President U Thein Sein leaves for China to attend Boao Forum for Asia 2013

Nay Pyi Taw, 5 April—President U Thein Sein left here for Boao of Hainan Island of the People’s Republic of China by Myanmar Airways International Special Flight this morning to attend Boao Forum for Asia 2013 to be held there and to pay a goodwill visit. Myanmar delegation led by the President were seen off at Nay Pyi Taw Airport by Vice-Presidents Dr Sai Mauk Kham and U Nyan Tun, Chief of the General Staff (Army, Navy and Air) General Hla Htay Win, the Union Ministers, Charge d’Affaires ai Mr Lu Zhi of Chinese Embassy in Myanmar and departmental officials.

The President was accompanied by Union Ministers U Wunna Maung Lwin, U Tin Naing Thein, U Than Htay, Dr Kan Zaw and Dr Myint Aung, Deputy Minister Dr Win Myint and departmental heads.

The President arrived in Sanya City of Hainan Province of the People’s Republic of China at 1:20 pm local time today.

On his arrival at Sanya International Airport, he was welcomed by Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr. Le Yucheng, Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Yang Houlan, Special Envoy on Asia Affairs Mr. Wang Yinfang, Myanmar Ambassador to China U Tin Oo, embassy staff and officials concerned from the People’s Government of Hainan Province.

The President then proceeded to MGM Grand Hotel of Sanya where he will stay.

Bay Inference

Nay Pyi Taw, 5 April—Weather is partly cloudy to cloudy in the Andaman Sea and South Bay and partly cloudy elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Outlook for subsequent two days

Likelihood of slight decrease of day temperatures in the Southern Myanmar areas.—NLM

Tender proposals of telecommunication operators scrutinized

Nay Pyi Taw, 5 April—Telecommunication Operator Tender Scrutiny Committee scrutinized the documents of 22 international telecommunication operators yesterday. It is set to grant two permits so as to provide communication service across the country. The scrutiny committee will announce the name list of those that passed pre-qualification application process on 11 April.—MNA

Shan State blessed with picturesque mountains and rivers is the largest and widest state in Myanmar, covering an area of 61123 square miles with wildlife sanctuaries and natural regions. Taunggyi bird sanctuary established in 1920 is located in Taunggyi, covering an area of 6.20 square miles. It serves as the habitat of the resident bird species and dry hill forest ecosystem.

Established in 1985, Inlay Lake wetland sanctuary lies between Nyaungshwe, Pmalaung and Phene township, covering an area of 247.45 square miles. It is the ideal place for wetland ecosystem study and the home to water birds and hibernating birds.

Loimhmwe natural region in Kengtung Township covers an area of 16.54 square miles and was set up in 1996. It is a haven for bear and bird species. Panlaing and Pyadalin Cave wildlife sanctuary, established in 2002 is located in Ywangan Township, covering an area of 128.88 square miles. It shelters leopards, wild goats, monkey, bird and orchid species and is also a tourist destination of eco-tourism.

Shweohdaung wildlife sanctuary lies between Thabeikkyin and Mogok townships, covering an area of 45.55 square miles. It was established in 1927 and serves as the habitat of conservation of elephant, bantam, gaur, wild goats, monkey and bird species.

Byline: Min Khant Soe (Kyemon) Photo: Aung Kyaw Win (Kyemon)

Spectacular Shan State

President U Thein Sein being welcomed at Sanya International Airport of PRC by Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr. Le Yucheng and party.—MNA

President U Thein Sein being seen off at Nay Pyi Taw Airport by Vice-Presidents Dr Sai Mauk Kham and U Nyan Tun and party.—MNA

MNA

MNA

Byline: TKK
Cash and kind donations for Meiktila victims

Sayadaw Ashin Chandhika and members of Myanmar Motion Picture Organization led by chairman U Zin San, movie and video stars and social activists presented clothing and cash donation for victims in temporary relief camps in Meiktila through the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement.

K 5.8 million by MMPO and clothing worth K 15 million by social activists. Next, the Sayadaw and party including movie stars Zin San, Pyai Ti Oo, Wai Lu Kyaw, Moe Aung Yin, Eindra Kyaw Zin, Aye Myat Thu and Moe Hay Koon went to relief camps where they comforted the victims.

Shwepyitha, Lanmadaw Townships start to take pilot census-taking

Yangon, 5 April — Among 20 townships where pilot census taking are going to be carried out, Shwepyitha Township and Lanmadaw Township started taking census on 30 March. It lasts till 10 April.

The ceremony to set up a signboard “Mass participation in nationwide census taking process” took place at No (23/25) on Phonegyi street in ward-5 of Lanmadaw Township. In taking pilot census, the ward where there are 700 households living in 260 buildings is divided into five zones. An educational staff of U Sai Salam, as she had given birth to her fourth child before giving birth to triplets.

Mongkai mom gives birth to triplets

Mongkai, 5 April — A young woman gave birth a set of healthy triplets one by one under the special care of health staff led by Dr Aye Naing, Head of Mongkai Township Health Department, at Mongkai Township People’s Hospital on 29 March.

Daw Nan Kyar Yon, 24, of Wammi Village in Mongkai Township of Loileum District of Shan State gave birth to triplets one after another at 12.30, 12.34 and 12.36 pm.

It was the fifth time for Daw Nan Kyar Yon, wife of U Sai Salam, as she had given birth to her fourth child before giving birth to triplets.

Uncontrolled light truck kills unknown woman

Yangon, 5 April — An unknown woman was killed in a crash involved a light truck and a trishaw she rode on Bayintnaung road in Hline Township, here, at about 5.30 am on 29 March.

The light truck driven by Zaw Min Htaik veered onto the wrong side of the road out of control and collided head-on with the trishaw on the opposite lane near Shwe Thanwin Pagoda which was stationary by the side of Strand road near Ohndaw 3rd street for repair. The motorcyclist was pronounced dead on the spot at the scene of the incident.

Myoma police station opened a case about the incident.

Trash fire in Sittway University campus

Sittway, 5 April — A fire broke out in the Sittway University campus at about 10.50 am on 30 March. The cause of the fire was due to the trash in the compound. There was no report of property damage or casualties. Fire crews accompanied by two fire trucks and one supportive vehicle of Sittway Township fire services department battled the fire and put it out at about 11.30 am in cooperation with security members and Tatmadawmen.

The fire swept through about one acre, destroying small trees in the compound. There was no report of property damage and casualties. The fire was likely caused by a lighted cigarette or cheroot which was carelessly thrown on the trash.
Japan, US to say moving Futenma possible in FY 2022 or later

Tokyo, 5 April—Japan and the United States are likely to outline a timetable for relocating the US Marine Corps Futenma Air Station in Okinawa Prefecture beginning fiscal 2022 or later in their forthcoming plan for returning land used by the US military, Japanese sources said on Friday.

Moving the air base out of the densely populated city of Ginowan on the main island of Okinawa and returning the land used for the facility to Japanese control will be contingent, however, on the relocation of Futenma’s flight functions elsewhere in the prefecture, according to the sources.

The Japanese government is expected to announce the plan after Prime Minister Shinzo Abe meets with US Ambassador to Japan John Roos at the Prime Minister’s office and signs off on it late Friday afternoon.

Under the plan to be agreed on between the two countries, Japan and the United States envision returning in fiscal 2025 or later most of the land in Okinawa Prefecture south of the US Kadena Air Base used for five US military facilities and areas.

The plan will say that work will start during the fiscal year that began on April 1, 2012, the sources said.

Returning the land used as the Futenma Air Station to Japan is contingent on Futenma’s relocation to a coastal area of Nago, another city on the main Okinawa island, under an agreement between Japan and the United States.—Kyodo News

US sends F/A-18 warplanes to Philippine military drills

MANILA, 5 April—Washington is in this week deploying a dozen F/A-18 fighters to the Philippines, the first time it has sent so many of the aircraft there, to take part in annual military drills with a close security ally amid rising tension in the Asia-Pacific region.

The presence of the warplanes is not connected to tensions on the Korean peninsula, a Philippine army spokesman said.

These exercises were planned more than a year ago, well ahead of what is now happening in the region,” Maj. Emmanuel Garcia said.

The United States plans to send a missile defence system to protect Pacific island Guam, where it has a large military base, after North Korea threatened to launch nuclear attacks on the North American mainland over disagreements on its atomic programme.

The bilateral military activities will begin on Friday with 8,000 American and Filipino troops staging mock battles and simulating disaster responses, army spokesman Garcia said.

The war games are being held to test the two allies’ defence plans based on the Mutual Defence Treaty, an important link in Washington’s chain of security alliances in the Asia-Pacific region. The US has similar military arrangements with South Korea, Japan, Singapore and Australia.—Reuters

Syria’s humanitarian crisis worsening rapidly

BEIRUT, 5 April—The humanitarian situation in Syria is worsening rapidly with some areas a landscape of “devastation and destruction”, the Red Cross said on Thursday after a month which activists said was the bloodiest yet in the conflict.

About 70,000 people have been killed and millions displaced during the two-year-old uprising, the United Nations says. Civilians have been cut off from water, electricity and life-saving medical supplies, especially in rebel-held areas targeted by air strikes and ballistic missiles.

The Syrian government’s restrictions on aid convoys have meant most supplies are distributed in government-held areas.

Peter Maurer, President of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), said aid workers had been able to do more make trips into opposition-held areas in the past two weeks, indicating Damascus may be softening its stance on convoys into such territory.

He said the workers were “not pleasantly surprised” by what they found in areas accessible for the first time, with the need for food, sanitation, water and medicine increasing.

“We saw devastation and destruction,” he said.

“What we were able to achieve is not enough. The needs are growing exponentially while our ability to react is growing linearly,” he said.

Convoys and volunteers for the Syrian Arab Red Crescent — the ICRC’s partner in Syria — have been targeted during the civil war by both sides, who are suspicious of the group’s neutrality. Several volunteers have been killed or injured.

Maurer called for aid groups to be respected.

“When we have a convoy on the road from Damascus to any part of Syria it is of the utmost importance that this convoy is allowed to pass checkpoints and is not shot at,” he said at the end of a three-day visit to neighboring Lebanon, which has 400,000 Syrian refugees.

Laotian campaigners call for world without landmines in UN address

NEW YORK, 5 April—A man who lost his hand to a landmine as a child in Laos, and Manixia Thor (C), a member of an all-female bomb-clearing team in the country, speak at the UN headquarters in New York on 4 April, 2013, International Mine Awareness Day.

KYODO NEWS

Thoummy Silamphan (R), who lost his hand to a landmine as a child in Laos, and Manixia Thor (C), a member of an all-female bomb-clearing team in the country, speak at the UN headquarters in New York on 4 April, 2013, International Mine Awareness Day.

NEW YORK, 5 April—A man who lost his hand to a landmine as a child and a member of an all-female bomb-clearing team in Laos urged a United Nations panel to rid the world of the deadly weapons on Thursday at a UN conference room, which included diplomats, UN officials and students.

“The bombings of Laos were secret, but the legacy of those bombings shouldn’t be,” he said.

From 1964 to 1973, the United States carried out a secret war in Laos, ultimately dropping more than two million tons of ordinance and making the country the most heavily bombed per capita in history, according to Legacies of War, a US based organization that is raising awareness about the bombing missions carried out during the Vietnam era.

KYODO NEWS

Putin, Obama meet at G8 summit

NEW YORK, 5 April—Russian President Vladimir Putin will meet US counterpart Barack Obama on the sidelines of the upcoming G8 summit in June, a Kremlin aide said on Thursday.

“I would like to stress that the presidents have agreed for certain to hold a meeting associated with the G8 summit in Northern Ireland,” Yury Ushakov told reporters.

He did not rule out the possibility that the presidents would meet during a G20 summit in St Petersburg due in September.

The official said Putin had reaffirmed an official invitation to Obama during a recent telephone conversation.

“The US National Security Advisor Thomas Donilon will come to Moscow and send some signals on this account as well,” the Interfax news agency quoted him as saying.

Both sides agreed to make “essential preparations” so that the meeting in Northern Ireland would be “substantive,” Ushakov said.

He said the possible meeting between Putin and Obama during the visit to Northern Ireland from 15 April would depend on Putin’s schedule.

Xinhua

Putin, Obama to meet at G8 summit

Moscow, 5 April—Russian President Vladimir Putin will meet his US counterpart Barack Obama on the sidelines of the upcoming G8 summit in June, a Kremlin aide said on Thursday. Putin would meet US President during a meeting associated with the G8 summit in Northern Ireland, Yury Ushakov told reporters.

A boy sits by the side of a crater that activists said was caused by a bomb dropped by a Syrian Air Force fighter jet loyal to President Bashar al-Assad in Yalduzeh area in Deraa on 30 March, 2013.

REUTERS

Arab Red Crescent — the ICRC’s partner in Syria — have been targeted during the civil war by both sides, who are suspicious of the group’s neutrality. Several volunteers have been killed or injured.

Maurer called for aid groups to be respected.

“When we have a convoy on the road from Damascus to any part of Syria it is of the utmost importance that this convoy is allowed to pass checkpoints and is not shot at,” he said at the end of a three-day visit to neighboring Lebanon, which has 400,000 Syrian refugees.

REUTERS
Deadly new bird flu vindicates controversial research

LONDON, 5 April — Scientists in the Dutch city of Rotterdam know precisely what it takes for a bird flu to mutate into a potential human pandemic strain — because they’ve created just such mutant viruses in the laboratory.

So as they watch with some trepidation the emergence in China of a strain of bird flu previously unknown in humans, they also argue it vindicates their controversial decision to conduct these risky experiments despite fierce opposition.

Above all else, what the world needs to know about this new strain of H7N9 bird flu is how likely it is to be able to spread efficiently among human populations.

And according to Ab Osterhaus, a world leading flu researcher who is head of viroscience of the Erasmus Medical Centre in the Netherlands, studies his team and another in the United States have been looking for the best way to find out.

“At the moment we don’t know whether we should go for a full-blown alert or whether we can sit back and say this is just a minor thing,” Osterhaus told Reuters in a telephone interview.

“To answer that, we need to know what this virus needs to become transmissible.”

With 10 cases of the new H7N9 bird flu confirmed in people in China since Sunday, including four deaths, Beijing is mobilizing resources against the threat.

Japan and Hong Kong said they had also stepped up vigilance against the virus, and Vietnam banned imports of Chinese poultry.

The scientific work that can answer key risk questions is known as “gain of function” or GOF research. Its aim is to identify combinations of genetic changes, or mutations, that allow an animal virus to jump to humans.

By finding the mutations needed, researchers and ultimately health authorities are better prepared to assess how likely it is that a new virus could become dangerous and if so how soon they should begin developing drugs, vaccines and other scientific defences.

Yet such work is highly controversial.

When two teams of scientists announced in late 2011 they had found out how to make a another strain of bird flu — H5N1 — into a form that could spread between people, alarm bells rang so loudly at the US National Science Advisory Board for Biosecurity (NSABB) that it took the unprecedented step of seeking to censor publication of the studies.

In a series of GOF experiments, the scientists induced mutations into the H5N1 virus that made it transmissible among mammals through droplets in the air.

A patient with fever (R) is accompanied by a family member while receiving treatment at the hospital where a 67-year-old H7N9 patient is being treated, in Hangzhou, Zhejiang Province, on 3 April, 2013.—Reuters

Wi-Fi-enabled digital cameras proving to be a hit already

MUMBAI, 5 April — Sales of digital cameras that enable users to immediately post pictures on the web have risen sharply in Asia despite stiff competition from smartphones, an industry survey showed on Thursday.

Market research company GfK said sales of Wi-Fi-enabled cameras in 13 major Asian markets including Japan and China rose 52 percent from the year before to 8.44 million units in 2012 with a total value of $2.74 billion.

While Wi-Fi-enabled digital stills cameras have been around since 2005, GfK said sales have only picked up in the past two years as manufacturers widened the range of models available and prices fell due to competition. There are currently 160 models of Wi-Fi ready cameras in the market, it said.

“The introduction of the WiFi feature in cameras is definitely a right step forward to stimulate and boost the camera market in this Internet age,” Gerard Tan, account director for digital technology at GfK Asia, said in a statement.—PTI

Samsung Electronics Q1 profit guidance beats street view

SEOUL, 5 April — Samsung Electronics Q1 profit guidance beats market expectations, its January-March operating profit rose 53 percent to $2 billion, a person familiar with the situation said.

The guidance, released ahead of full quarterly results by 26 April, was better than an average forecast for 8.3 trillion won in a poll of 42 analysts by Thomson Reuters IB/E/S.

That marks the end of five straight quarters of record profits for the world’s biggest technology firm by revenue. But analysts say earnings will hit a new high in the current quarter as Samsung’s Galaxy S IV smartphone hits the market this month.

The Galaxy S and Note series have fuelled Samsung’s record-breaking earnings growth and made it the No 2 player in the global premium smartphone segment after Apple Inc (AAPL.O). But as the high-end market swarms with new offerings, Samsung is turning to less affluent customers in emerging markets, offering cheaper models such as the Rex and Galaxy Pop, analysts said.

Samsung capitalised on its 30-plus smartphone models that cover nearly all price points to boost shipments to a record in the first quarter while the post-year end holiday season sapped sales at rival Apple, according to the analysis.

Samsung, valued at around $220 billion, estimates its first-quarter sales at $2 trillion won, versus a market forecast for 5.3 trillion won.—Reuters

Major telcos and investor Soros set sights on Myanmar

LONDON, 5 April — China Mobile(0941.HK), Vodafone(VOD.L) and a group backed by George Soros entered the race to secure a mobile licence in Myanmar, as the battle to operate in one of the last major untapped markets kicked off.

The Chinese and British groups, the first and second-largest operators in the world respectively, said on Thursday they had formed a consortium to bid for a licence in Myanmar, where the government wants to increase the number of mobile operators from two to four.

In a separate consortium, Denis O’Brien’s Digicel joined forces with investor George Soros’ Quantum Strategic Partners and Serge Pun, a well known business leader in Myanmar.

That consortium is looking at an initial project investment of between $1.5 billion and $2 billion, a person familiar with the situation said.

The groups made their intentions known as the deadline for pre-qualification applications closed, joining the likes of Africa’s largest mobile phone company, South Africa’s MTN(NMNTJ.J), India’s top mobile operator Bharti Airtel(BRTL.NS) and Singapore’s SingTel(TEL.SI) in expressing an interest.

The presence of such big names reflects the wider interest in the country, where civilian government took over in 2011, setting off a wave of political and economic reforms.

Myanmar, where SIM cards are prohibitively expensive, has said it hopes to increase mobile penetration from 5-10 percent to 80 percent in three years, lifting it off the bottom of the world’s ladder of mobile use.

The country stands out as a rare opportunity in international telecommunication operators battle stagnant markets in Europe and cut growth but very low prices in emerging markets.

“When a comparitively young and highly literate population of around 60 million, a GDP growth rate of 5.5 percent per annum and mobile phone penetration currently below 10 percent … Myanmar will be an important new market for the global mobile industry,” Vodafone said.

HP chairman Lane resigns

Whitworth takes over for now

SAN FRANCISCO, 5 April — Hewlett-Packard (HPIQ.N) Chairman Ray Lane, who has come under fire from shareholders for his role in the acquisition of software company Autonomy Plc, has stepped down, the company said on Thursday, in a shake-up that will usher in two to three new board members.

Hewlett Packard Executive Chairman and Kleiner Perkins managing partner Ray Lane poses at his home in Atherton, California on 11 November, 2011.—Reuters

Director and activist investor Ralph Whitworth will become interim chairman until a permanent replacement is found. The action comes weeks after the Kleiner Perkins managing partner, who will remain a director, narrowly won re-election at the personal computer maker’s annual shareholders’ meeting with less than 60 percent of voting shares compared with 96 percent a year ago.

Two other directors who kept their seats with narrow margins, G Kennedy Thompson and John Hammergren, will exit the board, leaving the company looking for two to three new, independent replacements. Lane is one of the most prominent casualties of an acquisition that has incensed investors, who have publicly upbraided the company for paying $11 billion for Autonomy and for failing to conduct proper due diligence.—Reuters

People look at devices at the Samsung stand at the Mobile World Congress in Barcelona, on 25 Feb, 2013.—Reuters

A couple uses a mobile phone on the side of a street in Yangon, on 7 March, 2013.—Reuters

A patient with fever (R) is accompanied by a family member while receiving treatment at the hospital where a 67-year-old H7N9 patient is being treated, in Hangzhou, Zhejiang Province, on 3 April, 2013.—Reuters
Bank of England keeps policy steady despite new remit

LONDON, 5 April — The Bank of England decided not to pump fresh money into its stagnant economy on Thursday, despite a new remit that gives it more leeway to disregard above-target inflation.

Further stimulus may still be in the mix, however, after Chancellor George Osborne tweaked the central bank’s mandate two weeks ago.

He gave the bank stronger backing to ignore the series of off-one factors that have kept inflation above target for most of the time since the financial crisis.

The remit also paves the way for a broader review of the Bank of England’s monetary policy framework, which currently heads Canada’s central bank, succeeds BoE Governor Mervyn King in July. But for now there is no majority on the nine-member Monetary Policy Committee to add to the 375 billion pounds of government bonds it bought between March 2009 and October 2012, in line with economics. Interest rates remained at a record low 0.5 percent.

The British central bank’s decision contrasts with that of the Bank of Japan, which has been under more overt political pressure to stimulate its economy. It shocked markets earlier on Thursday when it pledged to double its government bond holdings within two years.

Although King and two other policymakers backed restarting the BoE’s asset-buying quantitative easing programme in early March, there has been no sign of a softening in the opposition of the other six members, who are more concerned about inflation and sterling weakness. Sterling strengthened slightly against the dollar and June gilt futures fell to a session low after the bank’s decision, as economists had expected the Bank to maintain its stance.

But economists think more stimulus is likely later in 2013, even though the central bank has published a quarterly update to its economic forecasts next month or after the Bank’s release.

“Although the MPC left policy on hold again today, we suspect that the decision was still a close one. While the chances of more asset purchases in May have perhaps declined, Osborne tweaked the central bank’s mandate two weeks ago. The Bank of England keeps policy steady despite new remit.

Toyota seeks to avoid midlife crisis for youthful Scion brand

DETROIT, 5 April — Toyota Motor Corp (7203.T) executives are weighing a potential spin-off of Scion as a line of premium small cars as they debate the youth brand’s future in the United States.

A decade after its launch as a way to lure younger buyers into Toyota showrooms, Scion is still a work in progress as it looks to rebound from low sales during the recession. The brand is a relatively small seller for Toyota, with its five models selling 73,500 vehicles last year. That compares with Toyota’s four-car Prius line, which sold almost 237,000.

The Japanese automaker’s top executives concede that Scion is at a crossroads of sorts.

“There’s still debate on where we should go from here,” Jim Lentz, Toyota’s newly appointed chief executive of North America, told Reuters in a recent interview.

“One of the alternatives is we’ve always felt that there’s going to be a segment created of premium small cars in the US,” he added. Lentz cited the push by the German luxury brands into lower-cost entries such as the Mercedes-Benz (DAIGn.DE) CLA that will sell for less than $30,000.

As part of the effort to boost sales, Scion at the New York auto show last week showed off a redesigned TC coupe that will go on sale in late May. However, the brand’s future is already being discussed and options include adding a hybrid vehicle, a crossover or even a four-door sedan.

“Any of them could happen,” Lentz said.

Scion’s sales total last year was less than half of its 2006 peak, but far improved from 2010’s nadir of about 46,000 vehicles. Officials expect to sell about 80,000 this year and research firm LMC Automotive forecasts the brand to hit 108,000 in 2020, but company officials insist the brand has never been about the numbers.

Introduced as concept vehicles at the New York show in 2002, Scion began selling cars the following year with the idea of appealing to Generation Y buyers who perceived Toyota vehicles as too stodgy.

Toyota, Japan’s largest automaker, is working in progress as it looks to rebound from low sales during the recession. The brand is a relatively small seller for Toyota, with its five models selling 73,500 vehicles last year. That compares with Toyota’s four-car Prius line, which sold almost 237,000.

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US health authorities closely monitor H7N9 flu
WASHINGTON, 5 April — The US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention said on Thursday it is following the H7N9 type of bird flu in China “closely” and coordinating with domestic and international partners.

It is also gathering more information to make an informed public health risk assessment and develop a candidate vaccine virus, the CDC said on its website. The CDC said it is also assessing “whether existing influenza diagnostic tests need to be enhanced or new ones developed.”
National Security Council spokeswoman Caitlin Hayden also said, “The National Security Staff is actively monitoring the H7N9 Influenza A outbreak in China.” “In coordination with the government’s relevant experts, we are tracking the outbreak and preparing a response if one should be required,” she added.— Kyodo News

Brazilian FM says BRICS summit in Durban significant
BRASILIA, 5 April — Brazilian Foreign Minister Antonio Patriota on Thursday hailed the recent BRICS summit in Durban, South Africa, as significant for launching concrete projects.

“The recent BRICS summit in Durban was especially relevant, because some concrete projects began to take shape, such as the creation of a BRICS development bank or the negotiation for a continental free trade agreement,” Patriota told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

The fifth BRICS summit brought together leaders of Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa on 26-27 March. Patriota said the summit also facilitated bilateral meetings, such as the meeting between Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff and Chinese President Xi Jinping.

“It was a long meeting, more than an hour, with a broad and substantive agenda,” the minister told the senators. —Xinhua

Cabinet OKs bill to have armed guards on vessels to counter piracy
TOKYO, 5 April — The Cabinet on Friday approved a bill to authorize foreign security guards aboard Japanese flag-flying vessels to carry rifles to protect the vessels from pirates in waters off Somalia and elsewhere, the government said.

The bill will be submitted to the ongoing parliamentary session, and if enacted would be the first Japanese legislation to authorize private citizens to carry and use firearms.

Japan-registered vessels are currently prohibited from carrying armed guards under the firearm control law.

The bill would allow armed guards to fire warning shots to prevent pirates from approaching a vessel without taking aim at the pirates.

It would authorize guards to fire rifle shots at pirates only in an emergency where the lives of guards or other crew are at risk. Firing in violation of the provisions would be punishable by up to five years in jail or a fine of up to 1 million yen.

The legislation would be applied to tankers and other Japan-registered vessels that sail in piracy-prone waters, such as those off Somalia and the Arabian Sea. The legislation would stipulate that armed guards be allowed to board vessels only after they sail into dangerous waters.

Whenever vessels make calls at Japanese ports, authorities will be obliged to inspect them to ensure that no rifles remain on board. Unless this is confirmed, crew and freight would not be allowed to be disembarked or discharged.

The bill also stipulates that ship owners obtain approval from the transport minister for a security plan they are obliged to draw up for each vessel.

The descriptions of the plan must include such details as how rifles are stored as well as the capabilities of hired foreign security contractors that provide employees to guard ships.—Kyodo News

Power plant blast reported in US state of Georgia
WASHINGTON, 5 April — An explosion was reported on Thursday at a coal-fired power plant in the US state of Georgia.

The blast took place at Plant Bowen in Euharlee, which was located in Bartow County, some 50 miles northwest of Atlanta. According to a report by the local WSBTv, the Bartow County Sheriff’s Office is asking residents to avoid the plant, and roads in the area are closed. According to a separate report by ALIVE 11, another local TV station, the explosion occurred at the main power house, and injuries have been reported. Georgia Power, the company that runs the plant, confirmed that it’s investigating the incident.—Xinhua

No agreement on Syria access for UN chemical arms inspectors
UNITED NATIONS, 5 April — The United Nations and Syria have not yet agreed on how much access a team of chemical weapons inspectors will have to investigate allegations that such arms were used recently in the Syrian conflict, according to a letter to Syria’s UN envoy.

The United Nations said last month it would investigate the Syrian government’s allegations that rebels used chemical arms in an attack near the northern city of Aleppo.

Western countries also want a probe of two additional rebel claims about the use of such arms. The opposition says Syrian President Bashar al-Assad’s government carried out all three alleged chemical attacks.

“There’s no agreement on access yet,” a UN Security Council diplomat told Reuters on condition of anonymity. “The inspectors won’t be deploying until there’s agreement on access and other modalities.”

There has been an exchange of letters about access for the investigators between Syrian Ambassador Bashar Ja’afari and the head of the UN Office of Disarmament Affairs Angela Kane, according to a letter from Kane obtained by Reuters on Thursday.

That letter said Ja’afari wrote to Kane on Tuesday suggesting amendments to her proposed “legal and logistical parameters” for the investigation.

Ja’afari has said repeatedly that the inspectors need only limited access to the areas related to the Aleppo incident, in which the government and rebels accuse each other of firing a missile laden with chemicals that killed 26 people.

Diplomats said Assad’s government has also suggested it wants a say in who will be on the inspection team. Kane responded to Ja’afari by saying that it was “solely for the Secretary-General (Ban Ki-moon) to determine the composition of the investigation mission, which should have the necessary freedom of movement and access to conduct a thorough and objective investigation.”

Kane made clear to Ja’afari that although the primary focus of the investigation would be the Aleppo incident, there were other alleged chemical weapons attacks to consider as well.

“We must remain mindful of the other allegations that chemical weapons attacks were used elsewhere in the country,” she wrote. — Reuters

Image 1: Magnitude 5.4 earthquake shakes buildings in Mexico City
MEXICO CITY, 5 April — A 5.4 magnitude earthquake shook buildings in Mexico City on Thursday, but there were no immediate reports of injuries or damages.

The epicentre of the earthquake was in Guerrero state on Mexico’s Pacific coast, the US Geological Survey reported.

A Reuters witness in the Pacific resort of Acapulco, the biggest city in Guerrero, said the earthquake seemed slight, with some people not even noticing the tremor.

Mexico City Mayor Miguel Angel Mancera said city services were operating normally after the earthquake.—Reuters

Image 2: Policemen and paramedics taking an injured school boy into a hospital in Srinagar
Police and paramedics take an injured school boy into a hospital in Srinagar, summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir, India, 5 April 2013. At least nine school children were killed and many others injured after a school bus skidded off the road and fell into gorge in Kandiwara Kokernag some 80 Kilometres south of Srinagar. —Xinhua

Image 3: Cabinet OKs bill to have armed guards on vessels to counter piracy

Image 4: Power plant blast reported in US state of Georgia

Image 5: No agreement on Syria access for UN chemical arms inspectors

Image 6: Magnitude 5.4 earthquake shakes buildings in Mexico City

Image 7: Policemen and paramedics taking an injured school boy into a hospital in Srinagar

Image 8: Cabinet OKs bill to have armed guards on vessels to counter piracy

Image 9: Power plant blast reported in US state of Georgia

Image 10: No agreement on Syria access for UN chemical arms inspectors
New diamond orb, umbrella hoisted atop quake-ravaged pagoda in Sagaing

SAGAING, 5 April—Due to the earthquake that hit on 11 November 2012 morning, diamond orb and umbrella of Lawkathitsa Mandaing Pagoda were tilted against other sides, in the precinct of Hsandan Monastery in Podan Ward of Sagaing.

With the auspices of Hsandan Monastery Sayadaw Bhaddanta Narada, wellwisher U Oo Maung (a) U Tun Aung-Daw Aye presented Maung Shwe to the region high court.

District Judge U Maung Maung Shwe explained the purpose of the trainees. Toungoo District Judge U Aung Soe gave completion certificates to the trainees.

After the ceremony, Chief Justice of the region U Maung Maung Shwe inspected site chosen for construction of the staff quarter in the compound of the district court and left necessary instructions.

Mandalay Railway Station

The authorities found two soft drink boxes with Chinese language from the basket and seized 17 packets of what appear to be heroin weighing 189.82788 grams from the first box and 14 packets weighing 154.10758 grams, one citizenship scrutiny card of Ma Rwe Taung and one mobile phone. Action was taken against Ma Rwe Taung, 41, of Mawtaung and Lower Thandaunggyi Township, under Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.

Narcotic drugs seized at Mandalay Railway Station

Toungoo District Court concludes office work refresher course

TOUNGOO, 5 April—The office work refresher course concluded at Toungoo District Court in Bago Region on 24 March morning.

Bago Region High Court Judge U Maung Maung Shwe made a speech. Toungoo District Judge U Aung Soe explained the purpose of conducting the training course and progress of tasks.

Chief Justice of Bago Region High Court U Maung Maung Shwe presented prizes to outstanding trainees. Toungoo District Judge U Aung Soe gave completion certificates to the trainees.

Cash donated to funds of social organizations in Mawguy

MAWLAMYINGEYIN, 5 April—Fishery entrepreneurs and fishermen of Mawguy Townships of Mawguy and Ayeyawady Region on 24 March morning.

At the ceremony, Township Administrator U Htay and party reported on progress of construction tasks.

People take relaxation at Chaungtha Beach

YANGON, 5 April—As people take relaxation at the beaches.

Thus, Ngwehsaung and Pathein which is the city of Ayeyawady Region, was crowded with those who took relaxation on 26 and 27 March holidays.

Care Myanmar donates two rural health branches

MUSE, 5 April—With the aim of providing better health care services to the people, Care Myanmar, an international non-governmental organization, donated modern hospital equipment and two rural health branches at the city hall in Muse on 25 March morning.

Deputy Commissioner U Moe Hen of the district extended greetings.

Assistant Country Director Ms Philippa of Care Myanmar explained the purpose of donation for effective health care services.

Head of District Health Department Dr Tin Tun explained donations of Care Myanmar for two rural health branches in Mawtaung and Lower Tongkhang villages and modern hospital equipment worth K 78 million.

Myanma Alinn

Construction of new court in Thandaunggyi Township inspected

THANDAUNGGYI, 5 April—Under the instruction of the Chief Justice of Kayin State High Court, High Court Judge U Thein Ko Ko, Kayin State Judicial Officer U Ohn Thaung and Hpa-an District Judge U Ohn Thwin on 24 March arrived at the construction site of Thandaunggyi Township Court.

Leader of the construction committee Township Judge U Nyo Hay and party reported on progress of construction tasks.

Myanma Alinn

Local people contributed to the construction of the concrete hall in Muse on 25 March morning.

The Justice of the high court gave instructions on timely completion of construction meeting set standard.

Crown Advance Co Ltd is building the new court of the township and the building has been completed by 95 percent.

In meeting with the staff, the judge of the high court stressed the need to win the trust of the people to rely on the courts.

—NLM

Local News

Saturday, 6 April, 2013

LOCAL NEWS

New Light of Myanmar
World Health Day is celebrated around the world every year on April 7. Each year a theme is selected for World Health Day that highlights a priority area of public health concern in the world. World Health Day 2013 is being celebrated this year under the theme of “hypertension”, otherwise known as high blood pressure. The intention of this year’s campaign is to: raise awareness of hypertension and promote behavioural change with respect to primary prevention, improve the chances of early detection and promote effective management for patients. Although hypertension is a serious health problem globally, it is preventable and treatable.

The normal range of blood pressure

Blood pressure is expressed in millimetres of mercury (mm Hg). It is recorded as two numbers usually written one above the other: the first (or top) number is the ‘systolic’ blood pressure—the highest pressure in blood vessels, which occurs as the heart contracts (heart beat). The second (or lower) number is the diastolic blood pressure—the lowest pressure in blood vessels in between heart beats, when the heart muscle relaxes.

Normal adult blood pressure is defined as a systolic blood pressure of 120 mm Hg and a diastolic blood pressure of 80 mm Hg. However, cardiovascular benefits extend to lower systolic (105 mm Hg) and lower diastolic blood pressure levels (60 mm Hg).

High Blood Pressure (hypertension)

Hypertension, also known as high or raised blood pressure, is a condition in which the blood vessels have persistently raised pressure. Blood is carried from the heart to all parts of the body in the vessels. Each time the heart beats, its pump pushes blood into the vessels. Blood pressure is created by the force of blood pushing against the walls of blood vessels (arteries) as it passes through the heart. The higher the pressure, the harder the heart has to pump.

When systolic blood pressure is equal to or above 140 mm Hg and/or a diastolic blood pressure equals or above 90 mm Hg the blood pressure is considered to be raised or high.

Sometimes hypertension causes symptoms such as headache, shortness of breath, dizziness, chest pain (angina), palpitation of the heart and nose bleeds. However, most people with hypertension have no symptoms at all.

Global Burden

Worldwide, raised blood pressure is estimated to cause 7.5 million deaths, about 12.8% of the total of all deaths. This accounts for 57 million disability adjusted life years (DALYS) or 3.7% of total DALYS. Raised blood pressure is a major risk factor for coronary heart disease and ischemic as well as hemorrhagic stroke. Blood pressure levels have been shown to be positively and continuously related to the risk for stroke and coronary heart disease. In some age groups, the risk of cardiovascular disease doubles for each increment of 20/10 mm Hg of blood pressure, starting as low as 115/75 mm Hg. In addition to coronary heart diseases and stroke, complications of raised blood pressure include heart failure, peripheral vascular disease, renal impairment, retinal hemorrhage and visual impairment. Treating systolic blood pressure and diastolic blood pressure until they are less than 140/90 mm Hg is associated with a reduction in cardiovascular complications.

Globally, the overall prevalence of raised blood pressure in adults aged 25 and over was around 40% in 2008. The proportion of the population with hypertension, with high blood pressure, or uncontrolled hypertension, fell modestly between 1980 and 2008. However, because of population growth and ageing, the number of people with uncontrolled hypertension rose from 600 million in 1980 to nearly 1 billion in 2008. Across the WHO regions, the prevalence of raised blood pressure was highest in Africa, where it was 46% for both sexes combined. Both men and women have high rates of raised blood pressure in the Africa region, with prevalence rates over 40%. The lowest prevalence of raised blood pressure was in the WHO Region of the Americas at 35% for both sexes. Men in this region had higher prevalence than women (39% for men and 32% for women). In all WHO regions, men have slightly higher prevalence of raised blood pressure than women. This difference was only statistically significant in the Americas and Europe.

In Myanmar, the WHO STEP survey (2009) revealed that the prevalence of hypertension was 29.97% (male-30.99% and female-29.34%). According to Myanmar Cardiovascular project’s survey findings, prevalence of hypertension has increased from (21%) in 2005 to (57%) in 2010.

The symptoms of high blood pressure

There is a common misconception that people with high blood pressure will always experience symptoms. Most people with high blood pressure actually have no symptoms at all, and may not even know that they have it. Sometimes high blood pressure can cause symptoms such as headache, shortness of breath, dizziness, chest pain, palpitations of the heart or nose bleeds. If people ignore measuring blood pressure because they think symptoms will alert them to the problem, it can be dangerous because high blood pressure is often a “silent killer”. Everyone should know their blood pressure numbers.

The risk factors for high blood pressure

High blood pressure is the result of many factors. Demographic transition, rapid and unplanned urbanization and globalization are the underlying determinants. They contribute to unhealthy behavioural risk factors. High blood pressure is one of the metabolic risk factors that leads to many NCDs.

Danger of High Blood Pressure

The higher the blood pressure, the higher the risk of damage to the heart and blood vessels in major organs such as the brain and kidneys.

If left uncontrolled, hypertension can lead to a heart attack, an enlargement of the heart and eventually heart failure. Blood vessels may develop bulges (aneurysms) and weak spots that make them more likely to clog and burst. The pressure in the blood vessels can cause blood to leak out into the brain and cause a stroke. Hypertension can also lead to kidney failure, blindness, and cognitive impairment.

The health consequences of hypertension can be compounded by other factors that increase the odds of heart attack, stroke and kidney failure. These factors included to tobacco use, unhealthy diet, harmful use of alcohol, physical activity, and exposure to persistent stress as well as obesity, high cholesterol and diabetes mellitus.

The goal of World Health Day 2013

The ultimate goal of World Health Day 2013 is to reduce heart attacks and strokes. Specific objectives of the campaign are:

- to raise awareness of the causes and consequences of high blood pressure;
- to encourage people to change behaviours that can lead to hypertension;
- to persuade adults to have their blood pressure checked regularly;
- to increase the number of health facilities offering blood pressure checks; and
- to incite national and local authorities to create enabling environments for healthy behaviours.

(See page 9)
World Health Day 2013

from (page 8)

This campaign is a year-long activity extending beyond 7 April to give WHO and Member States the opportunity of implementing sustainable activities over an expanded period of time.

Communities, non-governmental organizations and individuals are encouraged to develop plans with a number of booster events to maintain momentum in conducting events throughout the year.

Know your blood pressure

All of us should know our blood pressure measurements. This is a good piece of information about our health. High blood pressure can be silent (without any symptoms). High blood pressure increases the risk of heart attacks, strokes and kidney failure. However, hypertension is treatable and preventable.

We can prevent and manage high blood pressure only if we know our measurement values. All adults should have their blood pressure checked. If blood pressure is high, they need the advice of a health worker.

For some people, lifestyle changes are sufficient to control blood pressure such as stopping tobacco use, eating healthily, exercising regularly and avoiding the harmful use of alcohol. Reduction in salt intake can help. For others, these changes are insufficient and they need prescription medication to control blood pressure.

Adults can support treatment by adhering to the prescribed medication, by monitoring their health. People with high blood pressure who also have high blood sugar or elevated blood cholesterol face even higher risk of health attacks and stroke. Therefore it is important that regular checks for blood sugar, blood cholesterol and urine albumin take place.

Control of High Blood Pressure

People who already have high blood pressure can actively participate in managing their condition. They need to:

- Adopt healthy behaviours.
- Monitor blood pressure at home (if possible).
- Check blood sugar, blood cholesterol and albumin levels.
- Get their cardiovascular risk assessed using a risk assessment tool.
- Follow advice given by doctor (s) and health workers.
- If medicines for lowering blood pressure have been prescribed, take them regularly, and as instructed.

Prevention of High Blood Pressure

Everyone can take five concrete steps to minimize the odds of developing high blood pressure and its adverse consequences.

- Healthy diet:
  - Promoting a healthy lifestyle with emphasis on proper nutrition for infants and young people;
  - Reducing salt intake to less than 5g of salt per day (just under a teaspoon);
  - Cutting five servings of fruit and vegetables a day;
  - Reducing saturated and total fat intake;
  - Avoiding harmful use of alcohol i.e. limit intake to no more than one standard drink a day

- Physical activity:
  - Regular physical activity and promotion of physical activity for children and young people (at least 30 minutes a day).
  - Maintaining a normal weight: every 5 Kg of excess weight lost can reduce systolic blood pressure by 2 to 10 points.
  - Stopping tobacco use and exposure to tobacco products
  - Managing stress in healthy way such as through meditation, appropriate physical exercise, and positive social contact.

Armed Forces to continue safeguarding nation at the risk of life and limb

Vice-Senior General Thiri Pyanchi Soe Win delivers an address at graduation parade of 116th intake of Defence Services (Army) Officers Training School. —MNA

NAVY TW, 5 April—Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Thiri Pyanchi Soe Win called for effective combination of theories learnt from books and experience throughout the life with initiatives and innovation in real world as he, on behalf of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, addressed the graduation of the 116th Intake of Defence Services (Army) Officers Training School this morning.

He called on the cadets to keep in touch with tactics and technologies of modern warfare, demanding constant learning as well as continuous training. He called on them to turn themselves into good commanders of their troops while striving for self-improvement. He spoke of the need of the armed forces to be imbued with military might, mobilization power and administrative efficiency. He called the Defence Services (Army) Officers Training School the source of leaders of various national races like the armed forces which is formed of national races of various different national races, urging them to continue safeguarding the nation at the risk of their lives.

He demanded the armed forces take an active role in development drive of the nation as the country is on democratic path. He described stability and tranquility as the bedrock of national development, calling on them to make strenuous efforts for stabilization of regions where they will be assigned.

Cadets are to perform their duties with four outlooks, namely political, military, economic and administrative outlooks, he demanded. He called for turning the armed forces to standard army. He called for comradship and good discipline, calling them the main cause of strong intra-military solidarity. Cadets are to turn themselves to ideal leaders to their subordinates, he added.

He awarded the best cadet award winner cadet No. 177 Soe Thu the silver sword. Also present on the occasion were Daw Than Than Nwe, wife of the Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, Lt-Gen Thiri Pyanchi Aung Than Htut from Commander-in-Chief (Army) Office, senior military officers and families of graduates.

English Language Training Programme for Hluttaw capacity building

NAVY TW, 5 April—Under Hluttaw capacity building programme, the opening ceremony of English Language Training Program was held at Hluttaw Office, here, at noon today, with an opening address by Deputy Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw U Nanda Kyaw Swa.

Reit Ambassador U Thaung Tun of Open Society Foundations (OSF) and representatives of Myanmar Scholarship Alumni Association (MSAA) Daw Zin Mar Oo and Daw Khan Khin Lwin explained the course programme. And Secretary of Hluttaw Capacity Building Supervisory Team U Hla Myint Oo also elaborated on capacity building programme.

It was attended by Deputy Speaker ofPyidaungsu Hluttaw U Mya Nyeein, secretary of Hluttaw Committee, the director-general of Hluttaw Office, officials from Hluttaw Capacity Building Supervisory Team and trainees. The courses run up to 28 June. —MNA

Davis Cup Tennis Tournament-2013 at Pun Hlaing Golf Course

YANGON, 5 April—The Second Round Robin of 2013 Davis Cup Asia/Oceania Zone Group II took place at the Country Club of Pun Hlaing Golf Course in Hluttaw Township, here, this morning.

Pakistani Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Amjad Majid Abbasi enjoyed the today’s golf tourney. Two golfers from Pakistan and New Zealand competed in the individual event. Both individual and pairs golf competitions last till 7 April.—MNA

Myanmar entrepreneurs hold discussion with Norwegian guests

Myanmar entrepreneurs meet Norwegian Minister for Trade and Industry Mr Trond Giske.—NLM

YANGON, 5 April—Chairmen of organizations under the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI) held talks with Norwegian Minister for Trade and Industry Mr Trond Giske and party, at UMFCCI Headquarters on 3 April.

At the call, the Norwegian Minister said that he expressed Norway’s support for Myanmar’s democratic reforms. Myanmar people should pay more attention to country’s economic development and peaceful co-existence. He urged Myanmar to effectively utilize its natural resources for the development of the country. He pledged that Norway would help Myanmar in the sectors of power generation, water resources management and dam projects. For promoting relations between the two countries, Norway would open its Embassy in Myanmar by the end of 2013.

Then, Norwegian team held discussions with Myanmar entrepreneurs on their respective sectors.

Moe Thazar Soe—NLM

Saturday, 6 April, 2013
Connecticut Governor signs strict gun law after Newtown shooting

MADISON, 5 April—Connecticut Governor Dan nel Malloy on Thursday signed a tough new gun law that restricts sales of the sort of high-capacity ammunition clips that a gunman used to massacre 26 people in minutes in December in an attack at a school in the state.

The law also requires background checks for all gun purchases, expands the number of guns covered by the states’ assault-weapons ban and establishes a $15 million fund to help schools improve security infrastructure.

“I hope that this is an example to the rest of the nation, certainly to our leaders in Washington who seem so deeply divided about an issue such as universal background checks, where the country is not divided itself,” Malloy, a Democrat, said at the state-house in Hartford before signing the bill into law.

The law prohibits the sale of ammunition clips capable of holding 10 or more bullets and requires owners of existing high-capacity clips to register them with the state.

Adam Lanza, the gunman who attacked a Newtown, Connecticut elementary school in December, used high-capacity clips to fire off 154 rounds in less than five minutes.

That attack, which left 20 young children dead, amplified the US debate on guns, with gun-control proponents calling for stricter limits on sales of weapons and ammunition while gun-rights advocates argue that changes would violate the Second Amendment of the US Constitution.

Several family members of the victims of the Newtown attack — which also claimed the lives of six adults at Sandy Hook Elementary School — praised the new law and called for tougher federal legislation.

The legislation passed in Hartford will go a long way toward reducing gun violence in Connecticut, but it’s not enough,” said Neil Heslin, whose 6-year-old son, Jesse, died in the Newtown shooting.

Rifles turned in are seen during a gun buyback event in Bridgeport, Connecticut, in the wake of the shootings at Sandy Hook Elementary School on 28 Dec, 2012.

E Africa to raise status of region’s economic surveillance unit

BANDBAR SERI BEGWAN, 5 April—Finance and central bank deputies from 13 East Asian countries have agreed to take initial steps to elevate the region’s first economic and financial surveillance body, AMRO, to the status of an international organization, official sources said on Thursday.

The move was discussed during their meeting in the backdrop of the ADB’s annual general meeting, which would form the basis of the AMRO as an international financial institutions’ meeting.

It is considered one of the initial steps to be taken in 2014 by East Asia’s financial surveillance agency to be raised to the same level as financial institutions such as the Asian Development Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

UN meeting on hunger, food security closes in Madrid

A total of 32 countries and 17 agencies as well as non-governmental organizations, academics and representatives of the food industry and research institutions were present in the Spanish capital with an agenda to end hunger and malnutrition within a generation.

The Madrid meeting aims to produce a governing document with the main conclusions over the success of the Millennium Development Goal of eradicating hunger and malnutrition.

This document will then form the basis of the report that Ban will present in New York in September and will help set new targets for beyond 2015.

“This is a vital meeting where we can define an agenda which will have its effect in the future. Hunger and malnutrition can be eliminated with good policies,” said Ban in his speech which opened the meeting.

“We promise to achieve the objectives that have been fixed to achieve a better world for all of us, a world free from hunger and malnutrition,” he said.

“Without the trees there are over 850 million people who suffer malnutrition. We have made advances but there is a long way to go,” said Rajoy.

Earlier in the day, the UN chief met Rajoy at the prime minister’s official residence. He and Rajoy discussed Spain’s wish to be included in the UN Security Council for 2015-16.

Rajoy highlighted Spain’s commitment to achieving the Millennium aims, but admitted the economic crisis meant his country would not for the moment be able to donate 0.7 percent of its GDP to humanitarian aims, although he promised to increase the contribution as the economy improved.

Egypt seizes ship carrying arms, questions crew

CAIRO, 5 April—Egyptian navy forces seized a ship carrying heavy weapons as it entered Egyptian territorial waters in the Red Sea late on Wednesday, a military spokesman said on Thursday.

The Togo-based flagged ship, called COMR, was found 12 nautical miles north of Ras Muhammad in the Sinai Peninsula, general staff spokesman Ahmed Mohamed Ali said on his Facebook page.

“Inside they found a number of weapons and quantities of ammunition of various types,” Ali said.

“The boat belongs to a private maritime security company which serves to secure ships passing through highly dangerous areas, especially in light of the spread of piracy in the southern Red Sea area and off the Somali coast,” he added.

Security sources told Reuters earlier that the ship, with a crew of at least seven, spent a week in international waters before entering Egyptian waters.

The vessel was escort ed into the port of Safaga, 569 km (356 miles) southwest of Cairo, where the crew members were questioned and an investigation was under way to determine whether the weapons were legal, said the sources.

Global economy worries send oil prices lower

DUBAI, 5 April—After reaching a one-month high on Tuesday, the price of the “black gold” plummeted 2.74 percent on Thursday to $104.89 as high oil storages and woes over economic progress in China and the United States weighed on commodities and on Gulf Arab revenues.

At the Dubai Mercantile Exchange (DME), the flagship contract future crude DME Oman crude lost 2.96 percent, to 388.6 million barrels in the week ended on 29 March. The United States’ supply of oil is now 7.2 percent above year-ago levels and the highest since 27 July, 1990, when it was at 391.9 million barrels.

In the last 12 months oil prices contracted 7.42 percent, weighing on oil supplier income. Jadwa Research said earlier this week, Saudi Arabia, the world’s biggest oil exporter, generated 46.2 billion dollars of oil revenues in the first two months this year, down 8.8 percent over the same period last year.

Photo shows the construction site of the Grand Egyptian Museum of the Great Pyramid of Giza on 3 April, 2013. A plan of the museum is seen in the foreground. The Egyptian government said the same day it will solicit a $1 per night donation from foreign tourists at hotels in a campaign to gather money for underfunded construction of the new museum.

Kyodo News

Photo shows the construction site of the Grand Egyptian Museum of the Great Pyramid of Giza on 3 April, 2013. A plan of the museum is seen in the foreground. The Egyptian government said the same day it will solicit a $1 per night donation from foreign tourists at hotels in a campaign to gather money for underfunded construction of the new museum.

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Regional

Cambodia reports 10th case of H5N1 bird flu

Phnom Penh, 5 April — Cambodia’s government and the World Health Organization announced on Thursday they had found a new case of H5N1 bird flu in a 5-year-old boy living in the country’s southern Province Kampot, making him the 10th person infected in the country this year.

The case is, however, believed unrelated to the lesser-known H7N9 type infections in China.

A joint statement confirmed a 5-year-old boy from Boeung Taremp village in Kampot tested positive for H5N1 flu on Tuesday. The statement said the boy developed fever, convulsions and shortness of breath 27 March and was later referred to the Kampot Provincial Hospital.

He was then sent to Kantha Bopha Hospital in Phnom Penh on March 31 and is in “critical condition,” according to the statement.

The boy is the 10th person this year and the 31st person overall to become infected with the H5N1 virus in Cambodia. Of the 31 confirmed cases, 21 were children under 14, and 19 victims were female.

Minister of Health Mam Bunheng said, “Avian influenza H5N1 remains a serious threat to the health of all Cambodians.”

Since 2003, there have been 623 laboratory-confirmed human cases of H5N1 avian influenza with 371 related deaths worldwide.

— Kyodo News

Cambodia’s health minister urges children to stay away from poultry to prevent bird flu

Phnom Penh, 5 April — Cambodia’s Health Minister Mam Bunheng on Thursday appealed to parents to distance their children from poultry in order to prevent the spread of bird flu from poultry to humans, said a joint statement by the Health Ministry and the World Health Organization.

“Avian Influenza H5N1 remains a serious threat to the health of all Cambodians, and kids also seem to be most vulnerable and are at high risk because they like to play where poultry are found,” the minister said in the statement. “I’d like to appeal to parents and guardians to keep children away from sick or dead poultry and prevent them from playing with chickens and ducks,” he said.

He added that parents and guardians must also make sure children wash their hands with soap and water after any contact with poultry. “If they have fast or difficult breathing, they should seek medical attention at the nearest health facility and attending physicians must be made aware of any exposure to sick or dead poultry,” he added.

The minister’s appeal was made after a six-year-old boy from Kampot Province was confirmed on Wednesday as the 10th person who contracted with Avian Influenza H5N1 in 2013.

The boy developed fever, convulsions and dyspnea (shortness of breath) on March 27. The six-year-old had bought some medicines from a local pharmacy for him until his condition worsened. The boy was sent to the Kantha Bopha Hospital in Phnom Penh on 31 March.

— Xinhua

24 killed, 60 injured in building collapse in W India

New Delhi, 5 April — At least 24 people were killed and more than 60 others injured when an under-construction seven-storeyed building collapsed in the western Indian state of Maharashtra on Thursday evening, a senior police official said.

“The incident happened at 6.30 pm in Thane near state capital Mumbai. So far, 24 bodies have been recovered. Many more are still trapped inside the debris. The injured have been admitted to nearby hospitals,” he said on condition of anonymity.

Local TV channels showed footage of disaster management officials, police officials and firefighters carrying out rescue operations throughout the night and said the building was “illegal”. A probe has been ordered into the incident, the official said, adding that the builder has been booked for the deaths of 24 people, most of whom were labourers.

— Xinhua

ASEAN, partners pledge commitment to narrow development gap

Jakarta, 5 April — The Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) Task Force, ambassadors and representatives from the ASEAN Dialogue Partners and External Parties have held their inaugural consultation meeting to deliberate on mobilizing resources for and contribution to the implementation of the IAI Work Plan II (2009-2015), a statement sent by the ASEAN Secretariat to Xinhua said on Thursday.

Initiated as a new format by current IAI Task Force Chair Vietnam, the meeting serves as a place to share information among IAI stakeholders to foster a better understanding of the available resources for Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, and Vietnam (CLMV) and determines the approaches to improve delivery of IAI activities.

— Xinhua

Malaysia’s exports in February drop 7.7 pct due to festive holidays

Kuala Lumpur, 5 April — Malaysia’s exports in February shrank 7.7 percent year-on-year to 52.46 billion ringgit (17.12 billion US dollars) due to shorter working days and festive season, according to figures released by the Ministry of International Trade and Industry on Friday.

Shipments of manufactured goods, which make up about two-thirds of total exports, declined by 12 percent while exports of agricultural goods decreased by 18.9 percent to 5.32 billion ringgit (1.74 billion US dollars) as a result of lower prices.

Exports of refined petroleum products meanwhile surged by 65.2 percent.

Shipments to major export markets, China and Japan were trimmed by 15.8 percent and 7.5 percent respectively compared with last year largely due to decline in exports of electronic products.

Exports to the European Union and the United States also pared down by 8.6 percent and 10.8 percent respectively.

January’s imports fell by 4.4 percent to 44.26 billion ringgit (14.44 billion US dollars) compared with a year ago.

Trade surplus in February was registered at 8.2 billion ringgit (2.68 billion US dollars), wider than January’s 3.27 billion ringgit (1.07 billion US dollars).

Exports for the first two months of the year declined by 2.2 percent on an annual basis to 109.45 billion ringgit (35.72 billion US dollars).

— Xinhua

Japan’s Kishida to attend G-8 foreign ministerial meeting next week

Tokyo, 5 April — Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida said on Friday that he will attend the two-day Group of Eight foreign ministerial meeting to be held in London next week to discuss North Korea and Syria.

During his five-day trip to Europe from Monday, Kishida told reporters, he will first attend a ministerial meeting of the Non-proliferation and Disarmament Initiative in The Hague, he is scheduled to go to London to attend the G-8 meeting on Wednesday and Thursday.

“At G-8, we plan to discuss regional affairs such as North Korea and Syria, and strengthening efforts for cross-border issues, including antiterrorism measures,” Kishida said. The G-8 consists of Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Russia and the United States. A representative of the European Union is also expected to attend the foreign ministerial meeting.

— Kyodo News

Tourists feed sea-gulls at Haichang Polar Ocean World in Qingdao, east China’s Shandong Province, on 4 April, 2013.

China’s Guo Chuan passes a finish buoy on his boat in Qingdao, east China’s Shandong Province, on 5 April, 2013. Guo sailed back home on Friday morning to become the first Chinese to successfully circumnavigate the globe singlehanded. Aboard his Class40 yacht, 48-year-old Guo travelled about 21,600 nautical miles in 138 days before he returned to his hometown of Qingdao, where he set off on 18 November last year.

— Xinhua
CONGRATULATIONS!

Our heartiest congratulations to the KBZ Group of Companies for winning the award “Best Corporate Governance in Myanmar for 2013” conferred by “World Finance”, a London based prestigious organization on 3rd April 2013. We also wish for further success of the KBZ Group of Companies in future endeavours.

Somboon Krobtiranon  
Country Manager, Myanmar and Thailand  
Visa International (Asia-Pacific) LLC
Angelina Jolie to sell jewellery line to fund overseas schools

Los Angeles, 5 April—Angelina Jolie has opened another girls school in Afghanistan and plans to fund more from the proceeds of a jewellery line going on sale this week that she helped to design, celebrity website E! News reported on Monday.

Jolie, a goodwill Ambassador for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, funded the girls-only primary school in an area outside Kabul that has a high refugee population, E! News said in an exclusive report. The school educates 200-300 girls, E! said. It showed pictures of the school, which opened in November, and a plaque acknowledging Jolie’s contribution. Jolie also funded a girls school in eastern Afghanistan that opened in 2010, according to the UNCHR.

Jolie’s representatives did not return calls for comment.

E! said that Jolie plans to pay for more schools by selling a “Style of Jolie” jewellery line that she helped create with jewellery maker Robert Procop. Procop designed the engagement ring given to the actress by her partner Brad Pitt in April 2012.

“Beyond enjoying the artistic satisfaction of designing these jewels, we are inspired by knowing our work is also serving the mutual goal of providing for children in need,” Jolie was quoted as telling the website. Procop’s website said the “first funds from our collaboration together have been dedicated to the Education Partnership for Children in Conflict (founded by Jolie) to build a school in Afghanistan.”—Reuters

Robert Pattinson parties without Kristen Stewart

Los Angeles, 5 April—Twilight star Robert Pattinson was spotted partying without girlfriend Kristen Stewart in Hollywood.

The 26-year-old actor has returned to LA after a 64-day shooting schedule for his movie The Rover in Australia, reported Radar Online. Robert Pattinson was spotted with a male friend in the Teddy’s at the Roosevelt Hotel in Hollywood in the early hours of Saturday (30 March 2013) morning.

“He went straight to the bar and commandeered a corner table. There was a bunch of gorgeous models standing around him, but he looked disinterested in them. He was sitting with another male friend. He almost seemed timid and shy,” a source said. PTI
Djokovic eyes return to form in Davis Cup tie versus US

BOISE, 5 April— Novak Djokovic believes he has left his recent poor form behind and will be in top shape when he leads Serbia in this weekend’s Davis Cup quarter-final tie against the United States.

The world number one, who was upset last month in the semi-finals at Indian Wells by Juan Martin Del Potro and then in the third round at Miami by Tommy Haas, will open Friday’s play against American number two John Isner. That match will be followed by a clash between top American Sam Querrey and Serbia’s number two, Victor Troicki.

Djokovic said that he played the worst that he has in three years in his 6-2, 6-4 loss to Haas.

“You got to be ready to win and lose,” Djokovic told reporters. “I’ve been very consistent in the last few years of my career. I understand that people are always expecting me to play semi-finals or finals of every event I play in. If a loss before that stage of the tournament happens, everybody starts questioning. “I’m feeling good, I’m moving on. I’m trying to play well here, and hopefully we can bring the win to Serbia.” The tie marks just the second meeting between the US and Serbia in Davis Cup. Serbia won the only meeting, 3-2, in the 2010 in Belgrade.—Reuters

Rose leads powerful English contingent at Masters

LONDON, 5 April— It has been 17 years since Nick Faldo overtook a floundering Greg Norman to become the last Englishman to win the Masters but if the current world rankings count for anything, this year could mark the end of the drought.

There are four Englishmen, Justin Rose (3rd), Luke Donald (4th), Ian Poulter (12th) and Lee Westwood (13th), near the top of the rankings and one other, lower ranked but with recent major form. Only the United States has more players in the top 15.

None of the Englishmen has won a major yet but all have come close at Augusta National with three of the four finishing in the top eight at last year’s Masters.

If recent form is any guide, Rose looms as a real contender for the coveted green jacket. The 32-year-old has not won a title in over a year but has been ultra-consistent this season.

He has recorded top-10 finishes in four of the six tournaments he has played this year, including a second placing behind Tiger Woods at last month’s Arnold Palmer Invitational.

Rose has been making steady progress since announcing his arrival of the world stage as a teenage amateur at the 1998 British Open. He finished fourth and turned professional the following day but endured a tough start to his career, missing the cut in his first 21 events.

But now, with 13 titles under his belt and top-five finishes at all four majors, he has proven himself able to handle the pressure and says his early shortcomings have helped him blossom.

“I think I was thrown into a little bit too soon,” he told a news conference earlier this year. “I think the expectations are what I really, really struggled with. But I put all my faith in hard work, though to be honest,” Donald finished tied for fourth at the Masters two years ago when his star was really on the rise. He won the money lists on the PGA and European tours that season and went into last year’s Masters ranked number one in the world, but could manage only 32nd.—Reuters

Motorcycling—Lorenzo starts season with fastest practice time

NEW YORK, 5 April— MotoGP world champion Jorge Lorenzo started the season with a fastest lap as Yamaha swept the top three places in Thursday’s first free practice for Sunday’s floodlit Qatar Grand Prix.

The Spaniard lapped the Losail desert circuit with a best time of one minute 56.685 seconds set right at the end of the session. Britain’s Cal Crutchlow, on a non-works Tech3 Yamaha, was second fastest in 1:56.743 ahead of Lorenzo’s Italian team mate Valentino Rossi in 1:56.756.

“It’s a very good way to start the season, on top. To have three Yamahas in the first three positions like in (the final test in) Jerez means this track can be possible for us,” said double champion Lorenzo.

“We need to improve though because the other guys will come in the next practice.” Spanish MotoGP debutant Marc Marquez, last year’s Moto2 champion, was the fastest Honda rider in fourth place.—Reuters

Toure signs new long-term deal with Manchester City

LONDON, 5 April—Manchester City midfielder Yaya Toure has signed a new long-term contract that will keep him at the Premier League champions until 2017, the club said on Thursday.

Toure, whose powerhouse display were at the heart of City’s run to the league title last season, said he was keen to end his career at the club he joined from Barcelona in 2010.

“This is where I want to be,” the 29-year-old Toure said on the club website (www.mcfc.co.uk).

“When I first arrived at City every time I went to sleep I would dream about us winning something; now it is about us being the best team in whatever competition we take part in.

“I will never forget how I have been treated here by the fans, the club and the owners and nothing would give me greater pleasure than to finish my career as a Manchester City player.”—Reuters

Manchester City’s Yaya Toure celebrates his goal against Chelsea during their Premier League match at the Etihad Stadium in Manchester, northern England, on 24 Feb, 2013.—Reuters

Lee Westwood of Britain hits his tee shot on the 3rd hole during the third round of play in the Honda Classic PGA golf tournament in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida on 2 March, 2013.—Reuters

Manchester United’s manager Alex Ferguson reacts after the Champions League quarter-final match against Real Madrid at Old Trafford stadium in Manchester, on 5 March, 2013.—Reuters

Ferguson backs van Persie to end goal drought

LONDON, 5 April— Manchester United manager Alex Ferguson is backing Robin van Persie to end a nine-game goal drought as the Premier League leaders prepare for Monday’s derby clash with champions Manchester City.

“Robin doesn’t need a rest, that’s for sure,” the Scot told reporters on Thursday. “He’s a strong lad with a great physique.

“The goals will come. All strikers have little dry spells — you always hope it ends quickly. It’s just part of being a striker.”

The Dutchman last scored for United in a home game against Everton in February and, with 19 goals to his credit, has fallen behind Liverpool’s Luis Suarez (22) as the league’s top scorer.

Ferguson said van Persie was unlucky not to be credited with the winner at Sunderland last weekend, when his shot took a deflection off Titus Bramble’s thigh and was given as an own-goal.—Reuters

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Bale hurt as Spurs fight back for draw with Basel

Tottenham Hotspur’s Gareth Bale lies injured during their Europa League quarter-final first leg soccer match against FC Basel at White Hart Lane in London on April 4, 2013.—Reuters

London, 5 April—Tottenham Hotspur fought back from two goals down to claim a 2-2 draw at home to Basel in the first leg of Thursday’s pulsating Europa League quarter-final where Gareth Bale was carried off on a stretcher late on. Substitute Gylfi Sigurdsson made it 2-2 just before the hour when he cut inside and fired home a deflected shot to give Spurs a fighting chance in the second leg after the Swiss champions had stunned the home crowd by taking a two-goal lead after 34 minutes.

Spurs’ joy was tempered by Bale, their shan-
ing light this season, being injured in the closing stages after appearing to turn his ankle in a challenge with David Dejan. Basel deservedly opened the scoring on the half hour thanks to Valentin Stocker. The dangerous Mohamed Salah crossed from the right and captain Marco Streller turned sharply and hit the post, with Stocker on hand to put the rebound into the empty net.

Swiss league leaders Basel doubled their advantage four minutes later through Fabian Frei, who was left unmarked to head home after Spurs defender Jan Vertonghen could only divert a corner across the area. Spurs striker Emmanuel Adebayor then stabbed the ball home ahead of the break to give the hosts hope and the Londoners should have gone in level but Scott Parker put the ball wide of an empty net from close range.

Tottenham, who won the competition in its previ-
ous guise as the UEFA Cup in 1972 and 1984, were fa-
voured to reach the semi-
finals going into the tie but Basel have two away goals for next week’s second leg at St Jakob Park.—Reuters

NATO helicopter kills four Afghan police

Kabul, 5 April—Gunfire from a helicopter operated by NATO forces killed four Afghan police officers in the eastern Prov-
ince of Ghazni, a district police chief said on Thurs-
day.

Civilian casualties are a source of friction between President Hamid Karzai and his international allies, and the mistaken killing of members of the Afghan security forces is likely to compo-
und Afghan govern-
mment anger.

The four Afghan Local Police (ALP) officers were in a village in Dayak district when the helicopter fired on them on Wednesday, said district police chief Faiz Mohammad.

“The gunship must have mistaken the police-
men for insurgents,” police chief Faiz Mohammad told Reuters, adding that the four were not wearing uni-
forms. Two civilians who were nearby were wound-
ed, he said.

A spokesman for the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) said it was “assessing” the report.

“We’re aware of local reports of an alleged air strike in Ghazni Province yesterday in which sev-
eral people were reportedly killed,” the spokesman said.

In recent years, Dayak District has largely been under the control of the Taliban but the ALP, who are often recruited from mi-
liitzas, have pushed the milit-
ants out of the area.

Last week, an air strike by NATO helicopter sup-
porting Afghan security forces killed two children and nine suspected Taliban in a different area of Ghazni Province.—Reuters

Pakistan-China negotiate on 1,000-megawatt nuclear power plant

Islamabad, 5 April—Pakistan’s Foreign Minis-
try spokesperson confirmed on Thursday the atomic energy commission is neg-
ogating the purchase of a 1,000-megawatt nuclear power plant from China.

“We have an ongoing cooperation with China regarding civilian nuclear technology under IAEA safeguards,” spokesman Aizaz Chaudri told a week-
ly briefing when asked to

comment on reports claim-
ing construction of a third nuclear power plant in Chashma in southern Pun-
jab would soon start.

Pakistan is operating two Chinese-supported 300-megawatt nuclear plants in Chashma and working on two additional 300-megawatt plants.

The Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission has been given the target to produce 8,500-megawatts by 2030 and it has already carried out extensive work to install three additional power plants in Karachi, Faisalabad and in the nucle-
ar complex near Chashma.

Pakistan is operating its oldest 138-megawatt nu-
clear power plant at Hawks near Karachi and one of the additional plants is expected to be located adja-
cent to the site.

The PAEC is also en-
gaged in the construction of a fuel fabrication facility near Faisalabad where an additional nuclear power plant is planned.

Pakistan has long toyed with the idea of manufactur-
ing its own nuclear power plants, but officials said the project had been shelved because the country did not have a contract for regular supply of uranium to under-
take the production of nu-
clear fuel on a commercial scale.—Kyodo News

Central European university exchange programme reaches 20th year

Vienna, 5 April—The Central European Ex-
change Programme for Uni-
versity Studies (CEEPUS), currently in its 20th year of existence, held its 18th ministerial conference here on Thursday.

Since 1993, more than 24,000 students and 14,000 teachers have taken part in the programme which involves cooperating uni-
versities from Central, Eastern, and Southeastern Europe, said Austrian Fed-
eral Minister of Science and Research Karlheinz Toech-
terle.

At the conference, the Republic of Moldova was welcomed as the 15th full

member of the programme. CEEPUS was the first academic programme in the region following the fall of the Iron Curtain to bind its members together on an equal footing, something Toechterle said “has made a significant contribution to peacemaking in the re-
gion.”—Xinhua

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL
(6-13 09:30 am –
7-4 13 09:30 am) NST

* News
* Hope for Myanmar’s Transport System
* NATO-Moustafa
* New infrastructure and Good Staff at Your Service
* Be a Lover to Nature
* “Myanmar Movies Impact” Be Happy & Perversity (Part-1)
* News
* “Myanmar Movies Impact” Be Happy & Perversity (Part-2)
* Welcome to Ngwe Haung Beach Resort
* News
* New Infrastructure and Good Staff at Your Service
* Be Lover to Nature
* News
* 100% Myanmar
* Movies
* “Myanmar Movies Impact” The Water Festival Rain”

Myanmar TV
(6-4-2013, Saturday)
6:00 am
1. Sitta By Venerable MinGung Sayawd
6:25 am
2. Healthy Programme
6:40 am
3. Pyi Thu Ni Ti
6:50 am
4. Dance & Song of National Races
7:00 am
5. News
7:20 am
6. Public Debate
8:00 am
7. News
8:20 am
8. India Drama Series
9:00 am
9. News
9:20 am
10. How It’s Works
9:45 am
11. Beautiful ASEAN
9:50 am
12. TV Drama Series
10:00 am
13. News
10:15 am
14. TV Drama Series
11:30 pm
15. Dance of Thin Gyan Festival
12:30 pm
16. Myanmar Movie
15:00 pm
17. News
15:15 pm
18. Celebrity and Dinner
16:15 pm
19. Myanmar Traditional
20:45 pm
21. National Races
22:00 pm
22. Facebook Programme
23:00 pm
23. News
0:00 am
24. News
0:30 am
25. Seattle Drama Series
1:00 pm
26. News
1:15 pm
27. Celebirty and Dinner
2:00 pm
28. TV Drama Series
2:15 pm
29. News
2:30 pm
30. TV Drama Series
3:00 pm
31. News
3:15 pm
32. Pyi Thu Ni Ti
3:45 pm
33. Present Song
4:00 pm
34. News
4:15 pm
35. Public Debate
5:00 pm
36. Myanmar Series
5:15 pm
37. TV Drama Series
6:00 pm
38. Gadagabale
7:00 pm
39. Phwintbae

Visitors look at a painting by Wu Hufan estimated at a price of 8 million to 12 million HKD (about 1 million to 1.5 million US dollars) during the preview of the Hong Kong 2013 Spring Auctions held by China Guardian Auctions Co Ltd in Hong Kong, south China, on 3 April, 2013. The two-day auctions will start on 4 April, with over 300 pieces of paintings and calligraphy as well as ceramic artworks. Xinhua
Union Defence Minister meets Singaporean guest

Nay Pyi Taw, 5 April—Union Minister for Defence Lt-Gen Wai Lwin met Mr. William Choong, Shangri-la Dialogue Senior Fellow for Asia-Pacific Security of the Republic of Singapore at the ministry this morning. They cordially discussed measures for Shangri-la Dialogue to be held in May and June. The meeting was also attended by the officials of the Ministry of Defence.

The 2015 election would be a sign of progress of democratization: Mr Jimmy Carter

Yangon, 5 April—“President U Thein Sein is a very shrewd leader. By-elections was successfully held. Myanmar sees active participations of every step of Hluttaws. Myanmar’s political developments are dramatic,” said US former President Mr. Jimmy Carter at a meeting with officials from political, social and religious organizations at Parkroyal Hotel this evening.

He continued to say that the world countries are taking keen interests in Myanmar. International organizations want to extend helping hands to Myanmar. Myanmar’s future is in the hands of her people. He hopes that international community’s interests should be durable. The 2015 election would be a sign of progress of democratization. He also said that international observers should be invited to the 2015 election including him. He urged officials to solve the challenges all Myanmar people and political leaders may face politically. After that, Mr Jimmy Carter replied to the queries raised by those present.

Development of meat production in Myanmar discussed

Nay Pyi Taw, 5 April—Union Minister for Livestock and Fisheries U Ohn Myint held discussion with Chief Executive Officer and President Mr. Yoo, Jong Ha of Cheil Jedang-CJ Co from the Republic of Korean and party at the ministry, here, this morning.

The meeting focused on feedstuff production for development of meat sector in Myanmar and cooperation in livestock breeding and hatch industries for domestic and foreign markets.

Nay Pyi Taw, 5 April—A ceremony to welcome President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein by President of the People’s Republic of China Mr. Xi Jinping took place on the lawns of Sheraton Hotel in Sanya at 5:30 pm LST today.

On arrival at the welcoming ceremony, the President was cordially greeted by the President of the Republic of China. The Chinese President introduced welcoming party to the President. President U Thein Sein also presented his entourage to the Chinese Counterpart.

The two Presidents took salute of the Guard of Honour while the State Band played the National Anthems of the two countries.

The two Presidents inspected the Guard of Honour.

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