President U Thein Sein calls for cent per cent operation of Nay Pyi Taw mechanized farm by monsoon

The President called for cent per cent operations of the farm, irrigation system and roads by coming monsoon. The President and party then visited construction site of Setsetyo diversion weir. Union Minister U Myint Hlaing reported the President on work progress. The construction of diversion weir will be beneficial to environmental conservation. It would also prevent 900-acre farmlands from inundation in rainy seasons. The diversion weir will enable farmers to employ multiple cropping patterns.

The President called on visiting officials from Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) to cooperate in agriculture sector of Myanmar and updated that Myanmar would receive aids from JICA to penetrate Japanese market. Myanmar will start to export Seintalone mangoes and dragon ball fruits to Japanese market this season.

The President invited Japanese assistance for the country’s shift from conventional farming to mechanized one and microfinance loans which he called “essential to farmers in Myanmar”. The President disclosed his supports for closer cooperation between the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation and JICA to strengthen intergovernmental and people-to-people connectivity.

The President and party looked round irrigation system of Setsetyo diversion weir, land reclamation for mechanized farming and thriving vegetable plantations and farmlands in the irrigation area of Setsetyo dam in a motorcade.

The site where new mechanized farmlands are being reclaimed is located between Ottarathiri and Pobbatthiri Townships in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area.

Alternative publication of dailies in New Year holidays

Nay Pyi Taw, 9 April—The Myanmar Alinn daily, the Kyemon daily and the New Light of Myanmar daily published by the News and Periodicals Enterprise of the Ministry of Information will be in circulation alternatively during the Myanmar New Year holidays.

The Kyemon daily will be in circulation on 12, 13, 14, 15 and 16 April while the Myanmar Alinn and the New Light of Myanmar daily stop their circulations on those days. The Myanmar Alinn and the New Light of Myanmar will be in circulation on 17, 18, 19, 20 and 21 April while the Kyemon daily stops its circulation on those days. Advertisement service will be provided regularly on those days. All dailies will resume regular circulation starting from 22 April. —NMA

Preparations for ASEAN Paralympic Games discussed

Nay Pyi Taw, 9 April—The coordination meeting on opening and closing ceremony for the 7th ASEAN Paralympic Games to be held in January 2014 was held at the Ministry of Culture yesterday afternoon.

Union Minister for Culture U Aye Myint Kyu gave a speech and members of Committee for Preparing and Rehearsing Opening and Closing Ceremony reported on their respective sectors. —NMA

Weather Forecast for Second Dekad of April 2013

Bay of Bengal Condition
A low pressure area may form over the South Bay of Bengal and further intensify into a depression. Weather will be partly cloudy to cloudy in the Andaman Sea and South Bay and partly cloudy elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Rainy condition
Rainy days are expected about 6 to 7 days in Taninthayi Region and Kachin State, 4 to 5 days in Upper Sagaing, Bago, Yangon and Ayeyawady Regions, Rakhine, Kayin and Mon States and about 1 to 2 days in the remaining Regions and States.

Day temperature
Day temperatures will be above April average temperatures in Lower Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway, Bago and Yangon Regions, Bago, Mon States and about April average temperatures in the remaining Regions and States. —NLM
Mandarillians prepare for Maha Thingyan water festival

**Mandalar, 9 April**—Aimed at enabling Mandalarillians to partake joyfully in Myanmar traditional Maha Thingyan water festival, construction of water-throwing pavilions including Mandalar’s Mayor Aung Myint National Race Commission will have a 24 feet wide motorway flanked by three feet and six inches wide pedestrian lanes on either side. The main structure of the reinforced concrete bridge will have steel truss frames and concrete floor. Its water clearance will be 40 feet high and 215 feet wide and it can withstand 60 ton-load of each vehicle. Thanks to the bridge, local people will be able to travel from Pathein to Ngapudaw within a short period of time.

Collision between loaded truck, motorbike kills young man

**Lashio, 9 April**—A fatal road accident occurred in Lashio of Shan State (North) on 3 April, causing a young man dead.

A loaded 22-wheeled truck driven by Ye Lin Tun, 32, collided with a motorbike driven by Aung Nyunt, 18, of Lashio Township together with Aik Tun, 17, who was on the back seat in front of One Store on Hsawwii road in ward-12 in Lashio.

During the accident, Aik Tun was pronounced dead on the spot as he was run over by the front tyre of the truck while he was flung to the ground by the collision.

But the motorcyclist, Aung Nyunt, suffered minor injuries.

Lashio police station filed a lawsuit against the truck driver.

**Car vandals cause nearly K 1.8 million worth of damage to three vehicles in Shwepyitha Township**

**Yangon, 9 April**—Three vehicles had been vandalized by a drunken mob of four vandals who threw stones at the front and rear windscreen of the cars and drove away by a motorbike in Shwepyitha Township at 11.40 pm on 24 March.

A Probox driven by Ko Ko, 35, of ward-10 in the township had fallen victim to a vandal attack from the motorbike driving on the opposite lane by four men who threw stones at it. The front windscreen of the Probox was smashed in the stone attack. The next vandal attacks happened to a taxi driven by Ko Win Khaing, 42, of the township and a stationary 10-wheeled bus near Shwe Yon bus-stop, leaving the windscreens of the two vehicles broken.

The vandal attacks caused nearly K 1.8 million worth of damage to the three vehicles.

Shwepyitha police station opened a case and is launching an investigation to expose four drunken vandals.

**Two robbers sentenced to five years in jail with hard labour**

**Yangon, 9 April**—Two suspects were given a five-year prison sentence with hard labour each by Dalla Township Court on 1 April as they were found guilty of committing an armed robbery, taking golden items, cash and handset away from the house of the owner of Annawa Moe fish brokerage on Kanaung Street in Banyadala ward of Dalla Township.

The incident occurred at her house while Daw Ohnna Swe, 45, was at her fish brokerage on Bogyoke street. As she was informed of the armed robbery at her house by Daw Ohn Myint, her housemaid, she rushed there and she found her belongings—gold chain, golden bracelet, golden locket, one handset and K 70000—worth over K 2.4 million were stolen by the robbers. Dalla township police station opened a case and made necessary investigation into the robbery. Police members arrested two suspects—Ko Ko Chit, 22, and Aye Naing (a) Ange Lay of Kyisu village in Kyoomphar village-tract in Bogale Township—together with stolen gold wares.

**JICA, MSR conduct survey in Yamethin Township**

**Yamethin, 9 April**—Under the program of Improvement of Communications Networks sponsored by Japanese Government, members of Site-Survey Team of Yangon-based Japan International Cooperation Agency-JICA and members of Myanmar Survey Research led by U Thura Win visited Yamethin Exchange in Mandalay Region on 6 April in order to conduct a survey for Soft Loan Project.

Yamethin District communications officer U Nyi Maung and in-charge of microwave station U Khin Maung Than handed over documents related to township profiles and list of the buildings in the townships where a survey will be carried out.

It is learnt that local people are very appreciated the government’s drive to improve communications network and to alleviate poverty through the wider use of low-priced mobile phones.
UN’s Ban says all claims of chemical arms use in Syria need investigating

WASHINGTON, 9 April — The US Navy said on Monday it will deploy for the first time a laser weapon on one of its ships that could be capable of shooting down drones and disabling vessels, an advance in technology that some say is a step toward militarizing outer space.

The weapon is being billed as a step toward transforming the way the US military fights, and it shows the United States is looking at new ways to respond to threats.

US Navy to field first laser weapon, could shoot down drone

Tokyo, 9 April — Prime Minister Shinzo Abe called on Monday for more practical English-language education as a Foreign Language for entry to and graduation from public universities.

Abe calls for practical English teaching in education system reform

MANILA, 9 April — The Asian Development Bank on Tuesday stressed the need for Asia to “aggressively explore” new and cleaner energy sources to fuel its rapid growth in the coming decades, saying securing an adequate energy supply will be critical to sustaining developing Asia’s growth.

ADB urges Asia to explore cleaner energy sources

Tehran, 9 April — Iran will inaugurate two big projects related to its nuclear programme in the central Province of Yazd on Tuesday, official IRNA news agency reported on Monday. Saghond uranium complex is projected to extract uranium from 330-metre depth of the ground and the extracted uranium will then be processed into yellow cake (a kind of uranium concentrate powder) in another complex, Shahid Rezaeenejad, in the city of Ardiakan, the report said.

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The Hughes, 9 April — An advance team of UN-mandated experts has gone to Cyprus and is awaiting permission from the Syrian government to investigate allegations of chemical weapons attacks, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said on Monday.

Syria has asked the United Nations only to investigate what it says was a rebel chemical attack near Aleppo. The opposition has blamed President Bashar al-Assad’s forces for that strike and also wants the UN team to probe other alleged chemical attacks by the government.

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon speaks at a news conference at the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) in the Hague on 8 April, 2013.—REUTERS

The Hague, 9 April — There have been three alleged chemical weapons attacks — the one near Aleppo and another near Damascus, both in March, and one in Homs in December. The rebels and Assad’s government blame each other for all of them.

Ban has made clear he wants an all-encompassing inquiry, saying it was the “firm principle” of the United Nations that investigators be granted access to all areas where chemical weapons were allegedly used.

After meeting in The Hague with the head of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), which is providing scientists and equipment, Ban said an advance team was in Cyprus, ready to go to Syria within 24 hours.

“All we are waiting for is the go-ahead from the Syrian government to determine whether any chemical weapons were used, in any location,” Ban said. “I urge the Syrian government to be more flexible, so that this mission can be deployed as fast as possible.”

The future is here,” said Peter Morrison at the Office of Naval Research’s Solid-State Laser Technology Maturation Program.

The weapon is being billed as a step toward transforming the way the US military fights, and it shows the United States is looking at new ways to respond to threats.

The amphibious transport dock ship USS Ponce is seen underway in the US 5th fleet area of responsibility in the Red Sea in this on 16 Feb, 2011 handout photo provided by the US Navy.—REUTERS

“Lasers might not work well, or at all, in rain or fog, preventing lasers from being an all-weather solution,” it said in its report issued on 14 March.

Klunder said the Navy expects that someday incoming missiles will not be able to “simply outmanoeuvre” a highly accurate laser beam travelling at the speed of light. A new report from the Congressional Research Service praises the laser technology but also notes drawbacks, including the potential it could accidentally hit satellites or aircraft. Weather also affects lasers.

Japanese universities now recognize as qualified to teach English to students to score certain minimum points in TOEFL or other established exams to gauge knowledge and skills in the language to be recognized as qualified to enroll in, or graduate from, public universities.

Endo handed to Abe the proposals to drastically reform English-lan

The ambitious transport dock ship USS Ponce is seen underway in the US 5th fleet area of responsibility in the Red Sea in this on 16 Feb, 2011 handout photo provided by the US Navy.—REUTERS

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The prototype, which one official said cost between $31 million and $32 million to make, will be installed aboard the USS Ponce, which is being used as a floating base in the

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**OCTOBER 9, 2011—Climate change could get worse quickly if huge amounts of extra heat absorbed by the oceans are released back into the air, scientists said after unveiling new research showing that oceans have helped mitigate the effects of warming since 2000.

Heat-trapping gases are being emitted into the atmosphere faster than ever, and the 10 hottest years on record have all occurred since 2000, stoking fears that there could be a heat-trapping gas bubble waiting to burst and accelerate warming.

But ocean research has shown that in the past 13 years, the 157 million square miles (406 million square kilometers) of the world's oceans have absorbed 90% of the extra heat trapped by the atmosphere from heat-trapping gases such as carbon dioxide.

The reason: The oceans are releasing some of the heat trapped during the 1990s, which helped slow warming since that time.

“Most of this excess energy was absorbed in the top 700 metres (2,300 feet) of the ocean at the onset of the warming pause, 65 percent of it in the tropical Pacific and Atlantic oceans,” they wrote in the journal Nature Climate Change.

Lead author Virginie Guemas of the Catalan Institute of Climate Sciences in Barcelona said the hidden heat may return to the atmosphere in the next decade, stoking warming again.

“If it is only related to natural variability then the rate of warming will increase soon,” she told Reuters.

Caroline Katzens of the Royal Netherlands Meteorological Institute, an expert who was not involved in the latest study, said heat absorbed by the ocean will come back into the atmosphere if it is part of an ocean cycle such as the “El Nino” warming and “La Nina” cooling events in the Pacific.

She said the study broadly confirmed earlier research by her institute but that it was unlikely to be the full explanation of the warming pause at the surface, since it only applied to the onset of the slowdown around 2000.

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**HTC posts record-low quarterly profit after delayed phone launch**

By DUBAI, 9 April—The United Arab Emirates’ top telecom operator Etisalat has stopped blocking the website of Skype, the world’s No1 Internet-based phone call provider, although the move could put further pressure on the state-controlled firm’s revenue.

Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) providers such as Skype allow for free internet-to-telephone calls and messaging, while tariffs for internet-to-mobile or landline phone calls are dramatically cheaper than by conventional means.

Skype is owned by Microsoft Corp. Etisalat, in an announcement made on its Facebook page, said it had unblocked access to Skype’s website on Monday. Such access had been denied for several years, Reuters was able to access Skype’s website calling it from a mobile phone.

The statement did not say whether Skype-to-phone calls were also now possible and Etisalat did not reply to requests for more comment. It initially announced it had unblocked access to Skype’s website last week via Twitter, then deleted the tweet.

“It is becoming less sustainable to continue the ban because the way people use communications is rapidly changing,” said Matthew Reed, a principal analyst at UAC.

Skype is also popular among the majority of the population in a country where the vast majority of the population are expatriates and instant messaging services such as WhatsApp and BlackBerry Messenger have also eaten into internationaltextewm.
Fitness after 65 is no one-size-fits-all endeavour

NEW YORK, 9 April—America’s ageing population is posing special challenges, fitness experts say, because it is difficult to design effective workout routines for people with such a wide range of abilities.

For one 70-year-old, the goal may be to run a marathon, for another it’s getting out of a chair.

“If you are teaching 10-year-olds, it’s perfectly reasonable to do an activity that everybody would participate in,” said Dr Wojtek Chodzko-Zajko, an expert on aging with the American College of Sports Medicine. But 20 80-year-olds could be as different as chalk and cheese.”

Some baby boomers could be athletic, he explained, while others would be unable to get out of bed. There are now more Americans age 65 and older than at any other time in US history, according to Census Bureau figures. Some 40 million people age 65 and over lived in the United States in 2010, accounting for 13 percent of the total population. The older population grew from 3 million in 1900 to 40 million in 2010.

Older adults should be doing aerobic activity to help maintain body weight, strengthening exercises to develop and maintain muscle mass and some type of flexibility training, according to Dr James Graves, Dean of the College of Health at the University of Utah.

“We analyzed all materials, including the malt and the hops used during brewing for the presence of arsenic.”

The researchers found that the arsenic came from a filtering material called kieselguhr, or diatomaceous earth, used to remove yeast, hops and other particles and give the beer a crystal-clear appearance. Kieselguhr consists of fossilized remains of diatoms, a type of hard-shelled algae that lived millions of years ago. It finds wide use in filtering beer and is an ingredient in other products. “We concluded that kieselguhr may be a significant source of arsenic contamination in beer,” Coehlan said. “This conclusion was supported by analysis of kieselguhr samples. These tests revealed that some kieselguhr samples release arsenic.”

“Kieselguhr, or diatomaceous earth, used to remove yeast, hops and other particles and give the beer a crystal-clear appearance. Kieselguhr consists of fossilized remains of diatoms, a type of hard-shelled algae that lived millions of years ago.”

London, 9 April—Around 390 million people are infected each year with dengue fever—the world’s fastest-spreading tropical disease—more than triple the current estimate by the World Health Organization, experts said on Sunday.

The new finding, based on several years of analysis, underscores the growing burden of the mosquito-borne viral disease, which is also called “breakbone fever” because of the severe pain it can cause.

There is as yet no approved vaccine or specific drug to treat dengue, which is not normally fatal but kills many victims in hospital.

Researchers from the University of Oxford and the Wellcome Trust presented their results, along with a detailed map of dengue distribution, in the journal Nature.

“Our research suggests a new way to help explain why a diet rich in red meat promotes atherosclerosis,” said study author Jeremy Farrar, director of Oxford University’s tropical disease research unit in Vietnam.

The ABS said the balance of goods and services fell 1.0 percent to 25,642 million Australian dollars in February while imports of goods and services rose 3.0 percent to 25,642 million Australian dollars in February.

“Sit and Be Fit,” a senior fitness program, is to work with a personal trainer or group leader who is a registered nurse who specialized in geriatrics.

Australia’s trade deficit narrows in February

SYDNEY, 9 April—Australia’s trade deficit narrowed to 178 million Australian dollars (186.24 million US dollars) in February, according to data released on Wednesday by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS). The result was less than economists’ forecasts of a 1 billion Australian dollar deficit.

The ABS said the balance on goods and services was a deficit of 178 million Australian dollars in February, a fall of 1.057 million Australian dollars on Australia’s population.

Experts triple estimate of world dengue fever infections

The researchers found that some kieselguhr samples contained arsenic. Kieselguhr, or diatomaceous earth, used to remove yeast, hops and other particles and give the beer a crystal-clear appearance. Kieselguhr consists of fossilized remains of diatoms, a type of hard-shelled algae that lived millions of years ago.

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Aid group pleads with UN to do more for Syria’s children

From the very beginning of the crisis in Syria, children have been its forgotten victims — facing death, trauma and suffering, and deprived of basic humanitarian aid,” Save the Children said in a report presented to the 15-nation council on Monday. “Children are increasingly being put directly in harm’s way as they are being recruited by armed groups and (government-aligned) forces,” it said.

The threat to fight mistrust for Middle East peace

Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu (C) speaks with US Secretary of State John Kerry at the US Embassy in Jerusalem on April 8, 2013. —Reuters

Japanese officials believe Tokyo is firmly on course to get the green light, with the three countries awaiting a US decision. Since Prime Minister Shinzo Abe announced Japan’s intent to join the TPP talks on 15 March, Japan has been calling for TPP negotiating countries to hold a negotiation round in July, seeking to join the rule-making process that has already entered its third year.

Train derailed by landslide in central Italy, 17 injured

Although the train conductor was able to swiftly brake, he could not avoid the accident, local television quoted railway authorities as saying. The 17 passengers, mostly commuters and students, were injured but not seriously. Some were rushed to a nearby hospital. —Kyodo News

Nepali guide becomes 1st Mt Everest casualty this season

KATHMANDU, 9 April— A 46-year-old Nepali guide fell into a crevice on the slopes of Mt Everest, becoming the first casualty of this year’s spring climbing season, a mountaineering official said on Monday.

Mingma Sherpa, among a select few Sherpas nicknamed “icefall doctors” for their expertise in fixing ropes over the treacherous Khumbu Icefall on the mountain, met instant death after falling into the crevice on Sunday afternoon while returning after fixing ropes, Tilak Pandey told Kyodo News.

His body has been recovered and handed over to his family members in Solukhumbu District, which is home to the world’s tallest mountain.

The spring climbing season is the most popular among climbers seeking to scale the 8,848-metre peak. Every year, hundreds of climbers ascend the mountain in May after having spent weeks on its lower slopes acclimating to the altitude.—Kyodo News

Girls walk on rubble of damaged buildings by what activists said was shelling by forces loyal to Syria’s President Bashar al-Assad in Air Alan in Home, on 8 April, 2013.—Reuters

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So the threat to fight mistrust for Middle East peace

Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu (C) speaks with US Secretary of State John Kerry at the US Embassy in Jerusalem on April 8, 2013. —Reuters

Japanese officials believe Tokyo is firmly on course to get the green light, with the three countries awaiting a US decision. Since Prime Minister Shinzo Abe announced Japan’s intent to join the TPP talks on 15 March, Japan has been calling for TPP negotiating countries to hold a negotiation round in July, seeking to join the rule-making process that has already entered its third year.

Train derailed by landslide in central Italy, 17 injured

Although the train conductor was able to swiftly brake, he could not avoid the accident, local television quoted railway authorities as saying. The 17 passengers, mostly commuters and students, were injured but not seriously. Some were rushed to a nearby hospital. —Kyodo News

Nepali guide becomes 1st Mt Everest casualty this season

KATHMANDU, 9 April— A 46-year-old Nepali guide fell into a crevice on the slopes of Mt Everest, becoming the first casualty of this year’s spring climbing season, a mountaineering official said on Monday.

Mingma Sherpa, among a select few Sherpas nicknamed “icefall doctors” for their expertise in fixing ropes over the treacherous Khumbu Icefall on the mountain, met instant death after falling into the crevice on Sunday afternoon while returning after fixing ropes, Tilak Pandey told Kyodo News.

His body has been recovered and handed over to his family members in Solukhumbu District, which is home to the world’s tallest mountain.

The spring climbing season is the most popular among climbers seeking to scale the 8,848-metre peak. Every year, hundreds of climbers ascend the mountain in May after having spent weeks on its lower slopes acclimating to the altitude.—Kyodo News

Girls walk on rubble of damaged buildings by what activists said was shelling by forces loyal to Syria’s President Bashar al-Assad in Air Alan in Home, on 8 April, 2013.—Reuters

Aid group pleads with UN to do more for Syria’s children

“As from the very beginning of the crisis in Syria, children have been its forgotten victims — facing death, trauma and suffering, and deprived of basic humanitarian aid,” Save the Children said in a report presented to the 15-nation council on Monday. “Children are increasingly being put directly in harm’s way as they are being recruited by armed groups and (government-aligned) forces,” it said. “This means more births are taking place at home, without a skilled birth attendant,” the report said, adding that access to food was also a serious problem for Syrian families.

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Shwebo Hospital gives free health care to local people

Shwebo 9 April—The Union Government has raised allotment of budget for health and education sectors.

The government recently provided 224 items of medicine to Shwebo Hospital (100-bed), 62 to station hospitals, 39 to rural health centres and 24 to rural health branches.

On 31 March, a meeting was held to clarify free health care services to the people with the use of State-provided medicines. As of 25 March, Shwebo Hospital gives free health care services to emergency patients and expectant mothers, one day free treatment to patients from the wards and needy patients spending the interest obtained from medical trust-fund worth K 1.1 million.

Kandawgyi 3rd street inaugurated in Nyaunggili

Nyaunggili 9 April—In honour of the 6th Anniversary Armed Forces Day, Kandawgyi 3rd concrete street, upgraded by Nyaunggili Township Development Affairs Committee in 2012-2013 fiscal year, was opened at the archway of the street on 22 March morning.

The executive officer U M Hla Thaung of the committee explained the purpose of building the concrete road. Ward administrator U Shin Aye spoke words of thanks. The executive officer presented commemorative pennants to officials.

MPF launches emergency, complaint-handling phone lines

Mawlamyine 9 April—Myanmar Police Force under the Ministry of Home Affairs has put hot lines into place at Myanmar Police Force HQ and region/state police stations to enable the public to submit tip-offs and complaints over illegal acts, misappropriation and corruption.

The public may reach the numbers for their information and complaints but are requested to avoid mangling/corrupting these to phone lines.

Mawlamyine 9 April—A new umbrella was hoisted atop Nwaloab Hill Pagoda in Kyonka Village of Paung Township in Mon State on 26 March morning. It was attended by Chairman of Township Sangha Nayaka Committee, Panong Village Thaye-nyeintch Pavilion, Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kossa and 70 members of the Sangha, Township Administrator U Myint Naing and township level departmental officials, totalling about 500. Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kossa, three members of the Sangha and the township administrator hoisted the umbrella atop the pagoda and shared merits gained.—Myanma Alinn

Kaw Htoo Thaung (Ayeyawady) respectively.

Myanmar will take part in the men’s and women’s Myanmar traditional chess event in the XXVII SEA Games in 2013. Tentatively selected players will be chosen for the traditional chess squad from this tournament. —Myanma Alinn

Rector Sayadaw Bhaddanta Nandamala-bhivamsa and the Chancellor Sayadaw delivered words of advice. At the ceremony, two monks got PhD degree and 57 monks, MA degree. The Chief Minister and party then viewed repairing of frames at Ayeyawady Bridge (Yadanathenga) that was hit by the earthquake last year.

On 27 March, the Chief Minister attended the meeting to coordinate rehabilitation at Priswebo Yeiktha in Shwebo.

Inspecting 192 feet and 38 feet wide lecture hall of Shwebo University, the Chief Minister looked into progress of gravel road in Shwebo Industrial Zone. —Myanma Alinn

Permits issued to farmers in Thanlyn Township

Thanlyn 9 April—A ceremony to present farming permits to farmers took place at the Thahtaykwin Village Administrator in Thanlyn Township of Yangon South District in Yangon Region on 31 March.

It was attended by secretary and members of the district and township farmland management committee and local farmers.

The Secretary of the district committee U Khin Soe explained the purpose of issuing the permit and gave permits to each farmer.

In Thanlyn Township, farming permits will be issued to 9062 farmers from wards and villages for 15566 farmland plots. —Myanma Alinn

The MCF awards winners in women’s single event

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New Light of Myanmar

**NATIONAL**

**Letpadaungtaung committee meets local residents, calls for cooperation**

Chairman of Committee for Implementation of Report on Letpadaungtaung Copper Mine Project Union Minister U Hla Tun meets village-tract administrators and local people at the project area.—**MNA**

**Rehabilitation works in Rakhine State gaining momentum**

**E-Major students of Dagon University to pay respects to faculty members**

Mascots Co., Ltd donates modern hospital equipment to Yangon General Hospital

Yangon, 9 April—In commemoration of 15th anniversary celebration, Mascots Co., Ltd donated Fuji FCR-Computed Radiography System and printer worth USD 65,000 to the X-ray department of Yangon General Hospital at Traders Hotel on Sule Pagoda Road, here, this morning.

Managing Director of Mascots Co., Ltd Dr Win Kyaw made clarification about donation and Managing Director of Fujifilm Thailand Mr Nozomu Hashimoto, the equipment and accessories.

Later, Managing Director Dr Win Kyaw handed over the documents related to the hospital equipment to Dean/ Professor U Lin Tun Tun of X-ray Department of YGH.—**MNA**

State Chief Minister U Hla Maung Tin reported on the conflict that occurred in Rakhine State, opening of relief camps and progress of rehabilitation works, construction of makeshift housing for victims to Union Minister for Immigration and Population U Khin Yi, the US Ambassador, the Australian Ambassador and representatives of UN agencies.

The Union Minister and party visited relief camp in Kyeeinnibyin Village of Pauktaw Township, the relief camp in Myebon Township and that of Bawdupha Village in Sittway Township.

The Union Minister, the Chief Minister, ambassadors and representatives of UN agencies discussed construction of temporary housings for the victims, supply of drinking water, raising healthcare services, rejoining original works and creation of job opportunities.—**MNA**

Means sought to develop shrimp farming

Yangon, 9 April—Deputy Minister for Livestock and Fisheries U Khin Maung Aye held meeting with General Manager Mr. John F. Diener of Malaysia-based Gold Coin Group and party on possible cooperation in shrimp breeding at the ministry, here, this morning.

The meeting focused on bilateral cooperation between the company and the local entrepreneurs in promoting shrimp farming to satisfy the market demand.—**MNA**

E-Major students of Dagon University to pay respects to faculty members

Yangon, 9 April—Old students of English major at Dagon University will hold the seventh ceremony to pay respects to faculty members at Royal Rose Restaurant in Shwegondine of Bahan Township from 9.30 am to 1 pm on 1 May.

The students of English major at the university in 1992-2006 academic year are invited to attend the ceremony without fail. Those wishing to make donation may contact 095404756 of Ko Maung Maung Oo, 095031137 of Ko Myo Than Tun, 095102668 of Ma Htar Ei Win, 0943033198 of Ma Aye Thida Naing, 0948040478 of Ma Heik Htar, 0973105035 of Ma Ei Ei Phyo, 0973135529 of Ma May Kyi Tun, 098634512 of Ma May Han Hnin, 0973082392 of Ma Kyin Kyin Sweet, 095506345 of Ma Thwe Hnin Yi Hlaing, 0973106997 of Ko Sai Min Latt and 095087424 of Ma May Thazin Phu. The students who graduated from the university after 2006 academic year may contact the above-mentioned telephone numbers to join the organizing committee as executive committee members.

Managing Director Dr Win Kyaw donates Fuji FCR-Computed Radiography System and Printer worth US$ 65,000 to Dean/ Professor U Lin Tun Tun of X-ray Department of YGH.—**MNA**

Weigh consequences of improper use of mobile phones

It is not entirely exaggerated that mobile phones have become such a part of everyday life that it is hard to imagine how people managed without them, given the convenience, freedom of movement and ease of social networking they bring. But not everyone may be a fan and there are those who would be quite happy to return to the pre-cellphone days.

High on the list are parents who have to bear the brunt of costs stemming from the excessive use of cellphones and to educate children under ten under the danger of using cellphones.

In the changing world, people have to work day and night along the tune with an upbeat since the clock has been set forward for prosperity. At such a time, use of mobile phones is a must in order to keep pace with development but we need to weigh the consequences of improper use of the gadgets.

It has turned out that the proper use of mobile phones is not only the right thing to do, it is the smart thing to do for families with low incomes and thrifty practice should be introduced in order to offset the increased cost of living. Only then, will those who are completely obsessed with mobile phones be free from serious financial problems and be able make their money go a long way.

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**Sentiments of Home Affairs Ministry about donation by Mb. Nozomu Hashimoto**

Ministry of Home Affairs U Tin Myint made discussion on constitution and other pieces of legislation. The village-tract administrators reported necessities of each village.

The chairman, vice-chairmen, members and the Union minister donated 21 TVs to basic education schools.

Vice-chairman Adjutant-General Lt-Gen Khin Zaw Oo presented publications and furnishings for libraries donated by Myanmar Wenbao and Myanmar Yangtzee Copper Company Ltd.

The committee chairman said that the concluding remarks assured his committee would protect the interests of the people.

The committee chairman and party were briefed on the relocation plans, environmental conservation plans by officials by Myanmar Wenbao Copper Company’s briefing hall.

The committee chairman thanked those who attended to the needs.—**MNA**

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Pyithu Hlutaw Speaker calls for “mutually beneficial”...

(from page 16)
He also called for participation of all walks of life in legislation to ensure the rule of law.

Chairperson of Pyithu Hlutaw Rule of Law and Tranquility Committee U Aung San Suu Kyi and Chairman of Banks and Monetary Development Committee U Aung Thaung also participated in discussion.

The Pyithu Hlutaw Speaker called on academicians and organizations from related fields to make suggestions for the draft law safeguarding rights of farmers.

He said, “There are still much more to do to reform monetary sector and management mechanism.”

He also met Vice-President of German Parliament Dr hc Wolfgang Thierse at Pyithu Hlutaw Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Committee’s Yangon office this evening.

The meeting which was also attended by Deputy Speaker U Nanda Kyaw Swa, Committee Chairmen U Hla Myint Oo and U Htay Oo focused on parliamentary cooperation.

MNA

Navy commissions battle ships

Nay Pyi Taw, 9 April—Myanmar Navy commissioned its battle ships at No.3 Navy Jetty in Thanlyin Station this afternoon, attended by Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing.

It was also attended by Chief of the General Staff (Army, Navy and Air) General Hla Htay Win, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Thura Thet Swe, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Maj-Gen Khin Aung Myint, senior military officers from the Commander-in-Chief (Army) Office, the Yangon Command Commander, the Commander of Ayeyawady Naval Command Headquarters, Commander of Thanlyin Station and officers and other ranks from Thanlyin Station.

A total of seven vessels were commissioned at today’s ceremony. This is the first-ever dock in Myanmar, called “Saya Shan dock” in honour of Myanmar carpenter Saya Shan who built Myanmar’s first-ever a steam battle ship.

The acting commander of Naval Dockyard Command Headquarters handed over the documents related to the vessels through an official. The Senior General and party inspected the vessels.

Nay Pyi Taw, 9 April—Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association received donations to be used for the 23rd Anniversary of the association at the meeting hall of the association in Dekkhinathiri Township, here, this morning.

The invited persons from the Ministry of Health, the Chairperson of Nay Pyi Taw Maternal and Child Welfare Association and members and donors attended the ceremony.

MMCWA President Dr Mon Mon Aung made a speech on the occasion. The MMCWA President, CEC members Daw Khin Than Win, Daw Thet Thet Swe and secretary Daw Thazin Nwe received the donations and returned honouring certificates to the donors.

The donations will contribute towards carrying out public service work of the association.

MNA

Embers cause fire in Butalim Township

Butalim, 9 April —A fire broke out at Ye Htwet village in Butalim Township of Monywa District at about 10 pm on 1 April.

The fire was due to the embers at the thatched house of U Chit Aung in the village. Four houses were reduced to ashes in the fire.

The fire died down at about 11.30 pm thanks to efforts of fire crews of Butalim Township Fire Services Department and villagers.

Similar fire outbreak occurred at the thatched house of Daw Khin Mar Aye in Zeeatw village at about 1 pm on 6 April. The stove fire licked the bamboo wall of the kitchen and gutted the whole house. The kitchen fire spread nearby houses, burning 15 houses to the ground.

A total of 80 fire victims from 15 households are being given shelter at the post-primary school in the village.

Kyemon

Take fire preventive measures
Tokyo, 9 April—Latvian Prime Minister Valdis Dombrovskis denied reports on Monday that Russian money has flowed into the Baltic country in mass amounts following the financial crisis in Cyprus, saying he has not seen any “extraordinary developments” in that regard.

“So far we do not see any major inflows of this money,” he said during a speech in Tokyo, noting nonresident deposits, which make up around half of all deposits in Latvian banks, are at the level of the period prior to the 2008 global financial crisis.

There is speculation in the media that Russian money has been flowing to Latvia, following the recent financial crisis in Cyprus, which has led to a bailout requiring big depositors at Cypriot banks to take losses. Dombrovskis also refused to equate the financial situation in his country with that in Cyprus, saying Latvian banks’ assets are equivalent to around 130 percent of gross domestic product, considerably lower than the 700 to 800 percent seen in Cyprus.

“We have a small banking sector,” he said.

The prime minister added that Latvia does not intend to engage in “chasing” the money leaving Cyprus in search of a haven, because it is seen as a “higher-risk activity.”

Latvia, which joined the European Union in 2004, is seeking to join the 17-member eurozone and adopt the euro as its currency by 2014.

Dombrovskis made the case for Latvia’s bid to accede to the currency union, saying the former Soviet republic has met all the requirements for joining the club, including on inflation and the ratios of its budget deficit and public debt to GDP.

The prime minister also said he plans to ask his Japanese counterpart Shinzo Abe to support Latvia’s bid to join the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, as an association of 34 developed economies, when the two men hold a summit on Wednesday.

Kyodo News

West sees enough substance for Iran talks to continue

Tokyo, 9 April—Bank of Japan policymakers discussed further monetary easing steps such as buying government bonds with longer maturities at the last policy-setting meeting chaired by former Governor Masaaki Shirakawa on 6 and 7 March, the minutes of the meeting showed on Tuesday.

Among other options raised by the members at the meeting were lowering the interest rate on excess bank reserves at the BOJ and expanding the purchase programme for monetary easing with its regular bond-buying via market operations. But the proposals were rejected by the board.

In considering ways to purchase long-term government bonds, some members said it was important for the central bank to ensure the market’s confidence that its large-scale purchases were not a form of “fiscal dominance,” or financing govern ment debt.

One member, meanwhile, noted that it might be possible for the government to share any losses from asset purchases by the BOJ.

Kyodo News

BoJ mulled more easing steps at Shirakawa’s last meeting

WASHINGTON, 9 April—Environmental groups on Monday asked the Obama administration to extend the approval process of the Keystone XL pipeline, arguing last month’s spills of heavy Canadian crude oil in Arkansas was their latest reason to delay the project.

The administration is deciding whether to approve the Canada-to-Nebraska leg of TransCanada Corp’s proposed pipeline, which would link Canada’s oil sands, the world’s third richest crude oil depot, to refineries in Texas.

The State Department, which issued a draft environmental assessment of the $5.3 billion project on 1 March, indicated then that a final decision could come by July or August.

The assessment is now in a 45-day public comment period that runs through 22 April. Then the administration has 90 days to decide whether the project is in the national interest.

Leading green groups, including the Sierra Club, the Natural Resources Defense Council, and 350.org, asked the agency to prolong the comment period to 120 days after a pipeline spilled thousands of barrels of Canadian crude in a suburban neighbourhood in Mayflower, Arkansas in late March.

The State Department did not immediately respond to the request for comment about the letter.

Exxon Mobil Corp’s Pegasus pipeline, which runs from Illinois to Texas and can transport more than 90,000 barrels per day, remains shut after 22 homes were evacuated as a result of the oil-spill. “A 45-day comment period ... is entirely inappropriate in light of so many unanswered questions surrounding the Mayflower disaster,” the letter said. The 800,000 barrel per day Keystone pipeline would be far larger than Pegasus. President Barack Obama is expected to be the final arbiter on the Keystone decision, which splits important parts of his base: environmentalists, who are mostly opposed, and organized labour, which has backed the pipeline and the construction jobs it is likely to create.—Reuters

Indian PM to visit Germany this week

NEW DELHI, 9 April—Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh will visit Germany this week along with five ministers, during which several pacts are likely to be inked between the two countries, a top official of the External Affairs Ministry said on Monday.

“Several pacts are likely to be signed during the high-profile visit. The ministers of the two countries will also meet and discuss possible areas of cooperation,” a defence and other areas are also high priority. We do have a very substantive co-operation in defense, even though our defence minister (AK Antony) is not visiting this time,” Indian Foreign Secretary Ranjan Mathai told the media.

During his three-day visit to Berlin, starting on 10 April, the Indian Prime Minister will co-chair with German Chancellor Angela Merkel the second meeting of inter-governmental consultations to discuss all possible areas of cooperation.

The five ministers in his delegation include External Affairs Minister Salman Khurshid, Commerce Minister Anand Sharma, in addition to the Foreign Secretary and National Security Adviser Shiv Shankar Menon.

Germany is India’s largest trading partner in Europe and is also the eighth largest foreign direct investor in India.—Xinhua

Indian PM denies massive inflows of money from Cyprus

Participants from the US, Russia, China, France, Britain and Germany prepare to start talks with Iranian negotiators in Almaty on 5 April, 2013.—Reuters

Spilled crude oil is seen in a drainage ditch near Starlite Road in Mayflower, Arkansas on 31 March, 2013. Reuters

Greens ask US to delay Keystone decision after Arkansas leak

A man holds a placard during a demonstration near the Canadian-American border in Saint-Ferest, Quebec on 6 February 2013, as the protesters from the National Energy Board (NEB) arrive for the first hearing of their inquiry into the long-delayed Keystone XL pipeline. The Department of Justice of the United States is asking the US court to dismiss several lawsuits filed by environmentalists against the proposed pipeline to transport oil from Canada to the US.

Reuters

Photo taken on 8 April, 2013 shows the venue of the Second US-China State and Province Education Leaders Dialogue at Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts, the United States, on 8 April, 2013. Participants from China and the United States would have discussions on the education quality and under-achieving schools, as well as US-China partnerships and exchanges on education in the two-day dialogue.—Xinhua
Ambulance dispatches in Japan projected to peak in 2023

Tokyo, 9 April—The number of ambulance dispatches in Japan is expected to peak at around 6.20 million in 2023, continuing to rise from the record high of 5.80 million in 2012, a projection made by the Fire and Disaster Management Agency showed on Monday.

Ambulance dispatches will rise in line with the increasing number of elderly people taken to hospital for treatment of acute diseases and injuries resulting from falls, among other reasons, according to the projection from the agency under the Internal Affairs and Communications Ministry.

With the increase in dispatches, it is taking longer for ambulances to arrive and there could be further loss of life due to the delays.

The agency has been studying a system for ambulances to attend emergencies on a priority basis according to the degree of urgency, while making efforts to train people in first aid.

Compared with the agency’s projection in 2010, which forecast ambulance dispatches would peak at around 6.09 million in 2030, the latest projection, compiled in cooperation with researchers, shows dispatches will peak earlier and will be greater in number.

Ambulance dispatches are likely to decline gradually from 2024, according to the projection.

The government has come under pressure to do more to prevent its native South Island Hector’s dolphins, which is believed to number just 7,270, and the North Island Hector’s dolphin, also known as Maui’s dolphin, which is thought to number just 55.

The New Zealand government has come under increasing international pressure to do more to protect its native South Island Hector’s dolphins, which is believed to number just 7,270, and the North Island Hector’s dolphin, also known as Maui’s dolphin, which is thought to number just 55.

Ambulance dispatches in Japan projected to peak in 2023
**New Light of Myanmar**

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**MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY**

**HOLIDAY NOTICE**

As the wharves, warehouses and chellean Offices of Yangon Port will be closed on the 12th APRIL 2013 to 21st APRIL 2013 (New Year Public Holiday), Loading, Unloading and delivery for Goods will be received on Payment as Holiday Fees.

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**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**

**MV MOROTAI VOY NO (204)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MOROTAI VOY NO (204) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 9.4.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11.20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT**

**MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY**

**AGENT FOR: M/S CMG CMG**

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

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**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**

**MV KOTA RAKAN VOY NO (307)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA RAKAN VOY NO (307) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 9.4.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11.20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT**

**MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY**

**AGENT FOR: M/S ADVANCE CONTAINER LINES**

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

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**Singapore Botanic Gardens eyes UNESCO heritage status**

**UNESCO heritage status**

**Singapore, 9 April—** Singapore is preparing for a bid for the Singapore Botanic Gardens to be listed as a UNESCO World Heritage site. Acting Minister for Culture, Community and Youth Lawrence Wong said on Monday.

If successful, it will be Singapore’s first UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) World Heritage.

The garden, founded in 1859 by a horticultural society, was chosen for submission because it fulfills the criteria of having outstanding universal value, and it contributes to the region and the world, Wong said.

Rubber seeds grown in the garden propelled the growth of the rubber industry, and the development of Singapore from a fishing village to one of the world’s busiest ports in the 20th century, he said.

News of the garden in a bid for UNESCO Heritage status has made headlines recently in Singapore since 1 April.

Wong told lawmakers on Monday that the decision to nominate the gardens was based on a study commissioned by the Ministry for Information, Communications and the Arts, and was done in consultation with experts, academics and other stakeholders.

“There was indeed consultation done, in the lead-up to even identifying the Singapore Botanic Gardens,” he said. “It was not the only site that was highlighted as a possibility.”

The National Heritage Board and the Singapore Botanic Gardens are currently working together on the bid and have hired a consultant to put together a nomination dossier, including a site management plan, by February 2014.

Upon submission of the nomination documents, experts from one of UNESCO’s advisory bodies will carry out site assessments and study the dossier before making their recommendations.

This process takes about a year.

The World Heritage Committee will then meet around June 2015 to vote on the nomination.
Vienna State Opera promotes Japanese dancer Kimoto to soloist

VIENNA, 9 April — The Vienna State Opera said on Monday that Masayu Kimoto of the Vienna State Ballet has been promoted to a soloist, the first Japanese man to hold the title at the renowned ballet company. A soloist is a position second only to the first soloist.

Having studied at institutions such as Nakata Ballet Theatre in Japan and the National Superior Conservatory of Paris for Music and Dance in France, Kimoto performed at the Semper Oper Ballet in Dresden, Germany before joining the Vienna State Ballet. He was named a demi-soloist in 2011 at the Vienna State Ballet.

In “La Sylphide” that opened on Friday, Kimoto, 25, played the role of James, a peasant who is enticed by a forest fairy. In October, Kiyoka Hashimoto, 28, was promoted to a soloist at company, becoming the second Japanese female to achieve the position.—Kyodo News

Lindsay Lohan buries the hatchet with Scary Movie 5 producer

NEW DELHI, 9 April — Lindsay Lohan has decided to show her support for Scary Movie 5. The 26-year-old actress, who makes a cameo in the big screen comedy alongside her pal Charlie Sheen, was originally planning to skip the red carpet premiere in Hollywood on 11 April, 2013 because she was upset at the film’s producers for making fun of her legal troubles but has now decided to bury the hatchet.

A source told E! News that the actress, who was recently sentenced to 90 days in rehab after pleading “no contest” to charges for lying to police about driving during a car crash last June, had a change of heart after a treatment facility before 2 May, will join her co-stars Charlie, J P Manoux, Molly Shannon, Jerry O’Connell and Ashley Tisdale at the event before flying to Palm Springs for the Coachella Music Festival. It was previously revealed that the newly single actress, who split from her latest boyfriend Avi Snow this week after a brief romance, was furious with the film’s producers for releasing a clip in December that mocked her real life legal troubles. The clip showed her screaming in horror, while watching a fake news clip of her probation being revoked and she claimed it was supposed to show her watching one of her old movies Herbie.

A source previously said: “Producers assured Lindsay she’d have the final say on what jokes went in ... so she was livid when she saw the probation joke instead. Lindsay feels this final joke was meant as payback from producers — all because they blame her for holding up the shoot and trashing her trailer.

Streep voices admiration for “Iron Lady” she played in film

LONDON, 9 April — Actress Meryl Streep, who won an Oscar for her portrayal of Margaret Thatcher in the 2011 film “The Iron Lady”, praised the former British prime minister on Monday as a pioneer for the role of women in politics. Britain’s first and only female political leader died on Monday, aged 87, after suffering a stroke.

Streep, 63, described Thatcher as a trailblazer, “willingly or unwillingly”, for female political leaders. “To me she was a figure of awe for her personal strength and grit,” the American actress said in a statement. “To have given women and girls around the world reason to supplant fantasies of being princesses with a different dream: the real-life option of leading their nation; this was groundbreaking and admirable.”

Streep paid tribute to Thatcher for rising to the position of prime minister from her upbringing as a grocer’s daughter on the back of her own hard work. The multi-Oscar-winning actress acknowledged that the right-wing Thatcher divided opinion. But Streep said Thatcher deserved credit for standing by her convictions despite the “special hatred and ridicule, unprecedented in my opinion, levelled in our time at a public figure who was not a mass murderer”.—Reuters

Halle Berry pregnant with second child

LOS ANGELES, 9 April — Actress Halle Berry, who already has a daughter Nahla, 5, with ex Gabriel Aubry, is expecting her first child with fiance Olivier Martinez. The 46-year-old’s representative confirmed the news, saying, “We can confirm that Halle Berry and Olivier Martinez are expecting a child.”

Berry got engaged to her hunky Dark Tide co-star Martinez, 47, back in January 2011. The couple confirmed the happy news a few months later, but have yet to set a wedding date, reported Us magazine. In an interview recently, Berry had admitted that Nahla was pining for a sibling. “That’s the thing. My daughter is asking me. Every night we pray to God, and she’s so sweet. She says, ‘God, please bring me a bunk bed and a baby sister.’ And I say, ‘I can do one of those things, I know for sure! The other one we have to keep praying on.’ What do you say to her when she wants that and can’t understand why God’s taking so long, you know?” she said. — PTI

According to reports, the actress was furious with the film’s producers for releasing a clip in December that mocked her real life legal troubles. —PTI

Halle Berry is expecting her first child with fiance Olivier Martinez. PTI


“New Light of Myanmar”
**Sports**

**Boxing: Yaegashi knocks out WBC flyweight champ Igarashi**

**Tokyo, 9 April—**Aki- ra Yaegashi won his sec- ond weight class after de- throning WBC flyweight champ Toshiyuki Igar- ashi by unanimous deci- sion on Monday. The sixth-ranked Yaeg- ashi previously held the WBA minimumweight title, which he lost to Kazuto Ioka last June. He is the 10th Japanese-trained fighter to conquer two weight divi- sions. Yaegashi and Igar- ashi had fought each other in high school and university. Igar- ashi won all four bouts back then, but there was no questioning the 30-year-old Yaegashi’s vic- tory on Monday. The three judges had Yaegashi ahead by five, seven and nine points. Iga- 

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**Aguero fires City to victory in Manchester derby**

**Manchester, 9 April—**Sergio Aguero tore through the Manchester United de- fence to score the winner as Manchester City beat the Premier League leaders 2-1 on Monday to remind them they are still champions for a few more weeks. Second-placed City’s second successive league win at Old Trafford, fol- lowing last season’s 6-1 demolition job, allowed them to narrow the gap on their neighbours to 12 points with seven games re- maining. A blostering opening 10 minutes gave way to a scrappy first half before City broke the deadlock in the 52nd minute with James Milner’s deflected goal. The lead lasted only seven minutes before an unfortunate own goal from City captain Vincent Koco- pany followed a superb free kick by Robin van Per- sie but substitute Aguero came on to snatch the points with a classy finish in the 78th minute. —Reuters

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**Greek federation welcomes improved state funding**

**Athens, 9 April—**Greek athletics will re- ceive improved state funding close to $6.5 mil- lion after the national fed- eration SEGAS protested against original proposals for cuts of up to 80 percent. SEGAS said in a state- ment on its website (www. segas.gr) on Monday that it welcomed the government’s change of heart, although the amount of 4,916,800 euros was still 30 percent less than in 2012. In February the state promised to revise the sever- ity of proposed funding cuts and allocated an extra 11 million euros to stop some beleaured federations from closing down. The budget for Olympic sports federations has been slashed by 50 percent on year since 2010, while cuts of between 60 and 80 percent were due to be put into effect for 2013 under the country’s austerity measures. Water polo and swim- ming have also suffered, with Greece pulling their swimmers out of the Euro- pean short-course champions- ships at the end of last year for the first time in 16 years. —Reuters

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**Manchester United players fail to stop Manchester City’s Sergio Aguero, in blue, from breaking through to score during their English Premier League soccer match at Old Trafford Stadium, Manchester, northern England on 8 April, 2013.—Reuters**

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**Clarke withdraws from Masters with hamstring injury**

**Augusta, 9 April—**For- mer British Open champion Darren Clarke has pulled out of this week’s US Masters because of a lingering ham- string injury, the Northern Irishman said on Monday. The 44-year-old, who has made 11 appearances in the season’s first major champi- onship, suffered the injury just over a week ago while holidaying on the Bahamas island of Abaco. “It is with deep regret that I will not be able to play at Augusta this year,” Clarke said on his website (darrenclarke.com). “Playing in the Masters is one of golf’s greatest pleasures and I am very disappointed to be missing out.” Clarke, who won his only major ti- tle at the 2011 British Open after holding off Americans Phil Mickelson and Dustin Johnson, was also forced to withdraw from last week’s Texas Open on the US PGA Tour because of the injury. Despite having rest and extensive treatment on his hamstring, Clarke felt he would not be able to cope at the Masters with the challenge of competing on the notoriously hilly terrain at Augusta National. The Northern Irishman said his best finish at the Masters was joint eighth on his tour- nament debut in 1998, said

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**Kuchar sees progression leading to major victory**

**Augusta, 9 April—**With big victories adding up during the Tour pro- pulsions ahead of major tourna- ments, world number nine Matt Kuchar hopes his natu- ral progression will lead him to the missing piece on his resume—a major champions- hip. The 34-year-old Ameri- can won last year’s prestig- ious Players Championship and notched his first World Golf Championships title this year at the Accenture Match Play for his fifth career win. After finishing tied for third at the 2012 Masters, Kuchar believes he is ready to take the next step at the year’s first major when the Masters begins on Thursday at Au- gusta National. “It just gives me confidence knowing that I can contend in major champions- ships, that I can be there late on Sunday,” Kuchar said on Monday about last year’s Masters. “It was my first real chance to win a major coming down the stretch late on Sunday.” Kuchar, who along with Masters winner Bubba Watson were the only two players to break par all four rounds last year, was tied for the lead after making an eagle on the par-five 15th hole in the final round but bogeyed the 16th and missed out on joining a playoff with Watson and Louis Oosthu- zuen. “It just feels like one of those stepping stones into continuing to contend and winning majors, just having that experience that I’ve been there,” he said. “The more people I can play with, the more comfortable you get with it.” While some major championship winners care- fully devise their prepara- tions ahead of major tourna- ments, world number nine Kuchar said he believed consistency was the best way to flourish in the majors. “To me I always felt like it was hard to turn things off and on. I would like to kind of be ‘on’ with regularity and play well week in and week out, and I felt like that was the best preparation...and let that carry into major champion- ships. “I’d like to be able to kind of roll of out bed, know that I’m going to be hitting it good and have a good chance when I tee it up. I felt like my game has progressed that way.” While Kuchar, who be- gan this season with a pair of top 10s in Hawaii, raved about the condition of Au- gusta National he was a lit- tle worried about how fast the greens were running. “It seems every year when you play practice rounds, you kind of get a feeling that the greens get quicker and quicker each day,” said Kuchar, who will be playing in his seventh Masters. “They are already quick. They are already firm. I’m a little nervous to think what awaits us on Thurs- day.” —Reuters

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Aguero fires City to victory in Manchester derby

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**Manchester United’s Phil Jones (C) heads onto the back of Manchester City’s Vincent Kompany to score during their English Premier League soccer match in Man- chester, northern England on 8 April, 2013.—Reuters**
Volvo Ocean Race unveils longest ever route for 2014-15

The eighth leg of Volvo Ocean Race starts today from Lisbon to Lorient in France.—Reuters

Gaza, 9 April—The UN humanitarian agency for Palestinians said on Monday it was reopening its Gaza food distribution centres after suspending operations last week in response to violent protests over aid cutbacks.

The centres, which the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) closed on Thursday after demonstrators stormed its headquarters, supply food to 800,000 Palestinians—nearly half the population of the impoverished Gaza Strip.

Announcing that food distribution centres and relief offices would reopen on Tuesday, Adnan Abu Hasna, UNRWA’s Gaza media adviser, said the agency had received “assurances from the relevant parties over the safety of its staff”.

The violence on Thursday was part of a dispute that had been brewing for weeks in the territory, which is governed by the Islamist Hamas movement.

Robert Turner, UNRWA’s director of Gaza operations, said the agency faced a $68 million shortfall in 2013 and that it had decided to cut a $40 annual handout to 106,000 Gaza refugees to save some $5.5 million. To soften the blow, the agency offered job programmes to help the poorest families.—Reuters

Portugal court ruling forces cuts on education, health

Lisbon, 9 April—Portuguese will suffer from cuts to schools and hospitals to protect civil service benefits after the constitutional court rejected austerity measures that would have reduced holiday bonuses and other workers’ wages.

The government has had to scramble to find new areas to cut after the court concluded that it was unfair to single out civil servants for reductions in benefits under measures imposed to meet the terms of an international bailout programme. The decision deepens the divide between the protected class of civil servants and other workers, whose lives have become far more precarious during the worst recession since the 1970s.

Although public sector pay has fallen faster than in the private sector during Portugal’s economic crisis, state workers still earn on average double the wages of the private sector. Meanwhile, all Portuguese have been hit since January by the largest tax hikes in living memory, and many economists believe more austerity measures will prolong and deepen the slump.

“This decision left me very worried. Civil servants benefit, but not the private sector. It’s in the public sector where the government has to cut,” said Sonia Castro, an unemployed secretary.

Jose Manuel, 56-year-old taxi driver in Lisbon, said the only outcome he sees is that “our lives will only get worse.”—Reuters

French photographer escapes Afghan kidnappers after four months

Kabul, 9 April—A French photographer kidnapped in Afghanistan four months ago fled his captors on Monday and was now safe in the hands of officials from his embassy, the Afghan Interior Ministry said.

A second French hostage in Afghanistan was freed by his captors, a spokesman for France’s foreign ministry said, without providing any details.

Twenty-nine-year-old freelance Pierre Borghi had been chained up in a crudely dug hole covered by a trap door but managed to escape and reached a checkpoint manned by government security guards in central Wardak Province, an Afghan official said.

Borghi, from Grenoble in south-eastern France, was brought to the Interior Ministry’s headquarters in Kabul at about 4:30 pm (1200 GMT) and left in the company of French embassy officials less than an hour later, ministry spokesman Sediq Sediqi said.—Reuters
Myanmar people themselves need to solve their internal affairs peacefully

Nay Pyi Taw, 9 April—Rakhine State Peace and Stability Implementation Central Committee meeting took place at the meeting hall of Union Government in Presidential Palace, here, this morning, with an address by President U Thein Sein.

It was attended by Vice-President U Nyan Tun, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win, Vice-Chairman of the Committee and members, the Union Ministers, Rakhine State Chief Minister, deputy ministers and departmental heads.

In his speech, the President explained the rehabilitation of victims ahead of monsoon, the soonest implementation of the remaining works, daily assistance, construction of buildings and houses, choosing of sites for construction of buildings and peace and stability.

He urged the officials to assist in ensuring livelihood and returning of businesses. Major livelihood of people in Rakhine State are farming and fishing. They need to be provided with farm equipment, fuel, paddy strains and fertilizers and fishing gear in the coming raining season. He urged the Rakhine State government and the Union government to make cooperation for returning to normalcy, he added.

Long-term plan for handling of Rakhine conflict should be set. Myanmar people themselves need to address the internal affairs peacefullly. The number of security forces will be reduced along with improvement in peace and stability, he added.

He expressed special thanks to UN agencies and the ambassadors from the volunteer countries for their helps since Rakhine conflict erupted.

He continued to say that for providing necessary assistance to the victims, a Sittway-based organization comprising the delegates from the respective ministries is to be formed under the leadership of the Ministry of Border Affairs.

After that, Vice-Chairman Union Minister Lt-Gen Thet Naing Win and Chief Minister U Hla Maung Tin, Central Committee Secretary Deputy Minister Maj-Gen Zaw Win submitted the reports.

Then, the Union ministers discussed their respective sectors. In conclusion, the President said that implementation of Rakhine State peace and stability is a must. He urged respective committees to implement their works as quickly as possible.

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker calls for “mutually beneficial” taxation laws

Yangon, 9 April—Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann stressed the need to prescribe “mutually beneficial” taxation laws in meeting with industrialists and bankers at Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry Headquarters here this afternoon.

Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Nanda Kyaw Swa and chairs and members of Pyithu Hluttaw committees and commission were also present at the meeting.

Members of UMFCCI and sister organizations, and officials of Customs Department, Internal Revenue Department and Central Bank of Myanmar discussed tax-related issues.

Their frank discussions were welcomed by the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker assuring that the parliament would act on their suggestions. (See page 9)

Significant day temperatures (9-4-2013)

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