points, on Saturday (1845 GMT).—Reuters

## Tokyo governor gains Olympic know-how from Beijing officials

BEIJING, 26 April — Tokyo Gov Yoichi Masuzoe on Friday gained know-how about hosting the Summer Olympics from Beijing officials as the capital cities of Asia's two biggest economies have decided to boost co-operation, despite political tensions between their central governments.

Masuzoe, the first Tokyo chief invited by the Beijing municipal government in 18 years, met with Mayor Wang Anshun to discuss and identify areas of future cooperation between the two municipalities. "I believe that Beijing and Tokyo further promoting friendly ties will also contribute to relations between Japan and China," he told Wang.—Kyodo News



AS Roma's Gervinho (2nd L) scores against AC Milan during their Italian Serie A soccer match at the Olympic stadium in Rome on 25 April, 2014. — REUTERS