

## President U Thein Sein hails Bandung spirit at Asian African Summit

NAY PYI TAW, 24 April — President U Thein Sein left Jakarta for Bandung on Friday morning to attend the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary Asian African Summit.

The summit, held at the Museum of Asian African Summit in Gedung Merdeka, Bandung, aims to strengthen cooperation between the two continents and promote worldwide peace and prosperity.

Indonesian President Mr Joko Widodo welcomed the leaders in a speech, while Zimbabwe's President Robert Mugabe delivered an address on behalf of African nations.

Afterwards, President U Thein Sein gave a speech on behalf of Asian countries.

In his speech, President U Thein Sein said it was a



President U Thein Sein delivers speech at 60<sup>th</sup> Asian African Summit. [www.aacc2015.id](http://www.aacc2015.id)

pleasure to speak on the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Asian African Summit held in 1955. The entire people of

the Republic of the Union of Myanmar extended their warm greetings, he said.

The long-lasting

friendship and successful relations between Asia and Africa originated from the first Asian African

Summit 60 years ago in Bandung, the city of Asian African Unity, the president added.

Following World War II and at the beginning of the cold war, countries from Asia, Africa and Latin America were struggling for independence and shared the common desire to establish international relations based on equality and mutual respect, while promoting economic development, he said.

The president continued that he was proud to be from one of the five countries that initiated the first Asian African Summit held on 24 April 1955.

At the first summit, leaders of participating countries decided to lay down the Bandung (See page 3)

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## Sanitation program targets hygiene practices in rural areas

By Khaing Thanda Lwin

YANGON, 24 April— The Myanmar Red Cross Society will soon launch a water and sanitation programme to improve hygiene for people in the country's dry zones, MRCS president Prof Dr Tha Hla Shwe said Thursday.

Under the project, water supply and sanitation facilities will be installed in targeted areas—Mandalay, Magway and Sagaing regions, as well as Kachin and Kayin states—where many people have poor hygiene knowledge.

The community-based programme is also aimed at improving the quality of life of rural people through increased access to safe and sustainable communi-

ty-managed water.

“Over 200 well-trained volunteers from the MRCS are ready to implement the project,” Dr Tha Hla Shwe said.

Dr Naing Naing of MRCS said raising awareness of environmental health and public participation will be crucial to the success of the project.

Upon completion of the three-year plan, about 70,000 residents from over 50 villages will have access to rural water supplies and sanitation facilities, he added.

The programme runs from 2015 to 2017 with the financial assistance of Korean Red Cross, (See page 9)

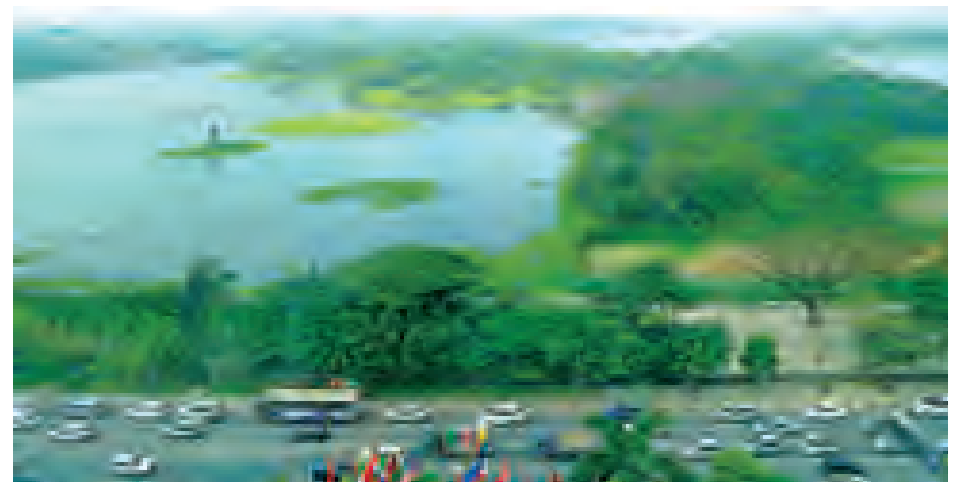
## Workshop promotes sustainable urban planning for Yangon

By Ye Myint

YANGON, 24 April — The Yangon City Development Committee will host a workshop to promote an EU-funded project on sustainable urban mobility planning for the city on 27 April, the YCDC and project partners said Friday.

U Aung Khine Tun, senior external relations coordinator of Italian humanitarian organization CESVI, one of the project partners, said the workshop will be held at Yangon City Hall. It will present the main components of the project, entitled “Sustainable Urban Mobility Planning” to relevant stakeholders and promote it, as well as YCDC activities, to the public, he said.

The project aims to strengthen the capacities of the city and promote citizen participation in ensuring a sustainable urban environment.



Vehicles drive on Kaba-Aye Pagoda Road in Yangon, where road safety is being prioritised under an EU-funded project on urban mobility.

PHOTO: YE MYINT

The European Union will provide 884,325 euros for the project, comprising 75 percent, while other project partners will contribute the remaining 25 percent.

The project, which started on 1 February 2015, will run until January 2017, targeting two pilot townships—Tamway and Thimgangyun—in Yangon.

The YCDC is implementing the project in cooperation with the Italian City of Turin and two Italian NGOs—Information Technology for Humanitarian Assistance Cooperation and Action and CESVI.

The YCDC and project partners said the project will improve YCDC's strategic planning capacity through

the transfer of good practices and models encourage community participation in decision-making and dialogues with local authorities.

Lessons learned from Europe may be applicable in Myanmar, particularly on road safety, which is a current priority for the EU, they added. — GNLM



## Women's affairs groups of Myanmar and China make donations at nunnery

MUSE, 24 April—Chairperson of Muse District Women's Affairs Organization Daw Htar Htar Win and members of a women's affairs group from China on Friday visited Kanbawza Theingi nunnery in Mongyu 105-mile village in Muse.

They donated fruits, snacks, tea and soft drinks to the nunnery and offered the presiding nun more donations of necessities to the nunnery.

L Soe (IPRD)



## B.Tech student from Mohnyin to receive prize for IP rights activity

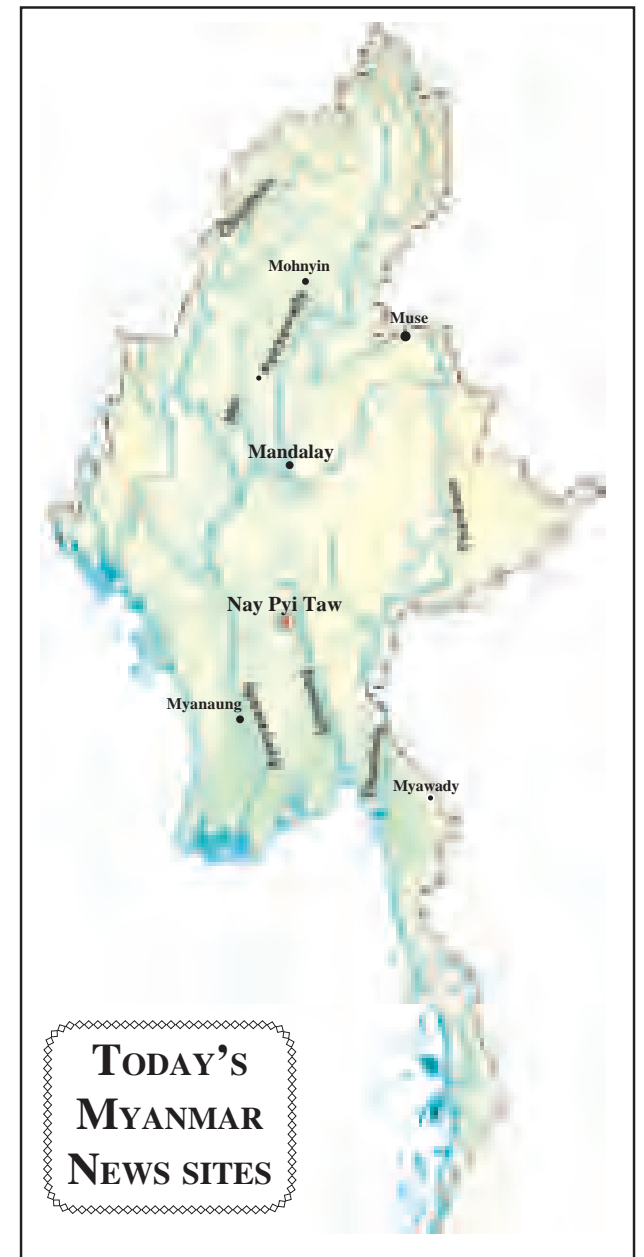
MOHNYIN, 24 April—A ceremony to honour fourth year B.Tech student Ma Hsu Hsu from Government Tech-

nological College (Mohnyin), who secured the first prize in the essay contest under the title of "Let's protect intellectual property rights, raise creation," was held at the office of the Mohnyin Township MP's office in Kachin State, on 19 April.

The ceremony was also attended by Pyithu Hluttaw MP U Kyaw Soe Lay and Amyotha Hluttaw MP U Sai Tin Aung.

The Ministry of Science and Technology together with Myanmar IP Entrepreneurs Association will jointly conduct the ceremony to mark the World Intellectual Property Day 2015 in the National Theatre in Yangon on 25 and 26 April.

Ma Hsu Hsu will attend the ceremony to accept the prize on the occasion.—GNLM-001



## Mandalay residents urged to take care in hot weather



MANDALAY, 24 April—Local residents in Mandalay are paying attention to the UV index amid high temperatures that have persisted throughout the month.

Since the end of the Maha Thingyan period, powerful winds have hit various parts of the nation along with showers. However, Mandalay residents are still coping with high

temperatures, a local resident said.

"We are wary of the impact of UV rays in the hot season," he added. "Older persons drink juices and rehydrated salt to cover loss of sweat from the body."

An elderly resident said that he took shade under trees and at religious buildings. As Mandalay has plenty of religious edifices,

he said he meditated at the pagodas and Dhammayon in order to avoid the hot sun. Shady trees along the moat in Mandalay are a popular place to seek shade.

Mandalay is experiencing average temperatures around 40 degrees centigrade this year, compared with 42 degrees the previous year.—Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-printing House)

## Myanmar, India to jointly establish Information Technology University

MANDALAY, 24 April—Myanmar and India are working together on the construction of an Information Technology University near Mingalar Mandalay housing project on 73<sup>rd</sup> street in Chanmyathazi Township.

They university is

scheduled to open in the 2015-16 academic year. It will offer undergraduate, postgraduate and doctorate courses. The five-year undergraduate course will admit 1,000 students while the post-graduate course will train 100 students. The university will open the doctor-

ate course with 20 students.

Initially, 90 percent of faculty members will be from India and 10 percent from the Ministry of Science and Technology. Eventually, the university aims to draw 80 percent of its faculty from Myanmar.

Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)



NATIONAL

## President U Thein Sein hails...

(from page 1)

principles that included 10 points to promote world peace and cooperation and shape a new model for international relations, the president explained.

Afterwards, the president pointed out that recent years have seen significant developments in the various sectors of international relations, with today's challenges more complicated than those of 60 years ago.

Poverty, underdevelopment, infectious diseases, environmental damage, water shortages and desertification are among the major concerns that need to be tackled, and it is necessary for the two continents to work together across a variety of sectors including trade, technology and health, the president said.

The Bandung Declaration 2005, a declaration on Reinvigorating a New Asian African Strategic



President U Thein Sein poses for documentary photo together with leaders of Asian and African countries at the 60<sup>th</sup> Asian African Summit.—www.aacc2015.id

Partnership and Declaration on Palestine were adopted two days ago, the president added. Similarly, the leaders reiterated the principles of self-determination of the final declaration of the Asian

African Summit 1955 and the Bandung Declaration on a New Asian African Partnership adopted April 2005, according to the president.

In conclusion, the president expressed his hope

that the Bandung spirit of principles of unity, friendship and cooperation will continue to flourish among Asian and African countries.

Later, Venezuelan Vice President Jorge Arreaza made a speech on behalf of observers to the summit.

King Mswati III of Swaziland, Chinese President Mr Xi Jinping and Indonesian President Mr Joko

Widodo signed the Bandung declaration.

The ceremony concluded with traditional dance shows.

In the afternoon, the Indonesian president and the mayor of West Java hosted a luncheon in honour of the leaders of Asia and Africa.

President U Thein Sein and party left Bandung and arrived in Yangon at 8.20 pm.

The president was welcomed back at the airport by Union ministers U Nyan Tun Aung and U Win Shein, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe and region ministers.

The president was accompanied on his Indonesian tour by Union Ministers Lt-Gen Ko Ko, U Wunna Maung Lwin, U Aung Min, Dr Kan Zaw and U Ye Htut and officials.—MNA

## Myanmar, Vietnam to cooperate in combating corruption



Vice President U Nyan Tun shakes hands with Mr Huynh Phong Tranh, Government Chief Inspector of Vietnam.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 24 April—Vice President U Nyan Tun received a delegation led by Mr Huynh Phong Tranh, Government Chief Inspector at the Presidential Palace, here, on Friday.

They discussed cooperation in combating corruption between Myanmar Anti-Corruption Commission and the Government Inspectorate of Vietnam.

Also present at the

meeting were deputy ministers Brig-Gen Kyaw Kyaw Tun and U Tin Oo Lwin, member of Myanmar Anti-Corruption Commission U Kyaw

Kyaw and officials. MNA

## Selection of presidential awards for excellent performance discussed

NAY PYI TAW, 24 April—The Selection Committee for Presidential Awards for Excellent Performance held its fourth coordination meeting at President Office here on Friday.

Union Minister U Tin Naing Thein, also Chairman of the Selection Committee, urged field-

work committees to finalize their scrutiny missions and report remaining tasks, stressing systematic measures for sending invitations to potential winners.

Union Minister U Soe Win explained arrangements for offering certificates of honour to senior Buddhist monks who have committed themselves to

education, health and rescue measures apart from the dissemination of religious instruction and insight meditation.

Awards will be dedicated to best activities for rural and urban development, agriculture and livestock, social welfare, and economic and academic careers.—MNA



Union Minister U Tin Naing Thein discusses awarding excellent awards of the President.—MNA

## Outstanding students from upper Myanmar heading for Yangon



MANDALAY, 24 April— Outstanding students selected from matriculation in upper Myanmar left Mandalay Railway Station

for Yangon on Thursday to relax at Ngwehsaung Beach.

A total of 100 students chosen from states and re-

gions in upper Myanmar will take recreational trips as a reward for their academic achievements. They will join outstanding stu-

dents from lower Myanmar at the beach from 25 April to 5 May.

In the 2014-15 academic year, a total of 528 outstanding students have been selected from eighth and ninth standards and matriculation. The students from eighth standard will go to a camp at Bagan, while those from ninth standard will visit Inlay.

While at the camps, they will undertake scout courses and meet with outstanding students from past years.—*Aung Ye Thwin*



*Myawady District Police Force held a press conference at its office on 23 April when Commander of the district police force Police Lt-Col Moe Nyo and Commander of Township police force Police Major Tin Htut spoke about endeavours of the police to media and departmental officials.*

TUN TUN OO (MYAWADY)

## Teachers to get accommodation opportunity at staff quarters

MYANAUNG, 24 April—A ceremony to drive stakes for construction of staff quarters was held in the compound of the Basic Education Middle School (Branch) in Hsannichaung

village in Myanaung, Ayeyawady Region, on 22 April.

Ayeyawady Region Minister for Development Affairs U Kyaw Win Naing and department offi-

cials participated in the stake-driving ceremony.

A plan is under way to accommodate students from outside the township at the staff quarters.

*Win Bo (Township IPRD)*



## Mine blast injures two villagers in Mohnyin Tsp



MOHNYIN, 24 April— One man is in a critical condition and another has serious injuries following an explosion near a gold mine outside Mongnaung Village, on the western bank of Indawgyi Lake in Mohnyin Township.

Amyotha Hluttaw MP U Pe Thaung of Kachin State Constituency No 6 comforted Ko Saw Aung, 30, at Mohnyin Hospital on 19 April and presented cash assistance while the Red Shan literature and culture group also

provided K50,000 to the patient.

Ko Phyo Wai Kyaw, who is in critical a condition, has been transferred to Mandalay General Hospital, according to a hospital official.

GNLM-001

## Thai tourists visit cities in Myanmar to enjoy Maha Thingyan Festival

NAY PYI TAW, 24 April—Tourist arrivals surged during the recent Maha Thingyan festival period at Tachilek, which shares borders with Thailand and Laos.

It is linked with Thailand via the Tachilek-Mae Sai No 1 Friendship Bridge.

Following an agreement between the Myanmar and Thai governments, the border gate in Tachilek

was opened on 28 August, 2013. The border authorities allow travellers from 6 a.m. to 8.30 p.m. daily as of 1 January, 2015.

Some Thai tourists enjoyed the water festival at the pavilions in Tachilek together with local ethnic people.

Thai tour groups have been visiting Mongphyat, Kengtung and Mongla regions.—*MoHT*



## REGIONAL

## Impact of Abe's meeting with Xi much bigger than it looks

JAKARTA, 24 April — This week's meeting between Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and Chinese President Xi Jinping, the second in the last five months, on the sidelines of a regional conference has much broader implications than it might seem at first.

Among others, one of the most noteworthy developments was a strong indication from China that it would not neglect the overriding objective of repairing its relations with Japan, just because this summer marks the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of World War II.

For China, the anniversary, which it calls "victory in the war of resistance against Japanese aggression," bears a highly political significance.

It has repeatedly urged Japan that whether bilateral relations can be improved all depends on Abe's attitude and what he will say on the occasion of the commemoration.

China's position re-

mains the same and its distrust of Abe, seen by it as a historical revisionist, has not diminished.

Still, Abe was able to meet with Xi on Wednesday and the meeting's outcome, as well as an inside story of how it materialized much smoother than the previous one, has provided some good and slightly new type of hints about the direction of relations between the two countries in the months ahead.

Abe said Japan has "feelings of deep remorse" over the war, but stopped short of touching on the country's "colonial rule and aggression" in a speech to a gathering of Asian and African leaders in Jakarta hours before his talks with Xi.

A day before arriving in the Indonesian capital, Abe also told a TV programme that he feels it unnecessary to repeat the wordings of Japan's past apologies for its wartime actions because he has already promised his gov-



Combined photo taken in Jakarta on 22 April, 2015 shows Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe (L) and Chinese President Xi Jinping. Their meeting, the second in the last five months, on the sidelines of a regional conference has much broader implications than it might seem at first.—KYODO NEWS

ernment will uphold them.

Despite Abe's these remarks, the meeting took place as scheduled.

China's official media said the meeting was held at the request of Japan.

But the truth is the other way around, according to senior Japanese government officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The meeting was set

on Tuesday after Abe responded to Xi's request for the meeting and accepted China's condition not to disclose that it originated from Beijing's initial approach, the officials said.

Compared with their first meeting in November with a much-publicized awkward handshake, the latest talks were conducted in a "very friendly" atmosphere, according to a sen-

ior Japanese official, who was at the scene.

Unlike the last time when Xi hosted the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in Beijing, he had the choice of not holding one-on-one discussions with Abe.

But Xi did not opt for that, in contrast to what many analysts had expected earlier that China would adopt a wait-and-see posture and there would be no positive results in improving Tokyo-Beijing relations, frayed for years over disagreements over wartime history and territory, until at least this summer.

His decision is suffice to indicate that China has become more tolerant of what Abe may say in a statement he is due to issue for the war anniversary, even if he does not make an explicit apology as his recent remarks have suggested.

During the meeting in Jakarta, which lasted nearly 30 minutes, Abe told Xi again that his Cabinet has shared the previous

administrations' recognition of Japanese wartime wrongdoing, including a 1995 statement issued by the country's then socialist prime minister, Tomiichi Murayama, who offered a "heartfelt apology" for its past "colonial rule and aggression."

Not only Japan, but China has also been satisfied, if not completely, with resuming political, economic and people-to-people exchanges that have been taking place since the first meeting.

While knowing many differences exist between Japan and China, Abe and Xi agreed to prevent those from damaging the overall relationship and that the two countries should continue to carry out exchanges in various fields.

The Asian-African summit was widely seen as the last opportunity for Abe and Xi to speak face to face before the war anniversary.

The two leaders did not let the chance slip away.—Kyodo News

## CPC, KMT leaders to meet in Beijing

BEIJING, 24 April — Leaders of the Communist Party of China (CPC) and the Taiwan-based Kuomintang (KMT) party will meet in Beijing in May, a mainland official said on Friday.

Leaders of the two parties will exchange views on CPC-KMT exchanges and relations across the Taiwan Strait during the meeting, said Ma Xiaoguang, spokesperson of the Taiwan Work Office of the CPC Central Committee.

KMT Chairman Eric Chu will lead a delegation to visit Beijing after taking part in the Cross-Strait Economic, Trade and Culture Forum, which is scheduled to be held on 3 May in Shanghai, Ma said, describing the occasion as "an important event in the two parties' high-profile exchanges."

Relations between the mainland and Taiwan stalled when the KMT forces, led by Chiang Kai-shek, fled to Taiwan in 1949 after defeat in a civil war.

Business and personnel exchanges resumed in the late 1980s, and in the early 1990s the two sides started to engage with each other through the mainland's Association for Relations Across the Taiwan Straits and its Taiwan counterpart, the Straits Exchange Foundation.

In a major breakthrough, the first meeting between top leaders of the two parties for six decades

came when Hu Jintao, then general secretary of the CPC Central Committee, met with then KMT Chairman Lien Chan in Beijing in April 2005.

In the same year, the two parties established an annual cross-strait economic, trade and culture forum as a key communication platform between themselves, as well as between the mainland and Taiwan.

Communication has picked up remarkably since 2008, when then KMT Chairman Ma Ying-jeou won the island's leadership election.

While meeting with visiting KMT Honorary Chairman Lien Chan in February 2013, Xi Jinping, who took the helm of the CPC Central Committee in late 2012, vowed consistency in policies toward Taiwan, saying the CPC was aiming for new achievements in cross-strait exchanges and cooperation.

In January this year, in a congratulatory message to Chu after he was elected KMT chairman, Xi said he hoped the two parties can strengthen communication and deepen mutual trust.

In reply, Chu said he expected the two parties will continue to expand their exchanges, strive for mutual benefit and promote peace and prosperity across the Taiwan Strait.

Xinhua

## Modi land bill delayed amid rising anger in rural India

NEW DELHI, 24 April — Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government has delayed a bill that will make it easier for industry to buy farmland, following anger over rising rural distress and the suicide of a farmer in India's capital.

The death of farmer Gajendra Singh, who hanged himself from a tree during an opposition rally in New Delhi on Wednesday, dominated debate in parliament on Thursday.

Two cabinet ministers, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the land acquisition bill, a revision to a 2013 land law, would not be brought up until the first week of May, reversing a previous line-up of legislative business.

"The land bill is a challenge for us," one of the ministers said late on Wednesday, after several days of protests that culminated in the suicide.

Convinced that the previous land law would delay his industrial development agenda, Modi used executive decrees in December and April to loosen acquisition rules requiring 80 percent consent from landowners, but needs parliament's approval to make the changes permanent.

Modi does not have a majority in the upper house and with tempers running high over crop damage and low prices in



India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi talks during a speech to the general public in Toronto, on 15 April, 2015. REUTERS

the countryside, he risks delaying other legislation if the land bill is taken to debate too quickly and dominates proceedings in parliament.

In a rare intervention in parliament, Modi pleaded on Thursday for political parties to end their finger-pointing over the rural crisis and work together to improve the lives of the villagers.

"The issue of farmers' suicides has been a matter of concern for the whole country," he said. "I also share the pain. We should resolve to find a solution to this problem which is old and widespread."

More than a dozen debt-ridden farmers have committed suicide in India in recent weeks with many villagers who say they voted for Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party in elections last year criticizing his government for being slow to respond to the crop damage and falling commodity prices.

Spurred by opposition parties, farmers are also angry about the changes to the land law, which many fear will force them to sell holdings against their will. The law was the main target of Wednesday's rally, where Singh lost his life.

The rural crisis is the first major political challenge for Modi's one-year-old government. Unseasonal rains and hailstorms damaged about 9.4 million hectares of crops such as wheat, or 15.5 percent of the winter crop area, the farm ministry said.

Modi last week announced increased compensation for farmers who have suffered crop damage. The government blames local officials for being slow in releasing such funds.

Adding to concerns in the villages, where some 70 percent of Indians live, government forecasters on Wednesday said the monsoon due to start in June was likely to be deficient.

Reuters

## Asia, Africa leaders call for UN Security Council reform

JAKARTA, 24 April — Asian and African leaders on Thursday called for “a comprehensive reform” of the UN Security Council as part of efforts to increase representation of the two fast-growing regions in the world body.

“We call for continued efforts to reform the United Nations, including the revitalization of the General Assembly and a comprehensive reform of the Security Council,” the leaders said in a declaration adopted at the end of the two-day Asian and African Summit in Jakarta.

Such reform “corresponds to the collective interests of developing countries,” while a reformed Security Council

would “significantly increase representation of Asia and Africa,” said the Declaration on Reinvigorating the New Asian-African Strategic Partnership.

Japan is a leading advocate of Security Council reform, with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe saying last month, “With pride quietly in mind at having built up a record of one achievement after another, Japan stands ready to take on the role of a permanent member of the Security Council.”

In collaboration with Brazil, Germany and India, Japan is pushing for expanding the number of both permanent and non-permanent members of the 15-member Security Council, considering that this year marks the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the United

Nations’ founding.

Indonesian President Joko “Jokowi” Widodo, who chaired the summit, said on Wednesday that people suffer because the United Nations “becomes powerless” in the face of violent acts taking place across the globe in the absence of a mandate to effect change.

Calls have been made by many countries for UN reform since the late 1990s. No consensus, however, has been reached among its member countries.

Speaking at the end of the summit, Jokowi said the Asian and African leaders have come up with concrete steps to develop a new world order that is more just and peaceful and to encourage mutually

beneficial cooperation in order to bridge the development gap.

“The voices expressed in the summit were the awakening voices of the Asian-African nations. Therefore, our voices and decisions can’t be ignored by anyone,” he told the delegates of more than 100 countries from the two continents.

“The conference has sent a message to the world that the condition of the world is still imbalanced and far (from) justice and peace,” he said later in a news conference.

The leaders also condemned extremism and terrorist acts in the name of religion and underscored the need for dialogue among people of different cultures and religions,

according to Jokowi. Regarding economic development and cooperation, the leaders “agreed to foster trade and investment as the engine of growth,” and that maritime cooperation “will become one of the main pillars of the new strategic partnership of Asia and Africa,” he said.

The leaders welcomed Abe’s announcement Wednesday of Japan’s assistance in the training of 350,000 people in Asia and Africa over the next five years as part of efforts to ensure “quality growth” and eradicate poverty in the two areas, according to the strategic partnership declaration.

The declaration contains an action plan to implement the Bandung Message 2015, a separately

adopted visionary document that reaffirms the promotion of “South-South cooperation” as a manifestation of solidarity among Asian and African countries.

Another document adopted at the summit focuses on the Asian-African countries’ support for the struggle of the Palestinian people and their independence.

The summit was the second of its kind since the Asian-African Conference was held in April 1955 in the West Java provincial capital of Bandung. The first took place in April 2005 to commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of what is commonly known as the Bandung Conference.

*Kyodo News*

## Diplomats press on in Vienna for final Iran nuclear deal



Passengers wave to journalists from a traditional Fiaker horse-carriage as they pass Palais Coburg hotel, the venue of nuclear talks in Vienna on 22 April, 2015.

REUTERS

VIENNA, 24 April — US Under Secretary Wendy Sherman and Teheran’s Deputy Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi met in Vienna on Thursday in the latest push to secure a final nuclear deal by a 30 June deadline, Iranian media said.

The latest round of nuclear diplomacy, being held in a luxury hotel in Austria’s capital, kicked off with a bilateral meeting between Iran and the European Union on Wednesday.

Catherine Ray, spokeswoman for European Union foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini, said on Twitter that senior foreign policy officials from Iran, six world powers including Britain, China, France, Ger-

many, Russia, and the United States and the EU will meet on Friday.

Western diplomats in New York said US Secretary of State John Kerry and Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif were expected to meet next week on the sidelines of the five-year review conference on the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

One diplomat said the bilateral meeting at UN headquarters would focus on making progress towards a final nuclear agreement between Teheran and six world powers, though other issues could arise.

UN officials said Kerry and Zarif are expected to address the conference on

Monday, the opening day of the month-long session. So far, the diplomats said, there are no plans for a full meeting of Iran and the six powers in New York during the 27 April to 22 May conference, though that could change.

Iran’s nuclear negotiator Hamid Baidinejad told Iranian state television that “drafting the final deal has started,” declining to give further details. Months ago both sides announced that a final draft had been started.

Iran and the other countries in the talks reached a tentative deal on 2 April and now aim to finalise the details by a self-imposed end of June deadline.

*Reuters*

## TV broadcaster’s drone crashes on British embassy premises

TOKYO, 24 April — A television broadcaster in Tokyo said on Friday one of its drones crashed on the premises of the British Embassy on Wednesday.

An employee of Tokyo Metropolitan Television Broadcasting Corp. was flying the drone from the firm’s parking lot in central Tokyo to take footage for a news programme when it was blown off course by the wind. The drone was later found on the premises of the embassy some 100 metres away from the parking lot and was returned to the broadcaster on Thursday

evening, it said. No one was injured. The incident comes after a drone carrying a small amount of radioactive cesium was found on Wednesday on the roof of the prime minister’s office. Police suspect someone with extensive knowledge of drones intentionally controlled the drone to the building.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga has said the government will consider legislation to regulate drone flights during the current parliamentary session scheduled to last until late June. Toshihiro

Nikai, chairman of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party’s General Council, said on Friday lawmakers need to submit a bill to prohibit drones from being flown above important facilities.

The secretariat of the House of Representatives circulated a document on Friday warning its officials and lawmakers not to approach any drone, which could carry explosives and other dangerous substances and which could be used for terror attacks.

Japan does not have rules for flying drones at low altitude.—*Kyodo News*

## Supply of Russian S-300 systems to Iran will not happen soon — TASS

MOSCOW, 24 April — Supplying Iran with Russian S-300 missile defence systems is not a matter of the nearest future, TASS

news agency quoted a Foreign Ministry official as saying on Thursday.

“It is more important that a political and legal

decision, which opens up such a possibility, is taken,” Sergei Ryabkov, a deputy foreign minister, said according to TASS.—*Reuters*



Russian S-300 anti-missile rocket system move along a central street during a rehearsal for a military parade in Moscow on 4 May, 2009. —REUTERS

## US strike inadvertently killed US, Italian hostages; Obama apologizes

WASHINGTON, 24 April — A US drone strike in January targeting an al-Qaeda compound in Pakistan near the Afghan border inadvertently killed an American and an Italian who had been held hostage for years by the group, US officials said on Thursday.

President Barack Obama apologized and took “full responsibility” for all counterterrorism operations, including this one.

The deaths were a setback for the long-running US drone strike programme that has targeted Islamist militants in Pakistan, Afghanistan and elsewhere, and has often drawn criticism in those countries and from civil liberties groups in the United States.

Killed in the January

drone strike were aid workers Warren Weinstein, an American held by al-Qaeda since 2011, and Giovanni Lo Porto, an Italian who went missing in Pakistan in 2012, as well as Ahmed Farouq, an American who was an al-Qaeda leader, US officials said.

Adam Gadahn, an American al-Qaeda member who was charged with treason in the United States, was also killed in a separate strike on another al-Qaeda camp five days later, the officials said.

Obama said he had ordered a full review of the matter to ensure such mistakes are not repeated.

“I profoundly regret what happened. On behalf of the United States government, I offer our deepest



**Bob Copaken (R), a friend of inadvertently slain US hostage Warren Weinstein, talks to the media about his friend in front of the Weinstein home in Rockville, Maryland on 23 April, 2015.—REUTERS**

apologies to the families,” Obama told reporters at the White House.

Republican House of Representatives Speaker John Boehner and other lawmakers called such

a review appropriate but steered clear of criticizing the drone programme. Senator Lindsey Graham of South Carolina, a Republican who is often a fierce critic of the Democratic

president, said Gadahn and Farouq “got what they deserved.”

US officials said the drone strikes occurred inside Pakistan in the conflict-torn border region near Afghanistan. One official said the CIA had observed the compounds over some time but had no idea hostages were present.

Use of unmanned drones, which enable the United States to carry out counterterrorism operations without putting US personnel directly in harm’s way, has prompted criticism because of the deaths of civilians and because on occasion they have involved killing Americans abroad without judicial process.

The American Civil

Liberties Union said the government should better follow its own standards before launching drone strikes. “In each of the operations acknowledged today, the US quite literally didn’t know who it was killing,” said Jameel Jaffer, the ACLU’s deputy legal director.

Lo Porto’s mother told reporters in Palermo, Sicily: “I don’t want to talk, leave me alone in my grief.”

Italian Prime Minister Matteo Renzi, speaking in Brussels, said, “I have much appreciated the transparency of the United States in taking their responsibilities for what happened and the way Obama communicated what happened.”—Reuters

## Biden, seeking to ease US-Israel strains, pledges delivery of new warplanes

WASHINGTON, 24 April — Seeking to ease US-Israeli tensions, Vice President Joe Biden on Thursday promised Israel delivery of top-flight fighter jets next year to maintain its military edge and vowed that any final nuclear deal with Iran would ensure Israel’s security.

Addressing an Israeli Independence Day celebration in Washington, Biden insisted that Barack Obama “has Israel’s back,” despite a recent strains between the US president and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu over Iran nuclear talks and Middle East diplomacy.

Biden won applause from a pro-Israel audience when he told them the United States would begin delivery of Lockheed Martin’s new F-35 jets to its ally next year, making Israel the only country in the Middle East to have the new stealth warplane.

But he was met with silence when he reaffirmed US support for a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, an allusion to White House objections to Netanyahu’s comments last month casting doubt on his com-

mitment to a Palestinian state.

“We’ve had our differences,” Biden said. But he added: “We love each other and we protect each other.”

Biden’s appearance at an event hosted by the Israeli Embassy was the latest sign of White House efforts to lower the temperature after a period of acrimony between Obama and Netanyahu. Ties became badly frayed early last month when Netanyahu accepted a Republican invitation to speak to the US Congress, where he railed against Obama’s quest for a nuclear deal with Iran. Netanyahu later condemned a framework deal reached earlier this month with Teheran as a threat to Israel’s survival.

Obama, who has faced complaints from some fellow Democrats that the public feud had gone too far, has reached out to US pro-Israel groups and American Jewish leaders seeking to soothe their concerns.

Biden sought to reassure his audience of Obama’s commitment to making sure that any final nuclear agreement with Iran maintains Israel’s security.

But with talks now aimed at reaching a comprehensive accord with Teheran by a 30 June deadline, there is little chance of a meeting of the minds between Obama and Netanyahu, who have a long history of testy relations.

Biden said any deal with Iran would be “based on hard-hitting, hard-headed uncompromising assessments, what’s required to protect ourselves, Israel, the region and the world.”

If a final deal does not meet Obama’s requirements, Biden said, “we simply will not sign it.”

And he warned: “If Iran cheats at any time and goes for a nuclear weapon, every option we have to respond today remains on the table and — your military will tell you — and more.”

Iran denies seeking a nuclear bomb. Israel is widely assumed to be the Middle East’s only nuclear-armed state.

Biden was hosted by Israeli Ambassador Ron Dermer, a Netanyahu confidante blamed by Obama’s aides for orchestrating the prime minister’s congressional address. Dermer acknowledged disagreements but said the two allies would weather them. Biden’s speech marked the administration’s highest-level direct contact with the Israeli government since Netanyahu’s speech to Congress.

Touting US efforts to maintain Israel’s “qualitative advantage” in the Middle East, Biden said: “Next year we will deliver to Israel the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter, our finest.”

Israel bought 19 F-35s in 2010 for \$2.75 billion and signed a contract in February to buy an additional 14 of the Lockheed Martin Corp fighter jets for about \$3 billion.—Reuters



**US Vice President Joe Biden**

## Shocked by drowned migrants, Europe restores rescue mission

BRUSSELS/ROME, 24 April — Four days after up to 900 desperate people drowned trying to reach Europe from Libya, EU leaders agreed on Thursday to triple its naval search mission in the Mediterranean, restoring its funding to last year’s level.

Critics called it a face-saving operation that did not go far enough to emulate an Italian rescue mission abandoned six months ago for want of EU support. And divisions remained over longer-term proposals, ranging from dealing with people smugglers and African migrant camps to how to redistribute asylum-seekers around 28 nations where anti-immigrant parties are on the rise.

But Italian Prime Minister Matteo Renzi, who had called for the emergency summit in Brussels after the deadly sinking of a crowded vessel on Sunday pierced many Europeans’ indifference to the fate of unwelcome migrants, called it “a big step forward for Europe”.

Countries, including Britain which will send the Royal Navy’s helicopter-carrying flagship, pledged aircraft and boats to Operation Triton, an EU frontier operation off Italy. Funding for a similar operation off Greece was also to be increased.

Officials said the difference could be felt within days. Italy warned that, after nearly 2,000 deaths so far this year out of nearly 40,000 people making the crossing, a summer season was starting that could push total arrivals on its shores for 2015 to 200,000, an increase of 30,000 over last year.

“We face a difficult summer,” said the summit chairman, European Council President Donald Tusk. He took pains to warn that there would be no quick fix for problems that saw more than 600,000 people seek asylum in the European Union last year.

Tripling annual funding to 120 million euros (\$130 million) puts Triton in line with Italy’s Mare Nostrum mission. That rescued 100,000 people last year but was criticised by Germany, Britain and others for attracting more people to put to sea in leaky craft supplied by profiteering gangs of traffickers. In the face of public outrage, governments have muted those concerns about a “pull factor” and launched what one EU official said was a Mare Nostrum Mark II, ready to roam the high seas - although human rights groups worry its border defence mandate may mean ships stay too far from the trouble spots off Libya.—Reuters



**Boys chat as they arrive with migrants at the Sicilian harbor of Augusta, Italy on 22 April, 2015.**

**REUTERS**

## PERSPECTIVES

Saturday, 25 April, 2015

## Are we stuck in a Catch-22 situation?

By Kyaw Thura

Naturally, we are prone to holding a pessimistic view of the world, especially when we entertain a negative state of mind. A good example of this is that films about war, horror, murder and espionage reap a lot more profits than sci-fi and romance movies.

People are born honest, simple and sincere. It is the company we keep that influences our thoughts and actions. If we get into bad compa-

ny, we are sure to be hand in glove with them, whereby we develop false loyalty by producing lies to cover previous lies. Thus, we tend to be stuck in a Catch-22 situation.

Similarly, in a democracy, no government comes to office on its own. We vote for our favourite candidates so that they can form a government to take charge of our wellbeing on all fronts. If we favour empty promises made by politicians during electioneering, we will no doubt end up with empty actions. As French political philosopher Alexis de Tocqueville put it, we get the government we deserve.

There is no point in abandoning our future to fate, which is one of our greatest weaknesses. Now is the time for all of us to have a real understanding of who we are and what we dream. It is time to draw lessons from our past mistakes. If we are not happy with our past, all we have to do

is try something different today. It is no use staying stuck. It is never too late to start over.

Clearly, we must choose leaders who can inspire us with their visions for the good of the country, while leaving out those who exercise arrogance and superiority. Only then will we be able to keep ourselves safe from the Catch-22 situation.

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

By Sayar Mya

## Singapore Institute of Technology (SIT)

### Singapore Universities

- National University of Singapore
- Nanyang Technological University
- Singapore Management University
- Singapore University of Technology and Design
- Singapore Institute of Technology
- SIM University

I have already written the first three universities, but yet to pick up the remaining three.

### Singapore Institute of Technology (SIT)

It is a national university and was established on 28 December 2009.

The Singapore Institute of Technology (abbreviation: SIT) is Singapore's fifth autonomous university in Singapore.

Established in 2009, the university primarily caters to local polytechnic graduates who desire to pursue a bachelor's degree. The university offers specialized degree programmes in Physical Science & Engineering, Food Science & Chemical Engineering, Information Communications & Computing, Health Sciences and Design, Education and Social Sciences through collaboration with overseas university partners and the five local polytechnics.

- Nanyang Polytechnic (NP)
- Ngee Ann Polytechnic (NAP)
- Republic Polytechnic (RP)
- Singapore Polytechnic (SP)
- Temasek Polytechnic (TP)

### History of SIT

The Polytechnic-Foreign Specialized Institutions (Poly-FSI) initiative was introduced by the Ministry of Education in 2005. Its aim was to encourage polytechnics to partner with overseas universities to offer degree programmes in niche areas such as Naval Architecture by Newcastle University (England) at Ngee Ann Polytechnic.

### Establishment

The establishment of SIT was announced in May 2009 by then Minister for Education and Second Minister for Defence. SIT was tasked with planning, managing and implementing degree programmes offered by reputable overseas universities in partnership with the 5 polytechnics in Singapore. This tripartite collaboration offers a unique model that will not only increase the number of publicly funded university places for Singaporeans but also offer them many more choices of study.

In 26 August 2012, Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong formally announced that SIT will be Singapore's fifth Autonomous University (AU).

### Academic Clusters

In partnership with Newcastle University (England) and University of Glasgow (Scotland, UK), SIT offers 9 degree programme in various fields of engineering as well as its own bachelor and master degree programme in Sustainable Infrastructure Engineering (Land).

The programmes offered under the Physical Science & Engineering cluster include:

- Aeronautical Engineering
- Aerospace Engineering
- Electrical Engineering
- Marine Engineering
- Mechanical Design and Manufacturing Engineering
- Mechanical Design Engineering
- Mechatronics
- Naval Architecture
- Offshore Engineering
- Sustainable Infrastructure Engineering (Land)

### Food Science & Chemical Engineering

In partnership with Newcastle University and Technical University of Munich, SIT offers two chemical engineering degree programmes and a degree in food and chemical engineering, under the Food Science & Chemical Engineering cluster.

### Information Communications & Computing

Under the Information Communications & Computing cluster, SIT partners DigiPen Institute of Technology (Redmond, Washington), has provided 4 degree courses in animation and game design. SIT also offers a degree in Electrical Engineering and Information Technology in partnership with Technical University of Munich and a degree in Computing Science with University of Glasgow. In July 2014, SIT saw its first intake of students reading SIT's Information and Communica-



(Photo: Google.com)

tions Technology programme.

### Government Ministries and Agencies

SIT's specialized programmes are guided by government ministries such as the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Information, Communications and the Arts and government agencies like the Singapore Economic Development Board and the Media Development Authority.

SIT offers degree programmes in the fields of Engineering & Applied Sciences, Health Sciences, Interactive Digital Media, Design, Education and Hospitality.

### Polytechnics

SIT works closely with all the polytechnics (SP, NP, TP, NYP and RP) to build on their strengths, reputation and utilizing their existing infrastructure. SIT also enhances the polytechnics' capabilities through faculty training and by conducting applied R&D projects.

### SIT's own degrees

On 24 October 2013, SIT announced in a press

conference that they would offer their own honors degree programmes in Sustainable Infrastructure Engineering, Information and Communications Technology, and Accountancy starting in 2014. This is a key step for SIT in its transition to a fully recognized autonomous university. SIT also announced its first Master of Engineering Technology in Sustainable Infrastructure as a post-degree option for students who perform well.

### Programme Duration

SIT students receive advanced standing from the overseas university partners as most of the applicants have received prior relevant education in polytechnic. This allows full-time students to finish a full-length degree programme in a span of 2 or 2.5 years instead of between 3 to 4 years.

### Integrated Work Study Programme

The unique Integrated Work Study Programme (IWSP) is designed for SIT's own degree programmes. It will provide students with the opportu-

nity to undertake real work, allowing them to integrate theory and practice and develop deep specialist skills in their chosen field. The IWSP is structured in a unique and distinct way for each degree programme to cater to the specific needs of the industry, developing industry-ready graduates. Held over the span of 8 to 12 months, the structure of the IWSP will be unique and distinct for each degree programme to cater to differing needs of the industry.

### Benefits of IWSP

Students will undertake paid employment within companies relevant to their programmes. Students will be able to develop specific professional competencies in their chosen field, which may lead towards professional advancement. IWSP will also give students the opportunity to develop professional networks and interpersonal skills.

### Overseas Immersion Programme

SIT students must complete an on-campus (See page 9)



## Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker calls for swift setting of minimum wage



*Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann highlights national minimum wage in meeting with employees and employers at Hlinethaya Industrial Zone.*  
PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

By Aye Min Soe

YANGON, 24 April—Speaker of the Pyithu Hluttaw and Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann on Friday called for the establishment of a national minimum wage, expected to be announced in May, to be sped up.

The Speaker said the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security had been taking too long to set the minimum

wage, urging it to complete the task as soon as possible.

The Pyithu Hluttaw enacted the minimum wage law in March, 2013 and the government approved the related by-laws in July, 2013.

In his concluding remarks at a meeting with officials of the ministry, employers and employees in Hlinethaya Industrial Zone in western Yangon, the Speaker suggested both employers and workers

consider the daily wage level of K3,000 for government employees set by the Ministry of Finance and Revenue as a “standard” for setting the minimum wage level for workers.

Current minimum daily wage levels range from K900 to K1,300 in industrial zones, while an operator receives from K90,000 to K10,000 on average which includes 80 overtime hours, said Dr Khin Maung Aye of the Hline Tha Yar Garment

Employers’ Organization.

“From K900 to K1,300 per day is the minimum wage guaranteed by an employer,” he said. “It means an employer has to pay that daily wage to workers whether they (workers) have jobs or not at the factories.”

On behalf of employers, Dr Khin Maung Aye said K5,600 per day with the rate of around K700 per hour suggested by the Confederation of Trade Unions Myanmar (CTUM) is “not impossible” for employers to agree to, with daily wages to be calculated depending on production costs.

Since 70 per cent of a garment factory’s production costs are comprised of wages for its workers, it is not easy for an employer to agree if he receives a demanded to increase current wages by 10 percent, he said.

However, another employer said he would be able to increase the minimum wage for workers because his factory has to spend just 10 per cent of its production costs on wages

of the workers, and there are only 14 workers at the factory.

U Aye Lwin, Joint-Secretary of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry pointed out that there is a misunderstanding on setting a minimum wage level, saying that the livelihoods of workers depend on commodity prices, while the skills and contributions of workers to a factory’s production are also considered.

He urged the government to adopt a policy and work to decrease the country’s transportation costs in order to decrease commodity prices in the country.

A survey was conducted in 108 townships by a national committee comprising governmental officials and representatives from employees and employers and included information on daily expenses of families, sizes of families, regional price indexes for basic commodities and income, and the occupations of able-bodied family members.

The official minimum wage for workers should not include bonuses, cost-of-living allowances and overtime fees, while working hours should be set at eight hours a day, a representative of the CTUM said.

According to the rules and by-laws of the Minimum Wage Law, the minimum wage level can be amended within two years after its announcement.

High-ranking officials and officials of the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security will meet with employers Saturday and with workers Sunday in Yangon for wage talks.

In the afternoon, the Speaker held a talk with US Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Derek Mitchell at the Hluttaw Branch on Inya Lake in Kamayut Township, here.

Also present at the call were Chairman of Pyithu Hluttaw International Relations Department U Hla Myint Oo and officials of the Pyithu Hluttaw Office.

GNLM

## Deputy attorney-general meets Vietnamese delegation

NAY PYI TAW, 24 April—The deputy attorney-general of the Union met a Vietnamese delegation here Friday on behalf of the attorney-general.

Myanmar is sparing no effort to reform its political, economic, executive and private sectors, so as to ensure that it enjoys a genuine multi-party democratic system, Deputy Attorney-General U Tun Tun

Oo told Vietnam’s Government Chief Inspector Huynh Phong Tran.

Speaking of laws on corruption and bribery, the deputy attorney general said the country became a signatory to the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) on 20 December 2011, with the anti-corruption law coming into effect on 17 September two years later.

The deputy attorney-general said Myanmar also holds membership in the International Association of Anti-Corruption Authorities (IAACA) and South East Asia Parties Against Corruption (SEA-PAC) and its Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) has signed memoranda of understanding with Thailand, Indonesia, Bangladesh and South Korea.—MNA

## Sanitation program ...

(from page 1)

Samsung and Cartier Charitable Foundation and technical assistance of International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC).

“We have provided budget for two year to the

MRCS,” a KCRS secretary-general said through his interpreter. “After two years, Samsung and KRCS will evaluate the project’s progress.”

Water-borne diseases, stomach upsets and diarrhoea cases linked to water

contaminated with faeces increase between February and July.

According to the World Health Organization, there have been 4,600 million diarrhoea cases annually and 2.2 million deaths attributes to unsafe drinking water.

GNLM

## Singapore Institute ...

(from page 8)

immersion programme (spanning 3 to 12 weeks depending on the overseas university degree) at their own cost at the home university — an overseas study experience that offers an invaluable opportunity for cultural exchanges with

international students.

### Scholarships and Industry Sponsorships

SIT’s industry partners and the Singapore government have further strengthened their commitment to SIT by offering scholarships and sponsorships to 12% of its first intake of

500 students.

### Research

SIT will support industries in Singapore by establishing **Technology and Innovation Centers (TIC)**. The TICs will conduct applied research and leverage on the strengths of the overseas universities, polytechnics and SIT. SIT also aims to nurture a pool

of local research talent.

### Conclusion

Singapore Institute of Technology has plan for big increase in student numbers.

SIT is to raise enrolment from 3,000 now to over 10,000 by 2020, with the aim to give four in 10 Singaporeans a boost up for a degree at home.

have been equipped with life jackets, most of the passengers do not have adequate knowledge how to use the equipment. Before departure of the ferry from both banks, the crew will always perform demonstrations on board for broadening knowledge of passen-

gers on use of life jackets in natural disasters, said an official of Inland Water Transport.

General Manager of IWT U Zaw Win and officials attended the demonstration of crew members on board.

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*Female employees working at a garment factory.*

PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

## Ferry crew demonstrate use of life jackets



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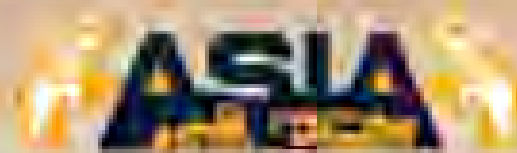


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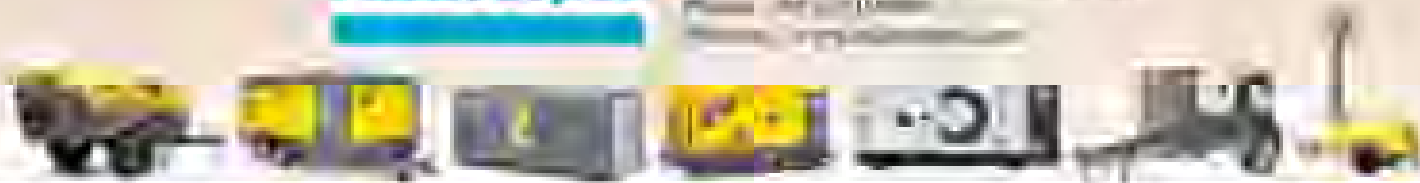
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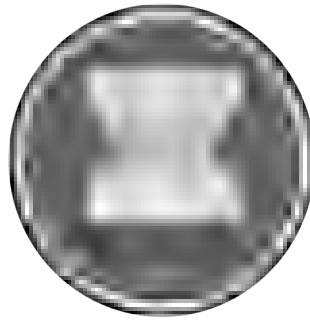
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(25-4-2015 07:00 am~ 26-4-2015 07:00 am) MST

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(25-4-2015, Saturday)

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| <p><b>6:00 am</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Paritta by Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw</li> </ul> <p><b>6:20 am</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Myitta Pawana By Min Gun Sayadaw Phayagyi</li> </ul> <p><b>6:40 am</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Documentary</li> </ul> <p><b>7:00 am</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• News / Weather Report</li> </ul> <p><b>7:30 am</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Head Line News</li> </ul> <p><b>7:35 am</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hyper Sports</li> </ul> <p><b>8:00 am</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• News / International News</li> </ul> <p><b>8:35 am</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Documentary</li> </ul> <p><b>9:00 am</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• News / International News</li> </ul> <p><b>9:35 am</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MRTV's Youth</li> </ul> | <p><b>Programme</b></p> <p><b>10:30 am</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Head Line News</li> </ul> <p><b>10:35 am</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Science and Technology Programme</li> </ul> <p><b>11:00 am</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• News</li> </ul> <p><b>11:35 am</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Game For Children</li> </ul> <p><b>12:00 noon</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• News / International News / Weather Report</li> </ul> <p><b>12:35 pm</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Round Up of The Week's Local TV News</li> </ul> <p><b>12:55 pm</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Teleplay (Part-1)</li> </ul> <p><b>2:35 pm</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Teleplay (Part-2)</li> </ul> <p><b>3:00 pm</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• News</li> </ul> <p><b>3:30 pm</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Head Line News</li> </ul> | <p><b>4:15 pm</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Myanmar Traditional Performing Arts Competition</li> </ul> <p><b>4:35 pm</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• University Of Distance Education (TV Lectures) — Second Year (Botany)</li> </ul> <p><b>5:00 pm</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• News</li> </ul> <p><b>5:35 pm</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Documentary</li> </ul> <p><b>6:00 pm</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• News / Weather Report</li> </ul> <p><b>6:30 pm</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Head Line News</li> </ul> <p><b>7:00 pm</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• News / Weather Report</li> </ul> <p><b>7:35 pm</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Business News</li> </ul> <p><b>8:00 pm</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• News / International News / Weather Report</li> </ul> <p><b>9:00 pm</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• News</li> <li>• Pyi Thi Ni Ti</li> <li>• Gitadagale Phwintbarohn</li> </ul> |
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**MRTV Entertainment Channel**

(25-4-2015, Saturday)

- 6:00 am**
- Honour Song For Alinka Kyaw Swar Myoma Nyein
- 6:30 am**
- Myanmar Series
- 6:45 am**
- Fashion Show (Music)
- 7:00 am**
- Radio Teleplay
- 8:00 am**
- China In Myanmar Cultural Show
- 8:15 am**
- Dramatic Arts
- 9:45 am**
- Musical Programme
- 12:00 noon**
- Close Down

**Japanese astronaut Yui to travel to space on 27 May**

Tokyo, 24 April — The Japanese astronaut Kimiya Yui will travel into space for the first time on 27 May in Russia's Soyuz spacecraft, education minister Hakubun Shimomura said on Friday. Yui, 45, will board the spacecraft that will lift off at 4:46 am Japan time from the Baikunur

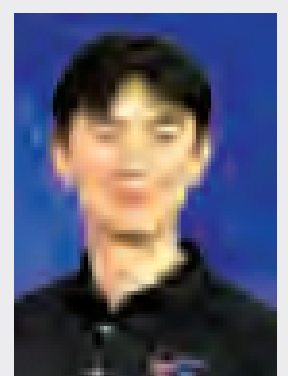
Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan as a flight engineer with commander Oleg Kononenko from the Russian Federal Space Agency and another flight engineer Kjell Lindgren from NASA.

The three crew members will stay at the International Space Station for about six months during which time Yui will take

part in various experiments. "We want him to fulfill his duty by using his experience as a pilot and demonstrating results of his training," the minister said in a news conference.

After studying engineering at the National Defense Academy, Yui entered Japan Air Self-Defence Force in 1992. He was se-

lected as an astronaut at the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency in 2009 and certified as an ISS astronaut in July 2011. Japan will send another astronaut, Takuya Onishi, to the ISS in 2016.—Kyodo News



Undated photo shows Japanese astronaut Kimiya Yui, who will travel into space for the first time on 27 May, 2015 in Russia's Soyuz spacecraft as a flight engineer. Yui will be accompanied by commander Oleg Kononenko from the Russian Federal Space Agency and another flight engineer, Kjell Lindgren from NASA.—KYODO NEWS

lected as an astronaut at the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency in 2009 and certified as an ISS as-

## Nadal felled by Fognini in Barcelona third round

BARCELONA, 24 April — Rafa Nadal's bid to get back to top form before the French Open suffered a setback when he crashed to a 6-4, 7-6(6) defeat to 13<sup>th</sup>-seeded Italian Fabio Fognini in the third round of the Barcelona Open on Thursday.

Nadal, the world number four and second seed, produced an erratic performance on the clay in the Catalan capital and the big-hitting Fognini punished the Spaniard's errors to scupper Nadal's bid for a ninth Barcelona title.

Backed by a fierce-ly partisan crowd, Nadal saved three match points in the tiebreak before sending a forehand long on the fourth to hand Fognini victory.

After his 2014 season was wrecked by illness and injury, Nadal is looking to rediscover his dominance on the red dust before he makes a bid for a record-extending 10<sup>th</sup> French



Rafael Nadal of Spain serves during his men's singles semi-final tennis match against Novak Djokovic of Serbia at the Monte Carlo Masters in Monaco on 18 April, 2015. —REUTERS

Open crown starting at the end of next month.

The Majorca native lost to world number one Novak Djokovic in the semi-finals of last week's Monte Carlo Masters and many are tipping the Serb to end his great rival's stranglehold at Roland Garros.

Despite his reverse to Djokovic in the principality, Nadal said he

had played his best tennis of the year but admitted Thursday's reverse was "a blow" and that his misfiring forehand had been the key.

"I played badly and I couldn't play how I wanted," Nadal told a news conference.

"There is no other alternative, accept it or die, and I accept it because I want to give myself a

chance in the future," added the 28-year-old, who is next due to play at the Madrid Masters at the start of May.

Fognini, who beat Nadal on clay in the semi-finals in Rio de Janeiro in February, his only win in five previous meetings, said he had needed to draw deeply on his mental strength to see out the match.

"Unless you play at your highest level against Rafa for the whole match you are not going to get the better of him," Fognini told Spanish television.

"Beating a player who is the greatest in history on this surface is worth double," he added.

On the other side of the draw, champion and top seed Kei Nishikori of Japan eased past Colombian Santiago Giraldo 6-2, 6-1 and will play Spaniard Roberto Bautista for a place in Saturday's semi-finals.—Reuters

## I'm best man to lead Liverpool, says Rodgers

LONDON, 24 April — Liverpool manager Brendan Rodgers has dismissed speculation about his job by saying he is the best man to lead the club and that he expects to be in charge next season.

The Northern Irishman came out fighting on Thursday after defeat by Aston Villa in Sunday's FA Cup semi-final ensured he became the first Liverpool manager since the 1950s not to win silverware in his first three seasons in charge.

The club are currently out of the Champions League qualification places and have developed a reputation for stumbling on the big occasion.

Rodgers has also come in for criticism for last season's recruitment policy that saw several players arrive in the wake of striker Luis Suarez's departure to Barcelona. He does not feel, however, that his job is under any immediate threat. "Do I expect to be manager next season? Very much so, yes. I don't think there's anyone better," Rodgers told reporters. "That's the reality of how I see it. Three months ago I was a tactical genius,

performing to a good level.

"We lost a couple of games, some important games, and now you're not so good. But that is football, that's what will happen, people will speculate."

Outgoing Borussia Dortmund manager Jurgen Klopp, who announced last week that he was quitting the German club at the end of the season, has been linked by British media with a move to Anfield.

"There will always be people linked with this job because it's such a great club," Rodgers added.

"In my time alone there have been lots of names mentioned. This is a club that's worldwide so there's absolutely no problem, it's something that happens all the time if you lose a couple of games.

"We've had former managers linked here with the job before and that will continue for however long I'm here — whether you're doing good, bad or indifferent." Liverpool, who are fifth in the Premier League and seven points behind fourth-placed Manchester City, visit West Bromwich Albion on Saturday.

Reuters

## Mayweather tags him a better fighter than Ali

NEW YORK, 24 April — Floyd Mayweather believes he's a better fighter than Muhammad Ali, the American boxer said earlier this week.

Mayweather said he respects Ali's great career and the things he did outside the ring.

But he said he believes he has done as much in boxing as the legendary former heavyweight champion ever did, without the losses that Ali suffered in his career.

"He called himself The Greatest and I call myself TBE (The Best Ever)," Mayweather said Wednesday. "I'm pretty sure I'll get criticized for what I said, but I could care less. I could care less about the backlash."

Mayweather had said that he was better than both Ali and Sugar Ray Robinson, pointing to his 47-0 record as proof. He also said he would never have lost to a fighter like Leon Spinks, who beat an aging Ali in 1978 af-

ter having just seven pro fights.

"I just look at Ali's career when he fought Leon Spinks and lost to a fighter with seven fights," Mayweather said. "There were some other fights he lost and he's still known as The Greatest because that's what he put out there. It is what it is."

A little more than a week before his megafight worth 100 million dollars with Manny Pacquiao on 2 May, Mayweather seemed relaxed and inclined to hype up his life by posting a picture full of half-naked dancers and dollars in his house on Instagram.

Most boxing historians would disagree with Mayweather's own view of his place in boxing's historical hierarchy. That includes the current heavyweight champion, Wladimir Klitschko, who told a group of reporters in New York on Tuesday that maybe Mayweather shouldn't be so boastful.

Xinhua

## T Kameda vacates WBO bantam title

TOKYO, 24 April — Japan's Tomoki Kameda has vacated his WBO bantamweight world title, his management Kameda Promotion announced on Friday.

"(I have vacated the title) so I can fight a stronger opponent," Kameda said in a statement. "In my view, it is after that that the belt will follow."

The move comes days after the World Boxing Organization announced it would not authorize a proposed unification bout in Texas on 9 May between Kameda and Britain's WBA champion Jamie McDonnell, because McDonnell holds a secondary title — the WBA's "regular" belt.

Juan Carlos Payano of

the Dominican Republic is the WBA "super" champion in the bantamweight division and thus ranked higher than McDonnell.

Kameda won a split decision against interim champion Alejandro Hernandez of Mexico to successfully defend his title for the third time in their world unification bout in Chicago in No-

vember last year.

The vacant title is due to be filled by the winner of a proposed fight between Pungluang Sor Singyu of Thailand, and Japan's Ryo Akaho, sports network ESPN reported Thursday. They have 15 days to negotiate a deal or a purse bid will be called.

Kyodo News

## Japan to host FIFA Club World Cup in 2015 and 2016

TOKYO, 24 April — Japan have been reappointed as hosts of the FIFA Club World Cup for the next two years, the sport's world governing body announced on Thursday. FIFA said the annual tournament would be held in Japan in 2015 and 2016 with this year's edition scheduled for 10-20 December. "This is a country with a proven track record when it comes to staging FIFA events, including six editions of the FIFA Club World Cup, which were all successful," FIFA Secretary General Jerome Valcke said in a statement.

The FIFA Club World Cup features the champions of all six FIFA confederations — Asia, Africa, CONCACAF, Europe, Oceania and South America. As hosts, Japan will also have a team in the tournament, which was first held in Bra-



Real Madrid's players celebrate their victory after winning their FIFA Club World Cup final football match against San Lorenzo at the Marrakesh stadium on 20 Dec, 2014.—REUTERS

zil in 2000 then annually since 2005.

Japan was the host in 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2011 and 2012 while the 2009 and 2010 editions

were staged in United Arab Emirates and the last two in Morocco, with Real Madrid winning in 2014. "It will be an important experience for us as we look forward to

hosting other major sporting events including the Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games," Japan Football Association President Kuniya Daini said.—Reuters