President urges outstanding students, scouts to be equipped with good discipline, public morals and sense of community

NAY PYI TAW, 8 April—“Learning of democratic practices should be started from the life of school children. Things they have learned must be put into practice. It is required to make a great stride in cultivating a good practice in exercise of freedom which is not harmful to others since the school days, understanding the core democratic values along with developing a sense of responsibility and accountability,” says President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein at the ceremony to honour the outstanding students and scouts at Myanmar International Convention Centre, here, this evening.

It was also attended by Vice-President U Nyan Tun, the Union ministers, deputy ministers, departmental heads and officials of the Ministry of Education.

In his speech, the President said that world nations are trying hard to compete each other in the sectors of politics, economy, education, health, technology and defence to be leading countries in the international arena. It can be witnessed that sustainable development are flourishing in some developing and developed nations as good and able new generation are being nurtured constantly, enabling them to discharge duties of the State. The President urged them not only to be proficient in subjects they have learned but also to be equipped with good discipline, public morals and sense of community, having nationalist fervour and Union spirit.

He stressed the need to be smart in every situation so that reliable new generations will emerges for the future of the country. He added that it is intended to nurture the outstanding students to send them abroad for further studies. Plans are underway in cooperate with foreign universities for students to have a chance of learning tertiary education at home.

Regarding human resources development, he stressed the need to upgrade the education that ensures students to be able work in the real situation after having certain training.

He concluded his speech, saying that the future of the country relies on well-rounded youths, having nationalist fervour and Union spirit.

The President said that the scouts were the second generation of the future nation after the outstanding students. He added that it is intended to nurture the scouts and outstanding students to be qualified leaders. He called on those present to be law abiding citizens who say no to undemocratic behaviours.

Minister Dr Mya Aye briefed on selection of well-rounded students and scouts for 2013 fiscal year. The students displayed their talents and presented rounded students and 480 scouts, totaling 990, are undergoing training in Nay Pyi Taw to become responsible citizens.

The President hosted a dinner to the students and scouts.

A total of 510 well-rounded students and 480 scouts, totaling 990, are undergoing training in Nay Pyi Taw to become responsible citizens.
Korea-Myanmar Ocean Forum 2013 organized

YANGON, 8 April—According to a tyre wholesaler in Yangon, the market is cooling as only the sale of small tyres is stable while tyre sales for trucks and buses have fallen in the market.

“We had a brisk trade last year. Sales have slumped this year. No more buyers from rural areas. Business is hard not because of the stability of dollar exchange rate but because of the declining market,” he added.

Meiktila victims allowed to go and check their fire-ravaged houses

MEIKTILA, 8 April—Victims at relief camps in Meiktila are being allowed alternately to go and check their fire-ravaged houses.

On 6 April morning, two family members each from 140 households totaling 280 from a relief camp at Meiktila District sports ground were permitted to go and check their homes in Thiri Mingala ward.

Along the road on their way back to fire-hit residences, officials of Meiktila Township General Administration Department, police members and Tatmadawmen took security measures for them.

Cash and kind for Meiktila victims

MEIKTILA, 8 April—Well-wishers are donating cash and kind to Meiktila victims through officials at the donation centre, here.

On 5 April, officials received K 4.5 million donated by Mandalay Region Advocate-General U Ye Aung Myint and well-wishers, 425 viss of beef by well-wishers, K 850,000 by One Dollar Fund Myanmar, K 500,000, 75 bags of rice by well-wishers, three bags of rice noodle and 100 packets of detergent powder by nuns of Mandalay Region, K 2 million and kitchen utensils by Yaminabin Station National League for Democracy in Thazi Township, three bags of clothing and foodstuff by Yangon Region-based Youth Network, two bags of slipper, three rolls of tarpaulin and one bag of hat by 88 Generation Peace and Open Society, 10 bags of clothing, one bag of rice and firewood by Meiktila Township NLD, K 3.5 million and supplies worth K 5 million by Mandalay Region Byamaso social organization. Up to 5 April, cash donation amounted to K 102,235,000.

Car fire on U Wisaya Road in Yangon

YANGON, 8 April — A vehicle, Pajero, caught fire by its overheated auto pump on U Wisaya Road in Sanghai Township, here, on 4 April.

The fire accident happened to the vehicle of U Kyaw Zin, 52, on U Wisaya road near the Embassy of Saudi Arabia at about 12.30 pm on that day. As soon as they were informed of the car fire, fire crews accompanied by one fire truck of Sangyoung Fire Services Department rushed there and put out the fire in cooperation with duty-conscious persons. The fire died down at about 12.45 pm. Authorities concerned filed a lawsuit against the owner of the vehicle.—Kyemon

Tyre market cool down in Yangon

TYRE PRICES for 10-wheeled and 12-wheeled trucks vary from K 200,000 to K 250,000 because of brand and quality. Likewise, tyre prices of small and medium cars are different.

Eighty-seven villagers displaced by kitchen fire

PAOKKU, 8 April—An fire broke out at Tekon Village in Myokhintha village-tract in Pakokku Township at about 4 pm on 6 April.

The fire started from the house of U Soe Thein in the village while frying egg in the kitchen. The fire swept through the whole house and spread nearby, destroying 22 houses.

Fire crews accompanied by 10 fire trucks from Pakokku Township Fire Services Department and Industrial Zone managed to bring the fire under control and put it out at about 4.30 pm. The kitchen fire left 87 villagers homeless and 19 head of goat dead. Now a relief camp is being kept open for fire victims at Mya Yadana monastery in the village and health care and relief supplies are provided to fire victims.

Overturced car hurts pilgrims

WAU, 8 April — A car accident happened to a vehicle carrying pilgrims from Nyaunghlibin to Kyairoo skidded out of control and overturned near Hmogaton Village in Waw Township of Bago Region on Yangon-Mawlamyine road, leaving 21 passengers wounded.

The overturned accident of the vehicle driven by Kyaw Lwin, 43, of Penzalote Village in Nyaunglebin Township was due to excessive speed.

Preparation in progress for Nay Pyi Taw Maha Thingyan Festival

NAY PYI TAW, 8 April—Under the supervision of Nay Pyi Taw City Development Committee, a water-throwing pavilion is being under construction in front of the City Hall, here, in preparation for Nay Pyi Taw Maha Thingyan Festival.

According to an official of Admin Division of the committee, the opening ceremony of Thingyan Festival will be held at 5.30 pm on 13 April with the entertainment program of the Ministry of Culture.

During the water festival period, Yein troupes of the Ministry of Culture will be presented. Entertainment programs will be presented alternately to go and check their homes in Meiktila are being allowed.

From 9 am to 7 pm.

Water-throwing pavilions of companies are under construction on Yazathingaha road in Hotel Zone of Zabuthiri Township where Shwe Than Lwin water-throwing pavilion will be in front of Golden Guest Hotel, Royal Kumadura Hotel, water-throwing pavilion in front of the hotel and Nay Pyi Taw FC water-throwing pavilion in front of Oasis Hotel. Arrangements are being made to present entertainment programs with the participation of movie and pop stars.

Ten-wheeled and 12-wheeled trucks vary from K 200,000 to K 250,000. Because of brand and quality, there are different. Likewise, tyre prices of small and medium cars are different.

Korean experts read out papers on maritime cooperation between the Republic of Korea and Myanmar.
Russian President Vladimir Putin arrived in Germany on Sunday to protest over his human rights and democracy record and a warning from German Chancellor Angela Merkel that Russia needs an active civil society to flourish.

Putin’s visit to Germany and the Netherlands, Moscow’s biggest trade partners in Europe, was supposed to focus on trade but comes at an awkward time after a wave of state inspections of foreign-funded non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in Russia, much criticized abroad.

In her address at the opening of an industrial fair spotlighting Russian business, Merkel told Putin Russia was propped by its raw material deposits and huge investment in infrastructure but Germany could help it in its aims to innovate and diversify.

“I believe this can happen most successfully when there is an active civil society,” she said.

We must intensify these discussions, develop our ideas, and we must give the NGOs, who we know as a motor for innovation, a good chance in Russia,” she added strong appeal.

Germany and the Netherlands need Russia for energy and as a market for exports ranging from Volkswagen Touragens to tulips, but are uneasy about the influence its oil and gas give it and about Putin’s treatment of opponents and activists in his new Kremlin term.

Merkel had come under pressure at home in vince her concerns to Putin, not only on the inspections of NGOs, but also on their differences over Syria’s civil war and Russian criticism of the German-orchestrated financial bailout of Cyprus. Her talks with Putin would include “controversial subjects” she told reporters on the sidelines of the fair.

In his address to the trade fair Putin focused on Russia’s economic strengths, noting, “despite global disarray and the global financial crisis, our country has continued to develop positively.”

In an earlier interview with German broadcaster ARD, Putin had dismissed criticism of the NGO inspections and said they would not cast a shadow over the visit, echoing his repeated rejection of Western worries about his domestic policies. Reuters
India successfully testfires nuclear capable Agni II missile

NEW DELHI, 8 April—India on Sunday successfully test-fired an experimental vaccine against advanced ovarian cancer that triggers anti-tumour immune responses using cells made from patients’ own tumour.

The vaccine provoked a positive response in 61 percent of women with stage 3 or 4 ovarian cancer, according to a report presented on Saturday at the American Association for Cancer Research annual meeting in Washington.

The University of Pennsylvania researchers first isolated immune cells called dendritic cells from patient’s blood. They then created individualized vaccines by exposing each patient’s dendritic cells to her own tumour tissue that had been collected during surgery.

They found 19 out of 31 patients clinical benefit after vaccine treatment and developed an antitumour immune response.

Of these 19 patients, eight had no measurable disease at the end of the study and remained on maintenance vaccine therapy. One patient of the eight patients remained disease-free for 42 months following vaccine treatment, they said. While vaccination therapy alone showed about a 61-percent clinical benefit, said lead author Lana Kandalaft, the combination of both therapies showed about a 75-percent benefit.

Both treatments were given in conjunction with bevacizumab, a drug that controls blood vessel growth. “We offer patients with ovarian cancer a potential therapy with minor side effects and a good quality of life,” Kandalaft said.

The researchers said they will continue to work to improve the vaccine platform to further enhance its efficacy.—Xinhua

Personalized vaccine shows promise for ovarian cancer in US

SAN FRANCISCO, 8 April—A US judge ruled that a lawsuit alleging a broad conspiracy among Silicon Valley companies to poach each other’s employees cannot proceed as a class action for now, but left the door open for workers to eventually sue as a group.

In a decision released on Friday, US District Judge Lucy Koh in San Jose, California said the five software engineers suing Apple Inc, Google Inc and five other companies have yet to show enough in common among the proposed class members to allow them to sue together.

But in deciding to give the plaintiffs another chance, the federal judge said she was “keenly aware” new evidence had recently become available that could support class certification. She also said the nature of the “alleged overarching conspiracy” and desire to litigate it all at once weighed “heavily in favor of certifying a class, which the defendants have said could include tens of thousands of people.

Apple, Google won’t face poaching class action suit, yet

WASHINGTON, 8 April—A US judge said Samsung infringed a key part of Apple patent.

South Korean-based Samsung sold 10 million of the second Apple model that allows a device to detect if a microphone or other device is plugged into its microphone jack, the judge said in a decision that was issued on 26 March but kept confidential until late Thursday to allow the companies to redact sensitive business information.

The full commission must now decide if they will uphold or overturn the judge’s decision. A final decision is expected in August.

Apple had a complaint in mid-2011, accusing Samsung of infringing its patents in making a wide range of smartphones and tablets.—Reuters

Icahn refuses to drop proxy fight option

NEW YORK, 8 April—Billionaire investor Carl Icahn is refusing to drop the option of a proxy fight to force Dell Inc to pay a big dividend to the board of the computer maker. Icahn has been preparing his bid for a long time, he said in an interview with the Wall Street Journal.

Icahn had asked the board’s special committee to be reimbursed for the cost of its due diligence on Dell, a benefit the committee has already granted to rival bidders Silver Lake Partners and Blackstone Group LP.

In its response to Icahn on Friday, the committee said it would consider Icahn’s request to recover the cost of his expenses for discovery, but only if he would drop his rights to a proxy fight and threats of “years of litigation.” In an interview with the Wall Street Journal, Icahn said he is considering a range of options, including his earlier proposal for a dividend, which would necessitate a proxy fight as well as his preliminary bid for up to 85 percent of the company. Icahn holds a $1 billion stake in Dell, the No 3 maker of personal computers.

“No matter how much they are willing to pay to reimburse me I’m not going to give up the right to put in a bid that I think will be compelling to shareholders, even if the board doesn’t like it,” Icahn told the paper.

Blackstone and Icahn separately made preliminary proposals in late March that, if finalized, could be superior to the $24.4 billion offer on the table from founder Michael Dell and private equity firm Silver Lake Partners LP.—Reuters
China’s debt issue not particularly serious

BOAO, (HAINAN), 8 April—China’s debt issue has not reached a particularly dangerous level as the country does not have a high debt-to-GDP ratio, former finance minister Xiang Huaicheng said here on Saturday.

“The majority of the debts are internal ones, and the government has always adhered to the principle of sustainability while handling the debt issue,” Xiang told a sub-forum of the 2013 Boao Forum for Asia (BFA) in south China’s Hainan Province.

He said that China’s debt-to-GDP ratio stood at about 37.8 percent in 2011 and 40 percent in 2012.

“Some problems should not be ignored, although the debt issue is not so serious,” Xiang said.

Take for instance, he said, the loans issued by some policy banks came from inter-bank bond, which take on the nature of government debt.

“The amount of debts in this regard is not small,” Xiang said.—Xinhua

China confident it can control bird flu outbreak

BEIJING, 8 April—China can control the outbreak of an avian flu strain newly contracted by humans, a former Chinese health official said on Sunday, a day after China reported its eighteenth case of the H7N9 virus that has so far killed six people.

China has said it is mobilizing resources nationwide to combat the new strain of bird flu, monitoring hundreds of close contacts of confirmed cases and culling tens of thousands of birds where traces of the virus were found.

“We are confident we can effectively control it (H7N9),” the head of China’s National Health and Family Planning Commission Li Bin told Reuters on the sidelines of a World Health Organization-backed event in Beijing.

Li did not elaborate, but she is the most senior Chinese health official yet to publicly comment on the subject.

The bird flu outbreak has caused global concern and some Chinese Internet users and newspapers have questioned why it took so long for the government to announce the new cases, especially as two of the victims fell ill in February.

The government has said it needed time to correctly identify the virus.

The WHO’s representative to China, Dr Michael O’Leary, repeated that no evidence of transmission between humans has been found and praised China for its efforts to determine the source of the virus.—Reuters

BOJ’s policy welcome for world growth: IMF’s Lagarde

BEIJING, 8 April—A huge monetary stimulus package to be unleashed by the Bank of Japan this week is a welcome step in supporting growth in the world economy, the managing director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) said on Sunday.

“Monetary policies—

including unconventional measures—have helped prop up the advanced economies, and in turn, global growth,” Christine Lagarde told a forum in south China.

“The reforms just announced by the Bank of Japan are another welcome step in this direction.”—Reuters

First magic mushroom depression trial hits stumbling block

LONDON, 8 April—The world’s first clinical trial exploring using a hallucinogen from magic mushrooms to treat people with depression has stumbled because of British and European rules on the use of illegal drugs in research.

David Nutt, president of the British Neuroscience Association and professor of neuropsychopharmacology at Imperial College London, said he had been granted an ethical green light and funding for the trial, but regulations were blocking it.

“We live in a world of insanity in terms of regulating drugs,” he told a neuroscience conference in London on Sunday. He has previously conducted small experiments on healthy volunteers and found that psilocybin, the psychedelic ingredient in magic mushrooms, has the potential to alleviate severe forms of depression in people who don’t respond to other treatments.

Following these promising early results he was awarded a 550,000 pounds ($844,000) grant from the UK’s Medical Research Council to conduct a full clinical trial in patients.

But psilocybin is illegal in Britain, and under the United Nations 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances it is classified as a Schedule 1 drug—one that has a high potential for abuse and no recognized medical use. This, Nutt explained, means scientists need a special license to use magic mushrooms for trials in Britain, and the administration of the natural form of psilocybin for use in patients is tightly controlled by European Union regulations.

“Together, this has meant he has so far been unable to find a company able to make and supply the drug for his trial,” he said.

“Finding companies who could manufacture the drug and who are prepared to go through the regulatory hoops to get the license, which can take up to a year and triple the price, is proving very difficult,” he said.

Nutt said regulatory authorities have a “primitive, old-fashioned attitude that Schedule 1 drugs could never have therapeutic potential” despite the fact that his research and the work done by other teams suggests such drugs may help treat some patients with psychiatric disorders.

Psilocybin, or “magic,” mushrooms grow naturally around the world and have been widely used since ancient times for religious rites and also for recreation. Researchers in the United States have seen positive results in trials using MDMA, a pure form of the party drug ecstasy, in treating post-traumatic stress disorder.

“Mr Nutt is not the first to be turned away because of the regulatory hurdles,” he said.

Private firms lead China’s investment overseas

BOAO, (Hainan) 8 April—Chinese private firms are seeing new expansion abroad and already lead China’s investment overseas, Chris Lu, CEO of Deloitte China, said on Saturday at a forum in south China’s Hainan Province.

The 2013 Boao Forum for Asia Annual Conference witnessed hot discussion among private firm bosses, witnessed hot discussion among private firm bosses, who don’t respond to other

and acquisitions by private firms, mainly appearing in Europe and America, remains at about one-tenth of that by state-owned enterprises, Bao Yujian, chairman of the China Private Sector Association, said at the forum that private economy shall provide the main force in boosting the country’s economic development.

He explained that governmental public finance had been directed toward guaranteeing and improving people’s livelihoods, while state-owned capital targeted governmental public finance had been directed toward guaranteeing and improving people’s livelihoods, while state-owned capital targeted governmental public finance had been directed toward guaranteeing and improving people’s livelihoods, while state-owned capital targeted governmental public finance had been directed toward guaranteeing and improving people’s livelihoods, while state-owned capital targeted governmental public finance had been directed toward guaranteeing and improving people’s livelihoods, while state-owned capital targeted governmental public finance had been directed toward guaranteeing and improving people’s livelihoods, while state-owned capital targeted governmental public finance had been directed toward guaranteeing and improving people’s livelihoods, while state-owned capital targeted governmental public finance had been directed toward guaranteeing and improving people’s livelihoods, while state-owned capital targeted governmental public finance had been directed toward guaranteeing and improving people’s livelihoods, while state-owned capital targeted governmental public finance had been directed toward guaranteeing and improving people’s livelihoods, while state-owned capital targeted governmental public finance had been directed toward guaranteeing and improving people’s livelihoods, while state-owned capital targeted governmental public finance had been directed toward guaranteeing and improving people’s livelihoods, while state-owned capital targeted governmental public finance.

Large-scale investment in common and competitive markets.

In 2012, the private sector took over 61 percent of the total fixed assets investment overseas, and the figure in 2011 was 50 percent, according to Bao.

He suggested private firms change their style from expanding businesses on their own to developing hand in hand with local companies, which could make it easier when entering target markets.

Private entrepreneurs said the debt crisis in Europe created a golden chance for the Chinese private sector to expand through cooperation abiding by local rules.

“Mr Nutt is not the first to be turned away because of the regulatory hurdles,” he said.

Jordon’s unemployment 1.4 pct up in Q1 year on year

AMMAN, 8 April—Unemployment in Jordan rose to 12.8 percent in the first quarter of 2013, 1.4 percent up from the same period last year, according to official figures released on Sunday. Unemployment among men stood at 11.1 percent in the first quarter of this year, while among women it reached 20.5 percent, according to figures released by the Department of Statistics, of which a copy was obtained by Xinhua.

Unemployment rate was high among holders of university degrees as it stood at 17.2 percent in the first quarter of this year, while about 0.8 percent of the unemployed are young graduates.

The report, which surveyed 13,000 families across Jordan’s 12 governorates, covered rural and urban areas.—Xinhua

A boy looks at pigeons at a public park in People Square, downtown Shanghai on 6 April, 2013.—REUTERS

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Xinhua
Both sides claim victory in Montenegro presidential vote

Podgorica, (Montenegro), 8 April—Both sides claimed victory in a presidential election in Montenegro on Sunday, raising the prospect of a dispute over the largely ceremonial post in the tiny Adriatic country as it bids to join the European Union.

With no independent exit poll or official word from the state electoral commission, both incumbent Filip Vujanovic and opposition challenger Miodrag Lekic took to the airwaves to announce they had won.

Lekic compared his rival’s claim to a “coup d’etat”.

The president is largely a figurehead for Montenegro’s 680,000 people, with real power vested in the prime minister. But a Lekic victory would set up an awkward cohabitation and deal a significant blow to the ruling Democratic Party of Socialists (DPS) after more than two decades in power.

Based on his camp’s own count, the DPS’s Vujanovic said he won 51.3 percent of votes compared to 48.7 for Lekic, a former diplomat.

“This is the winning result,” Vujanovic said in a televised address.

The opposition Democratic Front said Lekic was ahead according to its own count, by 50.5 percent to 49.5.

“I can announce that the peoples of Montenegro have entrusted me with the post of president,” Lekic said in a televised address. Reacting to Vujanovic’s own victory claim, he added: “We will not accept theft.”

The state electoral commission, which had been expected to pronounce during the day, would announce the official result within 48 hours of polls closing at 8 pm (1800 GMT).

A disputed result raises the prospect of street protests, and will unravel the European Union as it tries to steer the mountainous country through a raft of reforms to ready it for membership. Accession talks began in mid-2012, and could last several years.

Vujanovic, bidding for a third five-year term, had portrayed Lekic as a threat to Montenegro’s young statehood. The country voted narrowly in a referendum in 2006 to end an 88-year state union with Serbia.

Lekic, 65, is backed by a number of small parties that campaigned against independence. Around 100 supporters gathered outside his party’s headquarters in the capital, Podgorica, waving Serbian national flags as they awaited an exit poll.

RFSL

Sydney, 8 April—The Australian dollar will be made convertible with the Chinese yuan, Prime Minister Julia Gillard said on Monday during a visit to China, according to the Australian Broadcasting Corp.

Preempting a formal announcement on Tuesday, Gillard said the Australian dollar will become “the third currency in the world to do so after the US dollar and the Japanese yen.”

“This is a huge advance for Australia not only for our big businesses, but also for our small and medium enterprises that want to do business here,” she was quoted by ABC as saying.

The move means Australian and Chinese firms trading with each other will not have to first convert currency into US dollars and then on into either yuan or Australian dollars, saving a small amount in transaction costs.

China is Australia’s largest trading partner in the exchange of goods and services, taking one third of all of its exports.

Gillard arrived in China on Friday to participate in the Boao Forum for Asia, an important annual gathering of Asian political and business leaders, and to meet China’s new leaders.

The move would allow Japanese companies to invest and trade directly in China without converting currency into dollars, French Finance Minister Christine Lagarde said earlier this month.

French companies are also investing in China in the hope that the yuan will become convertible as early as 2015.

Australian dollar to be directly convertible with Chinese yuan

Abuja, 8 April—The Nigerian government on Sunday cautioned on excessive consumption of salt and alcohol as the world marks the Health Day.

Minister of State for Health Muhammad Pate conveyed the government message during an interview with reporters in Abuja, the West African country capital city, adding that such high consumption could trigger high blood pressure.

The World Health Day is marked on 7 April of every year, with a theme of High Blood Pressure for this year.

The World Health Organization (WHO) is also calling for intensified efforts to prevent and control high blood pressure, also referred to as hypertension.

The organization says that worldwide, high blood pressure is estimated to affect more than one in three adults aged 25 and over, and about one billion people.

The Nigerian minister said the rise in non-communicable diseases was posing huge challenge to health systems globally, including Nigeria.

Non-communicable diseases are increasing because of lifestyle changes and demographics, he added. The minister noted that complications such as heart and kidney diseases, stroke and others, could be prevented with effective control of blood pressure.

Nigeria marks world health day, warns against excessive salt, alcohol intake

Japan discovers hydrothermal mineral deposits off Okinawa

Tokyo, 8 April—Japan has discovered new seafloor hydrothermal mineral deposits 130 kilometres northwest of the Okinawa prefectural capital Naha, officials said on Sunday.

A layer of hydrothermal mineral deposits found by the Japan Offshore and Metals National Corp exploration vessel Hakurei is believed to be large in size and to hold abundant quantities of copper, lead, zinc and other minerals. The vessel made the discovery while surveying the area in January and February at the request of the industry ministry, the officials said, adding that JOGMEC plans to draw up a report on the layer, possibly in April.

Around the site, Japan had earlier confirmed the presence of 3.4 million tons of deposits on the seabed at a depth of 1,600 metres. The new layer was found after the exploration vessel drilled at a depth of 40 metres below the known deposits, the officials said. The newly discovered layer appears to be larger than the previously confirmed deposits, according to the officials.

Kyodo News

Rocket fired from Gaza strikes southern Israel

Jerusalem, 8 April—A rocket fired from the Gaza Strip struck southern Israel on Sunday, causing no damage or injuries, a police spokesman said.

Last week rockets fired by Gaza militants spurred Israel to carry out air strikes on the territory, the first since the ceasefire that ended an eight-day war between Israel and Hamas in November. Police spokesman Micky Rosenfeld said the rocket, fired after sundown as Israel began commemorating its national remembrance day of the Nazi Holocaust, landed in an open area.

Reuters

NATO airstrike kills 10 Afghan civilians, wounds six

Assababad, 8 April—Ten Afghan civilians, all children were killed and six others, all women sustained injuries during military operations involving NATO-led forces in the province on Friday. The operation was backed by NATO-led forces and lasted until evening during which 10 children were martyred and six women sustained injuries, district governor Zalmai Khan told Xinhua.

The casualties, he added, took place during air raids.

Meanwhile, Qari Yusuuf Ahmadzai who claims to speak for the Taleban outfit in talks with media via telephone from unknown location, confirmed the conflict but disputed the claim, saying all those killed and injured in the operations were locals.

Xinhua

A rocket fired from Gaza on Saturday.

Flowers can be seen on a spring flower show in Islamabad, capital of Pakistan, on 7 April, 2013. Flowers are in full bloom as the temperature rises in Pakistan.
Victorious athletes honoured in Mandalay

Mandalay, 8 April—A ceremony to honour the victorious sports teams representing Mandalay Region in the 2011-2012 Inter-Region/State sports tournaments was held at the National Theatre on 66th Street in Aungmyethazan Township on 29 March.

Mandalay Region Minister for Social Affairs Dr Win Hlaing made a speech. Managers and coaches of the victorious teams handed over championship shields and trophies to the region ministers. Region Minister Dr Win Hlaing, Speaker of the Region Hlutaw U Win Maung, Deputy Speaker U Aung Htay Zaw, Region Minister for Planning and Economy U Aung Zan, Region Minister for Electricity and Industry Dr Myint Kyu, Auditor-General of the region U Kyaw Win, Chairman of Mandalay Region Football Federation U Maung Ko, Deputy Director U Wai Zin, Patron of Region Women’s Sports Committee Daw Mya Sanda Win, chairman of the subcommittees and officials presented cash awards to the sports teams. They gave K 40000 for gold medal winners, K 30000 for silver medal, K 20000 for bronze medal and coaches, amounting to K 275.3 million to the winners, managers and coaches.

NyaungU-Myingyan Road upgraded

NyaungU, 8 April—Under the permission of the Ministry of Construction, Myat Noe Thu Construction Co completed upgrading of NyaungU-Myingyan Road through BOT system beginning 2010-2011 fiscal year. The company upgraded from five miles and two furlongs long and 18 feet wide asphalt road to 40 miles and two furlongs long and 18 feet wide one. Thanks to the upgraded road, vehicles can run to NyaungU-Mandalay and to Monywa, Yesagyo and Pakokku regions. Now, the vehicles take 1 hour and15 minutes from NyaungU to Myingyan.

Inter-village road, free clinic opened in Kyaikmaraw

Nay Pyi Taw, 8 April—Mayangon-Khanaung-Yedwingon inter-village road was commissioned into service in Kyaikmaraw Township of Mon State on 27 March, with an address by Chief Minister of Mon State U Ohn Myint.

State Minister for Development Affairs Dr Toe Toe Aung, State Hlutaw representative U Hla Tun, the director of State Development Affairs Department and a responsible person of Tawwin Myint Myat Thu Company formally opened the inter-village road. The Chief Minister and party strolled along the road. The two miles and four furlongs long and 12 feet wide road was built by Tawwin Myint Myat Thu Company to benefit 25357 people of the villages.

Next, the Chief Minister and party attended the opening ceremony of a free clinic in Kyikmaraw. The State Minister for Development Affairs and the chairman of the clinic cut the ribbon to open the clinic. The Chief Minister expressed thanks for contribution of the wellwishers.

Mawlamyine University students join literacy campaign 2013

Mawlamyine, 8 April—In launching the literacy campaign 2013, over 1000 students of Mawlamyine University gathered in the gymnasium of the university.

New asphalt road put into service in Mone

Mone, 8 April—in commemoration of the 68th Anniversary Armed Forces, a ceremony to commission the newly-constructed asphalt road into service was held at the archway of the road in Ward 2 of Mone in Kyaukkyi Township of Bago Region on 23 March morning. The road was formally opened by Kyaukkyi Township Pyithu Hluttaw representative U Nyan Swe Win, Township Administrator U Myint Khaing, the executive officer of Township Development Affairs Committee and Mone village-tract administrator. The newly-constructed road was 500 feet long and 10 feet wide.

Golden umbrella hoisted atop Montaw Pagoda in Amarapura Township

Mandalay, 8 April—Under the arrangement of President Nayaka of East Khayoe Pariyatti Monastery of Ward 9 in Lashio member of Lashio Township Sangha Nayaka Committee Bhaddanta Sujata, wellwishers U Hsan Lwin-Daw Zin Min Naing and family, and U Tun Yin Oo-Daw Than Than Yi and family of Yangon held the umbrella hoisting of Shwemuhthaw Pagoda in Montaw Village of Amarapura Township in Mandalay Region on 26 March. A total of 45 members of the Sangha led by Sayadaw Bhaddanta Sujata and wellwishers hoisted umbrella atop the pagoda.

On 28 March, altogether 108 boys were novitiated and merits gained were shared. It was attended by local people.

Air KBZ donates blood

Yangon, 8 April—In commemoration of the second anniversary of Air KBZ, a blood donation ceremony was held at National Blood Centre on Shwedagon Pagoda Road, here, on 1 April morning.

Japan to provide assistance for banking service technology

Nay Pyi Taw, 8 April—BTMU (Bank of Tokyo Mitsubishi UFJ) which is one of the top banking institutions in Japan and CB Bank signed the Business Alliance Agreement at Traders Hotel in Yangon on 28 March.

The bank applied Master Card pos on 4 March 2013. BTMU of Japan has been opening its office in Japan since 1954. Since its establishment, the Japanese bank is serving as a banking representative for loans of Japanese government and Myanmar issues.

It is the greatest bank in Japan and stands second in the world, with a large number of branches across the world to be able to serve the world people with monetary affairs. Thanks to cooperation between the two banks, the development momentum can be gathered in the banking service of Myanmar.

Japanese government and Myanmar issues.

Monday, 9 April, 2013

New Light of Myanmar

LOCAL NEWS

Mandaly Region Minister for Social Affairs Dr Win Hlaing made a speech. Managers and coaches of the victorious teams handed over championship shields and trophies to the region ministers. Region Minister Dr Win Hlaing, Speaker of the Region Hlutaw U Win Maung, Deputy Speaker U Aung Htay Zaw, Region Minister for Planning and Economy U Aung Zan, Region Minister for Electricity and Industry Dr Myint Kyu, Auditor-General of the region U Kyaw Win, Chairman of Mandalay Region Football Federation U Maung Ko, Deputy Director U Wai Zin, Patron of Region Women's Sports Committee Daw Mya Sanda Win, chairman of the subcommittees and officials presented cash awards to the sports teams. They gave K 40000 for gold medal winners, K 30000 for silver medal, K 20000 for bronze medal and coaches, amounting to K 275.3 million to the winners, managers and coaches. Mawlamyine University students join literacy campaign 2013

Mawlamyine, 8 April—In launching the literacy campaign 2013, over 1000 students of Mawlamyine University gathered in the gymnasium of the university.

New asphalt road put into service in Mone

Mone, 8 April—in commemoration of the 68th Anniversary Armed Forces, a ceremony to commission the newly-constructed asphalt road into service was held at the archway of the road in Ward 2 of Mone in Kyaukkyi Township of Bago Region on 23 March morning. The road was formally opened by Kyaukkyi Township Pyithu Hluttaw representative U Nyan Swe Win, Township Administrator U Myint Khaing, the executive officer of Township Development Affairs Committee and Mone village-tract administrator. The newly-constructed road was 500 feet long and 10 feet wide.
**New Light of Myanmar**

**NATIONAL**

**Union Chief Justice receives guests from UNDP**

_Nay Pyi Taw, 8 April—Union Chief Justice observes Subway Line and run of high-speed train in Seoul of Korea._

Chief Justice of the Union U Tun Tun Oo receives Mr. Ajay Chhibber, UN Assistant Secretary-General, UNDP Assistant Administrator and Director, UNDP Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific at the hall of the Supreme Court of the Union, here, this noon.

They cordially discussed judicial system of the Supreme Court of the Union, procedures being undertaken by the courts led by the Supreme Court of the Union for rule of law and ensuring justice in accord with judiciary policy and cooperation between the Union Supreme Court and UNDP for democracy and effective development of 2013-2015 workprogrammes of UNDP._—MNA

Also presented at the meeting together with the chief justice of the Union were judges of the Supreme Court of the Union U Tha Hay, U Mya Thein, U Myint Han and Director-General U Sein Than of the Office of the Supreme Court of the Union._—MNA

**Union Minister observes Subway Line and run of high-speed train in Seoul of Korea**

_Nay Pyi Taw, 8 April—Union Minister observes Subway Line and run of high-speed train in Seoul of Korea._

Union Minister U Zeyar Aung observed the scale model of high-speed train, the finals.

At the prize awarding ceremony, MWF President U Kyaw Kyaw Linn and officials awarded the first, second and third prize winners of the Men and Women events. Among the six participant countries, Vietnam stands first with 16 golds, Singapore, second with three golds, one silver, five bronzes, Myanmar, third with one gold, eight silver, 20 bronzes, Thailand, fourth with eight silver and three bronzes, Cambodia, fifth with three silver and one bronze, Laos, sixth with one bronze._—MNA

**Vehicles allowed to pass through Hledan Overpass as of 10 April**

Yangon, 8 April—As part of efforts to relieve the traffic congestion, overpasses are under construction in Yangon.

Although finishing touches of Hledan Overpass in Kamayut Township are not completed yet, vehicles will be allowed to pass through the overpass as of 10 April for ensuring better transport and traffic safety during the period of Maha Thagyamin festival before the opening ceremony._—NLM

**Stamp in commemoration of 65th Anniversary Myanmar-Russia Diplomatic Ties**

_Nay Pyi Taw, 8 April—Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications under the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology will sell commemorative stamps worth K 500 each to mark the 65th Anniversary of Myanmar-Russia Diplomatic Ties._

Pre-SEA Games

_Yangon, 8 April—Final matches of the Pre-SEA Games Wrestling Myanmar-2013 organized by Myanmar Wrestling Federation took place in conjunction with prize awarding ceremony at Theinbyu Gymnasium in Mingala Taungnyunt Township, here, yesterday._

Deputy Minister for Sports U Thaung Htay, AAWC President Dr. Chang Kew Kim, Myanmar Olympic Committee members and MWF President and CEC members and fans enjoyed the finals.

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**Union Minister observes Subway Line and run of high-speed train in Seoul of Korea**

Union Minister U Zeyar Aung observes the scale model of high-speed train.

MNA

Soo Sung Engineering Service and Shibundang DX Line subway line.

The Union minister also discussed matters related to transportation service with officials concerned._

MNA

**Thingyan**

_Thingyan is the Myanmar New Year Water Festival and usually falls around mid-April (the Myanmar month of Tagu). It is a festival celebrated over a period of four to five days ending in the New Year._

The eve of Thingyan, the first day of the festival called a-kyat nei, is the start of a variety of religious activities. Buddhists usually observe the Eight Precepts, more than the basic Five Precepts, including having only one meal before noon. Thingyan is a time when Sabbath is observed by many people.

During the festival, fun-lovers standing on bamboo or wooden stages or pavilions erected along the streets splash water on passers-by. Powerful water pipes douse people driving in jeeps and trucks. Children throw water at their friends, relatives, and any one else in range, and only monks, the elderly and the uniformed personnel on duty are safe.

During Thingyan, people wash away evil things with clean and cool water while having great fun. And they celebrate the New Year Day with a lot of pious deeds.

The next day called a-kyat nei is when Thingyan truly arrives as Thagyamin makes his descent from his celestial abode to earth. The third day is called a-kyat nei and there may be two of them, an extra day in certain years. The fourth is known as a-tet nei or the last day of the water festival when Thagyamin returns to the heavens.

The water symbolizes the washing away of the previous year’s bad luck and sins. On New Year’s Day itself, all the water-throwing ends. This day is celebrated by releasing captive fish and birds as acts of merit, and special feasts are held for monks and performing pious deeds.
Appointmen of ambassador agreed on

NAY PYI TAW, 8 April—The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has agreed to the appointment of H.E. Ms. Maria Del Carmen Moreno Raymundo as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Kingdom of Spain to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar with residence in Bangkok. H.E. Ms. Maria Del Carmen Moreno Raymundo was born in 1965 in Valladolid, Spain. She obtained Bachelor in Law. In 1991, she joined the Spanish Foreign Service and she served in various capacities at diplomatic missions in Islamabad, New Delhi, Kuala Lumpur, Havana and Beijing. She was Chief of Staff to the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Madrid from January 2012 to 2013. She is now serving as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Kingdom of Spain to the Kingdom of Thailand.—MNA

Deputy Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw meets UN Assistant Secretary-General and party

NAY PYI TAW, 8 April—Deputy Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw U Mya Nyein met Mr. Ajay Chhibber, UN Assistant Secretary-General, UNDP Assistant Administrator and Director, UNDP Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific and party at No. 20 Hall of Amyotha Hluttaw, here, this evening. They cordially discussed matters on capacity building of the parliamentarians and the staff of Myanmar. It was also attended by International Relations Committee Chairman Col Maung Maung Htoo.

NPD, UNDP sign agreement on Country Programme Action Plan

NAY PYI TAW, 8 April—A signing ceremony of Country Programme Action Plan between the Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development and United Nations Development Programme took place at the ministry, here, this morning, attended by Union Minister for NDP Dr Kan Zaw, Dr. Ajay Chhibber, UN Assistant Secretary-General, UNDP Assistant Administrator and Director, UNDP Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific, Deputy ministers, directors, general, the UNDP Resident Representative and party. First, Deputy Minister for NDP U Htet Aung and UNDP Country Director Mr. Loy Kurbano signed agreement on Country Programme Action Plan. Under the Country Programme Action Plan, UNDP will give US$ 150 million in development assistance to Myanmar during the period from 2013 to 2015. The provision of financial assistance to Myanmar will resume as the country regained Normal Country Status starting from January 2013. UNDP will cooperate with ministries concerned in implementation of undertakings.

UEC to share voting knowledge in ethnic languages

NAY PYI TAW, 8 April—Union Election Commission will educate the ethnic people on voting processes through its public awareness programmes in ethnic languages. Chairman of Union Election Commission U Tin Aye said in meeting with political parties this morning. He admitted that there are weaknesses in compiling voters list, campaigning and public awareness raising. Multi-party democracy general elections will be held in later 2015, he said. He said the commission is making preparations for holding the elections which he guaranteed to be “free and fair”. He said compilation of accurate voters list calls for cooperation of voters and parties. He said the commission would issue press releases “transparently” to inform voting processes to the public.

The commission will set the timeframe for campaigning after seeking approval from respective political parties and subcommittees. A total of 56 political parties have been registered at the commission. Representatives from political parties participated in discussion. The chairman made concluding remarks.

The meeting was attended by UEC members, and chairs and officials of the political parties.—MNA

Attorney-General Office of the Union, UNDP agree on cooperation

NAY PYI TAW, 8 April—Union Attorney-General Dr Tun Shin received a delegation led by Dr. Ajay Chhibber, UN Assistant Secretary General, UNDP Assistant Administrator and Director, UNDP Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific at his office, here, this afternoon. The Union Attorney-General elaborated the role of the Attorney-General Office of the Union. Dr. Ajay Chhibber replied that workshops on ensuring the Rule of Law would be conducted in cooperation with the Attorney-General Office by laying down long-term plan. He vowed to assist in sending of scholars abroad for capacity building.

MOFA holds course for liaison officers for 2014ASEAN Chairmanship, ASEAN Community

NAY PYI TAW, 8 April—The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has launched the first course for liaison officers as part of preparation for ASEAN Chairmanship in 2014 and ASEAN Community in 2015, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs U Zin Yaw delivered an address. The two-week course covers English proficiency, knowledge on culture and traditions of ASEAN member countries, protocols, cutting-edge technologies and ceremonial etiquettes. A total of 70 trainees are taking the course.

Air KBZ donates ambulance to funeral service association (Yangon)

YANGON, 8 April—In commemoration of the second anniversary of Air KBZ, acremonymy to donate an ambulance to Thikha Clinic was held at Funeral Service Association (Yangon) on 2 April morning. Joint Secretary of the association Daw Ayeya Maung Maung extended greetings. Managing Director U Moe Hsuan Aung of Air KBZ explained the purpose of the donations and handed over documents related to an ambulance worth K 22 million to Chairman of the association U Kyaw Thu.

Training course on children-led disaster reduction wraps up

BAGO, 8 April—Organized by Save the Children, the training course on children-led disaster reduction was held at Shwewahtun Hotel in Bago on 31 March. Head of District Fire Services Department Staff Officer U Aye Myint gave lectures on danger of fire, fire preventive measures and use of fire extinguishers to 35 teachers. After giving a certificate of honour to the well-wisher, Chairman U Kyaw Thu spoke words of thanks. Air KBZ is established with the purpose of enabling the passenger to enjoy smooth and convenient transportation.

Myanmar Alinn

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Myanmar Alinn
Britain’s Cameron to meet EU leaders to push reform plan

LONDON, 8 April — Prime Minister David Cameron hopes to overcome opposition to his plan to claw back power from Brussels when he meets the leaders of Germany, France and Spain this week for talks on Britain’s future in the European Union.

Cameron infuriated European allies in January when he said he would try to renegotiate terms of Britain’s EU membership and ask voters in a referendum if they wanted to stay in the bloc. France and Germany accused him of treating the EU like an “a la carte menu” from which they could pick powers. The opposition Labour Party said Britain risked sleepwalking towards EU exit.

Facing hostility to his policy across the continent, Cameron faces an uphill battle when he meets Spanish Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy in Madrid on Monday. He flies to Paris later that day to meet French President Francois Hollande before going to Germany on Friday for talks with Chancellor Angela Merkel.

Cameron will argue the euro zone crisis means it is inevitable that the EU undergo big changes and reform its treaties, allowing Britain to forge a new role.

“Time is running out for public-picking, but to argue as some do that you can’t have a flexible Europe is wrong,” he said in a statement. “We can have a flexible Europe where we don’t all have to do the same things in the same way at the same time.”

Cameron will press the case for an EU in which countries have different roles. He will point to the fact that not all members, including Britain, signed up to the euro currency.

The deficit in the balance, one of the widest gauges of international trade, stood at 637.4 billion yen, the Finance Ministry said in a preliminary report.

The income account, which reflects how much Japan earns from its foreign investments, marked a surplus of 1,407.4 billion yen, up 13.1 percent from a year earlier, helped by higher dividends and profits from securities investments on the back of a weaker yen. It marked the third consecutive month of gains.

Goods trade saw a deficit of 677.0 billion yen, as exports fell 3.5 percent from a year earlier to 5,065.9 billion yen, dragged down by a decline in exports to China and the European Union, while imports climbed 11.5 percent to 5,742.8 billion yen as demand for mineral fuels increased.

The weaker yen has pushed up import costs at a time when demand for natural gas and oil has been growing from power companies for fossil-fuel-based power generation as an alternative to nuclear power after the nuclear accident at the Fukushima Daiichi power plant, crippled by the March 2011 quake-tsunami disaster.

The ministry said the yen dropped against the US dollar by 18.8 percent and the euro by 19.7 percent on year in February, amid expectations of aggressive monetary easing by the Bank of Japan.

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South Africa to send troops to join UN mission in Congo

JOHANNESBURG, 8 April — South Africa will send troops to the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) as part of a UN mission to neutralize armed groups in the conflict-torn east of the country, a South African military spokesman said on Sunday.

The deployment comes as South Africa is coming to grips with its worst military setback since the end of apartheid in 1994. Thirteen of its troops were killed last month in a shootout with rebels in the neighbouring Central African Republic (CAR).

The DRC deployment has nothing to do with the CAR. Neither did the CAR incident influence the decision to send the troops into the DRC. They are two different issues,” Brigadier General Xolani Mbabanga told Reuters.

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Portuguese PM says to futher cut public spending to meet bailout requirement

LISBON, 8 April — Portuguese Prime Minister Pedro Passos Coelho said on Sunday that his government will not increase taxes but will further reduce public spending to meet bailout requirements.

In a 20-minute statement, Passos Coelho said that Friday’s Constitutional Court has “compromised Portugal’s return to the market and its ability to reneget interest on its loans as well as Portugal’s image abroad, something that was built up successfully over the past 22 months.”

The prime minister assured, “the government will not accept any further increase in taxes, which seems to be the solution that the Constitutional Court favours.”

Tax increases “would severely jeopardize our chances of a timely recovery of the economy and job creation,” he added.

Two days after the Constitutional Court ruled against cutting public sector pay in the 2013 state budget, the head of the Portuguese government stressed that he will not raise taxes to offset the Constitutional Court ruling but he will accelerate the process of reducing expenditure.

We are left with the alternative of accelerating some aspects in public spending. To compensate for this imbalance, we have to put into practice this year measures to reduce spending in social security, health, education and public companies,” he said, revealing that over the coming months, the ministries will begin to shave off operating costs.

“The country cannot expect Europe to solve their problems,” said the prime minister, who made assurances that he will “respect and comply with the decisions of the Constitutional Court but disagrees with the interpretation of the law along with many other institutionalists.

“The court decision puts the Portuguese negotiating position in fragile footing with Europe,” he said, while arguing that in “exceptional times, extraordinary action is needed, something that was not understood by the Constitutional Court.”

“The court decision runs against the objectives of the government and will have consequences for the country, at the same time as we have serious obstacles to hurdle in 2013,”

On Sunday, Portugal’s main opposition Socialist Party leader Antonio Jose Seguro continued to call for early elections.

“The only solution is to call for new elections,” the Socialist leader reiterated in an interview with broadcaster SIC Antena 2.

Portugal is implementing harsh austerity measures in return for the bailout of 78 billion euros (about 101 billion US dollars) from the troika comprising the European Union, the International Monetary Fund and the European Central Bank.

The government’s move has triggered widespread protests across the country in recent months. —Xinhua

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Internal reserves at Japan’s 100 big firms rise to 99 tril yen

TYO, 8 April — The combined internal reserves, or retained earnings, at Japan’s 100 leading companies stood at 99 trillion yen as of March 31, 2012, according to a Kyodo News survey released on Sunday. The result represents a rise of 10 percent from the level on March 31, 2009, when Japan was dealing with the financial crisis triggered by the collapse of US investment bank Lehman Brothers Holdings Inc.

The survey showed that Japanese companies are increasingly retaining profits to brace for a possible deterioration in business conditions, rather than to boost the stock price or pay dividends.

Internal reserves refer to cash, deposits and other items. The Kyodo News survey lists them in the financial reports of the companies to the government.

Although combined reserves at the 100 companies had dropped to 90 trillion yen as of 31 March, 2009, from 95 trillion yen a year earlier, the companies’ internal reserves have since rebounded. —Kyodo News

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Japan logs 1st current account surplus in four months

Tokyo, 8 April — Japan logged its first current account surplus in four months in February, with profits from the securities investments income account growing to outweigh the trade deficit, government data showed on Monday.

The surplus in the balance, one of the widest gauges of international trade, stood at 637.4 billion yen, the Finance Ministry said in a preliminary report.

The income account, which reflects how much Japan earns from its foreign investments, marked a surplus of 1,407.4 billion yen, up 13.1 percent from a year earlier, helped by higher dividends and profits from securities investments on the back of a weaker yen. It marked the third consecutive month of gains.

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The weaker yen has pushed up import costs at a time when demand for natural gas and oil has been growing from power companies for fossil-fuel-based power generation as an alternative to nuclear power after the nuclear accident at the Fukushima Daiichi power plant, crippled by the March 2011 quake-tsunami disaster.

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British’s Prime Minister David Cameron speaks at the Conservative Party’s annual Spring Forum, in central London on 16 March, 2013.—REUTERS

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Prime Minister David Cameron holds a donation box as he stands next to a volunteer of the Save My Namissoma Project at Yokohama’s Country & Athletic Club during a sporting event on 7 April, 2013. The group is raising funds for an upcoming charity ride from Tokyo to Fukashima. —KYODO NEWS

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Portuguese Prime Minister Pedro Passos Coelho makes a speech at his office in Lisbon, capital of Portugal, on 7 April, 2013. —Xinhua

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Portuguese Prime Minister Pedro Passos Coelho makes a speech at his office in Lisbon, capital of Portugal, on 7 April, 2013. —Xinhua
China’s top political advisor meets Thai princess

Yu Zhengsheng (R), chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), meets with Thai Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn, in Beijing, capital of China, on 7 April, 2013.—\textit{Xinhua}

BEIJING, 8 April—China’s top political advisor Yu Zhengsheng met with Thai Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn on Sunday.

Sirindhorn pledged to continue to make efforts to promote China-Thailand relations.—\textit{Xinhua}

Japan, Australia reach broad agreement on FTA

Tokyo, 8 April—Japan and Australia have reached broad agreement on how to deal with farm products in their ongoing negotiations on a bilateral free trade agreement, government sources said on Sunday.

Under the deal, Japan will be allowed to retain high tariffs on imports of some of its most “sensitive” farm goods in exchange for accepting a certain amount of those products from Australia at low customs duties, according to the sources.

With the deal, the two countries are hoping to conclude the trade negotiations as early as this summer, after working out automotive tariff reductions.

The agricultural sector had been the major stumbling block since the FTA negotiations started in 2007. Australia, a major agricultural exporter, had urged Japan to eliminate tariffs on beef, wheat, dairy products and sugar. But Japan had refused to open up market access for the products. Australia decided to compromise after Japan formally announced last month its desire to join talks on a new trans-Pacific free trade agreement.

Already a member of the US-led Trans-Pacific Partnership free trade talks, Australia is believed to have changed its long-held position in an attempt to increase its farm exports to Japan as much as possible before the new multilateral trade accord becomes effective, some of the sources said.

Under the agreement, the two countries will create low-tariff quotas for Australia to export some beef and dairy products to Japan. But when the exports exceed the quotas, they will be subject to Japan’s current high duties.

Among Australian exports to Japan, beef products are the highest in value range.

Japan started its so-called research whaling in the Antarctic Ocean.

Shimonoseki, 8 April—Japan’s three-ship whaling fleet led by the mother ship 

\textit{Nisshin Maru} returned to the port of Shimonoseki, Yamaguchi Prefecture, on Sunday after completing this season’s so-called research whaling in the Antarctic Ocean.

Multiple flaws and dents were visible on the bow and hull of the \textit{Nisshin Maru}, which was slammed by vessels of antihunting group Sea Shepherd Conservation Society. Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Minister Yoshimasa Hayashi told a welcoming ceremony that the group’s obstructive activities “amounted to piracy, as the International Whaling Commission has recognized the legitimacy of Japan’s research whaling.”

The \textit{Nisshin Maru} was making a port call at Shimonoseki for the first time in four years. Whale meat that Japan describes as a by-product of its research activities will be unloaded from the vessel starting on Monday.

The Fisheries Agency said the fleet caught a combined 103 southern minke whales this season, the smallest catch since Japan started its so-called research whaling in the Antarctic Ocean in 1987. Critics say Japan’s research whaling is merely a cover for commercial whaling.—\textit{Kyodo News}

Nine arrested in Mumbai house collapse which claimed 74 lives

NEW DELHI, 8 April—Indian police have arrested a total of nine people, including a local corporator, in connection with Thursday evening’s collapse of the illegal, under-construction seven-storey building in Thane on the outskirts of India’s financial capital, built on forest land illegally, collapsed like a pack of cards trapping in debris some 100 occupants of the already built four floors of the apartment block as well as construction workers toiling for erecting three more floors. The dead included 26 children.

“A local corporator, two senior civic body officials, a police official and the two builders of the illegal building are among those now arrested by the police. The corporator of nationalist Congress Party, an ally of the Congress-led government in the western state of Maharashtra, Hira Patil, has been arrested for failing to act by allegedly taking bribes from the builders,” he said, on condition of anonymity.

All the arrested have been slapped with various charges, including causing deaths due to negligence and criminal conspiracy. They have been remanded in police custody till 20 April by a local court.

Preliminary probe has revealed that the building, which was built in a span of just two months using sub-standard materials, collapsed probably due to the laying of the foundation of a new building in the vicinity. “But we are waiting for a thorough probe report before we come to any definite conclusion,” the official said. The high-level probe was, in fact, ordered by Chief Minister Prithviraj Chavan on Friday, who had pledged to take strict action against any government official who were found guilty. “No one will be spared,” he said.—\textit{Xinhua}
Chinese innovations to benefit the world: Bill Gates

Boao, 8 April—As economists mused over a lack of innovation plaguing China’s economy, Bill Gates has highlighted the innovations China is adept at and can benefit the world: in epidemic control and grain production.

In a speech delivered on Saturday evening at the Boao Forum for Asia held in south China’s Hainan Province, Gates said the country’s scientific breakthroughs can help Africa and less developed countries battle epidemics, hunger and poverty.

The breakthrough science and technology that’s happening here in China can help the poorest people in the world lead healthier, more productive lives,” said Gates, who is the co-chair and trustee of Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

Gates said China has successfully lifted 600 million people out of poverty over the past three decades, a victory that could not have been achieved without innovation in human health and agricultural productivity.

China confirms 21 cases of H7N9 infection

Shanghai, 8 April—China reported three more H7N9 infections on Sunday, bringing total number of the confirmed cases to 21 as the country is gearing up to fight the disease that has left six dead.

The latest confirmed H7N9 case was reported in east China’s Anhui Province, where a 55-year-old male working in the live poultry trade was diagnosed with the virus, local health authorities said on Sunday night.

The Chinese Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (CCDCP) diagnosed the patient, surnamed Li, positive of the H7N9 avian influenza virus on Sunday.

Li began exhibiting flu symptoms on 28 March and was taken to a hospital in Bozhou City on 1 April after his condition worsened, according to a statement from the Anhui Provincial Health Department.

Li is currently in stable condition, said the statement, adding that 12 others who have had close contact with the patient have not shown any signs of infection.

The first case of H7N9 was confirmed, the National Health and Family Planning Commission (NHFPC) reported that there were a total of 20 H7N9 cases across the country as of 5 pm on Sunday, including two cases that were newly reported in Shanghai on Sunday.

One is a Shanghai resident and the other is from neighboring Anhui Province, according to Shanghai authorities.

The two male patients, 67 and 59 years old, respectively, developed flu symptoms in late March and were diagnosed with pneumonia over the last week, Shanghai’s health and family planning commission said in a statement.

An initial investigation showed that six people who have had close contact with the two have not exhibited flu symptoms.—Xinhua

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Li began exhibiting flu symptoms on 28 March and was taken to a hospital in Bozhou City on 1 April after his condition worsened, according to a statement from the Anhui Provincial Health Department.

Li is currently in stable condition, said the statement, adding that 12 others who have had close contact with the patient have not shown any signs of infection.

The first case of H7N9 was confirmed, the National Health and Family Planning Commission (NHFPC) reported that there were a total of 20 H7N9 cases across the country as of 5 pm on Sunday, including two cases that were newly reported in Shanghai on Sunday.

One is a Shanghai resident and the other is from neighboring Anhui Province, according to Shanghai authorities.

The two male patients, 67 and 59 years old, respectively, developed flu symptoms in late March and were diagnosed with pneumonia over the last week, Shanghai’s health and family planning commission said in a statement.

An initial investigation showed that six people who have had close contact with the two have not exhibited flu symptoms.—Xinhua
Actress Jessica Pare finds fame with TV's "Mad Men"

LOUIS ANGELES, 8 April—With her coquet-
tish French song “Zou Bisou Bisou” and her sex
scenes with new screen husband Don Draper, lit-
tle-known French-Canadi-
an actress Jessica Pare was the breath of life in TV
advertising drama “Mad Men” last season.

Pare, 30, returns on Sunday with a new season of the most vibrant of Don
Draper’s mysterious as-
sets, while her character
forges ahead with her new
career as an actress in late
1960s New York.

Reuters spoke with Pare about playing Meg-
an, how she deals with her
new found fame, and the
hardest thing about being
part of “Mad Men”.

Q: You were the de-
lightful surprise of last season and your character
is now becoming a star in
her own right. What’s it
like being back again?
A: Last season was
nerve wracking for me be-
cause I felt like the stakes
were a lot higher, whereas
before I had nothing to
lose ... I was nervous to
do really
well and that people would
like me. (After a while) be-
cause I was on set almost
every day of the week I was
too busy to be thinking about
those things and what the
audience might think. That’s
not my job. I am there to tell
Megan’s story.

Q: How would you
describe Megan as a person?
A: She is very optimis-
tic, very joyful, vi-
bant and passionate about
life. I think that last season
we saw her make a really
interesting choice to pursue
her passion for performing,
despite the fact that she had
a very comfortable, very
interesting job and she was
good at it.

(In the new season) she
has the acting job, she is fi-
nally working. She has the
career of her dreams and the
man of her dreams. She sees
a Don that nobody else sees.
She sees this amazing, ro-
mantic, handsome, dynamic,
fun, interesting person and
somebody warm and lov-
ing, and nobody else sees
him that way. But then she
is not able to see that other
side of him that everybody
else sees.

Q: How much is Megan
like you?
A: A lot (laughs) ... She
is from Montreal and her
brother is a professor and
she is an actor! Aside from
those things, I think I share her op-
timism and her joie de vivre.

Q: Last season you had
a lot of racy scenes, often in
your underwear. How hard
are those to do, or is it fun
pretending to make love to
Jon Hamm?
A: It’s part of the per-
formance. I never had hang-
ups about that kind of thing.
I think sex is an important
part of our relationships.

Q: Are we going to see
any more of your singing?
A: I don’t know ... (gig-
gles)

Q: How much advance
notice do you get of the
script or plots or character
development from creator
Matt Weiner?
A: I think he would
give a performer a heads-up
if there was something we
needed to work on. But nor-
mally we wouldn’t find out
until the script comes out a
few days before the cast ta-
ble reading.

Q: That must be nerve-
wracking. I like it. It was some-
thing I had to learn how to
contend with. Before, I had
worked more in film where
you are handed your char-
acter arc before you even
set foot on the set. The
special challenge is to not
anticipate any-
thing in your perfor-
ance.

Q: What’s the hardest
thing about doing “Mad
Men” for you?
A: That it doesn’t last all
year? (laughs) I love this
job, the writ-
ing is so incredible and
the stories we get to tell ... It’s really important to all of
us and we all believe in what we are doing. The hardest
thing? Sometimes it’s really
hard not to eat the chocolate.

Q: I was thinking of all
the herbal cigarettes and the
iced tea or whatever it is they
use for all the whiskey.
A: I love the taste of
the non-alcoholic wine, the
herbal cigarettes smell
like heaven to me. The smell of hair-
spray always makes me feel
good, because it makes me
feel like I am working.

Q: Do you get recog-
nized in the street now? How
are you dealing with fame?
A: It’s good, it’s fun. I
do (get recognized). No one
is more excited than I am. I
get into elevators sometimes
and people just stop talk-
ing, and I am

UK rock star cancels Russia gigs over
rights groups “crackdown”

MOSCOW, 8 April—British rock star
and founder of the band Dire Straits, Mark
Knopfler, said on Thursday he had can-
celled two concerts in Russia due to what
he called a crackdown on human rights
groups.

Russian prosecutors and tax officials
searched the offices of Human Rights
Watch, Amnesty International and Me-
orial, Russia’s oldest rights group, and
other such organi-

zations last
Kremlin
raids
Presi-

Putin.

Knopfler performs during
the 30th Cordoba Guitar
Festival in Cordoba on 25

by Russian authorities on groups including
Amnesty International and Human Rights
Watch. I have regretfully decided to can-
cel my upcoming concerts in Moscow and
St Petersburg in June,” Knopfler wrote on
his website www.markknopfler.com.

Putin has signed laws to tighten
controls on non-governmental organiza-
tions since he returned to the presidency
in March last year, requiring those with
foreign funding to register as “foreign
agents”, a term which echoes Cold War;
the funds. He dismissed accusations
of political pressure on the rights groups
by saying the checks were “routine”.

Knopfler said he hoped the situation
would improve. “I have always
loved playing in
Russia and have
great affec-
tion for the

British guitarist Mark
Knopfler performs during
the 30th Cordoba Guitar
Festival in Cordoba on 25

Actress Jessica Pare

Reuters
**SPORTS**

**Inbee Park of South Korea kisses her trophy while posing in front of the leaderboard after winning the Kraft Nabsico Championship LPGA golf tournament in Rancho Mirage, California, on 7 April, 2013. Reuters**

**Park wins second major with Kraft Nabsico triumph**

**SAN FRANCISCO, 8 April**—South Korea’s Inbee Park won the Kraft Nabsico Championship by four strokes on Sunday after shooting a final round 69 to secure her second major title.

Overnight leader Park birdied her first two holes and was never threatened at California’s Mission Hills Country Club where she finished the tournament with a 15-under total of 273, well clear of second-placed compatriot Ryu So-yeon.

American Lizette Salas started the round three strokes behind 2008 US Open champion Park but double-bogeyed the first hole and tumbled to a seven-over 79.

“Wow, that made my day much easier, that’s for sure,” Park told reporters of the opening hole. “I holed a long one on the first hole, and a birdie start is always a good thing so that gave me a lot of confidence.”

Ryu surged up the leaderboard with a 65 to finish outright second on 11 under par, while Norway’s Suzann Pettersen and Swede Caroline Hedwall tied for third two strokes further back.

Norway’s Suzann Pettersen and Swede Caroline Hedwall tied for third two strokes further back.

Seven-times major winner Karrie Webb was six-under to tie for fifth at the tournament where she earned her last major triumph in 2006.

Park’s win is her second of the season and moves her to No 2 in the world, behind Stacy Lewis.

“I’ve seen Inbee do this before,” said Lewis, who finished in a disappointing tie for 32nd at one-under.

“When she rolls it, you just can’t beat her. She’s the best putter on tour.”

**Some upsets favourites to win Paris marathon**

**PARIS, 8 April**—Peter Some recorded a surprise victory in the Paris marathon on Sunday, the Kenyan clocking two hours, five minutes and 38 seconds to beat Ethiopian favourite Tadese Tola and compatriot EricNdema by almost a minute in chilly conditions.

There was joy for Ethiopia in the women’s race, however, when Bora Tadese set a new course record of 2:21:05 to smash the existing mark by more than 30 seconds, according to organizers.

The previous record (2:21:57) was set last year by compatriot Tirfi Beyene.

**Serena rebounds to win third Charleston title**

**CHARLESTON, South Carolina, 8 April**—World number one Serena Williams bounced back from a set down to defeat former top ranked Jelena Jankovic of Serbia 3-6, 6-0, 6-2 and win her third Family Circle Cup title on Sunday.

The triumph was American Williams’ 49th in WTA play. Only nine players have won 50 or more WTA titles. After dropping the first set in 45 minutes, Williams cruised through the next two, winning 12 of the final 14 games for her second consecutive title at the clay court event. She also won in 2008.

Williams stepped up her play after a testy exchange in the first game of the second set. The American held up her racquet as Jankovic served, signaling she felt Jankovic served before she was ready.

“How long do I have to wait?” the Serb asked the chair umpire. “Until I’m ready,” Williams replied.

Williams won the next eight points. “I just got really relaxed and was like, ‘Serena, you have to chill out and not get crazy and if you win, great. If not, you’re trying,’” Williams told reporters.

More consistent play aided the turnaround, she said. “I felt so close in that first set,” said Williams, who has now won 71 of 75 matches since the start of last year’s clay court season.

“I felt like I could have been up 3-0. She was playing really, really well, but it was just a shot here, a shot there, and she played really well in the big points.”

“I had many opportunities that I missed. She took advantage of all of that, and she went on to glory in that first set.”

Jankovic said she began to tire as the match continued.

“In the second set I had 40-15 in that first game and then again in another couple of games I had 40-15, 40-0. I should have focused and gotten those games,” said the Serb. By the third set, Williams’ strong play began to affect her, Jankovic said.

“I got tired,” the world number 18 said. “It was my turn again to be played and again I played Serena is not easy — you have to run a lot of balls down and hit as hard as you can and give your maximum. She’s so strong. She’s the No.1 player in the world for a reason. “She was the better one at the end.”

**Drogba’s Galatasaray face huge Real Madrid task**

**ISTANBUL, 8 April**—Didier Drogba and his Galatasaray team mates have a tough task when they try to overturn a 3-0 deficit against Real Madrid in the second leg of their Champions League quarter-final on Tuesday.

Drogba, who won the title last season with Chelsea, will take some cheer from Saturday’s domestic championship game against Mersin Idman Yurdu when he scored two second-half goals in a 3-1 win.

However, the mood at Galatasaray was soured at that game by coach Fatih Terim’s anger at referring decisions in a row which led to him and his two assistants being sent to the stands, overshadowing preparations for Tuesday’s return leg in Istanbul.

In Madrid last week, Galatasaray were taught “a good lesson” by the Spanish side, according to Drogba.

“We’re not at their level but I think it’s a lack of experience more than anything else,” Drogba told beIN Sport. “We’re learning, we’re a young team. There are things that need improving.

“It’s a good lesson, and one we have to show we’ve learned well in the return leg. We wanted to contain Madrid but we could have done it in a different way, with more audacity and aggression. We could have caused them problems as we had chances but that’s the way it is,” he said.

One of Galatasaray’s biggest headaches is the absence of key striker Burak Yilmaz, who is suspended after picking up a yellow card in Madrid.

Turkish media reported on Friday that the Istanbul side had applied to UEFA to have the yellow card annulled.

Galatasaray will also be missing central defender Dany Nounkeu after his booking in Madrid ruled him out.

Real romped to a 5-1 victory at home to midfielder Levante on Saturday as coach Jose Mourinho left several top performers, including forward Cristiano Ronaldo, out of his starting lineup.

Ronaldo came off the bench at halftime with Real leading 2-1 and netted his 29th goal of the La Liga campaign before setting up fellow substitute Mesut Ozil.

**Paris marathon**

Peter Some recorded a surprise victory in the Paris marathon on Sunday, the Kenyan clocking two hours, five minutes and 38 seconds to beat Ethiopian favourite Tadese Tola and compatriot EricNdema by almost a minute in chilly conditions.

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The previous record (2:21:57) was set last year by compatriot Tirfi Beyene.
A cargo ship sails under the Bayi Bridge across the Ganjiang River in Nanchang, capital of east China’s Jiangxi Province, on 7 March, 2013. The water level of the Ganjiang River in the Nanchang segment has risen to 18.53 metres by 7 April morning, five metres higher than half month earlier and two metres higher than the same period of last year, according to the Nanchang Hydrology Station. The local government has strengthened its flood surveillance and control.

Perenco helicopter crashes in Peru, 13 dead

LIMA, 8 April—A helicopter chartered by French oil company Perenco has crashed in a remote northern part of Peru, killing all 13 Peruvians aboard, including one Perenco employee and representatives of three contractors, a company source told Reuters. Perenco confirmed the accident, adding “at this stage, no survivors have been found.” A Peruvian official usually has to confirm a death toll in an accident before a company can publicly confirm the casualties.

The helicopter went down in the sparsely populated region of Loreto, Peru, near the border with Ecuador. It had left the jungle city of Iquitos to fly to the company’s Block 67, the company said.

There were nine passengers and four crew members on board, it added. “The Peruvian Army is at the scene and two additional helicopters are supporting the rescue efforts,” Perenco said in a statement.

Block 67 is a 630-square-mile (1,020-square-kilometre) block of more than 300 million barrels.

MEDIA reports initially put the death toll at nine.

Injured Djokovic leads Serbia past US

BOISE, 8 April—Novak Djokovic overcame an early injury to his ankle and lifted Serbia to the Davis Cup semi-finals with a 7-5, 6-7, 6-1, 6-0 victory over American Sam Querrey on Sunday.

“It’s very strong emotion when you play for your country, I guess that’s the biggest reason why I kept playing,” Djokovic told reporters after securing Serbia an unassailable 3-1 lead.

“It meant a lot to me personally and the whole team and the nation, and we are very glad to be in semi-finals again.”

Serbia will play Canada in the semi-finals in September.

The world number one Djokovic took a bad spill in the third game of the first set, and had to be helped off the court to have his right ankle treated.

But after wrapping his ankle in a medical timeout, Djokovic returned to the court where his movement was not seriously hampered.

The Serbian’s big-match experience came into the fore when he broke the towering American to 6-5 in the first set and sealed it with a series of high bouncers.

Querrey rallied in the second set, dictating play with his big serve and forehand to take it to a tiebreak.

Djokovic suffered a rare lapse to surrender the set, pushing a back-court volley wide and losing another forehand to hand Querrey the tiebreak 7-4.

The Serbian said that the anti-inflammatory medication he took for his ankle injury began to kick in from there, while Querrey’s service speed slowed due to a strained right pectoral muscle.

Dubai free zone aims for top gold trading hub

DUBAI, 8 April—The Dubai free zone will become one of the world’s top trading hubs for precious metals in two years, driven by the influx of firms and customers from the emerging markets, an official said on Sunday.

Some 20 percent of the world’s gold trade is now in Dubai, Dr Ahmed Bin Sulayem, the executive chairman of the Dubai Multi Commodities Centre (DMCC) free zone, told Xinhua at the 2nd annual DMCC precious metals conference. “Demand from East and West is still strong, whereas most new firms flock in from the emerging markets in Africa, India and China. We expect to host over 10,000 registered firms by 2015,” said Bin Sulayem.

Bin Sulayem is hungry for more, saying that “Dubai aims to attract 50 percent of the gold trade.”

Meanwhile, he is aware of the wind of change. “We increased our diamond trading capacities in the DMCC last year, but we would like to see more firms from China, more firms from Africa,” said Bin Sulayem.

Labelled as the “city of gold” for decades due to its large number of gold souks, jewellery stores and wealthy tourists, Dubai, as a gold trading hub located between the top producers of the yellow metal in Africa and the major consumer India, received a boost in 2002 when the DMCC was established as a tax-free commodities market.

Since then, over 3,500 firms from the precious metals sector, jewelry and other commodity firms, including diamonds, tea and coffee have set up a branch in the DMCC, luring firms from established commodity centres, such as London and Antwerp.
Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker receives UN Assistant Secretary-General

NAY PYI TAW, 8 April—Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann received Mr. Ajay Chhibber, UN Assistant Secretary-General, UNDP Assistant Administrator and Director, UNDP Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific Region, and party at Zabuthiri Hall of the Hluttaw Complex, here, at 3 p.m. today.

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann accepts book donation of Mr. Ajay Chhibber, UN Assistant Secretary-General, UNDP Assistant Administrator and Director, UNDP Regional Bureau for Asia and Pacific Region.—MNA

Also present at the call together with the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker were Chairman of Pyithu Hluttaw International Relations Committee U Hla Myint Oo, secretaries of the Hluttaw Committees and officials from the Hluttaw Office.

They discussed bilateral cooperation between UN agencies and the Hluttaws, and parliamentary affairs.

After the meeting, UN Assistant Secretary-General Mr. Ajay Chhibber donated 307 books for the Hluttaw Library through the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker.

The donated publications are books on international laws, human rights, parliamentary affairs, elections, constitutions and voting.

MNA

Supply of electricity, bridge, library put into service

A ceremony to launch supply of electricity on a self-reliant basis was held in Chaunggale-Theingon Model Village in Pantanaw Township of Ayeyawady Region on 6 April morning. Union Minister at the President Office U Thein Nyunt launched the supply of electricity and inspected installation of power lines.

The model village installed 1.43 miles long 0.4KV power line with one 160 KVA transformer for supply of electricity.

On 7 April morning, the Union minister attended the opening of Shwekyun Nadi wooden bridge in Letpangkyun Village of Maubin Township and Shwekyuntha Library.

MNA

Wider use of International payment cards offers rapid economic growth

In an interview with MD U Win Min Khang of Myanmar Apex Bank, he said Myanmar Alin daily that, with an increase in arrivals of tourist and rapid growth in investment sector, more businessmen are eager to invest in Myanmar. As Myanmar will host SEA Games and regional conferences like ASEAN Summit and related meetings, implementation of an internationally-recognized system for the use of currency has become a must. Now Myanmar Apex Bank has fulfilled this requirement.

At present, Myanmar banks are giving competitive services to international payment card holders like VISA, Master and CUP card holders to use their cards in the banks, as a result of a greater cooperation with the top banks in Japan and the US. Development of a certain country rests on its quality of banking service. Better banking service could lead to smooth and speedy flow of financial transaction and foreign investment.

By: Myint Maung Soe
Photo: Tin Soe (Myanma Alinn)

In sale of valuable items, e-payment system will be able to facilitate domestic business, thereby generating more sales.

Myanma Alinn:
(2-4-2013)
Trs: YM