EU set to lift all sanctions against Myanmar  
Nay Pyi Taw, 18 April—It is learnt based on news reports of Reuters that the European Union (EU) is expected to lift all sanctions on Myanmar next week, except for an arms embargo, in recognition of the remarkable reform process of Myanmar. On 17 April, EU Ambassadors held a meeting on withdrawal of sanctions against Myanmar and approval will be sought at the ministerial meeting on 22 April. Lifted EU sanctions will allow European companies to make further investments in Myanmar, competing with other countries. As a wave of political and economic reforms has been in place since the new government took office in 2011, EU a year ago suspended its sanctions against Myanmar for a year. It is now planned to lift its all sanctions against Myanmar with the exception of the embargo on arms, in support of ongoing significant process of political, economic and social reform.

KNPP has strong desire to march towards genuine peace  
Nay Pyi Taw, 18 April—Karenni National Progressive Party (KNPP) has firmly believed that the country develop only when peace prevails in the country. And KNPP has a strong desire to march towards a genuine peace through the current peace-making process between KNPP and the government, “said U Shwe Myo Thant of KNPP at 55th Anniversary Tagundaing (Kay-Hto-Bo) festival in Loikaw of Kayah State on 7 April. He also urged all people including those in Kayah State to join hand in peace-making process.

“Efforts would be made for overcoming any difficulties in peace-making process. Cooperation would be made for the development of Kayah State by maintaining peace,” said State Chief Minister U Khin Maung Oo at a dinner hosted to KNPP culture troupe at his residence on 10 April.

On 9th Waxing of Tagu, 18 April—Union Minister for Electric Power U Khin Maung Soe inspected 50-MW gas power plant project being built in the compound of Hlawga gas power plant this morning.

The project which started on 29-7-2012 has been completed by 70 percent. The plant installed with natural gas-fired engine of Spain-made Dresser-Rand Company will undergo a test-run as of 15 May, which can generate 26 mega watt.

After that, the Union minister also visited 240-MW Mitsubishi Gas Turbine that is handed over by Thailand and turbines in the compound of Ywama power plant.

The 240-MW Ywama projects a short-term project to satisfy power demand of the State and people.

Taninthayi Region Maha Thingyan Festival concludes  
Nay Pyi Taw, 18 April—The prize-awarding ceremony for “yein” troupe of Taninthayi Region Maha Thingyan Festival took place at the City Hall’s pandal in Dawei on 16 April. The wife of the Region Chief Minister Daw Ekari Khing and officials presented first, second and third prizes to winners.

On 16 April, the region chief minister, region ministers and officials released fingerlings and salt water prawns into Seikkantha River.

The region chief minister attended a respect-paying ceremony to aged persons at Sasana Beikman and gave presents to them. In the evening, the region chief minister heard Parittas recited by Sayadaws followed by provision donating ceremony.

Significant day temperatures

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Temperature</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chauk</td>
<td>42°C</td>
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<td>Zaungtu</td>
<td>41°C</td>
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On Myanmar New Year Day, the region chief minister and officials release fingerlings and salt water prawns into Seikkantha River.—MNA

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The 240-MW Ywama projects a short-term project to satisfy power demand of the State and people.
MCDC workers clear debris off in moats

** Mandalay, 18 April — Mandalay City Development Committee is carrying out sanitation of Mandalay City and all-round development tasks for the dwellers. In so doing, the workers of the committee is clearing weeds and garbage in the water around Nannyaoo and growing flowery plants at parks in various townships of Parks and Playgrounds Department of the committee. Moreover, the workers place emphasis on clearing of weeds and garbage in the water of moats with the use of machinery. **

*Myanma Alinn*

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UNDC Resident Representative calls on Mandalay Region Chief Justice

** Mandalay, 18 April — Chief Justice of Mandalay Region High Court received Resident Representative Mr Paul Jan Maria van Hoof, Local Governance Assessment Technical Expert of UNDC and party at the hall of the region Chief Justice on 9 April morning.**

**Border Affairs Ministry gives talks on women’s affairs**

**Nay Pyi Taw, 18 April — Women’s Affairs Organization at Ministry of Border Affairs organized the talks on women’s affairs at the assembly hall of the ministry on 9 April morning.**

**Patrons of the Ministry**

**Yangon University** presents prize to a winner in above

**Myanma Alinn**

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**EDUCATIVE TALKS GIVEN TO LOCAL PEOPLE IN PUTAO TOWNSHIP**

**Putao, 18 April — An educative talk was given to local people at the hall of Mulashidee suspension bridge in Putao Township on 18 March.**

**WAO Daw Myint Myint Soe and Daw Khin Lay Myint made speeches.**

**Chairperson of the organization Dr Thin Thin Mon explained threats of alien culture and Chairperson of Education and Training Department Daw Khin Nyin Aye, Myanmar women and Myanmar culture.**

**Myanma Alinn**

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**MCDC supplies drinking water to Mandalarians**

**Mandalay, 18 April — Water and Sanitation Department under the Mandalay City Development Committee supplies drinking water to monasteries and local people in this summer.**

**Myanma Alinn**

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**RURAL PEOPLE GET KNOWLEDGE OF ANIMAL HEALTH**

**Salin, 18 April — Under the instruction of the Magway Region Government, Salin Township Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department of the region conducted the rural animal health workers course No 1/2013.**

**On 7 April morning, a ceremony to conclude the training course was held at Yarpyae Hall of Basic Education High School in Salin. On the occasion, Township Administrator U Tun Thein made a speech. Staff Officer U Kyaw Kyaw Lan of Township Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department gave necessary instructions to the trainees.**

**Pyithu Hluttaw representative UKhin Maung Lwin, Magway Region Hluttaw representative U Win Myaing and township administrator U Tun Thein presented completion certificates to the trainee leaders, on behalf of the trainees. Also present on the occasion were township level departmental officials, responsible persons of social organizations and trainees. Altogether 102 trainees attended the course that ran one week.**

*Myanma Alinn*
Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, Time magazine’s most influential person of past decade

WASHINGTON, 18 April — The United States said on Wednesday it has not decided whether to recognize Nicolas Maduro as Venezuela’s new president, reiterating a call for a recount of the presidential vote. Secretary of State John Kerry told lawmakers that he was doubtful about the US sending a delegation to attend Maduro’s swearing-in ceremony slated for Friday.

“If it’s under contested circumstances, I’d be very doubtful of that,” he told the House Foreign Affairs Committee in his testimony about his agency’s budget for the 2014 fiscal year.

We think there ought to be a recount. I don’t know whether it’s going to happen in the next days,” Kerry said.

As acting president, Maduro won Sunday’s presidential election by garnering 56.66 percent of the votes, beating opposition challenger Henrique Capriles, his close foe, by a margin of less than 2 percent points.

Capriles, citing irregularities in the polls, rejected the results and demanded a recount of all votes, a call echoed by the US and the Organization of American States.

Failure of Kosovo talks deals blow to Serbia’s EU hopes

BRUSSELS, 18 April — Serbia and Kosovo failed to agree on a plan to tackle the ethnic partition of Serbia’s former province on Thursday, casting doubt on Belgrade’s prospects of getting the go-ahead to start talks on joining the European Union in June.

A margin of less than 2 percent points... things you would expect to see a war zone with all the debris,” he told CNN.

The blast, triggered by a fire at a West Fertilizer Co. plant, was reported at about 8 pm CDT (0100 GMT on Thursday) in West, a town of about 2,800 people, about 80 miles south of Dallas and about 20 miles north of Waco.

Deadly explosion, fire rip through Texas fertilizer plant

WEST, (Texas), 18 April — An explosion tore through a fertilizer plant and leveled dozens of homes in a small Texas town late on Wednesday, killing a number of people, injuring more than 100 and spewing toxic fumes that forced the evacuation of half the community.

Officials declined to say how many people died in the explosion in the town of West but said they expected to find more bodies as search teams combed through the rubble of the plant and surrounding homes.

“The number is not current yet. It could go up by the minute,” Kerry said.

West Mayor Tommy Muska told Reuters that five or six volunteer firefighters who were among the first on the scene were missing.

Firefighters had been battling a fire at a plant and evacuating nearby residences and a nursing home for about 50 minutes before the blast occurred.

CNN reported that at least two people had been killed, but that figure could not be independently confirmed.

Wilson said 50 to 75 homes were damaged by the explosion and a fire that followed, and that a nearby 50-unit apartment complex had been declared a “skeleton standing up.” Muska put the number of destroyed homes at between 60 and 80.

Wilson said 133 people had been housed in the nursing home, which was heavily damaged, but it was not immediately clear how many of those residents, a lot of them with some physical disabilities, had been brought under control.

“... things you would expect to see a war zone with all the debris,” he told CNN.

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Died Aung San Suu Kyi, Time magazine’s most influential person of past decade

WASHINGTON, 18 April — Time Magazine yearly conducts Time 100 Anniversary Poll. To mark its 10th edition of the TIME 100, a poll was conducted through online for the most influential person of the past 10 years out of eminent persons around the world.

At the final stage of voting on 17 April, Chairperson of Pyithu Hluttaw Rule of Law and Tranquility Committee Daw Aung San Suu Kyi won over world famous Pop star Lady Gaga (61%-39%).

As the acting president, Maduro won Sunday’s presidential election by garnering 56.66 percent of the votes, beating opposition challenger Henrique Capriles, his close foe, by a margin of less than 2 percent points. Capriles, citing irregularities in the polls, rejected the results and demanded a recount of all votes, a call echoed by the US and the Organization of American States.

The cause of the fire was unknown, officials said. Waco police Sergeant W. Patrick Swanton said an investigation into the fire began when a call came in about 8 pm CDT (0100 GMT on Thursday) in West, a town of about 2,800 people, about 80 miles south of Dallas and about 20 miles north of Waco.

Envelope addressed to Obama possibly laced with deadly poison

WASHINGTON, 18 April — White House security has intercepted a letter addressed to US President Barack Obama that tested positive for the toxic poison ricin, the Federal Bureau of Investigation said on Wednesday.

The envelope containing “a granular substance” was received at an offsite mail screening facility, the FBI said in a statement, adding operations at the White House have not been affected. The FBI also said it would conduct further tests to determine the nature of the substance. “There is no indication of a connection to the deadly bombing in Boston on Monday,” it said.

The development came a day after US media reported on Tuesday a letter sent to Sen Roger Wicker, a Republican from Mississippi, tested positive for ricin.

The Associated Press reported both letters to Obama and the senator were postmarked Memphis, Tennessee, citing a FBI bulletin obtained by the news agency. “To see a wrong and not expose it, is to become a silent partner to its continuance,” both letters said, the AP reported. Meanwhile, Sen Carl Levin, a Democrat from Michigan, also revealed on Wednesday that staff in his local office in the state received a suspicious letter earlier in the day and law enforcement officials are performing tests on it.

US not ready to recognize Venezuela’s new president

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New Google services hit by partial outage

NEW YORK, 18 April—Google Inc is experiencing a small outage of some of its popular applications such as Gmail and Google Drive, the search engine said on Wednesday.

The company disclosed on its website that six of its 13 applications were having partial status disruptions.

The issue with Gmail, for example, is affecting less than 0.007 percent of Google Mail users, who cannot access their accounts.

Google said in a response to a request for comment that it is currently investigating the issue and will post the cause once the investigation is complete.

“Everyone who is affected, we apologize—we know you count on Google to work for you and we’re working hard to restore normal operation for you,” Google said.—Reuters

Some Google services hit by partial outage

Some Google services hit by partial outage

New Light of Myanmar

Tourist finds new species of orchid

The leafless orchid has been confirmed as a new species.—Xinhua

Tourist finds new species of orchid

Samsung explains why Galaxy S4 doesn’t come with FM radio

NEW DELHI, 18 April—Samsung Galaxy S4 was unveiled by the company on 14 March. While the phone boasts high-end specs like a 5-inch full-HD screen with 441 pixels per inch, a 1.6GHz Exynos octa-core processor in some regions and a 1.9GHz Qualcomm Snapdragon quad-core processor in others, and 2GB of RAM, it received criticism in some quarters for missing out on a rather basic feature: FM radio. The omission of FM was indeed a strange one from Samsung. While Apple has never shipped an iPhone with built-in FM radio—despite receiving its share of criticism—Samsung’s first three flagship devices, and indeed, most other phones, come with FM radio.

In that sense, Samsung customers are used to enjoying the feature. There have been complaints since the omission was confirmed after the S4 was officially unveiled but Samsung was mum on the subject — until now.

Samsung’s Facebook page in Russia has made the following announcement on the subject, which was picked up by the GSM Arena via Hi-Tech.Mail.Ru.

Our studies show a trend shift of interest to digital broadcasting, specifically — focus on listening to music content in social networks or on the channel YouTube.

The flagship model of our products are focused on customers who use digital content, which use modern formats and channels of information consumption.

While Samsung may be right in believing that flag-ship customers tend to be focused on digital content, the fact is, if you take something away from people after they become used to it (in other Galaxy flagship), they are far more likely to complain, than if they never enjoyed the feature in the first place.

Something tells us we haven’t heard the last on the Samsung Galaxy S4 FM radio debate. What do you think of Samsung’s decision? Will your decision to buy the Galaxy S4 be impacted by it? Let us know via the comments.

**S a m s u n g**

Galaxy S4 key specifications.

* 5-inch full-HD (1080x1920) Super AMOLED display (441 ppi)
* 1.9GHz quad-core processor/ 1.6GHz octa-core processor (Depending upon region)
* 2GB RAM
* 16/32/64GB Storage (expandable by 64GB via microSD slot)
* 13-megapixel rear camera, 2-megapixel front camera
* Wi-Fi 802.11 ab/g/n, GPRS/ GLONASS, NFC, Bluetooth 4.0, IR LED, MHL 2.0
* Android 4.2.2 (Jelly Bean)
* 2,600 mAh battery
* 136.6 x 69.8 x 7.9mm
* 130 grams—PTI

Microsoft, Hon Hai sign patent deal for Android, Chrome devices

TAIPEI, (China), 18 April—Microsoft Corp and Hon Hai Precision Industry Co Ltd signed a global patent licensing agreement on Wednesday designed to protect Hon Hai clients from patent claims arising from their use of Google Inc’s Android and Chrome operating systems.

Google and Microsoft have been locked in patent battles, with Microsoft contending that the systems infringe its software patents. Microsoft has in the past chosen to pursue hardware makers rather than Google itself for royalties.

“Foxconn’s clients don’t need to worry about infringing Microsoft’s patents anymore, because Foxconn has signed the agreement for them,” said Vincent Shih, chief legal officer of Microsoft Taiwan Corp. Hon Hai is the flagship listed entity of Foxconn Technology Group.

Shih said more than 50 percent of the global contract makers that manufacture Android devices, including Hon Hai’s local peers, Pegatron Corp, Quanta Computer Inc, Compuel Electronics Inc and Wuxtron Corp, have signed similar agreements with Microsoft. Technology companies are increasingly defending their turf in the courts, seeking penalties for alleged patent and trademark infringements and injunctions to stop product sales. One well-known example is the ongoing legal war between Apple Inc and Samsung Electronics Co Ltd that has taken place in 10 countries as they battle for market share.

Brand name companies such as Samsung Electronics, LG Electronics, HTC Corp, Acer have also settled with Microsoft over their use of Android, but Motorola Mobility, which Google bought last year, is fighting a range of patent issues with Microsoft in courts in the United States and Germany.

Hon Hai spokeswoman Laura Liu said the company is also in talks with other software companies on different patent agreements.

Hon Hai is Apple’s largest manufacturing partner. The group also makes products for Nokia, Dell Inc, Sony Corp, among others.—Reuters

The Microsof logo is seen at their offices in Bucharest on 20 March, 2013.—Reuters

NASA’s Solar Dynamics Observatory captured this image of a powerful M6.5 class flare, the strongest of 2013 at the time, at 3:16 EDT on 11 April, 2013. This image shows a combination of light in wavebands of 131 and 171 Angstroms.—Xinhua

The Google signage is seen at the Google headquarters in New York on 8 Jan, 2013.—Reuters

The leafless orchid has been confirmed as a new species.—Xinhua

In this week the scientists held a news conference to announce the discovery.

Liu Zhongjian, a senior expert with the Asia Branch of the International Union for Conservation of Nature’s orchid group, said, “The discovery of Danxiaochirsinchiana has enriched the diversity and gene bank of the orchid species, and the special structure of the seed provides a new research interest for orchid evolution.”

Xinhua referred to the Danxia landform, found only in southeast and southwest China and which consists of red-coloured sandstones and conglomerates largely from the Cretaceous.

“The discovery confirmed the specificity of the Danxia landform, enriched the diversity and improved the visibility of biodiversity research on it,” Liu said.

The orchid is not the first new species found in the region, with some plant species previously reported in the area. However, human activities have limited the range of orchid species.

Liu said that authorities build a protection zone for the new species and start gene research for a possible reproduction study.

So far, scientists have found 21 individual Danxiaochirsinchiana, with the total number estimated at less than 100.—Xinhua

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World Bank chief says social equality key to poverty reduction

WASHINGTON, 18 April — Promoting social equality, such as empowering the disadvantaged and women, is key in poverty reduction, World Bank President Jim Yong Kim said here on Wednesday.

“If you grow, and you are not including young people, you are not including the poorest, you are not including the women, you are building instability in the society,” said Kim during an event held at the World Bank headquarters.

“So you got to think about how the poorest and the most marginalized participate,” he stressed.

“That’s our position.”

With respect to gender inequality, Kim rejected the notion that this is acceptable in certain cultures, citing the huge improvement in this regard in the Republic of Korea (ROK) where he was born in 1959.

“There is still a long way to go in South Korea. But despite the Confucian culture, women became part of the workforce. Despite the Confucian culture, laws were changed in order to give women many more rights. Just recently, they elected a woman as president,” he noted.

On 2 April, the World Bank chief called for global action toward ending extreme poverty by 2030 and improving the lives of the most vulnerable people in the developing countries.

“The World Bank estimated in 2010 that about 21 percent of the global population, or 1.3 billion people, lived in extreme poverty — below the poverty line of $1.25 dollars per day.” — Xinhua

Japan exports rise as weak yen helps; business mood up

TOKYO, 18 April — Japanese exports picked up in March from a year earlier, beating forecasts and offering hope that a weaker yen is starting to support a slow upturn in the export-reliant economy as business confidence continues to improve. Ministry of Finance data showed exports rose 1.1 percent in March from a year earlier, against a 0.4 percent gain expected by economists in a Reuters poll, after a 2.9 percent drop in February.

For the fiscal year to March 2013, Japan logged a record trade deficit of 8.17 trillion yen ($49.1 billion), reflecting a slump in global demand and higher fuel import costs.

The figures showed exports to the United States jumped 7.0 percent from a year earlier, but shipments to China fell 2.5 percent.

Separately, the monthly Reuters Tankan survey showed manufacturers’ sentiment improved for a fifth successive month in April, although pessimists still slightly outnumber optimists. “The broad picture remains intact as the weaker yen is having more of an impact on boosting imports than exports, while the recovery in the world economy, particularly China, is tepid,” said Takeshi Minami, chief economist at Norinchukin Research Institute in Tokyo.

“We’ll need to wait at least until around summer before the weaker yen enhances price competitiveness of Japanese products abroad to boost exports.”

The yen fell to a four-year low after the Bank of Japan unleashed a massive $1.4 trillion stimulus programme this month, enacting a key part of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe’s push for aggressive policy to end deflation and revive the economy. Analysts say it takes time for the yen’s slide to boost exports while it immediately boosts import costs, weakening the trade balance. Still, the weak yen is boosting business morale. — Reuters

BoJ may reach two percent inflation target by spring 2015

The Bank of Japan building is pictured in Tokyo, on 29 March, 2013. — Reuters

BANGKOK, 18 April — The Bank of Japan could achieve its inflation target of 2 percent as early as spring 2015, the Nikkei reported on Thursday.

The central bank said earlier this month it would achieve the inflation target in two years, the Nikkei said. The BoJ is expected to raise its projected consumer price growth for fiscal 2013 to between 0.5 percent and 1 percent from an average of 0.4 percent at its policy board meeting on 26 April, the daily said without naming sources.

The forecast for fiscal 2014 could increase to around 1.5 percent from 0.9 percent, the Nikkei said.

Researchers in protective suits test samples of a suspected case of the H7N9 avian influenza virus at the provincial centre for disease control and prevention in Hangzhou, capital of east China’s Zhejiang Province, on 17 April, 2013.— Reuters

No poultry contact in some Chinese bird flu cases

GENEVA/BEIJING, 18 April — The World Health Organization said on Wednesday that a number of people who have tested positive for a new strain of bird flu in China appear to have had no contact with poultry, adding to the mystery about a virus that has killed 17 people to date.

Chinese authorities have slaughtered thousands of birds and closed some live poultry markets to try to slow the rate of human infection, but many questions remain about the H7N9 strain is being transmitted between people.

WHO spokesman Gregory Hartl confirmed that “there are people who have no history of contact with poultry”, after a top Chinese scientist was quoted as saying this applied to about 40 percent of those infected.

“This is one of the puzzles (still to) be solved and therefore argues for a wide investigation net,” Hartl said in emailed comments.

Hartl said an international team of experts going to China soon would include in their investigation the possibility that the virus can be spread between people, although there was “no evidence of sustained human-to-human transmission”. “It might be because of dust at the wet markets, it could be another animal source beside poultry, it could also be human-to-human transmission,” he said by telephone.

Wendy Barclay, an influenza expert at Imperial College London, said it could be hard to reveal or rule out exposure to poultry—or to wild birds, which could also be a possible source of infection.

“The incubation time might be quite long, so visiting a market even 14 days before might have resulted in infection.”

Hartl said two new suspected cases of possible human-to-human transmission were being investigated.

The first is a couple in Shanghai who tested positive, Hartl said, adding that the wife had died and husband was still sick. A seven-year-old girl in Beijing was the first case in the capital at the weekend and the boy next door has also tested positive, but is not showing symptoms, he said.

Exxon has no estimate for restart of Pegasus oil pipeline

WASHINGTON, 18 April — Exxon Mobil Corp (XOM.N) said on Wednesday it had no estimate for the restart of a pipeline that spilled 5,000 barrels of oil in a small Arkansas town last month and sparked debate about the safety of carrying heavy crude from Canada across the United States.

A US Department of Transportation source said Exxon had not yet submitted a restart plan. “At this time, our focus remains on clean-up operations,” Exxon spokesman David Eglington said of the Pegasus pipeline, which spilled the crude oil in a middle-class section of Mayflower, a town of about 2,300 people.

He said DOT’s Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration must approve Exxon’s plans to repair, test and re-start the pipeline before the 90,000-barrel-per-day line can be returned to service.

The DOT source said, “When they will submit that (restart plan) and when we would approve it, I can’t say,” adding that some re-start plan approvals have taken a day, while others have taken much longer.

Exxon said on Tuesday that it had installed a new section of the pipeline a day after it removed the broken portion.

The 52-foot-long (15.8 metre) damaged pipeline piece was being shipped to an independent lab for metallurgy tests to figure out why it broke. The testing must be completed before Exxon is allowed to re-start the pipeline.

Spill oil from Exxon pipeline runs between homes in North Woods Subdivision in Mayflower, Arkansas in this on 1 April, 2013 photo released to Reuters on 11 April, 2013.— Reuters

People walk at a street in Tokyo’s business district on 17 April, 2013.— Reuters

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**WORLD**

**Terrorism knows no boundaries**

MOSCOW, 18 April — It is not the first time we learn, in a painful way, that terrorist attacks can be on anyone, no matter how old they are or which country they come from. An eight-year-old boy, a “dream daughter” aged 29, and a Chinese citizen whose identity was not disclosed at the request of the victim’s family, lost their lives in the Boston Marathon attacks. Twin bombs exploded near the finish line where fans, friends and families gathered to cheer for the triumphant moment of completion for the 24,000 runners on Monday.

An event of joy and celebration was suddenly turned into a traumatic memory of death and destruction. The deep sense of shock, anger, frustration and a desire for justice are felt not only in the United States. Any country, whose flag is flying at the scene of the blast, would share American people’s grief and resolve to never let the tragedy happen again.

In an age of globalization, no country can be immune from terrorist threats. An indiscriminate attack on the public, with devices so easily made, can leave a trail of fear and uncertainty of violence, races and colours in mourning. The deadly blast near the finish line is a cruel reminder that the human race is far from finishing the marathon toward peace and safety. It needs more efforts of the international community to build a harmonious world free from terror and fear.

In this regard, China and the United States, both victims of the latest terrorist attack, shared common ground. As two major powers, the pair can jointly play a constructive role in promoting global counter-terrorism cooperation. In this highly interconnected world, people of all countries are becoming more sensitive to terrorist attacks. The Boston assault serves yet another reminder of the danger and the task for every nation ahead.—Xinhua

**In strawberry fields, immigration reform holds sweet promise**

OXNARD, (California), 18 April — A Polish farm worker Antonia Espinoza would likely be throwing in the towel and heading back to her native Mexico to see her children, if not for the work of eight US senators in Washington. The bipartisan group of senators unveiled on Tuesday their proposal for immigration reform that would remove the threat of deportation for millions of undocumented workers and open a door for them to one day become US citizens.

Espinoza, 32, lives with her US-born daughter but is missing the other four children she left behind in Mexico so she could work in the strawberry fields in Oxnard, California, where pickers can take home $80 to $100 a shift on good days. If not for the promise of legislation, she said on Tuesday, “I would be there right now.” “It’s been too long. I want to see them now. I can’t becaise, if this legislation passes, I’ll have papers and I won’t have to worry,” said Espinoza, who is from Oaxaca, Mexico, and has not seen her children there during her latest four-year stay in the United States. “I hope this time they’re going to do it and not just talk about it,” she said. The proposed bill, which President Barack Obama endorsed on Tuesday, gives farm labourers like Espinoza a faster path toward US citizenship than other undocumented workers.

It would give legal status to undocumented workers who are employed in agriculture in the past two years. After five to seven years, they could apply for permanent residency. Other workers would have to wait 10 years. United Farm Workers union President Arturo Rodriguez estimates that a million farm workers and their families could gain legal status under the Senate bill.

“This is a huge step forward,” Rodriguez said, adding that the workers would be able to buy cars and homes, engage in the economy and travel without fear. They also would have more protections on the job. While the bill is touted by its Republican and Democratic supporters as the best chance to overhaul immigration since the 1980s, it will likely face a months-long battle, with the biggest challenge expected in the Republican-led House of Representatives.—Reuters

**Putin calls for independent journalism**

MOSCOW, 18 April — Independent journalism was instrumental to the democratic development of Russian society, President Vladimir Putin said on Thursday.

“Active, independent, fearless journalism is in need today more than ever,” Putin said in his address to the 10th Congress of the Russian Union of Journalists.

Nowadays, journalists were not only “chroniclers”, but also direct participants in major events in Russian history, Putin said.

Reporters played a leading role in shaping people’s ideas, values, moral and political principles, as well as forming the national agenda, he said.

Meanwhile, Putin said journalists should work to unite the society against corruption, injustice, bureaucratic lawlessness, xenophobia and nationalism.

**Charging elephant injures two tourists in South Africa park**

JOHANNESBURG, 18 April — A Polish and a Chinese tourist visiting South Africa’s flagship Kruger National Park were taken to hospital after an elephant charged their car and overturned the vehicle on Monday, park officials said.

An emergency medical team was dispatched by helicopter to the accident scene in the vast park. The Polish man, who was not identified, suffered broken ribs while the Chinese woman, also not identified, had no major injuries, park spokes- man William Mabasa said.

“We stay here every day. We meet elephants on the road,” Mabasa said. “We basically give them space but tourists sometimes don’t.” More than 1 million people visit Kruger each year and incidents of this sort are rare but not unheard of with the animals that can flip cars and uproot trees with ease.

The last incident of this sort took place in November 2012, when an elephant overturned a car, injuring one passenger.—Reuters

**Illegal immigration remains problem in northern Brazilian state**

RIO DE JANEIRO, 18 April — Illegal Haitian immigrants into Brazil are facing a new tense and remains a problem that local authorities cannot solve on their own. Last week, Viana, added that as a border state, Acre is a backdoor to both the entry of illegal immigrants and criminal activities such as international drug trafficking. He said things have improved since last week, as the municipal government has set up an operation to provide assistance to the immigrants, but more measures need to be taken.

The increase of Haitian immigrants began after the 2010 Haiti earthquake, which levelled much of its capital city Port-au-Prince.

**Brazil reaffirms support for Venezuela’s election results**

RIO DE JANEIRO, 18 April — Brazil’s Foreign Minister Antonio Patriota on Wednesday reaffirmed his country’s support for Venezuela’s presidential election results, whose close count has sparked controversy. “We respect Venezuela’s sovereignty,” he said, adding that an eventual full recount of votes is an internal matter for the country. US representative to the UN Susan Rice, who was in Venezuela earlier in the day, said her country is in favour of a full recount.

“In this regard, China and the United States, both victims of the latest terrorist attack, shared common ground. As two major powers, the pair can jointly play a constructive role in promoting global counter-terrorism cooperation. In this highly interconnected world, people of all countries are becoming more sensitive to terrorist attacks. The Boston assault serves yet another reminder of the danger and the task for every nation ahead.—Xinhua

**Students sign their names to express condolence to the Chinese victim in Boston Marathon blasts at Boston University in Boston, United States, on 17 April, 2013. — Xinhua**

**Field workers pick strawberries in Oxnard, California, on 16 April, 2013. — Reuters**
**Russian PM Medvedev defends record after Putin warning**

**MOSCOW, 18 April** — Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev defended his government’s record in a combative speech to parliament on Wednesday after President Vladimir Putin signaled he may be losing patience with his long-time ally. There has been speculation for months in the media and among political analysts that Putin, now 60, could make Medvedev a scapegoat if Russia’s economy continues to decline.

Medvedev hit back after unauthorized video footage showed Putin threatening to sack unnamed senior officials over a failure to implement his social spending plans — for which responsibility ultimately lies with Medvedev’s government. Putin had just told the cameras to stop rolling at a meeting with regional officials and government ministers, and his angry, unguarded remarks revived months of speculation that he has lost confidence in Medvedev.

Medvedev, 47, who has been prime minister since last May, said for parliament’s support in a long-planned report on his government’s work that lasted an hour and 45 minutes. “We live in a dynamic, fast-developing world. It is so global and so complex that we sometimes cannot keep up with the changes,” he said, acknowledging that Russia could be dragged into recession if global commodity prices keep falling.

“On the other hand, we live in a society that offers huge opportunities. I hope that ... Russia tomorrow will be a country that is strong and formidable to live in.” In a rallying cry to parliament, he called for unity and respect for his government’s work.

**Thai high-speed rail system to speed up movement of goods and passengers**

**BANGKOK, 18 April** — The multi-billion dollar high-speed rail system that Thailand will be building is primarily designed to speed up the movement of goods and passengers, promote domestic consumption and boost the country’s economic growth, according to Pansak Winyarat, chief economic adviser to Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra.

In an interview with Bangkok Post, Pansak said that with a budget of about 730 billion US dollars, to be financed by loans, the rail system will be modernized and expanded through the country to link its major provinces with one another and with its neighboring countries. Equipped with high-speed trains, the rail system will be able to deliver farm produce such as fresh foods and vegetables much faster than ever before.

According to Pansak, Phase One of the high-speed rail system, which is estimated to cost 25 billion US dollars, will link Bangkok to Chiang Mai in the north, Nakorn Ratchasima in the northeast, Pattaya in the east and Hua Hin in the upper south. Pansak said that under the current rail system, it will take more than 12 hours to travel from Bangkok to Chiang Mai for a distance of 700 kilometres. But under the proposed high-speed train system running from 250 to 300 kilometres per hour, it will only take less than four hours over the same distance. “We’ve designed the high-speed rail system to deliver farm produce and vegetables aside from shuttling passengers,” Pansak said.

He said that the efficient transport of goods by the modern railway system would mean less cost for consumers. “For that reason, people would buy more of the fast-delivered farm products while the farmers would undoubtedly make more earnings.”

**Most Chinese cities see higher home prices**

**BEIJING, 18 April** — New home prices rose in almost all Chinese cities in March, as transactions soared ahead of renewed government control measures, data from the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) showed on Thursday. Of a statistical pool of 70 major Chinese cities, 68 saw home prices increase in March from a month earlier, up from 66 in February, the NBS said in a statement on its website.

Expectations of higher basic home costs after the implementation of government control measures contributed to a purchase rush in March, which prompted property developers to either cancel discounts or hike prices, said Liu Jianwei, a senior statistician with the NBS.

Meanwhile, March is traditionally a peak season for housing sales, adding to the market heat, Liu noted. First-tier cities recorded the largest monthly increase in new home prices, with Shanghai’s 3.2-percent growth topping the list, followed by 2.8 percent in Shenzhen and 2.7 percent in Beijing.

Home prices continued to decline in China’s eastern city of Wenzhou, the only city that saw a price decrease last month. On a year-on-year basis, 67 cities registered higher prices in March, according to the statement. The equivalent figure in February was 62. Both Beijing and Guangzhou logged declines of 11.2 percent, the largest year-on-year decrease among the 70 cities.

**New home prices**

- **Beijing:** +3.2 percent
- **Shanghai:** +2.8 percent
- **Shenzhen:** +2.7 percent
- **Wenzhou:** -11.2 percent

**Australia allocates more fund to improve indigenous people’s health**

**CANBERRA, 18 April** — Australian government has announced 777 million Australian dollars ($95 million US dollars) to extend the funding for improving the health of indigenous people for three years, the Prime Minister’s office said on Thursday. The funding is part of a renewed National Partnership Agreement on Closing the Gap in Indigenous Health Outcomes for a further three years to 30 June 2016.

The funding will ensure indigenous Australians continue to benefit from improved health services and help to close the gap in indigenous disadvantage. The government hopes that the health scheme will close the gap in life expectancy between indigenous and non-indigenous Australians within a generation, and halve the gap in morbidity rates for indigenous children under five within a decade.

The Commonwealth government will ask the States and Territories to also continue their investment to renew the National Partnership Agreement. Under the current National Partnership Agreement, due to expire on 30 June, 2013, governments provided 1.58 billion Australian dollars ($1.64 billion US dollars) over four years to improve access to health services for indigenous families and communities.

This year’s Closing the Gap report showed that local health services were helping to lead a comprehensive approach to chronic disease management, encouraging people to undergo health checks and follow-ups. In 2011-12, 65,501 health assessments were provided to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 15 and over, a 34 percent increase from 2010-11.

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**Xinhua**
The word “Archaeology” is derived from the Greek word: arch, as in archetypal, and logos, as in logico- logical. Archaeology means ancient and logy means study. Archaeology, therefore, is the study of past human society based upon the material culture and environmental data that they left behind. It is the method of finding out about the human past of race in its material aspects, and the study of the products of this past. These aspects may be the way people lived, the way they worshipped, the way they built, their art, their trade and their travels.

Archaeology deals with all the material remains of man, the objects he used and made, his dwelling places and defensive structures, his tools and weapons, the remains of his food, his own bones and burial places and from these, deduces how he lived.

Thus, archaeology provides information for the prehistory of man, his history before the beginnings of written records. In fact, many written records are only found in the course of houses people lived in, remains of tools show how they were made, the animal bones and plant remains show what they ate, pollen and remains of trees and plants can indicate the type of climate and vegetation at that time.

Archaeology is a scientific study, and as such involves skilled and laborious work. Because archaeology uses many types of material remains as evidence, the subject of archaeology overlaps just about every other academic discipline. Archaeologists collaborate with geologists in studying the history of the earth, with palaeontologists in studying plant and animal remains, with physicians or anatomists in studying the diseases from which people buried evidence but also with sites and objects of all kinds. Ancient objects are seldom found by accident. These are valuable clues for understanding ancient sites.

The primary methods of archaeology are exploration and excavation. Full information can rarely be obtained without excavation. Archaeological sources of evidence have enabled much more complete picture of the past to be compiled. The period of human history before writing, however, known as prehistory, lasted for hundreds of thousands of years. For the majority of human existence, therefore, only archaeological evidence can give clues about the past.

Furthermore many branches of archaeology are wide-ranging including prehistory (the study of humankind before the advent of writing, historical archaeology (the study of humankind in the historical period) and industrial archaeology (preservation of old industrial buildings) and also of all associated equipment and machinery of all kinds.

Archaeology does not just deal with buried evidence but also with sites and objects of all kinds. During the excavation, the excavator, for the most part, provides the framework for producing the evidence that, as a particular way and used particular objects.

Other objects such as works of art, coins, and problems of technology may be referred to experts in these particular fields. When the results are all assembled, we get a bigger picture of some aspect of the subject.

**Emphasis placed on timely completion of oil and gas pipeline project**

Union Minister for Energy U Than Htay inspects control room of gas pipeline laying project in Amarapura Township.—MNA

Aryawady Region Chief Minister attends closing of Maha Thingyan festival

Ayeyawady Region Chief Minister U Thein Aung attended Maha Thingyan festival in Ayeyawady Region.

In meeting with officials, the Union minister stressed the need for timely completion of pipelines laying tasks to send the gas as scheduled. As Foreign Investment Law has been enacted, national races experts and staff members are to be appointed systematically, he said. Local skilled workers are to be turned out and substituted in the places of foreign technicians, he said. He noted that emphasis is to be placed on environmental conservation in implementing the project.

Later, the Union minister inspected progress of the project.—MNA
MPF launches emergency, complaint-handling phone lines

NAY PYI TAW, 18 April—Myanmar Police Force under the Ministry of Home Affairs has put hot lines into place at Myanmar Police Force HQ and regional/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 manners causing disruptions to these phone lines.

Myanmar Police Force HQ, Nay Pyi Taw Police Force, Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Mon, Rakhine and Shan State Police Forces, Sagaing, Taminray, Bago, Magway, Mandalay, Yangon and Ayeyawady Region Police Forces, Offices of Commanders of East, West, South and North District Police Forces in Yangon Region, No (1) Police Station in Taunggyi, Office of Deputy Commander of State Police Force in Lashio, and Kengtung Police Station in Kengtung have emergency numbers of 199.

Phone numbers receiving complaints from the public are Myanmar Police Force HQ (067-422222 and 067-412444), Nay Pyi Taw Police Force (067-550333), Kachin State Police Force (074-21444), Kayin State Police Force (058-23355), Sagaing Region Police Force (071-24996), Taminray Region Police Force (059-23998), Bago Region Police Force (052-23999), Magway Region Police Force (063-28099), Mandalay Region Police Force (02-61444), Mon State Police Force (057-24987), Rakhine State Police Force (043-22833), Yangon Region Police Force (01-2302199), Shan State Police Force (081-2125455) and Ayeyawady Region Police Force (042-23844).

Globetrotters enter Myawaddy

MYAWADDY, 18 April—Under the arrangements of the Myawaddy Tourism Service of the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism and Trans Asia Route Co Ltd of Thailand, a total of 51 Thais and one Malaysian entered Myawaddy through Mae Sot-Myawaddy border with the use of 16 motorcycles and 13 vehicles on 5 April. Accompanied by Liaison Officer Daw Htet Htet Win and tour guides U Hlay Aung and Daw Nan Zin Myo Aung, the flock of globetrotters continued their travelling along Myawaddy-Kyaiktyo-Nay Pyi Taw-Inlay-Bagan-Pyay and surveillance squad members of No. 2 police station inspected the traffic accident.

A motorcycle driven by U Maung Maung Htay, 51 together with U Aung Aung, 52 on the back seat from Pathin to the suspension bridge collided with a truck driven by Thein Paing, 42 on the road. Two motorcyclists died on the spot. The authorities are trying to arrest Thet Paing who escaped from the scene.—Myawam Alinn

Traffic accident kills two motorcyclists

PATHIN, 18 April—A motorcycle bumped against a truck near Kyaukpon Tawya Monastery in Pathin Township at 12 noon on 4 April.

SIP Aung Kyaw Zeya Maung (Traffic Police)

of Chin national boys novitiated in Pakokku Township

PAkokk, 18 April—A ceremony to initiate Chin national boys into novicehood was held at Tilakawkyaw Monastic Education School in Pakokku of Magway Region.

On 3 April, Union Minister for Religious Affairs U Hsan Hsint attended the ceremony and donated Buddha images and clothes to 63 Chin national boys.

Chairman of Township Sangha Nayaka Committee Maha Withutayama (Central) Monastery of Pakokku Sawdaw Bhaddanta Aryanvamsa administered the Five Precepts, and members of the Sangha recited Parittas. A Bo of the monastic education Maha Saddhamma Jotikadha Bhaddanta Paññavamsa initiated the boys into novicehood. The Union Minister supplicated on religious affairs.

The Chin national boys are from Khwirvine Village, 25 miles of Mindat.

Myanma Alinn

Knowledge of child protection disseminated in Sittway

SITTWAY, 18 April—Myanmar Red Cross Society and UNICEF jointly organized the talks on Child Protection Project in wards and villages of Sittway Township recently.

“In meeting with local people in wards and villages, we gave lectures on protection of children and nurturing plans with the assistance of UNICEF,” said Daw Myat Myat Hlaing of the field trip team.

At the meeting hall of Basic Education Middle School No. 8 in Magyi- myaw Ward of Sittway, Daw Myat Myat Hlaing of Sittway Township Red Cross Brigade explained the plan for protection of child and replied to queries raised by Red Cross members.

Myanma Alinn

CFG of China donates six fire engines

MYAWADDY, 18 April—CFG Company Group of China donated fire engines to the Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry at the office of Muse District Forest Department in Muse of Shan State (North) on 9 April.

Six fire engines were worth US$ 179,406. The donation of six fire engines by China was for the sixth time, amounting to US$ 2,018,886.

Managing Director Mr Li Zhong Shu of China International Forestry Group of China handed over documents related to fire engines to General Manager U Win Shwe of Timber Extraction Branch of Myawaddy Timber Enterprise of the Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry.

Myanma Alinn

Bridge spanned over Pyu Creek

PYU, 18 April—The Pyu Creek Bridge, built on a self-reliant basis, was commissioned into service in Okphyat area of Pyu Township in Bago Region on 7 April morning.

Chief Minister of Bago Region U Nyan Win, Pyu Township Pyithu Hlutaw representative U Nwint Hlaing, Amyotha Hlutaw representative U Thet Naing Oo, Township Administrator U Than Aung of Township General Administration Department, departmental officials, members of non-governmental organizations and local people totalling over 600 attended the opening ceremony of the bridge.

Members of the construction committee presented gifts to officials concerned. The Chief Minister and party formally opened the bridge.

The bridge, 320 feet long and 10 feet wide, was constructed at a cost of K 23 million. The bridge can withstand two-ton loads of vehicles, tractors, trawlers and bullock carts.

The facility links Uyonsu Village of Dawdaung Village-tract and Zikhon Village in Pyu Township of Bago Region.

Thanks to the bridge, the local people enjoy fruits of better transportation all the year round.

Myanma Alinn

A total of 15 buffalos and 19 oxen confiscated from smuggling were sold at the hall of Township General Administration Department in Indaw of Katha District in Sagaing Region on 1 April. Local farmers taking their cattle they had recently bought.—Myanma Alinn

Myanma Alinn

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The Chin national boys are from Khwirvine Village, 25 miles of Mindat.

Myanma Alinn
Japan logs record trade deficit of 8.17 trillion yen in FY 2012

Japan registered its largest-ever trade deficit of 8.17 trillion yen in fiscal 2012, exceeding the previous highest of 7.25 trillion yen logged last fiscal year.

The Finance Ministry said the trade deficit on a business day basis was 4.22 trillion yen, down from 4.39 trillion yen a year earlier. Seasonally adjusted, the deficit was 4.21 trillion yen.

Japan’s trade deficit for 2012 was the country’s fourth straight year of red ink, as demand for natural resources has been growing from domestic utilities boosting thermal power generation as an alternative to stalled nuclear power generation.

Among comparable data available since fiscal 1979, the previous largest trade deficit was logged in 1979, the previous largest since fiscal 1980, when the country was hit by the second oil crisis, the Finance Ministry said.

The ministry said the trade deficit for 2012 was the country’s fourth straight year of red ink, as demand for natural resources has been growing from domestic utilities boosting thermal power generation as an alternative to stalled nuclear power generation.

While the poll, conducted the night before, revealed that 23 percent of Australians recognize that alcohol use results in deviance, with an overwhelming majority of Australians (54 percent) believing more must be done to address alcohol-related incidents. In January, Yemon’s chief executive Michael Thorn said the survey findings highlighted the need for alcohol reform, such as increased liquor pricing and advertising bans.

“Governments around the country seem unwilling to take action, yet this poll again makes clear that Australians recognize that alcohol use results in devasting harms,” he said.

Chinese fishing boat on fire in Antarctic, 97 crew rescued

Reuters

China’s fishing boat, which caught fire in Antarctica last week, has been evacuated with 97 of its crew rescued, the Chinese Embassy in Chile confirmed.

A fire broke out on the fishing ship at an unknown cause, the statement said. According to Chile’s search and rescue maritime service, the fire broke out at 8:30 am local time (1130 GMT) in a location 55 km northwest of Chile’s O’Higgins Antarctic base. There were 97 crew members on board and the ship was rescued.

The Chinese Embassy confirmed that it had launched an emergency mechanism to keep close contact with Chilean authorities after being informed of the accident.
Top Chinese legislator stresses promoting rule of law

During his three-day visit to Shandong Province that started on Monday, Zhang, chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People’s Congress (NPC), called on deputies to people’s congresses at all levels to stick to the rule of law and uphold the authority of the Constitution and the laws. The key to comprehensively promoting the rule of law is to improve lawmaking, Zhang said, urging scientific and democratic legislation, as well as increased and orderly participation from the public. Legislative procedures should be enhanced, including improved argumentation, research and evaluation of lawmaking, as well as increased legislation in major fields, he said.

Zhang also urged strict law enforcement, law-based administration and judicial justice to protect the interests of the public and maintain social order. During his visits to enterprises, the countryside and communities in Shandong, Zhang urged efforts to speed up the transformation of the economic growth pattern, safeguard food security and improve people’s livelihoods.—Xinhua

Terror strikes B’lore, 16 injured in bomb blast near BJP office

BANGALORE, 18 April—Terror struck Bangalore today as a low-intensity bomb exploded near the bustling BJP city office in a busy residential area injuring at least 16 people, including 11 policemen. The bomb, apparently strapped to a motorbike with a Tamil Nadu registration plate parked between a van and a car, went off around 10 am.

More than 40 unaccounted for after boat sinking in Indonesia

JAKARTA, 18 April—One person is dead and more than 40 others are unaccounted for after a boat carrying employees of a company in the Indonesian part of Borneo Island sank on Wednesday, a government official said.

S Korea’s foreign minister may visit China, Japan around late April

The report said they are likely to take place in late April ahead of President Park Geun Hye’s visit to the United States for a summit meeting with President Barack Obama on 7 May.

Evacuated villagers are seen by their shelter tents at a settlement site at Changyi Village of Liangxi Township in Eryuan County under Dalai Bai Autonomous Prefecture, southwest China’s Yunnan Province, on 17 April, 2013. A 5-magnitude earthquake jolting Dali on Wednesday morning has affected 123,000 people.—Xinhua
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF ENERGY

DATED: 11th April, 2013

INVITATION FOR BIDS TO CONDUCT PETROLEUM OPERATIONS IN MYANMAR OFFSHORE AREAS (2013)

1. The Ministry of Energy of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar hereby announces Invitation of Sealed Bids for Petroleum Operations to be conducted in Myanmar Offshore Areas (Shallow Water and Deep Water Blocks) on production sharing basis.

2. The following Offshore blocks are available for bidding in this bidding round:

- **Offshore Shallow Water Blocks**

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- **Offshore Deep Water Blocks**

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3. All interested parties are cordially invited to submit “the Letter of Expression of Interest”, together with Company’s Article of Association (AOA), Certificate of Incorporation, latest Annual Report and latest Financial Statement (or) Financial Report and Detailed Track Record, which are to be endorsed for authenticity by the respective Embassy of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar at the place of Company’s registration (or) establishment or nearest, in sealed envelopes superscripted “Confidential” “Myanmar Offshore Blocks First Bidding Round-2013”, to the following address and the closing date and time for receiving the submissions will be 14th June 2013 at 16:30 hours.

4. The “Letter of Expression of Interest” must be submitted together with all the documents mentioned in above paragraph 3. If the “Letter of Expression of Interest” is not accompanied by all the documents mentioned in above paragraph 3, it will be not considered. Also if the submission is not received at the Ministry of Energy within the stated closing date and date of 14th June 2013 at 16:30 hours, the late arrivals will not be considered.

5. The petroleum operation shall be conducted on production sharing basis and the party(s) who desire to enter into the Production Sharing Contract (PSC) with the Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise (MOGE) must have technical competency, financial capability, experience, expertise and technical know-how to conduct petroleum exploration and development works in Offshore areas and must have good track record with respect to offshore petroleum operations.

6. The potential bidders will be pre-qualified and selected. Then the potential bidders who passed pre-qualification will be presented with General Overview of each Block consisting of representative data and information, free of charge, by Geological/Geophysical Team of Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise.

7. The potential bidders will also be explained and provided with Standard Terms and Conditions of both Shallow Water and Deep Water Blocks by Energy Planning Department, in order to submit proposal(s).

8. The potential bidders will be allowed to submit up to three (3) proposals for any three (3) offshore blocks (Shallow Water and/or Deep Water and/or both) together with proposed Terms and Conditions. The proposal submitted shall be on a block by block basis.

9. Due to time limitation and in anticipation to interests shown by many international oil companies, there will be no negotiation with respect to proposed terms and conditions. Hence, potential bidders has a single chance to submit their proposed terms and conditions and the submitted proposed term and condition must be a final one and non-negotiable.

10. The potential bidders’ proposed Terms and Conditions together with other relevant information as stated in above paragraph 3, will be evaluated and the best offer Terms and Conditions will be selected for awarding.

11. The potential bidders must cooperate with a minimum of one (1) Myanmar national owned company registered at Energy Planning Department, Ministry of Energy, of their own choosing in Shallow Water Blocks. The potential bidders must conduct Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) without participation of any Myanmar national owned company in Deep Water Blocks.

12. Energy Planning Department will provide the list of Myanmar national owned companies registered at Energy Planning Department to interested foreign companies, for Shallow Water Blocks.

For further inquiry (and/or) information, please contact the following:-

- **Director General**
  - Energy Planning Department
  - Ministry of Energy
  - Building No.6, Nay Pyi Taw
  - The Republic of the Union of Myanmar
  - Tel: 95-67 411 099/411 057
  - Fax: 95-67 411 113
  - Email: myanmoe@mptmail.net.mm

- **Managing Director**
  - Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise
  - Ministry of Energy, The Republic of the Union of Myanmar
  - Tel: 95-67 411 055/411 056
  - Fax: 95-67 411 125
  - Email: mgedeptplan@energy.gov.mm

(3) Myanmar Embassies in respective Countries

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**Diverse arts festival brings the world to Beijing**

**BEIJING, 18 April**— There are not many chances to hear Jose Carreras sing in Chinese, but Beijing audiences are about to get a rare opportunity. The tenor will perform Chinese song My Beijing, My Home on 27 April at the National Centre for the Performing Arts.

His concert will kick off the 13th Meet in Beijing Arts Festival, which runs until 30 May. According to Zhang Yu, president of China Arts and Entertainment Group, which presents the festival, Carreras is practicing his Chinese in preparation for the concert.

“Compared with 13 years ago when Meet in Beijing started, both China and the world have changed a lot,” Zhang says. “China has become closer to the world, and that is showcased in the festival.”

Over 60 art troupes from more than 20 countries will perform some 50 indoor and 100 outdoor shows, as well as putting on many exhibitions and educational events.

A diverse festival, the 2013 Meet in Beijing (www.meetinbeijing.org.cn) will present many performances, including a vocal recital by soprano Renee Fleming, a concert by the Horn Orchestra of Russia, drama Scoundrel Vs Angel, dance drama Water Language, and Chinese Minority Art Exhibition.

**Xinhua**

**India to double renewable energy capacity by 17**

**NEW DELHI, 18 April**— India plans to double its renewable energy capacity to 55,000 MW by 2017 as part of efforts to increase efficiency of its use, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh said here today.

“It is proposed to double the renewable energy capacity in our country from 25,000 MW in 2012 to 55,000 MW by the year 2017,” he said inaugurating the Fourth Clean Energy Ministerial conference here.

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**New Delhi, 19 April, 2013**

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh
Robert Pattinson, Kristen Stewart: happily ever after?

LOS ANGELES, 18 April—Robert Pattinson and Kristen Stewart are happier than ever.

Although the couple went through a rough patch and briefly split when Kristen’s affair with married director Rupert Sanders was revealed last year, they have put it behind them and were openly affectionate at a dinner with friends in Los Angeles to celebrate Kristen’s 23rd birthday on Wednesday (10.04.13).

A source told HollywoodLife: “They were so cute together, they weren’t glued to each other’s side,” an eyewitness tells us, “Kristen was being a good hostess and working the room. But whenever they were standing near each other, they were touching. Rob had his arm draped around her a lot and every once in a while they’d sneak a kiss. They both looked so in love!”

“They were listening to indie rock, lots of Black Rebel Motorcycle Club and Father John Misty. It got pretty loud, it was a great party!” Afterwards they attended Hanson’s album release party at Los Angeles Jane’s House Lounge, along with friends Nikki Reed and Ashley Benson.

An onlooker said: “Rob came in and sat down alone for about five minutes. And then Kristen came in with a security guard and sat down next to Rob. They were all hanging out in front of the other guests and looked like they were having a great time together.”

Jennifer Lawrence, Bradley Cooper win big at MTV Movie Awards

LOS ANGELES, 18 April—Hollywood stars Bradley Cooper and Jennifer Lawrence were big winners at the MTV Movie Awards after picking up award for best male and female performance for Silver Linings Playbook.

The duo also shared a gong for best kiss for the same movie. Accepting the second award, Cooper said, “Jennifer’s not here but she was great to kiss.”

Adam Sandler and Chris Rock took to the stage to present Jamie Foxx and Samuel L. Jackson with the iconic golden popcorn statuettes for best moment for Django Unchained.

Star Trek’s Zoe Saldana, Zachary Quinto and Chris Pine too to the stage to honour Marvel’s Avengers Assembly as winner of best fight.

Director Joss Whedon later took home the Movie of the Year for Avengers Assembly. Tom Hiddleston also picked up the best villain award for his role as Loki in Thor and paid tribute to One Direction singer Liam Payne’s dog, who shares his name with the evil Marvel comic character.

“I would like to thank Liam Payne from One Direction, who I believe has named his dog Loki. Liam’s dog is certainly the cutest and most certainly more well known with more Twitter followers than me and even though they don’t know who Liam’s dog is in Austria, it’s all about getting the word out,” he said.

Host Rebel Wilson won the breakthrough performance award for her role in Pitch Perfect and shared the gong for Best musical performance with her Pitch Perfect cast mates. Zac Efron, Danny McBride and Seth Rogen presented the Twilight actor Taylor Lautner with the Best shirtless performance award.

Brad Pitt’s chicken korma, Indian beer treat courtesy Angelina Jolie.

LONDON, 18 April—Angelina Jolie bought back Brad Pitt’s favourite curry after her visit to the UK.

The Tomb Raider actress—who was overseas last week as part of the G8 summit, assuming her role as United Nations special envoy for refugee issues—arranged for her fiancé’s much-loved meal to be flown back home to the US with her after Brad was unable to join her on the trip.

Angelina—who has children Maddox, 11, Pax, nine, Zahara, eight, Shiloh, six, and four-year-old twins Knox and Vivienne with Brad—is said to have ordered a lamb bhuna, chicken korma and chicken tikka from the heartthrob actor’s favourite curry house in Surrey, south east England, where they visited during their stay in Richmond.

A source told The Sun newspaper: “Brad is back in America and has been longing for a decent curry.”

“He really misses their Indian takeaway nights from when they lived in Surrey last year. Angelina arranged as a surprise for a load of it to be cooked and flash-froze packed for her to fly home.”

So while she was at the G8, she sent her bodyguard Ray and eldest son Maddox to collect it and to stock up with more treats.

“They even got a load of Kingfisher and Cobra beer for Brad to wash it all down with.”

A similar ritual is carried out by soccer star David Beckham, who is known to ensure his home comfort meal of pie and mash from a shop in Waltham Abbey, Essex, is flown out to France while he trains for team Paris Saint-Germain.

Shop owner Tony Lane explained: “We’ve already been told to send our pies over to France—and it’s not unusual. We did the same when he was in Madrid and even deliver them when he stays at the Savoy [hotel] in London.

“And if he wants me to come and cook for him there, my door is open.”

Kristen Stewart with Robert Pattinson. The couple was seen together for the first time in public last week at the UK premiere of Snow White and the Huntsman.

Jennifer Lawrence and Bradley Cooper. The duo also shared a gong for best kiss.
Newcastle’s Taylor could miss all of next season

LONDON, 18 April—Newcastle United defender Ryan Taylor could miss all of next season after his comeback from a serious knee injury in August was cut short, the Premier League club said on Wednesday.

The 28-year-old had returned to training after he suffered the cruciate injury in a Europa League qualifier last year.

“It is likely that Taylor will miss the majority, if not all, of next season,” the club said on their website.

Stuttgart set up German Cup final with Bayern Munich

BERLIN, 18 April—VfB Stuttgart edged past surprise package Freiburg 2-1 on Wednesday to set up a German Cup final against Bayern Munich and secure a European spot for next season.

With Bayern having already clinched the Bundesliga title this season, Stuttgart, 12th in the league and off the European spots, are assured a place in next season’s Europa League.

Three-time winners Stuttgart, who last reached the final in 2007, got the early goal they were aggressively looking for when Arthar Boka slotted home after a dazzling 40-metre run by Ibrahima Traore in the 10th minute.

Their joy was shortlived, however, when Jan Rosenthal sprinted clear to have survived his first match on clay this season. “I’m not 100 percent because of my physical issue but I’m still in the draw. I live here. Everything’s alright,” Djokovic said in a court-side interview.

During a training session on Tuesday, Djokovic avoided putting too much pressure on his ankle but he did not have that luxury as Youzhny made him chase the ball around the court.

Once Djokovic levelled at 4-4, he relied on his greater weight of shot to see him through even though he twisted his ankle again during the second set.

“It was painful” for the next 15 minutes, then it kind of faded away because I had a good protection … I am happy to win because he broke decisively in the ninth game and sent Youzhny packing with an ace on match point.

The Serbian will now take on 14th-seed Juan Monaco who took full advantage of Ernesto Gulbis’ third-set meltdown to win 6-0, 3-6, 6-3.

Latvian was penalised a game for smashing his racket against the umpire’s chair following a point penalty for kicking the ball. —Reuters

Djokovic battles through pain, Nadal cruises

MONTE CARLO, 18 April—Novak Djokovic’s gamble on his injured ankle at the Monte Carlo Masters appeared to be backfiring before he dug in to battle past Russian Mikhail Youzhny with ruthless 6-1, 6-2 victory on the second round on Wednesday.

While Djokovic grimaced and groaned through the pain barrier to fight back from 0-4 down in the opening set, Rafa Nadal was all of next season after his surgery on Monday and is expected back at the end of July.

“Once Djokovic levelled at 4-4, he relied on his greater weight of shot to see him through even though he twisted his ankle again during the second set. “It was painful” for the next 15 minutes, then it kind of faded away because I had a good protection … I am happy to win because he broke decisively in the ninth game and sent Youzhny packing with an ace on match point. “The Serbian will now take on 14th-seed Juan Monaco who took full advantage of Ernesto Gulbis’ second set.”

Bolt to head cast at London’s “anniversary games”

LONDON, 18 April—Usain Bolt will return to London to compete in the IAAF Diamond League meeting at the Olympic Stadium on 26-28 July, will feature 29 Olympic medallists, including 12 champions and four world record holders. Britain’s heptathlon champion Jessica Ennis and double Olympic champion Mo Farah will also part take.

Sprinter Bolt’s presence in the 100m and 4x100m relay will top the bill, however, as he puts the finishing touches to his preparations for August’s world championships in Moscow.

Other than the Olympics, it will be his first competitive appearance in London since 2009, partly due to Britain’s tax laws which could have seen him give up a share of his appearance or prize money and endorsements. An exemption for “non-residents” is now in force and Bolt said he was relishing the chance to play a part in what is being dubbed the “Anniversary Games.” “I’m looking forward to coming back to the UK, especially with it being a year since winning three gold medals in the Olympic Stadium,” Bolt who repeated his Beijing hat-trick in London last year, said in a statement. —Reuters

Gonzalez set for Picasso test after Augusta artistry

MADRID, 18 April—Gonzalo Fernandez-Castano is itching to play what he describes as “probably the best course” in his homeland at this week’s Spanish Open after his best major performance in the Masters on Sunday.

Fernandez-Castano’s top-20 finish included a third round charge of 65 and fourth round 67, which put him in the ‘top 20 Tour winners. “Hopefully, we will do well this year,” said the six-times European Tour winner.

He added: “Had it been a different tournament, I would have taken a break, but it’s my national Open. I know that Reale and the other sponsors, together with the Federation, have made a great effort to maintain it, so I’m happy to support it.” —Reuters

Jamaican Olympic gold medallist Usain Bolt leaps ahead to win the “Mano a Mano Men’s 150 metres” challenge on Copacabana beach in Rio de Janeiro on 31 March, 2013. —Reuters

Jamaican Olympic gold medallist Usain Bolt leaps ahead to win the “Mano a Mano Men’s 150 metres” challenge on Copacabana beach in Rio de Janeiro on 31 March, 2013. —Reuters

Martin Harmik of VfB Stuttgart challenges Pavel Kramas (R) of SC Freiburg during their German soccer cup (DFB Pokal) semi-final soccer match in Stuttgart, on 17 April, 2013. —Reuters

“My team fought with everything they had. This match has gone to its limits constantly in the past 2-1/2 years and now it is being re-warded for it.” —Freiburg, who are fifth in the Bundesliga and on track to qualify for European football next season, tried to come back. But keeper Ulreich denied Max Kruse with a fine save in the visitor’s only good effort in the second half as the 59,000 Stuttgart fans started celebrating and chanting “We are going to Berlin.” —Reuters

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China says investigating human-to-human spread of bird flu

BEIJING, 18 April — China is investigating the possibility of human-to-human transmission of a new strain of bird flu that has killed 17 people and is examining “family clusters” of people infected with the virus, a top health official was quoted as saying. Authorities have slaughtered thousands of birds and closed some live poultry markets to slow the rate of human infection. But many aspects of this new variety of bird flu remain a mystery, particularly whether the H7N9 strain is being transmitted between people.

China has warned that the number of infections, so far, could rise. Most of the cases and 11 of the deaths have been in the commercial capital Shanghai. Feng Zijian, the director of the emergency centre at the capital Shanghai, told reporters on Wednesday that “we are paying close attention to these cases of family clusters.”

“We are still analyzing in-depth to see which has the greatest possibility — did it occur first from avian-to-human transmission, and then a human-to-human infection, whether they had a common history of exposure, were exposed to infected objects or whether it was caused by the environment,” Feng said. His comments were reported in a statement posted on the website of the National Health and Family Planning Commission.

One of the families that China is studying is made up of two brothers and their father who died of the virus, Feng said. “This family cluster case still doesn’t change our understanding of the characteristics of the disease in general — that it is transmitted from birds to people and there’s no evidence of human-to-human transmission,” Feng said.

Reuters

JOURNALIST KILLED IN NW CHINA CONSTRUCTION ACCIDENT

URUMQI, 18 April — A female journalist died and another was seriously injured in an accident while interviewing on a construction site in Urumqi, capital of northwest China’s Xinjiang Uyur Autonomous Region, on Thursday morning.

The editorial office of the Urumqi Evening News, where the two journalists worked, confirmed that the two were accidently crushed by a forklift at a site under a viaduct on Tuesday, 16 April.

The injured journalist has been rushed to hospital nearby, it said.

Xinhua

ARMSTRONG’S SAMPLES SHOWED STEROIDS IN 1999

POZNAN, 18 April — Lance Armstrong returned four samples with traces of banned corticosteroids in the 1999 Tour de France, the International Cycling Union (UCI) said on Wednesday, although the governing body added it did not handle them as positive tests.

On Tuesday the Belgian newspaper Het Nieuwsblad published a copy of an internal UCI memo which said a lawyer for the sport’s ruling body had said the American’s samples from the 1999 showed traces of corticosteroids on four occasions.

Armstrong, who has been banned for life and admitted to using drugs on seven occasions in seven consecutive Tour titles from 1999-2005, had already admitted to using corticosteroids for a saddle sore in 1999 although he produced a back-dated Therapeutic Use Exemption (TUE) to justify the use of a banned substance.

“During the Tour, Armstrong was tested 15 times. In the four samples indicated below traces of triamcinolone, a corticosteroid, were found. No other prohibited substances were found,” the UCI said, adding that the samples in question were collected on 4, 14, 25 and 21 July.

The governing body said the French Ministry of Sports also ruled that no doping offence had been committed.

“The samples taken during the 1999 Tour de France were analyzed as proven by the French Ministry; and that there was therefore no anti-doping rule violation. “If the corticosteroids had been used systemically (ie. injected or taken orally), the consecutive test results would have all been positive.”

The UCI agreed and said that “both the French Ministry and the UCI Anti-Doping Commission found that there was conclusive evidence that no anti-doping rule violation had taken place.”—Reuters

Photo taken from a Kyodo News helicopter shows an area around Miyake Island in the Pacific illuminated on the evening of 17 April, 2013, after a series of quakes hit the island. An earthquake of preliminary magnitude 6.2 jolted the island that day along with dozens of tremors, the Japan Meteorological Agency said. Kyodo News

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

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Chinese are seen at a poultry farm on the outskirts of Shanghai on 16 April, 2013. — Reuters

Tibet to get top-notch telescope

LHASA, 18 April — A powerful, state-of-the-art telescope will have a trial run in southwest China’s Tibet Autonomous Region at the end of this year, making professional observation possible on the “roof of the world,” a local scientist told Xinhua on Thursday.

The KOSMA telescope, a 3-metre sub-millimetre-wave instrument, is part of the Yangbajain Astronomical Observatory at Yangbajain Township on the suburbs of Tibet’s capital of Lhasa. The telescope is being currently tested.

“It is China’s first sub-millimetre-wave telescope that can perform regular astronomical observation and Tibet’s first professional telescope,” said Wang Jun, a researcher with China’s National Astronomical Observatories of Chinese Academy of Sciences.

It is also the highest sub-millimetre-wave-telescope in the Northern Hemisphere, according to Wang, who is also the leader of the telescope project jointly conducted by Chinese and German scientists.

The initiative, launched in 2009, is dedicated to joint research between several Chinese institutes and Germany’s University of Cologne. It saw the dismantling of the KOSMA telescope in the Swiss Alps in 2009 and relocation to the current site at an altitude of 4,300 metres, one of the best places to observe cosmic rays in the world.

Wang said that superb atmospheric transparency had also made the site an ideal one.

Under the agreement, the telescope will be owned by China but the University of Cologne will be given 20 percent of observation time after it goes operational. Wang said the telescope will be used to study subjects including molecular clouds and star formations, and “We expect to make breakthroughs in research.” Xinhua
Collective Recitation and Prayer Meeting held

YANGON, 18 April—On the auspicious occasion of Myanmar New Year, Interfaith Group held a Collective Recitation and Prayer Meeting at YMCA Hall in Botataung Township, here, this noon.

Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe said in his message that it is the fifth time of their gathering. The group will form Interfaith Groups in villages, wards, townships, districts and regions across the country.

Union A & I Minister visits plantations in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area

NAY PYI TAW, 18 April—Union Minister U Myint Hlaing inspect mechanized farming (3000-acre) near Hotel Zone in Dekkhinathiri Township.

Slight earthquake hits inside Myanmar

NAY PYI TAW, 18 April—A slight earthquake of magnitude 4.5 Richter Scale with its epicenter inside Myanmar, about 50 miles northwest of Kathar, about 175 miles north-northwest of Mandalay seismological observatory was recorded at 09 hrs 31 min 36 sec M.S.T today, announced the Meteorology and Hydrology Department.

Kayin State enjoys water festival

NAY PYI TAW, 18 April—People from Hpa-an in Kayin State took part in Maha Thingyan Water festival happily on 14 and 15 April. State Chief Minister U Zaw Min, Speaker of State Hluttaw U Saw Aung Kyaw Min, state ministers and their wives also happily participated in the water festival.

Respects paid to the aged in Loikaw

NAY PYI TAW, 18 April—The closing ceremony of the central water throwing pandal of Kayah State was held at the central pandal in Loikaw on 16 April evening. State Chief Minister U Khin Maung Oo delivered a New Year speech.

By Tin Hlaing

Construction tasks of Ayeyawady Bridge (Malun) undertaken by Special Projects Construction Group (4) of Public Works under Ministry of Construction were completed in March 2013, and it will be commissioned into service soon.

The bridge built near mile post No 11/4 on Migyaungye-Pahtanago Road in Ywathit Village and Sitkoebin/Sitkhobin/Village of Magway Township in Magway District of Magway Region in November 2009 has successfully been completed within the four-year period.

The main section of the bridge is 3215 feet long flanked by the 1312 feet long approach motor roads on Migyaungye bank and Malun bank. The approach railroad is 1927 feet long on Migyaungye bank and 2012 feet long on Malun bank.

The motorway on the bridge is 28 feet wide and the railroad, 10 feet wide. The bridge has three-foot pedestrian way on either side. The bridge is of 1.5 metres diameter foundation bored pile type. The lower structure of the facility is of reinforced concrete. The upper structure of the main bridge is of steel frames and the approach motor roads and railroad, reinforced concrete.