Nay Pyi Taw, 20 April—At the invitation of His Excellency U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and wife Daw Khin Khin Win, His Excellency Dr. Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, President of the Republic of Indonesia and wife Mrs. Hajjah Ani Bambang Yudhoyono will pay a state visit to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar in the near future.—MNA

Indonesian President and wife to pay state visit to Myanmar

Farmland reclamation, construction of agricultural infrastructure gaining momentum in Ottarathiri Township

Nay Pyi Taw, 19 April—Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing looked into progress of farmland reclamation and construction of main drain and feeder canal and production routes, land preparation and construction of lake at 900-acre mechanized farmland near Thabyegon village in Ottarathiri Township, here, this morning.

On his arrival at the worksite of Set Set Yo diversion weir, the Union minister oversaw construction works and chosen site for construction of a main drain.

Then he called on officials to place land preparation for reclamation of farmlands and construction of irrigation structures and production routes under the step-by-step supervision and to help and educate farmers for cultivation of 100-day-old Palethwal hybrid paddy strain.

Plans are underway to establish a recreation centre at idyllic seven step pond in Kayah State for visitors at home and abroad by Kayah State Government.

On his inspection tour of the seven step pond together with some state ministers, Kayah State Chief Minister U Khin Maung Oo (a) U Bu Rel gave necessary instructions on construction of a road that will link with Hte Pwint Pond and preliminary measures for establishment of a recreation centre that will offer fantastic selection of facility and activities for visitors.

“The will be a shuttle bus service if people picnic at the seven step pond once a month as a gesture of putting the road into service,” says a state minister.

The wonderful naturally-formed seven step pond surrounded by mountain ranges is located in Dimawhso Township and it is 14 miles far from Loikaw. According to the records, the seven step pond is formed with fourteen ponds namely Hte li-awphu, Hte boe-kalar, Hte Tawka, Payal Mosole, Hte Nawku, Kayaw Mibel, Boebyar Hte-aw, Hte The-aw, Hte Beetaw and Hte Li-aw.

The seven step pond provides a scenically attractive place to have fun for everyone. Although Kayah State was unsafe for holiday-makers in the past due to security reason, peace and stability returned to Kayah State since a ceasefire agreement between Karenni National Progressive Party (KNPP) and Kayah State Government came into effect on 7 March 2012. So visitors will be able to come the seven step pond on vacation freely and happily.

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**LOCAL NEWS**

**Drinking water supplied to rural people in Padaung Township**

As this summer causes overheat, Taungbogyi, Myawagho, Yedwinha, Tegon, Paybin, Thabyegon and Thebyu villages of Padaung Township in Pyay District of Bago Region face shortage of water at wells and lakes.

As of 4 April, a total of 12 members led by Head of Padaung Township Fire Services Department U Soe M in supplied 3400 gallons of water to the local people with the use of fire engine.

Moreover, Executive Officer U Soe Myint and staff of Township Development Affairs Committee together with sellers and well wishes of Okshipin M arket donated 1600 gallons of water to the local people with the use of water tanker.

**CSC issued to people through one stop service in Patheingyi**

The One Stop Service of Aungmingala Department was carried out at Aungmingala Dham-Mayo Pwint-5 Plan being Township Immigration Moe Pwint-5 Plan.

**Sanitation carried out at Chaungtha Beach**

YANGON, 19 April—To mark the second anniversary of A I R K B Z L t, responsible persons of A I R K B Z Ltd and staff, departmental personnel from Chaungtha Beach totalling about 200 participated in sanitation tasks at Chaungtha Beach on 4 and 5 April.

They also placed garbage bins at the beach and posted signboards bearing environmental conservation.

**Plum industries in Pakokku see Chinese market**

Pakokku, 19 April—Local workers in plum production industry earn increased incomes in Pakokku as of Tabang.

A bout 30 entrepreneurs run plum production industries in Kanna, Myaing and Pakokku regions.

“This year, plum fruits production went down due to lesser rainfalls. However, plum production rose in Yaw and Pakokku regions. industries in Kanma, Myaing and Pakokku regions.

About 30 entrepreneurs run plum production industries in Kanna, Myaing and Pakokku regions.

This year, plum fruits production went down due to lesser rainfalls. However, plum production rose in Yaw and Pakokku regions.

“Nowadays, plum production market relies on its customer China. At present, one basket of dried plum fruits is purchased at K 2000. One basket of dried plum fruit is crushed, it will produce 25 ticals of plum nuts, four baskets of plum seeds and powder. China does not buy nets of sweet plum, so we all sell seeds of sour plum only,” said a merchant.

This year, one basket of plum is sold at over K 2000 in the market.

About 15 workers are running a plum production industry. One worker can earn K 2500 to K 3000 a day, and a female worker K 2000. Depending on large or small plum production industries, workers are working 10 months a year, and the industries regularly stop their production in November and December.

**Action taken against rule-breaker vehicles**

MYITKYINA, 19 April—Members of Traffic Police Corps give talks on traffic rules and take action against traffic rule broker motorcycles on Thakin Nt Pe Road in Myitkyina of Kachin State.

Road users and vehicle users are to abide by prescribed rules and regulations in building a modern, developed nation.

**Kachin State celebrates Myanmar traditional Thingyan festival peacefully**

**Dawei packed with Thingyan revelers**

In the evening, a total of 21 choral dancing troupes participated in the dancing, singing and performances at Maha Thingyan Pandal of Development Affairs Ministry of State.

**World Economic Forum on East Asia**

Myanmar

1-16 June, 2013

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**Kachin State celebrates Myanmar traditional Thingyan festival peacefully**

MYITKYINA, 19 April—Myanmar Traditional Thingyan Festival was celebrated in Kachin State on a grand scale.

Revellers and people happily enjoyed water festival at pandidas in Myitkyina District, Township, sub-townships and villages. Chief Minister of Kachin State U La John Ngan Hsai and wife Daw Kan Hsi Hng Lng visited Myitpya A yeya Padauk Shwewah, Kha Woy Oo, Manaw M yay, Nyeinchan K haw, Pa sm, Manaw E kri water pandidas of departments and companies in Myitkyina on 14 and 15 April and presented cash awards to singers and dancers.

In the evening, a total of 21 choral dancing troupes participated in the dancing, singing and performances at Maha Thingyan Pandal of Development Affairs Ministry of State.
Abe announces Tokyo’s support for Myanmar

Tokyo, 19 April — Prime Minister Shinzo Abe extended Tokyo’s active support for democratization and economic development in Myanmar at a meeting on Thursday with the Southeast Asian country’s opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi. “Japan will support Myanmar’s efforts aimed for the future,” Abe said at the outset of the meeting with the 67-year-old head of the National League for Democracy, which is visiting Japan for the first time in 27 years.

Abe said his government and the Japanese private sector will work as one to assist Myanmar through infrastructure building funded by the official development assistance and private-sector investments, according to a government official who attended the meeting.

The two shared the importance of enhancing Myanmar’s educational system and the topic took up most of the 35-minute meeting, according to the official. Abe explained the importance of night schools and correspondence education in Japan as ways allowing people to study while working, the official said. After Myanmar’s transition to a democratic government in March 2011, Tokyo has stepped up efforts to help the fast-reforming country, resuming yen loans after suspension for 26 years. Japanese businesses are vying to invest in resource-rich Myanmar, which has a relatively cheap, diligent and abundant labour force. Abe said Japan’s firms’ investments will create jobs in Myanmar, according to the official. —Kyodo News

Fire at Exxon’s Beaumont, Texas, refinery injures 12 workers

Houston, 19 April — Twelve contract workers were hurt on Wednesday morning when a fire broke out at a unit undergoing repairs at Exxon Mobil Corp’s 344,500 barrel per day (bpd) Beaumont, Texas, refinery, a company spokeswoman said.

The fire was at a shut hydrotreater heat exchanger, according to sources familiar with operations at the refinery. Exxon did not identify the unit but confirmed the fire broke out at 10:30 am CDT (11.30 am EDT) on a shut unit undergoing planned maintenance work at the refinery.

The blaze was quickly brought under control and extinguished, said company spokeswoman Rachael Moore.

Six of the 12 workers were taken to regional hospitals “for further medical evaluation and treatment.” Moore said. The sources said the workers were thought to have been welding on a section of the heat exchanger when the fire broke out. All other employees and contractors working at the Beaumont refinery have been accounted for, Moore said.

The hydrotreater is part of the refinery’s system for removing harmful substances from feedstock so the motor fuels produced will comply with federal environmental regulations. It uses hydrogen under high pressure in the process.

Gunshots heard on Massachusetts Institute of Technology campus

A building at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology is lit up in red, white and blue as a tribute to those who were killed or injured in the explosions at the Boston Marathon in Cambridge, Massachusetts on 16 April, 2013. — Reuters

Cambridge, 19 April — Gunshots were heard near a building on the campus of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Cambridge, the school said on its website on Thursday. The shots “were reported near Building 32, which is curtailed by responding agencies,” according to a statement on the MIT website for emergency information. Representatives for local media could not immediately be reached for comment. —Reuters

Russia says US must do more to address missile shield concerns

Moscow, 19 April — Russian officials said on Thursday the United States had not done enough to address their concerns about an anti-missile shield it is deploying in Europe, indicating US moves to scale down its plans will bring no quick breakthrough.

Their remarks suggested missile defence will remain a bone of contention in relations, increasingly strained since Vladimir Putin returned to the Russian presidency last May.

They indicated there had been no major progress during a visit on Monday by President Barack Obama’s national security adviser Tom Donilon, who met Putin in the highest-level contact since Obama began a new term in January. —Reuters

Italian parliament fails to elect state president

Rome, 19 April — Italy’s parliament failed to elect a new state president in its first vote on Thursday, with deep splits in the centre left torpedoing a quick victory for its official candidate Franco Marini.

Marini, a former Senate speaker, won 521 votes, well below the required two-thirds majority of 672 of the 1,007 electors, comprising members of both houses of parliament and regional representatives.

A second ballot will be held later on Thursday and two votes a day will continue through the weekend if necessary. Marini’s clear failure, in a vote which is key to filling a government vacuum since the deadlocked general election in February, was a slap in the face for centre-left leader Pier Luigi Bersani. He badly split his party by nominating Marini in a deal with centre-right boss Silvio Berlusconi. Many beleaguered centre-left parliamentarians voted for the secret ballot for academic Stefano Rodota, candidate of the populist 5-Star Movement of former prime minister Beppe Grillo. Rodota won more than 240 votes and there were also more than 100 blank or spoil ballots.

Nichi Vendola, head of Bersani’s leftist ally SEL, said nominating Marini was a mistake. The result was worrying. Marini was a candidate who united the centre right, not the center left.”

He said unless things changed, his 46 representatives would keep voting for Rodota. Roberto Fico, from Grillo’s movement, said: “The Berlusconi-Bersani marriage did not work, so the consensus behind Rodota is growing.”

Lower house President Laura Boldrini (L) reads the ballots during the presidential election in the lower house of the parliament in Rome on 18 April, 2013. —Reuters

After three rounds of voting, only an absolute majority is required but the chances for Marini, 80, may decline as time passes, wrecking Bersani’s deal with Berlusconi which is aimed at helping him form a minority government. Bersani has repeatedly refused to agree to Berlusconi’s demands that they form a broad coalition government together. But it is widely believed he wants to parley an agreement on the presidency with centre-right willingness to support a minority centre-left government. —Reuters

One Boston Marathon bombings suspect killed in firefight with police

Boston, 19 April — Local police said on Friday that one suspect in the Boston Marathon bombings was killed in a firefight with the police, while another one remains at large.

Both suspects were reportedly shot in Myanmar at a meeting on education funding. —Kyodo News

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Space telescope spots distant planets well placed for life

CAPE CANAVERAL, 19 April—Scientists using NASA’s Kepler space telescope have found the best candidates yet for habitable worlds beyond the solar system, including a pair of potentially life-friendly planets orbiting the same star, officials said on Thursday.

The planets join a list of about 700 confirmed extraterrestrial planets discovered since 1995.

The new additions include a pair of planets orbiting a star called Kepler-62, located about 1,200 light years away in the constellation Lyra. Kepler-62’s two outermost planets, both about 1.5 times the size of Earth, are located the right distance from their parent star for water to be liquid on the surface. Water is believed to be necessary for life.

The pair have three sister planets, but those are too close to their parent star and likely too hot for surface water.

Google Fiber gigabit Internet headed to Provo, Utah

NEW DELHI, 19 April—Google said on Wednesday that its experimental high-speed Internet service is setting its sights on the Utah city of Provo.

Provo is slated to be the third US city to get Google Fiber service that promises to move data at a blazing gigabyte-per-second, according to a blog post by Google Fiber general manager Kevin Lo.

Last week, Google released word that its Internet service will spread to Austin, the Texas home of a South By Southwest festival beloved by technology trendsetters, after a successful pilot program in Kansas City.

Google Fiber should start connecting its so-called gigabit Internet to homes in Austin, the Texas state capital and a hotbed for Internet entrepreneurs, by the middle of next year, said vice president of access services Milo Medin.

As part of a plan to install Google Fiber in Utah, the California-based Internet giant inked a deal to buy an iProvo fiber-optic network that the city of Provo began building in 2004 but has not completed, according to Lo.

The agreement with Provo must be approved by the city council to proceed, and a vote is slated for 23 April, Google said.

“We’re committed to keeping their vision alive,” Lo said of the plan to build iProvo into a Google Fiber network in that city.

If the deal is approved, Google would provide free Internet lower-speed service along with the existing Provo network for at least seven years, with each home required to pay a $30 activation fee. Google would charge monthly subscription rates for high-speed Internet connections along with optional services such as television programming.

Google’s “Gigabit Internet” would be free to public institutions such as schools, hospitals and libraries.

Google Fiber debuted in Kansas City and in November began providing users there with an Internet service that moves data at about 100 times faster than the speed provided by typical broadband connections. —PTI

SanDisk’s quarterly results beat expectations

NEW DELHI, 19 April—US memory chipmaker SanDisk on Wednesday posted quarterly results above expectations, helped by growing sales of solid-state drives.

But the company’s shares fell after the report due in part to concerns about future chip pricing. Following an industry slump in memory chip prices last year, prices for DRAM and NAND memory chips have been strengthening.

Pacific Crest analyst Monika Garg said the stock’s sell-off after the report was likely caused partly by concerns among some investors that chipmakers could add new capacity, putting downward pressure on NAND prices.

“I think NAND pricing remains healthy this year. For at least the next four or five months, nobody is going to add any new capacity,” Garg said.

SanDisk’s revenue rose 11 percent year-over-year to $1.34 billion in the January-March quarter. Analysts on average expected first-quarter revenue of $1.37 billion, according to Thomson Reuters I/B/E/S.

Its net income was $166 million, or 68 cents a share, compared to $114 million, or 46 cents a share, in the same quarter last year.

Its non-GAAP EPS was 84 cents per share. Analysts had expected EPS of 79 cents.

Shares of SanDisk fell 5.3 percent in extended trade after closing down 3.08 percent at $55.72. —PTI

Twitter launches music app to deepen multimedia offering

SAN FRANCISCO, 19 April—Twitter Inc launched a stand-alone music-streaming app on Wednesday, opening another front in the micromessaging service’s ambitious expansion into multimedia content.

The iPhone app, called music, will recommend and stream songs based on who users follow on Twitter and artists’ recommendations.

“Twitter said in its blog-post announcement that music will be available in the US, Canada, the UK, Ireland, Australia and New Zealand beginning on Thursday.”

A release date for the Android app has not yet been announced.

In a blog post, Twitter’s engineers said the new service “uses Twitter activity, including Tweets and engagement, to detect and surface the most popular tracks and emerging artists.”

“It also brings artists’ music-related Twitter activity front and centre to go to their profiles to see which music artists they follow and listen to songs by those artists.”

The new app, launched four months after Twitter unveiled Vine, a stand-alone video-sharing app, is meant to reinforce Twitter’s position as a fully functional multimedia hub, particularly in the eyes of teens and young adults. —Reuters

Dish makes national security argument for Sprint offer

WASHINGTON, 19 April—Dish Network Corp is asking regulators to suspend the review of the proposed acquisition of Sprint Nextel Corp to Japan’s SoftBank Corp, saying its own counter-bid would be preferable for national security reasons.

Dish in the past has asked the Federal Communications Commission for such a suspension, but in a filing posted online on Thursday, the satellite TV provider reinforced the request with arguments promoting its own, unsolicited $25.5 billion bid made for Sprint on Monday.

Sprint shareholders John Taylor declined comment. Sprint’s board, which previously agreed to the SoftBank offer, is now studying the Dish offer.

In the filing, Dish touted the premium its bid would offer Sprint shareholders and also pointed to SoftBank’s foreign origin, saying that the Japanese company lacked the “existing in-market infrastructure,” among other things.

“DISH’s merger proposal is better for American consumers, better for Sprint shareholders, and better for national security than the SoftBank proposal,” the filing says.

Dish asked the FCC to withhold its ruling on the merger until Sprint’s board responds to its own offer.

The FCC declined to comment on the matter.

Federal regulators put extra scrutiny on merger deals involving foreign-owned entities to ensure independence and protection of the US networks, though these matters tend to be led by the Committee on Foreign Investment in the US (CFIUS) rather than the FCC. —Reuters

An illustration picture shows the logo of the Website Twitter on an Ipad, in Bordeaux, Southwestern France. —Reuters
AMD Q3 revenue fell below expectations

San Francisco, April 19 — Advanced Micro Devices Inc forecast current-quarter revenue above Wall Street’s expectations as it rushes to find new markets to offset its declining core business of PC chips.

Like larger rival Intel Corp, AMD is trying to refocus its business as sales of laptops languish and consumers increasingly depend on smartphones and tablets.

Its shares fell nearly 6 percent after the report, erasing sudden gains in the last few minutes of the trading session.

AMD on Thursday reported revenue of $1.09 billion, down from $1.59 billion in the year-ago quarter, it said June-quarter revenue would rise 2 percent, plus or minus 3 percent, compared with the March quarter. A analyst on average expected first-quarter revenue of $1.046 billion and June-quarter revenue of $1.071 billion, according to Thomson Reuters I/B/E/S.

"In a world of low expectations this is a decent report — a solid beat off of low expectations," said Sanford Bernstein analyst Iraj R妊son.

When Intel posted its quarterly earnings on Tues- day, it also gave a revenue forecast above expecta- tions, betting on recovery in PC sales in the second half of the year.

While Intel has deep pockets to fund research on new processors to catch up in tablets and smartphones, AMD faces declining cash flows and a more modest balance sheet.

It is reducing operating expenses and refocusing its chip technology on new markets like communications, microprocessors, game consoles, digital signals and stripped-down "thin client" computers. — Reuters

Nokia sales tumble overshadows Lumia pick-up

Helsink, April 19 — A sharp fall in sales of Nokia’s basic handsets overshadowed a stronger performance from its Lumia smartphones, rekindling fears over its future and sending its shares tumbling to year lows.

The results renewed pressure on Chief Executive Stephen Elop, who had said the transition period that’s now over. "Basically, he has only running out of time."

"Even with Lumia doing well, the numbers had already translated into a sustained performance, he told reporters. The pickup in financial markets "is clearly not translating into a sustained pickup in growth," she cautioned.

"What we need is a full-speed global economic recovery," stressed Lagarde, adding that the three-speed recovery is not the healthiest recovery.

"And policymakers should also cope with old risks and complete their tasks including the financial sector reform, managing shadow banking, global economy rebalancing and boosting job creation."

"A management is set to present a plan to cut between 1,200 and 1,400 staff over the next two years," said Pierre Poquet, secretary general of the UNSA union, who said a meeting for was planned for 25 April.

"For now it is only a target...we’ve heard such announcements before but they don’t always come to pass," the IMF said. "It is one of the most important decisions so far, short of the 6.5 billion euros forecast by analysts in a Reuters poll." Nokia’s future is seen depending on higher-margin smartphones as a growing number of global consumers want access to apps such as Twitter from their handsets.

But it still sells more regular mobile phones than smartphones, and needs to protect its position in the basic handset market so buyers of its cheaper handsets don't defect to other brands when they eventually upgrade to smartphones. In markets such as China, Nokia faces strong competition not only from rivals such as Samsung but also from emerging, cut-price competitors.

"The fall in numbers for the low-end devices is quite alarming," said Nordea analyst Sanni Sarkamies.

"Even with Lumia doing better, we still care about those. Nokia is still a second-tier player in smartphones, and it’s only because of its position in mobile phones that it’s still relevant," Nokia spokesman said.

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Baig gets death for German Bakery blast

PUNE, 19 April — Mirza Himayat Baig, the lone convicted accused in the German Bakery blast case, was today sentenced to death by a Pune Sessions Court.

A additional Sessions Judge N P Dhole handed down capital punishment to Baig for murder and criminal conspiracy, besides under provisions of Unlawful Activities Prevention Act and Explosive Substances Act. — PTI

India, China share similar concerns in Afghanistan

NEW DELHI, 19 April— In the wake of the planned withdrawal of NATO troops in Afghanistan, India and China share similar concerns of minimizing violence in Afghanistan to protect their investments in the war-torn country, said a local daily on Thursday. The India-China dialogue on Afghanistan is scheduled to be held in Beijing on Thursday for the first time, which is widely reported by Indian newspapers.

The India-China dialogue on Afghanistan is of minimal interest to investing in the country and their respective influence on Afghanistan from a strategic point of view. The Hindu said that while India has more political influence in Kabul, China “scores over India in its ability to influence the behaviour of violence prone groups through its close ally Pakistan.”

From Indian side the talks will be led by Y K Sinha, Additional Secretary, Pakistan Afghanistan Iran, (PAI) of the external affairs ministry, and his counterparts in the Chinese foreign ministry, as official sources. The meeting is taking place in the backdrop of talks between the National Security Advisors of India, China and Russia held in Moscow recently to discuss the situation in Afghanistan.

Rockets strike Israel from Gaza

JERUSALEM, 19 April — Two rockets fired from the Gaza Strip struck inside Israel after nightfall on Thursday, causing no damage or injury, Israeli media reports said. The Ynet and Haaretz news websites said the rockets fell in open areas. The Israeli military was checking the reports. There were no immediate claims of responsibility issued from Gaza.

The occupied West Bank two weeks ago in confrontations with protesters angered by the death in prison from cancer of 64-year-old Maysar Abu Hamdeya, a Palestinian official said. Abu Hamdeya, jailed by Israel on charges of involvement in a thwarted suicide bomb attack, had been denied timely medical care. Israel denied any negligence.— Reuters

Media rapped for wrong reporting on Boston blasts

BOSTON, 19 April— The FBI has reprimanded news media outlets for jumping the gun on Boston Marathon twin bombings investigations, saying that “inaccurate” reporting will have “unintended consequences.”

Leading news outlets like CNN and Fox News falsely reported that federal authorities had identified and arrested a suspect in the bombings. — PTI

SolarWorld aims for deal with creditors in two-three weeks

FRANKFURT, 19 April— SolarWorld (SWG.DE) and its creditors are aiming to strike a deal on the restructuring of the ail ing German-based maker of solar panels within the next 2-3 weeks, two sources familiar with the talks said on Thursday. “We are looking at a reason able, sustainable solution that would not require SolarWorld to file for insolvency,” one of the people said. Creditors would cancel some debt and swap some loans for equity, the sources said.

Shareholders will likely be left with significantly less than 10 percent of the equity, one of the sources said. A third person familiar with the situation said that a debt-equity swap was one of the possible options. SolarWorld declined to comment.

Baghdad suicide bomb blast at Internet cafe kills 27

BAGHDAD, 19 April — A suicide bomber blew himself inside a Baghdad cafe popular with young people using the Internet, killing a least 27 and wounding dozens more in one of the worst single attacks in the Iraqi capital this year.

The late evening blast in west Baghdad came just two days after provincial elections that will be a major test of Iraq’s political stability more than a year after the last American troops left the country.

Police and witnesses said emergency workers struggled to extricate victims Wednesday and abandoned the cafe, where several had been killed and others wounded. A witness said the bomber said in Arabic: “This is an attack to eliminate the infidels.” — Reuters

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**Thai wellwishers donate cash to fund for renovation of pagoda**

**Meiktila, 19 April—** Wellwishers from Thailand donated cash to the fund for all-round renovation of Kwantaung Pagoda in the precinct of ancient Zaykon Khunnausu Monastery was held in East Zay Ward of Meiktila on 14 April morning.

Venerable Bhaddanta Sobhita and disciples of Mae Sai of Thailand and Su San Li and disciples donated K 1.5 million for all-round renovation of the pagoda.

On behalf of Chairman of Township Sangha Nayaka Committee Koenawin Monastery Sayadaw Agya Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Sumana, Zaykon Khunnausu Monastery Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kelasa and Bhaddanta Tejobhasa, Chairman of the Zaykon Khunnausu Monastery Board of Trustees U Soe accepted the cash donation and presented certificates of honour to the wellwishers.

Outter Hutaungpyae, Gyoopyan Nannya, Myint Cave, Minge Cave and Mogaung pagodas have been renovated in the precinct of Zaykon Khunnausu Monastery. It is necessary to renovate K wantaung Pagoda there.— Myanma Alinn

**Minbu Township Forest Department distributes saplings to local people**

**Minbu, 19 April—** Minbu (Sagu) Township Forest Department under the Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry distributed saplings from its nursery to the local people for cultivation of one acre plantation per village and for availability of firewood for the local people.

Senior Ranger U Mya Thein said that they distributed three teak saplings and 20 hardwood saplings to each household for establishment of rural forest plantations. They emphasized cultivation eucalyptus plants for availability of firewood. In previous year, they distributed saplings to over 30 village-tracts. If the trees plant, the people can enjoy shade and better weather, he said.

They seized two grams of marijuana worth K 33,500. Police searched the house of Ma Thida Oo, 32, at 20,000 from his pocket.

**Marijuana possessors arrested in Maubin**

**Maubin, 19 April—** According to the information given by a dutiful person, IP Aye Tun of Pathein Anti-Drug Special Squad of Ayeyawady Region, IP Thein Win of Myoma Police Station, investigator

Income tax handed over to DAC fund in Pyay

**Pyay, 19 April—** Pyay Township Internal Revenue Department under the Ministry of Finance and Revenue handed over five per cent of income tax for fourth quarter in 2012-2013 fiscal year, at the hall of the Township Development Affairs Committee in Pyay on 28 March morning.

Assistant Director U Soe Hla Myint of Township Internal Revenue Department presented K 6,123,994 of income tax to Deputy Director U Myint Soe of Pyay Township Development Affairs Department.

**Parittas recitation in Sittway**

**Nay Pyi Taw, 19 April—** Parittas recitation ceremony was held at the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement on 17 April afternoon.

Union Minister Dr U Myint Myat, Deputy Minister U Su Hlaing and officials presented gifts.

They then heard Parittas recited by the Sayadaws. MNA

**Express bus overturns on Pathein-Chaungtha Road, leaving four dead**

**Pathein, 19 April—** An express bus overturned in early morning of Thingyan Aet Day near Kyaukchaunggyi Bridge of mile post No 9 on Chaungtha-Pathein Road in Pathein Township, leaving four passengers dead.

At 1 pm on 16 April, SIP Yon Naing Soe of Traffic Police Force and surveillance members of Dockyard Police Station, according to information given by Kyaukchaunggyi Village-tract administrator U Tin Chit, inspected the turned-over Kaba Kyaw Express Bus driven by Tha Day Toe, 35, son of U Toe Mauung of Chaungyang in Aunglan carrying staff of Pale Sarpay Store of Taungdwingyi totalling 63.

On arrival at Kyaukchaunggyi bridge near Setkon Village, the driver hardly see the way due to huts and other buildings and the bus plunged into the drain on the right side of the road.

Due to the accident, Ma Ku Ma, 35, daughter of U Mauung, Ma Thida Oo, 28, daughter of U Hla Win, and M a Thir, 37, daughter of U Khin M auung M yint of Taungdwingyi died on the spot.

Ma Thuza Myint, 32, daughter of U Khin M auung M yint died on the way to Pathein Hospital. A total of 26 passengers including driver Tha Day Toe were in serious injuries. Members of Karuna Social Association and Manaw Phyu Social Association from Pathein immediately rescued the injured persons.

Dockyard Police Station opened a file of lawsuit relating to the traffic accident. The remaining passengers were being served basic needs by Taikkyi Pariyatti Monastery in Ward 3 of Pathein and Manaw Phyu Social Association.

MNA
Eco and cultural touristic attraction
Sacred Kyelatha Taung Hill Range

In Bilin township of Thaton District, about 8 km north of Thaton, lies an ancient sacred hill range known as "Kyelatha Taung". This name is derived from the Burmese words "Kyel" meaning "sacred" and "Taung" meaning "hill".

There is a well-known legend associated with this hill range. Once upon a time, there lived a monk named Ashin Gavampati. He was considered to be a great saint and monk. One day, he found a baby boy in the forest. Not knowing his parents, he decided to raise the child as his own. The child was named Vijaya Kumara.

As he grew up, Vijaya Kumara developed a strong desire to renounce mundane life and become a Buddhist monk. He left his home and went to the forest to meditate. After a period of time, he built a hermitage and started his spiritual journey.

The hill range is believed to be the place where Ashin Gavampati lived and meditated. Many ascetics and saints have visited this place to gain spiritual enlightenment. Today, the hill range is a popular destination for pilgrims and tourists who come to seek spiritual peace and tranquility.

The hill range is also known for its historical and archaeological significance. There are several ancient temples and monuments built on the hill. These monuments are believed to be very old and are considered to be a testament to the rich cultural and historical heritage of Myanmar.

The hill range is also known for its biodiversity. It is home to many species of plants and animals. The hill is covered with dense forests and is a haven for various species of birds and animals.

In conclusion, Kyelatha Taung Hill Range is a place of spiritual significance and natural beauty. It is a must-visit place for anyone who is interested in exploring the rich cultural and historical heritage of Myanmar.
Union Culture Minister Inspects maintenance of pagodas in Bagan

Thirty-two people dead and 190 injured during Thingyan festival

Eco and cultural touristic ...

(From page 8)

"Yey Kyi Taw Sakkhan"

Thirty-two people dead and 190 injured during Thingyan festival

Eco and cultural touristic ...

"Yey Kyi Taw Sakkhan"

Thirty-two people dead and 190 injured during Thingyan festival

Eco and cultural touristic ...

"Yey Kyi Taw Sakkhan"
Ukraine welcomes amended visa facilitation agreement with EU

KIEV, 19 April — Foreign Minister Leond Kozhara said on Thursday that Ukraine welcomes the European Parliament’s decision to approve the amended visa facilitation agreement between his country and the EU. “We believe that the current agreement is another step towards the abolition of the visa regime with the EU,” Kozhara told reporters.

Kozhara spoke after the European Parliament approved the visa agreement on earlier Thursday. Ukrainian international relations expert Marianna Kuzio echoed Kozhara, saying that Ukraine is pleased with the amended agreement as it will provide procedural facilitations for a wider category of applicants.

“The decision of the European Parliament is very important for us as more Ukrainians will take advantage of facilitated visa regime with the EU. We hope that the deal will come into force in May,” Kuzio, coordinator of the “Europe Without Barriers” project, told Xinhua in a telephone interview. The agreement will become valid after it is approved by the foreign ministers of the EU states.

The deal is expected to make it easier for Ukrainian truck drivers, journalists, cultural and civil society figures and relatives of EU citizens to obtain short-term entrance visas. The measures will include decreasing visa fees and reducing the number of documents required. EU citizens have been exempted from visa requirements when traveling to Ukraine since 2005.

Chopper carrying Omar makes emergency landing, no one hurt

JAMMU, 19 April — A chopper carrying Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah yesterday made an emergency landing in Kishwar District shortly after take off due to a technical problem, but no one was injured.

“The chopper carrying Omar Abdullah landed shortly after taking off from Kishwar for Srinagar today. It had developed some technical problem,” a senior police officer told PTI. — PTI

Registered owner of bike used in B’lore blast traced

CHENNAI, 19 April — In a swift action, the city police have traced the registered owner of the motorbike which was used for bomb blast in Bangalore, in which 16 people were injured.

The number plate of the bike has been traced to a retired telecom employee here, who said that he had sold the bike about four years ago, a police source said. — PTI

ICBC Leasing orders 8 Airbus A320s from Hungary’s Wizz Air

BEIJING, 19 April — ICBC Leasing said it signed a deal with Hungary’s Wizz Air on Thursday to buy eight Airbus A320 passenger planes.

The financial leasing arm of the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China, the country’s largest lender, said the deal is one of the biggest financial cooperation projects in terms of trading value between China and Hungary, as well as its first business programme in east Europe.

The planes will be delivered before the end of 2014. ICBC Leasing has 94 planes and assets of at least 130 billion yuan (20.8 billion US dollars). Wizz Air is Hungary’s biggest airliner, running 40 Airbus 320s on 270 routes.

China’s Internet speed averages 3.14 MBps

BEIJING, 19 April — The average Internet connection speed in China stood at 3.14 megabits per second (MBps) during the first quarter of this year, according to survey results released on Thursday.

Shanghai topped the list with an average connection speed of 4.7 MBps, followed by Jiangsu, Beijing, Fujian and Tianjin, according to a report compiled by Qihoo 360 Technology Co, an Internet security service provider.

Based on data provided by ChinaCache International Holdings Ltd, a Nasdaq-listed Internet service provider, the average connection speed in China, a country that is home to 564 million Internet users, reached about 2.59 MBps in the fourth quarter of 2012. Meanwhile, speeds varied by region.

Connection speeds in nearly 60 percent of provincial capital cities were faster than that of other areas in the provinces. The fastest average connection speeds occurred between 4 am and 6 am, while the slowest speeds were recorded between 8 pm and 9 pm.

Connection speeds were fastest on Tuesdays and slowest on Saturdays, on average.

According to the most recent A kamai State of the Internet report, a quarterly international Internet traffic report, the global average broadband speed dropped 6.8 percent to 2.8 MBps during the third quarter of 2012.

At the national level, the Republic of Korea had the highest speed, at 14.7 MBps. At 54.1 MBps, Hong Kong recorded the highest average peak connection speed.

To narrow the “digital gap,” the Chinese government has pledged to up the Internet speed. To narrow the “digital gap,” the Chinese government has pledged to up

Israel dismantles fence of major West Bank settlement

JERUSALEM, 19 April — The Israeli military tore down the fence of a settlement in the West Bank, following a Supreme Court ruling that it was built on privately-owned Palestinian land, local daily Ma‘ariv reported on Thursday.

The order, issued last year, came after the court granted a petition filed in September 2010 by the Palestinian residents of the village of Ein Yabrud, northeast of Ramallah, which said the barrier was illegal.

The order also allows the locals to erect their own fences on their land and denies them access to their farming plots.

On Wednesday, civilian logistics personnel hired by the Israeli Defence Ministry removed the fence, sparking an angry response from its Jewish residents who criticized the military for failing to provide them with alternative protection measures, such as guard dogs and cameras, according to the Ma‘ariv report.

“Someone suddenly remembered that there’s a High Court order issued months ago to dismantle the fence,” A vi Roeh, head of the Binyamin Regional Council, told the newspaper. He termed the removal of the fence before new measures were put in place a grave mistake. In a statement, the military dismissed the criticisms, saying that it placed security cameras and beefed up patrols, and plans have been drawn up to implement additional measures to protect the community. — Xinhua

Trees in blossom cluster around the local section of the Great Wall, which dates back to the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644), at Huairou District in Beijing, capital of China, on 18 April, 2013. — Xinhua

Local people gather at the train accident site in Dhaka, Bangladesh, on 18 April, 2013. Two wagons of a goods train derailed and fell on some tiny houses for slum dwellers adjacent to the rail tracks in Dhaka’s Banani area on Thursday afternoon, leaving one dead and five injured, police said. — Xinhua
Iran marks national Army Day

Tokyo/Surabaya, (Indonesia), 19 April—As APEC meets in Indonesia

APEC free trade to be in focus as APEC meets in Indonesia

Tokyo/Surabaya, (Indonesia), 19 April—As APEC trade ministers meet in Indonesia later this week to discuss ways to strengthen regional trade links, Japan will enter another critical phase for joining negotiations on a trans-Pacific free trade framework involving half of the APEC economies.

During the two-day meeting starting on Tuesday in Surabaya, the ministers of the 21-member Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum, accounting for nearly half of the world’s economic output, are scheduled to discuss the free trade scheme to further integrate the region’s economies and ways to attain sustainable growth and eliminate protectionism.

As the meeting provides an occasion for ministers of countries also involved in the U.S.-led Trans-Pacific Partnership free trade negotiations to gather in one place, much of Japan’s attention will be directed at what the TPP members will discuss at a time when Japan is aiming to gain their nods in joining the Pacific Rim talks as early as July.

“Trans-Pacific free trade to be in focus as APEC meets in Indonesia,” Xinhua, 19 April 2013.

Trans-Pacific free trade to be in focus as APEC meets in Indonesia

Blast rocks Afghan southern town, wounding two

Kandahar, (Afghanistan), 19 April—A powerful blast shook Spinboldak town in Kandahar Province, 450 km south of Kabul on Thursday, injuring two people, a local official said.

“It was a bomb blast that happened in the front of a market in Spinboldak town at 04:10 pm local time today,” Gul Agha Nazari, deputy to Education Department of Takhar Province told Xinhua.

He also said that investigations have been initiated to find the fact behind the incident. spokesman for Takhar provincial administration, Sulaiman Sarwari also confirmed the incident, saying investigation is underway to know the fact.

Xinhua, 19 April 2013.

Blast rocks Afghan southern town, wounding two

ASEAN, Denmark reaffirm good relations

Jakarta, 19 April—ASEAN and Denmark reaffirmed good bilateral relations, especially in such sectors as green technology, agriculture, education, social welfare and peaceful settlement of disputes, according to a statement by ASEAN Secretary-General, Le Luong Minh, and Danish Foreign Minister Villy Søvndal on Wednesday.

During the occasion, the Danish minister said that he follows the developments in the region with keen interest.

He added that Denmark has been seeking ways and means to develop good relations with the countries in the region as well as with ASEAN.

He was encouraged by the achievements that ASEAN has made, particularly in political cooperation, economic development and the promotion and protection of human rights through the establishment of ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights.

Meanwhile, in his statement to welcome the Danish foreign affairs minister, Le Luong Minh explained the recent developments in ASEAN and expressed appreciation to the support rendered by Denmark to ASEAN bilaterally as well as through the ASEAN-EU cooperation framework, particularly at a time when ASEAN is pressing ahead with its Community building efforts.

Xinhua, 19 April 2013.

ASEAN, Denmark reaffirm good relations

Vietnam, Denmark foster scientific research cooperation

Hanoi, 19 April—Denmark is expanding cooperation with Vietnam in science and technology, focusing on green growth and new energy, in which Denmark has many experiences that it is willing to share with Vietnam.

The statement was made by John Nielsen, Danish Ambassador to Vietnam at the annual meeting of the Vietnam-Denmark pilot Research Cooperation Programme in Vietnam’s capital Hanoi on Thursday.

During the three-year period, from 2009-2011, the two countries have launched five projects, covering the creation of new flood-resistant and salt-tolerant rice varieties for coastal plain areas, measures to help aquaculture adapt to climate change in the northern region, new technologies to treat and recycle water, multi-lateral communication systems to reduce the northern central region’s disaster vulnerability, and sustainable development of aquaculture in the central region in the context of climate change.

Deputy Minister of Science and Technology Tran Viet Thanh, for his part, said that the programme has met the interest of Vietnam’s science and technology community for its efficiency in tackling important issues that Vietnam is facing, including the urgent matter of climate change.

Xinhua, 19 April 2013.

Vietnam, Denmark foster scientific research cooperation

Amateur photographers take pictures of cherry blossoms in full bloom in the village of Ohino, Yamanashi Prefecture, at the foot of Mt Fuji on 18 April, 2013—Kyodo News

Students attend a calligraphy class at Beijing No. 94 Middle School Airport Campus in Beijing, capital of China, on 18 April, 2013. The Chinese Ministry of Education has published a guideline on calligraphy education for the country’s primary and middle schools in February, setting specific calligraphy course requirements for each period of study and calls for including the courses in evaluations of the schools’ performance. In China, calligraphy has been revered as an art form since it was first used in the fifth century.

Xinhua, 18 April 2013.

Students attend a calligraphy class in China

Iran marks national Army Day

Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad (C) speaks during the Army Day parade in Tehran, Iran, on 18 April, 2013.

Xinhua

Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad (C) speaks during the Army Day parade in Tehran, Iran, on 18 April, 2013. Ahmadinejad blamed foreign forces for the cause of insecurity in the region. Since the foreigners entered the region, insecurity emerged; and basically the presence of foreigners has been the cause of insecurity in the region.

He said the Iranian Army is capable of defending the nation’s interests and sovereignty, adding a nation which enjoys the possession of such an army will never suffer abjection.

Xinhua, 19 April 2013.

Iran marks national Army Day

Negotiations to gather in one involved in the US-led Trans-Pacific free trade framework involve half of the APEC economies and ways to further integrate the region’s economies and ways to attract sustainable growth and eliminate protectionism.

As the meeting provides an occasion for ministers of countries also involved in the U.S.-led Trans-Pacific Partnership free trade negotiations to gather in one place, much of Japan’s attention will be directed at what the TPP members will discuss at a time when Japan is aiming to gain their nods in joining the Pacific Rim talks as early as July.

The meeting in Surabaya will be an important checkpoint to review progress and discuss with our counterparts how far we can reach a successful conclusion,” New Zealand Trade Minister Tim Groser said.

“I expect ministers will also discuss Japan’s recent announced intention in joining the (TPP) negotiation,” Groser said.

“Akiramari,” a Japanese minister in charge of the TPP talks, will visit Indonesia in an effort to obtain approval for Japan’s participation from a few pending countries including New Zealand.

“I will seek their understanding toward Japan’s early entry into the talks, which will benefit the TPP as a whole,” Akira Mari told reporters in Tokyo, before leaving for Indonesia.

Last month, Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe announced the country’s commitment to joining the TPP talks, and the APEC meeting is the first occasion in which TPP members will come together following the announcement.

Japan is now awaiting approval from all 11 Pacific region countries involved to join their rule-making process, with the country seeking to help revitalize its faltering economy under Abe’s aggressive monetary easing measures and search for sources of new growth and impetus to export.

Since Australia, Canada, New Zealand and Peru have yet to give their official backing, the APEC meeting is seen as a chance for Japan to give a final push to the remaining countries through bilateral talks to be held on the sidelines of the APEC meeting.

Xinhua, 19 April 2013.

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Xinhua, 19 April 2013.
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 and/or both) on Production Sharing basis.

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.

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.

The potential bidders 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.

The potential bidders must cooperate with a minimum of one (1) Myanmar national owned company registered at Energy Planning Department, 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.

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The potential bidders must be pre-qualified and selected. 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.

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.

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

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.

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Kristen Stewart to star in Snow White and the Huntsman sequel

LOS ANGELES, 19 April—Kristen Stewart is officially starring in the sequel of Snow White and the Huntsman.

Universal Pictures chairman Adam Fogelson confirmed the 23-year-old actress—who had a brief fling with the first film’s director Rupert Sanders that resulted in the end of his marriage to model Liberty Ross last year—is taking on the lead role again in the second installment of the film, which will be released in 2015.

According to gossip website JustJared.com, the studio executive confirmed Kristen has signed on to the star in the film at the CinemaCon presentation in Las Vegas on Tuesday (16.04.13) but did not clarify whether Chris Hemsworth or Charlize Theron will reprise their roles as the huntsman and the evil queen.

Kristen, who has mended her relationship with her boyfriend Robert Pattinson following her affair, revealed she was excited about the sequel and predicted it would be “amazing.”

She said in December: “It’s gonna be f**king amazing. No, I’m so excited about it, it’s crazy. The other day I said that there was a strong possibility that we’re going to make a sequel, and that’s very true, but everyone was like, ’Whoa, stop talking about it.’ So no, I’m totally not allowed to talk about it.”

It was previously reported that Rupert will not direct the sequel, despite the huge success of the first film.—Reuters

Paramore, Paisley end Timberlake’s reign atop Billboard chart

LOS ANGELES, 19 April—Rock band Paramore knocked Justin Timberlake off his three-week reign at the top of the Billboard 200 album chart on Wednesday to score its first No 1 album, while country singer Brad Paisley took the No 2 spot.

“Paramore,” the band’s fourth studio album, sold 106,000 copies in its first week according to figures on Wednesday from Nielsen SoundScan.

Paramore’s last album, 2009’s “Brand New Eyes,” scored higher sales of 175,000 in its first week but that wasn’t enough to top the chart at the time, debuting at No 2.

Paisley, who performed with John Mayer at the Academy of Country Music awards earlier this month, notched the No 2 slot with his latest album “Wheelhouse,” which sold 100,000 copies.

The country singer has yet to score a No 1 album on the Billboard 200 charts, but “Wheelhouse” did land at the top spot of the Billboard Country Albums chart.

Timberlake’s “The 20/20 Experience,” which was released on 15 March, slipped to No 3 after three weeks at No 1. Eric Church, who won Album of the Year for 2011’s “Chief” at the Academy of Country Music awards, landed at No 5 this week with new album “Caught in the Act.”

Other debuts in the top 10 of the Billboard 200 include rapper Tyga at No 7 with his third album “Hotel California” and Danish metal-rockers Volbeat at No 9 with “Outlaw Gentlemen & Shady Ladies.”

Iowa-based alt-metal band Stone Sour rounded out the top ten with “House of Gold & Bones Part 2.”— Reuters

Freida Pinto part of global campaign to empower girls

WASHINGTON, 19 April—Slumdog Millionaire star Freida Pinto has joined the UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon and the World Bank President Jim Yong Kim for “Call to Action — Girl Rising” campaign.

The World Bank said Pinto, 26, would join the world leaders in Washington at the screening of documentary film ‘Girl Rising’, made by Academy-Award-nominee Richard Robbins.

The film showcases the power of education in transforming girls’ lives around the globe.

The film is the centrepiece of 10x10 — a global campaign to educate and empower girls, the bank said in a statement. Featuring voice narrations from Pinto, Cate Blanchett, Anne Hathaway, Kerry Washington and other celebrated actresses ‘Girl Rising’ tells the stories of extraordinary girls from Haiti, India, Sierra Leone, Afghanistan, Peru, Cambodia, Egypt, Ethiopia and Nepal who fought against all odds for their right to receive an education.

Produced by award-winning former ABC News journalists of The Documentary Group and Paul G Allen’s Vulcan Productions, ‘Girl Rising’ is powered by strategic partner, Intel Corporation, and global television distribution partner, CNN Films.

“The film is about the strength of the human spirit and the power of education to change the world,” the World Bank said.—PTI

Britney Spears goes “Ooh La La” for “Smurfs 2”

LOS ANGELES, 19 April—Britney Spears is going “Ooh La La” for the Smurfs with a song for upcoming summer movie “The Smurfs 2.” movie studio Sony Pictures said on Wednesday.

“I have always loved the Smurfs as a kid and now my boys are the biggest Smurf fans EVER. I wanted to surprise them with a song in the movie,” the pop singer and mother of two said in a statement.

Her recording “Ooh La La” will play at the end credits for “The Smurfs 2,” a part animated, part live family comedy due for release on 31 July.

Spears, 31, is working on a new studio album following her “Femme Fatale” release in 2011, and is in talks for a long-term contract to perform in Las Vegas.

She released her latest single “Scream & Shout” in November last year in collaboration with rapper Will.i.am and quit her job as a judge on “The X Factor” earlier this year after failing to boost the audience for the TV talent show.—Reuters

Singer Britney Spears smiles on stage at the 2011 Wango Tango concert in Los Angeles on 14 May, 2011.—Reuters

Jeremy Davis (L), Hayley Williams and Taylor York, of the band Paramore, arrive at the 2013 MTV Movie Awards in Culver City, California on 14 April, 2013.— Reuters

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Singer Britney Spears smiles on stage at the 2011 Wango Tango concert in Los Angeles on 14 May, 2011.— Reuters
Andy Murray of Britain returns the ball to Stanislas Wawrinka of Switzerland during the Monte Carlo Masters on 18 April, 2013.– Reuters

**Monte Carlo**, 19 April — A string of errors put world number two Andy Murray out of the Monte Carlo Masters on Thursday when he lost 6-1, 6-2 to Swiss Stanislas Wawrinka in the third round.

Fourth seed Tomas Berdych and Argentine Juan Martin Del Potro, seeded five, were also beaten at the first clay-court tournament of the year while Rafael Nadal calmly continued his bid for a ninth consecutive crown with a 6-2, 6-4 victory over Philipp Kohlschreiber of Germany.

Top seed Novak Djokovic, who made a late call to participate after recovering from a sprained ankle, overcame a second opening set scare of the week to move past Juan Monaco of Argentina 4-6, 6-2, 6-2.

Briton Murray, who has repeatedly said he needs time to find his feet on the red clay, looked frustrated on court and picked up only eight points on serve in the first set.

“I made a lot of mistakes — 24 unforced errors is far too many … that’s where half the points went,” Murray told a news conference.

“I started hitting the ball shorter, then he was able to dictate the play,” added Murray, who made the last eight last year and is now set to slip to third behind Roger Federer in the ATP rankings.

Defending champion Nadal notched up his 44th win in a row in the principality and set up a quarter-final encounter with Grigor Dimitrov of Bulgaria.

German Kloschreiber did not pose a big threat to Nadal, who has already won three titles this year following his return from a seven-month knee injury layoff.

“The Spaniard pleased the cheering crowd with a solid display on the sun-baked Centre Court that has been his stage since 2005. “The match started with a lot of intensity for both of us and I was able to have the break. After that, I was.compartmentalised and not missing my shots.”

Nadal said. — Reuters

**London**, 19 April— Chelsea's interim manager Rafael Benitez is looking forward to making a sentimental visit to his old stomping ground on Sunday when the European champions take on his former club Liverpool in the Premier League.

Benitez was in charge at Anfield from 2004-10. He twice reached the final of the Champions League and won

**Arsenal wait on Rosicky fitness**

**London**, 19 April— Arsenal midfielder Tomas Rosicky is a doubt for Saturday's Premier League game at Fulham as he battles a hamstrings injury, manager Arsene Wenger said on Thursday.

The Czech Republic captain's season has been badly disrupted by injury but his fortunes improved when he scored twice in a 2-1 win at West Bromwich Albion on 6 April.

However, he missed last weekend's 3-1 win over Norwich City and was an unused substitute in Tuesday's 0-0 draw with Everton because of his latest knock.

“We have to test Rosicky who was not ready to test on Tuesday,” Wenger told a news conference. “There are a number of uncertainties about our squad but I will sort that out on Friday morning. “At the back everyone should be available. In midfield we have a few people to choose like (Santi) Carzorla, (Jack) Wilshere and (Alex) Oxlade-Chamberlain. They will all have tests but I hope they should be all right. Goalkeeper Lukas Fabianski remains sidelined with a rib injury.

Arsenal, chasing a top-four finish for a Champions League berth, are fourth in the table with 60 points from 33 games. Fifth-placed north London rivals Tottenham Hotspur are two points behind them with a game in hand. With the standings so tight, Wenger said there was no room for error in their final five matches of the season. “The only way we can deal with the situation is to win all our games,” the Frenchman, whose side have lost only one of their last 11 league games, said. “I believe we just want to keep that strong run going until the end, we know that for us that is what is needed to be successful.” “We are in a tight corner where you want every performance to be at the best possible level and that's why we focus on that on Saturday.” They face a Fulham side on the rebound from Wednesday's 3-0 defeat by Chelsea that allowed Rafael Benitez's side to climb above Arsenal to third in the table with 61 points from 33 games.

“We have to quickly clean the slate concerning the Chelsea game,” Fulham midfielder Emyr Huws told his club's website (www.fullhamfc.com).

“We have to believe in ourselves more, but we've got what it takes so we have to dig in and go at that game on Saturday with everything we have.”

— Reuters

**New Light of Myanmar**

**LONDON**, 19 April— Chilean Felipe Aguilar, bidding to win his second European Tour title after a five-year wait, moved into a three-way tie for the lead after the Spanish Open first round in Valencia on Thursday.

The 38-year-old returned six birdies and two bogeys in a four-under 68 to start the Challenge (second tier) Tour graduates Merten Madsen of Denmark and Frenchman Gary Stal.

Former Ryder Cup stalwart Miguel Angel Jimenez, competing for the first time since breaking his leg in a skiing accident in December, plunged to a four-over 76 while fellow Spaniard Sergio Garcia had to be content with a 72.

Aguilar made a good start to the season with three top-10 finishes but he decided to take a break from golf after his form nosedived. “I had too many weeks off,” the 2008 Indonesian Open champion told reporters. “I realized I needed some time off to relax.”

The Spaniard was playing very nicely especially in the morning with very little wind. It's a very difficult course but you can fairway off the tee so I'm quite happy with my 68.”

Dane Madsen, from the same Silkeborg club as Players Committee chairman Thomas Bjorn, had five birdies and a solitary bogey at the El Saler course.

Stal was the only member of the leading trio not to drop a stroke to par. One stroke off the pace on 69 were British trio Craig Lee, Matthew Southgate and Daniel Brooks, Swedes Joakim Lagergren and Leo Seelos, Ireland's David Higgins, Dutchman Robert-Jan Derksen and Spain's Gonzalo Fernandez-Castano.

— Reuters

**Reuters**
**GENERAL**

**MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL**

(20-4-13 09:30 am – 21-4-13 09:30 am) MST

**New Light of Myanmar**

Saturday, 20 April, 2013

**EARTHQUAKE**

**JOLTS ISLANDS OFF NORTHERN JAPAN, NO TSUNAMI WARNING**

**Tokyo, 19 April** — An earthquake with a preliminary magnitude of 7.0 struck islands off northern Japan on Friday but no tsunami warning was issued, the Japan Meteorological Agency said.

**Challenges in Tokyo**

**Japan on Friday but no tsunami warning was issued, the Japan Meteorological Agency said.**

**Buildings in Tokyo also shook from the quake.**

On Wednesday, a series of earthquakes, including one with a preliminary magnitude of 6.2, hit Japan's Miyake island, about 180 km (111 miles) south of Tokyo.— Reuters

**SILK ROAD EXPERIENCE INSIPRES DANCE LIKE THE WIND**

**Beijing, 19 April** — Nai-Ni Chen went to China’s Silk Road and got caught in a whirlwind.

The mosaic of cultures and nature she observed on a summer of travel inspired her to choreograph a contemporary dance embodying the spirit of this ancient trade route.

"Whirlwind is the cultures, art, energies and people coming from different parts of the world and somehow meeting here on the Silk Road and intertwining the Taibaw native choreographer and artistic director of Nai-Ni Chen Dance Company says. "I refer back to the whirlwind - this natural phenomenon in the desert — and use that as a starting point to move the language and set the structure for the dance."

Whirlwind is the product of two years of planning and collaboration. The two-part, hour long dance incorporates eight men and women dancers from the United States, Italy, Russia and South Korea, as well as original music by percussionist Glen Valez and visual art by Jayanthi M of India.

During the New York premiere at Salvador Ca'pezio Theatre at Peridance, with two performances over the weekend, partially unclad dancers in silk earth-toned costumes glistered with sweat from the fluctuating and sometimes acrobatic movements.

"I try to explore contrasts in terms of rhythm and dynamics," Chen says. "Like when you listen to music with one instrument on top of another or if you look at the many components in nature that overlap, you’ll see layers of movement that overlap with the dancers."

The dance employs two kinds of music with whirlwind-type spiral motions to emulate the shape and energy of a desert whirlwind. It also adapts from traditional characters like Mongolian horsemen and flying eagles as well as the celebratory movements of the Uygur people.— Xinhua

**MADRID, 19 April** — Barcelona president Sandro Rosell has negotiated the most lucrative sponsorship deal in the club’s history while focusing on reducing debt, plans to stand for re-election when his six-year mandate ends in 2016.

"My intention is to run for re-election and ask members to continue vesting their confidence in me so I can finish the jobs we have started," he told a club meeting on Thursday.

"We want to continue to be the club that is a reference point for its play, its management, its values, because it is concerned about its country (Catalonia) and because it wants to help children and young people," said Rosell who replaced Joan Laporta in 2010.

Under Rosell’s stewardship and as part of a deal with Qatar Sports Investments (QSI) worth 30 million euros ($39.25 million) last season, Barcelona scrapped their policy of not displaying the name of a shirt sponsor and relegated the logo of long-term collaborator Unicef to the back of their jerseys.

Players including world Footballer of the Year Lionel Messi have Qatar Foundation on the front of their shirts and from next season will display the name of Qatar Airways.

Barcelona were second behind Real Madrid for the fourth straight year on Deloitte’s latest Football Money League ranking of the richest clubs by income, with revenue for the 2011-12 season of 483 million euros.

"This year we are on the right track but our goal remains to reduce debt," the 49-year-old Rosell said.— Reuters

**Drug addict father kills daughter**

**Chandigarh, 19 April** — While saving her mother from being beaten up by her father, an 18-year-old girl lost her life at the hands of her drug addict father at Bathinda in Punjab.

M anpreet Kaur, a class 12th student, was beaten to death by her father with a hammer when she stopped him from assaulting her mother yesterday, police said.

The accused father, Rashpal, was beating his wife when she rebelled for being unemployed. He has been arrested.— PTI

Cute baby and his little bulldogs — Xinhua

Man kills wife before committing suicide

**Chandigarh, 19 April** — A man allegedly bludgeoned to death his wife before hanging himself to death at their residence in Chandigarh, police said yesterday. Prima facie it appeared the couple had an argument yesterday over some issue following which the accused hit his wife with a wooden grinder found near the spot, they said.

The victim died on the spot due to excessive bleeding. Later, the man hanged himself to death.— PTI

**Barca president Rosell aims to continue beyond 2016**

**Barcelona’s president Sandro Rosell arrives at a news conference, where the club announced coach Tito Vilanova’s salvia glandular cancer had reappeared, at Ciutat Esportiva in Sant Joan Despi near Barcelona on 19 Dec, 2012. Reuters**
Parliamentary delegation leaves for Canada

YANGON, 19 April—At the invitation of President and CEO Jean-Paul Ruszkowski of Parliamentary Centre of Canada, a Myanmar delegation led by Chairman of Pyithu Hluttaw Public Accounts Committee U Thurein Zaw left here by air to pay a goodwill visit to Canada this morning. The delegation was seen off at Yangon International Airport by Chairman of Pyithu Hluttaw International Relations Committee U Hla Myint Do and Secretary of Pyithu Hluttaw Public Accounts Committee U Maung Toe and officials of Hluttaw Office.

The Myanmar delegation led by the chairman of Pyithu Hluttaw Public Accounts Committee comprises Secretary of Pyithu Hluttaw International Relations Committee U Ko Ko Tun, seven parliamentarians from Pyithu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw and officials of the Hluttaw Office.— MNA

Kayin State Maha Thingyan festival concludes

NAY PYI TAW, 19 April—Prize-awarding ceremony of Kayin State Maha Thingyan festival was held at Pandal in Kayin State Maha Thingyan festival was held at Pandal in Kayin State Hluttaw Office. Chairman of Pyithu Hluttaw Public Accounts Committee U Thurein Zaw attended respect-paying ceremony and donated cash and kind to the aged at Zwegabin Hall of Hpa-an.

A ceremony to release fishes and put fingerlings into Kanthaya Lake was held at Kanthaya of Hpa-an.

Zayetseik Bridge inaugurated in Pathein Township

A ceremony to open Zayetseik Bridge in Zayetseik Village of Pathein Township of Ayeyawady Region yesterday morning.

The bridge was built at a cost of K 4.6 million contributed by the State and K 5.6 million by the local people.

The Region Chief Minister looked into progress of new building at Aungmyezeyon Monastery and visited village lake and Dana Theikdi rice mill.

Weather forecast for third 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 7 to 8 days in Tanninthayi Region and Kachin State, 5 to 6 days in Upper Sagaing Region, Rakhine, Kayin and Mon States and 2 to 4 days in the remaining Regions and States.

Day temperature

Day temperatures will be above April average temperatures in Sagaing, Bago, Yangon and Ayeyawady Regions, Kachin State and about April average temperatures in the remaining Regions and States.— NLM

Pakokku, one of tourist destination in dry region

Nay Oo Maung (Pakokku)

After Ayeyawady Bridge (Pakokku) was commissioned into service on 31 December 2011, not only travellers from various regions across the nation but also flocks of globetrotters visit Pakokku via ancient region Bagan. Tourists are interested in Pakokku that still maintains production of domestic products and handicrafts up to now and preserves traditional lifestyle of local people, said an experienced tourist guide.

Pakokku is 15 miles distant from ancient city Bagan, so tourists can save time for their travelling. Moreover, Pakokku can give accommodation service to the guests at Shwe Sisien Lodge, Thabyaynoy Lodge, and Ta’win Na’inn Hotel. That is why tourists visit there several times as of January 2013.

Tourism agencies in Bagan-NyaungU make arrangements of one-day package tour for the travellers to Pakokku region. Globetrotters make trips to Pakhangyi ancient city from Pakokku.

In 2011-2012, over 100,000 tourists visited in Bagan region. In 2006-2007, number of globetrotters who visited Bagan hit about 100,000.

In early 2013, some of tourists were directed to hotels in Pakokku for their accommodation due to larger number in Bagan, said a tourist guide.

Myanma Alinn: 17-4-2013

Trs: TTA