President U Thein Sein to pay goodwill visit to China

Nay Pyi Taw, 2 April—President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of China will pay a goodwill visit to the People’s Republic of China in the near future, and will be subsequently attending the Boao Forum for Asia Annual Conference 2013 to be held in Boao, Hainan Province of the People’s Republic of China.—MNA

President U Thein Sein invites Singaporean investment

Nay Pyi Taw, 1 April—President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein met a Singaporean delegation led by President of the Republic of Singapore Dr Tony Tan Keng Yam at Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace, here, at 4:15 pm today.

Together with the President at the call were Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Ministers at President Office U Thein Nyunt, U Soe Thane and U Tin Naing Thein, Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development Dr Kan Zaw, Union Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lwin, Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Htay Aung, Myanmar Ambassador to Singapore U Tin Oo Lwin and departmental heads.

The delegation led by the Singaporean President was accompanied by Singaporean Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Chua Hian Kong Robert.

President U Thein Sein said he was very glad to welcome the Singaporean President to Myanmar, adding that it would cement existing bilateral friendship and amity as there has been a government-to-government connectivity and people-to-people connectivity between the two countries.

The Singaporean President for his part said that he was very pleased to receive a warm welcome, saying that the objective was to head for Myanmar and that he was very pleased to receive a warm welcome.

Singaporean goodwill delegation arrives in Nay Pyi Taw

Nay Pyi Taw, 1 April—A goodwill delegation led by President of the Republic of Singapore Dr Tony Tan Keng Yam and wife arrived here by air at 11:45 am today. They were welcomed by Union Ministers U Wunna Maung Lwin, and U Htay Aung and their wives, departmental heads and ambassadors of the two countries at Nay Pyi Taw International Airport.

Taw reflected the ongoing progress of Myanmar. He expressed thanks for a green light to open a technical training school in Myanmar. He said that the opening of training school would be of great benefit to Myanmar youths who will be able to work in industrial and investment sectors in Myanmar.

President U Thein Sein explained reform processes for ensuring peace and stability and economic development of the nation. He said that the country was inviting foreign investments as it was in need of capital, technology and human resources while implementing economic reform process for development. Foreign investment law had been enacted and the US and EU had eased sanctions against the country. Myanmar was a country with full of investment opportunities, he added. When investments poured in, requirements in capital and technology would be fulfilled and human resources development would be carried out by the government. The President invited Singaporean entrepreneurs to invest in Myanmar. Next, the two Presidents exchanged views on Singaporean investment in Myanmar and matters related to education, construction of housing and human resources development.

Weather Forecast for April 2013

Bay of Bengal Condition

A Low Pressure Area may form over the South Bay of Bengal and further intensify into a depression. Weather will be partly cloudy to cloudy in the Andaman Sea and South Bay and Partly cloudy elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Rainy condition

Rainy days are expected about 10 to 12 days in Taninthayi Region and Kayin State, 7 to 9 days in Upper Sagaing and Yagon Regions, Shan, Chin, Kayin and Mon States and 4 to 6 days in the remaining Regions and States.

Day temperature

Day temperatures will be above April average temperatures in Lower Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway, Bago and Yangon Regions, Mon and Kayin States and bout April average temperatures in the remaining Regions and States.—NLM
Man throws himself out upstairs corridor of hospital

**LOCAL NEWS**

**New Light of Myanmar**

**Traditional cane-ball demonstration event in Dalla Township**

**Yangon, 1 April** — Honouring the 68th Anniversary Armed Forces Day, Bo Yan Pyay ward of Dalla Township in Yangon Region organized a traditional cane-ball demonstration event on 27 March. The event was conducted with the participation of traditional cane-ball demonstration teams from other wards totaling 11. The demonstration event was packed with Myanmar traditional cane-ball fans and ward dwellers.

**Crime of motorbike theft exposed after days-long interrogation**

**Pakokku, 1 April** — A suspect was charged with the theft of two motorbikes after he was interrogated by the police from 13 to 25 March while he was taken into police custody for the crime of theft. Htin Lin Htet (a) Ange Lay confessed after 13 days under interrogation that he had stolen two motorbikes from a house on the ring road and a monk hostel in ward-4 in Pakokku separately and the two motorbikes were being kept at the house of Maung Tun.

Pakokku police station filed a lawsuit against Htin Lin Htet (a) Ange Lay, 19, of ward-3 in Pakokku for the crime of motorbike theft. — Kyemon

**Carasses found afloat on Lake Naungton on Kengtung**

**Kengtung, 1 April** — A large flock of dead fish were found afloat on Lake Naungton, a scenically place in the middle of Kengtung, on 28 March. On 28 March morning, the lake was first covered with small carcasses, and more dead fish in medium size were found floating at about 3 pm. An eyewitness said dead fish were given away to those who are lacking knowledge and sold for K 1000 per viss. A fish farm owner said death of fish in the still water lake may be due to water pollution triggered by waste water pumped from various part of the town while water temperature in the lake has reached its peak in this season. Deaths of big fish were seen in the lake on 29 March morning. The smells from carcasses have filled in the neighborhood of the lake. — Kyemon

**Traffic jam in front of Bogyoke Market**

**Yangon, 1 April** — Being a commercial City of the country, Yangon is of interest to businessmen at home and abroad. Among many places of interest in Yangon, Bogyoke market holds particular interest for globetrotters thanks to its long standing status, and it is always crowded with foreign visitors.

With an increase in arrivals of tourists there, traffic congestion is frequent triggered by tourist coaches parked on the busy road in front of the market. So arrangements should be made for the tourist coaches to park at the parking lot of an open-air market in Pabedan Township.

**Merrymakers in Thingyan water festival to be aware of higher UV radiation**

**Yangon, 1 April** — Meteorologist U Tun Lwin has warned merrymakers who are going to celebrate Myanmar traditional Thingyan water festival in the sun in Yangon and other towns and cities to be aware of the danger of a high level of ultraviolet radiation.

He advised that merrymakers should be under sun protection while going outdoors and have to seek shady places to protect themselves from much exposure of sunlight during the period from 11 am to 1 pm as the sun’s UV rays are strongest at noon.

“If possible, don’t let yourself be outside. It is required to stay indoors at noon. If you are about to go outside unavoidably, you have to be aware of UV radiation safety practices”, says the meteorologist in an interview with him at a ceremony held at the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology, here, recently.

Merrymakers should go outdoors before and after noon. If they are on the roads at noon, they should be under sun protection, taking cover under umbrellas and hats, wearing long sleeves shirts, long trousers and sunglasses.

Moreover, anti-sunburn lotion should be applied when they are to stay for too much time in the sun.
NATO eyes missile shield progress with Russia after US move

By Odd Gr justvik

SANAA, 1 April—Yemeni President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi vowed on Sunday to use force to release a Finnish couple kidnapped by al-Qaeda three months ago, the state-run Saba news agency reported.

During a meeting with visiting Finnish Foreign Minister Erkki Tuomioja, Hadi said “It is the responsibility of the Yemeni security to make all possible ways including the use of force to secure the release of the kidnapped Finnish couple.”

Tuomioja arrived in Sanaa on Sunday for talks with the Yemeni officials on issues related to the kidnapped citizens. The Finnish couple, who studied Arabic language in a school in the old city of the capital Sanaa, was kidnapped along with their Austrian friend, Dominik Neubauer, on 21 Feb. 2012 from a busy street in Sanaa. Neubauer, 32, appeared in a video clip posted on the internet on 21 February, in which he appealed for more than a minute to the Austrian government and the European Union to fulfill the abductors’ demand.

Yemeni president vows to use force to free western hostages

By Odd G. Justvik

Yemeni officials said al-Qaeda demanded a ransom of millions of euros during talks over the past month to release the three hostages.

On 27 February, a Swiss woman kidnapped by the al-Qaeda wing in Yemen for one year was released after an agreement by the Qatari government. Foreigners are frequently kidnapped in Yemen by al-Qaeda militants or tribesmen who asked for ransoms for the release of the jailed fellows. Most of the kidnapped have been freed unharmed.

One killed, three hurt in Arkansas nuclear plant accident

By Odd G. Justvik

Rescuers work at the accident site in Maizhokunggar County of Lhasa, southwest China’s Tibet Autonomous Region, on 31 March, 2013. Thirteen bodies have been found until 6:30 pm on Sunday at the site of a mining area landslide. The disaster struck a workers’ camp of the Jiamo Copper Polymetallic Mine at about 6 am on Friday, burying 83 workers.

Lunging, opposition party execs to meet Wednesday on electoral reform

By Odd G. Justvik

Tokyo, 1 April—Executives of Japan’s ruling and opposition parties will meet on Wednesday to discuss how to rectify disparities in the weight of votes, following recent court rulings that said some results in December’s lower house election were unconstitutional or invalid, a senior ruling party lawmaker said on Sunday.

The Liberal Democratic Party and its ruling coalition partner the New Komeito party will call for the opposition camp’s support for a bill to cut the number of single-seat constituencies to 295 from 300 in the House of Representatives during the meeting of party secretaries general, the lawmaker said.

However, the main opposition Democratic Party of Japan has objected to the ruling parties’ plan to re-form the electoral system, describing it as “insufficient.”

Italian president at centre of storm as deadlock continues

By Odd G. Justvik

ROME, 1 April—Italy’s 87-year-old President Giorgio Napolitano will face the greatest test of his career during his final weeks in office as he tries to end the standoff, saying a new government being formed more than a month after elections. Following widespread reports he may resign to open the way for a new vote, Napolitano pledged to remain in office at the Quirinale palace until his term ends on 15 May, averting the immediate threat of further turmoil.

He named 10 “wise men” including European Affairs Minister Enzo Moavero and senior politicians from the main centre-left and centre-right blocs to propose a series of urgent measures that could be backed by all parties.

Details will be announced on Tuesday but are expected to include cutting the cost of the bloated political system and replacing the widely criticized electoral law to avoid a repeat of the deadlock in future elections.

“It would be a disaster to go back to an election without having reformed the electoral law,” Valerio Onida, former head of the Constitutional court who is part of the advisory group, told La Repubblica newspaper. With political and financial markets already concerned about instability in the euro zone’s third-largest economy, the prospect of Napolitano leaving raised alarm and moves to escape the impasse received a cautionous welcome from commentators on Sunday.

If the right decision, it will avoid sending a dangerous signal to the markets and will show Italian institutions are solid and functioning,” Enrico Letta, deputy head of the centre-left Democratic Party told Reuters. However, there were few illusions that summoning the “wise men”, in line with a long tradition in Italian politics, offered more than a slim hope of overcoming the deep divisions that have prevented the parties from coming to an agreement.—Reuters

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NATO eyes missile shield progress with Russia after US move

By Odd G. Justvik

Moscow, 1 April—NATO hopes a US change to global missile defences will dispel Russian concern and foster cooperation on an issue that has long strained relations, alliance Deputy Secretary General Alexander Vershbow said in an interview.

Russia has said US missile shield plans could erode its nuclear deterrent. It has softened criticism since Washington announced on 16 March that it would station 14 missile interceptors in Alaska in response to nuclear threats and at the same time forgo a new type of interceptor that would have been deployed in Europe. However, Moscow has said it wants a series of consultations on the new shield set-up and the US and Russian defence officials are expected to hold talks on that in the coming weeks.

Moscow has long been at odds with the West over anti-missile defences it has begun to establish in Europe, which both the United States and NATO say are aimed at preventing any attack from Iran and pose no threat to other Cold War foe Russia.

“The change in the US plans ... just simply makes the situation much less ambiguous,” Vershbow told Reuters. “There is now no reason for concern that the system going into Europe will have any effect whatever on Russia’s strategic deterrent.

“We think there is a real window of opportunity and we hope that the Russians seize it,” said Vershbow, who has held talks with senior officials from the Russian foreign and defence ministries as well as President Vladimir Putin’s Kremlin.

The skipped interceptors were meant to be able to target long-range missiles, sparking concern in Moscow that they could be used against its intercontinental ballistic missiles.

“On both the NATO-Russia and US-Russia tracks, we hope the dialogue will pick up speed so that we can get at least closer to some kind of a deal on missile defence cooperation,” said Vershbow, a former US ambassador to Russia.

“To the extent we are able to make some progress on missile defence, it might also facilitate renewed dialogue on nuclear arms reductions both at the strategic level and the non-strategic level.” He said broader NATO-Russia ties would get “a shot in the arm” if progress was made on missile shields.

Reuters
Nokia VP for emerging markets D Shivakumar quits

Mumbai, 1 April—Nokia’s senior Vice-President for Emerging Markets, including India, D Shivakumar has quit the Finnish handset maker. The development comes against the backdrop of mobile maker receiving a demand notice of over Rs 2,000 crore from Indian tax authorities for alleged evasion of taxes in its business transactions in the country. “On behalf of Nokia, I thank Shiv for his contributions, and wish him all the best in the future. He will stay with us in a consultancy role until end-June.” Nokia’s Executive Vice-President for Global Sales And Marketing Chris Weber said in a statement.

Shivakumar had joined Nokia in 2006 as Managing Director and Vice-President for Sales in India. Shivakumar took over as head of Nokia in India amid rising competition from other low-cost phone makers, especially Chinese. Besides, the company faced intense competition in the smartphone segment from companies such as Samsung, Apple and Blackberry.

In October 2011, he was elevated to the position of head of emerging markets comprising around 90 countries across the West Asia, the African region and India.—PTI

Facebook likely to reveal modified version of Android at 4 April event

New York, 1 April—Facebook has invited journalists to the unveiling of what it calls its “new home on Android.” Next Thursday’s event will take place at the company’s Menlo Park, California, headquarters. Facebook isn’t providing further details. There has been speculation about a “Facebook phone” for a few years. Facebook has long said it would not make its own phone. Rather, such a phone would likely integrate Facebook deeper into the phone’s software.

Citing unnamed sources, the tech blog TechCrunch says Facebook Inc will launch a modified version of Android that embeds Facebook deeply into the operating system, on a phone made by HTC.—PTI

Facebook is likely to launch a modified version of Android that embeds Facebook deeply into the operating system, on a phone made by HTC.—PTI

Facebook’s 1.06 billion monthly users access it on a mobile device. A deeper integration would help Facebook with its mobile aspirations.—PTI

Battlefield 4 gameplay trailer unveiled, pre-bookings now open

San Francisco, 1 April—Battlefield 4 was fully unveiled at simultaneous EA launch events in Stockholm and San Francisco on Tuesday. The latest edition of the popular gaming franchise is powered by DICE’s proprietary Frostbite 3 engine that promises a brand new experience in the epic battle to own land, sea and air. Battlefield series is one of the most popular multiplayer games, with over 65 million registered players.

EA claims Battlefield 4 incorporates more multiplayer game design elements into the single-player campaign, allowing single-gamers to experience huge environments, a playground of destruction, access to an arsenal of vehicles and the ability to direct squad mates.

“Fliers are so hallowed and proud to debut Battlefield 4 on a global stage with simultaneous events in San Francisco and Stockholm. To be this early in development, and to already be so polished is a huge achievement for the DICE team and the single-player campaign, allowing single-gamers to experience huge environments, a playground of destruction, access to an arsenal of vehicles and the ability to direct squad mates.”

Battlefield 4 gameplay trailer that offers seventeen minutes of unaltered action. The demo begins as the player—Recker—opens his eyes to discover that he is trapped in a rapidly sinking car with three of his squad mates. Shooting the window is the only way out. Panic and fear are pushed aside as Recker makes a difficult decision—take the shot and recover the intel but risk that not everyone will survive. The emotional demo features a cast of characters unrivalled in interactive entertainment.

Solar-powered plane plans flight across US

WASHINGTON, 1 April—A solar-powered plane that has wowed aviation fans in Europe is set to travel across the United States with stops in Phoenix, Dallas, Washington, DC, and New York, the plane’s Swiss creators said in a statement. The plane is considered the world’s most advanced solar-powered plane, is expected to be ready to leave from NASA Ames Research Centre in California on 1 May, although the actual departure will depend on the weather.

Solar Impulse plans to reach New York’s Kennedy Airport in early July—without using a drop of fuel, its creators said. “We want to inspire the young generation to become pioneers, to help them find and develop their passion,” said André Borschberg, Solar Impulse’s co-founder, pilot and CEO. The Solar Impulse is powered by around 12,000 photovoltaic cells that cover massive wings and charge its batteries, allowing it to fly day and night without jet fuel. It has the wing span of a Boeing 747 but the weight of the average family car, making it vulnerable to bad weather.

Its creators say the Solar Impulse is designed to showcase the potential of solar power and will never replace fuel-powered commercial flights. The delicate, single-seat plane cruises around 40 miles per hour (64 kph) and can’t fly through clouds. “The more you fly the more energy you have stored in the batteries, sort’s absolutely fabulous to imagine all the possibilities the people can have with these technologies in their daily lives,” said Bertrand Piccard, Solar Impulse co-founder and chairman.

In 2010, the solar plane flew non-stop for 26 hours to demonstrate that the aircraft could soak up enough sunlight to keep it airborne through the night. A year later, it went on its first international flight to Belgium and France.

Last year, the Solar Impulse made its first transcontinental voyage, traveling 1,550 miles from Madrid to the Moroccan capital, Rabat, in 20 hours. Piccard and Borschberg are planning an around-the-world flight in an improved version of the plane in 2015. Piccard comes from a line of adventurers. His late father, Jacques, was an oceanographer and engineer who plunged deeper into the ocean than any other person. His grandfather Auguste, also an engineer, was the first man to take a balloon into the stratosphere. Bertrand Piccard and
Heilongjiang plans heavy investment in Russia

HARBIN, 1 April—Northeast China’s Heilongjiang Province is planning to increase investment in Russia by 1 billion US dollars by the year 2015, and 2 billion dollars by 2020, local authorities said on Sunday.

The province that borders Russia will also beef up its trade with the country, vowing to boost its trade volume to 26 billion dollars by 2015, and 52 billion dollars by 2020, sources with the provincial commercial department said.

Heilongjiang accounts for about a quarter of China’s total trade with Russia. Trade between the province and Russia in 2012 rose 12.2 percent year on year to 21.3 billion dollars, according to a statistics communiqué released by the provincial government earlier this month. Chinese President Xi Jinping has just wrapped up a four-state tour that included Russia as his first stop.

During the visit, Xi and Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin vowed to make full use of various cooperation mechanisms, and invigorate collaboration on large joint projects of strategic significance. The two leaders also pledged to improve the structure of bilateral trade and strive to advance toward the goal of bringing bilateral trade to 100 billion dollars by 2015. After Xi’s visit, the Heilongjiang commercial department has held seminars to look into deepening economic and trade relations with Russia. Department head Meng Xiangian said Xi’s visit to Russia would bring the economic and trade cooperation between the two countries to a new stage.

According to experts, Heilongjiang Province should push forward its cooperation with Russia in fields including energy, agriculture, forestry, infrastructure and logistics. In the meantime, they say, it should work out industrial cooperation plans to take the lead in broadening Sino-Russian cooperation.

Gold remains “insurance” against euro zone surprises

ROME, 1 April—European Central Bank President Mario Draghi phoned Italian President Giorgio Napolitano after media reports that the 87-year-old head of state was planning to resign early to clear the way for new elections, newspapers reported on Sunday.

Napolitano pledged on Saturday that he would stay in office until the end of his term on 15 May following reports that he planned to step down to break the deadlock created by last month’s election, which left no party able to form a government.

The move would be needed to allow Italy to return to the polls before the summer holiday period, because of constitutional provisions which prevent a president from dissolving parliament in the final months of his mandate.

The main newspapers on Sunday all reported that Draghi had called Napolitano to express concern that his resignation would leave Italy without leadership at a time of mounting tension in financial markets, exacerbated by the bank crisis in Cyprus.

An ECB spokesman declined to comment. No comment was immediately translated into...the withdrawal of a few billion euros in deposits,” the bank said in a document for shareholders attending its 29 April meeting.

The bank’s chief financial officer said after the earnings were released on Thursday that it was “quick in recovering ground in March” on lost deposits in February.

“January started off well...we were somewhat impacted in February but we were quick in regaining ground in March,” Bernardo Mingrone told analysts on a conference call.

But he declined to give a forecast on the level of deposits at the end of the first quarter of 2013 or to indicate the outlook for net interest income and loan loss provisions.

Gold prices fell over the last week by 12 US dollars or 0.74 percent to 1,597 dollars.

In his weekly e-mailed commentary on precious metals, Gerhard Schubert, head of precious metals at bank Emirates NBD, said “Cyprus is done and dusted, at least for the gold trading community.”

The 17-member states comprising the currency union agreed on 17 March to bail out Cyprus with 10 billion euros (12.88 billion dollars) on the condition that bank accounts with capital less than 100,000 euros (128,000 dollars) are fully guaranteed by commercial banks. The Cypriot parliament permitted the plan on Tuesday. Schubert said the rhetoric concerning the Cypriot bail-out conditions might be a blueprint for further “rescues” which will not increase the confidence of the depositing euro zone population into leaving large amounts of cash within the euro banking system.

ECB’s Draghi phoned Napolitano over resignation reports

ECB’s Draghi phoned Napolitano over resignation reports

Qantas, Emirates start global alliance with tandem flight

DUBAI, 1 April—Two Airbus A380 carriers made a tandem flight on Sunday from Sydney to Dubai, marking a global alliance by Dubai’s state-owned Emirates Airline and Australia’s Qantas Airways.

The 2-hour juxtaposed were seen in the morning above the Sydney Harbour bridge and the Sydney Opera House. A spokesperson of Emirates Airlines, the Middle East biggest and fastest growing airline, told Xinhua by phone that both planes are expected to touch down on Monday at the Dubai International Airport.

The 14-hour tandem flight marks a premiere in the civil aviation history as two carriers from different airline companies fly parallel to a transcontinental destination for the first time.—Xinhua
South Africa says Mandela’s condition has improved

JOHANNESBURG, 1 April—The condition of South Africa’s former President Nelson Mandela has improved further, the government said on Sunday, as the 94-year-old anti-apartheid hero spent a fourth day in hospital receiving treatment for pneumonia.

“Nelson Mandela has a restful day,” South Africa’s presidency said in a statement. “Although the treatment for his pneumonia continues, his condition has improved significantly.”

Mandela, who became South Africa’s first black president in 1994, is revered at home and abroad for leading the struggle against apartheid with the best medical care possible to enable his recovery and the agreements could not be reached, said SANA’s news agency.

Nasr Abu Zuhri, a Hamas spokesman, said “Hamas won the parliamentary elections in 2007, leaving Abbas’s Fatah party of blocking national reconciliation due to their reservation over Qatar’s mini-summit proposal.”

The colour security services and international summit,” said Sami Abu Zuhri, a Hamas spokesman.

“Hamas has won the parliamentary elections in 2006, so Fatah should respect Hamas’ legitimacy instead of using it as a pretext to put obstacles on the way of reconciliation,” Abu Zuhri told Xinhua.

On Saturday, an aide to Abbas said in a statement that there is “a solo legitimate representative for the Palestinian people in any Arab, regional or international summit.”

Qatar’s Emir Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani suggested the mini Arab meeting of Palestin-

840,000 new recruits in Japan mark 1st day at work

TOKYO, 1 April—An estimated 840,000 new recruits marked their first business day nationwide on Monday at the start of Japan’s new fiscal year, after surviving a difficult job-hunting season amid severe economic conditions.

As of 1 February, 81.7 percent of college students had found jobs ahead of their March graduation, up for the second straight year, but the ratio remained below the level before the collapse of Lehman Brothers Holdings Inc in September 2008 that triggered a global financial crisis, according to the labour ministry.

An estimated 77,000 college students in Japan had not found work as of 1 February and many of them are believed to be without a job at present.

Among high school graduates in Iwate, Miyagi and Fukushima prefectures that were devastated by the March 2011 earthquake and tsunami, 94.3 percent in Iwate and 92.3 percent each in Miyagi and Fukushima had received job offers before graduation as of the end of January.

The percentage of high school students who were offered a job ahead of their graduation rose from a year earlier in all three prefectures, reflecting the restart of disaster-hit companies’ recruitment to accelerate reconstruction efforts.

Kyodo News

Two people killed, 10 injured in Iraq bombings

BAGHDAD, 1 April—Two people were killed on Sunday and ten others wounded in several bombings in the Iraqi capital Baghdad and in eastern part of the country, the police said.

A suicide bomber blew up his explosive-laden car into an Iraqi army checkpoint in Abu Ghraib area, some 25 km west of Baghdad, leaving a soldier dead and eight others injured including five civilians, a local police source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

In the meantime, a sticky bomb attached to a car detonated in Baghdad northern district of Kadhmiyiyah, leaving the driver dead, a well-placed source at Iraq’s interior ministry source anonymously told Xinhua.

In a separate incident, a roadside bomb went off in Iraq’s eastern Province of Diyala near a parking lot in the city of Majidiyiyah, some 100 km northeast of Baghdad, leaving two civilians wounded, a provincial police source told Xinhua.

Furthermore, Iraqi security forces arrested three suspected al-Qaeda militants at a village near the provincial capital city of Baquba, 65 km northeast of Baghdad, the source said.

The suspects are believed to be involved in many attacks against the Iraqi military patrols and civilians in Diyala Province, the source added.

Catholic Church in the sprawling black township of Soweto that Mandela once called home, worshippers attending Easter service prayed for the man seen by many as the father of their nation.

Reuters

At least 12 killed in Mexican bus crash

MEXICO CITY, 1 April—At least 12 people died when a bus and a car collided in a mountainous part of the eastern Mexican state of Veracruz on Saturday evening, local emergency services said.

The accident near the town of Naolinco, the official added. Emergency services said. Emergency services believe there were 27 people travelling on board the bus, the official added.

The crash occurred at a bend in the road in foggy conditions, and preliminary evidence suggested the driver of the car that hit the bus fled the scene, he said.

Lethal traffic accidents are common on Mexican roads, claiming hundreds of lives a year.

Reuters

People stand near the wreckage of a passenger bus after it collided with a car near the town of Naolinco, in the western Mexican state of Veracruz on 30 March, 2013.

Last April at least 43 people were killed when a cargo truck hit a bus in Veracruz state.

Hamas accuses Abbas, Fatah of blocking reconciliation

GAZA, 1 April—Islamic Hamas movement on Sunday accused Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas’ office and his Fatah party of blocking national reconciliation due to their reservation over Qatar’s mini-summit proposal.

Fatah’s reservation stems from the issue of Palestinian diplomatic representation after Qatar called for a mini-summit that would put Hamas in equal status with Fatah.

“The Presidency and Fatah’s clinging to the issue of representation and legitimacy is untrue justification and it shows their responsibility for obstructing the reconciliation’s efforts,” said Sami Abu Zuhri, a Hamas spokesman.

“Hamas has won the parliamentary elections in 2006, so Fatah should respect Hamas’ legitimacy instead of using it as a pretext to put obstacles on the way of reconciliation,” Abu Zuhri told Xinhua.

On Saturday, an aide to Abbas said in a statement that there is “a solo legitimate representative for the Palestinian people in any Arab, regional or international summit.”

Qatar’s Emir Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani suggested the mini Arab meeting of Palestin-

ian reconciliation during the opening of the Arab League’s annual summit in Doha on Tuesday. The call was welcomed by Hamas right away.

A year after winning the legislative elections, Hamas routed pro-Abbas forces, ousted Fatah and took over the Gaza Strip in 2007, leaving Abbas’s rule confined to the West Bank.

In Egypt and Qatar have brokered several deals between the two movements to reconcile, form transi-
tional government, integrate security services and hold elections. However, the agreements could not be implemented.—Xinhua

Free Syrian Army fighters ride on a vehicle heading towards Al Fa’ah and Kefraya towns in northern Idlib on 31 March, 2013.

Journalists have also struggled to meet deadlines and allowing oil to be produced in some fields, with rebels controlling large parts of the east of the country, where most of the oil wells are located.

But despite the fighters say oil production has continued in some fields, with rebels trading with local authorities and allowing oil to be shipped to government-controlled areas.

Reuters

Syria rebels set fire to three eastern oil wells

BEIRUT, 1 April—Syrian rebels have set three oil wells in the east of the country ablaze, causing a daily loss of nearly 5,000 barrels of oil and 52,000 cubic metres of gas, state media quoted an oil ministry official as saying on Sunday.

SANA news agency said the damage to the oil wells in Deir-al-Zor Province, one of which is in rebel hands, followed disputes among the fighters over “sharing out the stolen oil” from fields in areas they control.

It said Syria’s Furat Petroleum Corporation was working to extinguish the three fires. A total of nine wells had been set on fire by the rebels, the agency added, without saying when the other six had been set ablaze.

Furat was not immedi-
ately able to comment on the report. European Union sanctions imposed on Syria two years ago over President Bashar al-Asad’s crackdown on protests — which have since developed into armed con-
ning the country’s largest oil field, Syria’s most modest oil exports.

Assad’s government has also struggled to meet domestic energy require-

ments after losing control of large parts of the east of the country, where most of the oil wells are located.

Free Syrian Army fighters ride on a vehicle heading towards Al Fa’ah and Kefraya towns in northern Idlib on 31 March, 2013.

At least 12 killed in Mexican bus crash

Last April at least 43 people were killed when a cargo truck hit a bus in Veracruz state.

Hamas accuses Abbas, Fatah of blocking reconciliation

GAZA, 1 April—Islamic Hamas movement on Sunday accused Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas’ office and his Fatah party of blocking national reconciliation due to their reservation over Qatar’s mini-summit proposal.

Fatah’s reservation stems from the issue of Palestinian diplomatic representation after Qatar called for a mini-summit that would put Hamas in equal status with Fatah.

“The Presidency and Fatah’s clinging to the issue of representation and legitimacy is untrue justification and it shows their responsibility for obstructing the reconciliation’s efforts,” said Sami Abu Zuhri, a Hamas spokesman.

“Hamas has won the parliamentary elections in 2006, so Fatah should respect Hamas’ legitimacy instead of using it as a pretext to put obstacles on the way of reconciliation,” Abu Zuhri told Xinhua.

On Saturday, an aide to Abbas said in a statement that there is “a solo legitimate representative for the Palestinian people in any Arab, regional or international summit.”

Qatar’s Emir Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani suggested the mini Arab meeting of Palestin-

ian reconciliation during the opening of the Arab League’s annual summit in Doha on Tuesday. The call was welcomed by Hamas right away.

A year after winning the legislative elections, Hamas routed pro-Abbas forces, ousted Fatah and took over the Gaza Strip in 2007, leaving Abbas’s rule confined to the West Bank.

In Egypt and Qatar have brokered several deals between the two movements to reconcile, form transi-
tional government, integrate security services and hold elections. However, the agreements could not be implemented.—Xinhua

Free Syrian Army fighters ride on a vehicle heading towards Al Fa’ah and Kefraya towns in northern Idlib on 31 March, 2013.
Monday, 1 April—Chief Minister of Sagaing Region U Tha Aye planned to build a Sasana Beikman that can accommodate over 700 members of the Sangha in the precept of Mahāsiṅhongyi Pagoda in Sagaing.

The Sitagu Sayadaw and members of the Sangha, totalling 54 performed ground breaking ceremony. The main building of the Beikman was completed on 23 June 2012. It was opened by the Chief Minister of Sagaing Region, region ministers, departmental officials and 18 ward administrators on 24 March.

**Driving course on tractors, power-tillers introduced to farmers**

**Ingaup, 1 April—**Tractors and power-tillers driving course was opened at 100-acre farmland in Hgyi-Wanetaw of Ingaup Township in Hinthada District of Ayeyawady Region on 18 March. On the occasion, Township Administrator U Hiwun Moe Han made a speech. It was also attended by the head of District Agriculture Mechanization Department, township level departmental officials, village administrators and 75 trainees. The training ran 10 days.— **Mya Amin**

**Dental care given to local people in Minlha Township**

**Minlha, 1 April—**Dental Public Health Section of Myanmar Dental Association (Central) provided dental care to 154 people at Kanthaya Monastery in west of Siltin on 16 March and 98 people at the Dhammayon and disciples, and wellwisher Daw Than Thane Swe of SMILE Dentistry Company gave necessary assistance for the dental care works.

**Chinese temple fire in Meza Model Village of Indaw**

**Indaw, 1 April—**A fire broke out at Chinese Buddhist temple in Ward 6 of Meza Model Village in Indaw Township of Katha District at 1.45 pm on 23 March. The fire started from the overhead through short circuit at the two-storey temple. Loss of damage in the amounted to over K 1.8 million.

**Firefighters and local people put out the fire with the use of two fire engines from Indaw and Bamauk townships, two water pumps from Meza auxiliary fire brigade, four from the local people, one water tanker of FCGC (IGE) Co Ltd, one vehicle from Myanmar Adipati Construction Company and one water tanker of Township Development Affairs Committee at 3.30 pm.—** **Mya Amin**

**Books donated to village libraries in Paung Township**

**Paung, 1 April—**A fire broke out at Chinese Buddhist temple in Ward 6 of Meza Model Village in Indaw Township of Katha District at 1.45 pm on 23 March. The fire started from the overhead through short circuit at the two-storey temple. Loss of damage in the amounted to over K 1.8 million.

**Library staff, teachers, firemen, local people and firefighters put out the fire with the use of two fire engines from Indaw and Bamauk townships, two water pumps from Meza auxiliary fire brigade, four from the local people, one water tanker of FCGC (IGE) Co Ltd, one vehicle from Myanmar Adipati Construction Company and one water tanker of Township Development Affairs Committee at 3.30 pm.—** **Mya Amin**
National security

National security, no matter how it is defined, means overall protection of a state. In so doing, each nation exercises self-interest based on own standpoint, concepts and values apart from military means.

All global nations adopted different policies suited to circumstances of global panorama for own national security. Changes in national leaders and political situations were also the causes of those changes.

In some views national security is the ability to preserve the nation’s integrity and territory; to maintain its economic relations with other countries on equal terms; to preserve its nature, institution, and governance from outside disintegration and to control its borders.

Some described national security as a capacity to manage domestic and foreign conditions that the public opinion of a given community believes necessary to enjoy its own self-determination or autonomy, prosperity and well-being.

As in the case of national power, the military aspect of security is a very important sector, but not the sole component of national security. To be truly secure, a nation needs other forms of security. Apart from the military aspect of security, the aspects of diplomacy or politics, society, environment, energy and natural resources and economics are also on the agenda. Some countries have adopted its national security strategy based on political security, economic security, environmental security and energy and natural resources security.

The national interest of Myanmar is Our Three Main National Causes. As Myanmar is now in initial democratization process, its security and political stability should not be harmed. Therefore, national security strategies must be adopted based on national strength considering internal and external situations for Our Three Main National Causes, the interests of the nation and the entire nation needs to implement those strategies in unison.

New gravel road helps easy access in Ottwin

OTTWIN, 1 April—A 1270 ft long gravel road was inaugurated in Ottwin Township, Bago Region, on 22 March benefiting over 3000 population from seven villages. Ottwin Township Development Affairs Department injected over K 9 million into the gravel road and opened the road on 22 March to mark the 68th anniversary Armed Forces Day. The new road linking Chingon and Ponnasu villages has helped the local residents have on easy access to other villages.—NLM

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker addresses coordination meeting of legislation of laws safeguarding peasants

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann addresses the coordination meeting of legislation of laws safeguarding peasants.—MNA

National security

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker attends coord meeting to draft law protecting farmers

NAY PYI TAW, 1 April—Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann called for drafting a legislation to help farmers acquire investments and technologies and fetch reasonable price for crops in his address to the coordination meeting of legislation of laws safeguarding peasants at Zabuthiri Hall in Hluttaw Complex here this morning. It was also attended by Singaporean ambassador to Myanmar.—MNA

Singaporean President receives Chairperson of Pyithu Hluttaw Rule of Law and Tranquility Committee

SINGAPORE, 1 April—The visiting President of the Republic of Singapore Dr Tony Tan Keng Yam and wife received Chairperson of Pyithu Hluttaw Rule of Law and Tranquility Committee Daw Aung San Suu Kyi at Aureum Palace, here, at 6 pm today.

The goodwill delegation was accompanied by the Singaporean ambassador to Myanmar.—MNA

Want to study in Japan?

NAY PYI TAW, 1 April—Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science, and Technology of Japan (MEXT) offers scholarships to international students who wish to study in Japanese universities, colleges of technology, and specialized training colleges under the Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarship Program for 2014. The first screening will be conducted by Myanmar Association of Japan Alumni (MAJA). For further information, please contact MAJA, Room (707), Pearl Condominium, Building C, Kaba-Aye Pagoa Road, Yangon (Ph: 01-534348 and 09-8612151) and mail: maja.ygn@gmail.com, MNA

New school buildings handed over

NATMAUK, 1 April—A ceremony to hand over new building named Bayintnaung was held at Basic Education High School in Natmauk of Magway Region on 23 March.

The building was constructed by No 2 Basic Education Department. The building with six classrooms is 12 feet high, 180 feet long and 30 feet wide. Construction of the building started on 12 December in 2012 and it cost K 64.5 million.

Managing Director U Zaw Ko of Aung Padetha Construction Co handed over documents related to the new building to Headmistress Daw Myint Myint Maw. U Zaw Ko also handed over documents related to the new building for PEBS in Kanpyo.

Myanmar-Netherlands discuss trade and economic cooperation

YANGON, 1 April—Vice-Presidents of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI) U Zaw Min Win and Dr Maung Maung Lay held talks with Mr. Johannes Andries BOER, Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to Myanmar at the UMFCCI headquarters Village of the township to Headmistress U Mya Hsang of Natmauk BEHS (Branch).

The building of Kanpyo BEPS is 12 feet high, 60 feet long and 30 feet wide. It cost K 21.5 million. The construction company donated four-room toilet for Bayintnaung school building and the fencing of Kanpyo BEPS.

Myanmar Alumn

Deputy Speaker U Nanda Kyaw Swa, Chairperson of Pyithu Hluttaw Rule of Law and Tranquility Committee Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, Chairman of Economic and Commerce Development Committee U Maung Maung Thein, Chairman of Agriculture, Livestock Breeding and Fishery Development Committee U Soe Naing, Public Management Committee U Maung Oo, the deputy minister for commerce, departmental heads, officials of Hluttaw offices and guests also attended.

T h o s e p r e s e n t participated in discussion and the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker made concluding remarks.—MNA
President U Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win host dinner to Singaporean President Dr Tony Tan Keng Yam and wife

Myanmar, Singapore First Ladies meet

Wushu referee course kicks off

Cooperation in philanthropic tasks discussed

Photo shows security members and local people patrolling at night in Yedashe Township of Bago Region recently. (Now peace and stability has been restored and local dwellers have resumed their daily activities peacefully, it is learnt.)

Pilots, co-pilots to have seven-year guarantee for job opportunities

Donate Blood
Israel guarantees energy supply with new gas project

JERUSALEM, 1 April—Natural gas from the Tamar Field started flowing in what Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu called an important day for the Israeli economy.

The Tamar field, located under the Mediterranean, some 90 km outside the northern Israeli city of Haifa, will transport gas to the city of Ashdod where it will connect to already existing gas infrastructure built in Yam Tatsi field.

There is an estimated 250 billion cubic metres of gas in Tamar, which is expected to make Israel energy independent until 2035. Until now, Israel has had to import coal and diesel to produce electricity, which is expensive and pollutive.

Sunday was indeed a great day for Israel and the country’s economy, said Eytan Seshinski, professor at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and the author of the Seshinski report which formed the basis for the Israeli government’s policy on gas revenue.

“Both the consumers and the government will benefit from the gas. The government in particular will have additional revenue from the taxation of the gas which has been imposed the so called excess profits tax, the Seshinski tax. It will give the government perhaps up to 30-40 billion US dollars in the future,” Seshinski told Xinhua.

He explained in accordance to a law, which the Israeli Knesset is set to pass, that the tax revenues from the gas will not be added directly to the government’s coffers but will be transferred to a sovereign wealth fund, the National Recourse Fund, which will be modeled on the fund established by Norway and Holland to handle their natural resource income by investing a certain low percentage of the funds wealth in the domestic economy, but the majority will be invested overseas to avoid inflation.

The day to day investments of the fund will be controlled by the Bank of Israel, but the objectives will be determined by a political board.

Nigerian troops impound vessel for alleged oil theft

YENAGOA, (Nigeria), 1 April—Nigerian troops operating in oil rich Niger Delta has impounded a vessel with 12 crew members along the Akassa Water Ways in Bayelsa.

Spokesperson for the Joint Military Task Force (JTF) Lt.-Col Onyema Nwachukwu disclosed this in a statement reaching Xinhua on Sunday, saying the vessel was seized during its anti-oil theft and pipeline vandalism operations.

Nwachukwu said the vessel MV Bayus with fake clearance documents was secured at the Nigerian Navy Dock Yard in Brass Local Government of Bayelsa. The suspects, according to the statement, have been handed over to the appropriate prosecuting agencies for further investigation and subsequent prosecution. He said the land patrol squads of the JTF had also intercepted four tanker trucks conveying suspected stolen petroleum products along Enugu-Port Harcourt Express Road.

The drivers and tanker trucks were arrested when they failed to produce documents certifying them for lifting of the product.

The JTF, however, urged oil firms operating in the Niger Delta region to collaborate and evacuate the reservoirs used by the oil thieves to deter the oil thieves from returning to the illicit trade. The Shell Petroleum Development Company had threatened to shut its Nembe Trunk line because of rising incidents of oil theft through its pipeline network in Bayelsa.

Mutiu Sumonu, the Managing Director of SPDC, on 4 March, urged the JTF to step up its activities to reduce oil theft, currently standing at about 60,000 barrels daily.

Three killed in 75-vehicle accident in Virginia

NEW YORK, 1 April—Three people were killed and 25 injured on Sunday in a 75-vehicle pile-up along a fog-shrouded stretch of Virginia highway, local media reports and the state’s department of transportation said.

The accident occurred at about 11:15 pm in the Fancy Gap Mountain area of Virginia, shutting down Interstate 77 in both directions, the Virginia Department of Transportation said.

It said the accident backed up traffic for eight miles.

Police said heavy fog was to blame for the accident.

Flash floods kill at least 10 people in Mauritius

PORT LOUIS, 1 April—At least 10 people have been killed in flash floods in Mauritius and more downpours could be on the way, officials and the Indian Ocean island’s meteorological service said on Sunday.

S Korea taps close Park associate Lee Byung Kee as Japan ambassador

SEOUL, 1 April — South Korean President Park Geun Hye has nominated Lee Byung Kee, adviser to a ruling party think tank, as the country’s new ambassador to Japan, the presidential office said on Sunday. Lee, 65, a former diplomat, is a close associate of Park in his capacity as adviser to the Yeouido Institute, a think tank for the Saenuri Party.

Lee also served as visiting professor at Japan’s Keio University and has close ties with Japan.

He will succeed Shin Kak Soo, the top South Korean diplomat in Japan since May 2011.—Kyodo News

Chinese Antarctic team returns to N Hemisphere

ON BOARD XUELONG-Ship, 1 April—Xuelong, the Chinese research vessel involved in an Antarctic expedition, crossed the equator and returned to the Northern Hemisphere on Sunday.

The Xuelong, or “Snow Dragon,” has so far sailed over 26,000 nautical miles, and is scheduled to anchor at Shanghai port on 9 April.

The icebreaker embarked on its expedition on 5 November last year.

The journey is the country’s 29th scientific expedition to Antarctica.—Xinhua

Rescuers work at the site where a landslide hit one section of Chongqing-Guiyang Railway in southwest China’s Guizhou province, on 31 March, 2013. The landslide caused 2 trains off-the-line and 5 trains rechanneled.—Xinhua

Three killed in 75-vehicle accident in Virginia

A Boeing 777-300ER flying from Beijing arrives at the John F. Kennedy International Airport in New York, on 31 March, 2013. Air China launched its second direct flight between Beijing and New York on Sunday, marking the company’s biggest expansion in the US. There will be 11 flights plying between Beijing and New York each week and all of them are new Boeing 777-300ERs.—Xinhua

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Japan manufacturers’ sentiment rises for 1st time in 3 qtrs

The BOJ surveyed 10,698 companies between 25 February and 29 March of which 98.9 percent responded. In the survey, big manufacturers anticipated that the US dollar will average 85.22 yen in fiscal 2013 through next March, compared with 80.56 yen estimated for the previous business year.—Kyodo News

537 killed in 54 bomb blasts across Pakistan during January-March

People ride bicycles to participate in the “Car Free Day” event in Ulan Bator, capital of Mongolia, on 31 March, 2013.—Xinhua

Dollar trades in lower 94 yen range in early Tokyo trading

Tokyo, 1 April—US dollar traded in the lower 94 yen range early Monday. At 7 am, the dollar fetched 94.25-32 yen compared with 94.20-30 yen in New York and 94.05-07 yen in Tokyo at 7 pm on Friday. The yen was quoted at 1.2804-2807 and 120.72-79 yen against $1.2851-2853 and 120.67-77 yen in New York and $1.2811-12812 in Tokyo late Friday afternoon.

Philippines pursues claims after stuck US ship removed from reef

MANILA, 1 April—The Philippine government vowed on Sunday to press for claims on the damaged Tubbataha Reef off Sulu Sea after the grounded US Navy ship was finally removed from the area Saturday.

Presidenti

**New Light of Myanmar**

Tuesday, 2 April, 2013

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Regional

New Light of Myanmar

Tokyo, 1 April—Business confidence among large Japanese manufacturers recovered in March from three months earlier, showing the first rise in three quarters, backed by a pickup in overseas economies and a weaker yen, but the improvement was not as great as many analysts had expected, the Bank of Japan’s key survey showed on Monday. The Tankan survey’s headline index measuring sentiment among big manufacturers such as carmakers and high-tech firms stood at minus 7, up from December’s minus 12. The latest figure was slightly lower than the average forecast of minus 7 in a Kyodo News survey. The quarterly survey said that sentiment among non-manufacturing companies such as those related to construction and services rose to plus 6, up from plus 4 in the previous quarter but lower than the average estimate of an increase to plus 8. The diffusion index represents the percentage of companies reporting favourable business conditions minus that of firms describing unfavourable environments. The central bank said large firms in all industries plan to reduce their capital spending by 2.0 percent in fiscal 2013 through next March from the previous year, against the average forecast of a rise of 0.6 percent. Looking ahead, nevertheless, both major manufacturers and non-manufacturers expect sentiment to improve in the next three months, with the index rising to minus 1 for manufacturers and plus 9 for non-manufacturers. The BOJ surveyed 10,698 companies between 25 February and 29 March of which 98.9 percent responded. In the survey, big manufacturers anticipated that the US dollar will average 85.22 yen in fiscal 2013 through next March, compared with 80.56 yen estimated for the previous business year.—Kyodo News

Tokyo, 1 April—The US dollar traded in the lower 94 yen range early Monday. At 9 am, the dollar fetched 94.28-32 yen compared with 94.20-30 yen in New York and 94.05-07 yen in Tokyo at 5 pm on Friday. The yen was quoted at 1.2804-2807 and 120.72-79 yen against $1.2851-2853 and 120.67-77 yen in New York and $1.2811-12812 in Tokyo late Friday afternoon.

The central bank’s closely watched report for March, released in the morning, said business confidence among large Japanese manufactures improved for the first time in three quarters.

Tokyo, 1 April—The second worst in incident occurred on 16 Feb in the same city, when a suicide bomber exploded his water-tanker-bomb car, targeted a snooker club in Quetta, killing at least 106 people, including nine policemen and 20 rescue workers. The second worst incident occurred on 16 Feb in the same city, when a suicide bomber exploded his water-tanker-bomb carrying some 1,000 kg explosives in a busy vegetable market and killed 89 civilians besides injuring over 170 others. In another terrorist attack on 2 March, at least 50 people were killed and 137 others injured when some unknown terrorists conducted a car bomb blast in a residential area in southern part city of Karachi.—Reuters

Pakistan's car-free day urges cycling instead

ULAN BATOR, 1 April—The Mongolian capital held a “Car-Free Day” on Sunday, calling on people to travel by bike in a bid to cut the city’s severe winter air pollution. Traffic congestion and environmental problems caused by vehicle emissions have become a thorny problem for the government. Sunday’s campaign, sponsored by Ulan Bator city hall and the Bicycle Federation, included bicycle touring, cycling performances, parade square running, children’s painting, health consultation and other activities. At the same time, organizers held a number of promotional activities to encourage people to travel by public transport, bicycle or walking. The main goal was to encourage people to drive less, or switch to low-emission or environmentally friendly cars. Despite heavy snow and the usual low temperatures for this time of year, many people took part in the “Car Free Day” activities. Ulan Bator has particularly long and cold winters, which requires homes to be heated eight months of the year, while 60 percent of residents live in shanty towns and use various kinds of fuel for heating, which cause air pollution. In recent years, Mongolia imported a large number of second-hand cars from Japan and South Korea, which has added to the pollution problem.—Xinhua

Philippines pursues claims after stuck US ship removed from reef

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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV KOTA RATNA VOY NO (885)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA RATNA VOY NO (885) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 1.4.2013 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: MS ADVANCE CONTAINER LIINES
Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV SINGAPORE BRIDGE VOY NO (036)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV SINGAPORE BRIDGE VOY NO (036) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 1.4.2013 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: MS SAMUDEERA SHIPPING LIINES
Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV ORA BHUM VOY NO (332)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV ORA BHUM VOY NO (332) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 2.4.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.
Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.
No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

SHIPping AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: MS REGIONAL CONTAINER LIINES
Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

Ethiopian Airlines launches new flights to two African cities

Adios Adaba, 1 April—The Ethiopian Airlines on Sunday commenced flights to its new routes in two African cities—Ndola of Zambia, and Blantyre of Malawi.
The launch of the new routes has raised the number of Ethiopian’s destinations to 46 on the African continent. Ndola, Zambia’s third largest city, has become the second destination of the Ethiopian Airlines in Zambia next to Lusaka, and so is Blantyre of Malawi next to Lilongwe.

Speaking on the occasion, Esayas Woldemariam, Chief Commercial Officer of the Ethiopian Airlines, said, the addition of the new routes and increasing African destinat ions by Ethiopian Airlines shows the Ethiopian’s commitment to linking the African continent to the rest of the world.

Esayas particularly told Xinhua that the Ethiopian Airlines is ever expanding its networks across the world. Reiterating that the Ethi opan has the largest network in Africa, the chief said its network expansion on the continent helps Africa better trade with itself and with out side the continent.

“We are launching a couple of destinations today in Africa which are Blantyre in Malawi as well as Ndola in Zambia although we have already Lusaka and Lilongwe in those countries. So, these are additions and it will make the total destination on African continent 46,” said Esayas.

“This is the testament of the Ethiopian commitment to the whole continent to discharge and fulfill our civic duties linking Africa to the rest of the world,” he noted.

Esayas also stated that with its large inter-Africa network the Ethiopian Air lines is trying to help Africa trade each other as well as foster relations and coopera tion among African countries on cultures, economics, and activities of import and export—Xinhua

Abu Dhabi bourse best Arab stock in first Quarter of 2013

Abu Dhabi, 1 April—The Abu Dhabi Securities Exchange General Index (ADXGI) has increased by 14.975 in the first quarter of this year, representing the highest increase among all Arab stock markets.
The ADXGI increased on Sunday by 0.25 percent, closing higher at 3,025.33 points. The index in Abu Dhabi is followed by the Kuwait Stock Exchange and the Dubai Financial Market.
“We expect from stocks in the emerging markets to perform better than their peers in the developed world this year, as the bond market reduced the return potential of fixed income,” said Mark McFarland, the chief investment strategist at bank Emirates NBD in Dubai.

Members of the Shaker Heights High School Band performed at Taksim square in Istanbul, Turkey, on 31 March, 2013. The band, having 201 student players, has started a nine-day tour from 27 March, stopping in six cities including Istanbul, Troy and Ephesus—Xinhua

Tuesday, 2 April, 2013
Britney Spears’ new boyfriend was made to sign a confidentiality agreement

New Delhi, 1 April—Singer Britney Spears, who split from her fiance Jason Trawick in January 2013, had her new love interest David Lucado undergo a background check and sign a non-disclosure contract before agreeing to go out with him despite being set up by her father and legal guardian Jamie Spears.

According to sources, SRK has been enquiring about Parineeti Chopra, prompting rumours that he might want to cast her in one of his upcoming projects.

Mumbai, 1 April—After she won the National Award for her performance in her debut film Ishqia, the bigwigs of Bollywood have started noticing Parineeti Chopra.

According to sources, Shah Rukh Khan has been asking around about Parineeti Chopra, prompting rumours that he might want to cast her in one of his upcoming projects.

A source said, “SRK is currently shooting in Wai and has been all praises for Parineeti. He has been asking about the kind of projects she has on hand right now.

He was also heard discussing about her recent achievements. He seems to be taking a keen interest in her.”

Another source said, “After she won the National Award, it is possible that SRK might want to do a film with her. Only that he might not want to do a female-centric project?—PTI

The “Beauty and the Beat” singer attempted to go through customs with the animal, but had to leave it at the airport following a discussion with officials on Saturday.

The authorities explained on Saturday.

Munich was a good time. And loud. The bus was packed. The “Beauty and the Beat” singer attempted to go through customs with the animal, but had to leave it at the airport following a discussion with officials on Saturday.

Munich, 1 April—Singer Britney Spears, who split from her fiance Jason Trawick in January 2013, had her new love interest David Lucado undergo a background check and sign a non-disclosure contract before agreeing to go out with him despite being set up by her father and legal guardian Jamie Spears.

A source told gossip website RadarOnline.com: “Jamie has known David for a while, and always thought he was a thoughtful, and an all-around good guy. Britney needed someone to keep her company after she and Jason (Trawick) broke up. It had to be a male, because Britney just doesn’t respond as well to females. And remember, she is still under a conservatorship. Before David started spending time with Brit, he had to undergo a background check, and sign a confidentiality agreement, all arranged by Papa Spears. Jamie makes sure if things go south between Jamie and Britney, details about her life wouldn’t be made public. David had absolutely no problem with it, and completely understood why it was being done.”

The 31-year-old singer — who shares sons Sean Preston, seven, and Jayden James, six, with her ex-husband Kevin Federline — has been spotted on several romantic outings with David, who works at a prestigious law firm in Southern California, recently. And insider revealed: “(He) genuinely cares for Britney.—PTI

Daniel Craig charges USD 1 million for 7 minutes appearance

New York, 1 April—James Bond star Daniel Craig was paid a whopping USD 1 million for a brief appearance at a car show.

Craig, 45, who attended the Range Rover event in New York, angered fans by leaving the venue just after seven minutes, reported Sun online.

“He didn’t even give a speech,” a guest said.

“I couldn’t even tell if he was actually here!” another guest added.

During the event Craig appeared in a video driving the 2014 Range Rover Sport.

The footage shows the car being driven from the company’s UK manufacturing plant into New York, crossing the Manhattan Bridge and ending up on the red carpet.—PTI

Daniel Craig attended the Range Rover event in New York and angered fans by leaving the venue just after seven minutes.

Justin Bieber’s monkey quarantined in Germany following Customs incident

Munich, 1 April—Justin Bieber tried to monkey around in Germany, literally — but officials are having none of it. Landing in Munich on 28 March for a concert, the 19-year-old pop superstar was forced to leave a capuchin monkey in quarantine after he failed to produce the necessary papers for the animal, authorities explained on Saturday.

The “Beauty and the Beat” singer attempted to go through customs with the animal, but had to leave it at the airport following a discussion with officials on Saturday.

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Murray goes to number two with Miami tie-break win over Ferrer

MIAMI, 1 April—Britain's Andy Murray defeated Spain's David Ferrer 6-2, 6-4, 7-6 in a gruelling and enthralling Sony Open final on Sunday to move above Roger Federer to second in the world rankings.

Murray was far from at his best against a dogged Ferrer but won the tie-break 7-1 after surviving a scare when the Spaniard broke 7-1 after surviving Federer but won the tie-break to second in the final when neither player could hold serve in the first six games.

But it was a gripping duel in the mid-day heat at Key Biscayne with neither player flinching as they scrapped to the end.

The victory was Murray's ninth in a Masters 1000 series event and the US Open and Olympic champion drew on all his reserves of energy to secure it. Ferrer, enjoying plenty of support from the many South Americans in the crowd, won the first set with solid tennis, making most of the openings offered by Murray.

The Spaniard won all three of his break points, while Murray committed 19 unforced errors, including four in the final game and gave up his third double fault on set point.

The second turned in Murray's direction when Ferrer double-faulted to 2-1 up and then, serving at 3-2 up, saved two break points. Ferrer broke back to level the set in the eighth game but Murray broke straight back and held to send the contest into a third set.

The two exchanged six breaks to begin the deciding set before Murray managed to hold to grab a 4-3 lead.

Britain's Andy Murray hoists the champion's trophy after defeating Spain's David Ferrer in their men's singles final match at the Sony Open tennis tournament in Key Biscayne, Florida on 31 March, 2013.

SPAIN'S DAVID FERRER

Reuters

Australia's Scott Hend charged from six-strokes back to win the inaugural Chiangmai Golf Classic presented by PTT by three strokes over a stunning eight-under-par 64 in the final round on Sunday.—PTI

CHIANGMAI, 1 April—Big-hitting Australian Scott Hend capitalised on Prayad Marksaeng's spectacular final-round meltdown to lift the Chiangmai Golf Classic on Sunday.

Thailand's Prayad blew a five-shot lead and the chance to win his second title this month when he carded a sparkling eight-under-par 64 for a total of 20-under-par 268 to win his third Asian title by three strokes. South Africa's Bryce Easton, playing his first Asian Tour event, also shot a 64 for a 17-under-271 to take second place while Prayad finished a shot further behind on third with a final-round two-over-par 74 at the Alpine Golf Resort Chiangmai.

LONDON, 1 April—Jordon Henderson and Steven Gerrard struck second-half goals for Liverpool who increased Aston Villa's Premier League relegation fears by recovering from going behind to secure a 2-1 away victory on Sunday.

Belgian striker Christian Benteke, with his 14th league goal of the season, fired Villa into a first-half lead but the game changed in the first 15 minutes of the second half.

Henderson equalised on 47 minutes and Gerrard scored with a penalty on the hour to leave Villa stuck in the bottom three.

Reading prop up the standings on 23 points from 31 games, with Queens Park Rangers, who play at Fulham on Monday, on 23 from 30. Villa have 30 from 31, with Wigan Athletic, sitting up there at the drop zone. Just four points separate the top two teams with Villa having 30 from 31, with Wigan Athletic, sitting up there at the drop zone.

LIVERPOOL INCREASE VILLA'S RELEGATION WORRIES

Reuters

Australian's Hend soars to three-shot victory in Thailand

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Reuters

Cancellara makes up for crash with Flanders win

OUDENAARDE, (Belgium), 1 April—Fabian Cancellara wiped out last year’s bad memories when he powered his way to his second victory in the Tour of Flanders cycle race on Sunday.

A year ago, on the same 256 kms of exhausting hills and cobbled sections, the Swiss former Olympic and world time-trial champion hit the tarmac as he rode over a bottle 60 kms from the finish line in Oudenaarde.

He fractured his collarbone, forcing him to miss the “Ronde” and the Paris-Roubaix the following weekend.

Twelve months later, Cancellara timed his move to perfection, striking 14 kms from the finish line to shake off his only rival on the day, Slovakia’s Peter Sagan, and snatch the laurels three years after his previous victory in the Belgian classic.

“It’s just amazing. One year ago, I was on the ground and now I’m back and I won Flanders as a big favourite. It was not easy. I’m just happy, really happy,” said the Swiss, now ever-present in the top flight.

Teammate Tom Boonen’s season ended after the three-times Ronde winner hit a kerb after 19 kms and dropped out with a groin and arm injuries.

RadioShack team rider Fabian Cancellara of Switzerland celebrates winning the 97th Ronde van Vlaanderen (Tour of Flanders) Classic cycling race in Oudenaarde on 31 March, 2013.—Reuters

RIO DE JANEIRO, 1 April—Jamaica’s champion sprinter Usain Bolt cruised to victory in a 150-metres race held on Rio’s Copacabana beach.

Bolt said he was happy with the result, calling it a “good start” to the season and saying he was looking forward to returning to Brazil for the 2016 Summer Olympics.

Some 3,000 spectators attended the event, at a track set up on a beach popular with tourists, eager to watch Bolt and the other sprinters compete in the rarely-raced distance.

After crossing the finish line, Bolt took off his shoes and hurled one of them into the stands. He later regretted the move when he felt how hot the track was and asked for a replacement.
**General**

**12 killed, 14 injured in road accident in Mexico**

MEXICO CITY, 1 April—At least 12 people died and 14 more were injured when a bus fell into a 100-metre deep ravine in Mexico’s eastern state of Veracruz Saturday night, local authorities said on Sunday in a statement.

The government of Veracruz, a state located in Mexico’s eastern coast, confirmed that so far 12 people have died and 14 more are injured. The cause of the accident is still under investigation.

According to the statement, four women and eight men were killed. The bus had some 30 passengers when the accident occurred.

The injured were taken to local hospitals in Jalapa. Authorities said among those hospitalized, there are a 4-year-old boy and a 5-year-old girl.

The bus was travelling from Misantla municipality to Jalapa, Veracruz’s capital city, when a van suddenly switched to the bus’s lane, causing it to fall in the ravine in Naolino municipality, near its final destination.

Poor visibility caused by thick fog was blamed for the accident. Javier Durante, governor of Veracruz, sent condolences and ordered immediate support for the families of the victims.

**Three killed in building fire near Paris**

PARIS, 1 April—Three people were killed and 13 were injured on Saturday night in a building fire in Aubervilliers, near Paris, French newspaper Le Figaro reported on Sunday.

Residents reported disputes in the apartment building in Aubervilliers, Seine-Saint-Denis. The fire broke out shortly after 22:00 local time (GMT 2100) on the third floor and spread to the fourth.

Four were critically injured among the 13 wounded. Twenty people were treated for smoke inhalation.

Approximately 200 firefighters were called to the scene and the flames were under control by 23:45 (GMT 2245). Sixty residents who survived the fire were installed in a bar nearby and a gym, Le Figaro said.

The cause of the accident was unknown in the middle of the night.—Xinhua

**Five killed in South African helicopter crash**

JOHANNESBURG, 1 April — A South African Air Force (SAAF) helicopter crashed on Saturday night, leaving five people dead, the South African Press Association reported on Sunday.

The tragedy occurred as the A109 helicopter was on a routine patrol over the Kruger National Park in the northeastern province of Limpopo at around 7:00 pm local time on Saturday, the SAAF was quoted as saying.

“It was part of the anti-poaching operation,” the SAAF said.

The Kruger park is the largest reserve in South Africa, where live many endangered animals of rhino. However, some of the rinos would be targeted and killed by poachers every month due to the rampant smuggling of horns.

Poachers mostly operate at or near moon, and the park has to request the air force to use helicopters to combat them.

“The A109 helicopter lost its control, killing five people on board,” added the SAAF.

The cause of the fatal air accident was not clear, and the SAAF was investigating it.

The twin-turbine helicopter, developed by Italy in the 1970s, is capable of carrying out multiple aerial missions with eight people on board.

South Africa’s Department of Defence and Military Veterans and the SAAF expressed their heartfelt condolences to the families of the deceased.—Xinhua

**Giant panda Mei Xiang artificially inseminated at US National Zoo**

WASHINGTON, 1 April—Veterinarians at the National Zoo artificially inseminated the zoo’s female giant panda, Mei Xiang, on Saturday after natural breeding failed to occur, zoo keepers said.

Mei Xiang was put under general anesthesia and inseminated with a combination of fresh semen and frozen semen collected from the zoo’s male giant panda, Tuan Tian.

**Children collect Easter eggs in a park in Brussels, Belgium, on 31 March, 2011. 10 parks in Brussels held Easter egg hunt on Sunday. Xinhua**

The Washington zoo said scientists performed a second and final insemination later on Saturday evening.

“It will be several months before we know if she is pregnant,” the National Zoo said in a tweet.

Veterinarians detected a rise in hormone levels on Tuesday, indicating Mei Xiang was ready to breed but said “no competent breeding” between the panda pair had occurred.

“We are hopeful that our breeding efforts will be successful this year, and we’re encouraged by all the behaviours and hormonal data we’ve seen so far,” said Dave Wildt, head of the Centre for Species Survival at the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute.

Scientists will continue to monitor Mei Xiang’s hormone levels in the coming months and conduct ultrasounds to determine whether she is pregnant. A pregnancy lasts between 95 and 160 days, they said.

Mei Xiang has given birth to two cubs. One died a week after its birth last year. The other, Tai Shan, was born in 2005 and is now at the China Conservation and Research Centre for the Giant Panda in Wolong.—Reuters

**Bayern crush Hamburg 9-2 to strive towards title**

BERLIN, 1 April — League leaders Bayern Munich demolished Hamburg SV 9-2 with four goals from striker Claudio Pizarro and two from Arjen Robben on Saturday to put one hand on the Bundesliga trophy with seven games to play.

With a dazzling performance that will act as a warning to Italy’s Juventus ahead of their Champions League quarter-final next week, Bayern, rested several key players, could have celebrated their 23rd German league title were it not for Borussia Dortmund’s Robert Lewandowski.

The Poland striker scored a late winner earlier on Saturday to give the champions a narrow 2-1 victory at VfB Stuttgart and put Bayern’s title campaign on ice for at least another week.

**Xavi and Alba back for Barca’s PSG trip after injury**

MADRID, 1 April—Barcelona’s Xavi and Jordi Alba have both recovered from hamstring strains and were included in their squad on Sunday for the trip to play Paris St Germain in the Champions League quarter-finals.

The duo returned injured from international duty with Spain – Alba after the World Cup qualifying draw with Finland a week ago, and Xavi after helping the world champions to get a 1-0 win away to France.

**Bayern Munich’s Arjen Robben celebrates a goal against HSV Hamburg during their German Bundesliga first division soccer match in Munich on 30 March, 2013. Reuters**

They were left out of the leaders’ squad for their 2-2 draw away to Celta Vigo in La Liga on Saturday.

Coach Tito Vilanova took charge of Sunday’s training session as he steadily works his way back into the job after two months in New York receiving cancer treatment. Vilanova returned to Barcelona last week and missed the Celta game but, all being well, is expected to travel to Paris with the team for Tuesday’s first leg.—Reuters
President U Thein Sein welcomes Singaporean President Dr Tony Tan Keng Yam and wife

**China Arts and Entertainment Group supplies technical assistance for XXVII SEA Games**

Chairman of the Leading Committee for Preparation of XXVII South-East Asian Games Union Minister for Culture U Aye Myint Kyaw held a cordial discussion with Mr Li Shizhong and party of China Arts and Entertainment Group, that will supply the leading committee with technical assistance for opening and closing ceremonies of the SEA Games, together with technicians at the Ministry of Culture, here, this morning. They coordinated matters on electrical equipment to be used in the opening and closing ceremonies of the upcoming SEA Games. During their two-day visit to Myanmar, the Chinese guests will hold coordination meetings on technical assistance for opening and closing ceremonies of the XXVII SEA Games. **MNA**

**Kyaikmaraw Township gets inter-village street and free clinic**

With the aim of ensuring smooth transportation and rapid commodities flow in villages of Kyaikmaraw Township in Mon State, the opening of Mayangon-Tawin Myint Myat Thu Co formally opened the new inter-village street. The chief minister and party strolled along the tarred street. Two miles and four furlongs long and twelve feet wide street was built by Tawin Myint Myat Thu Co and it will be beneficial for dwellers from Kyaikmaraw, Peinnegon, Khaunag and Yedwingon Village-Tracts. The chief minister also attended the opening of free clinic in Kyaikmaraw Township. The State chief minister together with clinic organizing committee chairman cut the ribbon to open the new clinic building. The chief minister then made a speech and the state development affairs minister presented the certificates of honour to wellwishers. **MNA**

**NHK, AP open Yangon branches**

Since the President U Thein Sein-led government has taken office, the country has enjoyed more press freedom allowing foreign news agencies freedom of access to information in the country freely.

For the convenience of foreign news agencies, Japan-based NHK and US-based AP news agencies have been allowed to open their branches in Yangon as of 1 April. **MNA**

**Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham receives Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar**

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham received the credentials of Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Yang Houlan at Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace, here, this morning. Present also at the call were Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Thant Kyaw and officials of the President Office. They exchanged views on strengthening bilateral friendship between the two countries, promotion of friendship and amity based on same points of the two countries religiously and culturally, stability of border region to get the full benefit in the regional and bilateral interest, settlement of national races affairs with Union spirit for ensuring initial peace agreement as a ceasefire has been reached in the northern part of Myanmar, sooner implementation of demining and rehabilitation works with the help of international aid and economic cooperation and bilateral trade. **MNA**

**President U Thein Sein and President of the Republic of Singapore Dr Tony Tan Keng Yam inspect the Guard of Honour.**

The chief minister and wife received warm welcome by President U Thein Sein and wife. Then, the two Presidents took position on the dais to take salute of the Guard of Honour. The State Band played the National Anthems of Myanmar and Singapore.

The two Presidents inspected the Guard of Honour.

The Singaporean President introduced the goodwill delegation members to the President. The President also introduced Union Ministers U Winna Maung Lwin, U Thein Nyunt, U Tin Naing Thein, Dr Kan Zaw, U Kyaw Lwin, U Htay Aung and Myanmar Ambassador to Singapore U Tin Oo Lwin to the Singaporean President.

At the welcoming ceremony, the two Presidents were honoured by scouts from Nay Pyi Taw No 5 Basic Education High School waving the state flags of the two countries.—**MNA**