

Union Information Minister's World Press Freedom Day speech highlights need for 'free and pluralistic media'

YANGON 3 May — 'Free and pluralistic media' are necessary for a democratic society, Union Minister for Information U Aung Kyi said on Saturday, which marked World Press Freedom Day 2014.

The ceremony was celebrated at the Chatrium Hotel Royal Lake Yangon under the theme "Media Freedom for a Better Future".

The Union Minister said, that a "free and pluralistic media is vital to good governance in a democratic society in which equal rights are accorded to all citizens."

He also said that balancing media freedom on one hand and protecting civil rights on the other hand is clearly a highly demanding process for a multi-ethnic and multi-religious country like Myanmar.

U Aung Kyi said: "We witness the achievement of several significant media freedom milestones which we have built in these years, including the lifting of press censorship, the return of private daily



With the reforms of the media sector, readers can choose from a variety of publications in English and Myanmar language.—PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

newspapers, the release of a number of imprisoned bloggers and journalists, the emergence of several independent press and publishers associations, the return of exiled media groups to mainstream media as they obtained publishing rights, the repeal of the rigid 1962 printers and publishers registration law, the adoption of the printing and publishing enterprise law and news

media law in which the prohibition of advocacy of national, racial or religious hatred, the rights of journalists to seek information and their protections are well defined".

At the ceremony, UNESCO representative Sardar Umar Alan read a joint message from Secretary-General of the United Nations Ban Ki-moon and Director-General of UNE-

SCO Irina Bokova on the occasion of World Press Freedom Day 2014.

The joint message mentioned that only when journalists are at liberty to monitor, investigate and criticize policies and actions can good governance exist.

It also reaffirmed that the United Nations General Assembly has condemned all attacks and violence

against journalists and media workers, and urged governments and all those with influence are to act on this condemnation by protecting journalists and other media workers.

The ceremony concluded with the screening of a speech made by late Myanmar veteran journalist Hanthawaddy U Win Tin during World Press Freedom Day 2013.

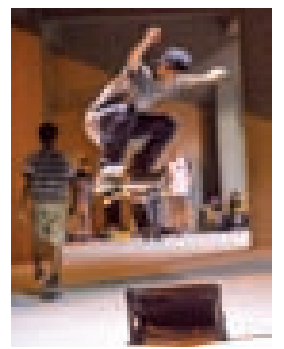
Meanwhile, many journalists in Myanmar still face pressure from the government and are not allowed to freely cover or even mention sensitive issues, with censorship, a daily occurrence in many media organisations here.—MNA/NLM

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Yangon's evolving skate scene needs support and a safe place to skate: Myanmar Skate Association



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Storm expected in southern Bay of Bengal in 2nd week of May might turn into cyclone: weather expert

YANGON, 3 May — A storm that could turn into a cyclone might occur in the southern part of the Bay of Bengal in the second week of May, according to the International Research Institute of the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration.

On his facebook site, U Tun Lwin, Meteorologist and former Director-General of the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology, quoted the forecast, as saying that the tropical depression might eventually reach cyclone strength.

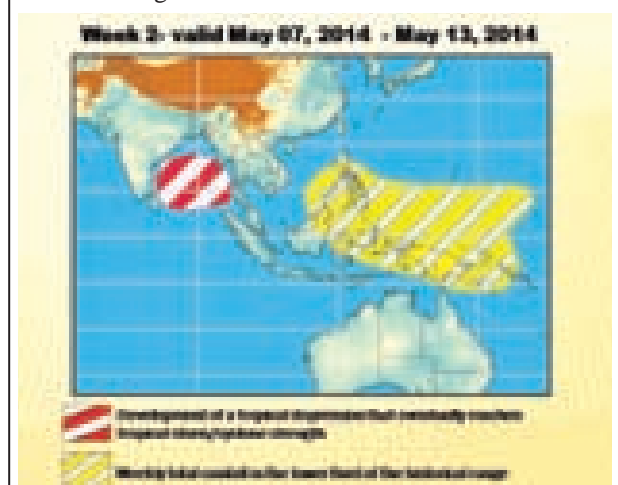
"The degree of certainty is 38 percent," he said.

"The region in which

a storm develops is one of the decisive factors of the course and strength. According to statistics, storms that occur in the south-eastern part of the Bay of Bengal are likely to hit Myanmar," the weather expert said on his facebook page.

According to records, 85 major storms hit Myanmar from 1877 to 2013, with 51 percent of the storms slashing the country in the period from 20 April to 15 May.

According to the weather expert, around 38 percent of all storms that develop in the Bay of Bengal in that period enter Myanmar.—NLM



A map of weather forecast.

Mankind settled in Myanmar for over forty million years, researcher says



Ancient earthen pot found in Indagaw.

PHOTO: MWT



Fossil teeth and jaws of Stone Age animals.

PHOTO: MWT

By Myint Win Thein

The regions of Myanmar have been inhabited by mankind for over 40 million years, said a researcher at a meeting organized by the Tun Foundation at the

building of the Myanmar Private Banks Association in Yangon on 3 May.

According to Writer Chit San Win's research paper titled "Research on

Samon River Valley, the Origin of Mankind", fossils of primates dating back 40 million years have been discovered in Myanmar.

Another evidence he cited in his paper was that fossils of hominoid primates lived in Central Myanmar between eight and ten million years ago, and that French and Myanmar researchers proved this with firm evidence in 2007, he said.

A fossil discovered on Dinga Hill in Shwe Myin Tin Mountain north of New Khway Village in Chaung-U Township, Sagaing Region, by Dr Ba Maw was of a man who lived there three million years ago.

During the Stone Age, mankind settled in Myanmar from Kachin State in the north to Ye, Myeik and Dawei in the south, he said,

citing Professor U Thaw Tin for this conclusion. In addition, the writer said mankind lived in Myanmar throughout various stages of the Stone Age such as the early or Palaeolithic period (from 0.5 to 0.01 million years ago), middle or Mesolithic period (from 30,000 to 12,000 years ago) and late or Neolithic period (from 8,000 to 4,000 years ago) of the Stone Age.

The Bronze Age of Myanmar began about 6,000 years ago in Budalin, Nyaungkan and Monhtu Samon Valley. Copperware of the Bronze Age was also found in other parts of the country, including Manwain Village near Tarpain River, Hotha Village in Northern Shan State, Nampan and Namli Villages in Moemeik in southern Shan State,

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KYAUKPADAUNG, 3 May—As Kyaukpadaung Township is located in hot and dry area of Mandalay Region, the government arranges sinking many tube-wells in the villages where water is shortage.

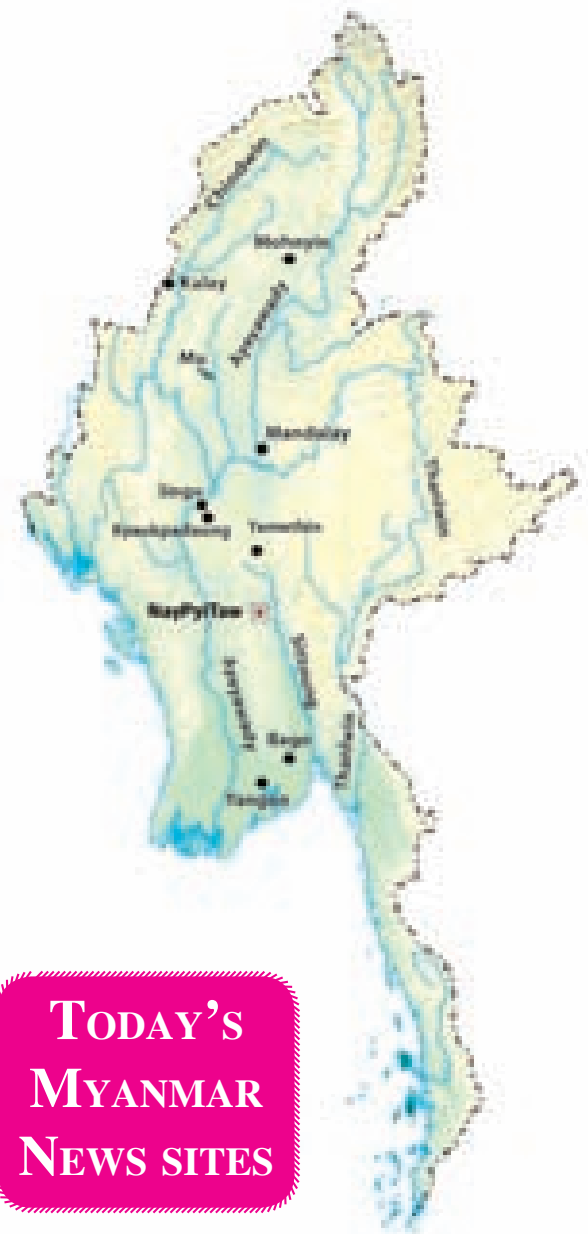
It is aimed at alleviating the poverty and developing rural development. On 1 May which falls on May Day, four tube-wells were sunk in four villages.

Kyaukpadaung Township Rural Development Department and JICA co-operated in sinking tube-wells in Kanbyu village, Kanni village, Taungghla village and Dawah village.

Departmental officials and responsible persons of JICA manage construction of the water tank and installation of engine and pumps as quickly as possible.

Kyaw Htay

Four tube-wells give potable water to villagers in Kyaukpadaung Tsp



**TODAY'S
MYANMAR
NEWS SITES**

Freshwater fish farms in Mandalay region up for bidding



SINGU, 3 May—An auction of freshwater fisheries in Singu and Thabeikkyin townships took place on 29 May in PyinOoLwin,

Mandalay Region, drawing bidders from different townships.

The bids for 14 of the 20 fish farms in Singu

totalled almost K 40 million, while eight of ten in Thabeikkyin earned K 6 million. The remaining fish farms from the two town-

ships are expected to come under the hammer a few days later.

According to records, Myanmar has a long tradition of freshwater fish farms, dating back hundreds of years.

Win Maung

Potable water distribution in needy places

NAY PYI TAW, 3 May—Under the guidance of Nay Pyi Taw Council, administrative officers of Zeyathiri Township, together with fire brigade members, provided water-scarce villages with safe-drinking water this morning.

More than 10,000 gallons of water was distributed to 603 households

from four villages in the township. The water was fetched from a pump situated at a Buddhist monastery in Kantha-aye Village. The pump was donated by Man Taung Nyein Foundation.

The villages sit on rock layers, which makes it hard to drill for water.

Ko Myo-Shwe Pauk Kan

Confiscated goods handed over to Department of Customs in Ahlon Tsp

BAGO, 3 May—A mobile team for consumer protection and illegal smuggling of goods handed over confiscated items on 29 April to the Department of Customs in Ahlon Township in Yangon.

From 22 to 29 April, the team seized over K 12.5 million worth of items in eleven incidents that occurred at the junction of old Sittoung bridge (Theinzayat) and new Sittoung bridge (Moppalin) in Waw Township in Bago Region.—*Kyemon-403*

KALAY, 3 May—The Yazagyo multi-purpose dam project is making progress, with officials saying that over 15 % of the work has been completed, with the dam expected to be finished during the 2014-15 FY, officials said, adding that the project is expected to cost K 54.244 million and US\$ 6.8 million.

The dam is situated in the north of Yazagyo Village and west of Kalay-Tamu Road in Kalay Township of Sagaing Region.

More than 8,500 acre of farmlands will be fully supplied with water, and households in the township will receive 4 megawatt upon completion of the project.

Linlet Kyel Sin

Yazagyo multi-purpose dam project expected to be completed in 2014-15 FY



Broken bridge in Magway affects 5,000 villagers

TAUNGDWINGYI, 3 May—A torrential rain last October swept away parts of a bridge on the Kan Creek in Taungdwingyi, Magway Region, leading to a range of health, economic and social difficulties, officials said.

Over 5,000 local people from seven villages in the area used to cross over the bridge every day as it links to the Magway-Taungdwingyi Highway, with officials saying they are hoping to finish repair works with the help of locals before the monsoon sets in.

Kyemon

Yazagyo Multi-purpose Dam Project being implemented in Kalay Township of Sagaing Region.

NATIONAL

Outstanding monks and citizens honoured

NAY PYI TAW, 3 May—President U Thein Sein presented excellent performance awards to outstanding monks and those who strived for the country at the President Office in Nay Pyi Taw today.

At the prize presentation ceremony, the president said that the state was presenting the excellent performance awards to those who strived for the national development and socio-economic development of the people.

The objective was to strengthen human resources such as economic and social pioneers to develop the private sector and rural

and urban areas, he explained.

During his speech, he pointed out that he had arranged a gathering of pioneers, outstanding students, Red Cross Society members and scouts so that they could emulate pioneers in the future.

The president and the vice-presidents presented the awards to 7 monks and outstanding people in various fields.

President U Thein Sein hosted a dinner on Saturday at Myanmar International Convention Centre-MICC for the winners of the President's Excellence Award — outstanding students and youth of

the Red Cross Society, as well as scouts.

At the dinner, artists from the Department of Fine Arts under the Ministry of Culture and students from Bagan, Inlay and Ngwehsaung entertained the attendees with traditional songs and dance performances.

MNA

President U Thein Sein presents special honorary award to U Aung Ko Win at the prize presentation for outstanding monks and those who strived for the country.—MNA



Excellence award winners share experience with outstanding youths

NAY PYI TAW, 3 May — The 2014 Excellence Award Winners and Special Honorary Award Winners of President U Thein Sein on Saturday shared their experience on their efforts into the welfare of the State with outstanding students, outstanding members of the Myanmar Red

Cross Society and scouts at Myanmar International Convention Center here.

Excellent farmers and social organization founders talked about their work and management which helped them overcome difficulties.

On the occasion, U Aung Ko Win, chairman

of Kanbawza Bank Ltd., and U Aung Zaw Naing, chairman of Shwetaung Development Co. Ltd, donated K50 million and K20 million for education and healthcare services.

Some award winners also donated K. 12.5 million.

MNA

Union Ministers discuss handover of state-owned land



Union ministers at President Office and chief ministers of regions and states in meeting on handover of state-owned land and emergency supply for disaster-hit areas.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 3 May — A meeting between the Union ministers and region and state chief ministers took place on Saturday at the President Office in

Nay Pyi Taw to discuss the handover of state-owned land and emergency supply for natural disaster-hit regions, among other topics.

They also discussed

matters related to administrative reforms in self-administered zones and regions, with no details of the discussions revealed.

MNA

2014 ASEAN Business and Investment Summit to be held in November

By Aung Khin

YANGON, 3 May—The 2014 ASEAN Business and Investment Summit (BIS) will be held in Nay Pyi Taw in November, Xinhua news agency reported on Friday.

The report, quoting Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI) U Wai Phyo, said that

ASEAN BIS provides a platform for the business community to engage with ASEAN leaders and economic ministers as well as other key decision makers.

The event, aimed at discussing strategically important issues of Asia and East Asia, is scheduled from 12 to 14 November.

According to a press release by ASEAN BAC, the annual summit also aims to increase ASEAN's

attractiveness as a region for trade and investment and enhance regional competitiveness.

ASEAN BIS is organized annually by the ASEAN Business Advisory Council (ASEAN BAC) which was established by ASEAN leaders in 2003, and has committed to promoting public-private sector partnerships to assist the integration of an ASEAN Economic Community (AEC).

Mankind settled in Myanmar...

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Thayit, Gyogyia and Ma Hton Chaung in Magway Region and Tha Min Thart Village in lower Chindwin area. At the end of the Bronze Age, Myanmar entered into the Iron Age.

Excavation in the Samon River Valley showed that mankind lived in the Samon River Valley from the early Stone Age to the Iron Age. Early Myanmar civilization started in the valley, the writer said. In

addition, household utensils discovered in Hanlin, Beikthano and Sriekstra are the same as those found in the Samon Valley. He concluded that those from the valley migrated to these Pyu city-states, the most ancient cities in the history of Myanmar.

The 11th Myanmar National Sports Committee Chairman's Cup National Hockey League kicked off at Theinbyu Turf Pitch on Saturday, attended by 11 hockey clubs. Photo shows players of Defence Services (Navy) and Sky Wings trying to control the ball in the first match. THAN SWE (PABEDAN)



Residents enjoy for getting repaved roads



YAMETHIN, 3 May—As part of efforts for rural development, Mandalay Region Development Department made many construction of roads both in the villages and in the towns of Yamethin Township of the region.

Residents regularly use the repaved roads and thanked the officials for smooth transportation.

*Hlaing Than Tint
(Yamethin)*

*Photo shows a
repaved road in
Yemathin Township
in Mandalay.*

Activities hail 68th Anniversary Myanmar Fire Brigade Day



SANITATION CARRIED OUT: To mark the 68th Anniversary Myanmar Fire Brigade Day, a 100-member squad comprising members of the auxiliary fire brigade and personnel of the fire services department led by U Khin Maung Than, Head of Pakokku District FSD cleaned the platform of Thihoshin Pagoda in Ward 15 of Pakokku, Magway Region, on Saturday.

AUNG (MANDALAY UNIVERSITY)

Firefighters in Sagaing practice emergency situation



SAGAING, 3 May—To prepare for the 68th Anniversary of Myanmar Fire Brigade Day which falls on 5 May 2014, a total of 50 members led by Staff Officer U Tun Tun of Sagaing Township Fire Services Department carried out fire prevention drills in all wards of

Sagaing on Friday.

Members of Sagaing Township Fire Brigade will take part in fire drills in Monywa, the city of Sagaing Region, on Fire Brigade Day, officials said, adding they are now planning details on how to mark the anniversary.—*Htwe Myint Naing (Sagaing)*



UNIFORMS PROVIDED: U Thant Zin, administrator of Tamway Township of Yangon Region, presents uniforms worth K 1.2 million to members of the auxiliary fire brigade to administrators of respective wards on Friday

afternoon.—AUNG THAN
(MINGALA TAUNGYUNT)

Health workers honoured for their efforts in polio eradication campaign

MAWLAMYINE, 3 May—Mon State Health Assistants Association on 30 April held a ceremony to honour community health workers for their efforts in the polio eradication campaign at the hall of the Township Health Department in Mawlamine of Mon State.

Head of Township Health Department Dr Khin Aye Khaing presented certificates to several groups of the community health staff.

Similar ceremonies

took place in 10 other townships of Mon State.

Under the supervision of authorities, community health workers have been working closely with members of social organizations in order to conduct polio vaccination. Officials said

that the polio campaigns were effective, contributing the success to the close cooperation. As infections with “wild polio virus” could be controlled across the nation, authorities declared Myanmar a polio free nation on 7 April 2014 which falls on World Health Day, according to a health officer of the township.—*Hset Nay Min Aung*

Dental university students on field trip of sharing dental knowledge to villagers

MYEIK, 3 May—As part of uplifting health standard of the people, students of University of Dental Medicine (Yangon) conducted collection of data in Myeik of Taninthayi Region on Friday.

The data collection squad leader Dr Maung

Maung Myint explained purpose of gathering the data to the local people at Basic Education Primary School (Shanchaung) where member students shared knowledge about dental diseases.

The dentist team performed free dental check-

ups and delivered treatment and dental medicines to the people.

The dental team gathered the dental data in Ingamaw, Sandawut, Kyweku and Yemyitkyi villages of Myeik Township as of 28 April and provided dental care to about 400 local peo-

ple.

Dental students had never carried out data collection in the villages. Thanks to educative talks of the students, the local people understood importance of teeth and dental diseases.—*Khaing Htoo (Myeik District IPRD)*



WORLD

British official condemns bomb attack in Nigeria

LONDON, 3 May — Mark Simmonds, British Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Foreign & Commonwealth Office, on Friday condemned the latest bomb attack in Abuja, capital of Nigeria.

Death toll of a blast at Nyanya on the outskirts of Abuja on Thursday night rose to 19 on Friday, and some 60 people were also injured in the explosion, Nigerian police authorities said.

"I condemn utterly this disgusting and cowardly attack and offer my condolences to those affected," Simmonds said, adding that he was "horrified" to learn of the bomb attack on the eastern outskirts of Abuja.

"We will continue to support the Government of Nigeria as it seeks to prevent further attacks and bring those responsible to justice," he noted.

A previous suicide bomb blast near the scene of the Nyanya attack claimed at least 71 lives and injured 124 others in mid-April.

It was unclear if the explosion was perpetrated by Boko Haram, a sect which has been a major security threat in Nigeria since 2009. The group claimed responsibility for April's blast in Nyanya.

Xinhua

Dozens killed in Ukraine riot and fire; OSCE monitors freed

ODESSA, 3 May — At least 42 people were killed in street battles between supporters and opponents of Russia in southern Ukraine that ended with pro-Russian protesters trapped in a flaming building, bringing the country closer to war.

Pro-Russian rebels in the east freed seven European military observers on Saturday after holding them hostage for eight days, while Kiev pressed on with a military campaign to reclaim rebel-held territory in the area.

The riot in the Black Sea port of Odessa that ended in a deadly blaze in a trade union building was by far the worst incident in Ukraine since a February uprising that ended with a pro-Russian president fleeing the country.

It also spread the violence from the eastern separatist heartland to an area far from the Russian frontier, raising the prospect of unrest sweeping more broadly across a country of around 45 million people the size of France.



People wait to be rescued on upper storeys at the trade union building in Odessa on 2 May, 2014.—REUTERS

On Saturday morning, people placed flowers near the burnt-out doors of the trade union building, lighting candles and putting up the yellow, white and red flag of the city. The burnt remains of a tented camp of pro-Russian demonstrators nearby had been swept away. People spoke of their horror at what happened.

At the nearby hospital,

residents queued up to offer blood and others went to find out what medicine was needed so they could go out to buy it.

Oleg Konstantinov, a journalist covering the events for a local Internet site, said bullets had flown in the melee before the blaze: "I was hit in the arm, then I started crawling, and then got hit in the back and leg."

The Kremlin, which has massed tens of thousands of soldiers on the eastern Ukrainian frontier and proclaims the right to invade to protect Russian speakers, said the provisional government in Kiev and its Western backers were responsible.

The Odessa bloodshed came on the same day as the biggest push yet by the government in Kiev to reassert its control over separatist

areas in the east, hundreds of kilometers away, where heavily armed pro-Russian rebels have proclaimed a "People's Republic of Donetsk".

The rebels there aim to hold a referendum on 11 May on secession from Ukraine, similar to one staged in March in Ukraine's Crimea region, which was seized and annexed by Russia in a move that overturned the post-Cold War diplomatic order.

Rebels in the eastern town of Sloviansk, their most heavily fortified redoubt, shot down two Ukrainian helicopters on Friday, killing two crew, and stalled an advance by Ukrainian troops in armored vehicles. On Saturday the government said it was pressing on with the offensive in the area for a second day.—Reuters



A pro-Russian rebel aims his rifle at a checkpoint near a Ukrainian airbase in Kramatorsk, eastern Ukraine on 2 May, 2014.—REUTERS

Venezuela says 58 foreigners among unrest detainees

CARACAS, 3 May — Venezuela said on Friday that 58 foreigners had been arrested on suspicion of inciting anti-government protests and violence that have rocked the South American for the last three months.

Interior Minister Miguel Rodriguez Torres told a news conference that Colombians, an American, a Spaniard and an Arab were among the scores of "mercenaries" rounded up before and during demonstrations against the socialist government.

At least 41 people have died, and nearly 800 injured, in violence around the protests that brought the South American OPEC nation's worst unrest in a decade. "Up to now, there are 58 detainees of other nationalities, almost all implicated in the use of arms," he said, showing reporters numerous flow-charts and photos of alleged meetings, phone calls and plotting.

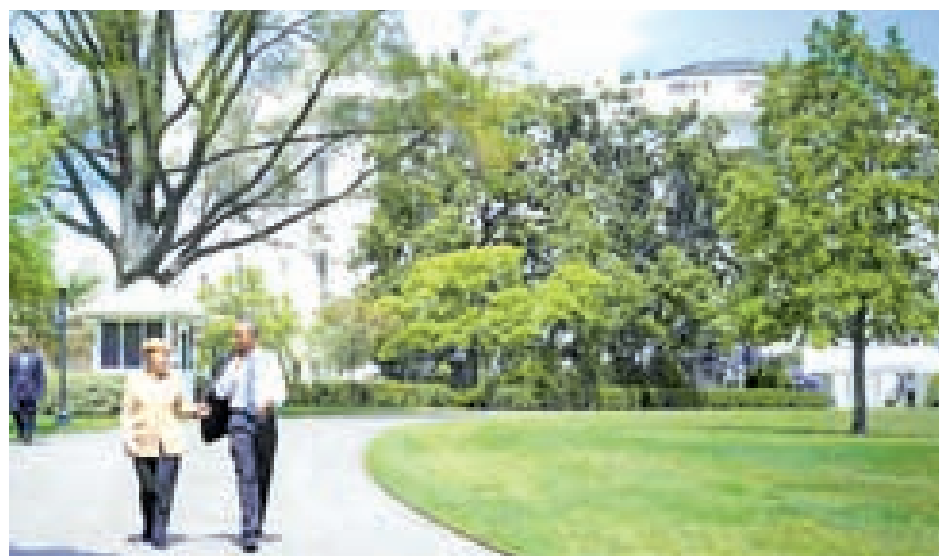
The US citizen, detained in Tachira state, had been previously identified as Todd Michael Leininger, and is accused of arms trafficking and attempted murder.



Anti-government protesters hold up chains during a May Day demonstration in Caracas on 1 May, 2014.—REUTERS

President Nicolas Maduro, who seems to have faced down the worst of the protests, alleges his opponents were planning a coup against him, with the connivance of the United States, like the brief toppling of his predecessor Hugo Chavez in 2002. Rodriguez accused right-wing US politicians and former Colombian president Alvaro Uribe of being involved in a meticulous plan to spark the unrest and bring down Maduro with the involvement of the US government.—Reuters

Obama, Merkel still struggle over spying but agree on trade



US President Barack Obama (R) and German Chancellor Angela Merkel walk following their meeting to the herb and vegetable garden of the White House in Washington on 2 May, 2014.—REUTERS

WASHINGTON, 3 May — President Barack Obama and German Chancellor Angela Merkel could not hide differences on Friday over US surveillance practices despite Obama's offer of "cyber dialogue" with Berlin and a pledge to

bridge gaps that have tarnished their relationship.

The two leaders have been at odds over the US National Security Agency's spying habits since revelations from former NSA contractor Edward Snowden last year showed the United States had listened in on many of its allies, including Merkel.

Obama has since banned the practice of eavesdropping on allied political leaders, but the measure has not placated Germany.

"We have a few difficulties yet to overcome," Merkel said in a joint news conference with Obama at the White House, referring to the conflict and pointedly declining to say, when

asked, that trust between the two nations had been restored.

Snowden's revelations caused indignation in Germany, which is especially sensitive about surveillance after abuse by the Gestapo under the Nazis and by the Stasi in East Germany.

Berlin has pushed in vain for a "no-spy" agreement with Washington.

Obama said the United States did not have such agreements with any country, friend or foe. He said the United States was working with Germany to work through rules that govern the relationship and to avert misunderstanding.

Reuters

Al Qaeda's leader says Iraqi branch in Syria must return to fight at home



Al Qaeda's Ayman al-Zawahri speaks from an unknown location, in this still image taken from video uploaded on a social media website on 8 June, 2011.

REUTERS

RIYADH, 3 May — Iraqi al Qaeda's entry into Syria's civil war caused "a political disaster" for Islamist militants there, the movement's global leader Ayman al-Zawahri said in a video message, urging the faction to redouble its efforts in Iraq instead.

Zawahri has repeatedly tried to end infighting between the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) and another al Qaeda-aligned group, the Nusra Front. He said on Friday in a message translated by SITE Monitoring that if ISIL had accepted his decision not to get involved in Syria and had instead worked to "busy itself with Iraq, which needs double its efforts" then it could have avoided the "waterfall of blood" caused by militant infighting.

ISIL militants joined

the conflict in Syria last year and unilaterally declared they were taking over the Nusra Front, which had won the admiration of many rebels fighting Syria's President Bashar al-Assad for its battlefield prowess. Zawahri, who has run al Qaeda since Osama bin Laden was killed in April 2011, accused ISIL's leader, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, of "sedition" and said rebel disunity had been handed "on a plate of gold" to Assad, the ultimate target of all Sunni Islamist groups in Syria.

Zawahri said Baghdadi should instead redouble his efforts against the Iraqi government, led by Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki who is a Shi'ite — an Islamic sect regarded by al Qaeda as heretical. Shi'ism is the dominant sect in Iran.

Reuters

Japan, Portugal agree to cooperate in combating pirates

LISBON, 3 May — Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said on Friday he has agreed with his Portuguese counterpart Pedro Passos Coelho to promote cooperation on maritime security including measures to combat pirates.

Coelho, who gave a joint Press conference with Abe after their talks, said he hopes to see the agreement of the two maritime powers would lead to a future collaboration drawing on the history of bilateral exchanges over 470 years.

The two leaders are believed to have confirmed the importance of securing and maintaining free passage on high seas in line with international law, with Japan apparently aiming to contain China's increasing assertiveness in the East China Sea and elsewhere. The two countries are expected to hold

consultations among defence officials over maritime security issues.

The two leaders also agreed to seek an early conclusion of the ongoing negotiations for a free trade agreement between Japan and the European Union.

Abe is the first Japanese prime minister ever to visit Portugal, one of the 28 countries comprising the EU. Aiming to strengthen its relations with Portuguese-speaking countries such as Brazil, Angola and Mozambique, Japan is planning to join as an observer the Community of Portuguese Language Countries. Coelho welcomed the move.

Abe is on a six-nation tour of Europe. He arrived in Portugal after visiting Germany and Britain and will also stop in Spain, France and Belgium.

Kyodo News



Visiting Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe (L) and Portuguese Prime Minister Pedro Passos Coelho shake hands in Lisbon on 2 May, 2014, prior to their talks. Abe, who is on a two-day official visit to Portugal as part of six-nation European tour, is the first Japanese prime minister to visit the country. — KYODO NEWS

Waste from US nuke weapons lab might be source of leak

HOUSTON, 3 May — The US Department of Energy indicated on Friday that waste from a nuclear weapons laboratory stored in an underground dump in New Mexico might be the source of a major radiation leak that had exposed 21 people and closed the repository for months.

The Energy Department said in a statement on Friday that crews in their

recent trip to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant in southeastern New Mexico uncovered the disintegration of several heavy bags containing magnesium oxide. The bags sit atop several sealed drums containing nuclear waste from Los Alamos National Laboratory, a leading nuclear weapons manufacturer of the country.

"The team is look-

ing at the possibility that a chemical reaction may have occurred within a drum, causing a potential release," the department said in the statement.

Investigators were also looking at whether the cause could be related to the waste packages themselves. The department said earlier it was not clear what damaged the bags. And the crews had not found any

structural damage in the waste storage area of the repository.

Officials said a possible cause of the problem might be the presence of untreated nitrate salts in some of the containers, which could result in an "energetic chemical reaction" if they came in contact with certain other material in the containers.

Xinhua

Syrian rebel offensive encroaches on last chemical stockpile

BEIRUT, 3 May — A Syrian rebel offensive aimed at easing a government siege east of Damascus has brought fighting closer to the last declared stockpile of President Bashar al-Assad's chemical weapons, according to diplomats and activists.

Syria has been removing 1,300 metric tons of chemical weapons under a deal reached last year which averted Western military strikes, after a sarin gas attack on rebel-held suburbs around the Syrian capital in August.

But it has missed several deadlines to ship out the toxins — the last of which was 27 April — and has told the international mission overseeing the operation that one remaining chemical site remains diffi-



Rebel fighters fire an artillery cannon towards forces loyal to Syria's President Bashar al-Assad in eastern al-Ghouta, near Damascus on 30 April, 2014. — REUTERS

cult to reach because of the fighting.

Assad's Western foes

suspect him of deliberately dragging out the process, but the rebel advance east

of Damascus suggests there are genuine obstacles to getting the chemicals out.

"It's a very contested area," said one diplomat following the chemical elimination process, which is supervised by a joint mission of the United Nations and the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons.

Activists say rebels have clashed with Assad's forces between Dumair air base, which they said came under heavy rocket fire from the rebels, and Sayqal air base about 40 km (25 miles) further east where the chemicals are believed to be held.

While the rebel attack appears more focused on Dumair and on breaking the military stranglehold which Assad's forces have imposed closer to the capital, the fighting has increasingly isolated Sayqal and

encroached towards it.

Activists said the fighters are from the Islamic Front — one of the largest and most powerful Islamist rebel coalitions — the Rahman Corps and Ahmad Abdo Brigades. The offensive appeared to be funded by Gulf Arab supporters, they said.

The diplomat said rebels have overrun the abandoned and emptied chemical base at Khan Abu Shammal, which lies between Dumair and Sayqal, and cut the road linking them. He described the proximity of the fighting to Sayqal as worrying and said it was not clear whether there were alternative routes to evacuate the chemicals other than the road which was blocked by the rebels.—Reuters

WORLD

Bombs, protests hit Egypt in run-up to presidential election



Egyptian security officials inspect a site hit by a bomb attack targeting a traffic security post near a courthouse in Cairo's Heliopolis district on 2 May, 2014. REUTERS

CAIRO, 3 May — Two suicide bombings in Egypt's South Sinai killed a soldier and wounded at least eight people and two other bombs killed two people in Cairo on Friday, less than four weeks before a presidential election is due to be held, official sources said. In other violence in the port city of Alexandria, two people were shot dead when supporters of deposed President Mo-

hamed Mursi clashed with residents, the Interior Ministry said in a statement.

Militant attacks and other political violence have spiraled since the army overthrew Mursi, a senior Muslim Brotherhood figure, last July after mass protests against his rule. Former army chief Abdel Fattah al-Sisi, who led the action, is expected to win the presidential election on 26 and 27 May.

Friday's suicide attack in El-Tur, a town on the main road between Cairo and the tourist resort of Sharm El-Sheikh, killed a soldier as well as the bomber. Three policemen and another soldier were wounded, an Interior Ministry statement said.

Four Egyptians were wounded in the second attack, further south on the road between El-Tur and Sharm El-Sheikh, the Interior Ministry and security

sources said. A spokesman for the governorate of South Sinai Province, speaking to CBC television, identified the wounded as employees of a tourism company. The Interior Ministry said they were factory workers.

A third bomb killed one policeman at a traffic security post near a courthouse in Cairo, security sources said. At least four other policemen were wounded, the Interior Ministry said. In a fourth blast, one person was killed when a car exploded near a metro station in downtown Cairo, security sources said.

The army has been waging a campaign against armed Islamist groups in North Sinai. The influence of such groups expanded in the area after the 2011 uprising that toppled Hosni Mubarak from the presidency.

While most of the recent attacks have targeted the security forces, three South Koreans were killed

in February when a bomb hit a tourist bus in South Sinai near a border crossing with Israel.

Tourists are an important source of foreign currency for Egypt's economy but tourist numbers have dwindled over more than three years of political turmoil.

In the Alexandria clashes, two people were shot, the Interior Ministry said. Forty-two Mursi supporters were arrested in protests across Egypt, it added.

Three members of the security forces were wounded in clashes with Brotherhood supporters in Helwan, south of Cairo, it said.

The Brotherhood, on its website, blamed one of the deaths in Alexandria on security forces. Thousands of Brotherhood supporters have been arrested and hundreds killed since July. The organization says it is committed to peaceful activism.—Reuters

Colombia court backs Santos in sea boundary dispute with Nicaragua

BOGOTA, 3 May — Colombia's constitutional court ruled on Friday that applying a decision by the International Court of Justice (ICJ) that granted Nicaragua a disputed area of Caribbean waters could not take effect without a treaty between the countries.

The court's verdict upholds the position taken by Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos, who said the Hague-based ICJ's decision was not applicable according to Colombia's constitution without such a treaty, ratified by the Andean nation's congress.

The ICJ in November 2012 reduced the area of ocean that belonged to Colombia around its cluster of Caribbean islands, determining that a section of their maritime shelf belonged to Nicaragua.

Colombia has been angered by Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega's plans to allow foreign companies to explore for oil in Caribbean seas that Colombia maintains are its own.

Santos, the front runner in a presidential election set for 25 May in which he will seek a second term, has never said that he flatly rejected the ICJ's ruling and stated in the past that Colombia would not go to war to resolve the dispute.

Reuters

Nineteen hurt in New York subway derailment



NYPD officers stand near the scene of a derailed F train in Woodside, New York, on 2 May, 2014.—REUTERS

NEW YORK, 3 May — A New York City subway train carrying 1,000 riders derailed on Friday morning while traveling through a tunnel in the borough of Queens, injuring 19 people, city fire officials said. Fifteen people escaped with minor injuries while four more were transported to a hospital with potentially serious injuries, officials said. The incident, at 10:24 am (1424 GMT), involved six cars in an eight-car Manhattan-bound 'F' line subway, they said.

The cause of the derailment was not immediately known but MTA Chairman Thomas Prendergast said the mass-transit agency will begin a full inspection of signals and tracks. NY1 television broadcast video of fire officials evacuating throngs of people in darkness, some through subway grates.

"I saw everyone jerk forward. My car went dark," said Connie Wang, 24, a freelance photographer who was riding in a car in the middle of the train. "There were sparks flying."

Wang, who was traveling from her home in Queens to a job in lower Manhattan, said her fellow passengers mostly waited in silence during the hour it took before they were evacuated.—Reuters

More than 2,100 confirmed dead in Afghan landslide

KABUL, 3 May — Afghan officials gave up hope on Saturday of finding any survivors from a landslide in the remote northeast, putting the death toll at more than 2,100, as the aid effort focused on the more than 4,000 people displaced. Officials expressed concern the unstable hillside above the site of the disaster may cave in again, threatening the thousands of homeless and hundreds of rescue workers who have arrived in Badakhshan province, bordering Tajikistan.

"More than 2,100 people from 300 families are all dead," Naweed Forotan, a spokesman for the Badakhshan provincial govern-

nor, told Reuters.

Villagers and a few dozen police, equipped with only basic digging tools, resumed their search when daylight broke but it soon became clear there was no hope of finding survivors buried in up to 100 meters of mud.

The United Nations mission in Afghanistan said the focus was on the more than 4,000 people displaced, either directly as a result of Friday's landslide or as a precautionary measure from villages assessed to be at risk.

Their main needs were water, medical support, counseling support, food and emergency shelter, said Ari Gaitanis, a spokes-

man from the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan.

The impoverished area, dotted with villages of mud-brick homes nestled in valleys beside bare slopes, has been hit by several landslides in recent years. The side of the mountain above Ab Barak collapsed at around 11 a.m. (0630 GMT) on Friday as people were trying to recover belongings and livestock after a smaller landslide hit a few hours earlier.

Hundreds of homes were destroyed in the landslides that were triggered by torrential rain. Officials worry another section of the mountainside could collapse.—Reuters



Afghan villagers gather at the site of a landslide at the Argo district in Badakhshan Province, on 2 May, 2014.—REUTERS

PERSPECTIVES

Sunday, 4 May, 2014

Press freedom should not just be lip service

By Soe Tint

Free media, traditional and new, are indispensable for development, democracy and good governance, United Nations officials said on 1 May, two days ahead of Press Freedom Day – observed annually on 3 May.

Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon told a briefing that freedom of expression, independent media and universal access to knowledge will fortify our efforts to achieve lasting results

for people and the planet.

Myanmar has now been in a position to enjoy some degree of press freedom since censorship was revoked when a democratic government came to power three years ago.

With the government having allowed private newspaper publications, we are now able to read unbiased news stories about human rights abuses for example.

A lot of private newspapers have emerged and reporters can do free reporting. Meanwhile, state-run newspapers are going through a reform process. The state-owned English version newspaper is now on a joint-venture basis, while two Myanmar newspapers are transforming into public service media.

Mr. Ban, however, said in his briefing that every day of the year, the fundamental freedom to receive and impart ideas through any media is

under assault. He pointed out that journalists are being singled out for speaking or writing uncomfortable truths – kidnapped, detained, beaten and sometimes murdered.

In this regard, we can say that complete press freedom cannot be enjoyed if such assault against journalists continues to exist.

Therefore, all global countries, including Myanmar, should spare no effort to promote press freedom in accord with democratic norms and standards.

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.

Strategy

Kyi Mun

The word “Strategy” is derived from the Greek word “STRATEGOS”, which means:

“The Art of the General”

The best strategy is always to be very strong; first in general, then at the decisive point... There is no higher and simpler law of strategy than that of keeping one’s forces concentrated... In short, the first principle is: act with the utmost concentration.

On War, Carl Von Clausewitz

The Meaning of Strategy:

Strategy, in common language means:

- How to get what you want.
- The Means to an End.
- The Recipe for a good Dish.
- The Cause of an Effect.
- The Journey to a Destination.
- The Remedy for a certain Disease.

So, it is quite clear that strategy is the Way to a certain Destination which is the Goal or the Objective. In a business sense, Strategy is a Plan of Action or a Strategic Plan.

Some Definitions of Strategy

Strategy : A Plan that is intended to achieve a particular Purpose.
The Process of Planning something or putting a Plan into operation in a skillful way.

Oxford Dictionary

Strategy : The art of distributing and applying. (military) MEANS to fulfil the Ends of Policy.

B.H Liddell Hart

Grand Strategy: The term “grand strategy” serves to bring about the sense of “Policy in Execution.” For the role of grand strategy – higher strategy—is to coordinate and direct all the resources of a nation, or a band of nations, towards the attainment of the political object of the war-the goal defined by fundamental policy.

B.H Liddell Hart

- Strategy depends for success, first and foremost, on a sound calculation and coordination of the End and the Means.

Liddell Hart

- Strategy works for the object of policy, but is completely independent of its actions.

Moltke

- Strategy is Careful Planning for Victory.

Robert Greene.

- Strategy is to stand back when the time is not yet ripe, and to strike fiercely when it has reached fruitions.

Robert Greene

- All men can see these tactics whereby I conquer, but what none can see is the strategy out of which victory is evolved.

Sun Tzu, The Art of War

- The most complete and happy victory is this : to compel one’s enemy to give up his purpose, while suffering no harm oneself.’

Belisarius

‘By indirections find directions out.’

SHAKESPEARE, Hamlet, Act II, Scene I

- The whole art of war consists in a well-reasoned and extremely circumspect defensive, followed by rapid and audacious attack.

Napoleon

If you want to understand what Strategy means, you have to understand How To Get What You Want. In other words, Strategy is the Means to an End.

The Contents of Strategy

S for Strengths	The Winning Edge Capabilities and Resources
T for Targets	Short-term Wins to be Achieved
R for Resources	H/R, Financial, Technological, and Organizational Resources including Information
A for Audacity	Daring to Struggle & Daring to Win, and Daring to Scale the Heights
T for Tactics	Actual Field Performance including Plots, Ploys & Pressures
E for Effectiveness & Efficiency	Doing the Right things, and Doing the things Right
G for Goal/Objective	Organizational Goal and Policy Objective to be accomplished
Y for Yin & Yang	Attack & Defense; Software & Hardware

Structure of a Strategy

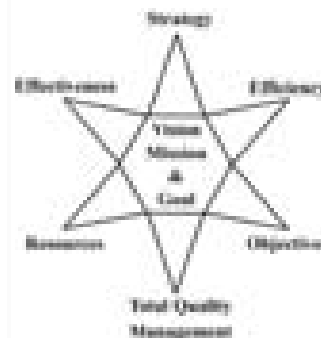


Illustration of Strategy

Prince Siddhattha had a very definite objective which was an unconditioned life. He perfectly knew that an unconditioned life was a life entirely free from bondage – bondage to passions and defilements. In other words, he intended to be totally liberated from all forms of bondage. He knew that he would thus be delivered from all kinds of suffering and sorrow only after he had abandoned once and for all every particle of sensual desire, pride and wrong view. At last, he was able to develop the Strategy of Morality, Concentration and Wisdom. So, Prince Siddhartha’s Objective was Liberation and his Strategy was Sila, Samadhi and Pañña which is the same as Morality, Concentration and Wisdom.

Some other Examples:

Objective	Strategy
• Destination	• Journey
• Lunch	• Choice of a Particular Restaurant (Choice of Dishes is Tactic)
• Productivity	• Output Divided by Input.
• Profit	• Income minus Expenditure
• Knowledge	• Learning
• Peace of Mind	• To Be Carefree & Sorrowless
• Health	• Diet and Exercise and Serenity of mind
• Problem	• The Right Way to Solve the Problem
• Riddle	• The Correct Answer to it
• Disease/Ailment	• The Right Remedy/ Medicine
• An Issue to be Settled	• Negotiation or Fighting it out
• A Mountain Top	• Climbing, Negotiating & Reaching the Summit
• Trust / Love	• Being Trustworthy/ Loveworthy
• A Harvest	• Sowing & Cultivating
• Peace	• War or Peaceful Coexistence
• To Win the Battle	• Prevailing Over the Enemy (Enemy Advance, We Retreat Enemy Camp, We Harass Enemy Tire, We Attack Enemy Retreat, We Pursue = Tactic).
• Beautiful Garden	• Creative Gardening (Design & Choice of Flowers = Tactic)
• Elegant Dress	• Innovative Tailoring (Designing Patterns & choice of colors = Tactic)

(To be continued)

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

ARTICLE

Yangon's evolving skate scene needs support and a safe place to skate: Myanmar Skate Association

By Kerstin Winter

"My life is so different now. Skateboarding has changed my life for the better," said 27-year old Ko Thit as he clutches his board in the dim light under Hledan bridge in Kamayut township, where every Friday evening a growing number of inline and skateboarding fans meets.

Some of them made the trip to Yangon's Pyay Road all the way from Bago to meet old friends and make new ones.

New faces — Myanmar and foreign — are always welcome, organizers from the Myanmar Skate Association said.

The MSA was officially founded one year ago, and now with 600 members across the country, it has transformed the lives of many, said David Bayne from Australia.

The 23-year old is one of the founders of the group and has been dedicated in promoting skating and the benefits it brings.

"Skating builds confidence, and it is a great sport for everyone. People can come here and make many new friends. We are like a family and welcome people of all age groups, skateboarders, inline skaters,



With skills that would impress a Western pro, this young talent now only needs an international standard skate park to practice.

PHOTO: YUKI MURAYAMA

BMXers. There is no rivalry here," he said.

As more and more people are joining, David and the other organizers said they are hoping that the authorities or private donors will help them to find a safe place to skate, as the makeshift skatepark under the bridge is located between several heavy traffic lanes. "And I am worried that the authorities might block us here. There was a skatepark near City Center, but they never let us repair it, so now it is impossible for us

A young adrenaline junkie showing off his skills.

PHOTO: YUKI MURAYAMA

MSA members, skate communities are not a new thing here, but that things only took off around 2011 when more people got access to the internet. Many kids learnt more about the sport by watching Western video clips and connecting with like minded people on facebook. Equipment is still hard to find in Myanmar, especially skateboards, which cost around K 40,000 and are often of poor quality, David said. But the community is growing and many skaters are happy

also like to organize more competitions," David said.

The MSA has so far held two competitions in Yangon; one at a school for deaf-and-mute children and one at a public school, with a phenomenal response, David said. "Some got injured in practice, but they would still come back and watch and support us. They were so excited."

The MSA members donated the prizes, but stressed that paying everything out of their



Inline skating is popular among the girls.

PHOTO: YUKI MURAYAMA

and willing to share their equipment with newcomers.

To educate more people about skating, and ultimately enrich their lives with something fun and healthy to do in their free time, Soe Htet Oo, one of the MSA founders, said they travel to different destinations in a van once a month to promote the sport and share their experience. "Many people have never heard of skating before or they think it is just for children, so when they see us skate they are surprised and amazed," he said.

"We go to skateparks around the country and talk about equipment, tricks, speed, and safety. And in future we would

own pockets in order to support the community is difficult as many members are still students.

But as more and more foreigners enter the country, the Myanmar skating community is hoping that it will soon benefit from the influx — not just financially, but also on a cultural level.

"It would be great if more foreigners came to teach new tricks or simply hang out here. The people here could learn more about other countries and cultures, and make international friends," David said.

For more info go to www.facebook.com/myanmar skate association or contact dpayne@hopemyanmar.org



New EU force in Central African Republic sets stability as top priority

BANGUI, 3 May — The top priority of a new European Union peacekeeping force in Central African Republic is to restore stability in the capital, the force commander, French Major-General Philippe Ponties, told a news conference on Friday.

Thousands of people have been killed in inter-communal violence in the former French colony in recent months and close to a million have been displaced from their homes.

“The objective that we are looking for, and which I think we share with most of the international community, is to make it so each citizen of Central African Republic, whatever their communal background, can see a positive future,” Ponties said.

“There will be 850 soldiers (by June) who will be deployed to contribute to the security of the airport in Bangui and the estab-



A local policeman guards an area as people disembark from trucks with their belongings at the transit IDP centre, after having travelled in a convoy escorted by the African Union operation in CAR (MISCA) on a four-day journey from the capital Bangui, on the outskirts of the Central African Republic-Chad border town of Sido on 30 April, 2014.—REUTERS

lishment of a stable and secure environment in the third and fifth districts of the capital,” he said.

Mostly Muslim Sele-

ka rebels seized power in the land-locked country last year, saying they had been excluded by southern tribes from its oil, gold

and diamond wealth. But their 10 months in power, marked by murder, looting and extortion, sparked a sectarian backlash in

which Christian militias are driving Muslims from the south.

The news conference was held in the VIP lounge of Bangui’s main airport. EU peacekeepers took charge of security at the airport on Wednesday in their first major operation to try to end the bloodshed.

Their presence has not stopped violence in the city, including the killing of a Muslim man on Wednesday whose body was decapitated and mutilated.

Thousands of civilians have taken refuge beside the airport and almost all the capital’s Muslims have fled the city.

The EU launched its force at the start of April after weeks of delays caused by shortages of soldiers and equipment.

Only about 150 EU troops have arrived so far but the strength of the force is expected to continue

building until it reaches its target of 800 to 1,000 soldiers in June, the EU said.

Countries including France, Georgia, Estonia, Latvia, Poland, Portugal and Spain have pledged soldiers or logistics. The United Nations has approved a 12,000-strong peacekeeping mission that will take over from an African force in the country from mid-September.

Persistent violence has raised costs for a parallel political transition period to 713 billion CFA francs (889 million pounds) from an initial estimate of 490 billion CFA francs, Prime Minister Andre Nzapayeke said on Friday.

Interim President Catherine Samba-Panza in January named Nzapayeke, a former official of the African Development Bank, as prime minister, in a move towards restoring order.

Reuters

South Sudan leader ready for talks but rival doesn’t commit



South Sudan’s President Salva Kiir Mayardit (R) shakes hands with US Secretary of State John Kerry at the President’s Office in Juba on 2 May, 2014. REUTERS

JUBA, 3 May — South Sudan’s President Salva Kiir said on Friday he was ready for face-to-face talks with rebel leader Riek Machar to try and end months of fighting in the world’s newest nation, but his rival held off from promising to take part.

Kiir spoke hours after US Secretary of State John Kerry met him in South Sudan’s capital Juba to urge him to help end the conflict — part of a diplomatic push by Western and African powers who fear it could tip into full-blown ethnic slaughter and destabilize an already fragile region.

“In the interest of peace in our country, I am willing and ready for face-to-face talks with Machar,” Kiir was quoted as saying in a statement released by the government of Kenya, where he flew to brief his regional counterparts after meeting Kerry.

Thousands have been killed and more than 1 million people have fled their homes since fighting erupted in December between troops backing Kiir and soldiers loyal to Machar, his sacked deputy.

The violence, which broke out after a long political rivalry between the two men, quickly spread

to areas including the oil-producing north, often along ethnic lines between Kiir’s Dinka people and Machar’s Nuer.

A senior US State Department official said a phone conversation Kerry held on Friday with Machar was inconclusive.

Machar “expressed openness to participating” in talks but did not commit during the call with Kerry, the official said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Kerry, on his first visit as secretary of state to South Sudan, warned on Thursday that the increasingly ethnic violence could descend into genocide and

said he expected the rapid deployment of more peacekeepers.

On Friday, he cited the risks of famine in South Sudan, decried reported recruitment of child soldiers and cited “appalling accounts of sexual violence.”

“Before the promise of South Sudan’s future is soaked in more blood, President Kiir and the opposition must work immediately for a cessation of hostilities and move towards an understanding about future governance of the country,” Kerry told reporters in the South Sudanese capital Juba.

Delegations from both sides have been meeting in neighbouring Ethiopia, but their talks have failed to advance since the 23 January signing of a ceasefire that never took hold.

Kerry said a meeting between Kiir and Machar, which would be their first face-to-face encounter since the conflict began, would be “critical” to finally implementing the ceasefire. He said such talks might take place as early as next week, though that was before he had spoken with Machar.

Reuters

Nigeria says gathering of rich and powerful will not be cowed by bombings

ABUJA, 3 May — Nigeria on Friday urged delegates due for the World Economic Forum (WEF) in Abjua next week “not to let terror win” by staying away after a second bombing in the capital in less than three weeks.

A suspected car bomb killed 19 people and wounded 34 on Thursday night in the suburb of Nyanya, about 8 km (five miles) from Abuja city centre and next to the bus station where a rush hour bomb attack killed 75 people on 14 April.

The bombings, along with the abduction of 200 girls from a secondary school in the northeastern village of Chibok near the Cameroon border, threaten to over-

shadow the WEF conference’s emphasis on Africa’s positive growth story.

The girls, who were taking exams, were taken away on trucks on the same day as the bus station bombing. Both attacks showed the powerlessness of Nigerian security forces to protect civilians against the militant Islamist group Boko Haram.

President Goodluck Jonathan’s government will mount a huge security operation to protect the WEF scheduled for next Wednesday and Thursday.

A regional replica of the Davos, Switzerland, event, it will bring together international leaders, policy-makers, entrepreneurs and philanthropists.—Reuters



Ordnance experts turn over a damaged car at the scene of a bomb attack in Nyanya, Abuja, on 2 May, 2014.—REUTERS

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Jupiter's moon Ganymede may have 'club sandwich' layers of ocean

WASHINGTON, 3 May—As club sandwiches go, this undoubtedly is the biggest one in the solar system.

Scientists said on Friday that Jupiter's moon Ganymede may possess ice and liquid oceans stacked up in several layers much like the popular multilayered sandwich. They added that this arrangement may raise the chances that this distant icy world harbors life.

NASA's *Galileo* spacecraft flew by Ganymede in the 1990s and confirmed the presence of an interior ocean, also finding evidence for salty water perhaps from

the salt known as magnesium sulfate. Ganymede, which with its diameter of about 3,300 miles (5,300 km), is the largest moon in the solar system and is bigger than the planet Mercury. A team of scientists performed computer modeling of Ganymede's ocean, taking into account for the first time how salt increases the density of liquids under the type of extreme conditions present inside Ganymede. Their work followed experiments in the laboratory that simulated such salty seas.

While earlier research suggested a routine "sand-

wich" arrangement in which there is ice at the surface, then a layer of liquid water and another layer of ice on the bottom, this new study indicated there might be more layers than that.

Steve Vance, an astrobiologist at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in California, said the arrangement might be like this: at the top, a layer of ice on the moon's surface, with a layer of water below that, then a second layer of ice, another layer of water underneath that, then a third layer of ice, with a final layer of water at the bottom above the rocky seafloor.

"That would make it the largest club sandwich in the solar system," Vance said in a telephone interview. "I suppose I'm also a fan of club sandwiches. My fiancée points out that I order them every time we go out to eat." Ganymede boasts a lot of water, perhaps 25 times the volume of Earth's oceans. Its oceans are estimated to be about 500 miles (800 km) deep. With enough salt, liquid water on Ganymede could become so dense that it sinks to the very bottom, the

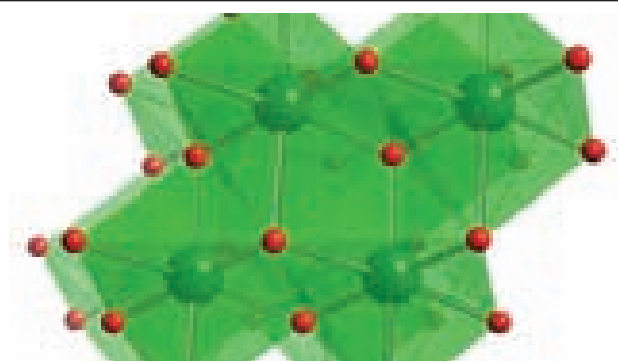
researchers said. That means water may be sloshing on top of rock, a situation that may foster conditions suitable for the development of microbial life. Some scientists suspect that life first formed on Earth in bubbling thermal vents on the ocean floor.

"Our understanding of how life came about on Earth involves the interaction between water and rock. This (research) provides a stronger possibility for those kinds of interactions to take place on Ganymede," added Vance, whose study was published in the journal *Planetary and Space Science*.

Ganymede is one of five moons in the solar system thought to have oceans hidden below icy surfaces. Two other moons, Europa and Callisto, orbit the big gas planet Jupiter. The moons Titan and Enceladus circle the ringed gas planet Saturn.

"We're providing a more realistic view into ocean structure in Ganymede's interior. We're showing that the salinity has a tangible effect on the ocean," Vance said.

Reuters



Scientists confirm existence of superheavy element 117

WASHINGTON, 3 May—The existence of a new superheavy element known as element 117, which was first created artificially in 2010, have been confirmed, an international team of researchers said on Friday.

The research, published in the US journal *Physical Review Letters*, made it one step closer to earn an official spot on the periodic table.

The discovery of element 117 was first announced in 2010 by a Russia-US collaboration working at the Joint Institute for Nuclear Research in Dubna, Russia. The original experiment was repeated successfully in 2012.

The present experiment was performed by an international team led by scientists at the GSI Helmholtz Centre for Heavy Ion Research, an accelerator laboratory located in Darmstadt, Germany.

In this experiment, scientists bombarded a berkelium target with calcium ions until they collided and formed element 117, which

then decayed into elements 115 and 113.

Elements beyond atomic number 104 are referred to as superheavy elements.

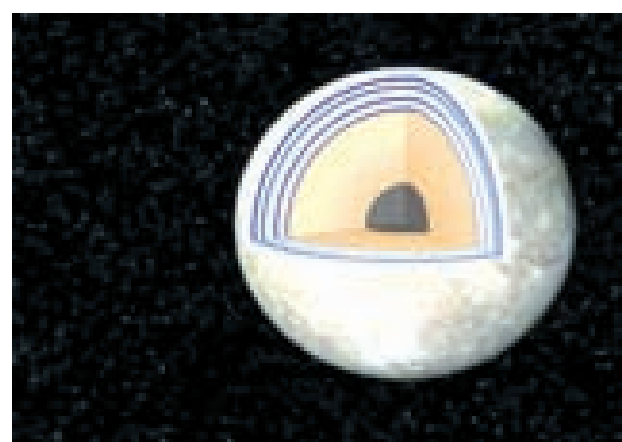
The most long-lived ones are expected to be situated on a so-called "island of stability," where nuclei with extremely long half-lives should be found.

Although superheavy elements have not been found in nature, they can be produced by accelerating beams of nuclei and shooting them at the heaviest possible target nuclei.

Fusion of two nuclei, a very rare event, occasionally produces a superheavy element. Those currently accessible generally only exist for a short time.

"The successful experiments on element 117 are an important step on the path to the production and detection of elements situated on the 'island of stability' of superheavy elements," Horst Stocker, scientific director of GSI, said in a statement.

Xinhua



This artist's concept of Jupiter's moon Ganymede, the largest moon in the solar system, illustrates the "club sandwich" model of its interior oceans.—REUTERS

US jury orders smartphone maker Samsung to pay Apple \$120 million

SAN JOSE, (California), 3 May—A US jury on Friday ordered Samsung Electronics Co Ltd to pay \$119.6 million to Apple Inc, far less than Apple had sought and marking a big loss for the iPhone maker in the latest round of their globe-spanning mobile patent litigation. During the month-long trial in a San Jose, California, federal court, Apple accused Samsung of violating patents on smartphone features including universal search, while Samsung denied wrongdoing. On Friday, the jury found the South Korean smartphone maker had infringed two Apple patents.

Apple and Samsung have been litigating around the world for three years. Jurors awarded the iPhone maker about \$930 million after a 2012 trial in San Jose, but Apple failed to persuade US District Judge Lucy Koh to issue a permanent injunction against the sale of Samsung phones in the United States.

Some industry observers see the ongoing legal

dispute as an attempt by Apple to curtail the rapid growth of phones based on Google Inc's rival Android software. Samsung was by far the largest adopter of the operating platform.

"Though this verdict is large by normal standards, it is hard to view this outcome as much of a victory for Apple. This amount is less than 10 percent of the amount Apple requested, and probably doesn't surpass by too much the amount Apple

spent litigating this case," said Brian Love, assistant professor at the Santa Clara University School of Law.

"Apple launched this litigation campaign years ago with aspirations of slowing the meteoric rise of Android phone manufacturers. It has so far failed to do so, and this case won't get it any closer."

The current case involves five Apple patents that were not in the 2012 trial and that cover iPhone

features such as slide-to-unlock and search technology. Apple is seeking to ban sales of several Samsung phones, including the Galaxy S III, and sought just over \$2 billion in damages.

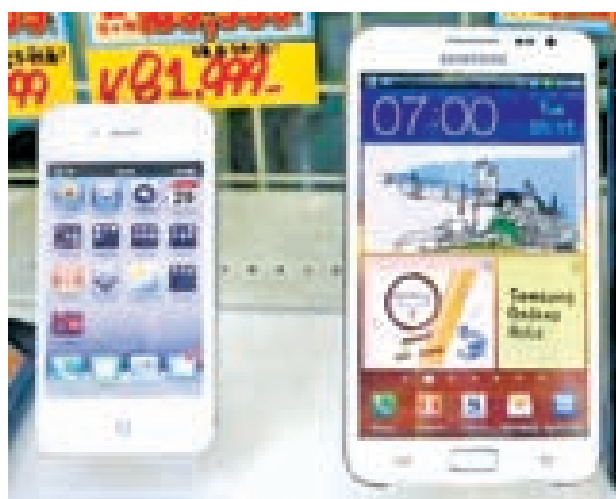
It will now be up to Judge Koh to decide whether a sales ban is warranted, though legal experts deem that unlikely.

"An injunction is extremely unlikely," argued Michael Carrier, a professor at Rutgers Law School. "The Federal Circuit sets a high bar."

Responding to the verdict, Apple said the ruling reinforced its stance that "Samsung willfully stole our ideas and copied our products." Samsung representatives were not immediately available for comment.

The shortfall in damages for Apple led some experts to again question whether patent litigation amongst the technology industry's largest players, which has been on the rise in past years, was a viable strategy.

Reuters



Apple's iPhone (L) and Samsung Galaxy Note are displayed at a shop in Tokyo on 31 Aug, 2012.—REUTERS

Comcast nears deal to stream EA games to TVs

LOS ANGELES, 3 May—Comcast Corp may soon allow customers using its cloud-connected X1 cable box system to buy games from Electronic Arts Inc through their televisions, according to five sources briefed on the plans. Such a partnership would come as the cable company seeks to protect its turf against a new wave of challengers.

After two years of testing, Comcast and EA, are close to reaching an agreement to stream video games such as "FIFA" and "Madden," into the living rooms of some of Comcast's more than 22 million customers across the United States, said the sources, who declined to speak publicly before a deal had been struck.

Comcast would make

the games available on X1, a video operating system with apps and an interface that is considered the most sophisticated in the cable industry, the sources said. It features Internet applications, viewing recommendations and voice control.

If the agreement goes through, it would mark the boldest step yet by a cable company to muscle into the territory of leading video-game console manufacturers such as Sony Corp and Microsoft Corp. Comcast has been beefing its x1 system with new features to stop potential customer defections to rival video streaming systems such as Apple TV and Amazon.com Inc's FireTV, which was launched just last month with a slew of games.—Reuters

Thai opposition leader wants election delayed to allow reforms

BANGKOK, 3 May — Thai opposition leader Abhisit Vejjajiva on Saturday urged that a general election planned for July be delayed by up to six months to allow time for reforms aimed at ending a protracted political crisis that threatens to explode.

Protesters have been trying to oust Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra since November, part of a long-running crisis that broadly pits Bangkok's middle class and royalist establishment against the mainly poor, rural supporters of Yingluck and her brother, ex-premier Thaksin Shinawatra.

Thaksin was ousted by the military in 2006 and now lives in exile to avoid a jail term handed down in 2008 for abuse of power. His opponents accuse him



Thailand's opposition leader and former Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva gestures during a news conference at the Royal Thai Armed Forces Command headquarters in Bangkok on 28 April, 2014. — REUTERS

of corruption and nepotism.

Thailand's Election Commission and Yingluck agreed on Wednesday to hold a general election on

20 July, but anti-government protesters who disrupted a vote in February said they still wanted electoral reforms before a new poll.

Former Prime Minister Abhisit, who launched a mediation effort on 24 April, told a news conference the vote should be delayed by five or six months while a committee thrashed out reforms that would be put to a referendum.

While that was being done, he wanted the country to be run by a neutral interim government with limited powers.

The panel should include representatives of the People's Democratic Reform Committee (PDRC), the protest group led by Suthep Thaugsuban, who was a deputy prime minister under Abhisit until

2011. "I have said from the start that no side will get what they want 100 percent from what I am proposing. But ... the government will see an election, people will get to vote in the next five to six months. The PDRC protesters will get their neutral government," Abhisit said.

He said he would not be part of the reform committee and that no politician should sit on it, but he gave few details on its likely composition.

He also said he would not take up a political position in future if his plan was accepted, although his medium-term intentions are unclear.

"I would like to ask Yingluck: is there any part of my proposal that damages the country?" he said.

Reuters

ASEAN-plus-3 to boost cooperation to strengthen Asian bond markets

ASTANA, 3 May — The Association of Southeast Asian Nations plus Japan, China and South Korea are set to hold a financial chiefs meeting in the Kazakh capital on Saturday aiming to boost cooperation in strengthening Asian bond markets to help prevent recurrence of an Asian currency crisis.

The financial ministers and central bank governors are also expected to address concerns about an economic slowdown in

emerging economies in the wake of the US Federal Reserve's tapering of its large-scale asset purchases.

At the meeting held on the sidelines of the Asian Development Bank's annual conference, the financial chiefs are likely to confirm the need to help businesses procure funds and increase transactions in local currencies by expanding a credit guarantee capacity for corporate bonds through a fund known as the Credit

Guarantee and Investment Facility.

In a statement to be released after the meeting, they are expected to endorse a decision made last November to more than double the credit guarantee limit to \$1.75 billion.

As massive outflows of US dollar-based capital triggered the 1997 to 1998 Asian currency crisis, the development of resilient local currency bond markets has been a long-term challenge in the region.

Also on the agenda is a plan to link each nation's fund and securities settlement systems to help enhance the safety and convenience of transactions and spur investment.

The ASEAN-plus-three consists of the 10 ASEAN members — Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam — plus Japan, China and South Korea.

Kyodo News

Malaysia says Vietnam being investigated over missing MH370 jet

KUALA LUMPUR, 3 May — Malaysia said on Friday an independent panel is probing whether Vietnamese authorities breached international aviation rules by failing to detect sooner that Malaysia Airlines flight MH370 had not contacted them as required by international aviation protocol.

A preliminary report filed last month with the UN watchdog on civil aviation has raised a host of questions surrounding the early stages of the flight of the Malaysian airliner that disappeared on 8 March.

The report was filed with the International Civil Aviation Organization on 9 April and released to the public on Thursday.

Flight MH370 was bound for Beijing from Kuala Lumpur when it vanished while above the South China Sea. It was scheduled to fly through Vietnamese airspace.

Radar contact with the plane was lost at 1:21 am on 8 March but, according to the interim report, it was only 17 minutes later that the Ho Chi Minh air traffic control contacted Kuala Lumpur air traffic control inquiring as to the whereabouts of the Boeing 777.

It was then, the report said, that the Malaysians realized the plane was missing.

Malaysia Department of Civil Aviation chief Azharuddin Abdul Rahman told reporters that as far as Malaysia was concerned, Kuala Lumpur ground control instructed the MH370 pilot at 1:19 am to change the radio frequency to that of Ho Chi Minh air traffic control and the pilot acknowledged.

"After passing the Igari waypoint, the transfer of control to Ho Chi Minh ATC became official," Azharuddin said, using the acronym to refer to Ho Chi Minh air traffic control.

The Igari waypoint refers to the airspace bordering Malaysia and Vietnam.

Speaking at the same press conference, Malaysia Defence Minister Hishammuddin Hussein addressed questions about why the Malaysian government took four hours before activating a search operation.

According to the interim report, the Kuala Lumpur Rescue Coordination Center was activated at 5:30 am, four hours after radar contact was lost, and "after all effort to communicate and locate the aircraft failed."

Hishammuddin deflected criticism by pointing to the Air France 447 case, in which six to seven hours reportedly passed before a search operation was launched.

Kyodo News

PHOTO NEWS:

International conference in Pyongyang



Researchers and investors from countries including the United States, China and Canada take part in an academic conference to discuss special economic zones, organized by a North Korean group, in Pyongyang on 2 May, 2014. — KYODO NEWS

CONGRATULATIONS

We would like to congratulate the **Patron of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI)** and the **Chairman of the Kanbawza Bank Ltd., U Aung Ko Win**, who has been awarded the “**Special Honorary President’s Excellence Award**” (the **Highest Tax Payer Entrepreneur Award**) once again for the Tax Assessment Year of 2012-2013, at the President’s Excellence Award Presentation Ceremony, at Nay Pyi Taw on 3.5.2014. We hope that you continue to be the highest tax payer in the upcoming years and continue to contribute toward the betterment of society and development of the country.



Chairman and Central Working Committee/ Working Committee
The Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of
Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI)

ADVERTISEMENT & ENTERTAINMENT

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV PANJA BHUM VOY NO (015)

Consignees of cargo carried on MVPANJABHUM VOY NO (015) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 4.5.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S WAN HAI LINES PTE LTD**
Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV FRISIA LAHN VOY NO (1432)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV FRISIA LAHN VOY NO (1432) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 4.5.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S MCC TRANSPORT**
Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

Kevin Spacey brings stage act to big screen in documentary

LOS ANGELES, 3 May — Kevin Spacey, the two-time Oscar-winning actor and star of one of the most talked-about online streaming shows "House of Cards," leans forward and says that even in his lofty status among Hollywood actors, he still has a personal point to prove.

With new documentary "Now: In the Wings on a World Stage," Spacey lets his personal passion for theater roar in a film that introduces audiences to his second career on the stage as he tours the world with

his own company's production of William Shakespeare's historical play "Richard III." Spacey, 54, who has been the artistic director at London's the Old Vic theater since 2003, said his choice to cut back on his Hollywood career and devote his time to the stage, struck many as a self-defeating project.

"A lot of people looked at me like a dog that's sort of a little puzzled," the star said with a smile. "Like, why do you do theater, and why did you go off and run this theater for 10 years? I don't get. And isn't theater boring? Why don't you just do movies and make a lot of money?"

The documentary, which is directed by first-time filmmaker Jeremy Whelehan, gives a behind-the-scenes look into the production, play and tour of the trans-Atlantic theater group, the Bridge Project, a three-year venture between Spacey's Old Vic, the Brooklyn Academy of Music and director Sam Mendes.

"Now: In The Wings" opens in New York on Friday and is available for online download on Friday, rolling out to Los Angeles movie theaters next week after playing limited runs in other US cities. It opens in the United Kingdom on 9 June.—Reuters



Actor Kevin Spacey walks the green carpet as he arrives for the 15th annual International Indian Film Awards in Tampa, Florida, on 26 April, 2014.—REUTERS

Day after filing for divorce, Hrithik-Sussanne celebrate son's birthday together

MUMBAI, 3 May — A day after he filed for divorce from wife Sussanne Khan, Hrithik Roshan planned a special birthday for his son, Hridhaan, where he took the entire family to Lonavala on a short trip.

Says a source, "May 1 was his younger son Hridhaan's birthday and the entire house was buzzing with activity. The day kicked off with Hridhaan being greeted with big boards that announced his birthday.

Hrithik then took his

kids to watch the latest Spider-Man film; Sussanne too was present at this screening. After the film, Hrithik took the entire family to an adventure park in Lonavala where he had organized a small party."

The source adds that the actor had booked a mini bus so the entire family could travel together. "Hrithik, Sussanne and their kids were accompanied by Zayed Khan, Farah Ali Khan and their children. Everyone had a great time," says the source.

PTI



Hrithik and Sussanne had filed for divorce on 30 April. PTI

Jennifer Lawrence Got Drunk at Madonna's Oscars After-Party

NEW YORK, 3 May — Actress Jennifer Lawrence was so drunk at Madonna's Oscar party that she puked.

The 23-year-old star, who was nominated for a Best Supporting Actress Academy Award for her role in American Hustle, was wasted at a post-show bash and pop star Miley Cyrus witnessed the whole

thing, reported *Huffington Post*.

Jennifer recalled having a little too much fun at this year's Oscars, which she attended with BFF Laura Simpson, on Late Night With Seth Meyers.

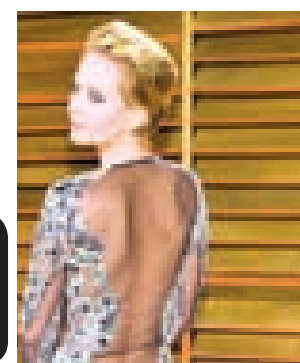
"I was so drunk, I puked on the stairs at Madonna's after-party," she said.

At the after-party, Lawrence not only vomited, but she did it in front of the Miley Cyrus, who told her to 'get it together'.

PTI

Jennifer was so drunk that Miley Cyrus told her to 'get it together'.

PTI



'American Idol' runner-up Clay Aiken winning political respect in North Carolina

CARY, (N C), 3 May — "American Idol" runner-up Clay Aiken readily signs autographs and poses for selfies with voters in his bid for a North Carolina congressional seat, but tries hard to keep his pitch at campaign stops focused on political issues.

"I have done my very best not to sing," said Aiken, 35. "Because I think there's a challenge ... to get people to not see me as a singer but instead as someone who is capable and wants to fight

for them." The entertainer has gained respect as he seeks the Democratic nomination in his home state's 2nd congressional district next Tuesday. In April, the Washington-based Cook Political Report admitted surprise after Aiken proved to be well-versed on political affairs, "washing away any notion he's another superficial, stage-managed Hollywood star dabbling in politics as a new hobby."

Even so, political experts say the first-time



Democratic nominee Clay Aiken signs an autograph for a constituent after a campaign forum in Cary, North Carolina, on 28 April, 2014.—REUTERS

candidate is in an uphill, perhaps futile, battle to win the primary and then unseat the incumbent in a district North Carolina's Republican-led legislature re-drew to favor their party.

US Representative Renee Ellmers, 50, a former nurse, beat a moderate Democrat for the seat during the Republicans' national electoral sweep in 2010 and two years later won her second term with 56 percent of the vote.

In mid-April, her cam-

paign had nearly six times more cash on hand than Aiken's, finance reports show, and most analysts predict she will be re-elected in November, barring any serious gaffes or a better-than-expected turnout for Democrats. "(Aiken) can do everything right and still basically end up having no chance because of factors beyond his control," said Steven Greene, a political science professor at North Carolina State University in Raleigh.—Reuters

GENERAL

Japanese antinuclear activists call for banning nukes at UN

NEW YORK, 3 May — A delegation from the Japan Council against Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs (Gensuikyo) made the case for starting talks on a treaty to ban nuclear weapons in a meeting on Friday with the head of a committee on the nuclear non-proliferation treaty at the United Nations.

Gensuikyo's Hiroshi Takakusaki presented a petition signed by heads of municipal governments in Japan calling for a complete ban on nuclear arsenals at the meeting with Enrique Roman-Moray, who chairs the third session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

"Nuclear arms are demonic weapons, and we want to rid them from the face of the earth as soon as we can," said Terumi Tanaka, secretary general of the Japan Confederation of Atomic and Hydrogen Bomb Sufferers Organizations. "We sincerely hope next year's review conference will be successful."

Roman-Moray said that people everywhere need to understand the sentiment of atom bomb victims and should invoke moral authority so that atomic weapons will never be used again.

Kyodo News

US projected firefighting costs exceed budget by \$470 million



Firefighters protect homes as a wildfire driven by fierce Santa Ana winds blows in Rancho Cucamonga, California, on 30 April, 2014.—REUTERS

SALMON, 3 May — The US government expects to spend \$470 million more than it has on hand to fight wildfires in a season that has already brought large blazes to California and Western states, where drought is worsening fire risks, federal officials said on Friday.

Predicted high temperatures and less moisture for much of the US West are expected to boost firefighting costs to nearly \$1.87 billion this year for agencies that only have \$1.4 billion budgeted, according to the US Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management.

A provision in President Barack Obama's 2015 budget proposal and legislation pending in Congress would use federal disaster funds for expenses tied

to catastrophic wildfires, which represent 1 percent of blazes but which cost roughly \$400 million a year to contain, according to fire managers.

Budget gaps come as federal agencies adjust to a "new normal" of wildfire seasons that start earlier and last longer, said Randy Eardley, spokesman for the National Interagency Fire Center in Boise.

For instance, a blaze in southern California broke out on Wednesday, driven by Santa Ana winds, which sweep hot air from California's desert through mountain passes and river canyons.

"The big fires in California tend to be in the fall with Santa Ana winds," Eardley said. The 2,200-acre fire north of the affluent community of Rancho

Cucamonga in the foothills of the San Bernardino Mountains was 53 percent contained on Friday, and evacuation orders were lifted for hundreds forced to flee their homes, fire information officer Carol Underhill said. Fire risks are to remain high in May for drought-stricken states like California, Arizona, New Mexico and Alaska, and hazards will intensify in June for Nevada and Oregon, according to forecasts by the National Interagency Fire Center.

Snowfall and rain have reduced the threat of wildfires in the Northern Rockies for the moment, but continued drought in southwest Idaho will worsen the fire outlook there July through August, federal forecasts show.

Reuters

MYANMAR TV

(4-5-2014, Sunday)

- 6:00 am
- 1. Paritta by Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw
- 6:30 am
- 2. Physical Exercises
- 7:00 am
- 3. News / Weather Report
- 7:25 am
- 4. MRTV's Yoth Progm
- 8:00 am
- 5. News/ International News
- 9:30 am
- 6. ASEAN Programme
- 12:00 pm
- 7. News/International News/Weather Report
- 12:25 pm
- 8. Round Up of The Week' International News
- 2:30 pm
- 9. Musical Programme
- 2:40 pm
- 10. Documentary
- 4:15 pm
- 11. University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) Second Year (Myanmar)
- 5:00 pm
- 12. News
- 5:15 pm
- 13. Sing & Enjoy
- 6:00 pm
- 14. News/ Weather Report
- 6:20 pm
- 15. Cartoon Series
- 7:00 pm
- 16. News
- 8:00 pm
- 17. News/International News/Weather Report
- 8:35 pm
- 18. Documentary (Women in Myanmar Society)
- 9:00 pm
- 19. News

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

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

- * Local News
- * School for the Blind (Kye Myin Dine)
- * World News
- * Black Gold (Part-2)
- * Local News
- *Changes
- * World News
- * Orphanage
- * Local News
- * Short Trip With Steve (Mon State)
- * World News
- * Kyaikhteeyoe: Mountain Drivers
- * Local News
- * A Visit to Htam Hsan Cave : A Miraculous Place
- * World News
- * A Monk's Robe
- * Local News
- * Great Shwedagon—The Exhibition Hall of The Great Chronicle of Buddha
- * World News
- * A Person with Faith
- * Local News
- * Glorious Mrauk U & Its Pagoda Festival
- * World News
- * Distinguished Myanmar Ladies "Kalayar Moe"
- * Local News
- * MONASTERY Yot Son Kyaung (Sa-Le)
- * World News
- * The Storytellers
- * Local News
- * Bamboo Fashion in Style
- * World News
- * Kyaikhteeyoe: Bamboo Guns

Bayern's Neuer extends contract by three years to 2019

BERLIN, 3 May — Bayern Munich's Germany goalkeeper Manuel Neuer signed a contract extension that will keep him at last season's treble winners until 2019, the Bundesliga club said on Friday.

Announcing the deal after the end of an emergency general meeting to elect the successor to convicted former club president Uli Hoeness, Bayern CEO Karl-Heinz Rummenigge said the 28-year-old Neuer had added three years to his contract.

"Our goalkeeper Manuel Neuer has today extended his contract to 2019," Rummenigge told reporters.

"It is a sign of his wonderful character that he said: 'Bayern forever'," Rummenigge said. "For that I would like to thank Manuel Neuer."

Neuer joined Bayern from Schalke 04 in 2011 and has already won the Champions League, two Bundesliga titles and a Club World Cup among other trophies.

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Bayern Munich's goalkeeper Manuel Neuer

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Club World Cup among other trophies.

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first choice for Germany since 2010.

Reuters

West Ham United head into the break at Upton Park over Tottenham Hotspur with a 2-0 lead thanks to a Harry Kane own-goal and a Stewart Downing free-kick

With pressure firmly mounting on both managers heading into the Saturday lunchtime kick-off, it was Tim Sherwood's men who started the better of the two sides.

An early chance for youngster Harry Kane saw him nearly catch Hammers keeper Adrian out but the Spaniard was lucky enough to see his deflected clearance go wide.

Moments later and a nice move involving Kane, Christian Eriksen and Emmanuel Adebayor saw the latter with a clear shot on goal but the striker sent his effort directly towards Adrian.

The home side then had their turn to test visiting keeper Hugo Lloris and they did so from a corner

which saw Guy Demel's header hit the crossbar.

Moments later and the home side would break the deadlock but not after a moment of controversy after Younes Kaboul was sent off for a last-man challenge on Stewart Downing.

Andy Carroll hit the resulting free-kick which was well saved by Lloris, but the resulting corner saw Carroll's header deflect in off youngster Kane.

Sam Allardyce's side then pushed for a second and they got it moments before half-time. The impressive Downing was yet to score for West Ham but his free-kick beat everyone, including the in-form Lloris to give the home side a 2-0 lead heading into the break.—Reuters



Nine clubs face punishment over financial losses

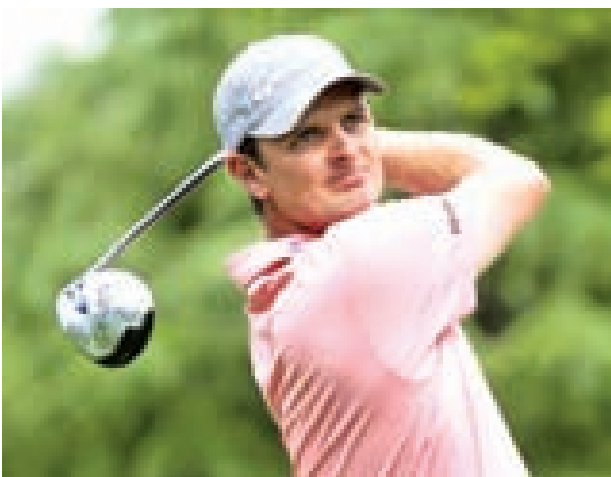
LONDON, 3 May — Nine European football clubs face punishment under new rules designed to force teams to rein in their financial losses, UEFA said on Friday, without naming any of the offenders.

Media reports this week said big-spending Manchester City and Paris St Germain have been given the chance to settle breaches of the Financial Fair Play (FFP) rules that will leave them free to play in next season's Champions League.

There had been speculation that details of those settlements would emerge as early as this week.

In a statement issued after a two-day meeting of its Club Financial Control Body (CFCB), UEFA said it had given a clean bill of

Rose storms into contention at Quail Hollow



CHARLOTTE, (North Carolina), 3 May — Justin Rose's hopes of repeating as US Open champion next month got a timely boost as he moved within a stroke of the lead in the Wells Fargo Championship second round on Friday.

The Englishman, who spent the first part of the year recovering from tendonitis in his right shoulder, had a chip-in eagle from 70 feet on his way to a five-under-par 67 on a cool morning at Quail Hollow.

"Obviously you can never win it on Thursday and Friday, you can only lose it, so two solid days put me in good position for the weekend," Rose, who will defend his US Open title at nearby Pinehurst No 2 next month, told reporters.

Rose was in third place at eight-under 136 at the halfway mark, while Argentina's Angel Cabrera (69) and American Martin Flores (68) set the pace at

nine under.

"Those chip-in eagles, they get you going," Rose said, referring to his successful effort at the par-five 15th.

"I did everything well in spells today (and) finished with a nice putt for par at the last hole, which made the day feel incredibly positive."

World number 10 Rose has not won since notching his first major title at Merion last June, and is still playing his way back into form after being hampered by a shoulder injury that kept him sidelined for the first six weeks this year.

"I've had a lot of stop-starts this year and I just felt like I needed to get toned and sharp, and that's beginning to show up," said Rose.

"It would be nice to go back (to the US Open) with the confidence of having just won a tournament."

Reuters

Rodgers confident Liverpool can rely on Everton for help

LONDON, 3 May — Liverpool manager Brendan Rodgers is confident local rivals Everton will not go easy against Premier League contenders Manchester City, in a pivotal fixture that could affect the destination of the title.

If City win on Saturday, they will go back to the top of the table ahead on goal difference of Liverpool, who do not play at

Crystal Palace until Monday. Rodgers pointed out that fifth-placed Everton have plenty of incentive for the crucial clash, having not yet given up hope of securing fourth spot and Champions League qualification.

"I've read some bits and pieces about Everton not wanting to do Liverpool a favour, but make no mistake they are a great

club who've done really well this year and they're fighting for a Champions League position," Rodgers said in a news conference at the club's training ground. "They've got outstanding players and are going into the game looking to get a result."

Rodgers claimed Liverpool, seeking a first league title in 24 years, are in "a wonderful position", adding: "We're two points clear with two games to go and Manchester City have a really tough game at Everton."

"We'll do what we've always done and concentrate on the next game."

"If we go on and win our two games to finish, which will be tough games, we'll just see where it takes us."

Rodgers hopes that England striker Daniel Sturridge will be fit to play on Monday, despite not having started a game since the home win over City three weeks ago.—Reuters



Liverpool manager Brendan Rodgers applauds the fans before their English Premier League soccer match against Chelsea at Anfield in Liverpool, northern England on 27 April, 2014.—REUTERS

FIFA vetoes Fernando's Portugal World Cup bid

RIO DE JANEIRO, 3 May — Football's governing body FIFA has vetoed a request by Porto's Brazil-born midfielder Fernando to play for Portugal.

The 26-year-old was granted Portuguese nationality last December having represented Porto since signing from Brazil's Vila Nova in 2007.

But in a statement released on Friday, the Portuguese Football Federation revealed FIFA had dashed the player's hope of representing his adopted country at this year's World Cup. "FIFA considered that the player did not hold Portuguese nationality when he played for Brazil in the under 20 World Cup qualifiers, as required by federation regulations," the statement said.

Fernando had hoped to join a long list of Brazil-born players to switch their allegiance. Recent examples include Deco (Portugal), Marcos Senna (Spain), Pepe (Portugal) and Diego Costa (Spain). — Xinhua



Paris St Germain's coach Laurent Blanc

health to 67 of the 76 clubs who had been asked earlier this year to supply additional information about their accounts.

The remaining nine clubs have exceeded the maximum permitted losses under the new regulatory system and sanctions are expected to be announced by the end of next week.

"Further information shall be provided once this process has been completed," UEFA said.

UEFA has the power to ban teams from European competition if their losses exceed its limits but is expected to shy away from imposing that punishment at this stage.—Reuters