**Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann holds talks with ROK President**

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann held talks with ROK President Geum Hye at Blue House on 25 April. The ROK President extended a welcome to Myanmar President, daughter of the late President, and invited investments. He explained the need for cooperation with Korean companies.

The Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker expressed her belief that the goodwill visit to ROK would be of great benefit to Myanmar.

**Hteesekha Waterfall, arts of nature**

Nay Pyi Taw, 28 April—Accompanied by delegation members, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann, who was in the Republic of Korea at the invitation of Speaker of National Assembly of the Republic of Korea Mr Kang Chang-hee, paid a call on President of the Republic of Korea Ms. Park Geum Hye at Blue House on 25 April. The ROK President gave a welcome to Myanmar parliamentary delegation, expressing her belief that the goodwill visit to ROK would be of great benefit to Myanmar.

The Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker offered his congratulations to the ROK President, daughter of the national leader of the ROK, on her election as first woman president of the Republic of Korea. He said that he was very glad to have an opportunity to visit the ROK, while reform processes were underway in his country. He spoke words of praise that good policies of the leaders of the country, perfect system and active mass participation helped develop the country that have less natural resources than Myanmar.

The ROK President replied that Myanmar’s sweeping reform process under the leadership of the President and the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker amazed international community. Development could be brought about by rapid democratization, she added. She said that Myanmar-ROK diplomatic ties had established since 1975. There were a lot of rooms for enhanced bilateral economic cooperation between the ROK and Myanmar. Economic growth and development could be realized through cooperation in investment and economic sectors.

The Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker expressed her belief that the goodwill visit to ROK would be of great benefit to Myanmar. She said that she was very glad to have an opportunity to visit the ROK. She added that the ROK had established diplomatic relations with Myanmar like Korean Development Institute and to enhance bilateral economic cooperation.

Next, the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker elaborated works being undertaken for internal peace, the Rule of Law and national reconciliation in the country and invited her to come and visit Myanmar.

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann together with Myanmar Ambassador to the ROK U Nyunt Hliang held talks on matters related to bilateral friendship and cooperation with Korean Foreign Affairs Minister Mr. Yun Byung at the latter’s office on 22 April.

On 26 April afternoon, the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker and party attended luncheon hosted by Ulsan Mayor Mr Bak Maeng-woo at Lotte Hotel in Ulsan. During his visit to the ROK, the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker visited Busan Port, Hyundai Motors and Incheon International Airport.

The Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker and party were seen off at Incheon International Airport by the Myanmar Ambassador to the ROK, Military Attaché Brig-Gen Myint Hein and embassy staff, and officials of National Assembly of the ROK.

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Road signs put into place to improve road safety in Mandalay

Mandalay, 28 April—In order to improve road safety in downtown Mandalay, Mandalay City Development Committee is carrying out drawing road signs and zebra crossing on main roads of downtown Mandalay.

Damage to the road signs by reckless driving and undisciplined vehicles is frequent. So, durability of road safety signs calls for constant maintenance under cooperation of Mandalay City Development Committee and mandalarians.

Kyemon

Saplings for perennial crops available in Thandaung Township

Thandaung, 28 April—It is learnt that saplings for perennial fruit trees and rubber plants are available at Pyar Sakham village in Thandaung Township.

Saplings are being sold at a reasonable price that ranges from K 200 to K 500 for a sapling. Rubber and areca nut saplings are plenty and other saplings are available in small numbers according to customers’ demands at the nursery. But orders made in advance for these saplings can be fulfilled.

“Sometimes we have orders for thousands of saplings from Nay Pyi Taw. As some saplings are sold in small quantity, they are not grown in large number. But we are ready to grow saplings in order to meet customers’ demands”, says Daw Khin Myine, owner of the nursery.

Kyemon

Boat sinking claims five lives in NyaungU Township

Singu, 28 April — A boat capsized and sank in the middle of Ayeyawady River, 100-yard west of Myotkon ward in Singu village in NyaungU Township at about 7 am on 23 April, leaving five passengers dead.

The boat carrying 17 passengers piloted by Chit Kyi, 33, of Singu village capsized in the middle of the river while crossing a truncated river of Ayeyawady River from east back to west bank.

Of 17 passengers on board the boat, five passengers including Ma Mi Zar (a) Zar Zar Tun of Singu village died of drowning in the fatal boat accident. Their dead bodies were taken to Singu Station Hospital. Singu police station filed a lawsuit against Chit Ko who piloted the boat and investigation is ongoing.

Kyemon

A recent spate of car thefts in downtown Yangon

Yangon, 28 April — A car theft occurred in Latha Township, here, at about 9.30 pm on 4 April. Police was informed of the theft of a white Toyota Mark II that parked in front of an owner apartment on that day. So Latha police station opened a case and police members are investigating a recent spate of car thefts in downtown Yangon.

Kyemon

Myanmar, Vietnam to play friendly match on 11 June

Yangon, 28 April — In preparation for upcoming XXVII SEA Games, Myanmar selected U-23 football team will play a friendly match against Vietnamese selected U-23 football team in Ho Chi Minh City of Vietnam on 11 June.

Myanmar football team will leave for Vietnam on 9 June to play a friendly match at the invitation of Vietnamese Football Federation. Arrangements are being made to have a chance for playing another friendly match against a V League club during Myanmar U-23 team’s trip to Vietnam.

On 21 May, Myanmar selected U-23 football team coached by Mr. Park Sung-hwa will receive 10-day training in Taunggyi in preparation for friendly matches. During the training session, the team will play a match against Kanbawza FC or Myanmar selected football team or MNL All Star team. On 4 June, the team will play an international friendly match in Yangon.

Kyemon

Unexploded WW II bomb found in Kyaukpyu

Kyaukpyu, 28 April — A bomb weighing 40 viss thought to be dropped from a warplane in War World II was found recently in a farmland near Wutsan village of Ohndaw village-tract in Kyaukpyu Township.

According to information given a villager, officials concerned rushed there and made necessary investigations. The bomb is 27 inches long and 30 inches in girth. The bomb with no marks on it is covered with rust. It is believed to be left unexploded in the time of WWII.

Further investigation revealed that the unexploded bomb was unearthed while digging stones out of the ground by a backhoe near a farmland of U Tun Tin, 56, of Wutsan village in April 2012 and the farm-land owner discarded it in the nearby bush.

The WW II bomb was taken to a safe place after making necessary examination by the inspection team.

Kyemon

Dead grenades and rounds of ammunition unearthed in Bago

Bago, 28 April — While dredging an old well in the residence of U Aye Lwin, 65, on Yangon-Mandalay Highway in Ottha Myothit in Bago, two dead grenades covered with rust and 32 rounds of ammunition were unearthed on 23 April.

Likewise, one grenade was unearthed by U Than Zaw, 45, and workers while digging a hole for construction of a new building in the compound of a staff quarter in Yonegyi ward in Bago on 21 April. As police were informed of the grenade unearthed, they rushed there and made necessary examinations. According to thorough examination, the grenade is not potentially harmful and it cannot be exploded.

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Kyemon
**Russia cooperates with US in Boston bombings probe**

**MOSCOW, 28 April**—The Russian special service has been cooperating with US partners in the investigation of the Boston bombings, President Vladimir Putin said on Saturday.

Interaction of special services between the two sides has been arranged “considering that some people possessing valuable information and the criminals’ relatives are in Russia,” Putin said in an interview with a local TV channel. Any terrorist attack and murder is a heinous crime, Putin said, adding Russia immediately extended its condolences to the US side following the fatal attack.

The two brothers of Chechen origin detonated two home-made bombs near the finish line of the Boston Marathon last Monday, killing three people and injuring more than 200 others. Tamerlan

**Bomb damages police station in Libya’s Benghazi, no injuries**

**BENGHAZI, 28 April**—A bomb exploded outside a police station in the restive eastern Libyan city of Benghazi on Saturday causing extensive damage to the building but no injuries.

A spate of bombings and assassinations in Benghazi and the rest of the country in 2011 uprising that ousted dictator Muammar Gaddafi, has been attributed to Islamic militants. “Around six o’clock this morning, an explosive device placed under one of the windows of the building exploded, causing severe damage,” said station commander Colonel Matar Mohammer. He said he had no information on who carried out the attack.

Gunmen hit a different police station in Benghazi last week freezing a number of detainees, following a similar attack in the Libyan capital of Tripoli in early April. On Tuesday a bomb at the French embassy in Tripoli injured several people, and, one diplomat said, the Radisson Hotel in the capital was evacuated on Friday after a bomb threat, as the spread of insecurity from the east intensifies.

**Abbas begins talks to form national government**

**RAMALLAH, 28 April**—Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas began holding general elections, including polls within the bodies of Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), he said, calling on all Palestinian factions to cooperate with the formation of the government.

Abbas also said the government would be a technocratic interim body comprising independent figures.

Salah Al-Bardawil, a spokesperson for Hamas, however, said the Islamic movement is unaware of Abbas’ efforts to form the government. Al-Bardawil said Hamas would welcome the move only if the national reconciliation was achieved as “one package” that settles all outstanding issues. The Gaza Strip has been controlled by Hamas since it routed pro-Abbas forces in 2007.

**Police search for clues inside an office after a bomb explosion at a police station in Benghazi, 27 April, 2013.—REUTERS**

**Israel proposes four-way summit on resuming talks with Palestinians**

**RAMALLAH, 28 April**—A senior Palestinian official said on Saturday that Israel has proposed holding a four-way summit to sponsor the resumption of the stalled Mideast peace talks with the Palestinians.

US Secretary of State John Kerry had briefed Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas during their meeting in Turkey last week on details of the proposal, in which US President Barack Obama, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Jordan King Abdullah II along with Abbas will participate, the official told Xinhua on condition of anonymity. Abbas informed Kerry that he welcomes the idea but before joining any summit, Israel has to implement its commitments, he added.

The Palestinians demanded Israel to halt settlement building in the Palestinian territories and east Jerusalem, recognize the principle of the two-state solution and release prisoners in Israeli jails, who were detained before 1993. The Israeli proposal was made almost one month after Kerry’s visit to the region to try to resume the peace talks between Israel and the Palestinians which had stopped in October 2010. Meanwhile, Palestinian chief negotiator Saeb Erekat declined to make any comment on the proposal, saying: “The Palestinian stance is clear that the international efforts to resume the peace talks are welcomed and an Israeli commitment to halt settlement and recognize the borders of the Palestinian state.”—Xinhua

**Four arrested as Bangladesh building toll rises to 352**

**DHAKA, 28 April**—Two factory bosses and two engineers were detained in Bangladesh on Saturday, three days after the collapse of a building where low-cost garments were made for Western brands killed at least 352 people. More were being pulled alive from the rubble at the building, where police said as many as 900 people were still missing in Bangladesh’s worst ever industrial accident.

The owner of the eight-storey building that fell like a pack of cards around more than 3,000 mainly young women workers was still on the run. Police said several of his relatives were detained to compel him to hand himself in, and an alert had gone out to airport and border authorities to prevent him from fleeing the country.

Officials said Rana Plaza, a brand name of the capital, Dhaka, had been built on spongy ground without the correct permits, and the workers were sent in on Wednesday despite warnings the previous day that it was structurally unsafe. Anger at the negligence has sparked days of protests and clashes, with police on Saturday using tear gas, water cannons and rubber bullets to quell demonstrators who burned cars. Two engineers involved in building the complex were picked up at their homes early on Saturday. Dhaka district police chief Habibur Rahman said. He said they were arrested for dismissing a warning not to open the building after a jolt was felt and cracks were noticed on some pillars the previous day.

They will be kept in remand for an initial 12 days. The factory, which listed many European and North American retailers as its customers, occupied upper floors of the building that officials said had been added illegally.—Reuters

**Another suspect arrested over ricin letter addressed to Obama**

**WASHINGTON, 28 April**—Another Mississippi man was arrested over ricin-laced letter sent to President Barack Obama and two others, the US authorities said on Saturday. The 45-year-old suspect pleaded not guilty and his lawyers suggested he had possibly been framed for using mail to threaten the president. The suspicious letters addressed to Obama and Senator Roger Wicker were intercepted on 16 April at off-site mail facilities for the White House and the Capitol Hill respectively and both tested positive for ricin, a toxic substance.—Xinhua

**One climber missing after avalanche on mountain in Nagano Prefecture**

**NAGANO, (Japan), 28 April**—One person is missing after an avalanche hit a group of climbers on Mt Shirouma in Nagano Prefecture on Saturday, police said. The missing climber is believed to be a woman in her 50s from Gifu Prefecture, they said.

The woman and three others in the group of six climbers were hit by the avalanche at around 10:35 a.m. The three other climbers have been rescued. The leader of the group made an emergency call to the police around noon.

The police are checking whether other people are missing as they have yet to confirm the safety of eight other climbers in two groups who were near the site of the avalanche.

Kyodo News
Cisco, IBM and others team up on new technology project

Toronto, 28 April—Cisco Systems, IBM and Citrix have joined forces with other tech companies in a consortium to kick-start the corporate market for software-defined networking (SDN), aimed at making network management easier and cheaper.

Other members of the development platform called OpenDaylight include Juniper Networks, VMware, Microsoft, Red Hat, Intel and Brocade as well as privately held Big Switch Networks and Arista Networks. Each member will contribute technology such as code to the project in an effort to share the costs of basic research and development, and enable products from different vendors to work together, the companies said on Monday. However, vendors will still be able to customize their offerings to differentiate themselves from rivals.

The SDN market is still considered nascent, but is expected to grow to $3.7 billion by 2016 from an estimated $360 million this year, according to research firm IDC.

The first code from OpenDaylight is expected to be released in the third quarter of this year.

“It will be interesting to see how it works in practice. There was some skepticism on our part on the networking industry getting together because they never got together before,” said Brad Cas move, a veteran networking analyst at IDC, in Toronto.

SDN products let businesses reduce the amount of networking gear in data centers by replacing much of their function with software that is centralized in one or more servers.

The technology has been in the spotlight ever since VMware bought SDN startup Nicira in August last year for $1.26 billion. —Reuters

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Slow transition to mobile gaming hits Zynga shares

New York, 28 April—Shares of Zynga Inc fell 10 percent in early trading on Thursday after the online game developer forecast a bigger-than-expected second-quarter loss on concerns about its slow transformation into a gaming company focused on mobile.

Zynga management on Wednesday pleaded for more time for the turnaround effort, saying that the company’s business, although stabilized, may not pick up until the latter half of the year.

Analysts said until the company showed more progress on its mobile strategy, it would have to fall back on its popular “Farmville” game and new games such as “Draw Something 2” to attract and retain gamers.

“Zynga is unlikely to ever dominate the mobile gaming market in the same way that it has the web-based gaming market for many years,” Wedbush Securities analyst Michael Pachter said. The company aims to tap gamers on smartphones as it loses users on PCs but doubts remain over whether this can sustain its revenues and profits.

“Zynga’s path toward renewed growth is uncertain and fraught with competitive and internal risks,” Pachter wrote in a research note to clients. The company has also said it would tap into potentially lucrative new revenue streams, after it revised its once-lucrative business partnership with Facebook Inc. Zynga has in recent months sought to establish a more independent network even at the risk of losing voter traffic from the social media giant and is looking to launch real-money casino games around the world, starting with Britain.

However, the number of new mobile phone customers slowed profit growth as Telenet had to spend money subsidizing new handsets for new customers.

Core profit rose 3 percent to 195.6 million euros, missing 203 million euros expected in the poll.

“Mobile and business-to-business services are really a driver for our growth in the foreseeable future,” said Chief Executive John Porter, the former head of "Telenet more than doubles mobile customers in first-quarter"

Michele, Belgium, 28 April—Belgian cable operator Telenet’s increased revenue by 11 percent in the first quarter as it more than doubled its mobile phone subscribers from a year earlier, it said on Thursday.

The group, which offers cable TV, Internet and telephony to customers in the Dutch-speaking north of Belgium, made 405.6 million euros ($527.1 million) in revenues in the first quarter.

That was broadly in line with 407 million euros expected on average by six banks and brokersages polled by Reuters.

Telenet said it had 625,000 mobile customers at the end of March, up from 257,800 a year earlier.

However, the number of new mobile phone customers slowed profit growth as Telenet had to spend money subsidizing new handsets for new customers.

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“Mobile and business-to-business services are really a driver for our growth in the foreseeable future,” said Chief Executive John Porter, the former head of AUS.

Slowdown in Apple orders weighs on LG Display’s first-quarter profit

Sioull, 28 April—LG Display Co Ltd reported its smallest profit since it returned to the black, in the second quarter of last year, as slowing demand for the iPhone and iPad pushed quarterly results down 74 percent from the previous quarter.

Core profit fell 71 percent to 219 billion won, missing 221 billion won a year earlier. LG Display had taken 221 billion won a year earlier.

But it was down 74 percent from the previous quarter, hurt by a seasonal slowdown in demand and by weaker sales to Apple, which sold fewer iPhones and iPads in the quarter as Apple struggled about slowing demand for the iPhone and iPad.

“Mobile and business-to-business services are really a driver for our growth in the foreseeable future,” said Chief Executive John Porter, the former head of AUS.

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Merger of drugmakers Valeant, Actavis on hold

NEW YORK, 28 April—A proposed merger of Valeant Pharmaceuticals International Inc and Actavis Inc was put on hold after the two drugmakers failed to agree on terms of a deal that would have created a healthcare giant with a combined market value of $35 billion, a person familiar with the situation told Reuters on Saturday. Actavis spokesman David Belian and Valeant spokeswoman Laurie Little both declined to comment.

Canada’s Valeant was seeking to buy smaller US rival Actavis for more than $13 billion before the discussions started to unravel late this week because of disagreements on the proposed terms, the source said. It was not clear on Saturday if the merger could be revived.

Valeant, which has a market capitalization of about $22.2 billion, said in February it was in talks to make more acquisitions, and it remains open to discuss a potential “merger of equals,” even as it aims to lower its $10.8 billion debt. The Montreal-based company has aggressively built up its dermatology and aesthetics portfolio in the United States in the past year, acquiring about a dozen assets or smaller companies, most recently during a short bidding war for Obagi Medical Products.

Actavis, the third-largest global generic drugmaker, is itself the product of a merger. The company changed its name in January from Watson after buying Actavis as part of its strategy to expand in international markets and offer more specialty drugs. Valeant, which was formerly known as Biovaal before it acquired Valeant and assumed its name, is scheduled to report first-quarter results on Thursday.

Japan’s ANA takes its first 787 back into the air since grounding

Japan’s All Nippon Airways’ (ANA) Boeing Co 787 Dreamliner plane landed after a test flight at Haneda Airport in Tokyo on 28 April, 2013—Reuters

Tokyo, 28 April—All Nippon Airways, the Japanese launch customer for Boeing Co’s (BA.N) 787, flew its first Dreamliner in more than three months on Sunday to test reinforced batteries installed by the US aircraft maker.

The ANA flight was the second by an airline since aviation regulators on Friday gave permission for 787 operations to restart after batteries on two of them overheated in mid-January. One was on an ANA plane in Japan and another on a Japan Airlines jet parked at Boston’s Logan Airport.

Ethiopian Airlines (ETHAUL) on Saturday became the world’s first carrier to resume flying Dreamliner passenger jets since the global fleet was grounded three months ago, carrying passengers to neighboring Kenya from Ethiopia.

The ANA flight, with company president Shinichiro Ito and Boeing’s chief of commercial aircraft, Ray Conner, among those on board, left Tokyo’s Haneda Airport at 8.59 am local time. It returned without incident at 10.54 am, a spokesman for the airline said.

ANA plans at least 230 test flights through May before resuming commercial operations. In addition to the battery fix approved by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) in the United States, Japan’s Civil Aviation Bureau has requested its airlines monitor the battery current while the jet is in the air and inspect used batteries.

ANA owns 17 of the 50 Dreamliners, which have been grounded since mid-January, while local rival JAL has seven of the carbon-composite aircraft in its fleet.

JAL will start test flying its Dreamliners early next month with the aim of returning to normal operation in June. Neither Japanese carrier, which on Tuesday will release their earnings results for the three months that ended March 31, have said how much the 787 grounding has cost them in lost revenue.

Epilepsy treatment drug use during pregnancy ups baby’s autism risk

WASHINGTON, 28 April—The use of valproate, an anticonvulsant drug used to treat epilepsy, during pregnancy has proven to be associated with a significantly increased risk of autism in offspring, according to a study published Wednesday in the Journal of the American Medical Association.

Valproate has previously been linked to increased risk in congenital malformations and delayed cognitive development, but little is known about the risk of other serious neuropsychiatric disorders.

Researchers with the Aarhus University Hospital in Denmark focused their research on 665,615 babies born between 1996 and 2006.

The average age of the children at the end of follow-up was 8.8 years. During the study period, 5,437 children were diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder, including 2,067 with childhood autism.

The researchers identified mothers of 2,644 children exposed to antiepileptic medications, these findings compared with a total risk of 1.53 percent for autism spectrum disorder and 0.48 percent for childhood autism.

“For women of childbearing potential who use antiepileptic medications, these findings must be balanced against the treatment benefits for women who require valproate for epilepsy control,” the researchers wrote.

China’s ZTE Q1 net profits surge 36 pct

BEIJING, 28 April—Chinese telecom giant ZTE Corporation saw its net profits surge 35.87 percent year on year in the first quarter of 2013 as profit margin expanded and expenses dropped, the company said on Friday.

Net profits reached 205 million yuan (33 million US dollars) in the first quarter, bringing the basic earnings per share to 0.06 yuan, ZTE said in a statement.

Business revenues slipped 2.79 percent year on year to 18.06 billion yuan during the period, but the overall gross profit margin improved for the second consecutive quarter and stronger cost controls reduced expenses, said the statement.

China’s ZTE Q1 net profits surge 36 pct

NEW DELHI, 28 April—Cutting down on salt and at the same time increasing levels of potassium in children diets will save millions of lives every year from heart disease and stroke, according to new research.

Three new studies published in British Medical Journal found that increasing potassium intake as well as cutting down on salt will reduce the risk of stroke.

The first study examined the effects of modest salt reduction on blood pressure, hormones, and blood fats (lipids) from 34 trials involving over 3,000 adults. It found a modest reduction in salt for four or more weeks led to significant falls in blood pressure in people with both raised and normal blood pressure. The effect was seen in white and black people and in men and women, thereby reducing strokes, heart attacks, and heart failure across populations.

Similar results were found in a second analysis of 56 studies; of which 37 were high quality studies reporting blood pressure, blood lipids, catecholamine levels or renal function.

It was found that reduced salt intake reduces blood pressure and has no adverse effect on blood lipids, hormone levels, or kidney function. Moderate quality studies also showed a reduction in sodium intake reduces blood pressure. Lower sodium intake was also associated with reduced risk of stroke and fatty coronary heart disease in adults.

The totality of evidence suggests that reducing sodium intake should be part of public health efforts to reduce blood pressure and cardiovascular disease, and will likely benefit most individuals, concluded the authors.

Epilepsy treatment drug use during pregnancy ups baby’s autism risk

PARIS, 28 April—Renault-Nissan (RENA. PA) hopes to receive final approval from Beijing by the summer to build its first plant in China, Chief Executive Carlos Ghosn said on Saturday.

Ghosn had said last month he expected final government approval for the plant by the end of the year.

“Renault already has a plan for China, which is ready, and currently being negotiated with the Chinese government, and I hope we will have all agreements before the summer,” Ghosn told French radio Europe 1.

He added that French Commercial operations. In addition to the battery fix approved by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) in the United States, Japan’s Civil Aviation Bureau has requested its airlines monitor the battery current while the jet is in the air and inspect used batteries.

ANA owns 17 of the 50 Dreamliners, which have been grounded since mid-January, while local rival JAL has seven of the carbon-composite aircraft in its fleet.

JAL will start test flying its Dreamliners early next month with the aim of returning to normal operation in June. Neither Japanese carrier, which on Tuesday will release their earnings results for the three months that ended March 31, have said how much the 787 grounding has cost them in lost revenue.

Epilepsy treatment drug use during pregnancy ups baby’s autism risk

WASHINGTO.N, 28 April—The use of valproate, an anticonvulsant drug used to treat epilepsy, during pregnancy has proven to be associated with a significantly increased risk of autism in offspring, according to a study published Wednesday in the Journal of the American Medical Association.

Valproate has previously been linked to increased risk in congenital malformations and delayed cognitive development, but little is known about the risk of other serious neuropsychiatric disorders.

Researchers with the Aarhus University Hospital in Denmark focused their research on 665,615 babies born between 1996 and 2006.

The average age of the children at the end of follow-up was 8.8 years. During the study period, 5,437 children were diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder, including 2,067 with childhood autism.

The researchers identified mothers of 2,644 children exposed to antiepileptic medications, these findings compared with a total risk of 1.53 percent for autism spectrum disorder and 0.48 percent for childhood autism.

“For women of childbearing potential who use antiepileptic medications, these findings must be balanced against the treatment benefits for women who require valproate for epilepsy control,” the researchers wrote.

China’s ZTE Q1 net profits surge 36 pct

BEIJING, 28 April—Chinese telecom giant ZTE Corporation saw its net profits surge 35.87 percent year on year in the first quarter of 2013 as profit margin expanded and expenses dropped, the company said on Friday.

Net profits reached 205 million yuan (33 million US dollars) in the first quarter, bringing the basic earnings per share to 0.06 yuan, ZTE said in a statement.

Business revenues slipped 2.79 percent year on year to 18.06 billion yuan during the period, but the overall gross profit margin improved for the second consecutive quarter and stronger cost controls reduced expenses, said the statement.

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Erdogan hails Kurd rebel pullout as end of “dark era” for Turkey

ISTANBUL, 28 April — Turkish Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan on Sat-urday hailed the planned withdrawal of Kurdish re-bel fighters from Turkey as the end of a “dark era” but warned against potential sabotage of a historic peace process.

The Kurdish Workers’ Party (PKK), which seeks autonomy for Tur-key’s Kurdish southeast, on Thursday ordered its fight-ers in Turkey to begin with-draw to its main base in the mountains of northern Iraq after a carefully cho-reographed peace plan. The withdrawal, due to begin on 8 May, follows months of negotiations between Turk-ish intelligence officers and Abdullah Ocalan, the PKK’s jailed leader, to try to end hostilities after the bloodi-est fighting in a decade erupted in June 2011. More than 40,000 people, mainly Kurds, have died in the con-flict since 1984.

“The door is closing on a dark era. Turkey is changing its ill fortune and is entering a new phase,” Er-dogan told a business group in comments broadcast live by state television, he first since the withdrawal was an-nounced. “No one should try to pull this process in a dif-ferent direction,” he added.

“We remain vigilant against sabotage, against provoca-tions, but today we are much more hopeful, determined and optimistic.” Some 2,000 PKK rebels are set to retreat in small groups in a process that will take months and is to be monitored by Turkish intelligence on one side and the Kurdish regional govern-ment in Iraq on the other.

Minamata exhibition to start in Fukuoka

Tokyo, 28 April — A Tokyo-based nonprofit or-ganization will open an exhibition on Minamata mercury-poisoning disease in the city of Fukuoka from 15 to 17 May, displaying contaminated sludge from Minamata Bay and samples of damaged brains of de-ceased sufferers.

Other items on display include around 20 moni-tors showing video testi-mony by patients, including about their efforts to seek redress from Chisso Corp., a chemical maker whose dumping of mercury-laced water into the bay in south-western Japan came to light over half a century ago. The exhibition also showcases a collection of photographs portraying the history of the unresolved decades-old tragedy.

The organizer, Mi-namata Forum, has held the exhibition at 22 venues since 1996, drawing more than 130,000 visitors. Vol-unteers will attend the lat-est exhibition to explain the exhibits in English given the international charac-ter of Fukuoka, where five consular offices and a UN office are located. Advance reservations for the service are required. Among the volunteers is Maya Honda, a junior at Seinan Gakuin University.

Born in Amakusa, lo-cated on the opposite shore from Minamata, both in Ku-mamoto Prefecture, Honda has been interested in the Minamata disease issue since childhood. “I decided to serve as a volunteer at the Fukuoka exhibition so I could study it again,” said Honda, who is active in the English speaking society at her university. The exhibition follows a recent land-mark ruling by the Supreme Court, which for the first time upheld a suit seeking redress from Chisso Corp., which for the first time upheld a suit seeking recognition of someone as a Minamata disease patient.

Models present creations designed by graduates from School of Fashion Art and Engineering of Beijing Institute of Fashion Technology during the China Graduate Fashion Week in Beijing, capital of China, on 27 April, 2013. XINHUA

Japan to pitch offshore floating platform to Brazil for oil projects

Tokyo, 28 April — The Japanese government has decided to make a stronger pitch to Brazil over its pro-ject to build a mega offshore hub system that will help the South American coun-try to boost development of offshore oilfields and other marine resources, a govern-ment source said on Friday. The Japanese government views the “logistics hub” system, worth more than 50 billion yen in total, as part of the country’s infrastruc-ture export that is vital to its growth strategy.

Trade minister Toshimitsu Motegi will pitch Japanese offshore fa-ctories to the country’s officials and businesspeople next month, the source said.

Saudi Arabia plans to replace expatriate workers with locals

RIYADH, 28 April — Saudi Arabia has planned to replace the eight million expatriate workers in the country, local Okaz newspaper reported on Sat-urday. The report quoted a source from the Labour Min-istry as saying that the gov-ernment plans to offer train-ing and higher salaries to attract locals to get jobs, es-ppecially the blue-collar ones.

“These jobs could be taken by locals with higher salaries if they ignored social misconceptions about blue-collar workers,” he said. He added that the main chal-lenge to replace foreigner workers with Saudis lies in the construction sector.

Yemen military intelligence official assassinated

ADEN, 28 April — Two suspected Islamic mili-tants shot dead a provincial military intelligence chief in Yemen on Saturday, a secu-rity official said, the latest in a series of assassinations in the impoverished state’s lawless south west. The gunmen opened fire from a motorbike, killing Colonel Ahmed Abdulrazzaq, intel-ligence head in Yemen’s Hadramawt Province, out-side his home in Mukalla on the Arabian Sea.

Stability in Yemen is seen as important beyond the country’s own borders because of its location next to top oil exporter Saudi Arabia and international shipping routes. It is also home to al-Qaed in the Arabian Peninsula, which Washington says is the movement’s most danger-ous arm. Around 60 military and security officials have been assassinated in south-ern and eastern Yemen in the past two years after an Islamist insurgency sprang up.

Militants allied to al Qaeda took advantage of Yemen’s political chaos and splits in the military during mass Arab Spring protests to seize control of some southern cities. The protests unseated President Ali Ab-dullah Saleh and installed an interim government which, with the help of tribal mi-litias, pushed the militants from cities they had cap-tured. However, fighting between militants and pro-government forces contin-ues throughout rural areas of southern Yemen. — Reuters

Turkey’s Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan makes a speech during the Global Alcohol Policy Symposium in Istanbul on 26 April, 2013.—REUTERS

Four die in NATO plane crash in Afghanistan

KABUL, 28 April — Four members of NATO’s International Security As-sistance Force (ISAF) were killed on Saturday when their plane crashed in south-ern Afghanistan, the coali-tion said in a statement.

ISAF said there was no insurgent activity in the area when the plane went down over the volatile Province of Zabul. The province’s police chief Rogh Lewanai told Reuters that the bad weather caused the plane to crash, in the District of Shajoi. Zabul, wedged be-tween Kandahar and Ghazni, has seen much violence over recent weeks, includ-ing a suicide bomb attack in early April which killed a young US diplomat, sev-eral US soldiers and an un-named US civilian. Dozens of Afghan civilians have also been killed there this month.—Reuters
Mandala City kept as garden city

According to the plan to build Mandalay City as Garden City, Parks and Playgrounds Department of Mandalay City Development Committee is striving for shaping the city with thick foliage of trees as greening works in the urban areas and landscaping works around moats and traffic islands.

On 22 April, officials and workers of Parks and Playgrounds Department carried out escaping works along Yangon-Mandalay Highway by growing flowery plants with the use of heavy machinery. They grew flowery plants and shade trees on the roundabouts, traffic islands and around moats.

The department nurtures the saplings to be used in extension of growing flowery plants in the city. The shade tree saplings are being nurtured at the public recreation nursery park and Kandawgyi Gardens.

Light water pump donated to fire brigade


The ward administrator said, “Our ward has five water tanks. In the past, we had difficult to fill water to the tank when fire broke out. Now, the water pump can be used for filling water to the tank.”

Drug trafficker seized in Namkham

NAYPYITAW, 28 April—Muse Anti-Drug Special Squad members, acting on tip off, searched the motorcycle driven by Chinese citizen Yang Yon Xian of Yunnan Province leaving from Namkham for Manweingyi, near Shweli Suspension Bridge in Kandawgyi Gardens.

They seized 264 grams of heroin worth K 39 million. According to the investigation, the motorcyclist got 4000 ywans (K 568,000) as drug trafficking charge along the route from Namkham to Loikyaung Village of Mansi Township in Kachin State.

Local roads upgraded to asphalt facilities in Kalay

For the first phase, the three miles and two furlongs long road section from mile post 3/1 to 6/3 will be placed with gravels. In the new fiscal year, the road will be tarmacked. Then, the road will be extended to mile post 8/3.

Wellwishers donate cash to Cetana free clinic

Well wishers donated cash to Myoma Township Free Fire Brigade practised fire drill with the use of fire engines and fire extinguishers.

Branch of tree falls down on house in Amarapura

At 8.30 pm on 22 April, strong winds broke the tree in front of Ko Htay Win in Zaygon ward. The tree branch fell down on the tea shop of Ko Htet Naing Ma Nwe Nwe Oo. At that time, Ma San Yi of the shop and Maung Pyae were under the branch.

Stake driven for construction of pre-primary school in Myitkyina

A ceremony to drive stake for construction of the pre-primary school under the supervision of Kachin State Maternal and Child Welfare Association was held in Sitapu Ward of Myitkyina on 25 April morning.

The Patron and members of the Association was held in Sitapu Ward of Myitkyina.

Fire drill practised in Hsipaw

HISPAW, 28 April—Jointly organized by Hsipaw Township Development Affairs Committee and Township Fire Services Department of Shan State (North), the fire drill was practised at Myoma Development Market on 21 April morning.

It was supervised by Chairman of the Township Fire Preventive Committee Township Administrator U Myo Tint Zaw, Executive Officer U Thein Htaik Oo of Township Development Affairs Committee, Head of Township Fire Services Department U Aung Kyi Tun and townsenders.

Wellwishers donate cash to Cetana free clinic

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**PERSPECTIVES**

**Monday, 29 April, 2013**

**Pilot census**

The Government with the participation of the United Nations Population Fund-UNFPA undertook a pilot census exercise from 30 March to 10 April to prepare for a nationwide census in 2014, the country’s first in 30 years.

During the exercise, 100 schoolteachers trained to be enumerators visited thousands of homes and questioned residents in selected villages in 20 townships across the country representing a cross-section of Myanmar’s diverse geographic and ethnic mix. Officials from the Ministry of Immigration and Population closely monitored the process to test procedures for data collection and public involvement.

To close the information gap, the Government plans to conduct a nationwide population and housing census, starting on 30 March 2014. It will be a massive undertaking, requiring nearly 100,000 enumerators to visit all households across the country in just 12 days.

Prior to the pilot, the teachers recruited as enumerators and supervisors were each given five days of training in enumeration techniques, and community representatives were informed about the process.

Exactly one year ahead of the actual census, enumerators fanned out across villages, using carefully prepared census maps. In each home, they asked heads of households 41 questions on family member’s sex and ages, education, occupations, religion, ethnicity, disabilities, births and deaths; as well as on housing, lighting and water sources, and more. At the end of each day’s counting, enumerators reviewed their experiences, checked their questionnaires and reported to officials.

UNFPA deployed a team of independent observers to help the Government learn as much as it can from the pilot. Observers also interviewed political party members, community leaders and others with influence in the townships visited, to learn their views on the census and on how to encourage full public participation. In an agreement with the United Nations signed a year ago, the Government committed to conduct the 2014 Census in accordance with international standards.

**Dissemination of dairy cattle breeding knowledge in Mohnyin**

**Mohnyin, 28 April—** In his educative talks on development of cow breeding at the administrator’s office in Aungthabye ward in Mohnyin on 11 April, Dr. Win Oo, head of Mohnyin District Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department, said that income of local families could be generated by carrying out systematic cow breeding on a manageable scale, thereby contributing towards improvement in poverty alleviation scheme.

Moreover, he gave talks on dairy cattle breeding techniques. A total of 63 Friesian dairy cows are being bred in Mohnyin Township.

**NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR**

**ARTICLE**

**A LITERARY AWARD CEREMONY**

The author of this article was invited to a Literary Award Ceremony on one weekend. It was held on the 16th March, Saturday 2013. The venue was at the Ballroom of Traders’ Hotel in downtown City of Yangon. The donor was the late Dr. Tin Shwe. As a civic body, the Country Central Committee members took on the task of selecting the best of the lot to offer recommendation for the awards.

Dr. Tin Shwe Literary Award Ceremony was inaugurated in 2001. Two Myanmar books, one an autobiography written by of Pakokku U Ohn Pe and the other on Banking written by a Banker U Thim Khine of Asia Wealth Bank were fittingly awarded in a gala ceremony attended by the State dignitaries, members of the MWJA, donor Daw Aye Thant and family, litterati and specially invited guests. In the 2003 award, the selection committee em- barked upon a new initiative to award books published in English for wider coverage among English readers.

‘Myanmar’s Attractions and Delights’ (Today publishers) written by Ba Than won the pioneer award.

Dr. Tin Shwe Literary Awards has been moving onwards with momentum in its endeavour to honour most deserving writers with its modest but prestigious prizes and in so doing help towards growth of Myanmar literature and English presentations. The ceremony was held continuously year after year in the open season, with increase in number of books and cash prizes awarded to deserving recipients. The 11th Dr. Tin Shwe Award Ceremony was held on the 16th March 2013 at Traders’ Hotel attended by Honourable Union Minister for Information U Aung Kyi, dignitaries, litterati, guests, donor Daw Aye Thant and family.

Altogether 36 books including 7 in English have been awarded to dateto dedicated writers in English which the author would like to mention namely: U Ba Than, Daw Kyi Kyi Hla, Dr. Khin Maung Nyunt, Ma Theingi, Maung Khine Zaw, U Hla Thein and Ohmhar Shi irrespectively. They were a versatile collection written by writers of fame, each endowed with education, quality, experience, expertise, intellectual exposure, dedication and painstakingly selected by the Selection Committee thus enriching the literary kaleidoscope. This year a significant milestone was created when a new Citation: ‘Literary Prestigious Award’ was con- ferred upon Dr. Thein Maung, a Poet Dagon Taryar, on his 94th birthday. Such series of awards fittingly serve as inspiration for budding as well as seasoned writers, to write more for art’s sake, the least of which is to be honourably awarded for their endeavour, which the recipients sublimely treasure.

Every year, the Daw Aye Thant, the legatee took the podium with respect and appreciation and immediately voice delivering words of appreciation for the dignitaries, the Committee, the award recipients and for writers amongst whom her husband, an active participant while alive, and dedicating further to keep this heritage alive. At the times the speaker had at her disposal necessarily to suppress her choked emotion in memory of her late husband. Every year the audience including the prize winners listened in rapt attention over- whelmed with admiration, sympathy for her philan- thropy, and adulation for the propagation and perpetuation of Myanmar literature.

While living, Dr. Tin Shwe had done so much to promote literacy. In death his widow Daw Aye Thant and children continue to perpetuate the literary heritage further onward with vibrancy and dynamism. The author offers his touching eulogy as he bow in deep respect to this dedicated donor and her illustrious literary charity.

**DIRECTOR-GENERAL**

U Hau Do Suan appointed as Myanmar Ambassador to Canada

**NAY PYI TAW, 28 April—** The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed U Hau Do Suan, Director-General of the Political Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to Canada.

**ILLEGALLY IMPORTED EGGS DESTROYED AT MUSE 105TH-MILE BORDER TRADE CAMP**

**MUSE, 28 April—** The personnel of Mobile Team seized 9720 eggs from 27 boxes illegally imported from the other country at the border trade camp of Muse 105th-Mile in Shan State after 10.15 pm on 25 April.

At 11 am on 26 April, officials destroyed the eggs in the compound of the border trade camp.
Onion prices fall in Yedashe

YEDASHE, 28 April—Market prices of onion have declined following a surge of onion supply to Yedashe market.

Villages along the Swa Creek flowing from west to east in Yedashe Township, Bago Region have grown onions on a manageable scale and harvested at the same time since the second week of April.

All the harvest except for own consumption were then sold at Swa market, local villages and pagoda festivals, leading to a fall in onion price from K 600 per viss to K 300/400 now.—Kyemon

Illegal teak doors seized in overturned truck in DaikU

DAIKU, 28 April—A TE-truck heading to Yangon from Toungoo overturned near mile post No.700 on Yangon-Mandalay road. Pymponetarson of DaikU of Bago Region yesterday morning.

Senior Forester Khin Thein of Forest Department and Public Relations Department donated benches and Book Lovers publications for readers to be able to read three daily newspapers, books, magazines and journals at the book corner conveniently.

Knowledge about prevention against bird flu shared to people

MUSE, 28 April—Staff of Muse Township Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department and those of Township Development Affairs Committee gave talks on prevention against avian influenza disease to vendors of No. 2 Market in Muse yesterday.

They also put up the posters on knowledge about bird flu in the urban areas. —Kyemon

Rain eases scorching heat in Mandalay

MANDALAY, 28 April—A downpour with gale has eased the scorching day temperatures Mandalay this morning, leaving a breathing space for the aged who are suffering from boiling summer.

The rainfalls reached 0.35 inch in Mandalay, 1.20 inches in Singaing, and 2.76 inches in Kyaukse with the strong wind dropping off the young mangoes in mango plantations in the surrounding places of Mandalay.

Fire drill hails Myanmar Fire Brigade Day in Myeik

MYEIK, 28 April—As a gesture of hailing the 67th Anniversary Myanmar Fire Brigade Day, Myeik District Fire Services Department of Taninthayi Region organized the fire drill at Myoma sports ground, here, this morning.

Eight members of Fire Services Department and 37 members of Auxiliary Fire Brigade took practice of fire drill with the use of three fire engines from Central Fire Station in Myeik and seven from auxiliary fire brigades.—Kyemon

Umbrella hoisted atop Abhaya Zinamaunag Pagoda

MAWLY, 28 April—A ceremony to hoist umbrella atop Abhaya Zinamaunag Pagoda was held in the precinct of the monastery in Magyigon Village of Simaw Village-tract in Indaw Township on 24 April afternoon.

Wellwisher U San Lwin Daw Khin Mya Than and family of Ngwah Thazin Street in Chanmyathazi Township of Mandalay donated K 100 million to the fund for hoisting the umbrella atop the pagoda with K 10 million contributions of the local people. The ceremony to mark the hoisting diamond orb and pennant-shaped vane atop the pagoda was held at the pagoda for five days, attended by over 3000 local people.

Tachilek gets new traffic lights

TACHILEK, 28 April—Five new traffic lights will be installed at crossroads in Tachilek as the border town is experiencing growing traffic congestion following an increase in automobile and motor bike users.

The township development affairs committee has recently constructed a ring road from No. 2 Friendship Bridge to May Flower Ground through Hasansai Ward in a move to ease the traffic jams. Those traffic lights will be set up at Kengtiung exit junction, Arkhar Market junction, Parlinsepan junction, No. 2 Friendship junction and stadium street junction, with each costing around 7.8 million kyats.

Transformer donated for Pazunmyaung Village, Nyaunglebin Tsp

NYAUNGLEBIN, 28 April—Presiding Sayadaw of Pangweyone Pariyatti Monastery Pangweyone Monastic Education School Pangweyone Tawya Win Yadana Sasana Yeiktha and Dhammayanthy Sasana Yeiktha (Shwegyin Township) Agga Maha Pandita San San Oo also presented a transformer to mark the Sayadaw’s birthday.

The donation ceremony was held this morning, attended by the Sayadaw, donors and officials. The donations make electric power available in Pazunmyaung Village.

Mandalay police detain 12 men for gang-style crimes

MANDALAY, 28 April—Police from Mandalay Police Station No. 9 arrested 12 men including Bayda Gyi (a) Pyae Phyoo Min, aged 22, and charged with gang-style criminal activities in earlier April.

They were accused of destroying a lottery booth, confronting sentries and breaking windbreaker of a white van.

The police in Mandalay, the second largest city of Myanmar, have split into small squads to stop traffic accidents and gang of thugs.—Kyemon

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**Ethiopian Airlines first to fly 787 Dreamliner since grounding**

Addis Ababa, 28 April—Ethiopian Airlines on Saturday became the world’s first carrier to resume flying Boeing Co’s 787 Dreamliner passenger jets, landing the first commercial flight since the global fleet was grounded three months ago following incidents of overheating in the batteries providing auxiliary power. The flight from Addis Ababa to Nairobi was the first since regulators grounded all Dreamliners on 16 January after two lithium-ion battery meltdowns that occurred on two jets with other airlines within two weeks that month.

US regulators approved a new battery design last week, clearing the way for installation and a resumption of Dreamliner flights by airlines around the world. The battery faults raised fears of a possible mid-air fire, drawing worldwide attention to Boeing and denting the reputation of its flagship plane. “I wasn’t aware that I was going to be on the 787 Dreamliner until on my way to the airport. It was a good service and the flight was pleasant,” said Senait Mekonnen, an Ethiopian restaurateur, moments after the plane landed. The fully booked flight arrived at Nairobi’s Jomo Kenyatta International Airport just after 9.30 GMT, with passengers giving the crew a round of applause upon landing.

The grounding of the Dreamliner fleet has cost Boeing an estimated $600 million, halted deliveries of the aircraft and forced some airlines to lease alternative planes. The Dreamliner cost an estimated $2 billion to develop and represents a quantum leap forward in design, offering a 20 per cent reduction in fuel burn and added cabin comforts such as higher humidity, larger windows and modern styling. But by sparking fears of a potentially catastrophic mid-air fire, the battery problems drew worldwide attention to both aircraft safety and the technology behind lithium-ion batteries, which are widely used in laptops, mobile phones, electric cars and other products.—Reuters

**Serbian parliament ratifies agreement with Kosovo**

Under it, Kosovo security forces will not be allowed to patrol Serbian region, except in cases of natural disasters and with approval of NATO and Serbian authorities.

The agreement, reached after 10 rounds of talks under the auspices of EU high representative Catherine Ashton, was marked as historic breakthrough and great success of European diplomacy, by officials in the EU and the United States, providing long term peace and European future for both parties.

In his address to the Parliament before the vote, Dacic said the agreement represents most of what was achievable, and provides continuity to the country’s European integration process, which is vital for Serbia. “Today we do not only talk about the Brussels Agreement, but about what kind of Serbia will we have tomorrow: one of soup kitchens and humiliated, or one that is strong and developed in which there will be cure for everybody,” said Dacic.

Speaking about the consequences of refusing the agreement, the Serbian prime minister said that in such situation Kosovo would continue by itself towards EU and Serbia would have stayed off the road and isolated.

“Somebody had to put the end to the past, misery and endless defeats,” said Dacic. Kosovo, a Serbian province, unilaterally declared independence in 2008. However, Serbia refuses to recognize it as an independent country. The EU set it as a precondition for Serbia’s EU aspirations that the country must normalize relations with neighbours, especially Kosovo.

**Brazilian candidate confident of winning top WTO post**

Rio de Janeiro, 28 April—Brazilian diplomat Roberto Azevedo, one of the two finalists in the race for the top WTO chief, said on Friday he was confident of getting the top post at the global trade body.

Azevedo, Brazil’s representative to the World Trade Organization (WTO) since 2008, said in a statement that he had a ‘reason- able chance of success’ in getting nominated as WTO Director-General.

“We have received the support of countries in all parts of the world and in various stages of development,” he said.

Brazilian Foreign Minister Antonio Patriota said the diplomat has “all the qualifications” to head the WTO.

He stressed that one of the main challenges facing any new WTO chief will be to overcome the problems of the long-stalled Doha Round of talks. Azevedo was Brazil’s leading negotiator in the Round. Azevedo’s rival is Herminio Blanco, Mexi- co’s former trade minister and chief negotiator in the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA).

The result of the final round of voting is expected by 29 May. The winner who garners most support from the WTO’s 159 member states will succeed Frenchman Pascal Lamy in September.

**Train hits bus in east US, injuring Ten**

Washington, 28 April—A least 10 people were hurt after a crash between a rural transit bus and a freight train in western Pennsylvania, local media reported Friday.

According to WTAE-TV, which serves the Pittsburgh area, the bus was carrying passengers to a programme for people with developmental disabilities when the train honked at it. The bus was stopped on the tracks at a non-gated crossing over a rural road, but didn’t move.

Police are still investigat- ing why the 60-year-old bus driver was stopped on the tracks, as well as the possibility that Friday’s thick morning fog was a factor. All passengers are adults, aged from 26 to 90. Two medical helicopters were called to fly patients to Pittsburgh hospitals. Other patients were transported by ambulances.—Xinhua

**Chile stresses closer ties with Caribbean region**

Port-au-Prince, 28 April— Chilean President Sebastian Pinera on Friday underscored the importance of his country’s closer ties with the Caribbean region, especially its trade potential with the region amid the global economic crisis. Speaking at the 5th Summit of the Association of Caribbean States (ACS) hosted by Haiti, Pinera said “we have a free trade agreement with the community of Central American countries and we have been looking to expand trade ties with the countries of the Caribbean also.”

“Taking about the global economic crisis, Pinera called on “the community of Caribbean countries to be prepared,” noting that an economic recovery will present many opportunities. Pledging to strengthen Chile’s ties with the region, Pinera said Chile “may be physically far away” from the Caribbean, “but its affection, disposition and affection place it very close.”

Like the Caribbean countries, Chile also struggles with “natural disasters, such as earthquakes, tsunamis, floods, volcanic eruptions, and as such we have established a line of cooperation that has been prolific and useful,” Pinera said.

Since 2004, Chile has maintained a military and police contingent in Haiti as part of the United Nations’ peace-keeping troops. Chile also took part in the UN mission to support the Caribbean country’s re-construction efforts after a massive earthquake hit the country in 2010.—Xinhua

**Gunmen kill eight security members in Iraq**

Baghdad, 28 April—Unidentified gunmen on Saturday killed eight security members in the north and west of the Iraqi capital of Baghdad, the police said. Gunmen in two cars shot dead after midnight five members of government-backed paramilitary group, known as Awakening Council, when they opened fire on a checkpoint of the group near Salahuddin’s provincial capital of Tikrit, some 170 km north of Baghdad, a provincial police source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

The Awakening Council group, also known as Sons of Iraq, consists of armed groups, including some powerful anti-US Sunni insurgent groups, who turned their rifles against the al-Qaeda network after the latter exercised indiscriminate killings against both Shiites and Sunni Muslim communities.—Xinhua

**Children play at a dried-up pond in Duo-sum village of Kuming City, capital of southwest China’s Yunnan Province, on 26 March, 2013. Over 12 million people are affected by the lingering drought in the province. Xinhua**
**Japan’s spy satellites up and running to monitor Earth daily**

**TOKYO, 28 April** — The Cabinet Satellite Intelligence Center said on Friday the No 4 radar satellite launched in January has moved into full operation, achieving the government’s four-satellite capability needed for monitoring anywhere on Earth within one day.

The Japanese government decided to introduce what it calls information-gathering satellites following North Korea’s 1998 firing of a Taepodong intermediate-range ballistic missile that flew over Japan. The target coverage — promised on at least two satellites each operational for optical and radar surveillance — was achieved nearly 10 years later than its initial plan due to launch failures and other setbacks.

The No. 4 radar unit completed initial adjustments and function testing in around three months, the centre said.

A radar satellite is believed to be capable of distinguishing an object as small as 1 metre on the ground even at night or through clouds. The Nos 1 and 2 radar units broke down in orbit. Only the No 3 satellite has maintained operational, besides the No 4 unit.

Besides these radar units, three optical satellites are in operation — the Nos 3 and 4 units, believed to be able to detect objects as small as 60 centimeters on the ground, and the No 2 unit, which is one generation older. The government has poured in around 920 billion yen for the project. For “security reasons,” the government has not disclosed specifics of these spy satellites’ capabilities and images obtained.

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**Holidaymakers’ rush starts as Japan enters Golden Week**

**OSAKA, 28 April** — Kansai Electric Power Co is considering applying in July for government permission to resume the operation of the Nos. 3 and 4 reactors at its Takahama nuclear plant, sources close to the matter said on Saturday.

The Osaka-based utility firm eyes the resumption of the plant in Fukui Prefecture on the Sea of Japan coast after confirming if the plant meets the Nuclear Regulation Authority’s new safety requirements to take effect in July, according to the sources.

Kansai Electric is operating the Oi nuclear plant in Fukui, two of whose reactors are the only ones now online in Japan amid other reactors’ suspension due to safety concerns after the March 2011 earthquake and tsunami triggered the devastating disaster at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear complex.

The company sees it as essential to additionally resume the operation of Takahama to secure a stable supply of electricity, the sources said.

But even if the company obtains permission to resume the Takahama facility, it will have to seek the understanding of the local community, making it uncertain when it will be able to restart the plant.

In a bid to meet the new safety requirements, Kansai Electric is taking measures to enhance the safety of the Takahama reactors, including installation of a system against hydrogen explosions and plans to construct tsunami barriers.

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**Kansai Electric mulls application for resuming Takahama nuclear plant**

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**Wellington, 28 April** — Maori and Chinese people in New Zealand came together to recognize ancestral bonds during a day of cultural celebration in Auckland on Saturday, the first event of its kind. The Taniwha and Dragon Festival kicked off at Auckland’s Orakei Marae (Maori meeting place) on Saturday morning and celebrations included Chinese dragon drummers and a battle between Maori Warriors and a giant Dancing Dragon.

Speakers at the festival recounted the ancestral and traditional ties between Maori and Chinese people, their historical relationships and hopes for a shared future. The festival also featured traditional and contemporary Maori and Chinese entertainment, culture, craft and food stalls. At the heart of the Taniwha and Dragon Festival was a workshop where traditional Maori and Chinese kites were made and flown. Spectators were also treated to performances by Kiwi band Herbs and pop star Miss Janice Chong.

“Orakei and Chinese tribal people who first in history came together, especially for generations, it’s our opportunity to meet the other for generations, it’s a unique opportunity to meet the other for generations, it’s also to celebrate a shared history and a shared future. We encourage all Chinese people to come along, especially to attend the cultural welcome,” said Arthur Loo, Auckland Chinese Community chairman. Loo said the Chinese community in Auckland is honored to be the first to receive this kind of welcome onto Orakei Marae.

“We are very excited to be welcomed into the heart of the Maori community of Auckland. This is a unique opportunity to meet the tribal people who first in history came together, especially to celebrate a shared history and a shared future. We encourage all Chinese people to come along, especially to attend the cultural welcome,” said Arthur Loo, Auckland Chinese Community chairman. Loo said the Chinese community in Auckland is honored to be the first to receive this kind of welcome onto Orakei Marae.

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**Maori, Chinese celebrate bonds in New Zealand**

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**A robot designed by local middle school students is seen during a robot competition in Karamay, northwest China’s Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, on 27 April, 2013. Over 200 competitors in Xinjiang took part in the robot competition held here on Saturday. — Xinhua**

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**Rescuers work at a collapsed hospital in Bhopal, India, on 26 April, 2013. Around 15 of nearly 20 people trapped under the debris were rescued after ceiling of a hospital collapsed on Friday in Bhopal in north India, according to local news channel CNN-IBN. — Xinhua**

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**Sisters look happy as they are carried aboard a luggage cart at Narita Airport near Tokyo, crowded with people departing for overseas destinations, on 27 April, 2013, as Japan entered the Golden Week spring holiday season that day. — Kyodo News**

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**Tokyo, 28 April** — Major airports, highways and railway stations in Japan were crowded with holidaymakers on Saturday as the country entered the Golden Week spring holiday season.

According to Narita International Airport Corp., the number of departures from the airport for overseas destinations will reach about 45,000 on Saturday alone while arrivals will peak on 6 May at about 51,000. It expects total departures and arrivals on international flights during Golden Week to come to about 753,000.

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**The Japan Road Traffic Information Center said on Saturday morning a line of motor vehicles stretched for 12 km from the Ayase karazuka interchange, near the Tomei Expressway from the Tokyo to Nagoya.**

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American Idol producers secretly plotted to replace Mariah Carey with Jennifer Lopez

NEW DELHI, 28 April—Boos were keen to see the return of On the Floor singer Jennifer Lopez midway through the show’s current season but, sources tell The Hollywood Reporter, once they were threatened with legal action by Mariah Carey’s team they backed off.

The insiders added a search has already begun to replace Mariah, Nicki Minaj and possibly even the entire judge’s panel—which also includes Randy Jackson and Keith Urban—for the next season.

Mariah was a huge signing for the show, but has proved less popular with viewers on the show than Jennifer, who appeared in the previous two seasons, was. Mariah’s comments and criticism have been criticised as passive and disengaged, and she has been overshadowed by Nicki on the show.

However, another source says research has shown Nicki’s performance on the show has not been as popular as expected, adding: “The core viewer is a Midwestern, Southern, older woman who is threatened by Nicki’s aggressiveness.”

American Idol’s ratings have suffered this season, with its Wednesday show getting the worst ratings since the show began in 2001. In contrast, rival show The Voice is riding high in the ratings due in part to boasting Shakira and Usher on its judging panel. Official sources have denied any attempt to replace Mariah on the show. A Fox spokesperson said: “This is just another ridiculous ‘Idol’ judge rumour, likely started by talks of Jennifer performing on the finale.”—Reuters

Gwyneth Paltrow embarrassed over ‘disaster’ dress

LOS ANGELES, 28 April—Actress Gwyneth Paltrow admits she was embarrassed after realising she bared her buttocks in a revealing dress at the Iron Man 3 premiere.

She had chosen a daring Antonio Berardi gown, which featured sheer side panels and left her backside on display. She has said the outfit was put together in a last-minute intimate grooming session.

The film, set in Laos and shot in its native language, is directed by Australian filmmaker Kim Mordaunt. It chronicles the struggles of a displaced family led by a boy and seeking a new home, and the suffering wrought by both war and economic globalization.

Most characters were played by non-professional actors, including Sithiphon Disamoe as 10-year-old Ahlo, who took home the best actor prize for the film which the jury said “offers us a transcendent tale of hope and perseverance in a world that few Westerners ever have the chance to see.”—Reuters

Laos-set “The Rocket” takes Tribeca Film Festival’s top prize

NEW YORK, 28 April—The Australian film “The Rocket” picked up two top honours on Thursday at the Tribeca Film Awards, winning best narrative feature and best actor for the performance of a non-professional child actor.

The film, set in

South Korean rap sensation Psy honoured at Tribeca Film Festival

NEW YORK, 28 April—South Korean rapper and Internet sensation Psy was honoured as a transcultural phenomenon by the Tribeca Film Festival on Friday along with a host of other luminaries ranging from choreographer Twyla Tharp to controversial media host Glenn Beck.

“Who knew, right?” Psy said as he presented his Tribeca Disruptive Innovation Award. “Giving me this award in itself is innovation, I think.”

Referring to his sudden worldwide fame both on and off the Internet, where his videos have racked up more than one billion views on YouTube, Psy said, “I still cannot believe what happened right now.”

“I’m still figuring out the reason for this happening like this,” he said, noting that he had been working in music in his native South Korea for over a decade.

The Disruptive Innovation Awards honour those whose ideas have broken the mould to create significant impact.—Reuters

South Korean rapper Psy poses during a news conference before his concert in Seoul on 13 April, 2013. —Reuters

The makers of the show were worried about the ratings of American Idol going down.
New Orleans, 28 April—Overnight leader Lucas Glover, bidding for his fourth PGA Tour title, survived a back nine wobble to move two strokes clear after Saturday’s third round of the Zurich Classic of New Orleans in Avondale, Louisiana.

At one point three ahead of the chasing pack, former US Open champion Glover bogeyed the 14th and 17th in breezy conditions before sinking a two-putt birdie at the par-five 18th.

In pursuit of victory in nearly two weeks, the 33-year-old par 70 to post a 14-under total of 202 at the TPC Louisiana.

“The wind picked up a little bit more than was forecast,” Glover told Golf Channel about the tougher conditions facing the late starters on a mainly overcast afternoon. “There was a bunch of good scores earlier and we knew that.”

“I knew there were some birdies there, I just didn’t take as much of an advantage as I should have.”

 Fellow Americans Kyle Stanley (65), Jimmy Walker (66), Billy Horschel (66) and D.A. Points (70) were tied for second at 12 under with burly compatriot Kevin Stadler a further stroke back after matching the day’s best score with a nine-birdie 65.

British world number four Justin Rose, the highest-ranked player in the field, was five off the pace after returning a 70 with defending champion Jason Dufner a further shot back at eight under, after a 67.

Twenty-eight players are within six strokes of the lead heading into Sunday’s final round but Glover, who carded a two-under-par 70 to post a 14-under total of 202 at the TPC Louisiana.

“I knew there were some birdies there, I just didn’t take as much of an advantage as I should have.”

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Twenty-eight players are within six strokes of the lead heading into Sunday’s final round but Glover, who clinched his only major title at the 2009 US Open, remains in command.

“Tee to green is pretty good, although today wasn’t as good as the first two days, and my irons were okay,” Glover said of his overall game.

New Light of Myanmar

Monday, 29 April, 2013
SPORTS
14 New Light of Myanmar

Juventus bid to sign Nani

Rome, 28 April—Juventus, who made an offer to Nani before, this time proposed to double his salary to 130,000 pound per week.

The 26-year-old Portuguese winger would provide different tactical options for Juventus head coach Antonio Conte, who complained Simone Pepe’s injury robbed him of the chance to play 4-3-1. X Nani is expected to be happy to move on, as he has made only six Premier League starts for Manchester United this season.

There are hopes his price-tag can be lowered by the fact Nani’s current contract expires in June 2014 and he has rejected a renewal.

Gritty Sharapova sets up Stuttgart final against Li

Berlin, 28 April—Top seed and holder Maria Sharapova battled through a tough three-set clay-court match for the third day in a row on Saturday to book a place in the final of the Stuttgart Grand Prix.

The Russian ended the challenge of home favourite Angelique Kerber, beating the third seed 6-3 2-6 7-5 to set up a title showdown with Li Na of China who put out American qualifier Bethanie Mattek-Sands 6-4 6-3.

Sharapova, who was also taken to three sets by Czech Lucie Safarova on Thursday and by Serb Ana Ivanovic 24 hours later, has an excellent record when it is taken the distance.

The world number two had won 28 of her previous 31 three-set encounters and it was the Russian’s extra aggression that proved the key against Kerber.

“I’m really happy with the way I fought through the third set,” Sharapova told the tour’s official website (www.wtatennis.com). “Obviously I’d prefer to win easier but that isn’t always the situation you’re given.”

“I had to play a longer match today and the great thing is I got through. I did my job out there,” added Sharapova after winning her 15th straight claycourt match.

Kerber said she would take the positives out of her run to the semi-finals.

“I’m disappointed because it was close and tough today,” the German explained. “But I’ve had a great week.

“I’m feeling good on clay and I will take this experience and look forward to the tournaments coming up.”

World number five Li enjoyed a more straightforward passage into the final as she swept past Mattek-Sands in straight sets.

Herrera’s last gasp equalizer puts Barca’s title celebrations on hold

Madrid, 28 April—FC Barcelona have to wait another week before they celebrate the BBVA Primera Liga title, as a last minute equalizer from Athletic Club Bilbao midfielder Ander Herrera puts Barca’s title celebrations on hold.

Barca kicked off knowing they still need points in order to clinch the title and at least try and win.
Nevertheless, he included what could be his first choice defense for the game, along with Xavi Hernandez, while Leo Messi was named among the substitutes.

Athletic meanwhile still need points in order to climb away from the degrada
dation zone and started the game purposefully, looking to pressure Barca high up the field and use the pace of Iker Muniain and Markel Susaeta.

Lionel Messi (R) of Barcelona duels for the ball with Ander Herrera of Real Zaragoza during the la Liga match between Barcelona and Real Zaragoza at the Camp Nou stadium. 

Reuters
Nadal makes the way to his eighth victory in Barcelona

Barcelona, (Spain), 28 April—Spanish star Rafa Nadal is already on track to his eighth trophy in the tennis tournament Conde de Godo in Barcelona after beating Canada’s Milos Raonic 6-4, 6-0 on Saturday. Players had to play in heavy conditions because of the rain, which forced the organization to delay the semifinal matches by almost five hours.

The organization decided that the two semifinals matches would be held at the same time with Nadal and Raonic playing in the central court and the Spanish Nicolas Almagro and Germany’s Philipp Kohlschreiber in the court one of the Real Club de Tenis of Barcelona. The fifth-ranked Nadal started less focused and Raonic, ranked 13th in the world, played hard at the beginning winning the first two games in a tight first set. However the Spaniard managed to dominate the rest of the set beating Raonic 6-4. Nadal clearly dominated the second set, breaking Raonic’s serve at least three times, while playing the best match of the week after suffering in previous games to beat Argentina’s Carlos Berlocq in the second round and the French player Benoît Paire on Friday.—Xinhua

One killed, seven injured in plane crash in Brazil

Marajo Island to Belem in Para state, crashed onto an avenue in the middle of the city when it was preparing to land in Belem’s Briga-deiro Protasio Airport. The crash left the plane’s front part completely destroyed, causing injuries to all eight occupants including the pilot, who was taken to a nearby hospital. However, one of the passengers, a woman in her 20s, died on arrival, the authorities said. The cause of the accident is still being investigated.—Xinhua

Wrongly jailed men seek compensation

Hangzhou, 28 April — Two men who were wrongly jailed for almost a decade are demanding 7.02 million yuan (1.1 million US dollars) in compensation from the state, officials at the Higher People’s Court in east China’s Zhejiang Province said on Saturday. The court acquitted Zhang Hua and his uncle Zhang Gaoping of rape on 26 March this year after a retrial found insufficient evidence to support their conviction. The court also notified the two of their right to seek state compensation upon their acquittal.

The application for compensation has been submitted, said court officials, adding that the court will handle the case in accordance with the law so that the two men can get their lives back to normal as soon as possible. Zhang Guofa, an elder brother of Zhang Gaoping, said the sum that they are demanding is reasonable. It includes state compensation and other subsidies for the number of years they spent in jail. According to court hearings, on the night of May 18, 2003, the Zhangs gave a ride to a 17-year-old woman named Wang when they were transporting freight to the provincial capital Hangzhou. The woman was found dead the next day.

Police detained the pair on 23 May, 2003, as suspects in Wang’s death but failed to provide physical evidence to bring charges against them. Under pressure, Zhang Gaoping said they were forced to confess to the crime of rape during police interrogations. Pro- vincial authorities are still investigating the wrongdoings concerning all law enforcement organs over the wrongful convictions.

The payment the Zhangs are demanding is much higher than the 650,000 yuan of state compensation given to another wrongly convicted man, Zhao Zhaohai, a farmer in Zhengzhou, central China’s Henan Province, in 2010. Zhao served 11 years in prison for murder. However, the man was alleged to have murdered turned up alive. Zhao was released in May 2010. He said the po- liceman tortured him into making a confession.—Xinhua

Three factory workers injured

Jajpur (Odisha), 28 April — Three contractual workers were today injured when some solid objects fell on them at a steel plant in Kalinga Nagar industrial complex in Jajpur District, police said.

The workers on duty sustained injuries when some solid objects being uplifted by a crane fell on them from about 60 feet high in the premises of the under-construction plant. The in- jured workers were rushed to the local government hospital at Danagadha.—PTI

Drivers warned for May Day traffic rush

Beijing, 28 April — With the approach of the May Day holiday, traffic control authorities are warning drivers against dangerous activities like drunk driving, overloading their vehicles, speeding and driv- ing while tired.

The holiday, which will last from 29 April to 1 May this year, will see millions of Chinese traveling across the country by automobile. Traffic during the holi- day is expected to increase by 15 to 20 percent com- pared to last year’s holiday, according to the traffic ad- ministration under the Min- istry of Public Security.

Heavy rain will make driving difficult in some parts of the country, particularly south China, the administration said, adding that drivers should plan their routes carefully and learn as much as they can about cur- rent traffic conditions before traveling.—Xinhua

This file photo taken on 21 Feb, 2009 shows the Chinese bronze rabbit head sculpture displayed at the Grand Palais in Paris, France. The family of French luxury goods retailer Pinault announced Friday in Beijing that it will donate two pieces of Chinese cultural relics looted by Anglo-French allied forces during the Second Opium War in 1860, including the rabbit head, back to China.—Xinhua

RIO DE JANEIRO, 28 April — A small plane crashed Friday in Belém, northern Brazil, killing one and injuring seven, accord- ing to local authorities. The plane, a single en- gine Cessna 210L model on its way from Chaves,
Preventive measures against flood and construction of drainage systems inspected in Ayeyawady Region

**YANGON, 28 April—**
Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing meeting with local farmers in Ayeyawady Region.—MNA

**Two police officers shot as Italian government sworn in**

**ROME, 28 April —**
Two Italian police officers were shot and wounded on Sunday outside the prime minister’s office in Rome just as new premier Enrico Letta’s government was being sworn in just a kilometre (mile) away. It was not clear whether the attack by a man police said was unemployed was linked to the launch of the new government at a time of deep political divisions and social tensions exacerbated by a long slump in the euro zone’s third largest economy.

 Newly installed Interior Minister Angelino Alfano said the attack appeared to be an “isolated act” that did not suggest any wider security threat. But there were immediate calls for politicians to try to calm a volatile public mood. “All political forces have to work together to lower the level of tension that the economic, social and institutional climate has already created,” said centre-left parliamentarian Emanuele Fiano.

Letta, 46, the moderate deputy head of the centre-left Democratic Party (PD), on Saturday ended two months of political stalemats after February’s inconclusive election when he united former political rivals in a broad coalition government.

The mix of centre-right and centre-left politicians and unaffiliated technocrats was largely welcomed in Italy’s mainstream press on Sunday, especially for the record of seven female ministers and the relatively young average age. However, the political risks that Letta faces were spelled out on Sunday by a close ally of centre-right leader Silvio Berlusconi who is a core stakeholder in the government. Renato Brunetta, lower house leader of Berlusconi’s People of Freedom party (PDL), said the government would fall unless Letta promised in his maiden speech to swiftly abolish an unpopular housing tax and repay the 2012 levy to taxpayers.

**Australian Senate President and party visit St Mary’s Cathedral, Shwedagon Pagoda**

**YANGON, 28 April—**
A delegation led by President of the Australian Senate Senator Hon John Joseph Hogg this morning visited St Mary’s Cathedral in Bo Aung Kyaw Street. They signed in the visitor’s book and joined in prayer there.

They also visited Shwedagon Pagoda and offered flowers, water and lights to the pagoda. The Pagoda Board of Trustees presented Shwedagon Pagoda Replica Mosaic and Pagoda History Book to the delegation as Dhamma gift. They then looked round the pagoda.—MNA

**Three killed in explosion at fireworks factory in India**

**NEW DELHI, 28 April —**
At least three people were killed and eight others sustained burn injuries in an explosion at a fireworks factory in the southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu on Sunday, a senior police official said.

“The explosion happened at Sri Rathna Fire Works factory in Narasapuram near the state’s Sivakasi District when the workers were preparing a mixture of chemicals for fire crackers.

While three people died on the spot, the injured have been admitted to a local hospital where the condition of some are said to be serious,” he said, on condition of anonymity.

A probe has been ordered into the incident, the official added. The Sivakasi District is the state’s fire cracker producing hub. But many illegal fireworks factories also operate in the area which do not adhere to basic fire safety norms and thus vulnerable to explosions.—Xinhua

**President of Australian Senate Senator Hon John Joseph Hogg and party at St Mary’s Cathedral in Bo Aung Kyaw Street.—MNA**

**Carabinieri police stand as they patrol around the area where gunshots were fired, in front of Chigi Palace, in Rome on 28 April, 2013.—REUTERS**