

Overseas examples should inform minimum wage talks: employment minister

By Aye Min Soe

YANGON, 25 April—The Union Minister for Labour, Employment and Social Security has urged employers and workers to learn from the experiences of other countries as they work toward establishing a national minimum wage for Myanmar.

At a meeting between high-ranking officials of the ministry and employers Saturday, Union Minister U Aye Myint said employers and workers must be practical both during the drafting process of the minimum wage and after its institution to avoid pushing companies outside the legal framework and into informal business.

“Today is the time for taking care of around 20 million workers,” U Aye Myint said. “Meanwhile, we should take lessons from Thailand, where small-scale factories have shut down, and from Cambodia, which saw factories



Workers at production line of a garment factory in Hlinethaya Industrial Zone.—PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

move to Bangladesh after establishment of the minimum wage.”

The ministry-led body brokering the negotiations between employers and workers for establishment of the minimum wage will announce a proposed figure within one or two months, the Union Minister said.

Those from affected sectors can object within 60 days of the announcement.

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.

More than 100 employers attended the meet-

ing, with Myanmar’s high transportation costs their most common complaint. They expressed concern about getting a reasonable minimum wage and urged the government to decrease the country’s transportation costs in order to reduce commodity prices.

U Aye Lwin,

Joint-Secretary of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry has urged the government to help them decrease production costs so employers can institute a higher minimum wage for workers.

Transportation costs from Yangon to Chiang Mai are five times higher than the cost from Bangkok to Chaing Mai, indicating that the government must review its transportation policy, he added.

The employers complained that the cost of transporting a container from Yangon’s western industrial zone to the Thilawa Port Terminal costs around K600,000 (US \$560), while transportation for the container from the port to Singapore costs only \$70.

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

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NGO seeks help spreading ICT access to rural areas

By Khaing Thanda Lwin

YANGON, 25 April—The non-profit Myanmar ICT for Development Organisation is seeking local partners to open community centres aimed at helping rural residents get online, MIDO program manager Daw Htaike Htaike Aung said.

Funded by mobile provider Telenor Myanmar, the Telenor Light House – MIDO centres are also aimed at helping local entrepreneurs advance in the ICT industry, she added.

Under the programme, MIDO will establish up to 200 of the centres over a three-year period. Since its inception in mid-2014, 13 centres have been set up around the country, with plans to add another 50 this year, 150 next year and 50 in 2017, she said in an interview with The Global New Light of Myanmar on Thursday.

“We would like to invite enthusiasts to apply for the programme, but

they must be economically minded and have philanthropic spirits,” Daw Htaike Htaike Aung said.

“Priority will be given to people involved in regional development activities and regional women entrepreneurs.”

According to the programme, Telenor will provide Internet connections and related materials to the selected residents to open the information centres. In addition, its assistances include 18 months worth of operational costs.

“The initial establishment of a centre will cost around US \$5 million,” said the program manager. “We will not ask for the assistance provided from the selected persons but they will have to offer services with prices fixed by the MIDO.”

She also invites applications from people who wish to provide digital technological assistance in the establishment of centres.

GNLM

Myanmar on track to receive record 5 m. foreign tourists in 2015



Nestled on palm-lined shores, Ngapali beach with reputation as one of the best beaches in Myanmar is a draw for tourists from around the world, especially Europeans.—PHOTO: YE MYINT

By Ye Myint

YANGON, 25 April—Myanmar is set to receive 5 million foreign tourists this

year, eclipsing last year’s record more than 3 million arrivals, with a master plan in place to maintain the impressive growth in

the sector, according to the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism.

“Twelve projects in the master plan are being un-

dertaken by the ministry in cooperation with development partners,” Daw Khin Than Win, Director of the

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Cambodian, Thai, Malaysian chinlone teams train in Myanmar

MANDALAY, 25 April—Cambodian, Thai and Malaysian chinlone teams are training in Myanmar

ahead of the 28th SEA Games to be hosted by Singapore in 2015.

The Cambodian team

will train in Pyin Oo Lwin for 20 days.

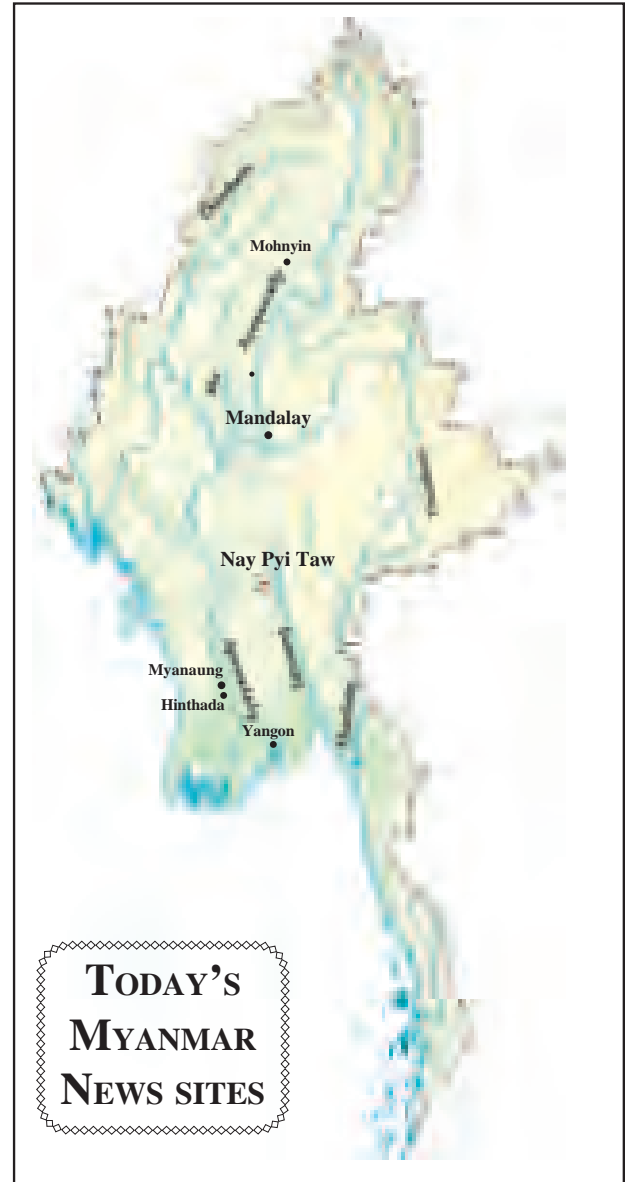
President of the Myanmar Chinlone Federa-

tion U Soe Naing said the Thai Chinlone team will train in Mandalay while the Malaysian team will train at Gold Camp in Nay Pyi Taw.

He said the Myanmar team expects to secure two gold medals in Chinlone at the coming SEA Games.

The federation has provided assistance for the foreign teams during their training periods.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)



Shwebo-Myitkyina Union Highway undergoes upgrade

MOHNYIN, 25 April—Shwebo-Myitkyina Union Highway in Kachin State has undergone an upgrade, with a new asphalt surface giving residents a smoother ride to and from Mandalay.

“In the past, we drove overnight from Mandalay to Myitkyina in Kachin State, but now, we can drive the route as a day trip,” an entrepreneur from Phakant region said.

The 121-mile-long

section from Nantsiaung in Mohnyin Township to Myitkyina was considered one of the worst stretches of the road prior to the upgrade.

The Ministry of Construction and Kachin State government funded the laying of asphalt on the road section. Upon completion of bridges along the road, people and goods will be able to move much more easily.—*K Hsai Naw (Phakant)*

Department of Rural Development sinks tube-wells for water supply in rural areas

MYANAUNG, 25 April—The Township Department of Rural Development funded sinking of a tube-well in villages facing water shortages in summer.

In fiscal 2014-15 fis-

cal, the department sank tube-wells and built water pump station at nine rural locations.

On 22 April, a tube-well sunk by the department launched its supply of wa-

Trishaw drivers receive new licences in Thakayta Tsp

YANGON, 25 April—Thakayta Township Development Affairs Committee is allowing the renewal of trishaw licenses for fiscal 2015-16 at its office until 28 April.

Chairman of the committee U Aung Aung said the renewal process was aimed at encouraging drivers to obey traffic rules.

“Thakayta Township has 1,361 trishaws and 150 other types of slow-moving vehicles for which the committee will allow licenses to be renewed,”

Head of Township Development Department U Maung Maung Than said.

Staff of the committee inspected vehicles the vehicles for paintwork, maintenance and body numbers.—*Kyemon (597)*

Chief minister reviews preparation for hoisting umbrella atop Jade Pagoda

MANDALAY, 25 April—A meeting to discuss the enshrinement of religious objects and the hoisting of a golden umbrella atop Werawsana Jade Pagoda took place Thursday in Hsinywa

Myinhmu Village in Amarapura Township, Mandalay Region, with Chief Minister of Mandalay Region U Ye Myint in attendance.

Region Minister for Forestry and Mining U Than

Soe Myint spoke about preparations for the ceremonies while well-wisher U Soe Naing reported on progress of construction.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)

Squall destroys more than 80 houses in Hinthada Tsp



HINTHADA, 25 April—Powerful winds recently struck Hinthada Township, Ayeyawady Region, destroying more than 80 homes.

The squall on 23 April tore the roofs from 37 houses in the late afternoon and evening and destroyed two houses in Sitkwin and Thahtaygon

villages, and another 21 houses in Nyaungwaing village. In total, the squall destroyed 89 houses, causing K2,525,000 worth of damage.

Hinthada Township Pyithu Hluttaw MP U Htay Oo, Ayeyawady Region Minister for Forestry and Mining U Soe Myint and local authorities visited vil-

lages hit by the storm and comforted the local residents.

Police and members of fire brigade participated in rescue and relief works.

The Ayeyawady Region government and social organizations donated relief aid to the storm victims.—*Kyaw Kyaw (Hinthada)*



UEC members to observe voter education and outreach in Indonesia

YANGON, 25 April – A Myanmar delegation led by Union Election Commission member U Win Kyi on Saturday left for Indonesia to observe voter education and outreach programmes. The trip has been arranged by the Asia Foundation, which is cooperating with the UEC in the electoral process. The delegation includes Deputy Director General U Nay Myo of the UEC office and Deputy Director U Khin Zaw-Tun of Yangon Region Sub-election Commission. —MNA

Myanmar Anti-Corruption Commission chairman meets Vietnamese delegation

NAY PYI TAW, 25 May – Myanmar Anti-Corruption Commission Chairman U Mya Win on Saturday met a Vietnamese delegation led by Government Chief Inspector Mr Huynh Phong Tranh in Nay Pyi Taw. Their meeting focused on sharing experience and signing a memorandum of understanding aimed at strengthening anti-corruption efforts involving the two countries. —MNA

Civilians under attacks in Shan, Kachin, Rakhine

NAY PYI TAW, 25 April— The two armed men attacked a branch of Myawady Bank in Muse Township, northern Shan State, on early morning of Saturday.

Small weapon attacks caused damages the building, but no injury or death occurred.

Investigation showed the attacks followed after the armed insurgents sent the letters to the banks in Muse Township on March 19 and 20 demanding extortion money.

Military troops and security forces are now tightening security to be able to

arrest the armed men.

On Friday while military columns launching security services found two bodies died of land mine explosion in the west of Tanaing-Myitkyina motorway near Kaming sub-township of Phakant Township, Kachin State.

The bodies were identified as Bauk Ra, 26, and Sai Le, 27, who are living in Naungmee Village. Explosion left a hole of 2 feet width and 6 inches depth, and small batteries, a remote control, two torchlights, a pair of scissors, a coil of wire tape and two daggers.

These insurgents were

found death while they were planting land mines, and they were forcibly recruited by armed groups three years ago. In Kyauktaw Township in Rakhine State, military columns hunted four suspects after an anonymous tip-off of local people on Friday morning. While security forces are chasing them, some explosive materials were found in the forest.

In the same morning, military forces confiscated some ammunitions, medicines and military equipment near Pinlone village in Kyauktaw Township.

Myawady

Myanmar on track to receive

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Tourism Promotion and International Relations Department, told The Global New Light of Myanmar on Friday.

A project for tourism development in the Bagan region in conjunction with the Japan International Cooperation Agency and another focusing on Mawlamyine and Kyaik-hto region in cooperation with Asian Development Bank are among the ongoing tasks that will run for the next two or three years, the director said.

Myanmar's Tourism Master Plan (2013-2020), which set targets for 3.01 million arrivals in 2015 and 7.48 million by 2020, was revealed by the ministry in 2013.

The plan, drawn with the assistance of international organizations including the ADB, covers the years 2013 to 2020 and includes six strategic programs, as well as 38 priority

projects.

Outlining a path for increasing tourism receipts from a baseline of US \$534 million in 2012 to \$10.18 billion in 2020, the implementation of the 38 projects in the plan is expected to cost \$486.6 million. Of these, 21 projects identified as critical to the plan have a cost of \$215.6 million.

The goal of the master plan is to keep the country's tourism industry growth at an impressive pace, thereby generating more income and employment and delivering widespread economic benefits, the ministry said.

Strengthening the institutional environment, building human resources capacity, developing quality products and services, and improving tourism-related infrastructure are among the six strategic programmes of the master plan.

"We have an ambitious target aiming to meet five million visitors mark this year as the country's tour-

ism boom is likely to continue at an impressive pace following a record-breaking more than three million arrivals last year," the director said.

Tourism Ministry data showed the country received more than 3 million tourists last year, up from more than 2 million from

Thura U Shwe Mann leaves for PRC

YANGON, 25 April— Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann departed Saturday for a goodwill visit to the People's Republic of China.

The Myanmar delegation led by the speaker

was seen off at the airport by Chief Minister of Yangon Region U Myint Swe, Speaker of Yangon Region Hluttaw U Sein Tin Win, Deputy Speaker U Tin Aung, and Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Yang Houlan. The speaker

was accompanied by Pyithu Hluttaw committee chairmen U Soe Tha, Thura U Aye Myint, U Thein Zaw and U T Khun Myat, Shan State Hluttaw Representative U Myint Lwin, and officials from the Pyithu Hluttaw office.—MNA

Overseas examples should...

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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, as well as 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 repre-

sentative of the CTUM said.

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann suggested Friday 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. —GNLM



Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security hold talks with employers over establishing a national minimum wage one day ahead of a meeting between the ministry and workers in Yangon.—PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

a year earlier and earned \$1.14 billion, up from \$926 million. But, the number of more than 3 million in 2014 represented a small portion of 97.6 million visiting the ASEAN region in the year.

Myanmar's foreign investment data showed approved amount of FDI in the country's booming

tourism industry reached \$357.949 million invested by five firms in the previous fiscal year.

As of 31 March 2015, Myanmar had 1148 licensed hotels with 45,331 rooms across the country. Among them, 59 hotels with 4,904 rooms are in Nay Pyi Taw, 298 hotels

with 13,990 rooms are in Yangon and 148 hotels with 6069 rooms are in Mandalay.

There are 77 hotels in Bagan-NyaungU region and 93 in the Taunggyi/Inlay region, both popular tourist spots among foreign visitors.

GNLM



Independence Monument in Maha Bandoola Park next to Yangon Region's Supreme Court and some high-rise buildings in the heart of Yangon.—PHOTO: YE MYINT

Devastating Nepal earthquake kills hundreds, triggers deadly Everest avalanche



A collapsed building is seen in Nepal's capital Kathmandu on 25 April, 2015. An 8.1-magnitude earthquake struck Nepal, at 2:11 pm (Beijing Time) (0622 GMT) Saturday, China Earthquake Networks Center said.—XINHUA

KATHMANDU, 25 April — A powerful earthquake struck Nepal and sent tremors through northern India on Saturday, killing hundreds of people, toppling an historic 19th-century tower in the capital Kathmandu and touching off a deadly avalanche on Mount Everest.

There were reports of devastation in outlying, isolated mountainous areas after the quake struck with a magnitude of 7.9, the worst in 81 years, with its epicentre 50 miles (80

km) east of Nepal's second largest city, Pokhara.

A collapse in communications hampered relief efforts, raising fears of a humanitarian disaster across the impoverished Himalayan nation of 28 million people.

A home ministry official told *Reuters* said the death toll had reached 758 in Nepal. A further 34 fatalities were reported in northern India and one in Bangladesh. The quake was shallow in depth, intensifying its destructive

force.

Indian tourist Devyani Pant was in a Kathmandu coffee shop with friends when "suddenly the tables started trembling and paintings on the wall fell on the ground.

"I screamed and rushed outside," she told *Reuters* by telephone from the capital, where at least 181 people died.

"We are now collecting bodies and rushing the injured to the ambulance. We are being forced to pile several bodies one above

the other to fit them in."

A tourism official said at least eight people were killed when an avalanche unleashed by the earthquake swept through the Everest Base Camp for climbers of the world's highest mountain.

Choti Sherpa, who works at the Everest Summiters Association, was unable to call her family and colleagues on the mountain. "Everyone is trying to contact each other, but we can't," she said. "We are all very worried."

Around 300,000 foreign tourists were estimated to be in Nepal for the spring trekking and climbing season, and officials were overwhelmed by calls

from concerned friends and relatives.

"We are facing a tremendous crisis here and it is hard to even assess what the death toll and the extent of damage could be," said Mohan Krishna Sapkota, a second tourism official.

"The trekkers are scattered all around the base camp and some had even trekked further up. It is almost impossible to get in touch with anyone."

A landlocked nation sandwiched between India and China, popular with adventure tourists, Nepal has had its share of natural disasters. Its worst earthquake in 1934 killed more than 8,500 people.

Reuters



People take refuge at a school after a 7.7 magnitude earthquake struck in Kathmandu, Nepal, on 25 April, 2015.—REUTERS

Cambodia's Prince Ranariddh unhurt in car accident, wife injured

PHNOM PENH, 25 April — Cambodia's Prince Norodom Ranariddh, son of the late King Norodom Sihanouk, escaped unhurt after being involved in a traffic accident on Saturday, but his wife was injured, according to his spokesman and the police.

The accident took place at 12:50 pm when a truck hit the 71-year-old prince's car and another vehicle of his entourage while they were on their way back to Phnom Penh from Kompong Cham Province where he had met with his party's members, according to the prince's spokesman Nhep Bunchin.

At least six people were injured, including Princess Ouk Phalla, the prince's wife, who was bleeding on her head and was hospitalized in Phnom Penh, according to the spokesman.

According to the police report, three of the six injured sustained minor wounds.

The prince was elected in January this year as president of the royalist FUNCINPEC party, nine years after he was toppled as its leader.

Kyodo News

Southeast Asian nations unlikely to agree on common time zone

KUALA LUMPUR, 25 April — A common time zone proposal for Southeast Asian nations will likely fail at an upcoming meeting of their leaders in Kuala Lumpur on Sunday as Thailand and Cambodia object, sources at the Association of Southeast Asian Nations told *Kyodo News* on Saturday.

Malaysia, as host and chair of ASEAN meetings this year, revived the "ASEAN Common Time" proposal earlier this year for its members who currently span four different time zones, the sources said.

It would align ASEAN with major cities of the world's second largest economy China, 8 hours ahead of Greenwich Mean Time.

The proposal, a copy of which was seen by *Kyodo News*, says the ACT would help develop financial markets in the region through common trading and banking hours as well as facilitate airline services.

A common time zone would

also provide ASEAN governments with more time to communicate with each other and help them move toward the commitment of creating an ASEAN community by the end of 2015, the proposal says.

Thailand and Cambodia, who are on GMT +7.00 hours, one hour ahead of the ACT, have argued that there is popular opposition in their countries to changing time zone, with concerns raised over the impact on their way of life.

They have also questioned why GMT +8 is preferred over GMT +7, which they say covers a majority of the population in the region. Cambodia also said it is "not strange for ASEAN to keep time as it is," noting that the European Union and the United States maintain different time zones.

Of the 10 ASEAN members, Malaysia, Singapore, the Philippines and Brunei are on GMT +8, while Thailand, Cam-

bodia, Laos and Vietnam are in the GMT +7 group. Myanmar is 6 hours 30 minutes ahead of GMT. Indonesia, an archipelago with thousands of islands, covers three time zones from GMT +7 to GMT+9.

The ACT proposal was first made by Singapore in 1995 and was raised again by Malaysia in 2004 before Kuala Lumpur's suggestion this year. Indonesian President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo reportedly expressed support for a common time zone in February.

While striving to create an economic community by the end of this year, ASEAN is struggling with its ambitions for a common currency, common standards and common time.

The ACT proposal says that a common time would be a historic milestone in ASEAN regional cooperation, comparable to ASEAN's decision to adopt English as its official working language.

Kyodo News

ASEAN wants to speed up maritime pact with China: Malaysia's Anifah

KUALA LUMPUR, 25 April — The Association of Southeast Asian Nations will push China to speed up negotiations on a "code of conduct" in the South China Sea as it is concerned about reclamation works the Chinese are conducting there, which have raised tension in the region, Malaysian Foreign Minister Anifah Aman said on Friday.

"We have delivered a message to China very clearly that we want this to be speeded up," Anifah told a Press conference ahead of a meeting of leaders of the 10-member grouping to be held next Monday in the Malaysian capital.

He said the recent tensions relating to competing claims to sovereignty over islands, reefs and atolls in the South China Sea, including the Spratly and Paracel archipelagos, will be on the leaders' agenda as "we consider this an important topic." "We are concerned about the reclamation happening in the South China Sea," he added.

ASEAN and China have been negotiating the code of conduct

among claimants — which besides China include the Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia and Brunei — since 2013, but progress has been slow.

Anifah said no deadline has been set for the conclusion.

The Philippines and Vietnam, in particular, have strongly criticized China for trying to change the status quo in violation of the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea that ASEAN and China signed in 2002.

The declaration called on all claimants "to exercise self-restraint in the conduct of activities that would complicate or escalate disputes and affect peace and stability." Although Malaysia is also a claimant, it has thus far preferred quiet diplomacy in dealing with the dispute as it attempts to strike a balance between protecting its interests and preserving its relationship with China, a major trading partner. ASEAN also includes Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Myanmar, Singapore and Thailand.

Kyodo News

Man arrested for flying drone found at Japan PM office

TOKYO, 25 April — A man was arrested on Saturday for allegedly flying a small drone carrying traces of radioactive material to the prime minister's office to protest against the government's policy to promote nuclear power, police said.

Yasuo Yamamoto, 40, was arrested on suspicion of forcible obstruction of business and interfering with the operations of the office of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe by leaving the drone on the roof of the office's building. He has admitted to the allegations, police investigators said.

The arrest comes after the resident of Obama city in Fukui Prefecture, where several nuclear plants are

concentrated, presented himself to police in the western prefecture on Friday evening.

He told police that he flew the drone, which carried trace amounts of radioactive cesium, as a protest against the government's energy policy.

The government is pushing to restore nuclear power generation despite the opposition of a majority of Japanese after a massive earthquake and tsunami triggered a nuclear accident in 2011 in Fukushima, the worst nuclear crisis since the 1986 Chernobyl disaster.

The man was quoted as saying that he put sand from Fukushima into a plastic bottle carried by the drone.



Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga (2nd from L) addresses the first meeting of relevant ministries on 24 April, 2015, in Tokyo, to look at regulating drone flights. Two days earlier a drone carrying a small amount of radioactive cesium was found on the Japanese prime minister's office building in Tokyo.—KYODO NEWS

Tokyo police confirmed on Friday that the container had sand from which radioactive cesium was detected,

investigative sources said. Yamamoto told the police after his arrest that he flew the drone, about

50 centimeters in diameter, on 9 April, almost two weeks before it was found on Wednesday by a staff member.

He also admitted that he wrote blog posts found earlier which suggested the blogger was involved in flying the drone. According to a post posted on 12 April, the writer came to a parking spot in Akasaka, central Tokyo, from Obama on 9 April, flew the drone and returned to the city on the same day.

The flying device is equipped with a global positioning system that provides information about its flight path if the system is working, the investigative sources said.

The government has

started considering legislation to regulate drone flights above important facilities.

Remote-controlled drones have been used for research and other purposes in recent years. They have proven useful in natural disasters, although there have been reports of crashes.

In January, a drone crash at the US White House sparked security concerns.

"We need to immediately establish" legislation on drone usage, Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga said on Friday at a meeting of officials from police and ministries overseeing such areas as transport, internal affairs and industry.

Kyodo News

Thousands gather at dawn ceremony to mark Gallipoli centenary

GALLIPOLI PENINSULA/ SYDNEY, 25 April — Leaders and dignitaries from Australia, New Zealand and Turkey led thousands at dawn ceremonies on Turkey's Gallipoli peninsula on Saturday to mark the 100th anniversary of a World War One battle that helped shape their nations.

The Gallipoli campaign has resonated through generations, which have mourned the thousands of soldiers from the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps (ANZAC) cut down by machinegun and artillery fire as they struggled ashore on a narrow beach.

The fighting would eventually claim more than 130,000 lives, 87,000 of them on the side of the Ottoman Turks, who were allied with imperial Germany in World War One.

Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott, New Zealand Prime Minister John Key and Britain's Prince Charles laid wreaths as bagpipes played at Anzac Cove, just north of where the landings occurred, in front of more than 10,000 people.

Abbott told the crowd, many of whom spent a cold night in their sleeping bags to secure a place at the crowded grounds, about the lives lost during the campaign, which helped forge Australia's identity.

"Like every generation since, we are here on Gallipoli, because we believe that the ANZACs represented Australians at our best," he said.



A bagpiper from the Australian army salutes during a dawn ceremony marking the 100th anniversary of the Battle of Gallipoli, at Anzac Cove in Gallipoli on 25 April, 2015. REUTERS

"It's the perseverance of those who scaled the cliffs under a rain of fire. It's the compassion of the nurses who attended to the thousands of wounded.

"And it's the greatest love anyone can have: the readiness to lay down your life for your friend."

Gallipoli was the first time that soldiers from Australia and New Zealand fought under their own flags and is seared in the national consciousness as a point where their nations came of age, emerging from the shadow of the British empire.

The Allied forces also included British, Irish, French, Indians, Gurkhas and Canadians. Approximately 58,000 Allied soldiers died, roughly half of them from Britain and Ireland, according to the Gallipoli Association.

Only 11,000 have known graves on the Gallipoli peninsula. Others simply have their names inscribed on memorials.

The peninsula has become a site of pilgrimage for visitors from Australia and New Zealand in particular, who honour their fallen in graveyards halfway around the world on ANZAC Day each year. This year is set to be the largest ever commemoration.

"To us, Gallipoli is also a byword for the best characteristics of Australians and New Zealanders, especially when they work side by side, in the face of adversity," said New Zealand Prime Minister John Key in his speech at the ceremony.

For Turkey, it is also a national touchstone, heralding the rise of Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, who as a young officer led the defence. He later founded modern Turkey, the secular republic that emerged from the ruins of the Ottoman empire.

The former foes now face a common threat from Islamist militant violence and security was tight, particularly after a police raid

in the Australian city of Melbourne last week that targeted an alleged plot to attack local celebrations there.

Some of those who had travelled thousands of miles but had not registered for the ceremonies slept overnight in a hall and watched the events on television.

"My great uncle fought at Gallipoli and survived. We need to remember what these people have been through for us and what a waste of young lives it is," said Pam McMillan from New Zealand.

In Sydney, tens of thousands turned out on Martin Place, and military bagpipers played just blocks from where an Islamist gunman and two of his hostages were killed last year when police stormed a cafe to end a deadly hostage siege.

In New Zealand, the Auckland Museum estimated a turnout of 30,000 people for that city's dawn services.

Reuters

United States seeks access to Philippine bases as part of Asia pivot

MANILA, 25 April — The United States has asked for access to Philippine military bases in eight locations to rotate troops, aircraft, and ships as Washington shifts its forces to Asia and as China expands its military presence in the South China Sea.

US Defence Secretary Ash Carter, in a speech in Arizona, has outlined Washington's next phase in its Asia "pivot", deploying its most sophisticated destroyers, bombers and fighters to the region.

The Asia "pivot" has already seen US Marines rotating through the Australian tropical city of Darwin, the country's closest city to Asia, for training.

At least eight locations in the Philippines have been identified as possible sites where US troops, planes and ships will be rotated through a series of military training and exercises, Philippine General Gregorio Catapang, military chief, told local television network ABS-CBN.

But, the Americans will have to wait until after the Philippine's Supreme Court makes its rulings on the constitutionality of the military deal, called Enhanced Defence Cooperation Agreement, signed last year between Manila and Washington. It may decide later this year.

"If we formalize (now) and they start putting up structures and it's not constitutional, they will have to destroy those structures," Catapang said late on Friday, adding the list was finalised

in October during a Mutual Defence Board meeting.

Four of the locations are on the main island of Luzon, where US and Filipino soldiers usually hold exercises, two on the central Cebu island, and two more on the western island of Palawan, near the disputed Spratly.

China claims most of the potentially energy-rich South China Sea, disputed in parts with the Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, Brunei and Taipei, and denies accusations its actions in its own territory are provocative. Recent satellite images suggest China has made rapid progress in building an airstrip suitable for military use in contested territory in the Spratly islands, which drew concern from the United States and its allies in Asia. "Once the US rebalance to Asia policy is in full swing, the Philippines expect the Americans to seek more access to military bases on Mindanao island and civilian airstrips on Luzon," said a senior air force official familiar with the arrangements.

"The Americans are interested in Laoag airport and Batanes island, both in the northern part of Luzon," he said, adding US planes had landed on Batanes during the war in Iraq and Afghanistan in the early 2000s.

The United States is also interested to return to its two former military bases in Subic and Clark, which they left in 1992 after the Philippines terminated basing agreement. —Reuters

No decision yet on Mistral, France's Hollande says

YEREVAN/PARIS, 25 April — No decision has yet been taken on the future of France's suspended contract to deliver Mistral helicopter carriers to Russia, French President Francois Hollande said on Friday after meeting Russian President Vladimir Putin.

"As far as the Mistral is concerned I have set the terms. Either the Mistral is delivered, which is not our decision as of today, or a repayment will be made in the form we have discussed," Hollande said at a news conference after the meeting in Yerevan, Armenia. Separately, Economy Minister Emmanuel Macron told *Reuters* in



Russian President Vladimir Putin (R) shakes hands with his French counterpart Francois Hollande during a meeting in Yerevan, Armenia, on 24 April, 2015.

REUTERS

Paris the French government would make sure the companies and workers involved were not affected.

"Technically we are ready so that this decision, if it is taken, will not damage the companies and

workers involved," he said.

Earlier on Friday a Russian source close to the talks said Russia and France were close to an agreement for Paris to cancel the contract and reimburse Moscow.

Late on Friday, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov confirmed that the two leaders had talked about the Mistral.

"In this case, there are no problems," Peskov told journalists on a conference call, without elaborating.

The DCNS unit of Thales, 26 percent owned by the French state and 25 percent by Dassault Aviation, is a prime contractor on the Mistral.—*Reuters*

Obama vows 'we're going to review what happened' in hostage death case

MCLEAN, 25 April— President Barack Obama told members of the intelligence community on Friday that he wants to see whether changes are needed after a counterterrorism operation on an al-Qaeda compound inadvertently killed two aid workers held hostage.

"We're going to review what happened. We're going to identify the lessons that can be learned and any improvements and changes that can be made," Obama said in a speech marking the 10th anniversary of the Office of the Director of National Intelligence.—*Reuters*

US pro-Israel lobby opposes push to toughen Iran nuclear bill

WASHINGTON, 25 April — An influential pro-Israel lobbying group is pressuring US lawmakers not to support amendments to toughen a bill that lets Congress review a nuclear agreement with Iran, hoping to avoid a partisan battle that could doom the legislation.

The American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) has been urging Republicans not to back amendments that might turn many Senate Democrats against the "Iran Nuclear Review Act," or prompt Democratic President Barack Obama to renew his threat to veto the legislation.

"Our priority is to make sure the bill gets passed with the strongest

possible bipartisan majority so that Congress is guaranteed the opportunity to pass judgment on the final agreement," an AIPAC source said.

"To achieve that goal we are supporting the leadership of Senator (Bob) Corker and Senator (Ben) Cardin on the bill."

AIPAC is considered one of the most powerful lobbying groups in Washington, and its support makes it less likely an amendment seen as a "poison pill" that would kill the bill would attract the 60 votes needed to pass the Senate. Corker, the Republican chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, and Cardin, the panel's top Democrat, introduced the bill in the full



Negotiators of Iran and six world powers face each other at a table in the historic basement of Palais Coburg hotel in Vienna on 24 April, 2015. — REUTERS

Senate on Thursday. They urged lawmakers to support the legislation with the

largest bipartisan majority possible. Republicans and Democrats on the com-

mittee agreed last week to soften the bill by removing provisions that prompted

Obama to threaten a veto, such as a requirement that he certify Iran does not support terrorism anywhere in the world. Senators have been filing amendments seeking to change the legislation before it comes up for a vote in the full chamber.

Some are seen as "poison pills" that would alienate too many Democrats to pass or prompt a veto if they did somehow get through the Senate and House of Representatives.

For example, Republican Senator Ron Johnson offered an amendment that would require any Iran nuclear deal to be considered a treaty, which would require the approval of two-thirds of the 100-member Senate to go into effect.—*Reuters*

Iran moves ships, reducing tensions near Yemen — Pentagon's Carter

WASHINGTON, 25 April — A flotilla of nine Iranian military and cargo ships that US officials feared was carrying arms to strife-torn Yemen sailed northeast in the direction of Iran on Friday, a move the Pentagon said helped to ease US concerns. "The (Iranian) ships have turned around ... Obviously what their onward plans are, we don't know," Defence Secretary Ash Carter told a small group of journalists travelling with him after a trip to California. "It is a welcome event because it does contribute to de-escalation and that's what we're trying to suggest to all the parties there, is the best course, and those par-

ties include the Iranians," Carter said.

Army Colonel Steve Warren, a Pentagon spokesman, said earlier the flotilla was in international waters about midway along the coast of Oman on Friday and still headed northeast. Warren declined to say the ships were going back to Iran or headed toward Iran.

Warren said the US military did not know their intent and the vessels could turn around at any point. President Barack Obama said on Tuesday the US government had warned Iran not to send weapons to Yemen that could be used to threaten shipping traffic in the Gulf.—*Reuters*

Smuggling gangs treat African migrants more harshly than Syrians

LONDON, 25 April — Traffickers smuggling migrants across the Mediterranean are more likely to lock Africans — including women and children — into packed boat holds than Syrians and others from the Middle East, an official who interviewed survivors said on Friday. Up to 900 people are feared to have drowned last weekend when their crowded vessel capsized as it headed to Europe from Libya, with many victims trapped below deck.

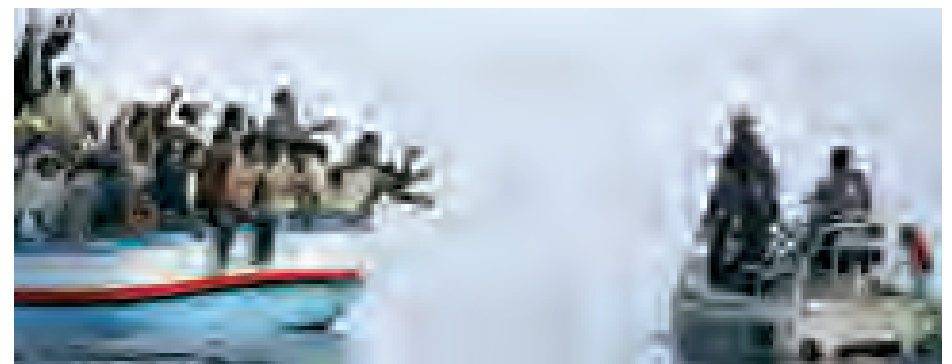
Itayi Viriri, spokesman for the International Organization for Migration (IOM), said shocking testimonies from migrants show that smugglers' treatment of sub-Saharan Africans is especially "inhumane

and horrific". Viriri, who met survivors of the latest tragedy in the Sicilian port of Catania this week, said migrants arriving by sea reported being beaten up, robbed of their savings, deprived of food and forced to drink filthy brown water.

Middle Eastern nationals receive preferential treatment, apparently because they pay more, Viriri added. "The reality is that where there is a multiple-deck vessel those who pay less — who usually are the sub-Saharan Africans

— are in the hold which is sometimes closed off.

"When a vessel captures those who survive are usually the ones at the top. The ones inside the hold, (often) children and women, are the ones who do not make it."—*Reuters*



Armed Forces of Malta marines toss bottles of water to a group of around 180 illegal immigrants as a rescue operation gets underway after their vessel ran into engine trouble, some 30km (19 miles) southwest of Malta in this 25 Sept, 2005. — REUTERS

Suspected al-Qaeda militants arrested in Italy for Vatican plot

ROME, 25 April — Italian police on Friday arrested 10 people and were looking for eight others suspected of belonging to an armed group linked to al-Qaeda who had plotted attacks in Pakistan and Afghanistan and at least at one point the Vatican.

Some of the suspects, who are all Pakistanis and Afghans, were arrested in early morning raids across Italy. Police burst into the home of the group's suspected spiritual leader, in the northern city of Bergamo, a video released by them showed.

Though the 18 suspects were plotting attacks

mainly in their native countries, phone taps suggest the Vatican was also a target, said Mauro Mura, chief prosecutor of the Sardinian city of Cagliari, where the group had its headquarters.

Mura said officials had indications of a possible plot for an attack against the Vatican in 2010 by members of the group, who had continued to operate across Italy for years after that. He said there were indications of a plan for a suicide attack in a crowded place. Italian officials have for years feared a possible attack by militants in St Peter's Square and have increased security there.

In the tapped conversations, the suspects discuss "a big jihad in Italy", added Mario Carta, head of the police unit on the case. They reference the word "baba", which could mean the pope, Carta said.

"We don't have proof, we have strong suspicion," that the Holy See was a possible target, he told reporters at a press conference. Carta told *Reuters* by telephone that the group in subsequent years "realised that we were watching their movements".

Vatican spokesman Federico Lombardi said the hypothetical attacks were in the past, and that the new

disclosures were not a matter for concern.

But Vatican Secretary of State Cardinal Pietro Parolin said: "We are all afraid because we don't know what can happen."

Italy, like other European countries, has been on heightened alert for possible terrorist schemes in the wake of the January attack on French satirical magazine *Charlie Hebdo*.

European capitals are particularly worried about possible "sleeper" militants, apparently living normal lives in their countries, who may at some point in the future be activated to stage attacks at home or

abroad. Italian officials are also concerned that members of terrorist groups might be hiding among the thousands of migrants who arrive on Europe's shores every week.

Outlining the investigation at the news conference, Mura said the group had a large number of weapons and numerous followers willing to carry out acts of terrorism.

Police wire taps had determined that two people among the 18 targeted by arrest warrants were suspected of being part of a group that had protected al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden, who was killed by

US special forces at his hideout in Abbottabad, Pakistan in 2011, police said in a statement.

The group supported the "armed struggle against the West", and wanted to incite a popular uprising against the Pakistani government so it would stop its backing of US forces in Afghanistan. The United States has withdrawn most of its forces from Afghanistan. However, a relatively small number remains for training and special operations, while Washington is also carrying out drone strikes on Taliban militants.—*Reuters*

UN invites Syrian parties to Geneva peace talks in May



United Nations Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Syria Staffan de Mistura speaks to media during a news conference at the Palais des Nations in Geneva, on 15 Jan, 2015.—*REUTERS*

UNITED NATIONS, 25 April — The United Nations envoy to Syria said on Friday he will begin meeting in May with the country's government, opposition groups, and regional powers including Iran to assess by the end of June whether there is any hope brokering an end to the war. Staffan de Mistura briefed the UN Security Council on the latest bid to find a political solution to the 4-year conflict that has killed some 220,000 people, displaced an estimated 7.6 million and forced nearly 4 million to flee the country. UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon asked de Mistura earlier this month to "focus much more to re-launch a political process" after his attempt to broker a local truce in the northern city of Aleppo failed to materialize.

"There is nothing new telling us today that the political process will succeed or not," de Mistura told reporters. "We will start in early May and we will be meeting one after the other, everyone. Not together, separately." "By the end of June we should hopefully be in the position of reassessing whether there is any convergence on issues of substance or not," de Mistura said, adding that he will report his findings to Ban. He said Iran would be invited as it was a major player in the region and had influence in Syria. Ban withdrew a last minute invitation to Iran to Syria peace talks in January last year after the Syrian opposition threatened to boycott. "The UN and myself have the right and will be inviting everyone, including Iran," de Mistura said.

Other key world powers would also be consulted, but not the militant groups Islamic State or Nusra Front, which are classified as "terrorist organizations," UN spokesman Ahmad Fawzi said earlier on Friday in Geneva. Some of those present at the talks would be able to communicate with them, he added. De Mistura described his planned meetings as "a stress test of the willingness to narrow the gaps" three years after the agreement of the Geneva Communiqué, a document setting out guidelines on Syria's path to peace and a political transition. "There is no excuse for us to wait," he said. "The immensity of the human suffering ... obliges us to seek out even the remotest possibility for some type of change."—*Reuters*

Jailed opposition mayor may be granted home arrest in Venezuela



Opposition supporters hold pictures of jailed opposition leader, Antonio Ledezma, during a rally to commemorate International Women's Day and in support of him and the jailed opposition leader, Leopoldo Lopez, in Caracas, on 8 March, 2015. *REUTERS*

CARACAS, 25 April — Venezuelan authorities requested on Friday that jailed opposition mayor Antonio Ledezma be granted home arrest due to medical problems, a move that could soften international pressure over his case.

Ledezma, 59, a lawyer and hardline opposition leader who is mayor of Caracas, was jailed in February, accused of conspiring to overthrow President Nicolas Maduro's socialist government.

He is the highest-pro-

file Maduro foe arrested after fellow opposition leader Leopoldo Lopez, detained last year for his role in protests that brought months of violence causing 43 deaths.

Many Maduro supporters loathe Ledezma, whom they call "The Vampire." They do not forgive him for supporting a short-lived 2002 coup against former leader Hugo Chavez. Ledezma denies the charges against him, and foreign criticism has been swift from the

United States and various rights groups. The Public Prosecutor's Office said in a statement it had asked a court to allow Ledezma out in order to undergo an operation and then recover at home.

The mayor's wife Mitzy said that Ledezma's doctor, plus two doctors working for state security, examined him in custody on Friday. "The three agree on a hernia diagnostic, and the need for surgical treatment as soon as possible," she Tweeted.—*Reuters*

Former Yemen president calls for political dialogue to end war

DOHA, 25 April — Yemen's former president Ali Abdullah Saleh called on Friday on all Yemenis to return to a political dialogue to end to the country's conflict. Talks between Yemenis and Saudi Arabia, which has led a nearly month-long bombing campaign against the Iran-allied Houthi movement, must take place under the moderation of the United Nations in Geneva, he said.

The Saudi-led coalition

announced on Tuesday an end to its bombing campaign in Yemen but a Saudi spokesman said forces would continue to target the Houthis as necessary.

"I call on all conflicting parties in all provinces to stop fighting and return to dialogue in all provinces," Saleh said in an emailed statement.

US Secretary of State John Kerry said the Houthis needed to stop fighting, which could lead to the end



of Saudi air strikes and the opening of a political dialogue. "This has to be a two-way street," Kerry told a news conference in Iqaluit, Canada, where he attended an Arctic meeting.

Reuters

Members of the Southern Resistance Committees fire a tank during clashes with Houthi fighters in Yemen's southern city of Aden on 24 April, 2015.

REUTERS

PERSPECTIVES

Sunday, 26 April, 2015

To enjoy genuine democracy, be mindful of malicious rumours

By Kyaw Thura

To create a genuine democracy, the electorate has a great responsibility to embrace its voting rights when the time comes. Casting votes at polling stations undeniably amounts to an active participation in public affairs.

Since democracy is defined as a government of the people, for the people and by the people, elections should be seen as an invaluable tool for the people to choose their representatives. People must take charge of their own affairs, and this includes the involvement of citizens in the political process. Elections are of utmost importance in deciding the destiny of the nation. Accordingly, free and fair elections must be carried out nationwide.

With general elections having been scheduled for the last week of October or first week of November this year, the people are excited but have also come to voice their concern over their possible adjournment, as fighting has flared up between government troops and the Kokang remnant groups in a border area near China.

The onus is on all of us to keep a watchful eye

on potential obstacles to free and fair general elections. Destructive elements are lying in wait to add fuel to racial and religious conflict aimed at deterring us from enjoying the taste of true democracy by spreading malicious rumours at every opportunity. After all, united we stand, divided we fall.

Write for us

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

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

Swim and Win

By Kyi Mon

Swim or Sink !
Do or Die !

-Old Proverbs

Swim and Win

-A New Saying

To Swim and Win, you have to be the fastest swimmer. For this, you have got to do lots and lots of exercise. You have got to pay a price. You must make tremendous, sustainable efforts to succeed. You have got to have what it takes to win. You must **Earn Your Way** to Success. There is no something for nothing in life. There is no free lunch for us in this world. We must be self-reliant and depend upon ourselves for our success. If necessary, you must go the extra mile. You must have the Can-Do-Spirit and Can-Win-Attitude! No pain, no gain, it is said. Now, it is better to say: More Pains, More Gains! Put the world in your debt. Be a CREDITOR. Never be a debtor to the world. You should be a giver, not a taker, if you want the world to be in your debt. So, dare to struggle and dare to win. Dare to scale the heights! Now, please let us explore some more meanings of: SWIM AND WIN in the following manner:

S	for	Strengths
W	for	Work hard & Work Smart
I	for	Inspiration
M	for	Mission
	and	
W	for	Wisdom
I	for	Integrity
N	for	Never Giving Up

* STRENGTHS

Personal Strengths are:

- Physical Strength Health & Fitness
- Mental Strength Vision & Strategy
- Emotional Strength Passion & Values
- Spiritual Strength Selflessness & Service
- Achievement Strength Character & Competence

Organizational Strengths are :

- ✓ Human Resource
- ✓ Financial Resource
- ✓ Technological Resource
- ✓ Material Resource
- ✓ Information Resource

To Swim and Win, you need, beside your various strengths, the following Four Factors of Success:

- ✓ A Burning Desire (to win)
- ✓ An Indomitable Spirit (to win)
- ✓ An Unyielding Effort (to win)
- ✓ An Insight Wisdom (to win)

If you passionately and wisely harness your strengths to the four factors of success, you will be more or less unbeatable. So, you have got to nurture, cultivate, accu-

multate and consolidate your strengths to be an undisputed champion, in your chosen field of endeavor. First of all, you must have a consuming desire to succeed in your life. Then, you set the direction and scope of your success. It means you must have some very definite purpose in your life. You must clearly know what you want most in your life. **Breathe that burning desire, live that consuming passion for success!**

* WORK HARD & WORK SMART

Everywhere, competition is intense and overwhelming. So, to be a better combatant, you have to invest heavily. You have to go all-out and aim high. You have got to give all you have got. You must give every bit of yourself and hold nothing back to be the best swimmer, or to be the best achiever. You must make the most of your talent, your energy, your time and your relationships.

You also have to work SMART as follows by creating

- * Superperformance or Super Performance
- * Masterpiece of a Model Swimmer or a Model Achiever
- * Audacity to surmount all obstacles
- * Resolute Determination to Win
- * Tenacity of Purpose

Never be complacent, apathetic or half-hearted. Be strong inside, permit no defeat and fight all you can with all your mind, with all your heart and with all your strengths.

* INSPIRATION

As a super swimmer, you must have tremendous inspiration. You have got to have a very strong and high motive to perform your best. You must have the intense passion to swim fastest and longest. You must have what it takes to be a super star. You must see to it that you have extra strength, extra stamina, extra staying power, extra sustainable practice and extra strong morale! Be self-motivated, self-inspired and believe with all of your vital force that you have what it takes to be a winner. Never settle for less than a superb success in life!

* MISSION

You must have a mission or purpose. Without a good purpose, you will be a vain person even if you become the champion swimmer or achiever. You should have a strong sense of mission. Your mission can be to have a personal glory by serving the people. Your mission can range from just seeing the reflection of the moon in the water of the pond to reaching the moon itself! You should definitely know the reason for being a human being, or the reason for being a professional or for being a great aspirant to achieve some great purpose in life.

* WISDOM

Wisdom means : (1) The ability to make sensible decisions and give good advice because

of the experience and knowledge that you have.

- (2) The quality of mind and heart to fully understand and distinguish between the following ideas.

- Right & Wrong
- Good & Bad
- Cause & Effect
- Means & End
- Seed & Fruit
- Light & Shade
- Primary & Secondary
- Form & Content
- Ultimate & Conventional
- Fundamental & Essential
- Freedom & Bondage
- Independence & Dependence
- Attachment & Liberation

To possess a certain measure of insight or wisdom, we have got to learn a great deal from the university of hard knocks. We must learn from life, from our job, from our friends and from our experience. We must have an open-mind and a critical attitude in learning from various sources.

* INTEGRITY

Integrity should be an important ingredient in the matter of Swim and Win. First of all, the aspirant should passionately and seamlessly integrate his or her goal, energy, practice and time with a resolute single-minded purpose of winning victory after victory. He or she should fortify his or her resolute determination with a strong sense of honesty, honor and harmony. First of all, try to be a superb person, then move forward to become the best swimmer or achiever in your life.

* NEVER GIVING UP

To Swim and Win, you have, first of all, to set a goal, a very definite goal of climbing the summits of outstanding accomplishment. After establishing the goal firmly and clearly, you have got:

- To dare nobly
- To will strongly, and
- Never to falter in the path of duty.

And you have really got to:

- * Be strong inside,
- * Permit no defeat, and
- * Fight all you can.

You had better leave a legacy of being a person who has never hesitated to fight a good fight in all of your life, for your posterity.

* CONCLUSION

You have got to have what it takes to be a champion. You must:

SWIM AND WIN!

U Kyi Mun residing in Yangon is a consultant of NAING Group Capital Co.,Ltd.

ARTICLE

The last old Myanmar capital city “Ratanpon” [Mandalay] Part III

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

The building of a new palace city [Nan Myo tau] and a new palace “Mya Nan San Kyaw”

Myanmar kings faithfully followed the concept and design of Myanmar traditional cosmography. Briefly, Myanmar cosmography says that there are countless universes in boundless space. There is a single uniform system of composition and structure of each universe. Our universe like other universes, is composed of Mount Meru at the centre. The East Island, the West Island, The North Island and the South Island [Pubba Wideha, Apragoyana, Uttara and Dhekhina respectively.] lie around Mt Meru at four respective cardinal points. Due to the sacred Jabu-thabyey trees that abound in the South Island [Dhekhina] under which all Buddhas and saints attained enlightenment, the South Island is more known and called Zabu-dipa [the Island of Jabu-thabyey trees]. Around Mt Meru encircle clockwise seven oceans, seven rivers and seven mountain ranges. In these aquatic bodies, the largest animal fish Ananta lives swirling, frolicking clockwise and swallowing up the fallen fruits of Jabu-Thabyey trees thereby producing seven tones of sound [which came to form seven tone scale of Myanmar music] just as the sounds of dropping of Jabu-Thabyey fruits into the water, producing seven tones.

Mt Meru has six planes of celestial kingdoms, one on top of the other, namely Tavatimsa, Yama, Tusita, Neimanarati, Paraneinmita, Wathawadi and Brahma. In the lowest plane of Tavatimsa is the kingdom of Sakka deva [Thunder god] who annually descends to our earth to inspect moral character and behaviour of human beings. He is accompanied by two assistant gods — Vithakyon the architect and vehicle driver and Matali the Registrar recording good and bad humans in two record books — Golden Book for good humans and Book made of dog skin for bad humans which will be submitted for final judgment on the Doomsday. This legend is celebrated in three to four days of Myanmar Thingyan, New Year Water Festival.

This concept of the Universe is the basic point of Myanmar architecture. Myanmar kings, with the background of Buddha’s jataka stories regarded themselves as the descendants of the Sakya race of Gotama Buddha. They thought that their kingdoms were at the centre of the universe. Therefore they built their palace city at the centre of their capital city and their palace at the centre of their palace city. Thus true to this age old precedent, King Mindon built his palace city (Nan Myo tau) as follows:-

In accordance with the 2400th year of the Buddha Era [Buddha Sasana] of that time the length of each side of the square palace city was 2400 tars. It was a perfect square covering an area of 5 miles and one furlong. The palace city was walled on all sides. At every interval of 555 feet of the city walls were built turrets for watchmen with gilt spires on the roof. There were twelve gates, three on each side, of which four principal gates were built away from the palace at the centre, but facing their respective cardinal points.

The plan and the construction followed faithfully those of the previous palace cities at Inwa and Amarapura. There were, however, some rumours of human sacrifice — that one human was buried alive at each corner of the palace city wall. But it was not true. King Mindon was a pious Buddhist. Archaeological excavation and maintenance engineering of the British colonial time discovered no evidence of human sacrifice at the four corners. What they found were four glazed jars filled with cooking oil underground and above them were four stone statues of Guardian gods with Indian clubs on their shoulders, enshrined in brick caves, above ground, each at one corner. We can still see them. The palace city was named Lay Kyun

Aung Myey.

A moat of 225 feet wide, dug along the walls with a strip of green grass land between them. Underground canals supply fresh water to the moat. Before the moat underwent modern maintenance of the last three decades, it was adorned with lotus and water lilies and a pleasant water way for the party of water patrol [Yey Kin tau] making duty round three times a day. Today, the moat looks rather like a reservoir or water tank as its banks were reconstructed that way.

The palace itself was protected by a stockade of thick teak posts 20 feet high and an inner brick wall of 15 feet high, an esplanade of 60 feet wide between them. Such type of protection for royal residence was almost common in east and west countries of the Medieval Age.

On the auspicious day and time of the 13th Waxing moon of Kason [May] 1859 A.D. stakes were struck at seven sites where seven principal structures were to be built simultaneously. (1) Palace city (2) the moat (3) Maha Loka Marazein pagoda (4) Ordination Hall (5) Maha Atula Way-yan monastery (6) Pitika –Taik [Library of religious literature] and (7) Thudhamma Zayats [halls for holding religious examinations].

Next followed the construction of twelve palace city gates with twelve posts with wooden plates beam, their names and dates carved in 6 lines on each. These gates were (1) Lun Ke gate (2) U Hteik gate (3) Thaug Hnyut gate (4) Kyun Lon Yu gate (5) Kyaw Moe gate (6) Yan Nè gate (7) Kye Mon gate (8) Si Shey gate (9) Htin Shar gate (10) Si Thar gate (11) Lay Thein gate and (12) Man U gate.

Within the palace city were 144 residential quarters on the square design. Of them, 16 squares in the middle were occupied by palace buildings, four squares were occupied by Crown Prince’s palace. The remainders were for royal relatives, ministers, wealthy men, and high servicemen. Royal granaries surrounded at near distances. Three markets were located on the north-east, east and west.

Main roads, streets and lanes were straight crossing one another at right angle. All were boulevards, lined with shady, flowering and fruiting trees such as padauk, ngu, seinban, tamar [neem], saga (campac), yinmar, ingyin (sal), ponnyet, tharaphe, tamarind, oakshit, thi, thaphan, mango, jackfruit and thabyey, etc.

At the junctions of main roads and streets were stationed patrol outposts, 24 hours on duty. Also along the corridors on the city walls, armed guards by turn, patrol day and night.

The palace buildings were constructed on a raised brick platform of 11 feet high, 1000 feet east to west and 500 feet north to south. On this platform were a complex of teak wood buildings and brick houses separated into two categories. (1) Eastern palace buildings and western palace buildings, the former belonging to the king and male members of the residents and the latter to the chief queen and female members.

Eastern buildings were (a) Myey Nan with seven tired spire on its roof, (b) right assembly hall (c) left assembly hall (d) front smote corridor hall (e) smote corridor hall leading to Myey Nan, totalling 5 buildings.

Behind them were (a) smote saung leading to Zeytawun Hall (b) Zeytawun Hall (c) Sanu saung leading to north Bye Taik (d) Sanu saung leading to Lay-thar saung on the south, totalling 4 buildings.

Behind Zeytawun Hall were Baungtau saung and a small meeting room totalling 2 buildings.

These two buildings were flanked by (a) Myauk Dawei saung on the north and (b) Taung Dawei saung on the south totalling 2 buildings.

Behind Baungtau saung were (1) Sanu saung leading to Hman Nan tau [glass palace] (b) Hman Nan tau saung totalling 2 buildings.

On either side of the above Sanu saung was (a) Royal Tea room on the north (b) Shwe taik saung on the south, totalling 2 buildings.

To the north of Shwe Taik saung were (a) water

tank and water fountains (b) to the east, Pan Khon tau brick building for short meeting (c) to its south Nan Myint (Palace Tower] totalling 3 buildings.

With Hman Nan tau in the centre, to the north were (a) Shwe Nan tau saung (b) royal bathroom and toilet behind (c) Nantthar nan tau (d) Kwan khon tau (royal betle chewing room), Myauk samote saung and Myauk water libation room, totalling 6 buildings.

To the south of Hman Nan tau were (a) South Nantaw (b) NantawU Shwe saung (c) Taung smote saung and Taung water libation saung totalling 4 buildings.

Royal theatre hall was also included in the Eastern Group. There were 33 buildings in the Eastern Group.

In the western group were (a) Anauk Pwetet Zeytawun Saung (b) Anauk Smote Saung (c) Taung Letwè Saung (d) Myauk Letwè Saung totalling 4 buildings.

Next were residences of Chief Queen, lesser queens and concubines, arranged in six rows running from north to south totalling 135 buildings.

Away and separate but within walking distances were (a) Big wooden and brick building of Hluttaw [King’s Privy Council] (b) Swetaw Sin [Sacred Tooth Relic of Buddha Tower] (c) Bahosi Sin [Clock Drum tower] and the residence of Crown Prince.

The palace was named “Mya Nan San Kyaw”.

The following two wellknown classical songs described the beauty grandeur of the palace city and the palace:-

Wayzayanta Nanbon by Prince Pyin Si

[ဝေယန္တနန်းဘုံ၊ မြမန်းလေလေခုံ၊ ယမုန်ငယ်လေ၊ သောင်ငွေကျွန်း၊
မြောင်ဖီလေ၊ သီတာဝန်းရံခွေ၊ [ရွှန်းရွှန်းဝေ] ။ မြန်သပြေဘောင်၊ ညာကျွန်းပုံ
မွန်းလေ၊ မင်္ဂလာ ဇေယျာငယ်ဩဘာကြွေး၊ မဉ္ဇင်တံမြွှာ၊ သံဝါကျူးရင့်အေး
[သင်းသင်းမွှေး] ။ [ဖြူဖွယ်လေကျူး၊ တိမ်ယံဘွေ၊ လေပြည်မြူး] ။
[အာကါဘောင်မြူးမှောင်ချီချီ၊ တိမ်ရိမုန်ဝေဆိုင်] ။ [မျှော်ရာတိုင်၊
ရှင်ခွင်မင်းလွင်၊ တောင်စဉ်တိမ်စွယ်ကါ] ။ [မာလာသိင်္ဂါ၊ တိမ်ပြာမိလ္လာ၊
လွမ်းဘွယ်သာ] ။ [ညင်းညင်ညာ] ။

Like Wazayanta hall of the celestial kingdom of Tavatimsa, the palace is built on the Land of Victory. Like Yamuna River, the Ayeyawady River encircles this land clockwise.

On the Island of Jabudipa, Mandalay capital city and the palace city were located. Their fame and glory spread to all directions like fragrance.

Brahma devas also sing about the palace city and the palace. In all directions are festoons of clouds of all hues, as if they were silently eulogizing the palace city and the palace.

Aung Mingalar by Princess Hlaing Hteik Tin

[အောင်မင်္ဂလာ၊ သိင်္ဂါအောင်ဗွေ၊ တောင်ခြေရစ်သန်း၊ စကြာဆူဆူ
ရှစ်ဖြူကာလွမ်း၊ ကျက်သရေလွမ်း၊ ပြည်တော်ရွှေမုန်း၊ ငါတောင်လေ သိုက်ကျမ်း၊
စိုက်နန်းရယ် တည်တော်မူ] ။ [များပိုလ်လူ၊ အူအူကြွက်ငြာ၊ လက်မှာညောင်ရေ
ပန်းနှင့်ဝေဝေ၊ ထူးတင့်ဆွေ] ။ [အလှူဝေဝေ၊ သပြေမြေငူ၊ ထီးဖြူစိုက်ဆောင်း၊
မင်းပေါင်းဆက်လျှာ၊ ကညာရွှေမုန်း၊ ချမ်းငြိမ်းပြည်သူ၊ နှိုင်းဖက်မတူ၊ ခံယူ
သစ္စာ၊ မေတ္တာတော်ဝေလို့လောင်း] ။ [သမ္ဘာဂုဏ်ပေါင်း၊ ပဏ္ဏာစုံညောင်း၊
သောင်းဆူမြေ] ။ [ဘုန်းတော်ဝေ၊ တေဇာလှုံပြောင်၊ ငါးတောင်သာသနာ၊
ထွန်းပတည်ရာ ကျွန်းမြတ်ဒီပါ] ။ [စက္ကဝါလုံး၊ ဘက်မသာနွန်း၊ ထက်ပြဟောဘုန်းတို့
ရိုက်ချွန်းပဲ့တင်ညံ] ။ [ကော်ရော်သံ၊ ကော်ရော်သံ၊ ဆင်ပန်လက်စုံကြီးတယ်၊
မျိုးလေးဖြာ၊ ရာရာကျော်၊ သက်တော်ရှည်စေကြောင်းငယ်၊ တောင်းဆူမြေ] ။
[ရွှေအာဏာထက်ညာ၊ ပဇ္ဇန၊ မိုးနတ်အမွှန်း] ။ [ဖန်တော်ပုံ၊ ဉာဏ်မျှော်စုံ] ။
[ဘုံဝေယန်နိုင်ငံပြည်သူ၊ အေးစေပိုလ်လူ၊ ရည်တူကြည်ဖြူ၊ ဗုဒ္ဓင်္ဂွယ်ငူ၊
ရွှေနန်းစိုက်ထူ၊ ထီးဖြူကာရွှစ်သန်း] ။

For lasting 5000 years of Buddha Sasana, Mandalay Palace was built. Amidst 8 white umbrellas around him the king built the palace. It was a grand palace.

All people with water jars and sprigs of Thabyey acclaimed the king and paid him homage. Tributes including beautiful daughters were given to the king. They swore the oath of allegiance to the king, wishing him longevity of life. The king ruled with justice and loving kindness. His glory and fame reached Brahma kingdom.

With his genius, skill and creativity, the king built the palace city and the palace. People adored him as the descendant of the Sakya race of Gotama Buddha.

To be continued

Gold falls to one-month low as global equities hit all-time highs

NEW YORK / LONDON, 25 April — Gold hit its lowest level in more than a month on Friday, falling for the third straight week as strength in global equities diverted interest from the precious metal, although uncertainty over the timing of a US rate rise kept prices in a tight range.

Spot gold XAU= was down 1.4 percent at \$1,177.03 an ounce at 2:34 pm EDT (1834 GMT), while US gold futures GCv1 for June delivery settled down \$19.30 an ounce at \$1,175. That marked spot gold's largest single-session decline

since 6 March. Spot prices are down 2.2 percent this week, their biggest weekly loss in seven weeks.

World stocks hit all-time highs on Friday as corporate updates in Europe and a post-dotcom-boom peak for the US Nasdaq stoked investor optimism.

"That takes investment demand away from gold," said Bill O'Neill, co-founder of commodities investment firm LOGIC Advisors in Upper Saddle River, New Jersey. O'Neill noted that significant funds were flowing toward European and Japanese equities as well, which he called the

"flavour of the moment."

The losses came despite a decline in the US dollar, which hit a near three-week low against a basket of currencies .DXY after US March durable goods orders data showed weakness in business investment spending, suggesting the economy is not strong enough for the US Federal Reserve to lift rates.

Attention is turning to the Fed's policy meeting next week for stronger clues on when the US central bank will start increasing rates. That would raise the opportunity cost

of holding non-yielding bullion, while boosting the dollar.

Weak data on US jobless claims, manufacturing and home sales have hurt the dollar this week, boosting uncertainty over whether the Fed will conduct its first US rate rise in nearly a decade in June or September.

"All the US data up to the next policy meeting will be (scrutinised)," said LBBW analyst Thorsten Proettel.

Silver XAG= was down 1 percent at \$15.71 an ounce, after hitting its lowest level in five weeks



An employee shows gold bangles to a customer at a jewellery showroom on the occasion of Dhanteras, a Hindu festival associated with Lakshmi, the goddess of wealth, at a market in Mumbai on 1 Nov, 2013.

REUTERS

at \$15.56, while platinum and palladium XPD= was up 0.25 percent at \$769.50 an ounce. —Reuters

Ford recalling Fiesta, Fusion, Lincoln MKZ on door latch issue



The front grill logo of a Ford F150 pick-up truck is shown in Carlsbad, California on 5 Nov, 2014.

REUTERS

DETROIT, 25 April — Ford Motor Co (F.N) said on Friday it is recalling about 390,000 Ford Fiesta and Fusion and Lincoln MKZ models in North America because of a potential door latch malfunction.

The driver's door can become unlatched while the car is in motion, increasing the risk of injury, Ford said.

The company said it is aware of two incidents in which an unlatched door bounced back and

struck the driver and one incident in which an unlatched door swung open and struck another vehicle.

Affected vehicles were produced at Ford plants in Mexico, including the 2012-2014 Fiesta, the 2013-2014 Fusion and the 2013-2014 Lincoln MKZ.

About 86 percent of the recalled vehicles are registered in the United States, and the remainder in Canada and Mexico.

Reuters

Mazda, Mitsubishi Motors log record profits, but outlook divided

TOKYO, 25 April — Mazda Motor Corp and Mitsubishi Motors Corp said on Friday they registered record group operating profits in the year ended in March, but the two Japanese automakers showed different views on the future course of their businesses.

Mazda said its operating profit for fiscal 2014 rose 11.4 percent from the previous year to a record 202.89 billion yen (\$1.70 billion) on the back of robust sales abroad. Its net profit gained 17.0 percent to a record 158.81 billion yen on sales of 3.03 trillion yen, up 12.7 percent.

Mitsubishi said it posted a record consolidated operating profit of 135.91 billion yen, up 10.1 percent, on sales of 2.18 trillion yen, up 4.2 percent, buoyed by

cost-cutting measures and the yen's drop. Its net profit increased 12.9 percent to a record 118.17 billion yen.

With sales expanding in North America, Europe and China, Mazda projected its group operating profit will go up 3.5 percent to 210 billion yen for the current year through March 2016.

Mitsubishi, however, said its consolidated operating profit is forecast to fall 8.0 percent to 125 billion yen in fiscal 2015, as the yen may rise against the euro, Thailand's baht and Russia's ruble to weigh on the company's profit.

Hiroshima-based Mazda said its domestic sales fell 7.8 percent to 225,000 vehicles, hurt by the 3-percentage-point consumption tax hike to 8 percent last April, but its global sales

including those in Japan increased 5.0 percent to 1,397,000 units.

Sales of its CX-5 sport utility vehicle and new compact Demio were strong and the firm's new plant in Mexico started full-fledged operations, helping bolster sales in North America, it said. In its medium-term business strategy also released on Friday, Mazda said it will aim to boost global sales to 1,650,000 in the year through March 2019. But Mazda President Masamichi Kogai said at a press conference that his company may put more emphasis on domestic production than on overseas output, as Japan's economy is likely to return to a moderate recovery track.

The automaker plans a dividend for the current

business year of 30 yen per share, tripled from 10 yen last fiscal year.

Tokyo-based Mitsubishi, meanwhile, said its sales in Japan plunged 20 percent to 115,000 units due in part to the negative impact of last year's consumption tax hike, the first in 17 years, but those in North America, Europe and Middle East were strong.

Vowing to make profits by augmenting production of SUVs, President Tetsuro Aikawa told a separate news conference that his firm is looking to slash output in Russia to reduce foreign exchange risks.

Mitsubishi said it expects to pay a 16 yen dividend per share for fiscal 2015, the same level as for the previous year.

Kyodo News

Hawaii lawmakers pass bill raising smoking age to 21

HONOLULU, 25 April — Hawaii lawmakers on Friday passed a bill that would raise the legal smoking age statewide to 21, positioning it to become the first state in the country to do so.

The bill, which passed the state Senate by a vote of 19-4 after clearing the

house last week, would also ban the sale, purchase or use of electronic cigarettes for those under the age of 21.

"The activities we've engaged in over the years to manage smoking, our additional efforts in education, the raising of cigarette taxes, this is a continuation of those

policies," Democratic state Senator Rosalyn Baker, one of the bill's sponsors, told Reuters. She said opponents of the measure have argued that it limits choice for people considered adults in other situations, like joining the military, but added: "To me, giving someone the choice

to have lung cancer is not a good choice."

Governor David Ige will have to approve the measure. Ide spokeswoman Jodi Leong said he would make a decision only after reviewing the bill, which would likely happen next week.—Reuters

10,900 Malaria deaths occur in Ebola-affected countries in 2014

LONDON, 25 April — West African countries that were hit hard by Ebola might also witness as many as 10,900 extra malaria deaths last year, according to a research report released on Friday by the Imperial College London.

Researchers analyzed demographic and health survey data from 2000 up to the start of the Ebola out-

break in March 2014. They then removed the effect of treatment and hospital care to estimate the potential impact of the ongoing Ebola epidemic on malaria cases and deaths in Guinea, Sierra Leone, and Liberia, the three west African countries that suffered severe Ebola epidemic last year.

According to the re-

port, the epidemic led to the closure of many health facilities due to the burden of caring for and isolating patients safely and the threat posed to healthcare workers.

"The ongoing Ebola epidemic in parts of west Africa largely overwhelmed already fragile healthcare systems in 2014, making adequate care for

malaria impossible and threatening to jeopardize progress made in malaria control and elimination over the past decade," said lead author Dr Patrick Walker from Imperial College London.

The study suggested that the west African Ebola outbreak could have resulted in a comparable number of malaria deaths to those

due to Ebola itself, the number of which stood at 10,704 by 12 April, 2015, according to the World Health Organization.

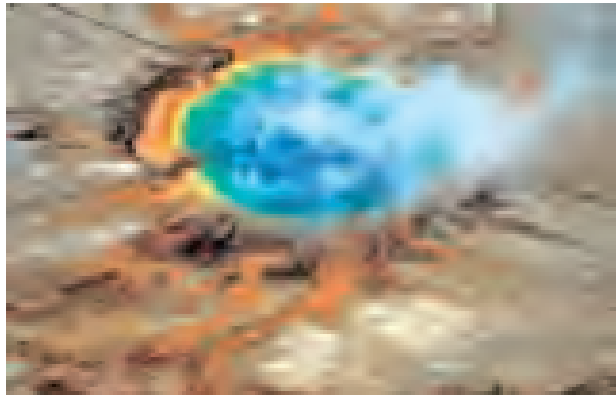
The researchers said restoring healthcare provision to pre-Ebola standards in the region could prevent 15,600 malaria deaths in 2015, highlighting the urgent need to support health system recovery.

Their projections also suggested that emergency drug treatment campaigns can be a highly effective method to reduce further malaria mortality and the burden of non-Ebola fever cases in the region.

The report has been published in the journal *The Lancet Infectious Diseases*.

Xinhua

Hot times at Yellowstone: huge magma chamber found deeply buried



Yellowstone National Park's Grand Prismatic hot spring is pictured in this undated handout photo obtained by Reuters on 23 April, 2015.—REUTERS

WASHINGTON, 25 April — Deep beneath Yellowstone National Park, one of the world's most dynamic volcanic systems, lies an enormous, previously unknown reservoir of hot, partly molten rock big enough to fill up the Grand Canyon 11 times, scientists say.

Researchers on Thursday said they used a technique called seismic tomography to produce for the first time a complete picture of the volcanic "plumbing system" at Yellowstone,

from the Earth's mantle up to the surface.

Yellowstone, which straddles the borders of Wyoming, Idaho and Montana, and boasts a remarkable array of geothermal features including geysers, mudpots, steam vents and hot springs, sits atop a supervolcano that has had three calamitous past eruptions.

Scientists already knew of a large magma chamber under Yellowstone that fed the eruptions 2 million, 1.2 million and 640,000 years ago. The new study, pub-

lished in the journal *Science*, revealed a second, deeper reservoir 4.5 times larger.

"The existence of the second magma chamber does not make it any more or less likely that a large volcanic eruption at Yellowstone will occur. These findings do not change the current volcanic hazard at Yellowstone," University of Utah seismologist Jamie Farrell said.

"However, these new findings do provide us, and other researchers, the information needed to gain a better understanding of how magma moves from the mantle to the surface," Farrell added.

University of Utah geology and geophysics professor Fan-Chi Lin said the blob-shaped lower magma reservoir in Earth's lower crust is located 12 to 28 miles (20-45 km) under Yellowstone, with a volume of 11,500 cubic miles (46,000 cubic km), or 11.2 times the volume of Arizona's Grand Canyon.

This magma chamber is filled with hot, mostly solid and sponge-like rock with portions of molten rock within it. The researchers said about 2 percent of it is completely molten.

The upper and lower magma chambers sit above a "plume," or upwelling, originating in Earth's mantle about 40 miles underground and transferring hot materials toward the surface.

Scientists had previously suspected a lower magma chamber existed, but until now had been unable to confirm it.

The researchers said the technique they used, seismic tomography, is analogous to a CT scan of the body, using seismic waves as they travel through the Earth to image the subsurface, distinguishing between rock of various densities.

They also combined both local and distant earthquake measurements to image Yellowstone's complete magma system.

Reuters

Sony raises FY 2015 profit forecast to \$2.52 billion — Nikkei

TOKYO, 25 April — Japanese consumer electronics firm Sony Corp has raised its operating profit estimate for fiscal 2015 to 300 billion yen (\$2.52 billion), or four times its previous estimate, the Nikkei reported on Saturday.

Expectations for higher sales of display sensors used in mobile phones and the Playstation gaming console were the reason Sony raised its forecast, the Nikkei reported without citing sources. No one from Sony was available to comment.

Sony also expected earnings in the fiscal year that ends in March 2016

to improve as restructuring costs had been declining, the Nikkei said.

If Sony met its 300 billion yen profit forecast, it would be the company's highest earnings since 2008, the Nikkei said.

Sony on Wednesday raised its earnings estimates for the fiscal year that just ended for the second time in three months, citing higher than expected sales of video games and digital cameras.

The Tokyo-based firm is finally reaping the benefit of restructuring efforts after weak TV and smartphone sales brought years of heavy losses.—Reuters



Visitors walk past a logo of Sony Corp at its headquarters in Tokyo on 4 Feb, 2015.—REUTERS

Hunt for ancient royal tomb in Mexico takes mercurial twist

TEOTIHUACAN, (Mexico), 25 April — A Mexican archeologist hunting for a royal tomb in a deep, dark tunnel beneath a towering pre-Aztec pyramid has made a discovery that may have brought him a step closer: liquid mercury.

In the bowels of Teotihuacan, a mysterious ancient city that was once the largest in the Americas, Sergio Gomez this month found "large quantities" of the silvery metal in a chamber at the end of a sacred tunnel sealed for nearly 1,800 years. "It's something that completely surprised us," Gomez said at the entrance to the tunnel below Teotihuacan's Pyramid of the Plumed Serpent, about 30 miles (50 km) northeast of Mexico City.

Some archeologists believe the toxic element could herald what would be the first ruler's tomb ever found in Teotihuacan, a contemporary of several ancient Maya cities, but so shrouded in mystery that its inhabitants still have no name.

Unsure why the mercury was put there, Gomez says the metal may have been

used to symbolize an underworld river or lake. Previously uncovered in small amounts at a few Maya sites much further south, it had never been found in Teotihuacan.

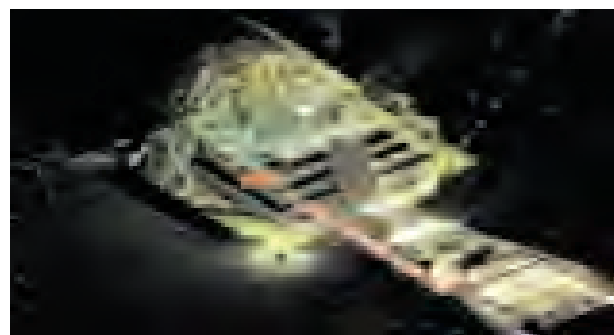
Difficult to mine and prized for its reflective properties, mercury was rare in ancient Mexico. Archeologists believe may have lent it a supernatural significance for ritual ends.

Deeper into the complex comprising three chambers, Gomez expects to find the elusive last resting place of a king.

If Gomez is right, it could help settle a debate over how power was wielded in Teotihuacan, a city boasting massive stone pyramids that was home to as many as 200,000 people and the heart of ancient empire that flourished between 100 and 700 AD.

Teotihuacan, or "abode of the gods" in the Aztec language of Nahuatl, was distinct from the Mayan civilization. Its inhabitants left behind no written record, abandoning the city long before the Aztecs came to power in the 14th century.

Spaniards dug at Teotihuacan in the 1670s, but rigorous scientific excavation of the site did not begin until the 1950s. Gomez's six-year slog in the tunnel has already yielded tens of thousands of artifacts including stone



An undated graphic shows the tunnel that may lead to a royal tombs discovered underneath the Quetzalcoatl temple in the ancient city of Teotihuacan in this 29 Oct, 2014.—REUTERS

sculptures, fine jewelry and giant seashells leading to the three chambers. The painstaking excavation has slowed due to extreme humidity, mud, and now, the need for protective gear to avoid mercury poisoning.

George Cowgill, a US archeologist who has spent more than four decades excavating Teotihuacan, says the mercury find increases the odds of finding a tomb.

"But it's still very uncertain, and that is what keeps everybody in suspense," he added.

Mexican archeologist Linda Manzanilla believes that at its peak, the city was ruled not by a single king,

but a council of four lords, and that Gomez may find the remains of one of them.

To bolster her argument, she cites the absence of a single palace or the presence of kings in any of the city's many murals.

The excavation of the chambers should be finished by October, Gomez said, with an announcement of findings by the end of 2015.

Reuters

F1 technology moves into the supermarket fridge

LONDON, 25 April — Formula One's cutting-edge aerodynamic technology is moving into the supermarket chill cabinet.

Williams Advanced Engineering, part of the Formula One team, said on Friday they had partnered with start-up Aerofoil Energy to develop a device that will save money and energy by keeping more cold air inside open-fronted refrigerators.

Such multi-deck appliances account for a significant proportion of supermarket operating costs, with cold air spilling out into the aisles.

Williams said their aerofoil system, modeled with computation fluid dynamics and tested at their F1 factory in central England, can be attached onto each shelf to redirect the air flow.

Sainsbury's, Britain's second largest supermarket chain with 1,100 stores, is among retailers testing the product.

"Aerofoils help the air-

flow around Formula One cars and can improve their performance — and that's exactly how they help the fridges in our stores, by keeping the cold air in," said Sainsbury's head of refrigeration John Skelton.

"This Formula One inspired innovation has already shown it can cut carbon produced by major refrigerators."

Williams Advanced Engineering managing director Craig Wilson said the Formula One derived technology had global potential.

"The savings in operational costs and emissions are extremely promising," he added.

Williams estimated that supermarkets and convenience stores accounted for some five to 10 percent of Britain's total energy use, with 60-70 percent of that energy consumed by refrigerators.

It said tests of the aerofoils had produced energy savings ranging from 18 to 41.5 percent.

Reuters

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV KUO HSIUNG VOY NO (1032W)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KUO HSIUNG VOY NO (1032W) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 26.4.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.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 CHINA SHIPPING LINES
Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV PANJA BHUM VOY NO (049N)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV PANJA BHUM VOY NO (049N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 26.4.2015 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: 2301185

Radiation level sharply falls after soil removed at Tokyo park



Officials of Tokyo's Toshima Ward check a playground in a park in the ward on 24 April, 2015, after a radiation up to 480 microsieverts per hour was measured at ground level there. The radiation level sharply fell after some soil was removed from the park.

KYODO NEWS

TOKYO, 25 April — The radiation level sharply fell at a park in Tokyo's Toshima Ward on Friday after the ward office removed some soil from a spot in the park where an unusually high level of radiation had been detected the previous day, the municipality said.

The ward office said the material contained in the soil could be radium, and that it will seek to identify the material with the help of the Japan Radioisotope Association, an organization that specializes in radioactive materials.

On Thursday afternoon, a radiation reading of up to 480 microsieverts per hour was measured on the surface of the ground in a playground in the park. That is nearly half the permitted annual dose of 1,000 microsieverts for ordinary people.

After about 10 centimetres of soil was removed from an area 30 cm in diameter, the reading fell to 0.06 microsieverts per hour, roughly the same as background radiation levels in the ward, according to the municipality.

Mayor Yukio Takano said on Friday that radiation levels will be checked at all facilities in the ward that are used by children on a daily basis, such as parks, schools, kindergartens and nurseries.

The municipal park, which opened in 2013, is located near Tobu Railway Co's Shimoitabashi Station and is in the middle of a residential area. It was previously home to a cleaning service run by the Tokyo metropolitan government.

The ward office has banned the public from entering the park.

Kyodo News

EU rescue ships head for Libya, as migrants die also in Balkans

BRUSSELS/SKOPJE, 25 April — British and German warships made ready to sail for waters off Libya as Europe ramped up rescue operations in the Mediterranean after up to 900 desperate migrants drowned last weekend on a boat heading for Italy.

Yet hours after European Union leaders agreed in Brussels on Thursday to treble funding for EU maritime missions and pledged more ships and aircraft, 14 clandestine migrants were killed when a train ploughed into dozens of Somalis and Afghans making their way in darkness along a rail track in a Macedonian gorge.

The incident highlighted the variety of routes that growing numbers are taking to escape war and poverty in Asia, Africa and the Middle East and chance their luck in a wealthy region that offers, at best, a chilly welcome. EU governments remain deeply at odds over how to



Migrants disembark upon arrival at the Sicilian harbor of Catania on 24 April, 2015. An Italian coast guard vessel carrying 84 migrants rescued off the coast of Libya arrived at the Sicilian port of Catania on Friday morning.—REUTERS

share out the care of those who make it.

After the sinking of a packed fishing vessel last weekend nearly doubled the death toll at sea this year to almost 2,000, EU leaders responded to a public outcry by reversing sharp cuts in search and rescue operations — though voters' wariness of immigration means few are willing to take in many

more refugees.

Britain's helicopter-carrying flagship Bulwark, currently near Istanbul, will head for the area between Libya and Italy on Sunday, the government said. However, Prime Minister David Cameron, who faces a threat from anti-immigration populists as he seeks re-election in less than two weeks, stressed when he

offered it on Thursday that few of those rescued would come to Britain.

Germany, favoured destination for many migrants who make it to Europe, said on Friday it would have a frigate and a supply vessel in the area within days to comb the sea for refugees.

Nearly 40,000 have made it to Italy so far this year, though Germany and its neighbours complain that Italy and Greece do too little to track those who arrive and then swiftly head north.

EU border agency Frontex says 276,000 people entered the bloc illegally last year, more than double the number in 2013. Sea crossings to Italy quadrupled to 170,000 as anarchy in Libya opened opportunities for people smuggling gangs. Some 43,000 came into the EU last year via the Balkans but 32,000 arrived in just the first three months of this year, Frontex data shows.

Reuters

Chile volcano prompts new evacuations, flights to Argentina cancelled

SANTIAGO, 25 April — Chilean volcano Calbuco, which erupted without warning on Wednesday, is still puffing out ash and smoke on Friday, prompting new evacuations and leading airlines to cancel flights to Argentine capital Buenos Aires, some 1,400 kilometres east.

Calbuco, considered one of the most dangerous along Chile's chain of around 2,000 volcanoes, erupted twice in 24 hours on Wednesday and Thursday, sending up a spectacular 17 kilometre-high (11 miles) cloud and coating nearby towns in a thick layer of grey ash.

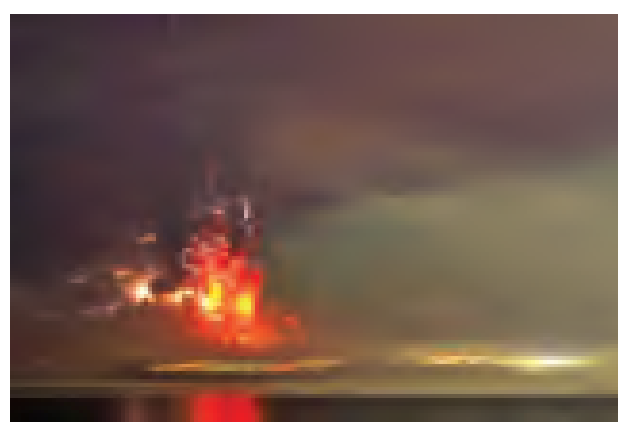
Authorities have set

up a 20 kilometre (12 mile) cordon around Calbuco, which is located in the scenic Los Lagos region, around 1,000 kilometres (621 miles) south of capital Santiago.

An increase in volcanic activity caused potentially deadly lahars, a mix of water and rock fragments that flow down a volcano's slopes and river valleys, prompting authorities to evacuate an additional 2,000 people.

"This is a complex (volcanic) process that could last for weeks," said Rodrigo Alvarez, head of Chile's mining and geological service.

Television images



Smoke and lava spew from the Calbuco volcano, as seen from the shores of Lake Llanquihue in Puerto Varas, Chile on 23 April, 2015.—REUTERS

showed residents in a town close to Lake Chapo quickly driving down ash-laden streets away from the smoldering volcano. Some houses and schools located

close to the volcano have collapsed under the weight of the ash.

The ash also presents a threat to air traffic, as particles in the atmosphere

can cause problems for planes.

With winds blowing the ash cloud north-east into neighbouring Argentina, Argentine air traffic was the worst affected by Friday.

Delta Air Lines (DAL.N), Air France (AIRF.PA) and American Airlines (AAL.O) suspended flights to the main international airport at Ezeiza, near capital city Buenos Aires. "They were canceled as a preventive measure, for fear that after landing they might not be able to take off later," said a spokesman for Argentina's National Civil Aeronautic Administra-

tion. "We do not rule out the possibility that other airlines might take the same decision." In the southern Argentine tourist city of Bariloche, flights were canceled for a second straight day, some roads were closed and children were kept home from school.

In Chile, the ash cloud had reached as far as port city Valparaiso, near Santiago. Delta and American Airlines cancelled flights to the capital. Chile's flag-ship carrier LATAM Airlines LAN.SN cancelled over 20 flights south on Wednesday and Thursday, but has since resumed normal operations.—Reuters

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Chairman and Board of Directors
KUMI Bank Ltd.

CONGRATULATIONS

Our heartfelt welcome and warmest congratulations on the successful opening of "Oversea-Chinese Banking Corporation" Yangon Branch in Myanmar on 25th April 2015. Wishing you further success and achievements in providing excellent banking services for the benefit and economic development of Myanmar.



Chairman and Board of Directors
OCBC Bank Ltd.

WEATHER REPORT

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 26th April, 2015: Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Sagaing, Magway and Ayeyawady Regions, Kachin and Rakhine States and scattered in the remaining Regions and States. Degree of certainty is (80%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Squalls with moderate to rough sea are likely at times off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (30) to (35) m.p.h. Seas will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters.

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Vietnam's HCM City ranks first nationwide in FDI attraction

HO CHI MINH CITY, 25 April — As the end of December 2014, a total of 17,499 FDI projects from 101 countries and territories are still validly operating in Vietnam, with a total registered capital of 250.667 billion US dollars, according to the Vietnamese Ministry of Planning and Investment.

Of the above-mentioned figures, southern economic hub Ho Chi Minh (HCM) City ranked first among 63 cities and provinces nationwide, with 5,191 FDI projects and more than 37.98 billion US dollars.

In the first three months of 2015, Vietnam received 1.83 billion US dollars in FDI from 33 countries and territories. With 540.24 million US dollars, HCM City ranked first among 28 cities and provinces having the FDI in the reviewed period.

Of the total FDI projects operating in HCM City, 35.3 percent are made in real estate, 34.3 percent in industries and 10.9 percent in trading, hotel and restaurant services. Among foreign countries and territories doing business in the city, Singapore ranked first, followed

by Malaysia, China's Hong Kong, South Korea, Japan, China's Taiwan, and other nations.

According to Miao Ren Lai, President of the China Business Association in HCM City, there are three main factors that made the city successful in attracting the most FDI in many years.

First, regarding the investment policy, HCM City has not only implemented effectively the government's policies on foreign investment, but also applied timely appropriate preferential policies to foreign investors'

business. Second, HCM City has provided a favourable environment for foreign investors, with cheap and qualified human resources. The city is home to 54 national universities, 25 colleges, 11 vocational training schools, and nearly 450 vocational training centers, which annually turn out abundant and qualified human resources to the labor market, including to foreign-invested enterprises.

Advantages in the high-tech and scientific advance also boost the city's FDI attraction.—Xinhua

‘Virgin Mountain,’ ‘Democrats’ win Tribeca Film Festival prizes



NEW YORK, 25 April — “Virgin Mountain,” a Danish-Icelandic film about late bloomers and first love, won the best narrative award at the 14th Tribeca Film Festival and “Democrats,” which follows the quest for democracy in Zimbabwe, was named best documentary.

Gunnar Jonsson, who portrays the 43-year-old outsider who finds love in “Virgin Mountain” was named best actor at an awards ceremony on Thursday night. Hannah Murray, the star of the Danish drama “Bridgend,” picked up the best actress prize.

“With its mixture of humour and pathos, this film captured our hearts,” the jurors said about “Virgin Mountain,” written and directed by Dagur Kari of Iceland.

“Beyond the decep-

tively small frame of a mismatched love story, the film deals with the issues of bigotry, loneliness, bullying, mental illness, and ultimately the triumph of the human spirit and meaning in love,” they added.

Jonsson was noted for his subtle performance, which jurors said evoked Charlie Chaplin and Buster Keaton, while Murray was praised for capturing the “hopelessness of a lost generation” a teenager who gets involved in the ritualistic celebration of her friends’ suicides.

“Bridgend” also won prizes for best cinematography and narrative editing, while “Virgin Mountain” won best screenplay.

The documentary “Democrats” chronicles the story of two political rivals in Zimbabwe as they try to bridge their differences to create a new constitution

for the African nation.

The film, by Danish director Camilla Nielsson, was cited for its important subject and “for filming in conditions where simply to be present is a triumph.”

Zachary Treitz won the best new narrative director award for the US film “Men Go to Battle,” which jurors praised for its “historical and emotional authenticity.”

The Albert Maysles new documentary director award, named for the director who died earlier this year, went to Ewan McNicol and Anna Sandilands for their film “Uncertain,” about a Texas town whose livelihood is being threatened.

“Sworn Virgin,” directed by Laura Bispuri, won the Nora Ephron prize, which is named for the late writer-director and is awarded to a female director or writer.

The winners were chosen from 12 narrative and documentary films submitted by 19 countries, and the best new directors were selected from 26 submitted feature films. The Tribeca Film festival was established after the 11 September, 2001 attacks to revitalise the downtown area and help business and arts production.—Reuters

“We have an inescapable moral duty to help refugees”: Angelina Jolie



Angelina Jolie Pitt (R, front), special envoy of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, delivers a speech at a Security Council meeting on the situation in the Middle East in New York, the United States, on 24 April, 2015. Angelina Jolie Pitt, special envoy of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, on Friday highlighted the need to help the Syrian refugees and provide them legal avenues to safety.—XINHUA

UNITED NATIONS, 25 April — Angelina Jolie Pitt, special envoy of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, on Friday highlighted the need to help the Syrian refugees and provide them legal avenues to safety.

“It is sickening to see thousands of refugees drowning on the doorstep of the world’s wealthiest continent. No one risks the lives of their children in this way except out of the utter desperation,” said Jolie in a Security Council meeting on the situation in the Middle East.

“If we cannot end the conflict, we have an inescapable moral duty to help refugees and provide legal avenues to safety,” said Jolie.

“I urge the Security Council to visit Syrian refugees, to see firsthand their suffering and the impact it is having on the region. The refugees cannot come to the council, so please go to them,” she said.

On the issues of sexual violence in conflicts, Jolie said that the barbarism of inflicting systematic sexual violence demands a much greater response from the

international community.

“We need to send a signal that we are serious about the accountability for these crimes,” she said.

The Syrian conflict began when nationwide protests against President Bashar al-Assad met with violent government crackdowns in 2011. Till now, it has been dragging on for over four years with no solution in sight. “Our times will be defined not by the crises themselves, but by the ways we pull together as an international community to address them,” Jolie said.—Xinhua

Johnny Depp’s daughter Lily-Rose lands first modeling gig



LOS ANGELES, 25 April — Lily-Rose, the daughter of Johnny Depp and Vanessa Paradis, has made her fashion debut in the latest issue of Australia-based magazine *Oyster*.

The 15-year-old girl was photographed in a quintessential LA garden

Lily-Rose, the daughter of Johnny Depp and Vanessa Paradis, has made her fashion debut in the latest issue of Australia-based magazine Oyster.—PTI

by photographer Dana Boulos, reported Ace Showbiz.

Lily-Rose shared on Instagram one photo from the magazine’s spread which showed her wearing a denim top.

She looked pretty with natural make-up while being sun-drenched in the garden with her short blonde locks were blown by the wind.

In another photo shared by *Oyster* on Instagram, Lily-Rose donned a

round hat with coral eye-shadow and lipstick.

In an interview with the magazine, Lily-Rose says her favorite TV shows are “The Office” and “Lockdown”.

Lily-Rose made her acting debut in 2014 in Kevin Smith-directed horror movie “Tusk”. She will next be seen alongside her father in Kevin’s upcoming comedy film “Yoga Hosers” which is set to be released in the US on 1 June.

PTI

Nicole Kidman set for London stage return in ‘Photograph 51’

LONDON, 25 April — Nicole Kidman will return to the London theatre stage in September to play British scientist Rosalind Franklin in “Photograph 51”, 17 years after the Hollywood actress made her West End debut.

The play, by Anna Ziegler, tells the story of Franklin, whose use of

X-ray diffraction images led to the discovery of DNA’s double helix structure in 1953.

Academy Award winner Kidman debuted on the British stage in the 1998 David Hare play “The Blue Room” at London’s Donmar Warehouse in a critically-acclaimed performance, described in one

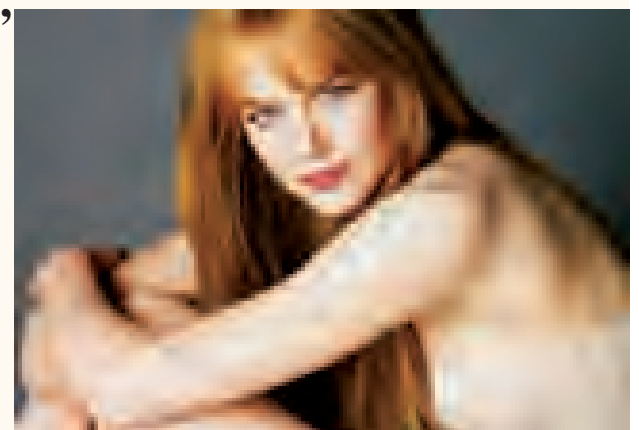
review as “pure theatrical viagra”. She was nominated for an Olivier Award, London’s premiere theatre awards, for her role.

British director Michael Grandage will direct “Photograph 51”, reuniting with Kidman following their feature film collaboration “Genius”.

The play, which will

be staged at the Noel Coward Theatre, sees the return of Grandage’s theatre company to London’s West End following a successful run of productions in 2013/2014 such as “Henry V” starring British actor Jude Law. “Photograph 51” will run from 14 September until 21 November.

Reuters



GENERAL

Countdown appears to start for execution of foreigners in Indonesia

JAKARTA, 25 April — Indonesia has asked foreign embassies to send representatives to a maximum security prison ahead of the expected execution of 10 drug convicts, although an official 72-hour notice of execution has not been given yet, diplomats said on Friday.

Among the convicted drug offenders set to face the firing squad are nationals from Australia, Brazil, France and Nigeria and the case has strained relations between the governments of those nations and Indonesia.

The Attorney General's Office said it expected to announce the date of execution in the next few weeks.

Embassy officials received text messages from the government to send representatives on Saturday to the prison island of Nusakambangan, where the executions will soon take place. It was not clear why they were being summoned so early.

"The Attorney General's Office issued a blanket statement to embassies involved to send representatives. They did not say for

what purpose," said an embassy official, who asked not to be named because he was not authorised to speak to the media.

"Our worst fear right now is that it's in preparation for possible executions."

Security at the prison was heightened on Friday and religious counsellors, doctors and the firing squad were alerted to start final preparations.

The Attorney General has been waiting for all the legal processes of the 10 death row inmates to be completed before announc-

ing an execution date.

Lawyers were scrambling to various Indonesian courts in a last-ditch attempt to delay the execution. But the only outstanding appeal considered still valid by the attorney general was for an Indonesian national, said spokesman Tony Spontana.

Philippine Vice President Jejomar Binay was expected to meet President Joko Widodo on Friday, during a visit to Indonesia to make a final appeal for mercy on behalf of one of its citizens among the group of 10.

Reuters

mitv Myanmar International

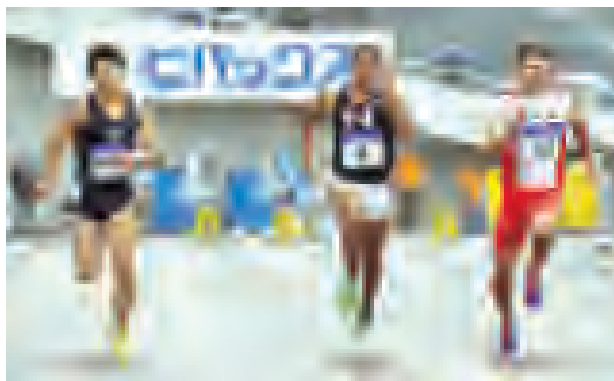
(26-4-2015 07:00 am~ 27-4-2015 07:00 am) MST

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Asian fastest sprinter to challenge Bolt at IAAF New York GP 100m

TOKYO, 25 April — Japanese teenager Yoshihide Kiryu, fastest runner in Asia, has been invited to race in 100 metres against world record holder Usain Bolt at the IAAF Diamond League New York Grand Prix on June, the Toyo University announced on Friday.

The Japanese teenager, world junior bronze medalist, clocked a wind-assisted 9.87-second victory at the Texas Relays athletics tournament in Austin on 28 March, becoming the fastest Asian sprinter under any conditions. Kiryu recorded the result under a 3.3-metre-per-second wind condition, exceeding the allowable 2.0 m/s, so his time is deemed invalid for official purposes, but the 19-year-old's time is the fastest ever



(From L) Yoshihide Kiryu, Asuka Cambridge and Naoki Tsukahara compete in the men's 100 metres at the Oda Memorial International at Edion Stadium in Hiroshima, western Japan, on 19 April, 2015. Kiryu fell short in his bid for a sub-10 second mark, making a photo finish with Tsukahara in second in 10.40. Cambridge won the race in 10.37. — KYODO NEWS

electronic performance by an Asian sprinter under any conditions.

Kiryu also holds the world youth best of 10.19 and the Asian junior record of 10.05 in 100 metres.

In 2013, Kiryu covered 100 metres in 10.01 seconds at the Mikio Oda Memorial in Hiroshima, Japan, tying the junior world record on 29 April at the age of 17, according to the *Hurriyet*

Daily News.

After that victory, Kiryu said: "I want to run alongside Bolt (at the worlds) and see how he is different from me." Now he wins the chance to run alongside the Jamaican world record holder, whose 9.58 seconds record was set on August 2009.

Kiryu broke the world youth 100-metre record as a 16-year-old twice in 2012, breaking the tape in 10.21 seconds in October and 10.19 seconds in November, according to the *New Strait Times*.

In 2003 Birmingham Grand Prix, Kiryu only finished last in 100m preliminaries in his first prestigious series competition and his first overseas travel outside his home country.

Xinhua

UN to hold 2015 NPT review conference

UNITED NATIONS, 25 April — The 2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) will be held from 27 April to 22 May at UN Headquarters here, UN officials said on Friday.

The president-designate of the review conference is Ambassador Taous Feroukhi from Algeria. Conferences to review the operation of the NPT have been held every five years since it went into effect in 1970.

The 2015 review conference is expected to consider a number of key issues, including universality of the NPT, nuclear disarmament with specific practical measures and nuclear non-proliferation, the UN website said.

The upcoming conference is also set to review issues including implementation of the 1995 resolution on the Middle East, measures to address withdrawal from the treaty, and ways to promote disarmament education.

The 2015 review con-

ference is of great historic significance, as this year marks the 70th anniversary of the founding of the United Nations and the victory of the World Anti-Fascist War, as well as the 45th anniversary of the entry into force of the NPT.

China attaches great importance to the NPT review conference, Hong Lei, a spokesman for the Chinese Foreign Ministry, said in Beijing earlier on Friday, adding that Vice Foreign Minister Li Baodong will lead a delegation to the conference and address the general debate.

The Chinese side hopes that all parties will take the opportunity to fully review the implementation of the treaty and press ahead with the three objectives defined in the treaty — nuclear disarmament, nuclear non-proliferation and peaceful use of nuclear energy — in a comprehensive and balanced way, Hong said.

China is ready to work hand in hand with all parties to push for the success of the review conference, he added.—Xinhua

Navratilova ends coaching role with Radwanska

NEW YORK, 25 April — Eighteen-times grand slam singles champion Martina Navratilova has quit

as a part-time consultant to world number nine Agnieszka Radwanska after just five months in the role.

The Pole hired Navratilova in December with the aim of reaching the latter stages of more big tournaments but the American great said she had been unable to dedicate enough time to the job.

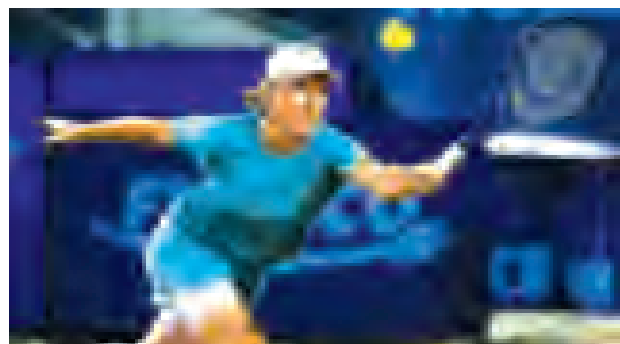
"I am stepping down as Agnieszka's part-time coach. I think I underestimated the time it would take to make this a good and proper situation for both Agnieszka and me," the 58-year-old explained in a statement. Radwanska was beaten in the 2012 Wimbledon final and is still searching for her first grand

slam title. She was beaten in the first round of the Stuttgart Grand Prix this week by Italy's Sara Errani.

"I just wanted to thank Martina for her time and efforts over these last few months," Radwanska said on her Twitter account.

"It was a great experience but we both agreed that as Martina could not commit 100 percent to the project then it was not going to work as a long-term partnership."

Navratilova won a total of 59 grand slam singles, doubles and mixed doubles titles.—Reuters



Tennis great Martina Navratilova of the US returns a shot to Monica Seles during their demonstrative match at the BCR Open Romania tennis tournament in Bucharest in this 16 Sept, 2007. —REUTERS

Myanmar names preliminary 24-man squad for 2018 FIFA World Cup qualification

YANGON, 25 April— Myanmar has announced on Saturday a provisional list of 24 footballers for 2018 FIFA World Cup qualification.

Myanmar will be in the Group G of Asian zone together with South Korea, Kuwait, Lebanon and Laos. The eight group winners and the four best group runners-up from eight groups of Asian zone



will advance to the third round and will become the qualifiers for 2019 AFC Asian Cup directly. After FIFA U-20 World Cup and SEA Games, Myanmar will added the best players from U-20 and U-23 teams into this preliminary list.

Preliminary squad for 2018 FIFA World Cup qualification

Goal—Vanla Har-el (Ayeyawady FC), Yan

Aung Linn (Hantharwadi FC), Htet Linn Oo (KBZ FC), Zaw Htet Linn (South-ern Myanmar FC)

Defenders—Win Min Htut, Zaw Linn (KBZ FC), Zaw Ye Tun (Yadanabon FC), Zaw Win, Khin Maung Lwin, Zaw Min Tun (Yangon FC), Aung Zaw (Hantharwadi FC)

Midfielders — David Dan, Kyi Linn, Yan Aung Kyaw (Yangon FC), Hein

Zar Aung (Magwe FC), Pyi Moe (Rakhine United FC), Samlan Mann (Chin United FC), Kyaw Zeya Win (KBZ FC), Min Min Thu, Naing Linn Oo (Ayeyawady FC)

Forwards — Soe Min Naing (Magwe FC), Kyaw Ko Ko (Yangon FC), Nanda Linn Kyaw Chit and Zin Min Tun (Yadanabon FC)

Myanmar will against South Korea on 16 June, 2015, Kuwait on 17 November, Lebanon on 8 October and Laos on 13 October.—*MFF*

Van Gaal thinks Giggs will be next United manager

LONDON, 25 April — Louis van Gaal has said he believes Ryan Giggs will succeed him as Manchester United manager.

Van Gaal, 63, is nearing the end of his first season in charge at Old Trafford and is contracted to the club until 2017.

“I expect that he will be the next manager after I am gone,” he told the club’s MUTV channel about the future of Giggs, the Dutchman’s assistant since he took over last May.

“Now I have the responsibility. He has tasks that he has to



Manchester United manager Louis van Gaal

perform like the players. What he has to do, for me, he does it very well,” added Van Gaal.

Giggs, who made a record 963 appearances for United, took charge of

the team for four matches last season after David Moyes was sacked.

The Welshman won two games, drew one and lost one while at the helm.—*Reuters*

Woods commits to next month’s Players Championship

PONTE VEDRA BEACH, (Florida), 25 April — Tiger Woods will make his next competitive start at next month’s Players Championship in Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida, the former world number one said on Friday. For Woods, who returned to competitive golf earlier this month at the Masters after taking

two months off to retool his game, it marks a return to a TPC Sawgrass course where he has won twice before, most recently in 2013.

“Looking forward to going back to THE PLAYERS this year, hoping for a repeat of 2013,” Woods said on Twitter.

The Players Championship, which is the PGA

Tour’s flagship event and widely regarded as golf’s unofficial fifth major, will be played 7-10 May.

Woods, who had struggled in his return from last year’s back surgery, a swing change and some embarrassing moments with his short game, tied for 17th at the Masters at five under.—*Reuters*

Mourinho plays down his supremacy over Wenger

LONDON, 25 April — Chelsea may be two wins away from regaining the Premier League title, but manager Jose Mourinho insists he is taking nothing for granted — including his unblemished record against Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger.

The London rivals meet on Sunday with Chelsea 10 points clear at the top of the table. Victory at second-placed Arsenal would mean Mourinho’s team can clinch the title by beating Leicester City three days later.

But Mourinho said his unbeaten record in 12 games against Wenger was irrelevant.

“For me, achievement is to win (on Sunday),” he told reporters on Friday. “It’s not the other 12 matches that we played before against Arsenal.”

“It’s a big club with the same objectives that we have in the competitions we play. Because of that always comes a little bit of rivalry.”

“He’s not my rival. I just feel he’s the manager of a big club in the same city where I work and I live.”

The relationship between the two managers has often been fraught.



Chelsea manager Jose Mourinho (R) and his Arsenal counterpart Arsene Wenger (L) react during their English Premier League soccer match at Stamford Bridge in London on 5 Oct, 2014.—*REUTERS*

During Chelsea’s 2-0 win at Stamford Bridge in October, Wenger appeared to push Mourinho during a touchline spat, something he later said he regretted.

In his first spell at the club in 2005, Mourinho called the Frenchman a “voyeur” who talked too much about Chelsea and more recently described him as “a specialist in failure”.

He preferred to talk about his own team, however, including Cesc Fabregas, the former Arsenal midfielder who can expect a mixed reaction at best from the home fans.

“If he has some bad

reaction he’s more than ready,” Mourinho said. “He has made a fantastic contribution to a fantastic season.”

Chelsea will wait until after Saturday’s training session before deciding whether Spain striker Diego Costa is fit to return from injury.

If not, Mourinho said, he will be ready for the Leicester game. Didier Drogba will play but Loic Remy is not fit.

Something will have to give on Sunday as the leaders have won their last five away games, while Arsenal have won eight games in a row.—*Reuters*

Kei Nishikori of Japan plays a backhand return against Roberto Bautista Agut of Spain during their quarterfinals match at the Barcelona Open tennis tournament in Barcelona, Spain, on 24 April, 2014.

KYODO NEWS



Nishikori wins through to Barcelona semifinals

BARCELONA, (Spain), 25 April — Japan’s Kei Nishikori needed three sets on Friday, but advanced to the semifinals of the Barcelona Open with a quarterfinal victory over Roberto Bautista Agut.

Nishikori, the top seed

and defending champion, won 80 percent of his first serves and broke the seventh-seeded Spaniard four times en route to a 6-2, 3-6, 6-1 victory. “I dropped the second set because my opponent was playing well,” Nishikori said. “But at the

end, I was able to concentrate. It was a great match. I think the semifinal is going to be tough.” Nishikori’s victory last season at the Real Club de Tennis Barcelona marked his first career championship on clay.

Kyodo News