China has committed to sharing its development with regional countries.

MNA

President U Thein Sein and party holding talks with Chinese President Mr. Xi Jinping and party at Sheraton Hotel in Sanya of PRC.—MNA

Maung Lwin, U Tin Naing Thein, U Than Hay, Dr Myint Aung, and Dr Kan Zaw, Deputy Minister Dr Win Myint, Myanmar Ambassador to China U Tin Oo and departmental heads. The Chinese President was accompanied by Member of the Politburo of the CPC Central Committee and head of the Policy Research Office Mr Wang Huning, Member of the Politburo of the CPC Central Committee and head of Admin Office Mr Li Zhan Shu, State Councilor Mr Yang Jie Chi, Foreign Affairs Minister Mr Wang Yi, Minister for National Development and Reform Commission Mr Xu Shao Shi, Minister of Commerce Mr Gao Hu Cheng, the General Secretary of Hanan Province Party, the Deputy Foreign Minister, the Chinese Strategic cooperative partnership countries through “Paukphaw relation”. Mutual respects and sympathy is the essence of relations between the two countries. China always put emphasis on China-Myanmar multi-strategic cooperation, he added.

He also discussed strategic location. He said he welcomes comprehensive strategic cooperation, and both countries need to overcome difficulties through mutual understandings and patience. He hoped that as responsible investors, Chinese companies would make effort for winning the trust of local people.

He expressed his wish for soonest implementation of China’s low-interest loans. He highlighted Myanmar’s investments including Kyaukpyu Deep Sea Port and micro finance assistance for development of agricultural sector in Myanmar, cultural exchanges, China Radio International (CRI)’s cooperation with MRTV, technical assistance for XXVII SEA Games and border region stability.

President U Thein Sein said that he believed that both countries would reach the status of comprehensive cooperation during the term of his Chinese counterpart. Myanmar would constantly continue to support One-China Policy. He pledged that Myanmar would practice an independent and active foreign policy and five principles of peaceful co-existence. Myanmar put more emphasis on regional countries as being in a lack of investments and technology and export of rice, corn and rubber to China.

He asked for China’s assistance to human resources development for capacity building of the governmental organizations. After that, both leaders attended a signing ceremony, Union Minister Dr Kan Zaw and Chinese Minister of Commerce Mr Gao Hu Cheng signed the Agreement on Economic and Technical Cooperation. Ambassador U Tin Oo and Chairman of China Export & Import Bank Mr Li Rougu signed the Preferential Buyer Credit Loan Agreement on the Design, Material Supply and Technical Service of Upper Yeywa-Shwesaryan 230KV Twin Bundle Double Circuit Transmission Line (80 Miles) and 230 KV Shwesaryan Substation Extension Project, and the Financing Arrangement Agreement Regarding Microfinance Cooperation for Myanmar Rural Development.—MNA

Union Minister Dr Kan Zaw and Chinese Minister of Commerce Mr Gao Hu Cheng sign the Agreement on Economic and Technical Cooperation.—MNA

Ambassador U Tin Oo and Chairman of China Export & Import Bank Mr Li Rougu sign the agreement in the presence of President U Thein Sein and President Mr. Xi Jinping.—MNA

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Yangon Mayor’s water-throwing pavilion to appear in new design

Yangon, 6 April— Yangon Mayor’s water-throwing pavilion will appear in new design in Thingyan water festival. It will be certainly different to that of the previous years. A wide variety of performances will be presented by Yein troupe, music bands and a group of Shwe Phalar comedians at the pavilion. It is planned to spend about K 25 million on construction of this year’s water-throwing pavilion for enabling Yangonites to take part in the joyful festival of the country in accord with Myanmar tradition and culture. Yangon City Development Committee’s Engineering Department (Building) will design and build the pavilion with a curved shape in the middle flanked by two LED boards for concert audience from a distance.

During the period of water festival, Yein troupe of young girls, pop stars including Playboy Than Naing, Khine Htoo, Soe Paing, Athin Cho, Swe, Ni Khin Zaw and Bunny Phyo and comedians of Shwe Phalar Yazar Anyeint troupe will present a variety of performances to Thingyan lovers from 13 to 16 April.

Fire-damaged notes, handbags found abandoned while clearing debris on fire-razed land in Meiktila

Meiktila, 6 April — With prevalence of peace and stability, victims at relief camps in Meiktila are being allowed to go back to their homes for necessary examination. They are also being provided with full safeguard by local authorities daily.

Security members and Tatmadawmen discovered a haul of fire-damaged 880 K 5000 notes and 700 K 1000 notes worth K 5.1 million and five abandoned handbags near a drain in sector (8) of Wunzin ward on 4 April. The abandoned notes and handbags are being kept held at No (2) police station.

Passenger bus crashes into back of stationary truck on Mandalay-Monywa motorway

Monywa, 6 April — A passenger bus crashed into the back of a stationary six-wheeled truck on Mandalay-Monywa road near Laymyathnar Dhammayar in Shwethamar ward in Sagaing at about 2.45 am on 29 March.

The passenger bus of Sein Hay Hlaing bus line driving from Yangon to Shwebo by Han Win Aung of Thaton Township hit the back of the truck which was stationary by the roadside on Mandalay-Monywa road near Laymyathnar dhammayar in Sagaing because of its engine failure. Due of the force, the two vehicles plunged down the embankment, leaving the driver of the passenger bus injured.

No (1) police station in Sagaing filed a lawsuit against Han Win Aung for his reckless driving.

School boy attacked by leopard in amateur hunt

Monywa, 6 April — A group of young boys who are in Grade X had fallen victims to a leopard while they went hunting in the forest near Phonegyi creek, six-furlong south of Kyaukudine village in Wuntho Township of Sagaing Region on 26 March.

While going an amateur hunt in the woods, the group of eight students including Myo Hlaing Win and Thant Zin Tun came across the leopard and Myo Hlaing Win was attacked by the big cat. As the victim had suffered from cuts and bruises on his forehead and life tight, he was taken to the hospital. Due to the incident, local people have warned of going walks in the woods carelessly.

Meiktila victims allowed to go through their homes

Meiktila, 6 April — The provision of care for the victims at relief camps in Meiktila are being contributed by officials concerned and wellwishers.

Moreover, arrangements are being made for them to check their damaged houses by local authorities. On 4 April, 62 households were allowed to go through their houses in Wunzin and Yan Myo Aung wards.

Erosion of ring road in Mawlamyinegyun Township threatens remaining dwellings

Mawlamyinegyun, 6 April— Of 29 houses, only seven have remained because of the severe erosion that has occurred since 1990 on Yamonna ring road at Myoma ward-9 in Mawlamyinegyun Township of Ayeyawady Region.

The ring road had been eroded by river water of Tonhle creek.

At the regular rate of erosion from the Myanmar month of Tabuang to Tazaungmone in every year, the area of the road that ranges from about 10 to 15 feet disappear yearly. With the land erosion at a rapid rate by the river water of Tonehle creek, over 1000 feet long Yamonna ring road was lost, the land area of 22 houses eroded and all perennial trees washed out by the river water.

There are moved to other places while others are taking self-reliant measures to protect the erosion.

Expressway crash claims two lives, hurt two others

Toungoo, 6 April— A car crash on Yangon-Mandalay expressway claimed two lives and hurt two others at about 5 am on 3 April.

A Yangon-Mandalay-PyinOoLwin passenger bus of Akaasha bus line driven by Tin Soe, 42, crashed into the back of a light truck driven by Moe Nyo (a) Than Htet Aung, 39, while trying to overtake the latter at a place between mile post No (238/1) and (238/2) on Yangon-Mandalay expressway, causing the light truck overturned.

The driver of the overturned light truck and Aung Naing Win, 31, of Bago were pronounced dead on the spot at the scene of accident while Aung Myo oo, 31, and Tin Naung, 19, who were on board the light truck were wounded. The injured were hospitalized at Nay Pyi Taw 1000-bedded Hospital.

Soon after they were informed of the fatal road accident, Police Captain Zeyar Lin of Pannin traffic police station on the expressway rushed there and made necessary arrangements.

The case is under investigation by the police station.— Kyemon

World Health Day

High Blood Pressure

Ministry of Health
Fukushima reservoir tank may have leaked contaminated water

Tokyo, 6 April—Tokyo Electric Power Co said on Friday that up to 120 tons of contaminated water may have leaked into soil from one of the seven underground reservoir tanks at the crippled Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant. According to TEPCO and the Nuclear Regulation Authority, around 6,000 becquerels of radiation per cubic centimetre were logged Friday in water between the sheets. Trace amounts of radioactive substances were also detected in water between the outermost sheet and the soil. The tank stores water used to cool down atomic reactors at the crippled plant after radioactive cesium was removed, but other radioactive substances are thought to remain.

The tank is around 800 meters from the ocean and TEPCO believes the contaminated water is unlikely to flow into the sea.—Kyodo News

No deal in sight on final day of Iran nuclear talks

Almaty, 6 April—Iran enters a second day of talks with world powers on Saturday no closer to resolving a nuclear dispute that has led to sanctions on its oil exports and talk of a new Middle East war. The final day of negotiations is unlikely to achieve more than a willingness to keep talking, after Iran responded on Friday to a limited offer to ease sanctions with a proposal of its own that puzzled Western diplomats and which Russia said raised more questions than answers.

With all sides aware that a breakdown in diplomacy could move the decade-old standoff a step closer to war, no one in the Kazakh City of Almaty was talking about abandoning diplomatic efforts. But an actual deal was as far away as ever.

“We had a substantive exchange. But there is still a wide gulf between the parties. We are considering how we move on from here,” said one Western diplomat after five hours of talks. With a 14 June Presidential election looming in Iran, hopes for a breakthrough were slim even before Friday’s talks when Iran declined to accept or reject an offer to ease some sanctions in exchange for curbing some of its nuclear work. Iran’s deputy negotiator which accuse it of seeking nuclear weapons capability, have accused Tehran in the past of using diplomacy as a stalling tactic and the latest inconclusive talks are unlikely to reassure Israel which says it could launch air strikes to stop Iran getting the bomb if necessary. Reuters

US, partners secure 149 pounds of bomb-grade uranium from Czech Republic

Washington, 6 April—The United States and its allies have secured Friday 68 kilograms (149.91 pounds) of highly enriched uranium from the Czech Republic as part of an effort to keep nuclear materials from falling into the hands of extremists, the White House said on Friday.

The uranium, enough for two nuclear weapons, was transported to Russia where it will be blended down into low-enriched uranium for nuclear power reactors, according to a statement from Caitlin Hayden, spokeswoman for the National Security Council. The Czech Republic becomes the 10th country from which all highly enriched uranium has been removed in the last four years, Hayden said.

The United States and its allies have been trying to secure nuclear materials which the Bush administration described as “the gravest threat to America’s national security,” though not “immediate threat.” Today we can announce that the United States, with the cooperation of our international partners, successfully removed 68 kilograms of highly enriched uranium (HEU)—enough material for two nuclear weapons—from the Czech Republic,” she said. The removal of the uranium from the Czech Republic culminated a lengthy effort by the United States, the Czech Republic, Russia and the International Atomic Energy Agency.—Reuters

Abe to make 4-nation trip from 28 April

Tokyo, 6 April—Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe plans to make a four-nation trip during the Golden Week holidays from late April that will take him to Russia, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Turkey, government officials said on Friday. Abe hopes during his weekend trip to foster ties with the countries and boost cooperation over the use of natural resources, the officials said.

During his 28-30 April trip to Russia, Abe is expected to hold talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin on a longstanding territorial dispute over Russian-held islands off northern Japan as well as on the development of the Russian Far East and Siberia, the officials said.

The Japanese prime minister will then visit Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Turkey, meeting with the countries’ leaders to boost cooperation in the energy sector. Abe will return to Japan on 4 May. Kyodo News

“We are broke,” UN says as Syria refugee funds dry up

Geneva, 6 April—The United Nations gave its starkest warning yet on Friday that it would soon run out of cash to cope with the vast influx of Syrian refugees into Jordan and other neighbouring countries.

“The needs are rising exponentially, and we are broke,” Marixie Mercado, spokeswoman for the UN Children’s Fund UNICEF, told a UN news conference in Geneva.

The number of people fleeing in the world’s worst refugee crisis has reportedly run out of cash to cope with the vast influx of Syrian refugees into Jordan and other neighbouring countries.

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Russian space agency eyes joining NASA asteroid defence programme

MOSCOW, 6 April—Russia’s federal space agency Roscosmos mulled over joining an asteroid defence programme with the US NASA, the agency’s head Vladimir Popovkin has said.

The programme is aimed at capturing an asteroid and putting it into high lunar orbit for exploration. Popovkin told Rossiyskaya Gazeta newspaper in an interview on Friday, “We could send a manned expedition to explore the asteroid or study it with probes,” Popovkin said.

According to the US-based Keck Institute for Space Studies, the asteroid mission could cost about 2.65 billion US dollars in total.

Space specialists may capture the targeted asteroid and tow it to the lunar orbit in a giant draw-string bag. Meanwhile, the Roscosmos chief suggested Russia build an efficient unified system to monitor asteroids and other “space invaders” that could pose potential threat to the Earth.

Currently, Russia has three systems monitoring and forecasting the asteroid danger—one at the Defence Ministry, another at the Russian Academy of Sciences and the third at Roscosmos, Popovkin said.

He called for joint efforts from various countries, as asteroids are dangerous for the entire Earth, not just one country. “We will be able to protect ourselves only if we work together,” he said.

Scientists race to gauge pandemic risk of new bird flu

LONDON, 6 April—Genetic sequence data on a deadly strain of bird flu previously unknown in people show the virus has already acquired some mutations that might make it more likely to cause a human pandemic, scientists say.

But there is no evidence so far that the H7N9 flu—now known to have infected nine people in China, killing three—and it is spreading from person to person, and there is still a chance it might peter out and never fully mutate into a human form of flu. Just days after authorities in China announced they had identified cases of H7N9 flu experts in laboratories across the world are picking up the DNA sequence data of samples isolated from the patients to assess its pandemic potential. One of the world’s top flu experts, Ab Osterhaus, who is based at the Erasmus Medical Centre in The Netherlands, says the sequences show some genetic mutations that should put authorities on alert and entail increased surveillance in animals and humans.

“The virus has to a certain extent already adapted to mammalian intestines and to humans, so from that point of view it’s worrisome,” he told Reuters in a telephone interview. “Really we should keep a very close eye on this.”

China’s National Health and Family Planning Commission confirmed on Sunday that three people had been infected with the new H7N9 flu, with two deaths.

PayPal tests merchant financing as Kabbage raises debt

SAN FRANCISCO, 6 April—EBay Inc’s payments business, PayPal, already lends money to online shoppers, but it is now starting to finance the merchants who sell on the company’s online marketplaces.

PayPal has already tested a financing programme for eBay sellers in the UK and it plans similar tests in the United States this year, a company spokesman said on Tuesday. “Marketspace is a great innovation lab for us to test new experiences,” Gary Marino, senior Vice President, global financial services at PayPal, said at eBay’s investor day last week. “We’ve done it successfully with credit and we are experimenting with many new capabili ties which will drive share like small business lending.”

The UK programme and the up-coming US test focus on merchants selling on eBay, which number in the millions. The PayPal spokesman said the UK test was only available to a small number of merchants who were pre-selected. “The pilot programme has now ended,” he added. “We are working on full roll out.”

Banks and other providers of loans for merchants pulled back after the 2008 financial crisis, leaving an opening for alternative sources of financing. Factoring, a common source of financing in the retail business that is provided by lenders such as CIT Group and Wells Fargo, can be tough to tap for smaller merchants. The combination of fast-growing online shopping and a lack of credit for smaller businesses has created strong demand for new types of financing among sellers that ply their trade on Amazon, eBay, and other marketplaces.

A PayPal card is shown as customers can now pay with the card at selected Home Depot stores as the one in Daly City, California. Reuters

United Nations Secretary-General’s message on World Health Day

7 April 2013

This year’s World Health Day sounds the alarm about a silent global killer: raised blood pressure, otherwise known as hypertension. One in three adults worldwide has this condition. It is a major cause of death in rich and poorer countries alike.

Raised blood pressure, a main trigger for cardiovascular disease, all too often goes undiagnosed because symptoms are rare. The good news is that when it is detected early enough, relatively simple steps can significantly reduce the risk of heart attacks, heart failure and strokes. That is why the United Nations encourages all adults to have their blood pressure regularly checked at health care facilities.

Following a healthy lifestyle can add years to all our lives. The evidence is unequivocal. Cutting down on the consumption of processed salt, eating a balanced diet, avoiding harmful use of alcohol, getting regular exercise, reducing stress and avoiding tobacco use minimize the risk of developing high blood pressure and further consequences such as strokes or heart attacks.

Addressing high blood pressure is a key to tackling cardiovascular disease—one of the four most deadly non-communicable diseases.

The other three — cancer, chronic respiratory diseases and diabetes — are on the rise everywhere, particularly in low-and-middle-income countries, and increasing among younger people. The countries that are hit hardest are those that can least afford the social and economic consequences of losing a significant part of their workforce to illness and premature death. These are the same countries that can least afford to pay for treatment and care.

I welcome the growing, global momentum to address non-communicable diseases. At the General Assembly in September 2011, countries committed to taking action. Since then, the World Health Organization has worked with partners to develop a global action plan to address non-communicable diseases in the years leading up to 2020.

Reducing hypertension is a critical element in that action plan—and something we can all play a part in. Let us become aware of our own blood pressure levels, and contribute to greater public awareness of the problem of hypertension. —UNICEF/tonyang

New Light of Myanmar

Ghostly rays traced to cosmic rays

Geneva, 6 April—The Alpha Magnetic Spectrometer (AMS) team led by Nobel laureate Samuel Ting announced on Wednesday the first results in the search for dark matter, reporting an excess of positrons in the cosmic ray flux.

Ting’s team found out that the positron fraction increased at energies above 250 GeV, with the data showing the slope of the increase reducing by an order of magnitude over the range 20-250 GeV. The data also show no significant variation over time, or any preferred incoming direction.

These results are consistent with the positrons originating from the annihilation of dark matter particles in space, but not yet sufficiently conclusive to rule out other explanations.

“Over the coming months, AMS will be able to tell us conclusively whether these positrons are a signal for dark matter, or whether they have some other origin,” said AMS spokesperson Ting.

The AMS results, to be published in the journal Physical Review Letters, were based on some 25 billion recorded events, including 400,000 positrons with energies between 0.5 GeV and 350 GeV, recorded over 18 months, according to Ting. This represented the largest collection of antiparticles recorded in space.

Cosmic rays are charged high-energy particles that permeate space. The AMS experiment, installed on the International Space Station, is designed to study them before they have a chance to interact with the Earth’s atmosphere.

An excess of antimatter within the cosmic ray flux was first observed around two decades ago. One possibility for the origin of the excess, predicted by a theory known as supersymmetry, is that positrons could be produced when two particles of dark matter collide and annihilate.

However, the AMS measurement cannot yet rule out the alternative explanation that the positrons originate from pulsars distributed around our galaxy or glitches in the AMS spectrometer. Supersymmetry theories also predict a cut-off at higher energies above the cosmic ray flux, and this has not yet been observed.

Scientists race to gauge pandemic risk of new bird flu

LONDON, 6 April—Thesequences show some genetic mutations that should put authorities on alert and entail increased surveillance in animals and humans.

The virus has to a certain extent already adapted to mammalian intestines and to humans, so from that point of view it’s worrisome,” he told Reuters in a telephone interview. “Really we should keep a very close eye on this.”

China’s National Health and Family Planning Commission confirmed on Sunday that three people had been infected with the new H7N9 flu, with two deaths.
Britain house prices up 1.1 pct in Q1

LONDON, 6 April—House markets in Britain continued to improve in the first quarter of this year with the house prices rising 1.1 percent year on year, British mortgage lender Halifax said on Friday.

According to a house price index report of Halifax, now part of Lloyds Banking Group, housing prices went up 1.2 percent in the first three months as compared with the previous quarter, and up 0.2 percent in March from the previous month.

“Weak income growth and continuing below-trend economic growth are likely to remain significant constraints on housing demand during the remainder of this year,” said Martin Ellis, Halifax’s chief housing economist.

“Overall, we expect to see a modest increase in UK house prices during 2013,” he said. British Finance Minister George Osborne announced a package of housing measures in his Budget plans last month, which aimed to increase supply of low-deposit mortgages to credit-worthy households, boost levels of house building and contribute to economic growth.”

Britain car sales rise 5.9 pct in March

LONDON, 6 April—Britain’s car market continued the strong momentum in March with the new car registrations surging 5.9 percent to 394,806 units, according to figures released by the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders (SMMT) on Friday.

March marked the 13th consecutive month of growth in new car registrations, with volumes the highest since 2010 when the Government’s Incentive Scheme supported the market, said the SMMT.

The March figure adds the total volume of the new car registrations in the first quarter of this year to 605,198 units, jumping 7.4 percent year on year. SMMT attributed the growth to strong rises in sales of private, petrol and mini cars in the period. “The better than expected outcome in the first quarter should support net growth in the market in 2013.”

US Fed hints monetary stimulus to continue

WASHINGTON, 8 April—US Federal Reserve vice chair Janet Yellen on Thursday signaled that the central bank’s monetary easing policies will continue until the US economy substantially improves.

Against the background of high unemployment rate at 7.7 percent, the Fed’s mandate calls for a “highly accommodative monetary policy,” Yellen said here at the Society of American Business Editors and Writers 50th Anniversary Conference. Starting in late 2008 and continuing through today, the Federal Reserve has purchased assets including agency-guaranteed mortgage-backed securities and longer-term Treasury securities that have added about 2.5 trillion US dollars to its balance sheet, she noted.

“At some point it will be appropriate to cease adding to accommodation and,” Yellen said, “to begin the process of withdrawing the significant accommodation required by the extraordinary conditions caused by the financial crisis.”

Court upholds $142 million verdict against Pfizer over Neurontin

NEW YORK, 30 Jan, 2013.—REUTERS

A federal appeals court said Pfizer Inc should pay about $142 million to cover costs for the marketing and prescribing of epilepsy drug Neurontin for unapproved uses, a practice that also earned it a hefty criminal fine.

A panel of appellate judges in Boston on Wednesday refused to overturn a ruling in favor of Pfizer’s new trial after a jury had awarded it $142 million.

The jury found that Pfizer had marketed Neurontin for bipolar disorder, migraines and neuropathic pain, none of which had been approved by the US Food & Drug Administration.

Hyundai recall could grow further, sounds warning on quality

SEOUL, 6 April—South Korea’s Hyundai Motor Co (005380.KS) and its affiliate Kia Motors Corp (000270.KS) will take “global action” to fix a potentially faulty brake light switch, after they said they planned to recall almost 1.9 million cars in the United States.

The move may mean the world’s fifth-biggest automaker ends up recalling even more vehicles than that number, Hyundai’s US record, and is a stark warning that it may have sacrificed quality standards for rapid expansion.

Chairman Chung Mong-koo consistently stressed that quality should come first, and has recently slowed the pace of capacity expansion in favor of stricter quality control, but analysts say the shift in direction has come too late.

“Hyundai has built factories very fast around the globe in recent years, but its quality improvement has failed to keep up with its rapid volume growth,” said Kim Phil-woo, a professor at Department of Automotive Engineering at Daeil University College in Seoul.

“The latest recall highlighted loopholes in Hyundai’s quality system.”

Smokers have worse colon cancer prognosis

NEW YORK, 6 April—Smokers are less likely to be alive and cancer-free three years after having surgery for colon cancer than people who have never smoked, according to a new study.

Out of about 2,000 people who had part of their colon surgically removed, researchers found 74 percent of those who had never smoked were cancer-free three years later, compared to 70 percent of smokers.

Amanda Phipps, the study’s lead author from the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Centre in Seattle, said the results provide another reason why people should quit smoking.

Sanofi Pasteur, Xiamen University in flu vaccine cooperation

XIAMEN, 6 April—Sanofi Pasteur, the world’s largest vaccines company, and China’s prestigious Xiamen University have agreed to jointly research the development of a universal flu vaccine.

According to an agreement signed on Wednesday, Sanofi Pasteur will fund research on broad-spectrum neutralization monoclonal antibodies to treat the influenza virus, work which is already being carried out by the National Institute of Diagnostics and Vaccine Development in Infectious Diseases (NIDVD) under Xiamen University. It is hoped that the cooperation will prompt the development of a universal flu vaccine, a vaccine that doesn’t require updating each year.

Zhu Chongshi, principal of Xiamen University, labeled the joint program a pioneering effort that will benefit mankind. Sanofi Pasteur provided more than 200 million doses of seasonal influenza vaccines in 2012, accounting for about 40 percent of global market share.

Founded in 2005, the NIDVD is the only national institute of its kind in China. It aims to develop original and innovative diagnostic tests and vaccines, and to industrialize them through collaboration with academia, industry and the healthcare industry. Influenza is a contagious virus that mainly spreads through coughing. About 250,000 to 500,000 people die from the virus each year worldwide, according to the World Health Organization.”

A woman walks past the Pfizer Inc headquarters in New York, on 31 Jan, 2013.—REUTERS

A panel of appellate judges in Boston on Wednesday refused to overturn a ruling in favor of Pfizer’s new trial after a jury had awarded it $142 million.

The jury found that Pfizer had marketed Neurontin for bipolar disorder, migraines and neuropathic pain, none of which had been approved by the US Food & Drug Administration.

A Hyundai logo is seen on a car at the Paris Mondial de l’Automobile, on 28 September, 2012.—REUTERS
Two adults dead in Canada daycare shooting, police say

GATINEAU, (Quebec), 6 April — A shooting at a daycare centre near Ottawa on Friday left two adults dead, one of them the gunman, but police said all 53 children at the centre were unharmed.

Police said they received a call for help Friday morning after shots were fired in the Montessori daycare centre in Gatineau, Quebec, just across the Ottawa River from the Canadian capital.

We have two deceased and the males is the person responsible for the shooting and the second person is another male who works here at the daycare,” Gatineau Police Chief Mario Haren told reporters.

He said all the children and the shooting and the second person is another male who works here at the daycare, photo by Reuters

150 shops found engaged in online sales of high-risk drugs

Tokyo, 6 April — A total of 150 shops were found engaged in online sales of nonprescription drugs with high risks of side effects as of the end of February, a health ministry survey on Friday showed.

The findings in the nationwide survey were reported the same day at a panel meeting of the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare.

After the Supreme Court ruled in January in favour of Internet retailers who argued a ministry ordinance banning online sales of “category 1” and “category 2” drugs with high risks of side effects is illegal, ministry officials were considering new rules for such drug sales.

The survey showed two shops were selling only “category 1” drugs including some analgesic antipyretic drugs, 15 shops were selling both “category 1” and “category 2” drugs including cold drugs, and 133 shops were selling only “category 2” drugs.

In another survey conducted in March on the basis of information from local prefectural governments, 13 shops were confirmed selling “category 1” drugs and 11 of them posted precautions for use on their websites.

Ministry officials said the ministry wants to call for voluntary restraint on online sales of such drugs until new rules are made.

W Ormond, 6 April — The American jobless rate fell to 7.6 percent in March, down 0.1 percentage point from the previous month, while US employers added a smaller-than-expected 88,000 nonfarm jobs, the Labour Department said on Friday.

The growth in nonfarm jobs was disappointing—roughly half the average market forecast—and the smallest gain since July, when payrolls rose by 87,000.

By contrast, the figures for nonfarm jobs in the two preceding months were revised up, with January payrolls upgraded to 148,000 from an earlier reported 119,000, and the February data revised to 268,000 from 236,000.

With the March data, nonfarm employment has expanded for 30 consecu- tive months. The private sector created 95,000 jobs.

Alan Krueger, Chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers, indicated that the lower-than-expected nonfarm employment growth may be attributable to automatic spending cuts that kicked in March.

“It is important to bear in mind that the March household and payroll surveys are the first monthly surveys to look at employment since the beginning of sequestration,” he said in a statement.

While the recovery was gaining traction before sequester was put into play any earlier than designed and will be a headwind in the months to come, and will cut key investments in the nation’s future competitiveness,” Krueger added.

The goods-producing sector saw 16,000 more jobs in March than February.

US Board faults California safety regulations in Chevron blaze

RICHMOND, (California), 6 April — The federal agency cy investigating the fire that broke out in August at Chevron Corp’s oil refinery in Richmond, California, faulted the state’s regulatory system for not being proactive enough in preventing accidents.

The California process safety regulatory system lacked sufficient well-trained, technically competent staff and also lacked more rigorous regulatory requirements to require Chevron to reduce safety risk,” said the US Chemical Safety Board’s lead investigator.

“The whole system needs improvement,” Holmstrom said while answering questions during the Friday afternoon hearing.

US Board faults California safety regulations in Chevron blaze, photo by Reuters

After Cyprus, is Slovenia next euro zone domino?

LJUBLJANA, 6 April — Successive Slovenian governments have refused to privatize the country’s banks, which made disastrous loans to politically connected business interests and now threaten to drag the country centre-stage in the euro zone debt crisis. A span of unfinished apartment blocks in the Siska complex on the outskirts of Ljubljana is emblematic of the former Yugoslav republic’s woes, just as many such ghost neighbourhoods in Europe’s debt-choked south stand testament to the depth of the broader continent’s economic problems.

The rows of buildings, housing 833 flats in all, stand mostly empty, casualties of the country’s woes, just as many such ghost neighbourhoods in Europe’s debt-choked south stand testament to the depth of the broader continent’s economic problems.

The rows of buildings, housing 833 flats in all, stand mostly empty, casualties of the property boom turned bust and a subsequent recession.

Alongside, Vegra, a company once led by a well-placed politician, also plans to build a hotel, but got no further than digging an enormous hole. An apt symbol, as Slovenia comes under growing pressure to seek a bailout to fill a financial hole, just as Cyprus did last month.

The countries are different in many ways, but they have at least two things in common: like Cyprus, Slovenia needs to recapitalize its biggest banks, and it does not have the money to do so.

Slovenia was the only former communist state to refuse to sell most of its state-owned banking system after the fall of communism, so now it is taxpayers alone who must foot the bill of healing lenders after years of political influence and bad management loaded them down with bad loans equal to about a fifth of the economy.

Jose Damijan, an economics professor who was development minister in 2006, said state ownership meant a number of people and firms got special treatment from the lenders because of ties between political parties and the banks.

Two adults dead in Canada daycare shooting, police say

A police officer hands a child to a caregiver near the scene of a shooting in Gatineau, Quebec on 5 April, 2013, photo by Reuters

After Cyprus, is Slovenia next euro zone domino?

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After Cyprus, is Slovenia next euro zone domino?
Taninthayi Region observes World TB Day 2013

Dawei, 6 April—A ceremony to mark the World TB Day 2013 of Taninthayi Region was observed at Dawei General Hospital on 28 March morning.

Taninthayi Region Minister for Social Affairs Dr Win Aung made a speech. Head of Region Health Department Dr Kyaw Zeya read the message sent by the Deputy Minister for Health for the World TB Day 2013. Leader of TB disease control project Dr Aung Tun explained matters related to combating TB disease and control of disease.

Myanma Alinn

SPEI (Yangon) recruits outstanding youths

Myeik, 6 April—A sport trial for choosing outstanding youths to be able to attend the first year courses of Sports and Physical Education Institute (Yangon) for 2013-2014 academic year was held at Myoma sports ground in Myeik on 21 March afternoon.

Deputy Principal of SPEI (Yangon) U Soe Naing and party assessed the talent of the candidates. Altogether 44 youths participated in the sport trials.

Those selected will have the opportunity to attend the SPEI (Yangon) in the 2013-2014 academic year and to pursue sports plus education.

The institute is turning out the athletes who brought honour to the State.

Myanma Alinn

FARMING MACHINERY DEMONSTRATED: Technicians demonstrated use of combine harvester at the farmland of U Than Aung in Hsinchan Village-tract of Taikkyi Township, Yangon North District, on 20 March. Officials of Agriculture Mechanization Department and local farmer observe use of farming machinery.

Myanma Alinn

Steam-engine roller displayed at Magway Park

Magway, 6 April—Magway Township Development Affairs Committee puts an antique roller as a historic work on display at the Magway Monument Park of Magway Region.

It was estimated that the roller was over 100 years old. It was operated with the steam.

The roller was manufactured by Jon Fowler Company with letters of Working Pressure 200 LBS.

Whatever it may be, the roller indicates earnest efforts of inventors for smooth transportation of the people.—Myanma Alinn

Danger of narcotic drugs discussed

Mawlamyine, 6 April—Organized by Myanmar Anti-Narcotics Association (Central), the talks on narcotic drugs and HIV/AIDS were given at the Dhammayon of Kyaunghtin Monastery in Kwahtthat Village of Thanbyuzayat Township in Mon State on 15 March.

Dr Maung Maung Lwin of the association (central) gave lectures on interrelations between psychology and narcotic drugs, disadvantages, joint-Secretary U Myint Soe on root cause of family problems for narcotic drug cases and secretary of the Mon State association U Ye Naung tasks of the Mon State association.

Myanma Alinn

Women trained in vocational subjects

Yangon, 6 April—The course No 2/2013 of Vocational Training School concluded at the hall of the school at 135 on Dhammanzai Road in Bahan Township of Yangon Region on 29 March morning.

Head of Yangon Region Social Welfare Department U Tin Zaw Moe made a speech.

The head of the region department, the additional head of the region department, the principal and course instructor presented certificates to trainees.

One more training course comprising women wears, male shirt, knitting, body/brassier, pants, coats, snack making, Myanmar foods, Chinese foods, fruit and flowery works and wedding attires was opened on 1 April.

Myanma Alinn

Financial assistance for basic cooperative societies in Shan State (South)

Taunggyi, 6 April—Shan State (South) Cooperative Department and Shan State (East) Cooperative Syndicate disbursed microfinance to respective cooperative societies for rural development and poverty alleviation in Shan State.

On 27 March, K 95,905 million microfinance was disbursed to 385 members of four basic cooperative societies in Shwenyaung Station at Shwenyila Hall of the town and K 49.53 million to 346 members of seven basic cooperative societies at Aungpan Township Cooperative Society in Kalaw Township.

It was attended by Shan State Cooperative Development Committee Shan State Minister for Economic U Aung Kyaw Nyunt, Shan State Hluttaw representatives, officials of Shan State and township departments and members of cooperative societies.

Shan State (South) Cooperative Syndicate disbursed the loans to the cooperative societies.

A plan is underway to provide more disbursements to those of Yaksawk, Pindaya and Ywangan townships.

Myanma Alinn

In cooperation with Chinese technicians, the company will carry out construction of advanced stadium to be completed by October this year. The stadium will have a seating capacity of about 30000.

The stadium will have 400 feet long and 32 feet wide track, three-step stands, meeting hall, training hall, recreation halls for coaches and athletes and car park.

Myanma Alinn

In Mandalay, the 2013-2014 academic year was held at Myoma sports ground.

So far, construction tasks have been completed by 70 per cent.

A plan is underway to complete 75 per cent of construction by the end of April.

Myanma Alinn

Stadium, gymnasium in Mandalay completed by 70%

Mandalay, 6 April—Stadiums and hostels are under construction in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon and Mandalay where Myanmar will host the 2013 SEA Games.

Max Myanmar Company is building a stadium and gymnasium meeting international standard in Mandalay as of January 2011.

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Myanma Alinn
Healthy blood pressure

Known as a silent killer, high blood pressure kills seven million people worldwide every year and globally some 1.5 billion among the adults have fallen victims to the chronic medical condition for many years without knowing it. The risk of developing high blood pressure, also known as hypertension, may bring about the risk of developing heart and kidney diseases and stroke which are serious risk factors for sudden death worldwide.

That’s why each and every citizen of Myanmar needs to have a healthy lifestyle for healthy blood pressure. They are required to be health-conscious to prevent high blood pressure. It is good news that there are practices you can do yourself to prevent hypertension in its early stage no matter what your age or physical condition. As high blood pressure is both preventable and treatable, the risk can be reduced by keeping strict adherence to three simple tips—watch your weight, make healthy food choices and live an active life.

As prevention is better than cure maintaining a healthy weight, changing eating and cooking habits, reducing salt intake, kicking a smoking habit, avoiding risky consumption of alcohol, sticking to a regular exercise, getting a better night's sleep and monitoring blood pressure regularly will help us to prevent the risk of hypertension and reduce high blood pressure. So the onus is on each and every citizen to develop the abovementioned health tips in getting rid of the serious public health problems like hypertension.

Today is World Health Day which is observed annually to mark the founding of WHO in 1948. The theme for 2013 is High Blood Pressure. The goals of this year’s World Health Day is to reduce stroke, heart attack and kidney failure caused by high blood pressure, heightening the public awareness of causes and consequences of high blood pressure.

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All in all, we have to adopt the habits of healthy lifestyle to keep away from hypertension and to be able to control it in its early stage. Only then, will each and every citizen have a healthy lifestyle for healthy blood pressure.

Community woods plantations gaining momentum in Kachin State

Mohnyin, 6 April—Fauna and Flora International (FFI) and Biodiversity and Nature Conservation (BANCA) in cooperation with the Forest Department have been establishing community woods plantations in Mityikya, Waingmaw and Mohnyin townships in Kachin State since 2011, with a view to facilitating ecological balance and development of local people.

There have been 26 communal woods plantations teams in Mohnyin Township. The team members, departmental personnel and officials from NGOs such as BANCA, FOW, ECODEV, ENGLICAN and KMSS held a workshop on success and difficulties in establishment of communal woods plantations. EU has been supporting the project, it is learnt.—NLM-001

Rakhine State Peace and Development Implementation Central Committee meets

Nay Pyi Taw, 6 April—Rakhine State Peace and Development Implementation Central Committee met this morning at the training school in Bahtoo garrison town yesterday, attended by Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win and wife Daw Than Thazin. It was also attended by Lt-Gen Aung Than Htet from Commander-in-Chief (Army) Office, senior military officers, the commander of Eastern Command, departmental heads, cadets and their families. The Vice-Senior General and party had dinner together with cadets and their families. They then enjoyed the entertainment of Myawady Music Band, Myawady Anjent and artists. MNA

Union Minister Lt-Gen Thet Naing Win makes a speech at the meeting of Rakhine State Peace and Development Implementation Central Committee.—MNA

Vice-Senior General Soe Win attends the graduation dinner of the 116th Intake of Defence Services (Army) Officers Training School. MNA

New Light of Myanmar

NATIONAL

Graduation dinner of 116th Intake of Defence Services (Army) Officers Training School held

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Parliament denounces discriminatory and lawless acts

NAY PYI TAW, 6 April—Parliament denounced recent incidents based on discrimination and lawlessness. Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann said this morning in meeting with squads of well-rounded students and youth observers from Mon State visiting the parliament.

He briefed the visitors on formation and functions of the parliament, admitting that the parliament needs to reach further.

The Speaker, on behalf of lawmakers, promised the students and young observers to serve the interests of the nation and citizens.

The country is in democratic transition with the introduction of a market-oriented economy, he said. He stressed the need of coordination of responsible institutions to ensure the rule of law and safeguard the image and sovereignty of the country.

Only when respect to different opinions is instilled at tender age, will the future of the multi-ethnic country be better, he said.

Chairman of Pyithu Hluttaw Fundamental Rights of Citizens, Democracy and Human Rights Committee U Hay Oo also gave a speech.

A student and the leader of the young observers spoke words of thanks.

Officials of the Hluttaw Office conducted the observers round the parliament complex.

Printing and publishing draft law reviewed

NAY PYI TAW, 6 April—Information Ministry and UNESCO jointly organized a reviewing discussion on printing and publishing draft law, at Kandawgyi Palace Hotel, here on 3 April. It was attended by Deputy Minister for Information U Ye Htut and personnel, four lawmakers from Pyithu Hluttaw Bill Committee and Sports, Culture and Public Relations Committee, personnel from foreign missions and international media organizations, international media development partner organizations and UNESCO and UNDP.

The deputy information minister gave an account on feedback of printers and publishers and Myanmar Press Council (interim) on the draft law and those present made suggestions on points to be cancelled or amended. The Information Ministry will assess the recommendations and report them to the Pyithu Hluttaw Bill Committee for further amendments. UNESCO announced on 4 April that those present supported the reviewing discussion and recommendations.—MNA

2013 Myanmar National Open Sailing Championship commences

NGWEHSANG, 6 April—The 2013 Myanmar National Open Sailing Championship (Pre-SEA Games) kicked off at Ngwehsaung Beach in Ngwehsaung Sub-Township of Pathein District in Ayeyawady Region yesterday morning.

A total of 86 sailors and 23 managers and coaches from host Myanmar, Singapore, Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia and India participated in the championship.

The sailing teams took the designated positions and raised the State Flag.

At first, Chairman of the Leading Committee for Organizing the Championship Chief Minister of Ayeyawady Region U Thein Aung and President of Myanmar Sailing Federation U Moe Myint delivered addresses.

The Chief Minister, the Region Development Affairs Minister and the President of MSF formally opened the championship.

Myanmar team comprises 10 managers and coaches and 37 sailors.

In 1961 2nd SEAP Games at Ngapali Beach of Rakhine State, Myanmar could sweep four gold medals in four sailing events. In 2013, Myanmar will host the sailing event of the XXVII SEA Games at Ngwehsaung Beach of Ayeyawady Region on a grand scale.—MNA

Union F & R Minister attends 17th ASEAN Finance Ministers’ Meeting

NAY PYI TAW, 6 April—Union Minister for Finance and Revenue U Win Shein held talks with US Assistant Secretary of Treasury Mr Charles Collyns in Bandar Seri Begawan in Brunei on 3 April on ending of economic sanctions against Myanmar, assistance for monetary and banking sector development and promotion of bilateral cooperation.

The Union minister then paid a courtesy call on Brunei Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah together with financial ministers from ASEAN member countries and tripartite central bank governors.

The Union minister then attended ASEAN Finance Ministers’ Meeting (retreat) and discussed financial and monetary matters of ASEAN.

He attended the 17th ASEAN Finance Ministers’ Meeting at which economic prospects of ASEAN, plans ASEAN financial integration process, establishment of ASEAN Economic Community in 2015 and ASEAN+3 macroeconomic research office and so on were discussed.

He also attended US-ASEAN Business Council. Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar U Than Nyin also attended the related meetings to discuss ASEAN banking, financial matters and bond market development.

Myanmar will host the 18th ASEAN Finance Ministers’ Meeting in April, 2014.—MNA

Skirmish near Myanmar-Thailand border

NAY PYI TAW, 6 April—Myanmar Tatmadaw border security force exchanged fires with one armed group near Myanmar-Thailand border in Taninhtayi Region on 4 April. It is reported that no one died in the fight, and local military columns are carrying out regional security.

Pa-O National Day observed in Taunggyi

TAUNGGYI, 6 April—The 64th Pa-O National Day was observed in Taunggyi on 26 March. About 2000 Pa-O people young and old in national addresses participated in walks from the filling station at downtown Taunggyi to Taunggyi Pariyatti Monastery along Bogyoke Aung San Street. They donated alms to the monastery and shared merits gained.

Pa-O nationals actively took part in the traditional sports in the afternoon and enjoyed entertainment at the sports ground at night. The significant day was also attended by Pa-O, Shan, Danu, Taungyo and Bamar nationals from Taunggyi, Ayethaya, Hopong, Pyinmana, Kalaw, and Aungpan regions.

Myanma Alinn
France wants to keep 1,000 soldiers in Mali permanently

France has proposed keeping a permanent force of 1,000 French troops in Mali to fight armed Islamist militants, Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius said on Friday.

Fabius, on a visit to Bamako, said France was pushing ahead with plans to reduce its 4,000-strong military presence from the end of this month but planned to keep a combat force in Mali to support a future United Nations peacekeeping mission.

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon called last week for the deployment of a UN mission of 11,200 troops and 1,440 police in Mali once major combat ends.

Sudan, Egypt deny differences over borders, vow to enhance cooperation

Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir and his Egyptian counterpart Mohamed Morsi on Friday vowed to enhance cooperation in accordance with a defence accord signed in 2004, according to the Sudanese official news agency Xinhua.

“We have no sign of any epidemiological linkage between the confirmed cases and we have no sign of any environmental source,” Chinese authorities slaughtered over 20,000 birds Friday at a poultry market in the Malaysian capital, according to the Malaysian anti-drugs agency.

No sign of sustained spread of H7N9 between humans

The World Health Organization said on Friday it was no sign of “sustained human-to-human transmission” of the H7N9 virus in China, but it was important to check on 400 people who had been in close contact with the 14 confirmed cases.

“We have 14 cases in a large geographical area, we have no sign of any epidemiological linkage between the confirmed cases and we have no sign of sustained human-to-human transmission,” WHO spokesman Gregory Harlin told a news briefing in Geneva.

The 400 contacts are being followed up to see if any of them have the virus, have had it from someone else,” he said.

“We are working in order to activate the agreement of the four freedoms, and the application of them” will lead to “no disagreements over the borders.”

The Four Freedoms agreement, signed in 2004, allows citizens of Egypt and Sudan to freely move across the border, and gives them the right to work and own property in either country without a permit.

The two presidents also stressed the importance of cementing relations with the Nile water, and confirmed their willingness to manage dialogue with the Nile Basin countries in order to overcome any unexpected differences.

“We are taking steps since last June to improve relations with the African countries, especially the Nile Basin countries, and we are working to remove the obstacles that we had back in 2004,” Morsi said.

The meeting comes amid mounting public (CAR), the South Africans on the borders, and vowed to “vow to enhance cooperation in accordance with a defence accord with the CAR government.”

Drugmaker Eisai sets up Russian marketing arm

Japan, Mongolia achieve progress in free trade negotiations

Japan and Mongolia achieved some progress in bilateral free trade negotiations as they concluded a four-day meeting in Ulan Bator covering goods and services trade, the Japanese government said on Friday.

In the third round of talks, the two sides also discussed topics including customs regulations, investment and intellectual property, it said. “The first and the second rounds of negoti- ations were largely procedural, but this time we were able to hold meaningful discus- sions in each area,” said a Japanese official, adding Tokyo will continue to work toward finalizing the talks at an early date.

The Japanese Foreign Ministry said the two sides agreed to hold the next round of negotiations in Tokyo, although the dates are yet to be set.

The meeting followed Prime Minister Shinzo Abe’s visit to the Mongolian capital last weekend, during which the two countries agreed to accelerate FTA talks and strengthen cooperation on developing Mongolia’s rich mineral re- sources.

All South African troops back home from CAR

All South African troops have returned home from the Central African Republic (CAR), the South African National Defence Union (SANDU) said on Friday.

The pullout began on Thursday amid mounting scepticism about the necessity to keep the troops in the war-torn country following the killing of 13 South African soldiers outside Bangui last month.

SANDU spokesman Pikkie Gqwe said the best information they had at this stage was that the last members arrived home on Friday morning.

But the South African National Defence Force (SANDF) did not confirm the news.

South African Defence Minister Nosiviwe Mapisa-Nqakula announced the pullout on Thursday, saying the move was taken after the CAR government had been overthrown.

South Africa had about 200 soldiers in the CAR in accordance with a defence agreement with the CAR government. The Presidency refuted such claims on Friday, saying Zuma “has complied with all provisions relating to informing Parliament and the public of the employment of the South African Defence Force.”

“Allegations to the contrary made by some political parties are therefore inaccurate,” Presidential spokesman Mac Maharaj said in response to criticism by the opposition.

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Sunday, 7 April, 2013

New Light of Myanmar

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Shanghai bans entry of live poultry

Shanghai, 6 April—Shanghai authorities on Saturday started banning all live poultry from other parts of the country from entering the city after temporarily closing three markets to battle the H7N9 bird flu.

The authorities will launch inspections on roads to prevent live poultry from being transported into the city, said the Shanghai Municipal Agricultural Commission.

The latest move came after six H7N9 bird flu cases, including four fatalities, were reported in the city.

Nationwide, as of Friday afternoon, China had confirmed 14 H7N9 cases—six in Shanghai, four in Jiangsu, three in Zhejiang and one in Anhui, in the first known human infections of the lesser-known strain. Zhejiang has also reported two cases of deaths.

Endangered whale making comeback in New Zealand waters

Wellington, 6 April—A breed of whale that was hunted almost to extinction in the 19th century appears to be making a comeback to waters around New Zealand, scientists said on Friday.

Sighting collated from the public showed that mainland New Zealand was the seasonal home of tens of thousands of southern right whales, but extensive whaling saw them all but disappear from around the mainland, with few sightings for most of the 20th Century.—Xinhua

Nepal likely to meet four out of eight Millennium Development Goals

KATHMANDU, 6 April—Nepal is likely to achieve four out of eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), according to a joint Press statement released here on Friday by United Nations Development Programme and the government of Nepal.

“The government of Nepal is likely to achieve MDGs targets such as reducing the proportion of people below national poverty line, achieving 100 percent enrollment in primary education, reducing child and maternal mortality, and access to improved drinking water facilities,” the Press release stated.

However, targets related to achieving full and productive employment, reducing hunger (stunting and under-weight children) and improving the environment will be difficult to achieve, the release further stated.

Death toll rises to 72 in Mumbai building collapse

MUMBAI, 6 April—The death toll from a collapsed building in India’s financial centre Mumbai rose to 72 on Saturday, as an injured woman trapped for 36 hours was freed from the rubble of the illegal and half-constructed building.

Rescue workers using cranes and bulldozers continued to search through the wreck of twisted steel and concrete after the seven-storey building collapsed, “like a pack of cards” on Thursday evening, officials and witnesses said.

A shortage of cheap homes in Asia’s third-largest economy has led to a rise in illegal construction by developers who use substandard materials and shoddy methods in order to offer rock-bottom rents to low-paid workers.

“The building collapsed like a pack of cards within three to four seconds,” said Ramlal, a resident. “It just tilted a bit and collapsed,” he said.

Residents said labourers paying rent of around $5 a day had lived in the building.

The building, which was in a forested area in the city of Thane, had been made using poor materials and without proper approvals, said Sandeep Malvi, a spokesman for licensing authority the Thane Municipal Corporation.

He said 72 people had been killed and 36 injured and none of its 43 passengers and crew was injured, the airline said.

Airdo Co said its investigation found that the alarm was activated as a result of a wiring glitch in the indication panel for fuel levels.

A Boeing 737-500, left Tokyo’s Haneda airport at around 7:40 am and was performed with the left engine halted, the carrier said.—Kyodo News

Air Do airliner makes emergency landing, no one injured

KUSHIRO, 6 April—An Air Do domestic flight from Tokyo made an emergency landing at its destination Kushiro Airport in Hokkaido at around 9:15 am on Friday after the fuel system alarm was deactivated but none of its 43 passengers and crew was injured, the airline said.

Airdo Co said its investigation found that the alarm was activated as a result of a wiring glitch in the indication panel for fuel levels.

A Boeing 737-500, operated by a Boeing 737, 6 April

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Spain’s fishing company Pescanova to file for insolvency

MADRID, 6 April — Spanish food processing company Pescanova on Monday said it would file for insolvency after failing to reach agreement with its creditors over debts of 2.5 billion euros (about 3.23 billion US dollars).

Pescanova, based in Galicia in northwestern Spain, declared bankruptcy after a meeting of more than 13 hours with its creditors, which include banks such as Sabadell, Caixabank, Bankia, Santander, BBVA and Banco Popular. The company, whose shares had been suspended from trading since 12 March, said it filed for insolvency in order to “protect the interests of people affected.”

Last month Pescanova was reported to have found differences between the liabilities required by its creditors and those calculated by the company, and was accused by some advisers for not being “transparent” in its management.

The stock market regulator opened an investigation into Pescanova for possible market abuse, but Pescanova failed to provide the complete information about its accounts which banks and advisers are requiring. The Bank of Spain said the company has a total debt of 2.5 billion euros, but the debt could be even higher as doubts still remain over the exact state of the company’s accounts.

According to the Spanish National Institute of Statistics, firms declaring bankruptcy increased by 32 percent from 2011 to 2012 with a total of 7,799 enterprises declaring insolvency last year.

Ferry collides with barge in Hong Kong, injuring ten

HONG KONG, 6 April — Around 10 people have been injured as a ferry bound to Cheung Chau Island, southwest of Hong Kong island, collided with a barge Friday evening, local media reported.

The collision occurred in the water off the south of Hei Ling Chau Island.

Among the 10 injured people, eight were on the ferry and the other two on the barge, reports said.

Air Mauritius plans direct flight to Beijing

PORT LOUIS, 6 April — The National Airliner of Mauritius plans a direct flight to Beijing, China in July, the carrier of the Indian Ocean island country disclosed here on Friday.

The plan is part of a promotion campaign organized by the Mauritius Tourism Promotion Authority (MTPA) and its partners in China. There is the latest development after more than 170 Chinese tourism professionals, travel agents and tour operators attended shows sponsored by the tourist office in Mauritius on 26-27 March.

For the moment, Air Mauritius provides seven flights between China’s Shanghai and Mauritius per week. The number of visitors from China is rising by a yearly 271.6 percent, according to Statistics Mauritius. In February 2013, Chinese tourist arrivals hit 5,229 against 1,407 recorded in February 2012.

Caterpillar laying off 460 workers, cites weakness in mining

CHICAGO, 6 April — Caterpillar Inc said on Friday it was laying off 460 workers at a US plant that makes mining equipment.

The layoffs will affect about 11 percent of the workforce at the Decatur, Illinois, factory and reflect softening demand from the global mining industry, which is cutting back on capital investment because of a retreat in commodity prices.

Caterpillar, which had already implemented temporary layoffs and line shutdowns as well as a shortened work week in December, said the permanent layoffs were needed to “bring production in line with demand.”

It said the job cuts would take effect in 60 days.

Caterpillar is the world’s largest maker of mining equipment. The Peoria, Illinois-based company also makes construction equipment, gas turbines and diesel engines, and railroad locomotives.
Memba, 6 April—Hollywood actress-singer Jennifer Lopez reportedly got herself axed from an Indian Premier League (IPL) gig to perform for 60 mil-

lion viewers when she gave the organizers a long list of unessential demands. The 43-year-old insisted on a private plane and dozens of hotel rooms for her huge entourage, including her stylists, assistants, and chef, reports thesun.co.uk.

Disgusted officials who wanted a toner can be harsh, but if you have breakouts it can be really healing,” Johansson also recommends using lipsticks with built-in conditioners to get her trademark stand-out red lips. “My lipsticks have con-

director on the inside so if you like to wear red or coral lipstick, like me, you’re not using a dry red, which can be chalky,” Johansson said.—PTI

Tom Cruise was subjected to a master class in pint pouring at a world famous storehouse in Dublin.—PTI

Lindsay Lohan’s childhood pet dog dead

New Delhi, 6 April—Liz & Dick actress Lindsay Lohan’s beloved Maltese pooch Gucci passed away in New York at the age of 15, her mother Dina has revealed. In a Twitter post, Dina wrote: “Sad Day, Gucci our family Dog passed away.” She was 15 and brought so much love to us... she will forever be missed xo (sic)

The sad news comes weeks before Lindsay is due to check into rehab for 90 days as agreed with a Los Angeles court following her recent charges over a car accident last June.

It was reported earlier this week that her lawyers have submitted a shortlist of potential clinics and are now awaiting court approval ahead of the treatment, which is scheduled to begin next month. A source said: “Lindsay’s attorney, Mark Hel- ler, gave a list of potential rehabs to the Los Angeles City Attorney, Terry White, last week. The prosecutor will personally be calling the facilities to make sure that there is proper secu-

rity, meaning someone that monitors the whereabouts at all times of the patients.” —PTI

Beyonce, Jay-Z, Lana Del Rey part of eclectic “Great Gatsby” soundtrack

Los Angeles, 6 April—The setting is still the Roaring Twenties but the soundtrack for Australian film director Baz Luhrmann’s take on classic novel “The Great Gatsby” is firmly 21st-century rap, pop and rock.

Universal Music on Thursday released the track list for the upcoming movie featuring Beyonce, Lana Del Rey, and Florence + the Machine, as well as a new song, “100$ Bill,” by rapper Jay-Z, who is executive producer of the soundtrack.

Singer Beyonce attends HBO’s New York premiere of her documentary “Beyonce — Life is But a Dream” in New York on 12 Feb, 2013. — Reuters

The soundtrack will be released worldwide by Interscope Records on 6 May, ahead of the Warner Bros movie opening in US theatres on 10 May.— Reuters
Barcelona complains about refereeing in PSG draw

Barcelona says it has sent a letter to UEFA protesting some of the referee’s decisions in its 2-2 draw at Paris Saint-Germain in the Champions League quarterfinals.

PTI

Manchester laments former tormentor Balotelli’s absence

Manchester, 6 April—Manchester City manager Roberto Mancini believes a lack of funds has left his club like last season, when he was adamant he deserved the big job like Liverpool and the Italian weight boxing champion of the world “is long overdue a pardon. Johnson paved the way for black boxers like me.”

Ancelotti on Friday rounded on the second leg? Yes,إبرو دو كاريو، الذي يعرف باسم مهاجم في النادي الإنجليزي ليفربول، قال إن السؤال الذي يواجهه في هذا الوقت هو ما إذا كان يتعامل مع الألف لم تحقق النتائج المتوقعة في مباراته.

Ancelotti into starting with Manchester City’s midfielder for commercial reasons.

PTI

Beckham criticism ‘strange and unfair’

Paris, 6 April—Paris Saint-Germain coach Carlo Ancelotti on Friday rounded on critics of David Beckham for his performance in the Champions League quarterfinal first leg match against Barcelona.

Criticisms of Beckham are strange and unfair. He had a very good match. He followed the strategy I laid out to the letter and gave the ball quickly,” the Italian told a news conference.

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Ancelotti on Friday rounded on the second leg? Yes,the way(615,656),(996,996) he played make me want to start with him again in the second leg? Yes, of course it did. If Paris were good in the first half-hour against Barca it’s because Beckham was good as he looked to play quickly.”

O’Neill says did not deserve Sunderland sack

London, 6 April—Martin O’Neill, still licking his wounds following his first sacking as a manager, believes he was unlucky to be dismissed by Sunderland after helping keep them in the Premier League last season.

O’Neill had once been heavily touted in the media for a big job like Liverpool or even Manchester United but now the 61-year-old’s reputation is at an all-time low with 16th-placed Sunderland having slipped to a point above the drop zone.

Nevertheless he is adamant he deserved the chance to try to save the club like last season, when he took over in December 2011 and won seven of his first 10 games. “Coming into the football club at the time when the club was on its knees, and I believe I saved the club from relegation last year, I felt the opportunity (to stay) should have still been afforded to me, “the former Celtic and Aston Villa boss told the BBC.

Italian Paolo Di Canio, who has had to fight off accusations he is a fascist, succeeded O’Neill on Sunday and has seven matches left this term to try to guide the north east club away from trouble.

His first game in charge is Sunday’s trip to Chelsea, with O’Neill’s last match at the helm a 1-0 defeat at home to soon-to-be-Champions League final reverts ahead of their English Premier League soccer match against Manchester United in Sunderland, northern England on 30 March, 2013.—Reuters

Reuters

US senators back Tyson pardon bid for boxing champ Johnson

Washington, 6 April—Two senior US senators welcomed a petition launched by former boxer Mike Tyson for a pardon in March. Pardons require presidential approval.

More than 1,400 people have signed the petition since Tyson launched it on Wednesday.

Johnson, the world heavyweight champion from 1990 until 1995, was convicted in 1913 for transporting a woman across state lines for immoral purposes. The law, meant to combat prostitution, was often used in the segregation era as a way to punish inter racial couples.

Johnson, who was married three times, all to white women, was arrested in 1920 after seven years in exile and spent a year in jail. He died in 1946 at age 68.

At least two previous attempts to get Johnson pardoned have come to nothing in the past 10 years.—Reuters

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PTI

Freixa says Barcelona complains about refereeing in PSG draw

Freixa says Barcelona, with nine days of last season as City scored a total of 93 league goals last season. In 30 games so far this campaign they have found the back of the net 55 times compared to 72 at the same stage last season.

The difference is that we score 20 goals less than last year. Only this difference,” said Mancini.

“We concede the same, we have the best defence, we are missing only these goals. We had a lot of injuries, we lost Sergio, we lost Mario,” he added in reference to Aguero, who missed the first month of the season and has sustained further knocks.

Mancini again said the title race was finished but now the 61-year-old’s ambition is to stay should he have still been offered to me,” the former Celtic and Aston Villa boss told the BBC.

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Qatari owners Pressured Ancelotti into starting with Manchester United and Real Madrid midfielder for commercial reasons.

But the coach said: “It’s wrong to say that Qatar told me, ‘Beckham must play’... Club presidents can’t force a coach to pick a player... “During my career, no president has forced me to pick a player, whether it’s (AC Milan president Silvio) Berlusconi, (Chelsease owner Roman) Abramovich or Nasser (al-Khelaifi), PSG’s majority shareholder.”

“He annoys me that anyone can think that.”

He added: “I’m not a friend of
Heavy rains disrupt transport, power in Kenya

Nairobí, 6 April—Heavy downpour that began late March in Kenya is wreaking havoc in some parts of the East African nation, disrupting transport and electricity supply with numerous properties becoming flooded.

The government estimated that some 15 people have been killed and more than 600 families displaced by the flash floods and flood-related accidents in the past two weeks.

“The affected population is also at risk of contracting water borne diseases,” the Kenya Red Cross Society (KRCS) said in its latest update on the situation of flood across the country on Friday.

The government has also advised people living in flood prone areas to move to higher ground following the heavy rains in many parts of the country.

Widespread destruction of property and infrastructure has also resulted, as well as disruption of key activities such as farming and education.

The KRCS, the government and the Meteorological department had warned in some parts of the East African nation has been disrupted since schools have been marooned.

The most affected regions are in Western Kenya, Coastal region and parts of Rift Valley where heavy rains have washed away bridges and rendered many roads impassable, making difficult efforts to reach thousands of people made homeless by the flooding.

The humanitarian agency said it carried out a rapid needs assessment and the immediate needs of the affected households are food, shelter, bedding, jerry-cans and water purifiers.

“The immediate interventions include distribution of relief food, provisions of shelter, bedding and mosquito nets, provision of aqua tabs for treatment of water to avoid diarrheal diseases, hygiene promotion talks to avoid contamination of water and placement of two boats at different strategic positions,” the government said.

The country’s electricity utility Kenya Power said its working towards restoring power to customers in some parts of the country where heavy rains have caused damage to the company’s electricity infrastructure.

The company said rainstorms that hit several parts of Nairobi and environs over the Easter break left a trail of destruction on the power supply infrastructure, and customers without electricity.—Xinhua

Azinger says Tiger is a mix of artist and engineer

New YorK, 6 April—Tiger Woods has regained his golfing mojo because his artistic talents are combining with his technical prowess to produce the complete player, according to former US Ryder Cup captain Paul Azinger.

Fourteen-times major winner Woods has gone through four swing changes in his career, the most recent under coach Sean Foley, prompting widespread criticism after the American slid from the top to 52nd in the rankings in 2011.

Woods, however, has gradually worked his way back up the rankings and three PGA Tour victories this year have helped the 37-year-old take over from Northern Ireland’s Rory McIlroy as number one.

“Tiger is an artist who has tried to become an engineer and when there is a convergence of the two, that is something to behold,” Azinger told Reuters in an interview ahead of next week’s US Masters, the first major of the season.

“It is a beautiful thing to watch, a bit like Roger Federer in tennis. It’s harder to play golf as an engineer than as an artist but you have to have a little bit of both,” Azinger said.

“I believe Tiger is still the great artist who was overcome by becoming the engineer in each one of his swing changes. Now he’s beyond the point where the thoughts of the engineer are interrupting his motion,” Azinger, who led the Americans to victory at the 2008 Ryder Cup, compared Woods with the great Spanish shotmaker Seve Ballesteros who died in 2007.

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President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein holds discussion with Secretary Mr. Luo Bao Ming of Hainan Provincial Committee of the Communist Party of China. MNA

Nay Pyi Taw, 6 April—President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein received Reporter Ms. Li Xiaokun from China Daily at MGM Grand Hotel in Sanya of China at 9:10 am today.

The President explained his views on Boao Forum, developments in tourism industry, Myanmar’s cooperation in facilitating communication system along the pipeline. They discussed matters related to nickel exploration in Chin State, creating job opportunities for locals and assistance for education and health for promoting of living standard of local people.

The President also met Head of CNPC Co Ltd Mr. Zhou Jiping at the same venue at 3:25 pm today. At the meeting, The CNPC president made clarifications on 92 % completion of 1540-miles long pipeline from Made Island in Rakhine State to Yunnan Province, Myanmar’s cooperation in facilitating communication system along the pipeline.

The President recognized smooth running of projects. He highlighted the

Chaungzauk BEHS Branch in Thanlyin Township gets new building

Nay Pyi Taw, 6 April—The Government of Japan, under its Grant Assistance for Grass-roots Human Security Projects (GGP) Scheme, granted US$ 84,481 for construction of school building at Chaungzauk Village Basic Education High School Branch in Thanlyin Township, Yangon Region and school building was handed over yesterday.

Ms. Tokunaga, Third Secretary of Japanese Embassy, Chairman U Win Hlaing and members of the School Construction Committee together with village elders attended the said ceremony.

The Japanese Government decided to provide the fund for construction of a two-storey RC school building complete with four classrooms, toilets, school furniture and walkway through its GGP scheme.

The donation is aimed at further strengthening friendly relations between Myanmar and Japan.

Deputy Foreign Affairs Minister gives Aide Memoire to Indonesian ambassador

Nay Pyi Taw, 6 April—On the morning of 5 April 2013, a violent clash broke out between a group of so-called Rohingya and 12 Myanmar nationals waiting for repatriation at the Immigration Detention Centre in Medan, Indonesia. As a result, 8 Myanmar nationals were killed and 2 seriously injured.

In this connection, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Thant Kyaw summoned Ambassador Mr. Sebastianus Sumarsono of Indonesia at the ministry in Yangon at 3:30 pm today.

The Deputy Minister informed Myanmar Government’s serious concern over the death of Myanmar citizens following the violent clashes in Medan. He called on the Government of Indonesia to immediately investigate into the matter to expose the true cause, to bring those who are responsible to justice, and to ensure the safety of Myanmar nationals in Indonesia. An Aide Memoire was handed over to the Indonesian ambassador.—MNA

New Light of Myanmar

Comprehensive strategic cooperative partnership taking shape between Myanmar and China

The President received Beijing non-ferrous metal mining group Co Ltd Mr. Luo Xiaoqin of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region.

At the meeting, they discussed measures for deep sea ports and special economic zones, running of Nanning-Yangon regular airline for promoting tourism industry, Myanmar’s participation in 10th China-ASEAN Expo to be held in Nanning in September.

President U Thein Sein met President Mr. Li Li of North Petro-Chem Corp Ltd at the same venue at 2:30 pm today.

The Deputy Minister gives Aide Memoire to Indonesian ambassador

President U Thein Sein and party pose for documentary photo together with Vice Governor Mr. Zhang Xiaoqin of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region of China.—MNA

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