Blueprint beyond 2015 and Financial Integration main topics at 18th ASEAN Finance Ministers’ Meeting

By Kerstin Winter

The regional and global economic outlook, a post-2015 vision for the ASEAN Economic Community and banking sector reforms were among the main issues discussed at the 18th ASEAN Foreign Ministers’ retreat meeting in Nay Pyi Taw on Friday, with the Roadmap for Monetary and Financial Integration expected to top the agenda on Saturday, officials said.

Following the talks, Myanmar’s Finance Minister U Win Shein told the New Light of Myanmar that, “we discussed financial inclusion of our unbanked people as a second main topic after talks on the economic outlook. The outcome is looking good, as we had a very frank and open discussion, and received detailed information about the developments in each ASEAN member country.” Discussions on a blueprint beyond 2015, and progress of initiatives under the ASEAN central bank governors’ forum are among the main goals of the ministers.

Minister of Finance II of Malaysia H.E. Dato Seri Ahmad Husni Hanadzlah, after the meeting said that new initiatives will be required “as the financial development of each country is different, with some ASEAN countries still not having a stock market.”

Regarding Monetary and Financial Integration and ASEAN financial cooperation, Finance Minister of Vietnam Dinh Tien Dung told NLM before the meeting that “I think ASEAN member countries are making big efforts for integration—on a bilateral as well as multilateral level. And we will see more efforts made in terms of economic development and economic reforms to join hands, to join the ASEAN Economic Community 2015.”

With the Vietnamese finance minister visiting Myanmar for the first time, he said he remained positive about the country’s reform process and development.

“From what I have seen here, development of infrastructure and efforts to create political stability are progressing, so I am confident we will see rapid economic growth in the very near future. In fact, big efforts are being undertaken to develop and modernize the infrastructure, and this is a signal that Myanmar will be an industrialized nation in the future,” he said.

Equally optimistic on the outlook for Myanmar was the Malaysian Finance Minister II, saying the country once had a strong economy and will play a major role in the region again.

“‘Myanmar used to be one of the largest economies in SE Asia in the 1960s, and now it is opening up again. I just traveled from Yangon to Nay Pyi Taw by car and I could see vast areas of land that are not being used and there is a big opportunity for investment here and the economic growth of the people. We plan to develop highways linking Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos and Myanmar. Once the plans for the deep sea port here in the south materialize, import and export will become easy. I could see Myanmar stand up again and I believe it will be a very important economic center in the future. Not only for the ASEAN region, but for the people here,’” H.E. Dato Seri Ahmad Husni Hanadzlah said in an interview with NLM.

As the government has been emphasizing the democratization and reforms of all sectors, investors’ confidence is improving, but several major challenges remain.

(See page 4)
Development of tourism industry depends on cooperation between government and private sector: Vice-President U Nyan Tun

NAV PYI TAW, 4 April—Vice-President U Nyan Tun attended first meeting of the Central Committee for Development of National Tourism Industry at the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism in Nay Pyi Taw on Friday.

Speaking at the meeting, the Vice-President said that tourism industry can create various economic opportunities, enable regional economy and help reduce poverty, adding it has potential to be a driving force for economic growth of the country.

He continued that the Hotels and Tourism Law was enacted in Myanmar in 1993 in order to operate tourism industry by private sector. Due to regional economic crisis and economic sanctions imposed by western countries against Myanmar, development of tourism industry has been resulted. Since taking office by civilian government in 2011, tourist arrival in Myanmar remarkably reached 1.06 million in 2012 and 2.04 million in 2013, he said.

“Policy on inclusiveness of social organizations in tourism industry” that is participated by all nationals and social organizations across the country was laid down to create prosperity for local people. Sustainable tourism is to consider economic, social and environmental impacts in tourism industry and fulfill necessities of local communities, he added. He highlighted that development of tourism industry depends on cooperation between the government and private sector and Myanmar has all necessary infrastructures to boost tourism boom.

Myanmar Tourism Master Plan (2013-2020) was drawn with the assistance of international organizations under the leadership of Ministry of Hotels and Tourism, he said, stressing the importance of preservation of cultural heritage regions. He called for participation of ministries concerned, region governments and social organizations to join hands in implementing aforesaid tasks, saying provision of international organizations are required.

Secretary of the committee Union Minister U Htay Aung reported on matters to be followed in carrying out regional tourism industry, future plans and prospects for development of tourism boom.

New production road opened in Nay Pyi Taw

NAV PYI TAW, 4 April—Union Minister at the President Office Nay Pyi Taw Mayor U Thein Nyunt formally opened the production road near Ywathit Village in Dekkhinathiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw Council Area on Friday.

The 5 miles 3 furlongs long connective asphalt road is 160 ft wide which is part of the Yangon-Mandalay Expressway. It was constructed along the road of Lewe, Dekkhinathiri, Ottarathiri and Tatkon townships funded by the government and there are many contours in the road.—MNA

MNA

Myanmar parliamentary delegation leaves for ROK

YANGON, 4 April—With the arrangement of The Asia Foundation, a Myanmar parliamentary delegation led by Representative of People’s Parliament U Kyi Myint left Yangon International Airport by air for Republic of Korea to pay an excursion there on Friday evening.

The officials from respective parliament saw off them at the airport.—MNA

EU trains Myanmar Police officers on community policing and giving bicycles

NAV PYI TAW, 4 April—The 16 Myanmar Police Officers and 12 Myanmar Police Non-Commissioned Officers (NCOs) graduated from the EU-funded Community Policing program delivering in both pilot areas—Mingala Taungnyunt and Sangyoung townships in Yangon.

Police officers from these townships have taken part in two 4-week programs (separate courses for officers and NCOs). They received intense training in best practice Community Policing, based on respecting human and fundamental rights.

MNA

Press Release of Ministry of Health

Medicins Sans Frontier(s)-Holland (MSF-Holland) is an organization that operates to fight against AIDS, TV and Malaria and has been allowed to register in Myanmar since 9-7-2012. Although MSF-Holland’s arm and work procedures are beneficial to people, unwanted problems have been occurred with local people in Rakhine State due to weakness of MSF-Holland’s some staff. So, MSF-Holland’s operations are temporarily suspended in Rakhine State.

During temporary suspension period, the Ministry of Health will cooperate with other INGOs with regard to MSF-Holland’s functions in Rakhine State and is striving for providing health care services to locals. The Ministry of Health is cooperating in public health care service in joining hands with UN agencies and social organizations at home and abroad.

MSF-Holland’s functions are temporarily suspended according to peace and stability in Rakhine State. The government is coordinating with MSF-Holland to cooperate in health care service and MSF-Holland’s activities will be allowed to operate in Rakhine State at an opportune time.

The Ministry of Health expressed thanks for cooperating in infectious diseases control of The Global Fund.

Ministry of Health
President U Thein Sein receives ASEAN’s Central Bank Governors, ASEAN’s Deputy Finance Ministers, IMF’s Deputy MD, ADB President, ministers of ASEAN countries, Deputy ASEAN S-G

ASEAN negotiating agreement on protection, promotion of migrant workers

President U Thein Sein receives ASEAN’s Central Bank Governors, ASEAN’s Deputy Finance Ministers, IMF’s Deputy MD, ADB President, ministers of ASEAN countries, Deputy ASEAN S-G.

President U Thein Sein receives ASEAN’s Central Bank Governors, ASEAN’s Deputy Finance Ministers, IMF’s Deputy MD, ADB President, ministers of ASEAN countries, Deputy ASEAN S-G to discuss regional migrant workers issues, focusing on protection and promotion of migrant workers in the region.

Under the title of Migration Workers Protection and Promotion of Migrant workers, ASCC is drafting a 10-chapter agreement which will guarantee basic rights to migrant workers and clarify role of countries which send and accept migrant workers.

“We (ASEAN) have agreed that accepting countries are to give work permit to legal migrant workers within one month, but in reality, some Myanmar migrant workers were detained and responsible employment agencies and factories have delayed responding to the issue,” said U Myo Aung, Director-General of Department of Labour, at the sideline of the 11th ASCC Meeting in Nay Pyi Taw.

Myanmar’s Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security will carry out 23 tasks for migrant workers issues under the ASCC.

The government of Myanmar has called on its youth workforce for going abroad legally, pleading that it can fully assist in settling issues related to its legal migrant workers.

However, it is difficult for the ministry to solve issues related to illegal Myanmar migrant workers in a foreign country, U Myo Aung said.

Since the country opened up about three years ago, the government could create job opportunities at home by establishing more industrial zones in the country and has opened many ways for its youth workforce to be able to work legally in foreign countries.
Speaker of Union Parliament Thura U Shwe Mann meets local people in Pyu Township

NAY PYI TAW, 4 April—Speaker of Union Parliament and People’s Parliament Thura U Shwe Mann held a meeting on regional development task with officials from township Land Utilization Management Committee, township development supportive committee and townsenders in Pyu Township, Bago Region on Friday.

Speaking at the meeting held at township General Administration Department, the Speaker said that Land Utilization Management Committee branch offices were opened in respective townships across the country to address land utilization management issues. Members of township management committee are required to settle submissions of the locals in coordination with ward/village development supportive committee, he added.

Speaker of Region Parliament U Win Tin and Region Minister for Forestry U Kyaw Htay discussed matters related to confiscated farmlands.

The Speaker then visited free funeral service being kept open at Sasanahita Myoma Dhammayon in Pyu and cordially greeted the townsenders.—MNA

Census completed for over four million households across the nation up to 2 April

NAY PYI TAW, 4 April—Nation-wide census taking process is being carried out as of March 30 and census has been taken at 4682096 households till 2 April.

A total of 105,648 households in Kayin State, 22,002 in Kayah State, 131,673 in Kayin State, 301,905 in Bago Region (East), 570,851 in Mandalay Region, 185,421 in Mon State, 187,478 in Rakhine State, 712,749 in Yangon Region, 50,926 in Shan State (East), 220,971 in Shan State (South), 159,356 in Shan State (North), 632,650 in Ayeyawady Region and 109,259 in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area have already been taken census.

Census enumerators collect data from 10 households to 12 per day and it takes 20 minutes.

National Census 2014 has been finished in Mongla Special Region and “Wa” Special Region is still under the census. Members of KNU Brigade-2 and Brigade-5 were trained to collect data in census taking process in their region, according to the Ministry of Immigration and Population.—MNA

People actively participate in census

NAY PYI TAW, 4 April—The Ministry of Immigration and Population is proud to announce that after Day 4 of the census exercise nearly 50% of households have been enumerated nationwide.

Implementation of the program has been very well organized. People are participating and are generally well informed of the census. They have been elected and responsive to the enumerators. The publicity campaign has been effective through posters, billboards, newspapers, radio and television.

Interviews are taking on average up to 20 minutes while the census is being conducted in line with international standards with technical support from the UNFPA, the United Nations Population Fund.

Myanmar is conducting its first Population and Housing Census in 30 years from 29 March to 10 April 2014.—MNA

18th ASEAN Finance Ministers’ Meeting focus on regional financial cooperation

NAY PYI TAW, 4 April—Union Minister for Finance U Win Shein exchanged views on cooperation in financial sector among the ASEAN countries, promotion of investment, provision of technical assistance in Myanmar and ongoing ASEAN financial procedures with the finance ministers from Vietnam, Singapore, and Indonesia and Deputy Managing Director of IMF on Friday at his Ministry in Nay Pyi Taw.

Then, the Union Minister hosted a dinner to ASEAN Finance Ministers at Thungaha Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw.

The meetings go on 5 April.—MNA

Union Minister for Finance U Win Shein holding talks with ASEAN Finance Ministers at his office in Nay Pyi Taw—MNA

Prints and Publishing Rules (draft) introduced

NAY PYI TAW, 4 April—Deputy Minister for Information U Ye Htut and officials introduced the Printing and Publishing Rules (draft) under the Printing and Publishing Law that was verified by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw (Union Parliament) at his office in Nay Pyi Taw on Friday.

The Ministry sent suggestions from media to the Myanmar Press Council (Interim).

The Deputy Minister replied to the queries raised by the officials from Myanmar Printers and Publishers Association, Myanmar Writers Association, Myanmar Journalist Congress and Journalist Network after his clarification on the draft.—MNA

Blueprint beyond 2015 ...

(from page 1)

“There are two major challenges. It requires huge investment in the country’s infrastructure. That is number one. Secondly I believe we have to develop the people, human resources,” according to the Malaysian Finance Minister II.

“They need to learn new skills to be able to work in a technological world. Myanmar will be embracing a new economic model, the old economic model will soon be a thing of the past. That means the educational system must be raised to a level that people can achieve the level of skill required to deal with a technological environment in the future,” he stressed, adding that many Myanmar people are now working or studying in Malaysia.

“We have always supported business-to-business and people-to-people development. Malaysia as an old supporter is excited to see the developments in Myanmar. We’re one of the few countries that always stood by Myanmar when there were problems. Regarding ASEAN membership, many countries said Myanmar should not be included because of the political issues here, but we said everybody needs to be engaged and involved—and see now! Democracy has changed things radically,” the Finance Ministers’ meeting will conclude on Saturday, after several plenary sessions attended by high-ranking officials from the International Monetary Fund, World Bank, and the Central Bank Governors Troika, amongst others, to discuss a wide range of issues, including progress of ASEAN Plus Three, the ASEAN and the update on the ASEAN Economic Community.
Underground fibre cables laid along Mandalay-Nay Pyi Taw-Yangon-Pathein-Ngwehsaung route

KYAUKDAGA, 4 April—Myanmar Fiber Optic Communication Network Company is carrying out laying of fibre cables along towns and villages of Mandalay-Nay Pyi Taw-Yangon-Pathein-Ngwehsaung fibre link for Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications of the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology.

On Friday, the fibre cable laying works were undertaken at about 500 yards distance from mile post 114 on Yangon-Man dalay Highway in Kyaukdaga. Kyaukdaga Township Administrator U Htet Aung Phyoo met with local authorities in discussions to assist in laying fibre cables, protect loss of farmlands in the fibre line areas.—Khin Ko (Kyaukdaga)

Myanmar people return home to join Myanmar Maha Thingyan Festival

MYAWADY, 4 April—Myanmar Traditional Maha Thingyan festival is getting nearer and nearer. All of Myanmar people getting nearer and nearer. Myanmar citizens who are away from their mother land for various situations come back home to take part in the festival with their family members or friends. Almost 1000 Myanmar people who worked in Thailand have come back home passing through Myawady friendship bridge before the water festival, said an official. “I’ve missed Thingyan festival for about four years. So I’m eager to enjoy the festival in my native town,” said Ko Maung Kyaw of Hpa-an Township of Kayin State.

Myanmar Maha Thingyan festival will begin on 13 April this year. All Myanmar people happily celebrate the festival which lasts for only four days. On Myanmar New Year Day, they pay respects to older persons, release fingerlings and serve free meal to people without discrimination.

Htein Lin Aung (IPRD)

Summer sports training course concludes in Singu

SINGU, 4 April—The summer sports training course concluded at the township sports ground in Singu of Mandalay Region on Wednesday. At the ceremony, Township Administration Trainer U Aung Kyaw Than made a speech and gave sports suits to trainees. Next, trainees demonstrated skills in playing cane ball and football events.

MMAL-432

Earthen type inter-village road put into service in Kalewa

KALEWA, 4 April—The 21 miles long earthen type Huegyi-Gazet-Yuzaile Inter-Village Road was put into service in Kalewa Township. Kalay District in Sagaing Region recently. The road contributes to smooth transportation for the locals of 48 villages from 14 village-tracts. The road was constructed at a cost of K 175 million of Rural Development Department in 2013-14 fiscal year by Pan Mon Co.

The head of Kalay District Rural Development Department together with officials from Pan Mon Co looked round the completed road.—Ju Nine

Independent Observer views round collection of census data

Launglon, 4 April—South African Ms Judith Donang together with interpreter Daw Khin Ma Ma Swe of Independent Observer made a trip to Pyinhtein Village of Launglon Township, Dawei District, Taninthayi Region, on Thursday morning.

On arrival at Pyinhtein Village, they observed collection of census data in collecting areas. They also observed collection of census data in Thabya Village.

The foreigner observer was accompanied by Staff Officer U Maung Maung of Township Immigration and National Registration Department and staff.

Launglon Township IPRD
Abe, Obama to hold summit 24 April in Tokyo

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and US President Barack Obama plan to hold a meeting on 24 April in Tokyo where they are expected to reaffirm the robust Japan-US alliance, Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga said Friday.

Japan will invite Obama on 24 and 25 April as a state guest, though the exact date of his arrival is not immediately known, Suga said at a news conference, indicating Obama may arrive in Japan on 23 April.

Obama will be the first US president to visit Japan as a state guest since Bill Clinton in April 1996. The trip is part of a four-nation Asian tour by Obama that will also take him to South Korea, Malaysia and the Philippines. The two governments, however, are not considering issuing a joint statement or declaration after the summit, due partly to insufficient progress in bilateral consultations toward advancing the Trans-Pacific Partnership free trade negotiations, according to sources familiar with bilateral relations. Instead, the two governments are planning to release a “fact sheet” outlining areas of bilateral cooperation such as cybersecurity and space cooperation, the sources said.

Speaking to reporters after a Cabinet meeting, Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida said Abe and Obama “will stress the role of the Japan-US alliance as a contributor to peace and prosperity in the Asia-Pacific region.” Kishida said the two leaders “will affirm the strong Japan-US alliance,” and that he hopes they will announce further areas of specific cooperation.—Kyodo News

Ukrainian Prime Minister Arseny Yatsenyuk gestures during an interview with Reuters in Kiev on 3 April, 2014.—REUTERS

Kiev, 4 April — The Kiev government will stick to unpopular austerity measures “as the price of independence” as Russia steps up pressure on Ukraine to destabilise it, including by raising the price of gas, Prime Minister Arseny Yatsenyuk told Reuters.

Yatsenyuk, 39, who stepped in as interim prime minister last month after Viktor Yanukovich and his ministers fled the “Euromaidan” protests, conceded that it would be very difficult “under the current Russian presence” to undo what he described as Russia’s “international crime” in seizing Crimea.

But he said Ukraine would never recognise the Russian takeover in exchange for re-establishing good relations.

“I want to be perfectly clear. We will never recognise the annexation of Crimea ... The time will come when Ukraine will take over control of Crimea,” he said, speaking in English, seated in his cavernous, Soviet-built government headquarters beneath the blue and yellow Ukrainian flag.

He has called himself the leader of a “kamikaze” government, doomed by unpopular austerity measures it must take, but he said Ukraine would stick to the measures, which include doubling gas prices for domestic consumers from May 1 and holding down state pensions and salaries against a background of a 3 percent contraction of the economy and double-digit inflation.

IMF support - a $14.18 billion financial lifeline in return for tough economic reforms - would be a “tremendous step forward”, he said.

“We will regain trust and credibility from foreign investors. This is the roadmap for Ukraine,” he added.

The Kiev government has said that without the IMF-mandated austerity measures, the economy could shrink by up to 10 percent this year.—Reuters

South Korea extending ballistic missile range to counter North’s threat

South Korea has test-fired a new ballistic missile with a range of 500 km (310 miles) and will try to extend the range to 800 km so it can strike any site in North Korea, its defence ministry said on Friday, days after Pyongyang fired a mid-range missile.

The new missiles are intended to counter the threat from North Korea’s missile and nuclear programs, ministry spokesman Kim Min-seok said, but the move is likely to rattle the North, hit with UN sanctions for its own missile tests. South Korea adopted a voluntary ban on developing ballistic missiles with a range of more than 300 km, under an agreement with the United States, but the allies agreed in 2012 to allow the South to develop 800-km-range missiles.

“We test-fired it, and we succeeded,” Kim told a briefing, when asked if the military had recently conducted a 500-km test. “And we’re going to make 800-km missiles.”

The new missiles will be used to strike the North’s weapons and military installations in the furthest part of the country from anywhere in the South if needed, he added.

The two Koreas are technically still at war, since the 1950-53 Korean War ended in a truce, rather than an armistice.

North Korea last week fired a mid-range ballistic Rodong missile that fell into the sea off its east coast after flying about 650 km and short of its maximum range, thought to be about 1,300 km, and enough to hit much of Japan.

Reuters
India's main opposition party to release manifesto on 1st voting day

NEW DELHI, 4 April — Though India’s main opposition Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is predicted to win the most seats in the general elections, it will not release its manifesto until 7 April, the first day of voting, party spokesperson Nirmala Sitharaman told the media late Thursday night.

Sources say this is unprecedented in Indian politics, but this is due to internal differences within the party between veteran leaders and leaders close to 64-year-old Narendra Modi, the BJP’s prime ministerial candidate, who want the already drafted manifesto by the former to be tweaked.

“A manifesto has already been drafted by veteran leader M.M. Joshi, but the Modi camp wants it to be tweaked,” she said.

According to India’s independent Election Commission sources, no party or any political leaders can release a poll manifesto 48 hours before polling starts, and violation carries a penalty of two years in jail.

Meanwhile, the ruling Congress party has ridiculed the BJP deferring the release of its manifesto.

“A party and leader which claims great administrative and managerial competence is unable to release its manifesto in time. Why is BJP unable to produce even a manifesto on time,” Congress spokesperson Priyanka Chaturvedi tweeted.

India goes to polls on 7 April, and the nine-phase voting ends on 12 May, with results due on 12 May, with results due on 12 May.

Cargo ship sinks off South Korea, 11 North Korean crew missing

SEOUL, 4 April — A Mongolian-flagged cargo ship has sunk off the southern coast of South Korea, with most of the 16 North Korean crew members on board missing, South Korean coast guard officials said on Friday. Two crew members were found dead and three were rescued, while a search was under way for the other 11 crew still missing, the officials said.

The Grand Fortune 1 was sailing from the Chongjin region on North Korea’s east coast for a Chinese port carrying iron ore, said one official, who requested anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to the media.

The vessel sails regularly between North Korea and China, according to Reuters’ ship tracking system. The rescued crew members were taken to a South Korean hospital for treatment, according to the coast guard.

Japan lower house OKs nuclear pacts with Turkey, UAE

TOKYO, 4 April — Japan’s House of Representatives on Friday passed two nuclear pacts with Turkey and the United Arab Emirates that would pave the way for Japan to export nuclear power infrastructure to the two countries.

The agreements, both concluded last year, would come into force by early May under the Constitution, which stipulates that lower house decisions on state budgets and bilateral treaties prevail in the Diet.

Members of the governing Liberal Democratic party, its junior coalition partner, New Komeito party, and the main opposition Democratic Party of Japan voted for the pacts.

The approval came at a time when anti-nuclear power sentiment still persists among the public as the nuclear disaster at the Fukushima Daiichi power plant has yet to be resolved.

Those nuclear pacts set a legal framework for the peaceful use and transfer of atomic-power technologies and equipment.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe signed the pacts when he visited the two countries in May 2013.

The Japanese government sought parliamentary approval of the pact during an extraordinary Diet session last fall. But the Diet failed to come to a decision that time and carried the deliberations to the current 150-day regular session which started 24 January.

The opposition DPJ has decided to vote for the treaties as it promoted the export of nuclear power infrastructure when it was in power between August 2009 and December 2012.

As for Turkey, Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Ltd is a member of a consortium of business corporations which has won an order to build an atomic power plant in the country.

The United Arab Emirates started to construct a nuclear power plant in 2012 and is currently planning to build more reactors, government officials said.

Japan concluded bilateral nuclear accords with 11 countries, including Australia, China, France, Russia and the United States — and the European Atomic Energy Community, and is currently promoting talks with India and Brazil to conclude similar treaties.

Brazil’s inflation under control

BRASILIA, 4 April — Brazil’s President Dilma Rousseff on Thursday defended her administration’s economic policy, saying it has kept inflation within the target range over the past 12 years. In an address to the National Forum of Confederations of Business and Trade Associations, Rousseff said inflation has been kept within the limits set by the National Monetary Council over the past 12 years.

The Central Bank raised the basic annual interest rate for the ninth consecutive time Wednesday, from 10.75 percent to 11 percent, in a bid to control the inflationary tendency. Brazil has set a target annual inflation rate of 4.5 percent, with a two-point margin, for 2014 and 2015. The bank predicted an inflation rate of 6.1 percent in 2014, within target limit, said Rousseff.

She also said “Public debt in relation to gross domestic product(GDP), which gauges the country’s capacity to pay its domestic debts, has systematically decreased. In 2002, it stood at 62 percent of GDP. Today it only stands at 33.7 percent.”

City starts emergency response to Malaysian kidnapping

SHANGHAI, 4 April — Shangh hai authorities started emergency procedures on Thursday following the kidnap of female tourist in Malaysia.

A statement published at about 2 pm on Shanghai’s microblog asks all travel agencies to warn outbound tourists of safety concerns. A woman named Xu went to Shanghai police at about 12 am on Thursday, claiming she lost contact with her daughter, now believed to have been kidnapped when travelling in the Malaysian state of Sabah.

The girl Gao, 29, has been granted admittance to a British university and recently quit her job with a Japanese company. She was travelling independently in Malaysia. Her uncle confirmed she was travelling with a friend: “She travelled a lot recently and booked her flight before Spring Festival. She left Shanghai on Tuesday afternoon and phoned her mom to report her safe arrival on Wednesday evening.”

A staff member at the Malaysian consulate gener al in Shanghai told Xinhua that they heard the news this morning, but did not receive any details. He said Sabah was a hot tourist destination, but “a few dangerous things” had happened there before.

A member of the National Bolivarian Police (PNB, for its acronym in Spanish), shoots during a protest near the Central University of Venezuela (UCV, for its acronym in Spanish), in Caracas, Venezuela, on 3 April, 2014. XINHUA

A doctor examines a North Korean crew member from a Mongolian-flagged cargo ship that sank off Yeosu, at a hospital on Jeju island on 4 April, 2014. ""
Civil servants Vs commodity prices

Civil servants will enjoy a K-20000 pay increase beginning this month which is the start of 2014-15 FY. This will be a pay increase for them for two consecutive years. On the surface, it seems to be welcome news to civil servants, but how is it in reality?

Myanmar has a long tradition that commodity prices hikes follow the announced pay rise for civil servants. Normally, pay increase is announced in March and effective in April which is the beginning of a new fiscal year in Myanmar. Again, commodity prices go up before Water Festival (Thingyan in Myanmar) perhaps to mark the Myanmar New Year which usually starts in the third week of April, but never go down again after the festival. So, it is fair to say that Myanmar always welcomes the New Year with commodity prices hikes though not always with pay rise for civil servants.

In Myanmar, the time has long shifted from the era of the father being the primary and single breadwinner of the family to the era of the whole family working to meet their wants or sometimes just to make ends meet.

Except for some government departments that are privileged to receive kickbacks, many civil servants find themselves caught in the uphill battle against commodity prices and no way to conquer it. Many a civil servant has retired without a house of their own. Save and save the money, but the extra cash is always swallowed up by ever-increasing commodity prices plus utility bills and the dream of a house never comes true to most of them.

Work is the meaning of life, it is often said, but it would the best be a means of livelihood for the poor who work and work and still cannot get out of the downward spiral of indebtedness.

The problems of soaring commodity prices and high unemployment rate have been a hot issue for every government around the world. While new jobs are being created as a result of open-door policy in Myanmar, employees still do not earn decent salaries; instead the country has seen street protests against low wages. Uneven income distribution has contributed to further widening the gap between rich and poor. Income growth has been significant after the liberalization process, but unfortunately it belongs to monopolies and certain elites.

Is it a one horse race or the white flag is the only option for civil servants?

The word ‘Rohingya’ poses problem to national security and national affairs

Ye Htut, Deputy Minister for Information.

According to the history of Myanmar, the word “Rohingya” were used during the Mujahidin separatist movements in Rakhine State from 1946 to 1950.

“When is happening today that we can’t ask any questions. Some answer that their name is Rohingya. Their father’s name is Rohingya, their mother’s name is Rohingya and their nationality is Rohingya. There is no discrimination nor threats to them when we take census in Rakhine State. We envision only bringing benefits to human society,” she added.

UNFPA’s statement said that UNFPA is concerned about Decision not to allow census respondents to self-identify as Rohingya.

Myanmar’s oldest English daily newspaper is hiring now!

The Global New Light of Myanmar will relocate to Yangon in mid-April and is now looking for foreign editors and local reporters. Journalists who prefer to work as freelancers or on a part-time basis are also welcome to submit their applications. For further details, please send an email with your resume and samples of your work to the chief editor wallace.tun@gmail.com.
Senior General Min Aung Hlaing attends Graduation Parade of No. 117 Intake of Defence Services (Army) OTS

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing presents silver sword to best cadet award winning cadet at graduation parade of No. 117 Intake of Defence Services (Army) Officers’ Training School.

Myawady

The 11th meeting of the ASEAN Social-Cultural Community Council continued its final day at the Hotel Grand Amara here this morning. After the meeting, our news team from the Myanmar News Agency of the Ministry of Information conducted an interview with Pavena Hongsakula, Minister of Social Development and Human Security of Thailand.

Q: Could you please elaborate on the significance of this meeting which is held for the first time in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar?

A: Good afternoon, I am Pavena Hongsakula, the Minister of Ministry of Social Development and Human Security, today I am a ASCC Leader of Thailand, I am very pleased and honored to attend the 11th ASCC Meeting for the first time in Nay Pyi Taw. The city is beautiful and peaceful just like the theme that Myanmar as ASEAN Chair has chosen for this year meeting.

Myanmar is our neighbor country so your country is like my sister or brother so are the people of Myanmar.

In Thailand, we are eagerly to be ASEAN Community and very excited about it. Today I come not only to meet all ASCC and SOCA colleagues in order to strengthen our efforts but also to encourage the member states to work even harder to overcome many challenges we have.

Q: To what extent this meeting could have impact on your social and cultural sector?

A: This meeting serves as a venue for ASCC Ministers to meet, share, and discuss what we have done in our countries and what we want to see or want to achieve in this region.

In this meeting, Thailand encourages all pillars to work together in order to solve social problems such as poverty production, promotion of gender equality, elimination of violence against children and women. All these problems if not solved will prevent us to become a prosperous and peaceful ASEAN Community. We all need to join hand and take action now.

In this meeting, Thailand shared its view on how to solve poverty problem in a sustainable way. All ASEAN countries should promote cultural tourism and promote local products. All these activities will generate more income and lift poor people out of the poverty. So, problem of human trafficking can be resolved.

Thailand affirms its intention to work closely with all stakeholders and all member states. And do believe that this meeting will promote our collaboration and this will contribute to the betterment of Thailand and ASEAN as a whole.

Q: I would like to know what you are focusing on this meeting?

A: I would like all member states to strengthen our collaboration and coordination in order to tackle the social problems such as human trafficking, poverty and violence against children and women together.

In ASEAN, we have beautiful culture which is unique and cannot find anywhere else in the world. Foreigners would like to come and visit ASEAN. Therefore, it’s important that we join hand to promote ASEAN culture by offering cultural tour package which will bring more income to their peoples of this region. This will result in the poverty alleviation.

Afterwards, we continued to conduct an interview with Madame Pham Thi Hai Chuyen, Minister of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs of Vietnam.

Q: Could this meeting contribute much to our country’s social and cultural sector?

A: At the ASCC meeting, we have reviewed the status of ASCC Blueprint implementation including the social and culture sector. The result of this meeting will contribute actively to different sectors of our community as well as the socio-cultural sector of each country in the following aspects: Identifying and sharing challenges in implementing the priorities at national and regional level; formulating national priorities towards regional trend, linking the national activities related to socio-cultural sectors with the activities of the ASCC.

So, mobilizing resources and integrating these priorities into national programs, and enhancing public awareness on regional activities to create national consensus and efforts.

Q: Let me know your comment and opinion on this meeting?

A: This is the 11th ASCC Meeting, which continues to link with the achievements from previous meeting and contribute to make active changes in the socio-cultural community. At this meeting, ASCC Council Ministers have highly appreciated the result of the Mid-term review of the ASCC Blueprint, which serve as good reference for further follow-up activities and post 2015 vision. For Vietnam, we have carried out many communication activities on the socio-cultural community and integrate the recommendations of the regional MTR report of the Implementation of ASCC Blueprint into national action plans.

I highly commend the chairmanship and coordination role of Myanmar as well as the priorities proposed by Myanmar for 2014.

Q: What are the differences between our cultural and yours?

A: We all share the tradition of agriculture and many common cultural values in ASEAN related to a caring, sharing and people-centered community. Our Governments promote social welfare for people. In addition, I am very impressed by the culture and friendly people of Myanmar as well as your beautiful country. I wish Myanmar a successful chairmanship year!
SIM cards allotted to vendors, workers

**Nay Pyi Taw**, 4 April—Under the instructions of Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman, low-priced SIM cards were allotted to freight handling workers and vendors in Zabuthiri and Pobbathiri townships and Pyinmana Station on Thursday morning. The allotment of SIM cards were supervised by Nay Pyi Taw Council member U Myo Nyunt and officials, the township administrator and the head of the township development affairs committee. The SIM cards were handed over to the vendors and workers. A total of 40 SIM cards were given to vendors and 30 to workers.

Shwe Kokko

**Dagon North continues census taking process**

YANGON, 4 April—The census taking process continued at wards in Dagon Myothit (North) Township of Yangon Region on Friday.

Staff U Kyaw Zeyar Thaung of Township Immigration and National Registration Department and census collectors participated in census data taking in areas of Ward 41 in the township.

On Thursday, they collected census data from 11,253 people from 2,704 households of 17 collecting areas.

With the assistance of Township Census Committee, they will conduct the process during the designated period.—*U Naing Oo*

Joe Net

**Villages linked through gravel road in Tamu District**

TAMU, 4 April—Kanareinikaya earthen road is being upgraded to gravel road in Khampak Sub-Township in Tamu District of Sagaing Region.

The facility is four miles and three furlongs long that will contribute much to transport of agricultural produce to Khampak, Tamu and other regions from Kanareinikaya villages.

Rural Development Department spent K 128.16 million on construction of the road in 2013-14 fiscal year. United Kabaw Co is taking responsibility for construction of the road. Officials of Kalay District Rural Development Department and Tamu District RRD inspected progress of construction tasks.

Joe Net

**New rate of electricity bill explained**

**Nay Pyi Taw**, 4 April—A ceremony to clarify change of electric bill rate was held at the hall of Township General Administration Department in Zeyathiri Township in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, on Thursday morning. Ottara District Electrical Engineer U Myo Thant Tun explained the new rate of electricity bill and replied to queries raised by local people.

Local authorities of villages and electrification committee officials attended the clarification ceremony.

Shwe Kokko

**Myinmu BEHS gets two new school buildings**

MYINMU, 4 April—Chief Minister U Tha Aye of Sagaing Region and officials attended the upgrading of Basic Education Middle School and handing over of Pyinnya Myinta Myintmo School building in Wunpyae Village in Myinmu Township in Sagaing Region on Wednesday. The Chief Minister and officials pressed the button to open the new building of the school. Pyinnya Myinta Myintmo building, 120 feet long, 30 feet wide and 22 feet high and Mya Aye building, 170 feet long, 30 feet wide and 29 feet building were constructed by Mann Myint Mo Hein Co with the fund of Ministry of Education. The BEMS was upgraded to the BEHS.

School construction committee U Win Kyaw presented school equipment and exercise books to the school.—*Ko Ko Naing (Myinmu)*

**Census taking process in progress at 143 villages and seven wards of Pyinmana Township as of 30 April.—Shwe Kokko**

**New rate of electricity bill explained**

**Nay Pyi Taw**, 4 April—A ceremony to clarify change of electric bill rate was held at the hall of Township General Administration Department in Zeyathiri Township in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, on Thursday morning. Ottara District Electrical Engineer U Myo Thant Tun explained the new rate of electricity bill and replied to queries raised by local people.

Local authorities of villages and electrification committee officials attended the clarification ceremony.

Shwe Kokko

**Census taking process in progress at 143 villages and seven wards of Pyinmana Township as of 30 April.—Shwe Kokko**
Google pays $1.4 million fine in Italy over StreetView concerns

MILAN, 4 April — Google has paid a 1 million euro ($1.4 million) fine imposed by Italy’s data protection watchdog over complaints that cars it used to record images on Italian streets in 2010 were not clearly recognizable, the regulator said on Thursday.

“Cars belonging to the giant of Mountain View roamed Italy’s streets without being entirely recognizable as such, therefore not allowing the people present in those places to decide whether to be photographed or not,” it said in a statement, referring to Google’s base at Mountain View in California.

Google has faced numerous privacy lawsuits in the United States and Europe, relating to services including Street View, which gives a panoramic perspective on streets around the world. It has also been fined by the European Commission for unfair pricing practices.

The fine announced on Thursday relates only to vehicles not being labeled clearly enough. The watchdog has also reported to Italy’s judicial authorities that Google accidentally captured fragments of electronic communications as part of its mapping research in the country.

Int’l space station conducts debris avoidance maneuver

WASHINGTON, 4 April — US space agency NASA said Thursday that the International Space Station (ISS) orbit was raised half a mile (about 0.8 kilometres) to avoid a possible collision with a fragment from an old European Ariane 5 rocket.

The maneuver was performed with a three-minute, 40-second firing of the ISS thrusters at 4:42 pm EDT (2042 GMT) that provided a reboost for the orbital laboratory.

“The ISS is a 5 payload deployment mechanism was forecast to pass less than 2/10 of a mile of the station at 7:02 pm EDT (2302 GMT) had no action been taken.”

The maneuver was informed of the maneuver and was never in any danger, NASA said.

The six-man crew was informed of the maneuver, and was never in any danger, NASA said.

This is the second time in less than three weeks that the ISS had to dodge space junk. On March 16, flight controllers conducted a debris avoidance maneuver to steer the ISS clear of a piece of Russian METEOR-2-5 satellite launched in late October 1979.

Satellites and sensors to halt crumbling of Italy’s Pompeii

ROME, 4 April — The ruins of ancient Pompeii will be monitored by satellites and sensors under an agreement with the Italian defense and technology group Finmeccanica to try to stop the UNESCO world heritage site from crumbling.

The state-controlled group will help train staff and donate its technology for free for three years in an investment worth up to 2 million euros ($2.75 million), after which the equipment will be left to the restoration project.

Regular collapses of walls and houses in the treasured Roman town that was covered by ash in a volcanic eruption in 79 AD have caused an international outcry and increased pressure for an end to delays dogging a 105-million-euro restoration project part-funded by the European Union and launched last year.

Finmeccanica will train staff to use high-tech monitoring tools that should flag shifts in terrain in the 1,500 buildings of Pompeii, so that archaeologists can quickly intervene to prevent collapses. Soil movements, a major risk to the ruins especially during bad weather, will be monitored through high resolution images captured by the COSMO-SkyMed group of satellites, controlled by the Italian Space Agency, Finmeccanica said.

Technicians will build up a digital archive of the most important sites in Pompeii through hyperspectral imaging, which can capture the composition of different materials by measuring their electromagnetic radiation.

Site security will be able to access information through a smartphone app, and vandalism or damage to the ruins will set off alarms.

Chinese student Wu Xingyun (L) presents his invention during the opening day of the 42nd International Exhibition of Inventions of Geneva, in Geneva, Switzerland, on 2 April, 2014. The 42nd International Exhibition of Inventions of Geneva kicked off here on Wednesday. —Xinhua

Birds of a feather: hummingbird family tree unveiled

WASHINGTON, 4 April — For such small creatures, hummingbirds certainly have racked up an outsized list of unique claims to fame. They are the smallest birds and the smallest warm-blooded animals on Earth. They have the fastest heart and the fastest metabolism of any vertebrate. They are the only birds that can fly backward. And scientists reported on Thursday that they also have a complicated evolutionary history.

Researchers constructed the family tree of these nectar-eating birds using genetic information from most of the world’s 338 hummingbird species and their closest relatives. They said hummingbirds can be divided into nine groups, with differences in size, habitat, feeding strategy and body shape.

The common ancestor to all species in existence today lived about 32 million years ago in South America, several million years after hummingbirds were known to be flourishing in Europe, they said. Today’s hummingbirds are found only in the Americas.

They boast a unique set of capabilities. University of New Mexico ornithologist Christopher Wint, one of the scientists in the study published in the journal Current Biology. "They can hover stationary or move in any direction with precision, even in a strong wind. They also have the highest rate of energy consumption per gram of any animal," Witt said. —Reuters

The Buff-tailed Sicklebill (Eutoxeres condaminis), a Hermit hummingbird with a magnificently recurved bill, along with one of the flowers to which they are specialized, is shown in this image released on 3 April, 2014. —Reuters

Obama’s NSA overhaul may require phone carriers to store more data

WASHINGTON, 4 April — President Barack Obama’s plan for overhauling the National Security Agency’s phone surveillance programme could force carriers to collect and store customer data that they are not now legally obliged to keep, according to US officials. One complication arises from the popularity of flat-rate or unlimited calling plans, which are used by the vast majority of Americans.

While the Federal Communications Commission requires phone companies to retain for 18 months records on “toll” or long-distance calls, the rule’s application is vague for subscribers of unlimited phone plans because they do not get billed for individual calls.

That could change if the Obama administration pushes through with a proposal to require carriers — instead of the NSA — to collect and store phone metadata, which includes dialed phone numbers and call lengths but not the content of conversations. Under the administration’s proposal, the phone companies would be required to turn over the data to the NSA in response to a court-approved government request.

US officials said the carriers might be forced to create new mechanisms to ensure that metadata from flat-rate subscribers could also be monitored. They said these issues will require further discussion between the White House, Congress and industry. — Reuters

A restorer works in the ancient Roman city of Pompeii, which was buried in AD 79 by an eruption of the Vesuvius volcano, on 6 Feb, 2013. — Reuters
Thai PM’s supporters head for huge Bangkok rally, rule out violence

BANGKOK, 4 April — Hundreds of thousands of Thai government supporters are expected to descend on Bangkok this weekend in a symbolic show of force after months of sometimes violent protests aimed at bringing down Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra.

The speed at which political opponents are bringing court cases against Yingluck appears to have prompted her supporters into action, raising fears of a confrontation between the two sides. Tens of thousands of Yingluck’s “red shirt” supporters rallied at a Bangkok stadium in November to counter growing anti-government sentiment.

“We have a majority of people to support us. We won’t use force. We’re not after a confrontation,” Nattawut Saikua, a red shirt leader, told Reuters.

“They levels hinder further economic advancement and even threaten the sustainability of an otherwise sharp reduction in poverty,” the ADB study noted. It added that overall growth has failed to translate into improvements in average living standards.

Poverty, income inequality persist despite high growth in Asia

MANILA, 4 April — Despite the robust economic growth of Asia in the last two decades, poverty remains widespread and income inequality continues to widen, according to a study released by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) on Friday. The study, titled “ADB’s Support for Inclusive Growth” released by the Manila-based lender’s Independent Evaluation Department, said nearly 750 million people in the region still survive on less than 1.25 US dollars a day.

“This region has a long way to go to contain and curb this inequality and poverty. ADB is committed to support inclusive growth,” Ch השני ל��ינינגן 새로운

Nepal needs to double its investment on infrastructure

KATHMANDU, 4 April — Concluding that Nepal has one of the poorest infrastructure services in South Asia, a new report revealed by World Bank (WB) on Thursday said the country needs to double its expenditure to enhance infrastructure for meeting South Asian Development Goals (SADGs).

A report entitled Reducing Poverty by infrastructure

Closing South Asia’s Infrastructure Gap revealed that the poor Himalayan country needs to invest 13-18 billion US dollars from 2011-2020 so as to bridge the investment gap in infrastructure sector and thereby to reduce poverty.

As per the report, Nepal needs to invest from 6.6 percent to 9.9 percent of its total gross domestic product (GDP) in transportation, energy, telecommunication, irrigation, sanitation and drinking water, among others, every year from 2011-2020. The Nepal government has allotted a total of 904 million US dollars for developing infrastructures for the current fiscal year, just 5 percent of its total GDP.
CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV KOTA RAKAN VOY NO (365)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA RA-
KAN VOY NO (365) are hereby notified that the
vessel will be arriving on 5.4.2014 and cargo will be
discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it
will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject
to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.
Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8
am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day
now declared as the third day after final discharge of
cargo from the Vessel.
No claims against this vessel will be admitted
after the Claims Day.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S ADVANCE CONTAINER LINES
Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV HAN HONG VOY NO (1416E)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV HAN HONG
VOY NO (1416E) are hereby notified that the vessel
will be arriving on 5.4.2014 and cargo will be dis-
charged into the premises of B.S.W(2) where it will
lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject
to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.
Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8
am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day
now declared as the third day after final discharge of
cargo from the Vessel.
No claims against this vessel will be admitted
after the Claims Day.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S HANNSY SHIPPING
Phone No: 256916/256919/256921

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV BANGSRIMUANG VOY NO (121)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV BANGSRIM-
UANG VOY NO (121) are hereby notified that the
vessel will be arriving on 6.4.2014 and cargo will be
discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it
will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject
to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.
Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8
am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day
now declared as the third day after final discharge of
cargo from the Vessel.
No claims against this vessel will be admitted
after the Claims Day.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S WONGSAMUT OCEAN
SHIPPING CO LTD
Phone No: 256916/256919/256921

The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar
ASEAN Summit and related Summits Committee
Sub-Committee on Logistics and Administration

INVITATION FOR BIDS
ON SPONSORSHIP MANAGEMENT OPERATOR

1. The Republic of the Union of Myanmar has assumed the Chairmanship of
ASEAN in 2014 and will host 24th ASEAN Summit and 25th ASEAN Summit
and Related Summits in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar. It will be first time that Myanmar takes
ASEAN Chairmanship since it joined ASEAN in 1997.

2. Myanmar has drawn great attention from the international community due
to its significant reforms, abundant natural resources and historic and scenic beauties.
Hosting of ASEAN Summits and related Summits will be a golden opportunity for
both local and foreign companies to promote business and to further expand investment in
Myanmar and to the Southeast Asia Region.

3. In view of the above opportunities, bids are invited by the Sub-Committee on
Logistics and Administration (the Committee) for the selection of Sponsorship Manage-
ment Operator whose sole responsibility is to find sponsors and to collect sponsor-
ship fees for the duration of the Myanmar Chairmanship which will come to the end on
31 December 2014.

4. The company who will be selected as “Sponsorship Management Operator”
(the winning bidder) will have the exclusive rights to dispense the following rights on
behalf of the Committee:

(a) Television Advertising Right
(b) Billboard Advertising Right
(c) Merchandise Advertising Right

5. All the operation costs inclusive of various costs for advertising shall be borne
by the Sponsorship Management Operator and/or Sponsor.

6. The winning bidder shall enter the contract with the Committee.

7. The Committee will take exclusive intellectual property right for logo, motto
etc., pertaining to the Myanmar ASEAN Chairmanship 2014.

8. The bidders shall attach the following information with their application
among others:

(1) Certificate of incorporation and the company profile;
(2) Estimated amount of earning (in USD) from sponsorship;
(3) Minimum guaranteed amount (in case of failure the winning bidder is
responsible for that amount);
(4) Commission rate (inclusive of expenses) for the bidder;
(5) Amount of deposit (in USD);
(6) Past record of performance, in any.

9. No territorial limit of marketing sponsorship.

10. Deposit shall be refunded within 14 banking days after the year end.

11. Bids shall be only on the Official Bidding Form and to be delivered into the
Tender Box located at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Office No.9, Nay Pyi Taw no
later than (16:00) hours on 10 April 2014.

12. Bids shall be opened at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Office No.9, Nay Pyi
Taw on 11 April 2014.

13. Announcement on the successful bidder will be made as earliest as possible.

14. Official Bidding Form shall be available at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs,
Office No.9 Nay Pyi Taw during the office hour from (31-3-2014) to (10-4-2014) in
payment of Kyat 10,000 (Kyat ten thousands).

15. The Committee has made this tender invitation without prejudice to its right.

16. The selection will be made based on criteria and point system.

17. Inquiry can be made at the following contact phone number, 067-412509.

Secretary
Sub-Committee on Logistics and Administration
ASEAN Summit and Related Summits Committee

Lithuania’s euro membership
decision due this summer at
earliest: Barroso

VLNIUS, 4 April — The
final decision regarding Lithuania’s membership for the eurozone would be
taken by European Union institutions this summer and at the earliest, European
Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso said in Brussels on Thursday.

Barroso hailed Lith-
uania’s progress toward meeting the conditions of the euro zone in Brussels where he met with
his Prime Minister Algirdas Butkevicius on Thursday.

Butkevicius stressed Lithuania’s goal of joining the euro area in 2015, the
government’s Press service said.

“With this aspiration, we put our best efforts to
firmly adhere to the Maa-
stricht criteria and strict fis-
cal discipline, lest there be
any doubt on the suitability
of Lithuania to become a
member of the euro club,”
Butkevicius was quoted in
the press release.

According to Lithuania’s Statistics Office data
published on Thursday, the
country’s fiscal deficit stood at 2.2 percent of
the domestic gross product
(GDP) in 2013, which was far below 3 percent of GDP
required as the minimum in
the EU.

Lithuania’s total govern-
ment debt amounted to
39.4 percent of GDP in
2013, which was below 60 percent of GDP, and its budget deficit
cannot exceed 3 percent of GDP. Lithuania strives to
become the 19th member of
the euro zone in early 2015 as the last of the three
Baltic States to join the
European single currency bloc.

Executive

Weather outlook for subsequent two days

Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers in the Lower
Myanmar areas.
Bradley Cooper still in love with Suki Waterhouse

Los Angeles, 4 April — Actor Bradley Cooper is still madly in love with model-gf Suki Waterhouse and the two are “very much” together.

The American Hustle star recently sparked rumours that he had split from Suki after more than a year of dating, and amid reports he had reconnected with his ex-girlfriend Renee Zellweger, but friends close to the couple insist they are still very happy together. “Bradley and Suki are very much a couple,” contactmusic.com quoted a source as saying. The duo haven’t been seen together since attending a post-Oscars bash in Los Angeles in early March.—PTI

Justin Bieber gives Selena Gomez a ring prompting engagement rumours

Los Angeles, 4 April — Troubled pop star Justin Bieber has reportedly gifted a ring to his on-off girlfriend Selena Gomez, which she has been wearing for quite some time.

Justin, 20, and Selena, 21, had sparked rumours that they had rekindled their romance earlier this month after the duo were seen together on several occasions, reported Hollywood Life.

“The ring was a gift from Justin, it’s not an engagement ring, but they are back on and very serious. Her family is extremely worried that she’ll do something crazy. Like, elope with him,” a source said.

“Selena is totally wrapped back up in Justin, it’s the same pattern happening all over again,” the source added.

Some weeks ago, the pair apparently had a two-hour private dance lesson in Texas after enjoying a romantic breakfast and shopping spree.

Recently Justin had posted a picture of Gomez on Instagram which was captioned as “The most elegant princess in the world.”—PTI

Adele in no rush to deliver next album

Los Angeles, 4 April — Award winning singer Adele will deliver her next album “at her own pace” and won’t rush the follow-up to 21, says OneRepublic band member Ryan Tedder, with whom she has worked.

The Skyfall singer, who is recording the follow-up to her charttopper album 21, claims she is not rushing the release.

“I haven’t heard everything she’s done, but I’ve heard everything we’ve done and I’m as proud of it, or prouder of anything we did on the first album, and she is sounding even better than ever,” contactmusic.com quoted Ryan as saying.

“She will deliver the album on her own timetable, at her own pace, and the only person that will ever declare it finished will be her, when she decides it’s finished,” she added.

The 25-year-old singer had to cancel tour dates in 2011 to undergo throat surgery and then took a break after giving birth to her son Angelo in 2012, with boyfriend Simon Konecki.

I am proud of Matthew McConaughey

Los Angeles, 4 April — Singer-actress Jennifer Lopez says she is proud of the accomplishments of the Oscar-winning actor Matthew McConaughey. Jennifer Lopez, 44, had shared her 1997 movie Selena was a life changing experience as she had completely immersed herself in portraying the late Latin artist.

“I got to immerse myself in her life, got to know her family, her home, her culture. Every part of her story. It was a special time in my life both professionally and personally,” she said.

“Playing her not only opened doors for me in the film world, but it inspired me to start my own music career. In a lot of ways, I wouldn’t be where I am today if I hadn’t had that experience,” she added.

British Indian actress Archie Panjabi to star in Hollywood disaster film

London, 4 April — British actress of Indian-origin Archie Panjabi has been signed up for a major disaster movie in Hollywood. Panjabi, who is a familiar face of US television with the hit show The Good Wife, will be playing a reporter in the film titled San Andreas.

The action thriller is being directed by Brad Peyton and stars Dwayne Johnson as a rescue worker trying to save his former wife and daughter during the largest earthquake in Californian history. It is scheduled for release in June 2015.

Panjabi, who is known as Archie Panjabi in a still from The Good Wife
Expect the unexpected at next week’s Masters

Tiger Woods walks to the 5th tee during the final round of the WGC - Cadillac Championship golf tournament at TPC Blue Monster at Trump National Doral.

LOS ANGELES, 4 April — As the first of the sea-son’s four major champi-onships, the Masters has always been the most keen-ly anticipated, a veritable golfing ‘rite of spring’ that brings together the game’s leading players in Augusta, Georgia. This year, that sense of expectation is especially heightened with the list of likely winners deeper than ever and multiple champi-ons Tiger Woods a notable likely winners further than heightened with the list of Georgia. brings together the game’s golfing ‘rite of spring’ that always been the most keen-

Mickelson’s victory next week, the possibili-ties are seemingly endless when it comes to likely winners after Sunday’s fi-nal round. The last seven edi-tions have produced seven different champions and golf’s extraordinary depth of talent has been show-cased on the 2013-14 PGA Tour where there have been 17 different winners from the 20 tournaments so far completed.

The players that play really good quality golf from top to bottom are the kind of guys that enter the tournament (any PGA Tour event), so it’s tough. You know that you got to play great to win out here.”

“If my back’s feeling great, my body’s been feeling great. I felt as good as I have all year,” said the left-hander, whose decision to withdraw seemed purely precautionary. “My speed is back, I was hitting the ball hard, driving it great. I pulled a muscle on my downswing trying to hit the ball hard … it just killed it and it wouldn’t subside for 10 or 12 seconds … there’s really not much you can do for a pulled muscle. I hope I’ll be OK.”

Whether or not Mickelson is a significant factor next week, the possibili-ties are seemingly endless when it comes to likely winners after Sunday’s fi-nal round. The last seven edi-tions have produced seven different champions and golf’s extraordinary depth of talent has been show-cased on the 2013-14 PGA Tour where there have been 17 different winners from the 20 tournaments so far completed.

Everybody that tees it up here is a great play-er,” said American Matt Kuchar, who was tied for the lead with nine holes remaining at the Texas Open on Sunday before finishing two strokes behind the triumphant Stonewall.

Photos from the Masters tournament are available on the Tournament Central gallery. More than 400,000 people are expected to attend the tournament this week.

More mass fainting occur at Cambodian garment factories

PHNOM PENH, 4 April — At least 102 workers fainted at two garment factories in Cambodia Friday morning, a day af-ter about 118 workers fell sick in two other factories, a local police chief said.

Yim Saran, police chief of Phnom Penh City’s Por Senchey dis-trict, where the incidents happened, said some 52 workers fainted at New Wide factory and another 50 fell ill at IC factory.

“They have been sent to hospitals soon after the incidents,” he told Xinhua. “No one died. Some have recovered after re-ceiving medical treatment and returned home.”

He said insecticide was blamed for the mass fainting at New Wide fac-tory, which has occurred three straight days since Wednesday, while the fainting at IC factory was probably caused by poor environment workplace in combination with hot weather.

Garment industry, the kingdom’s largest foreign exchange earner, earned revenues of 5.5 billion US dollars last year. The sec-tor comprises some 900 factories with roughly 600,000 workers.

Mass fainting have often happened in Cam-bodian garment factories. Last year, 823 workers fell sick in 15 factories due to overwork, poor health, exposure to chem-ical substances, and hys-teria, according to the report of the Ministry of Labour.

Two foreign journalists shot in Afghanistan, one dead

KHOST, Afghanistan, 4 April — A man dressed as a policeman shot two foreign journal-ists in eastern Afghan-istan on Friday, killing one and critically wounding the other, police, a doctor and a local official said. The attack took place on the eve of a presidential election that Taliban in-surgents have pledged to disrupt through a cam-paign of bombings and assassinations.

The two journalists were in a remote small town on Afghanistan’s bor-der with Pakistan when the incident took place. A spokesman for the governor of Khost province suggested the assailant was actually a policeman.

“Naqibullah, a po-liceman in Tani District of Khost province, went on fire on two foreign journalists. One was killed and one was wounded,” Mohibaz Zad-ran told Reuters.

A gardener resows green plants at a botanical garden of the World Horticultural Exposition in Qingdao, east China’s Shandong Province, on 3 April, 2014. The trial run of 2014 Qingdao World Horticultural Exposition will begin at the Qingming Festival which falls on Saturday.

A person with Faith

Local News

The World’s Largest Pagoda

Local News

In the Studio: Na Di Htike

Myanmar Masterclass

Fantastic Art

Fantastic Art

In the Studio: Pyi Soe

World News

World News

World News

World News

World News

World News

World News

World News

World News

World News

World News

World News

World News

World News

World News

World News

World News

World News

World News

World News

World News

World News

World News

World News

World News

World News

World News

World News

World News

World News

World News

World News

World News

World News

World News

World News

World News

World News

World News

World News

World News

World News

World News

World News

World News

World News

World News

World News

World News

World News

World News

World News

World News

World News

World News

World News

World News

World News

World News

World News

World News

World News

World News

World News

World News

World News

World News

World News

World News

World News

World News

World News

World News

World News

World News

World News

World News

World News

World News

World News

World News

World News

World News

World News

World News

World News

World News

World News

World News

World News

World News

World News

World News

World News

World News

World News

World News

World News

World News

World News

World News

World News

World News

World News

World News

World News

World News

World News

World News

World News

World News

World News

World News

World News

World News

World News

World News

World News

World News

World News

World News

World News

World News

World News

World News

World News

World News

World News

World News

World News

World News

World News

World News

World News

World News

World News

World News

World News

World News

World News

World News

World News

World News

World News

World News

World News

World News

World News

World News

World News

World News

World News

World News

World News

World News

World News

World News

World News

World News

World News
New York, April—Shanshan Feng picked the brain of a wily veteran on route to grabbing the first round lead at the Kraft Nabisco Championship, the first major of the women’s golf season, on Thursday.

Feng, China’s first winner on the LPGA Tour, carded a six-under-par 66 to head American Michelle Wie and South Korean Pak Se-ri by one stroke.

Teenage amateur Angel Yin and South Korean Amy Yang are two strokes behind after a day of low scoring in ideal conditions at Mission Hills Country Club in Rancho Mirage, California.

Feng played her opening round with three-time Kraft Nabisco Championship winner Amy Alcott and was not afraid to ask the 58-year-old for advice on how to navigate the course.

“After my first drive, I was asking her the secrets about winning here,” said the 24-year-old from Guangzhou. “Before this year, I never did well here, so she was telling me the secrets (but) don’t ask me what the secrets are, because they are secrets.”

“I will tell you maybe after we finish on Sunday but I did learn a lot from her. I was really focusing on my game but at the same time watching how she deals with the tough shots,” Feng has three LPGA Tour victories, including a major title — the 2012 LPGA Championship.

Wie picked up five strokes in four holes around the turn, including an eagle on the par-five 11th. Her only blemish was a bogey at the penultimate hole, where she missed a short putt.

The 24-year-old from Hawaii is making her 12th appearance in the event, which she nearly won in 2006 when she finished a stroke behind winner Karrie Webb. Wie has not yet lived up to the hype she generated as a teenager who played in several men’s events, but the two-time LPGA winner is starting to adapt to full-time golf after graduating from university two years ago.

“I definitely struggled a bit the transition between period school and playing full time, but I’m getting into the groove of it,” she said. Yin, a 15-year-old Californian playing on an invitation after making the cut last year, said good putting had been the key to her low score. “I was staying calm and missing my stroke. I really like the greens here, so my putting is better than any other course I play,” she said.

Yin, however, joked that she would not be so calm if she had a chance to interview Wie. “If she said ‘hi’ to me, I’d probably run,” she said. Defending champion Park Inbee of South Korea mixed three bogeys with birdie for a two-over 74.