Functions of Thaphanseik Dam inspected

NAY PYI TAW, 11 April—Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing yesterday inspected CCTV-installed computerized control rooms at main spillway of Thaphanseik Dam in Kyunhla Township.

Director-General U Kyaw Myint Hlaing of Irrigation Department reported on inflow of 7.5 million acre-feet of water to Thaphanseik Dam and storage of 2.2 million acre-feet of water at the dam, supply of water to summer paddy farms and generating electricity and control of sluice gate applying computerization process.

The Union Minister stressed the need to maintain the dam for its durability and conserve watershed forests.

Union Minister U Myint Hlaing and Union Minister for Commerce U Win Myint together with Sagaing Region Hluttaw Speaker U Thin Hlaing met departmental personnel, townselders and social organization members at Kanbalu Township General Administration Department Hall—MNA

Kayin National Union (KNU) opens Liaison Office for Myeik/Dawei District, Brigade-4

NAV PYI TAW, 11 April — Kayin National Union-KNU opened its Liaison Office for Myeik/Dawei District and Brigade-4 in Dawei, Taninthayi Region, yesterday.

The ceremony to open the office was attended by Union Minister U Zaw Min from Union level peace-making group, Chief Minister of Taninthayi Region U Myat Ko and Commander Maj-Gen Khin Maung Htay, Chairman of KNU Myeik/Dawei District Member of KNU Central Standing Committee Pado Saw Kwe Htoo Win and members and responsible personnel.

Region Chief Minister U Myat Ko, Chairman of KNU Myeik/Dawei District Pado Saw Kwe Htoo Win and Commander Brig-Gen Saw Dar Kyaw Loo of KNU Brigade-4 officially opened the liaison office and Union Minister U Zaw Min and members sprinkled scented waters on the signboard of the liaison office. Next, they visited the office.

Afterwards, Union Minister U Zaw Min, a region level peace-making group of Taninthayi Region Government and Kayin National Union-KNU peace-making group make discussion for eternal peace.—MNA
Happy Myanmar New Year!

Padaus are in full bloom. Than-gyets, traditional antipodal chants, are spreading over the atmosphere. It is Thingyan again. And it is Myanmar’s Traditional New Year. It is celebrated in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Mandalay, Mawlamyine and elsewhere across the country.

In ancient times, the young lad sprinkled water from half-filled silver cup on the lass he had grown fond of with a spike of Padauk flowers. Thingyan songs depicted how Myanmar people were highly cultured.

As time goes by, changes are inevitable. Water is now thrown through pipes. Chants are replaced by raps. Western dances take the place of traditional choral dancers at most Thingyan pandals. DJs narrow the space for traditional short drum players. Some new Thingyan songs are sexually offensive. More’s the pity! They become the hits.

Boozing becomes a fashion among the revellers, girls or boys. The crowd which go wild in the celebrations could harm the image of Thingyan which was celebrated in the past in style.

It is true that we have to follow the trends. Though, we also have to preserve our own culture, the unique thing we should take pride of. Carbon-copying the alien cultures is something that we could not call development.

We could enjoy western music or dances or any other things any other time. But it is Thingyan, the festival with definite cultural values and the festival known to the rest of the world.

Shall we celebrate our traditional New Year in our unique style? Wish you a Happy New Year.

Bago Region Chief Minister receives Consultant of UMFCCI

Chief Minister of Bago Region U Nyan Win received Consultant Mr Wong Yit Fang of Republic of the Union of Myanmar yesterday afternoon.

Central Bank of Myanmar Governor meets Maybank’s Vice President

Governor U Than Nyein of the Central Bank of Myanmar under the Ministry of Finance and Revenue received Vice President Chief Representative Mr. Abdul Malek Mohd. Khaire of Maybank and party at his office here on 6 April evening.

Both sides held a discussion about matters relating to promotion of the bilateral cooperation between Maybank and local banks in Myanmar.

Union Science and Technology Minister receives Indian guests

Chief Minister of Shan State U Sao Aung Myat, accompanied by Shan State Minister for Development Affairs U Yu Maung and Shan State Minister for Agriculture and Livestock Breeding U Sai Hsa Lu on 9 April inspected Rushakan supporting dam and the main dam in Taunggyi. Director of Shan State Development Affairs Committee U Sai Tun Tun and Deputy State Superintending Engineer U Soe Than reported on supply of water to Taunggyi and extended process.

They discussed development of highly-qualified human resources and cooperation in information and communication technology between the two countries.

YANGON, 11 April—Chief Minister of Shan State U Sao Aung Myat, accompanied by Shan State Minister for Development Affairs U Yu Maung and Shan State Minister for Agriculture and Livestock Breeding U Sai Hsa Lu on 9 April inspected Rushakan supporting dam and the main dam in Taunggyi. Director of Shan State Development Affairs Committee U Sai Tun Tun and Deputy State Superintending Engineer U Soe Than reported on supply of water to Taunggyi and extended process.

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Union Science and Technology U Aye Myint receives Adviser to the Prime Minister of India Mr Prabodh Chawla. They discussed development of India technology with the aim of cooperation between the two countries.

Bago Region Chief Minister views pollination of Palethwe paddy

Chief Minister of Bago Region U Thein Aung, together with Region ministers and Region level departmental officials, attended pollination ceremony of special high yield hybrid Palethwe paddy in Wadu Village in Kangyainta Township in Pathein District yesterday morning. Region Manager of Myanmar Agriculture Service U Myint Thein reported the chief minister on pollination of hybrid paddy. The Region Chief Minister attended to the needs.

Water supply tasks inspected in Taunggyi

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Aye Myint and Shan State Minister U Aung Myint. They discussed development of India technology with the aim of cooperation between the two countries.

Plants mimic scent of pollinating beetles

ZURICH, 11 April—The color and scent of flowers and their perception by pollinator insects are believed to have evolved in the course of mutual adaptation. However, an evolutionary biologist from the University of Zurich has now proved that this is not the case with the arum family at least, which evolved its scent analogously to the pre-exists scents of scarab beetles and thus adapted to the beetles unilaterally. The mutual adaptation between plants and pollinators therefore does not always take place.

Soon, the gardens and fields will be blooming, fragrant and buzzing again. Bees, flies and beetles fly, as they have done for millions of years, from flower to flower in search of food or mates, drawn by flower shapes, colors and the scents of the individual plants. Often, pollinating insects favor certain scents and preferentially visit the flowers in question. Previously, researchers always assumed that floral scents and the fondness of pollinating insects for a specific scent evolved mutually via coevolution of plants and insects. However, the evolutionary biologist Florian Schießl from the University of Zurich now proves that this was not the case with the arum family and their pollinators.

Scent of the scarab beetle mimicked by the plants Schießl and a colleague from the University of Zurich studied the arum family and one of its pollinators, the scarab beetles. In the beetles, they discovered many scent molecules used for chemical communication that were also found in the plants. Based on a phylogenetic reconstruction, they realized that these scents were already present in the ancestors of today’s scarab beetles. Evidently, these prehistoric scarab beetles already used the same or similar scents back in the Jurassic period to find food or mates. Unlike today’s scarab beetles, these ancestors did not pollinate plants, the first members of the arum family to be pollinated by beetles not appearing until around 40 million years later.
A Maputo, 11 April — Yemen's air force and ground troops killed at least 62 suspected al-Qaeda-linked fighters on Wednesday, officials and tribal sources said, in the government's latest drive to contain an increasingly fierce Islamist insurgency.

Militant group Ansar al-Sharia said however only two of its fighters had been killed in Wednesday's clashes. Still reeling from a year of political upheaval that eventually unseated former president Ali Abdullah Saleh, Yemen is grappling with militants who have been exploiting weakened central government control to spread their influence, particularly in the country's south.

Local officials and residents said the army killed 30 during an operation fighting on Jebel Yasuf, a mountain around 10 km (6 miles) from the southern town of Lawdar. Dozens of people have been killed in the Lawdar area since Monday, according to officials, after Ansar al-Sharia fighters attacked an army camp there.

Tribal sources later said a further 27 militants, including a local commander called Ahmed Dararish, had been killed by tribal fighters near the southern entrance to Lawdar. Three tribesmen also died in the clashes.

An air strike on the town of Umm Ayn, around 10 km from Lawdar, killed another 5 militants, a local official said.

Ansar al-Sharia denied that. In an emailed statement whose authenticity could not immediately be verified, it said the air raid, which it blamed on a Saudi war plane, had struck a warehouse belonging to a civilian.

A senior government official said the fighting around Lawdar marked a turning point in its fight against Ansar al-Sharia (Partisans of Islamic Law) following a series of defeats.

"The battle of Lawdar is considered a decisive one for the army against the terrorist groups and a path to the cleansing of all towns seized by militants in the province of Abyan," said the official.

He said 10 militants had also been captured. Ansar al-Sharia said none of its fighters had been taken prisoner.

The Defence Ministry said in a text message it had destroyed a number of checkpoints set up by militants on a main road linking Lawdar to the neighboring province of al-Bayda, re-opening the route.

It also cited unnamed military sources as saying that Saudi Arabian, Pakistani and Somali nationals were among the militants killed in the Lawdar area. — Reuters

INTERNET

Yemeni policemen sit in a pickup truck in front of Sanaa's International airport in Yemen on 8 April, 2012.

INTERNET

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INTERNET

Yemen air force, troops kill 62 militants

But Putin, 59, will face tough questions from opposition lawmakers emboldened by the largest protests of his 12-year-old rule over alleged ballot fraud in December's parliamentary election and last month's presidential vote.

Police guarding the State Duma (lower house of parliament) detained one of the protest organizers, leftist opposition leader Sergei Udaltsov, as he tried to join some 30 anti-Putin demonstrators hours before the 12 pm (0800 GMT) address.

While the focus of the annual report is on the economy, Putin — accused by the opposition of stifling political dissent — may also offer glimpses of his foreign policy priorities after a campaign colored by his harsh criticism of the West. Opponents and foreign governments are watching for signs Putin could expand the limited political reforms he made in December or go the other way and crack down on protesters.

Sergei Udaltsov, as he tried to join some 30 anti-Putin demonstrators hours before the 12 pm (0800 GMT) address.

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THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Thursday, 12 April, 2012

Endangered blue butterfly receives Federal protection

Miami, 11 April — A small blue butterfly that lives along the Florida coast is the latest addition to the Endangered Species List, federal officials announced this week. Effective on April 10, the Miami blue butterfly is protected by law. Unlike monarch butterflies, known for their harrowing migrations, Miami blues spend their lives in just one area.

The Miami blue’s range once extended from the Dry Tortugas, at the tip of the Florida Keys, as far north as St Petersburg on the state’s western coast, and Daytona Beach on the eastern coast. Now the butterflies are found on only a handful of remote islands within the Florida Keys. Only a few, small populations are known to remain, according to a statement from the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). Coastal development and spraying for mosquitoes caused a big drop in the Miami blue butterfly population in the 1970s. In the early 1990s, after Hurricane Andrew swept across the state, some researchers thought the butterfly had gone extinct.

In 1999, a photographer discovered a small colony of the butterflies living in Bahia Honda State Park in the Florida Keys, but by 2003, only 50 individual butterflies remained, according to a 2004 news release from the University of Florida.

Since then, a smattering of small populations has survived. In August 2011, the butterflies were given an emergency listing under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), but the protections lasted for only 240 days.

Darpa says it wants robots to be able to interact with more tools when deployed in a disaster zone.

Disaster zone robot competition announced by Pentagon

Washington, 11 April — A competition to develop next-generation robots capable of saving lives in disaster zones has been unveiled by the Pentagon’s advanced research laboratory. Darpa says it wants “adaptable robots with the ability to use human tools — from hand tools to vehicles”. It plans to hold a series of emergency response physical challenges. A $250,000 (£1.3m) prize is being offered to the team with the best technology. The competition begins in October.

The agency says it hopes software engineers, video game developers and other experts from companies outside robotics will take part “to increase the diversity of innovative solutions”.

Robots have already been deployed into danger zones. After the Fukushima nuclear plant meltdown in 2011, Japanese authorities used unmanned vehicles and “first responder” robots developed by the British firm Qinetiq to move heavy debris and measure radiation levels. The US Army has also used robots in Iraq and Afghanistan to clear buildings and check for explosive devices.

However, Darpa says more work needs to be done to make the machines interact with humans more naturally. “One major challenge is going to test supervised autonomy in perception and decision-making, mounted and dismounted mobility, dexterity, strength and endurance in an environment designed for human use but degraded due to disaster,” said Gill Pratt, Darpa’s programme manager. “Adaptability is also essential because we don’t know where the next disaster will strike.”

Fake semiconductors ‘could cause tragedy’

London, 11 April — The number of fake memory chips and processors in use has tripled since 2009, according to a report. The report, compiled by semiconductor analyst HIS Suppli, said fake semiconductors were found in phones, computers, military hardware, cars and hospital equipment. The analyst said the fakes were turning up in so many places that they might soon put lives at risk. The mix of counterfeit aerospace firms were the most likely to be using fakes, it said.

More than 1,363 fakes were reported in 2011, said the report, and threatened to dent a market worth more than $169bn (£109bn) a year. The five most widely counterfeit chips included memory chips, microprocessors and analogue integrated circuits (IC). analogue ICs are widely used in domestic gadgets such as wireless routers, TVs and computers. Typically, said Suppli, the fake parts were found in the “ Pokokseas copys of widely used semiconductors or components discarded by chip manufacturers for being defective. Manufacturing waste for the government met energy efficiency targets. Mass roll-out of smart meters is due to start in 2014 and energy firms are expected to shoulder most of this cost. But the government believes the high cost of the mass rollout will be offset by the £7bn or so of savings it will bring about for both consumers and power suppliers.

Audrey Gallacher, director of energy at Consumer Focus, said the watchdog group broadly welcomed the proposals. She added: “We continue to have concerns that the costs of the scheme may be underestimated and that costs for consumers could rise.” The guidelines cover what energy firms can do when installing metres. Energy minister Charles Hendry said the installation rules were “tough” because fitters would not be allowed to try to sell consumers more services during installation.

In addition, all households fitted with the gadgets must get an in-home display that logs how much power is being consumed. Alongside the guidelines goes a consultation exercise to find out what should happen to detailed energy use data. The government data that consumers choose who can access this information. Basic data used for billing will be available to suppliers without asking.

UFO video over South Korea: Fact or faked?

Seoul, 11 April — An airplane passenger videographed a mysterious oval white object object flying over Seoul, South Korea, on 7 April. The video has been lighting up the Internet since, and it is no surprise that many people are offering extraterrestrial explanations.

As is de rigueur these days, the UFO clip was uploaded to YouTube, where it has been viewed millions of times. Some comments say it’s clearly an extraterrestrial spacecraft; others insist it’s a fake.

Still others say it’s neither but instead is a real object — such as a plastic bag in the wind, a parachute seen from above, or a drop of water on the window — that simply looks strange from that angle. Aside from the anonymity of the cameraman, the video raises some red flags about its authenticity.

For one thing, the video is not complete; it has been purposely edited to leave some information out. We know this because in progress, with the UFO already well in frame, in the lower right-hand corner.

The video camera didn’t suddenly turn on to capture that scene; there must be at least some video that was recorded the first two seconds of the frame being pointed at the camera during the window.

This type of selective editing is common among UFO hoax videos. There’s also the fact that the cameraman waits almost seven seconds before he mentions the UFO to his companion.

It’s clearly present, and it’s truck slowly. The reaction to yourself if you were watching while you were videotaping. Perhaps most strange, even though he clearly spots the UFO, the cameraman makes no effort to follow the object after it zooms up and out of frame; instead he videotapes more or less the same area of sky for the remaining 10 seconds of the clip.

Supply craft docks with International Space Station

Houston, 11 April — NASA has released this beautiful picture of the moment a supply spacecraft arrived at the International Space Station. The unmanned spaceship was bringing up oxygen, food, fuel and other supplies for the six astronauts on board.

It’s called Automated Transfer Vehicle-3 (ATV-3 for short), and took five days to reach the space station from Earth, docking on 28 March. The crew had to change their exercise to find out what should happen to detailed energy use data.
Artificial heart keepbs booy for record 251 days

LONDON, 11 April — A three-year-old boy has been kept alive with an artificial heart for more than eight months, which doctors say is a record for a child in the U.K. Joe Skerratt from Gillingham, Kent, was diagnosed with dilated cardiomyopathy, which means his heart struggled to pump blood around his body. He was temporarily fitted with a “Berlin heart”, to give his own a helping hand. After 251 days, he finally had a heart transplant last year. Joe’s mother, Rachel, said “we started to see his character coming back” after he was fitted with the Berlin heart. But this was the start of a long wait for a heart donor. “When Joe passed the 200-day mark on the Berlin heart we started to really question what else could be done (if heart wasn’t found) but we knew deep down there wouldn’t be much,” she said. “On day 251 the call we had been waiting for came. We were offered a heart for Joe. The came early in the morning and seemed to stand still before he was taken down to theatre.” After the operation, Joe’s chest would not be closed for four days. Rachel said: “Seeing his new heart — a normal size and thumping away in his chest — was incredible.” Their first night back home was celebrated with Joe’s favourite meal — pizza. Joe was first diagnosed with DCM at just nine months old.

Health Tip: Prevent periodontal disease
Periodontal disease occurs when the tissues that protect and stabilize your teeth become infected.

- Have dental checkups and cleanings at least twice a year.
- Floss daily. And if your dentist approves, use a mouth rinse containing fluoride.
- Eat a nutritious, balanced and healthy diet.
- Have dental checkups and cleanings at least twice annually. — Internet

Coal exports surge to highest level since 1991

BILLINGS, 11 April — US coal exports reached their highest level in two decades last year as strong demand from Asia and Europe offered an outlet for a fuel that is falling from favour at home. US Department of Energy data analyzed by The Associated Press reveal that coal exports topped 107 million tons of fuel worth almost $16 billion in 2011. That’s the highest level since 1991, and more than double the peak from 2006.

Much of the increase went to the slates of power markets in Asia, where rapid development has sparked what mining company Peabody Energy calls a “global coal super cycle” that heralds renewed interest in the fuel. The AP’s analysis showed coal exports to South Korea leapt 81 percent last year to more than 10 million tons. India saw a 60 percent jump, to 4.5 million tons. And Japan bought almost 7 million tons of US coal last year, a 119 percent increase — as the nation sought alternatives to nuclear power after an earthquake and tsunami prompted the Fukushima nuclear complex meltdown.

煤炭出口失效

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Thursday, 12 April, 2012

Nike and Reebok settle NY fight over Tebow apparel

New York, 11 April — Running for a loss, Reebok has scrapped its effort to sell New York Jets Tim Tebow apparel, agreeing to a $10 million settlement over Tebow’s jerseys. Joaquin Sanchez

The Berlin heart is used as a bridge to a heart transplant. — Internet

Dental X-rays may be linked to benign brain tumours

New York, 11 April — People who undergo frequent dental X-rays in the past, before radiation doses were lowered, may be at greater risk of a usually benign form of tumour in the brains, a new study suggests. The research does not definitely link dental X-rays to the tumours, which affect about 1 percent of people. It’s also possible that dental X-rays, which are now given at a lower radiation dose, have nothing to do with the tumours. Still, the study suggests that dental X-rays could be a risk factor for the tumours, called meningiomas, said study author Dr. Elizabeth Claus, a neurosurgeon at Brigham & Women’s Hospital in Boston and a professor of epidemiology at Yale University School of Medicine.

Joe Skerratt, fit and well after 251 days with an artificial heart. — Internet

Joe’s parents have both called for people to join the NHS organ donor register. Rachel said: “We are eternally grateful to the donor family. — Internet

Joe was first diagnosed with DCM at just nine months old.

coal power plants are eroding its historic dominance in electricity generation. Coal’s share of the domestic power supply has fallen by more than 20 percent in the past several years, forcing companies to search out new customers or risk having to cut production from plants that produced almost 1.1 billion tons last year.
Elephant on Mars sculpted by lava flow

WASHINGTON, 11 April — The dried flood of lava over the surface of Mars has created the striking image of the eye and trunk of an elephant. The curve of the eye and trunk are handset into the close-up shot of an elephant as it appears in a new photo taken by the High Resolution Imaging Science Experiment (HiRISE) on NASA’s Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter. This is a good example of the phenomenon “pareidolia,” where we see things (such as animals) that aren’t really there, “University of Arizona planetary geologist Alfred McEwen wrote in an update posted on the university’s HiRISE website. The Mars elephant illusion photo shows a region of the Red Planet called the Elysium Planitia, which is the youngest flood-affected area province on Mars. Scientists aren’t sure if the lava flows on Mars were deposited quickly, or over a longer time period, as is the case on Earth, where most lava floods were put in place over years to decades. “This is probably true for much of the lava on Mars as well,” McEwen wrote. “An elephant can walk away from the slowly advancing lava front. However, there is also evidence from morphologic rapidly flowing lava on Mars, a true flood of lava. In this instance, maybe this elephant couldn’t run away fast enough.” The Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter, which has been circling the Red Planet since 2006, was operated, currently in an extended phase of its mission, has transmitted more data to Earth than all other interplanetary missions combined, NASA officials have said.

British chef and author, Rachel Khoo poses at her micro-restaurant named “La petite cuisine” that she runs in her tiny 23-square metre studio. With a bestselling recipe book and BBC series, “The Little Paris Kitchen”, now under her belt, the 31-year-old looks well placed to be the next big thing on the television chef scene.

"Little Paris Kitchen” spells success for British chef

London, 11 April — From a pair to television chef of the moment, Rachel Khoo has come a long way since she landed in Paris from London six years ago, armed with schoolgirl French and a love of cooking. With a bestselling recipe book and BBC series, "The Little Paris Kitchen", now under her belt, the 31-year-old looks well placed to be the next big thing on the television chef scene. Or rather, the next small thing. For Khoo’s new-found fame comes courtesy of the micro-restaurant which the bubbly brunette ran in her tiny 21-square-metre studio in the city’s bohemian Belleville District.

"Hosting APF at the tiny flat, Khoo explained that her bijou eatery was a side-effect of research for what would become “The Little Paris Kitchen” recipe book — her third after two volumes of cake recipes for a French cook’s waste. "It was because I’m single! I live on my own and if you test 120 recipes — there’s so much food that you can’t waste, you wanted to be able to test recipes, not waste food, and have some money to cover the ingredients."

So in January last year the young chef decided to tap into the worldwide trend for home restaurants. Hugely popular with hipsters over the last couple of years, these lunch or supper clubs see amateur cooks play chef at their own tables to invited guests in return for a donation to cover costs.

There was no shortage of Parisians willing to help with the leftovers of her experiments in bringing a British twist to Gallic classics.

London welcomes Chinese probe over Briton’s death

London, 11 April — Foreign Secretary William Hague welcomed an investigation into the death of a British man in China, after Chinese authorities reopened their probe on Tuesday.

British police have found evidence that the wife of Bo Xilai, the disgraced former senior Chinese politician, may have been involved in the murder of businessman Neil Heywood. In China, state media said. Hague told Sky News television he had taken a “personal interest” in the case. "I decided a few weeks ago that we should ask the Chinese authorities to investigate the death of Mr. Heywood, so of course I welcomed the announcement," he said. "The Chinese security guards on duty continuously who cover all areas, as well as 25 CCTV cameras in operation together with a ground floor level laser alarm system," he added.

"It is impossible to secure a site that big," said the 31-year-old. "The security guards that work on the site are only human. No one wants to sit there watching cameras 12 hours a day," added the Californian, who completed a PhD on urban exploration at the University of London in February.

The group first climbed the Shard to watch the New Year’s Eve fireworks over London in December 2010, Garrett added. "Today security on the site is tight with 14 night-time security guards on duty continuously who cover all areas, as well as 25 CCTV cameras in operation together with a ground floor level laser alarm system," he added.

"We believe this is an incident which took place around December 2010," said a Sellar spokesman. “The breach was discovered very soon afterwards and immediately tightened. "Today security on the site is tight with 14 night-time security guards on duty continuously who cover all areas, as well as 25 CCTV cameras in operation together with a ground floor level laser alarm system," he added.

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Dams, sources of irrigation and potable water in Magway Region, boosting agricultural development

Mezali Diversion Weir
- Mezali Diversion Weir is of stone-embedded concrete type.
- It has 380 ft in length and nine ft in height.
- It can irrigate 96777 acres of farmland.

Ngachin Dam
- The facility is situated near Ngachin Village in Seikpyu Township of Pakokku District.
- It has 43 ft in height, 1980 ft in length, and the 300-foot-long saddle dyke.
- Its storage capacity is 1160 acre feet of water.
- It can irrigate 150 acres of farmland.
- Ngachin Dam contributes to boosting production of beans and pulses, cotton, sugarcane and industrial crops for export plus regional rice sufficiency.

Kyaukhsauk Dam
- The dam lies near Kyaukhsauk Village in Myaing Township of Pakokku District in Magway Region.
- It is dammed on Kyaukhsauk Creek.

NASA scientist says mystery fireball in Texas actually a jet contrail

WASHINGTON, 11 April — A bright object that streaked across the Texas sky during the day 4 April, originally believed to be a meteor burning up as it entered Earth’s atmosphere, was actually a flying jet and its contrail, a NASA scientist has confirmed. Local news stations reported that the bright object was a fireball (an especially bright meteor) and Bill Cooke, head of NASA’s Meteoroid Environment Office, initially said it was indeed a fireball. Cooke has agreed. “Reviewing the video, it does appear to be a contrail,” he told Life’s Little Mysteries. “There were sightings of a daytime meteor 2 April but this video is not of a meteor/fireball. Different event.” The 2 April daytime fireball — a rare event, as a meteor must be at least one yard across for its atmospheric entry to be visible during the day — was seen by thousands of people in New Zealand. — Internet

Korean Air says jet diverted in Canada after threat

SEOUL, 11 April — A Korean Air passenger jet made an emergency landing at a Canadian military airbase after a call centre in the United States received a threat by telephone late on Tuesday, the airline said. Korean Air flight 72, which was on route to South Korean Capital Seoul, diverted to the Comox base on Vancouver Island in Canada’s Pacific Province British Columbia, soon after takeoff from Vancouver, the airline said in a statement released on Wednesday in Seoul.

“The (Korean Air) US call centre received a call that there was a threat on board the aircraft,” Korean Air said in a statement. A Korean Air spokeswoman could not confirm whether it was a bomb threat, as earlier reported by Canadian media. The plane, a Boeing 777, had 147 people including 134 passengers on board, the airline said.

Two US fighter jets, which took off from Portland, Oregon, intercepted it and shadowed it until it landed at the Canadian base, the Pentagon said in a statement. “The airline will decide about the continuation of the flight after discussion with the airport and related authorities,” Korean Air said.

Reuters
Region Chief Minister attends opening ceremonies of new streets in Yangon

YANGON, 11 April—Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe this morning attended a opening ceremony of Kamakyi new concrete street in Thingangyun Township constructed by Engineering Department (Road and Bridge) of Yangon City Development Committee.

The chief minister, together with Yangon Mayor Region Development Affairs Minister U Hla Myint and Region Road Transport

YANGON Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe walks on newly-opened Kamakyi concrete road, constructed by Engineering Department (Road and Bridge) of Yangon City Development Committee, in Thingangyun Township.—MNA

Cash donated to second lift of Kyaikthanlan Pagoda

NAY PYI TAW, 11 April—With the assistance of Mon State Government and supervision of Kyaikthanlan Pagoda Board of Trustees of Mawlamyine, the cash donation for construction of second lift to be installed at the eastern stairways of the pagoda was held at the platform of the pagoda on 7 April.

On behalf of the wellwishers, wellwisher U Tint Nyunt explained the purpose of building the second lift.

Mon State Minister for Transport U Tun Hlaing and Chairman of Kyaikthanlan Pagoda Board of Trustees U San Myint, accepted K 13 million donated by U Tint Nyunt and family of Okpo Road in Hline Ward of Mawlamyine in memory of late Daw Than Yin. Next, Daw Yi family of Myling Yadana.

Preparations made for enjoying Mandalaya Mahta Thingyan Festival

Maung Maung Soe (Myitnge)

As Mandalay Region Government allowed construction of 36 water throwing pandals including Mandalay Mayor’s Water Throwing Pandal, pandals of national entrepreneurs and companies for enabling the dwellers of Mandalay to happily enjoy Myanmar Traditional Mahta Thingyan Festival 1373 Myanmar Era in Mandalay, the water throwing pandals are under construction around the moats of Mandalay Nannyo in competitiveness.

A total of 36 water throwing pandals in the municipal area of Mandalay City Development Committee of Mandalay Region are two decorated pandals and 17 water throwing pandals on the southern most of 26th Street, one decorated pandal and 11 water throwing pandals on 66th street, and one decorated pandal, three water throwing pandals and one local decorated float on the west of moat on 80th street.

The water throwing pandals in Mandalay are NwayU May pandal, Alpine, AR Star (Xin Xing), Lolli Pop Chanay Mandalar, Summer Holiday, Lazy Club, MCDC, Central Command Headquarters (Nannyo Thu), Fantastic, Domino Family, Transformer, Maung Phusarin, Nway Yati, War Festival, Sein Sabei Phu, Crystal (Tawwin Diamond House), and Maritime (Platinum) on 26th street.

On the east part of moat, 66th street are packed with water throwing pandals namely Myanmar Hoteliers Association, JLANN, Spy (DJ-Clean), Win (Avatar), Yangon- Mandalay Directory, Sagawah Myay, Manthiri, Crystal Light, Myat Shwenadi, Defence Services (Air) and Tokyo-Yankee.

The 80th Street on western most is parked with Shannational, Htet Myat and Mayawady water throwing pandals.

There is no water throwing pandal on 12th street of northern moat. Anyone may join the pandals happily with free K 5000 on the Akyo Day, K 10000 on first Akyat Day, K 12000 on second Akyat Day and K 15000 on Ahet Day. Myanmar Alin: 11-4-2012

Translation: TTA
There was a big business meeting in Nay Pyi Taw recently where nearly 200-strong Korean business representatives met with Myanmar counterparts in their mission to extend cooperation with our country in various sectors including investment, industrial technology and human resources development.

Mr. Seok Cho, Vice Minister of Knowledge Economy of Korea, in his congratulatory remarks at the Korea-Myanmar Economic Cooperation Forum expressed his government’s eagerness to share its development experience and know-how with Myanmar. This maybe good news for us as we are willing to extend international cooperation based on mutual interest.

In addition, the Korean government has an agenda in which strengthened intergovernmental channels for economic cooperation comes first, followed by the reinforcement of the functions of the Korea-Myanmar joint committee for energy and natural resources cooperation, and the Korea-Myanmar joint committee for mineral resources cooperation.

“We need closer exchanges between officials both at the senior level and at the working level,” the Korean Vice Minister noted.

As to administer bilateral economic cooperation initiatives on broader scale, the Koreans also proposed a high-level cooperation channel while promoting private sector economic cooperation.

Moreover, Korean government sees the Korea-Myanmar Economic Cooperation Forum as a place where the members of the business communities on both sides can set-up and enhance cooperation.

As the Koreans, we too hope business organizations on both sides—for example, the two chambers of commerce and industry—will actively seek opportunities to cooperate through various channels. The Business Council for Economic Cooperation may be a good example.

The Koreans also have a plan to strengthen infrastructure for bilateral cooperation and expand its ODA programs and to pave the way for organizations on both sides—for example, the two chambers of commerce and industry—to actively seek opportunities to cooperate through various channels.

So we foresee greater Myanmar-Korea cooperation through which we can have opportunity to set up joint ventures with the Northeast Asian economic powerhouse while trying to understand each other more knowing about Korean etiquette will be an interesting and amusing way to create better understanding of their culture.

Generally, Koreans are hospitable people happy to greet guests and it is part of their culture. However, their modern societal values remain firmly rooted in the principles of Confucianism as their culture is over 5000 years old.

Keep in mind that the Korean people together with their culture are of a homogeneous society having strong ties to their families and country. Generally Koreans have a propensity of giving more priority to national interest than theirs. Accordingly, establishing a system that serves the entrepreneur’s interest without including benefits to the country may not be easy. We must emulate this practice.

Like in Myanmar, we must always remove our shoes when entering a Korean house. There are also some restaurants requesting guests to enter without wearing shoes. Koreans are very respectful of the elders, and we have already noticed this in Korean TV dramas.

At the dinner table, we must wait for the elders to hold their spoon before we take ours, and keep pace with them. Table manners in Korea say that there should not be any leftover food on our plate. We can show that we are full by just putting our chopsticks on the chopstick rest or on the table.

Koreans are very friendly people always ready to treat every visitor with the highest esteem and kindness. But we must understand their politeness does not mean that we have become trustworthy and reliable people, or that we are a particularly important person. It only means that we also must show our politeness to the same degree.

These are some of the tips to deal with our Northeastern Asian friends, and we are sure that our entrepreneurs and their representatives have more information and knowledge on this field.

Our country, Myanmar on her part is in transition to democracy seeking greater international cooperation that will bring progress in the sectors from capacity building to infrastructural development the foundations for our sustainable economic growth.

So we will keep on finding common ground with global partners including the people from northeast Asia in our own interest.

We need to learn their ways of doing business and emulate their working spirit, discipline, patriotism, zeal and intelligence. Some even say that Koreans are the only people in the world who can make the Japanese look lazy. So we can imagine how hardworking they are and their fast growing economy bears witness to this fact.


Free clinic opened in Pyawbwe Township for public health care services

PYAWBWE, 11 April—Organized by Metal/ Social Welfare Association of Kyaukchat Village in Pyawbwe Township, Metal/ Free Clinic was opened at the clinic on 28 March morning. Patron of the association Kanttalu/ Monastery Sayaw Bhaddanta Jatila, Pyithu Hluttaw representative U Myint Soe of Pyawbwe Township and Shwenyaunghu Station Doctor Dr Min Khin, Chairman of the association village administrator U Hla Min Tun, village elders, members of social organizations, well-wishers and local people.

The Sayawd, Pyithu Hluttaw representative U Myint Soe of Pyawbwe Township and Shwenyaunghu Station Doctor Dr Min Khin formally opened the clinic.

The station doctor explained the purpose of opening the clinic.

Secretary of the association U Myint Thein briefed them on tasks of the association. Member of the association Daw Ni Ni Myint explained the financial report.

Later, responsible persons presented certificates of honour to well-wishers.

Reading habit raised in Bhamo

NAY PYI TAW, 11 April—A ceremony to raise reading habit, organized by Bhamo District Information and Public Relations Department, was held in conjunction with the book donation ceremony at the city hall in Bhamo on 26 March morning.

At first, Deputy Commissioner U Tay Zar Aung of Bhamo District General Administration Department made a speech.

The Staff Officer Daw Nan Mya Mya Win of District Information and Public Relations Department explained the purpose of holding the reading habit raising and book donation.

Chairman of Township Writers and Journalists Association U San Wai talked advantages of reading.

Next, Information and Public Relations Department (Head Office), Myanmar Libraries Foundation and District and Township departments donated 2963 books, 58 radios and three TV sets worth K2.3 million to 103 libraries.

Later, writer Maung San Win (Bhamo) who secured the second prize in DoB Kyaw Ywa journal short story competition was awarded at the ceremony—Myanma Alin.

Mobile radio station launched in Bago

BAGO, 11 April—A ceremony to open Hinthagon GSM/UMTS mobile radio station of Myanma Posts and Telecommunications in Bago Region was held at the station.

An official of Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications and a responsible person of Elite Co explained construction of new radio station.

Next, Bago Region Minister for Social Affairs Dr Kyaw Oo, the Bago Region Manager of Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications and a local cut the ribbon to open the radio station.

Bago Region Minister for Development Affairs U Ye Myint Tun pressed the button to unveil the signboard of the new radio station.

We need to learn their ways

Tin Maung Than

Boys who do a lot of work in their own families and country. Generally Koreans have a propensity of giving more priority to national interest than theirs. Accordingly, establishing a system that serves the entrepreneur’s interest without including benefits to the country may not be easy. We must emulate this practice.

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April showers contribute to cultivation in Yesagyo

YESAGYO, 11 April—The rain that showered in the northern part of Yesagyo Township in Magway Region about one hour on 3 April morning set the new record of rainfall.

The showers benefited cultivation of summer paddy, summer sesame and pre-monsoon green gram. Moreover, gram and sunflower have already been harvested there, so there was no damage in the rain.

One month and five days old Palathwe hybrid paddy plantation on 10 acres of farmland in the irrigated area of Shwekyung River Water Pumping Station, in the northern part of Yesagyo, also consumed the betterment of natural rain water.

GSM tower built in Yesagyo for better communications

YESAGYO, 11 April—Myanma Posts and Telecommunications under the Ministry of Communications, Posts and Telegraphs focuses on betterments in economic, social and education sectors of Yesagyo Township.

With the aim of ensuring improvement of social economic life and alleviation of poverty, and smooth communications of GSM mobile phones at any time, eight towers are being built.

Engineer-in-charge U Pyi Sone Aung and party of Myanma Posts and Telecommunications (Head Office) built a communication tower in the compound of the combined office of Yesagyo on 3 April.

Traditional Maha Thingyan Festival for KhinU

KHINU, 11 April—A coordination meeting on organizing Myanmar Traditional Maha Thingyan Festival was held at the hall of General Administration Department in KhinU of Sagaing Region on 3 April.

At first, Administrator of KhinU Township U Yazar Aye made a speech. At the ceremony, the township administrator instructed officials to supervise the festival like that of previous years.

Executive Officer U Chit Ngwe of Township DAC explained construction of downtown pavilion, Township Judge U Tun Kyi entertainment of Thingyan Yein troups and music bands at four wards, Township Law Officer U Aung Min Chun dances of Yein troupe and traditional costume, Commander of Township Police Force Police Captain Than Win security and disciplinary entertainment and Sagaing Region Hluttaw representative U Aung Myo Nyein paying respects to 87 older persons on Myanmar New Year Day.

The township will hold the festival traditionally.

MNA on 29 March.—

Fire drill practised:

FIRE DRILL PRACTISED: Under supervision of the Executive Officer of Township Development Affairs Committee, workers of Township Fire Brigade and servicemen of Myanmar Police Force, electricians and members of market board of trustees participating in fire drill at east wing of Myoma Market in Nyaunglebin on 29 March.

Citizenship scrutiny cards issued in Mawlu

MAWLU, 11 April—Indaw Township Immigration and National Registration Department of Sagaing Region made a field trip to grassroots level for issuance of citizenship scrutiny cards to local people from four villages of Simaw Village-tract in Mawlu region as part of efforts to implement Moe Pwint-2 Plan.

On 18 March, the departmental personnel team led by Staff Officer U Aung Thu of Township Immigration and National Registration Department and Assistant Township Officer U Kyaw Min issued cards to 381 people from four villages of Mawlu region. —Kyemon

Hailstones, strong winds hit Yedashe

YEDASHE, 11 April—Due to strong winds and heavy rain in Yedashe Township, hailstones with the measurement of seeds of tamarind dropped at 6.40 pm on 6 April.

In the incident, branches of trees fell down on telephone lines and electrical cables causing power cut.

Roads of some houses and roadside shops blew off in the strong winds. It was reported that there was no casualty in the occurrence.

Some trucks with loads of onion were wet in the heavy rain. Both heavy rain and strong winds became calm at 7.30 pm the same day. —Kyemon

Vehicles under inspection for safety in Maha Thingyan period in Yesagyo

YESAGYO, 11 April—Traffic accidents happen in the period of Maha Thingyan Festival due to revelry activities.

With a view to ensuring reduction of traffic accidents and safety of life, Yesagyo Township Traffic Rules Enforcement Committee is carrying out inspection of vehicles and drivers whether they abide by traffic rules on wheel tax, vehicle licence, driver licence, wearing of helmet, overloads and drunk and driving.

An official team educates drivers of vehicles to abide by traffic rules in Yesagyo.

Golden Hamilton’s Carp species being bred in cage in Shan State

YANGON, 11 April—Hamilton’s Carp species fishes are now successfully breed in the cages. If there is better fish species with high growth rate, plan is under way to breed such species, said Shan State Fisheries Federation recently.

“No, test breeding achieves success. I would like to make request to take better species of fish with higher growth rate,” an official of Shan State Fisheries Federation at the 13th Annual General Meeting of Myanmar Fisheries Federation on 7 April.

President of the Myanmar Fish Breeders Association U Than Lwin gave advice that fish from the cage should be fed with floating feedstuff and it will minimize loss and wastage of feedstuff.

“In addition to domestic fish feedstuff, the breeders should feed fish with floating feedstuff. Such type of feedstuff will develop the growth of fish. Minimizing of feedstuff can benefit growth of fish in a short period,” he said.

Tilapia fish species should be bred in the cage. Floating feedstuff can be fed to Tilapia. These fish species are marketable in the domestic market and benefit the breeders.

Htet Khaing (Sangyoung)
China returns to trade surplus in March

BEIJING, 11 April—China said on Tuesday it recorded a trade surplus last month, reversing a massive deficit recorded in February, but exports were still weak owing to economic woes in major overseas markets.

The country recorded a trade surplus of $5.35 billion in March, as exports rose 9 percent to $165.66 billion for the month, Chinese customs said in a statement on its website. Imports rose just 5.3 percent to $160.31 billion in March, it said.

The Asian giant’s trade figures are politically sensitive, with Beijing and Washington embroiled in a long-running dispute over the value of the yuan, which US politicians say is kept artificially low to help Chinese exporters.

In February, China posted a huge deficit of $31.48 billion—the largest in more than a decade—as it felt the ripples from the debt crisis in Europe and the stuttering recovery in the United States. Analysts had predicted a deficit of $3.2 billion for March, according to Dow Jones Newswires. “The March surplus figure is relatively small as the deterioration in overseas markets since last year has continued to affect China’s exports,” Liao Qun, China economist for Citic Bank International, told AFP.

Wash man on the run finds time to update Facebook

SOURCE, 11 April—He’s on the lam, but Travis A Nicolaysen still had time to update his Facebook page. The 26-year-old has eluded authorities since two foot chases Wednesday and a dragnet that included a police dog tracking him through a Port Angeles neighborhood. The dog came up with a blue bandanna he had been wearing. His first day on the run, one friend posted to his account: “Cops all over you.”

Nicolaysen responded the next day with: “ya got away thanks bro.” A post from another friend told him to be careful. Another urged him to surrender and set a better example for his children. “You’re not getting any younger and you’re looking at a lot of time,” the friend writes. A picture on the Facebook page shows Nicolaysen with two toddlers.

Nicolaysen has been convicted of five felonies, including domestic violence, burglary and theft of a firearm, police said. He is wanted by the Washington state Department of Corrections for failing to check in with his community corrections officer since January. He’s also accused of assaulting his girlfriend on 28 March. Police said. Better make that his ex-girlfriend.

In a post Saturday, Nicolaysen changed his relationship status to single, the Peninsula Daily News reported. He posted a huge deficit of $31.48 billion—the largest in more than a decade, according to Dow Jones Newswires. “The March surplus figure is relatively small as the deterioration in overseas markets since last year has continued to affect China’s exports,” Liao Qun, China economist for Citic Bank International, told AFP.

Venezuelan minister says kidnapped diplomat freed

CARACAS, 11 April—Venezuela’s justice minister says a diplomat from the Costa Rican Embassy has been freed after he was seized by kidnappers.

Justice Minister Tareck El Aissami says in a message on his Twitter account that Guillermo Cholele, the trade ambassador for the Costa Rican Embassy, has been freed and is in good health. El Aissami said in the message on Tuesday morning that the diplomat was with police and being taken to be reunited with his family.

Gas production in Azerbaijan to reach 50 bln cubic meters by 2025

BAKU, 11 April—The volume of gas production in Azerbaijan will reach 50 billion cubic meters per year by the end of 2025, President of the State Oil Company of Azerbaijan (SOCAR) Rovnag Abdullayev said here Tuesday at the opening of a business forum on Oil Gas Processing.

According to SOCAR president, total gas production in Azerbaijan is projected to grow to 30 billion cubic meters per year by 2015 and reach 50 billion cubic meters per year by the end of 2025.

Growth in domestic natural gas production will increase the importance of Azerbaijan in ensuring regional and European energy security. With natural gas imports in Europe projected to be 70 percent by 2020, the role of Azerbaijan in ensuring Europe’s energy security will increase even more, he said.

Abdullayev also said that Azerbaijan plans to start construction works on a new oil gas processing and petrochemical complex in the first quarter of 2013.

Peru says rescue of nine trapped miners imminent

LIMA, 11 April—Rescuers were closing in on nine workers trapped inside a wildcat mine in southern Peru on Tuesday and officials said they could be pulled to the surface within hours after spending five days underground. The men have been stuck about 656 feet below ground since the cave-in.

According to Peruvian authorities, seven miners trapped since Thursday in a collapsed mine are being supplied with sports drinks, soup and food while police, firefighters and other workers to free them.

N Korea space official: All prep done for launch

PYONGYANG, 11 April—North Korean space officials say all assembly and preparations for this week’s satellite launch have been completed. Space officials said during a rare news conference attended by foreign journalists Tuesday in Pyongyang that the launch would go ahead as planned as part of North Korea’s 60th anniversary. The announcement comes as world leaders gather in London for the G8 summit next week.

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Abdullayev also said that Azerbaijan plans to start construction works on a new oil gas processing and petrochemical complex in the first quarter of 2013.
Titanic’s first-class menu recreated in Hong Kong

The famous Titanic menu was recreated in Hong Kong on Wednesday in London.

A woman rides on the back of a motorbike in Delhi on 10 April, 2012. About 133,938 people or 366 a day died on India’s roads in 2010, according to the National Crime Records Bureau, more than any other country.

Power firms to inform clients of best tariffs

London, 11 April — Britain’s main energy suppliers from autumn will regularly inform customers about the best available tariffs to enable households to better meet their specific needs, the government said on Wednesday. The commitments secured by the government will mean that the big six energy companies — EDF, E ON, British Gas, Scottish and Southern Energy, Scottish Power and RWE npower — will write to customers every year to specifically tell them what the best tariff is for them and how to get it, Depute Prime Minister Nick Clegg said on Wednesday in London.

“As of this autumn, your supplier will have to contact you with the best tariff for your needs. And if you call them, they’ll have to offer you the best deal too,” Clegg said, adding that energy companies had also confirmed a commitment to simplify tariffs. The government said that vulnerable customers who are assisted by the Warm Home Discount scheme would be contacted twice a year.

Clegg also said the government was working with consumer groups to make it easier for people to club together and switch suppliers. “Consumers will be able to use their collective purchasing power to bring down bills,” he said. With over 120 different energy tariffs on offer, seven out of 10 customers are currently not on the best tariff for them, according to the government.

BAA March traffic boosted by emerging market growth

London, 11 April — Traffic at airports operated by BAA rose by 4 percent in March, compared with the same month in 2011, helped by Easter being earlier this year and strong growth on routes to emerging markets. BAA, which is Britain’s biggest airport operator and majority owned by Spanish infrastructure group Ferrovial, said on Wednesday said 8.6 million passengers travelled through its airports last month.

The company said 5.7 million passengers passed through London Heathrow - Europe’s busiest airport - last month, 6.9 percent up on last March. That increase means Heathrow saw more than 76 million passengers over a twelve month period for the first time,” BAA Chief Executive Colin Matthews said in a statement. “Traffic from Heathrow to the BRIC (Brazil, Russia, India and China) countries saw growth compared with March last year, with an increase of 6.2 percent.

Prime Minister David Cameron arrived Wednesday in Indonesia, where he will finalise a $2.5 billion deal between Trumadu and Airbus as the European plane maker looks to tap the growing economy.

A woman puts white wine into a glass to demonstrate the Hullett House hotel’s recreation of the Titanic’s last meal to mark the disaster’s 100th anniversary in Hong Kong. The diners will be served by waiters dressed in uniforms like those on the Titanic and eat off fine bone china plates as used on board.

Cameron in Indonesia to finalise Airbus deal

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British man allegedly fathered up to 600 children through sperm bank donations

New DNA tests suggest the owner of a British fertility clinic may have fathered as many as 600 children, while keeping his donations a secret. And in an even stranger twist, one of his newly discovered offspring says the man’s beliefs in twins and miscarriages, I

Simpsons creator Matt Groening spills Springfield secret

The creator of the iconic cartoon sitcom The Simpsons has finally revealed the inspiration behind the show's fictional town of Springfield. Matt Groening told Smithsonian magazine he based the town on Springfield, Oregon, but since it's such a common US place name he knew many would think it was their own Springfield. The Springfield question is one of the best-kept secrets in TV history. The Simpsons is the longest running show in the US, and for since 1989. Characters in the show have often joked about hiding Springfield's real location. "In anticipation of the success of the show, I thought: 'This will be a secret, everyone will think it's in Springfield.' And they do," Mr Groening said. There are thought to be at least 34 towns or cities called Springfield in the US. Mr Groening also said he was inspired by the TV show Father Knows Best, which was set in a place called Springfield. But The Simpsons itself was based on the real Springfield, in Oregon. The show has often joked about hiding Springfield's real location. "In anticipation of the success of the show, I thought: 'This will be a secret, everyone will think it's in Springfield.' And they do," Mr Groening said. There are thought to be at least 34 towns or cities called Springfield in the US. Mr Groening also said he was inspired by the TV show Father Knows Best, which was set in a place called Springfield. But The Simpsons itself was based on the real Springfield, in Oregon.

Jessica Alba, others, mark National Poetry Month

LOS ANGELES, 11 April — Jessica Alba is adding her voice to National Poetry Month, helping to lure children into the heart of a poem. Alba is among more than a dozen celebrity parents whose daughters, chosen a Mexican folk song, “De Colores” (“Of Colours”), which reflects her Hispanic heritage. The segment will air at 11:55 am EDT Monday and at 6:55 am EDT 29 April, on the Disney Channel, and will play at various times on Disney Junior. Joining poetry and imagery is “just a really great way to introduce kids to poetry,” including those too young to read, Alba said.

Rima goes for an image makeover

MUMBAI, 11 April — Actor Rima Kallingal has long been associated as the 'modern' face of Malayalam cinema. Most of her initial films had her in the bubbly and bold kind of roles. But the actor seems to have been vying for a change in her image, of late Or take a look at her recent roles. In Indian Rupee, she is a doctor who is madly in love with the film's hero, a small course and I have tried my best to live up to the huge expectations levels,” says Rima.

Rima Kallingal

Mayamohini collects Rs 90 lakh at the box office

MUMBAI, 11 April — Mayamohini, directed by Josie Thomas and starring Dileep, Babu Antony and Bhagath Manuel has found a place in the audience's heart and the film has been gaining momentum since its release. The film has crossed the 20 crore mark at the box office and is expected to cross 25 crores in the next week.

The Lion King named 'highest-grossing show' on Broadway

LONDON, 11 April — Hit musical adaptation The Lion King has become the highest earning show in Broadway history, according to figures released by its producers Disney. The musical has earned $853.8 million (£536.7 million) since opening in 1997. Its closest rival, The Phantom of the Opera, has made $853.1 million (£536.3 million). Andrew Lloyd Webber’s show has been running in New York since 1988. The Lion King’s success has been due in part to higher ticket prices and the fact it plays in a larger theatre. The show, based on Disney’s 1994 animated film, surged ahead of the longer-running production over the Easter weekend. The Lion King took more than $2 million (£1.26m) over Easter, while its rival made $1.2m (£755,000). The Broadway League, the trade association for the Broadway theatre industry, has slightly different figures. According to its data, the Disney show’s total has topped $854m while Phantom remains on $853m.

Three Baltimore school employees split Mega Millions jackpot

Two Maryland public school teachers and a school administrator have claimed the second of three Mega Millions jackpot tickets, according to officials. The self-described “Three Amigos” say they plan to purchase new homes, start children’s college funds and organize trips to Europe. Their winning was one of three jackpot tickets sold for the record-breaking $656 million jackpot awarded on 30 March.

“If it can’t be you, these people are precisely the people you would want to see win,” said Maryland Lottery director Stephen Martin. The three winners have chosen to remain anonymous but did allow the lottery officials to reveal some details about them. All three reportedly currently work multiple jobs just to pay their monthly bills. Even with their new-found fortunes, all three told Martino that they would keep their jobs at the school. “One said ‘I can’t give up on my kids’, he said.”

Martinico the said the three winners did indulge in a laugh over Marlinde Wilson, who has infamously claimed to have purchased the winning ticket and stashed it inside a Baltimore-area McDonald’s. Wilson has reportedly retracted her story. The three actual winners purchased 66 tickets at the 7-Eleven store where Mega Millions officials say the winner was purchased. Each of the three winners will receive a lump sum of $35 million after taxes.
**Milan edge Chievo to go back to the top**

**London, 11 April** — Brad Jones dedicated Liverpool’s 3-2 win at Blackburn to his son Luca, who died of leukaemia five months ago after the Australian keeper endured a bitter-sweet Premier League debut for Kenny Dalglish’s side on Tuesday. Jones, third in the pecking order of keepers at Anfield, had only made two senior cup appearances for the club before he was unexpectedly called into action in Liverpool’s last game before Saturday’s FA Cup semi-final with Everton at Wembley.

Brazilian stopper Alexander Doni was shown a straight red card for bringing down Junior Hoilett and will now miss Liverpool’s big game at the weekend. It leaves 30-year-old Jones in line to face Everton as first-choice Pepe Reina is still serving a ban for the flying sent off in a 2-0 defeat at Newcastle on 1 April.

Jones pointed to the heavens after saving a penalty from former Middlesbrough team-mate Yakubu just seconds after he went on as a substitute on a night of high drama at Blackburn. The keeper, whose partner Dani gave birth to a baby boy Nico Luca Jones last week, said: “It has been a difficult 18 months with my son passing away. That was for him and for the Liverpool fans, who have been brilliant.”

**Liverpool’s Australian goalkeeper Brad Jones (C) saves a penalty from Blackburn Rovers’ Nigerian forward Yakubu (L) during the English Premier League football match between Blackburn Rovers and Liverpool at Ewood Park, Blackburn. — Internet**

**Havana shows a new way to win Masters**

“**Augu**, 11 April — Havana Watson is the Masters champion and a guy worth watching, whether that means spending money on a ticket or time in front of the TV. He makes golf look fun. What’s not to like about that?” CBS Sports said its overnight Nielsen ratings from the final round of the Masters, which Watson won in a playoff over Louis Oosthuizen, drew an 8.1. That was down from the 10.4 the previous year when eight players — including Tiger Woods — had a share of the lead at some point and Charl Schwartzel won it with four birdies at the end.

Theories abound on the television audience. It was Easter Sunday, which typically brings lower ratings. Woods wasn’t around — he tied for 40th for his worst finish in a major except for the time he missed the cut. And to a broader audience, Watson didn’t have much of a Q-rating unless someone happened to see some of his crazy videos or they just liked hearing his name.

That should change. The winning shot for Watson, which instantly became part of Augusta National lore, was a gap wedge that he hooked out of the woods, around the trees and onto an elevated green that set up an easy par four to wrap up the win. He referred to his by a “crazy shot” and “pretty easy.” For him, it was both. Watson has been doing that stuff for years.”

**Lyon cruise into French Cup final**

**Lyon, 11 April** — Lyon reached the French Cup final after ending the run of third-tier Gazelle Ajaccio with a 4-0 win in the semi-final in Corsica on Tuesday. Gazelle — the third division high-flyers who had previously knocked out Ligue 1 clubs Toulouse and Montpellier were handicapped by the early sending-off of young Colin but they gave as good as they got in the first half in a match played at the home of their top-flight neighbours AC Ajaccio.

However, Alexandre Lacazette gave OL the lead just before the hour, and skipper Lisandro Lopez doubled their advantage soon after. Substitute Clement Grenier scored within seconds of coming on before Bafetimbi Gomis netted his 23rd goal of the season to wrap up the win.

Lyon can now look forward to a second trip to the Stade de France for the final at the end of this month — they also have a League Cup final against Marseille to prepare for on Saturday. Rennes take on third-tier Quevilly — who put Marseille out in the previous round — in the second French Cup semi-final on Wednesday. — Internet

**Murray dreams of Wimbledon double**

**London, 11 April** — Andy Murray is dreaming of a unique double this year by claiming a first Wimbledon title followed by an Olympic gold medal at the same venue just a few weeks later. The world number four said Tuesday he is building his summer programme around a twin assault on Wimbledon and the Olympics, which will be staged at the All England Club during the London games.

“This summer coming up is going to be huge. Wimbledon and the Olympics would be two of my major goals,” said Murray, who played at the 2008 Beijing games. “The Olympics is different. The feeling you have on the court is completely different, you feel like you are playing for other people; for something more than just yourself. A lot of times when you are on the tour you are playing for yourself and the fans you work with. When I played in Beijing, I didn’t play well but it was one of the best experiences I have had as an athlete, being around all the top athletes in the world,” added Murray, who regards the Olympics as a de facto fifth Grand Slam.

“Tennis at the Olympics has become a big deal. Everybody plays it now whereas 10-15 years ago people were skipping the Olympics,” he said. — Internet

**Barcelona’s Chilian forward Alexis Sanchez (R) celebrates next to Barcelona’s midfielder Xavi Hernandez after scoring during the Spanish League football match FC Barcelona vs Getafe CF at the Camp Nou stadium in Barcelona. — Internet**

**Barcelona pile pressure on Real with Getafe romp**

**Barcelona, 11 April** — Defending champions Barcelona upped the pressure on leaders Real Madrid on Tuesday as they moved to within a point of their bitter rivals after a 4-0 thumping of Getafe. Two goals from Alexis Sanchez, one from Pedro Rodriguez and Lionel Messi’s 39th in the league this season gave Barca a 10th consecutive league victory after another near perfect performance by the Catalans.

In the 22nd minute the home crowd chanted the name of Eric Abidal, the French international who on Tuesday underwent a liver transplant, in recognition of the number 22 shirt he wears as part of Barca’s squad. Real can restore their four point advantage if they beat Atlantaico Madrid on Wednesday — they have not lost to their city rivals since 1999.

The clash between Barca and Madrid on 21st April in the Camp Nou has become increasingly important as the Catalans have reduced the gap on Madrid from 10 points to only one in less than a month. Barcelona dominated Getafe throughout, controlling possession with their usual passing game and goalkeeper Victor Valdes summed up the situation on the final whistle. “Our work is done here, let’s wait and see what Madrid do tomorrow night in their game,” he said.

However coach Pep Guardiola was cautious about talking about his team’s title chances. — Internet
Indonesia says only small tsunami waves hit Sumatra after quakes

Jakarta, 11 April—Small tsunami waves of around one meter hit the western coast of Indonesia’s Sumatra island on Wednesday after a series of major earthquakes, though the country’s disaster agency said it was still assessing whether there were any deaths or damage.

The agency expects the worst impact to have been on Simeulue island off Sumatra and forecasts further small aftershocks in the country’s westernmost region, but it has lifted its tsunami alert for an area which was devastated by a tsunami in 2004.

Hailstorms leave three dead, 25 injured in China

NANCHANG, 11 April—Hailstorms have battered parts of eastern and southwestern China, leaving three people dead and 25 others injured, local authorities said Wednesday.

In East China’s Jiangxi province, hailstorms struck some areas from Tuesday morning to Wednesday morning, resulting in the deaths of three people and affecting the livelihood of 170,000 rural residents, a spokesman with the Jiangxi Provincial Department of Civil Affairs said.

Storms have also forced the evacuation of more than 700 people, destroyed about 2,700 hectares of crops and damaged more than 900 houses, the spokesman added.

In southwestern Guizhou province, hailstorms hit 47 villages in Taiming county Tuesday night, leaving 25 residents injured, including two severely injured, county government spokesman said.

The hailstones were as large as 3.5 cm in diameter and weighed 18 grams on average, the spokesman said.

Power supplies and telecommunications networks have also been disrupted, he said.

Local authorities have dispatched teams to oversee relief operations in those areas, according to the spokesman.

Liverpool recall keeper, Dalglish dismisses crisis talk

LONDON, 11 April—Liverpool will recall younger Peter Gulacsi from a loan spell at Hull City to help them cope with a goalkeeping shortage ahead of Saturday’s FA Cup semi-final against Everton.

Liverpool manager Kenny Dalglish will have to field third-choice Brad Jones in the all-Mersyside clash at Wembley Stadium because both of his senior keepers are suspended.

But the dismissed talk of a crisis following the 3-2 win at Blackburn Rovers on Tuesday. “We don’t have a problem going in with any players, no problem whatsoever,” he told reporters.

Gulacsi, a 21-year-old Hungarian who joined Liverpool five years ago but has never made a first team appearance, has spent time on loan atHereford United, Tranmere Rovers and Hull.

“Goalkeeper Peter Gulacsi is set to be recalled from his loan spell with the Tigers by parent club Liverpool,” said on their official Twitter feed on Wednesday.

Liverpool’s first choice keeper Spaniard Pepe Reina is suspended after being sent off at Newcastle United in a Premier League game on 1 April.

Back-up Alexander Doni, who made his long-awaited debut against Aston Villa on Saturday, is banned after the Brazilian was shown a red card at Blackburn.

Ghana’s Andre Ayew (R) is challenged by Hungary’s goalkeeper Peter Gulacsi during their FIFA U-20 World Cup semi-finals in Cairo on 13 Oct, 2009.
The five-point preliminary agreements reached at the talks are:

1. To stop fighting between the Tamadon and NSCN (K) as of 9 April, 2012.
2. To open liaison office of NSCN (K) at Khamti agreed by both sides for discussions, liaison and talks.
3. To make prior coordination for travelling with arms beyond the places agreed by both sides during the ceasefire.
4. To allow NSCN (K) to travel freely in the country without arms during the period of ceasefire.
5. To hold continuous discussions between the peace-making group of Union government and NSCN(K) peace-making group for peace and stability and development of Naga region, at both side-agreed place and time.

After the meeting, the Region Chief Minister presented gifts to members of NSCN (K) peace-making group. After that, both sides presented gifts each other and took documentary photo taken.—MNA