IMF, WBG Heads stress the need of stepping up structural reforms for ensuring inclusive growth in all countries

By Ye Myint in Washington DC

WASHINGTON, DC, 11 April — The International Monetary Fund Managing Director Ms. Christine Lagarde and World Bank Group President Mr. Jim Yong Kim were interviewed about poverty eradication among other pressing issues by journalists from the IMF Journalism Fellowship Programme at the Spring Meetings 2014 Opening Press Conferences on Thursday morning.

During the IMF-World Bank press briefings separately held at the conference hall-2 in IMF Headquarters-2 in Washington, DC, both chiefs of the two world leading institutions stressed the focus on structural reforms in all countries, advanced, emerging and low-income countries, for ensuring inclusive growth.

Accompanied by First Deputy Managing Director Mr. David Lipton and IMF Communications Department Director Mr. Gerry Rice, the IMF Managing Director admitted that global unemployment remains as a major concern as the global number of jobless people still tops 200 million, despite the global growth forecast of 3.6 percent this year and 3.9 percent in 2015.

She predicted that growth continues to be strong in low-income countries but stressed the need to safeguard against rapid debt buildup and risk of low growth in the future. Talking about advanced economies, particularly the Euro zone, she expressed concerns about prolonged low inflation that could hurt both growth and jobs and called for the pace of reforms in their fiscal and monetary policies. She highlighted the safeguard program in Tunisia, called a democracy startup by its Prime Minister, will be a success story as the Tunisian government matures into this program that attracts FDI’s in growth sectors.

Taking the stage together with his Communications Advisor Mr. John Donnelly, the World Bank Group President also stated that the organization’s twin goals of eradicating extreme poverty by 2030 and sharing the pie of prosperity to all will not be easy, pointing out that those living on less than $1.25 a day will have to lift themselves out of poverty by one million people each week, despite the fact that the number of the global poor remains as a major concern as the global number of jobless people still tops 200 million, despite the global growth forecast of 3.6 percent this year and 3.9 percent in 2015.

But he expressed his belief that the goal of ending extreme poverty can happen as the world is in a time when growth in high-income countries is accelerating, and growing in many developing countries.

He warned, however, that even a small setback can result in leaving millions of poor families destitute rather than breaking the cycle of poverty. He stressed the need to escalate the pace of reforms in the countries that seem to have seen mass migration of people moving from poverty to prosperity. He pointed out the fact that ensuring inclusive growth, job creation and direct assistance to the poor are needed for reaching the target.

Responding to a question about the WB’s continued support for Paraguay’s poverty eradication scheme, Mr. Kim pointed out the next great question after lifting the people out of poverty, saying that job creation is a big issue for enabling people to enter into the formal labor market. He indicated the WB’s Development Report from two years ago that revealed more than 90 percent of all Jobs are created by one million people each week, despite the fact that the number of the global poor remains as a major concern as the global number of jobless people still tops 200 million, despite the global growth forecast of 3.6 percent this year and 3.9 percent in 2015.

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Vice-Senior General Soe Win leaves for Malaysia

NAY PYI TAW, 11 April—At the invitation of the Malaysian Armed Forces, General Datuk Raja Mohamed Affandi Bin Mohamed Noor, a Myanmar military delegation led by Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win left Yangon for Malaysia on Friday.

The Vice-Senior General was seen off at the Yangon International Airport by Yangon Command Commander Maj-Gen Hsan Oo and senior military officers of Yangon Station. The Vice-Senior General was accompanied by senior military officers of Commander-in-Chief (Army) Office, North-West Command Commander Maj-Gen Aung Lin Dway and officials.

Dam, hydropower plant of Nancho Hydropower Project opens in Pyinmana

NAY PYI TAW, 11 April—A ceremony to open dam and hydropower plant of Nancho Hydro-power Project implemented by Hydropower Implementation Department under the Ministry of Electric Power took place at the plant, about sixteen miles east of Pyinmana in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area on Friday. Deputy Ministers U Aung Thau Oo, U Maw Tha Htwe and U Myint Zaw, and party cut the ribbon to open reservoir and hydropower plant of Nancho Hydropower Project.

Then, Union Minister U Khin Maung Soe pressed the button to open sign-board of the hydropower plant and the region chief minister, stone inscription of the plant. After that, they viewed round generators, power control room and reservoir.

The newly-inaugurated Nancho Hydropower Plant is installed two generators with a capacity of 20 megawatts each capable of generating 152 million kWh per year. —MINA

Recruitment notice for post of AIBD programme manager

NAY PYI TAW, 11 April—Kuala Lumpur based Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development (AIBD) invites applications for the recruitment of the post of Programme Manager.

AIBD limits applicants who must get a university degree preferably in broadcast journalism, professional qualifications in TV production, content creation, documentary or a related subject area and skills and experience in conducting and organizing training and consultancy activities.

The applicants must also be good in English written and spoken skills, analytical, organizational, interpersonal communication and personnel management skills and motivated team player who can work independently. The applicants of under 45 who have minimum 10-year working experience in TV programme production in any relevant field in television broadcasting may join the AIBD not later than 16 May.

The curriculum Vitae with copies of the latest degree/s, passport sized photograph taken within last six months, number of dependants and details of dependants who will reside in Kuala Lumpur if the applicant is appointed and letters of recommendation may be included with the application. For further information, contact the Director of Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development at PO Box 12066 in 50766 Kuala Lumpur or admin@aibd.org.my.

Myanmar to host 9th South East Asian Youth Athletics Championships on 27-28 April

NAY PYI TAW, 11 April—The 9th South East Asian Youth Athletics Championships will be held at Wunna Theikdhi Stadium in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar on 27-28 April 2014.

Thailand hosted the 1st Asian Youth Athletics Championships will be held at Wunna Theikdhi Stadium in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area on 27-28 April 2014.

The 9th South East Asian Youth Athletics Championships will be held at Wunna Theikdhi Stadium in Nay Pyi Taw, Ministry of Border Affairs, 11 April — Set of computer and 300 school uniforms by Sitagu missionary group and K 100 million by the Ministry of Border Affairs. —MINA

Korea’s Yeungnam University confers PhD degree on Union Minister U Win Tun

NAY PYI TAW, 11 April—The Korea-Myanmar Forestry Cooperation Committee formed in 1999 has been holding its meetings once every two years in the Republic of Korea and Myanmar alternatively.

Union Minister for Environment and Forestry U Win Tun attended the 8th meeting of the committee in Daejun of Korea on Tuesday.

The minister received the director-general of Korea’s Forest Research Department in Seoul. At the National Assembly, the Union minister met the chairman of agriculture, fisheries and rural development committee of the National Assembly of Korea and exchanged views on cooperation in forestry sector of two countries, more investment in forest sector and further cooperation in rural region development. On 9 April, the Union minister accepted honorary PhD degree (Public Administration) conferred by Yeungnam University of Daegoo. —MINA

New school building, hospital building put into service in Leshi

NAY PYI TAW, 11 April—Chancellor of Sitagu International Buddhist Academy (SIBA) Ashin Nyanissara, Union Ministers U Hla Tun and Lt-Gen Thet Naing Win and officials attended merit sharing ceremony for new school building at No (1) Basic Education High School and opening of hospital building in Leshi Township in Naga Self-Administered Zone in Sagaing Region on 10 April.

The wellwishers handed over documents related to the new school building to the Ministry of Education and officials from the Ministry of Border Affairs, documents related to the Ministry of Health. Then, Sitagu missionary group presented 300 school uniforms to the students.

The Union ministers, officials and wellwishers formally opened the new school building and hospital building and provided the patients with cash assistance. The new school building and hospital building were constructed at a cost of K 100 million contributed by U Tin Oo Daw Hla Myint (Shwesin Jewellery) and one 10 KVA engine, 25 sets of computer and 300 school uniforms by Sitagu missionary group and K 100 million by the Ministry of Border Affairs. —MINA

Union Minister U Win Tun poses for photo after receiving honorary PhD degree (Public Administration). —MINA
NATIONAL

Nay Pyi Taw, 11 April—Vice-President Dr. Sai Mauk Kham visited healthcare facilities in central Myanmar region on Friday.

Dr. Sai Mauk Kham, accompanied by Deputy Minister for Health Dr. Daw Thein Thein Htay, arrived in Magway Township, Magway Region, at 9 a.m.

Together with regional ministers, they visited Magway Township’s 200-bed People’s Hospital and witnessed healthcare activities at the respective medical wards.

The Vice-President said, “Our visit to this hospital is aimed at providing the required assistance after witnessing the actual situations such as the healthcare facilities, medical equipment and the number of medical staff.”

He also discussed to fulfill the requirements of hospital staff.

Magway hospital started its operations before 1964 as the 25-bed township health centre, and it was upgraded to a 200-bed hospital. Its 352 medical staff are now treating 91 out-patients and 245 in-patients each day.

Dr. Daw Khin Oo Kyi, medical superintendent of the hospital, reported to the Vice-President about the needs to upgrade the hospital into a 300-bed-healthcare facility, and explained healthcare services to the residents.

The Deputy Minister pledged the government’s assistance to the hospital.

The Vice-President also visited the University of Medicine (Magway) in the afternoon. He congratulated the professors, the members of respective faculties and staff of the university for winning the award of Oxford Summit of Leader 2013.—MNA

Vice-President visits healthcare facilities in central Myanmar

Vice-President calls for reforms to ensure Bagan cultural zone separate from hotel zone

Vice-President U Nyan Tun cordially meets farmers of Pakokku and Gangaw Districts at the ceremony to return confiscated farmlands.—MNA

Myanmar, China sign MoU to promote cooperation between two parliaments

Beijing, 11 April—Myanmar and China signed MoU on promotion of friendship and cooperation between the parliaments of the two countries on Friday.

Before signing the MoU, Zhang Dejiang, Chairman of the China’s National People’s Congress, and Thura U Shwe Mann, the Speaker of the Union Parliament of Myanmar held talks over cooperation and promoting understanding between the two peoples.

Zhang Dejiang said China attached great importance to the relations with Myanmar and stressed the need to promote bilateral cooperation in economic, social and cultural sectors.

Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann reaffirmed Myanmar’s support for China’s One China Policy and One Country Two Systems.

He also expressed thanks to China’s support for Myanmar’s reforms. —MNA

Chairman of the China’s National People’s Congress Zhang Dejiang greets Union Parliament Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann.—MNA
Mahlaing residents enjoy potable water

Mahlaing, 11 April—Locals from Muyoe Village enjoy availability of potable water from a tube-well donated by wellwishers from Mandalay under the arrangement of the Union Government.

The village is situated in Mahlaing Township of Mandalay Region. A total of 3450 people from 270 households reside in the village.

The 900 ft deep and 4 inches diameter tube-well is located in the centre of the village. The construction work began on 22 March and ended on 8 April. It produces 3000 gallon per hour.

A plan is underway to build a 5000-gallon tank and to install motors for supply of safe water.

Aung Htay (Mahlaing)

Stake driven to construct new school building in Myingyan Township

Myingyan, 11 April—A stake driven ceremony for construction of a new school building took place at Basic Education Primary School in Kyartang Village, Myingyan Township in Mandalay Region on 9 April. The locals are satisfied with construction of three conduits because they can go Dulabo and Mepauk Villages through these conduits smoothly in rainy season.

U Zaw Min Naing (Myingyan)

Transport smooth for locals in Myingyan

Myingyan, 11 April—Three conduits were built between Dulabo and Mepauk Villages of Myingyan Township in Mandalay Region funded by Department of Rural Development under the Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development.

Each conduit with 3 feet diameter and 25 feet wide constructed by KE-NETIC ART Company through tender cost K 1 million and it was completed in March.

Win Myint Kyaw (Labutta District IPRD)

Refresher course for agriculturists opens in Labutta

Labutta, 11 April—A refresher course for the staff from Agriculture Department under the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation was opened at the hall in Labutta Township, Ayeyawady Region on 10 April. On the occasion, Labutta District Deputy Commissioner U Kyaw Htay and Head of Region Agriculture Department Director U Myint Thein made opening speeches. Then, Staff Officer Daw Shu Yi of District Agriculture Department presented matters related to the course.

The locals are satisfied with construction of three conduits because they can go Dulabo and Mepauk Villages through these conduits smoothly in rainy season.

Aung Htay (Mahlaing)

Victims from relief camps in Rakhine State provided with health care services

Sitway, 11 April—A medical team led by Assistant Director Dr Tun Tin from the Ministry of Health provided health care services to the families who are taking shelter at Setyonsu, Hsetyoekya, Dat-seda, Aungmingala, Darpaing, Thetalpinyin, Sanpya (West), Sethanagyi, Ohntawgyi, Khaungdogka and Bawdupha relief camps in Sitway Township.

It is learnt that the team provided 3657 victims from the relief camps in Sitway and Pauktaw Townships with health care services and necessary medicines from 9 March to 8 April.

Rakhine State IPRD
Portugal sets to make decision on bailout exit strategy in May

LISBON, 11 April — Portugal is to make a decision on its bailout exit strategy by 5 May, in time for the country’s scheduled Eurogroup meeting, the Portuguese government announced on Thursday.

The debt-laden country is nearing the end of the bailout programme it signed with its international creditors three years ago, but divisions have emerged within the government as to what strategy it should follow. Portugal is scheduled to follow Ireland’s footsteps on exiting the bailout programme on 17 May, but it seems unlikely to manage a “clean exit,” according to the announcement.—Xinhua

Egypt’s Tahrir Square dream fades as Sisi builds power

Caire, 11 April — In a courthouse near Cairo, a peremptory message hangs above the judge presiding over one of a series of trials involving Egypt’s briefly powerful and now almost impotent Muslim Brotherhood.

“In the name of God the Merciful”, it reads, “Allah commands you to render trust to whom it is due, and when you judge between people to judge with justice”.

The chaotic scenes in the court do not appear to measure up. A metal cage held 53 members of the Brotherhood — outlawed as a terrorist organization after the army last July deposed Mohamed Mursi, the elected president who ruled in the Brotherhood’s name for one tumultuous year.

Among them was Mohamed Badie, supreme guide of the Brotherhood. It is the most influential mainstream Islamic organization in the world and its confrontation with the army-backed authorities in Cairo has created a country more divided than at any time since the group was founded in Egypt in 1928.

Supporters of the Muslim Brotherhood and ousted President Mohamed Mursi, standing trial on charges of violence that broke out in Alexandria last year, react after two fellow supporters were sentenced to death, in a court in Alexandria in this file photo. — Reuters

Venezuela’s Maduro and opposition talk as death toll hits 40

CARACAS, 11 April — Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro hosted opposition leaders on Thursday at the start of mediated talks intended to stem two months of political unrest that has killed dozens in the OPEC nation.

The meeting, brokered by foreign ministers from the Unasur bloc of South American governments, took place at the Miraflores presidential palace in Caracas and was broadcast live on TV.

“The road here was long and complicated, but it was worth it ... we are going to listen patiently, and with respect and tolerance, to the commitments of the opposition,” Maduro said in lengthy opening comments. He cautioned against unrealistic expectations.

“There are no negotiations here. No pacts. All we’re looking for is a model of peaceful coexistence, of mutual tolerance.”

Some hardline opposition groups, including the party of jailed protest leader Leopoldo Lopez, boycotted the talks while dozens of demonstrators remain in jail.

Pollsters say approval levels for both Maduro and the opposition have fallen during the crisis, while an already slowing economy has suffered a further drag from the impact of violent clashes on businesses and transport.

 Authorities said on Thursday that a policeman was shot dead in western Barquisimeto city while dispersing a demonstration, bringing the official death toll to 40.

Since protests began in early February, about 650 people have been injured, officials say. More than 2,000 people have been detained, and 174 are still behind bars.—Reuters

Venezuela’s President Nicolas Maduro (R) and opposition leader and Governor of Miranda state Henrique Capriles (L) attend a meeting with representatives of the opposition, the Roman Catholic Church and Union of South American Nations’ (UNASUR) at Miraflores Palace in Caracas on 10 April, 2014. — Reuters

UN Security Council OKs peacekeepers for Central African Republic

UNITED NATIONS / BANGUI, 11 April — The United Nations Security Council on Thursday authorized the creation of a nearly 12,000-strong UN peacekeeping force in the Central African Republic in a bid to end violence between Christians and Muslims that has threatened to spiral into genocide.

The mainly Muslim Seleka seized power a year ago, perpetrating abuses on the minority Christian population that triggered waves of revenge attacks, leading to thousands of deaths and displacing hundreds of thousands of civilians.

At least 13 people were killed when Christian militia fighters, known as the ‘anti-balaka’, attacked a town held by Muslim Seleka rebels in a rural area of Central African Republic this week, residents said on Thursday. The 15-member Security Council authorized a UN force, to be known as MINUSCA, of up to 10,000 troops, 1,800 police and 20 corrections officers. It also authorized French troops in the landlocked former French colony to support UN peacekeepers.

The UN operation will assume authority on 15 September from the African Union’s 5,600-strong MISCA force, which was deployed in December. The council wants the UN force to include “as many MISCA military and police personnel as possible.”

“I’m happy for the arrival of the blue helmets because their presence here will give back hope to the population,” said sociology student Jean Felix Keinam, 31, in the capital, Bangui.

“We have seen the MISCA and (the French troops) try to restore security here, but they have failed.”—Reuters

The United Nations Security Council votes on a resolution approving UN peacekeepers for the Central African Republic at the UN headquarters in New York, on 10 April, 2014.— Reuters

Road accidents claim 14,000 lives in S Africa annually

CAPE TOWN, 11 April — Road carnage claims about 14,000 lives in South Africa every year, Transport Minister Dipuo Peters said on Thursday.

She was speaking at the launch of the 2014 East- er Arrive Alive Road Safety Campaign in Kimberley, Northern Cape Province.

Traffic accidents also cause huge economic loss es as the country spends 14 billion rand (about 1.35 billion US dollars) annually on accident victims, Peters said. As huge Chris- tian pilgrimages travel to various places of worship during the Easter Holiday, the country’s roads become pitting of tragic loss of hu- man life, said Peters.—Xinhua

“The roads in un-roadworthy vehicles, it is sign of disrespect to others’ lives and our own, and so it is also when we fail to buckle up or fail to use child-re- straints while driving,” the minister said.

“Overtaking at clearly marked barrier lines and oth- er prohibiting road signals is another major cause of road car- nages, according to the minister.

“That is a gross dis- regard for the law of the country and its citizens who may die as a result of your recklessness and negligence, and so it is when we drive at high speed in total disregard to legal speed limit,” Peters said.—Xinhua
**G-20 may cite Ukraine crisis as risk to global economy**

WASHINGTON, 11 April — Group of 20 finance chiefs may issue a warning of the geopolitical risks stemming from the Ukraine crisis in a communiqué to be released after their two-day meeting in Washington from Thursday, sources close to the matter said, underscoring concerns it could stifle the global economy down the road.

Ahead of the G-20 gathering, the Group of Seven countries — Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the United States — also held an emergency meeting in the US capital and exchanged views on “the situation in Ukraine, its financing needs and the international response,” the G-7 said in a statement.

Earlier Thursday, US Treasury Secretary Jack Lew told Russian Finance Minister Anton Siluanov during bilateral talks that Washington from Thursday was prepared “to impose additional significant sanctions” on Moscow if Russia escalates its involvement in Ukraine, the US Treasury Department said.

**US accuses Russia after Putin warning on gas supplies to Europe**

**MOSCOW/WASHINGTON, 11 April —** President Vladimir Putin warned on Thursday that Russian gas supplies to Europe could be disrupted if Moscow cuts the flow to Ukraine over unpaid bills, drawing a US accusation that it is using energy “as a tool of coercion.”

In a letter to the leaders of 18 European countries, Putin made clear that his patience would run out over Kiev’s $2.2 billion gas debt to Russia and “in the event of further violation of the conditions of payment will completely or partially cease gas deliveries”.

That could have knock-on effects for European Union countries, much of whose Russian gas flows in pipelines across Ukraine. “We fully realize that this increases the risk of (Ukraine) siphoning off natural gas passing through Ukraine’s territory and heading to European consumers,” the letter said. Russia meets 30 percent of Europe’s natural gas demand and half of this goes through Ukraine.

The United States accused Moscow of using its vast energy reserves to pressure the former Soviet republic. “We condemn Russia’s efforts to use energy as a tool of coercion against Ukraine,” State Department spokeswoman Jen Psaki said. US President Barack Obama, in a phone call on Thursday with German Chancellor Angela Merkel, underscored the need for the United States, European Union and other global partners to be prepared to meet further Russian escalation with additional sanctions,” the White House said.

**Australian PM says searchers confident of position of MH370’s black boxes**

Bank of Japan Governor Haruhiko Kuroda answers reporters’ questions prior to a meeting of the Group of 20 finance chiefs in Washington on 10 April, 2014. **KYODO NEWS**

**PERTH/SHANGHAI, 11 April —** Search and rescue officials in Australia are confident that they have found the approximate position of the black box recorders from missing Malaysia Airlines Flight MH370, Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott said on Friday.

At the same time, however, the head of the agency coordinating the search said that the latest “ping” signal, which was captured by a listening device buoy on Thursday, was not related to the plane.

“We are confident that we know the position of the black box flight recorder to within some kilometres (miles),” Abbott said in a speech in the Chinese commercial capital Shanghai.

**Still, confidence in the approximate position of the black box is not the same as finding the black box,” Abbott said.**

“Still, confidence in the approximate position of the black box is not the same as finding the black box,” Abbott said.

All five acoustic signals were detected in this small area. But Angus Houston, head of the Australian agency supervising the search effort, said on Friday that analysis of acoustic data confirmed that the latest signal was unlikely to be related to the missing plane’s black boxes. **REUTERS**

**Ship ready to destroy Syria’s chemical arms at sea**

**On Board The Cape Ray, 11 April —** Experts on board a cargo ship transformed into a multi-million dollar chemical weapons destroyer said on Thursday they were ready to start working on Syria’s stock of toxic arms in the middle of the Mediterranean as early as May.

Now they just have to hope the weather holds and Damascus delivers on time.

**Tanker Cape Ray**

former container vessel Cape Ray, docked in southern Spain, has been fitted out with at least $10 million of gear to take on about 560 metric tonnes of Syria’s most dangerous chemical agents and sail them out to sea, said officials.

The Damascus government, fighting rebels for three years, agreed to hand over its stockpile, which includes precursors for deadly nerve agents sulphur mustard and sarin gas, under an international deal backed by Washington and Moscow.

On the Cape Ray, the specialised crew will transform much of it into a much less poisonous soup of chemicals, ready for disposal back on land.

The process, say officials on the bulking grey, five-storey vessel, is fairly simple. The main agent to neutralise the agents is hot water.

But things could get trickier if the seas turn rough.

**Piracy reduced in Indian Ocean off Somalia**

**Oslo, 11 April —** The number of piracy attacks on ships in the Indian Ocean has come down as no ships were hijacked in almost two months, said an official of the Norwegian Foreign Ministry.

No ships on the international sea routes in the Indian Ocean off the African coast has been hijacked nearly 24 months thanks to successful preventive measures at sea, said Norwegian State Secretary Espen Barth Eide.

“The reduction in the number of attacks on ships in the Indian Ocean is a positive development. At the same time there are still attacks on shipping,” Norway said.

Norway will continue its efforts to prevent piracy at sea and support the efforts to apprehend the perpetrators in Somalia,” said Pedersen. Norway will continue to cooperate with Somalia and Somalia’s neighbouring countries to get a definitive end to piracy, said Pedersen in a press release.

**Piracy in the Indian Ocean increased in 2008.**

Norway holds that pirates should be brought to justice and serve their sentences in their home countries — Somalia. **Xinhua**
S Korea denies report on seeking MOU on military secrets with US, Japan

SEOUL, 11 April — The South Korean government on Friday denied a news report that it is seeking a memorandum of understanding on sharing military secrets and protecting them with the United States and Japan.

“It is necessary for South Korea, the US and Japan to basically exchange military secrets with the need to cope with North Korea’s nuclear and missile threats, but with Japan, an atmosphere is not yet created with many pending issues remaining to be settled and popular sentiments,” Defence Ministry spokesman Kim Min Seok said during a press briefing.

His remarks were in response to news reports the three countries are likely to sign the MOU in a meeting of senior defense officials set for next Thursday and Friday in Washington.

“The issue is not included as an agenda at the meeting set to be held in secret in Washington,” Kim said.

Derbas said that “the government is about to take clear positions on the issue of Syrian refugees in order to be able to face this plight.”

He said that Lebanon is receiving about 50,000 displaced Syrians every month, or one for every minute. “According to the UN’s Higher Refugees Commission report on Wednesday, there are more than one million Syrian refugees registered officially in Lebanon,” Derbas said that his country had decided to confront this issue “from different perspectives used in the past, as Lebanon cannot carry the burden any more on itself, neither economically nor socially, and especially not from the demographic, educational and health perspectives.”

But the minister declined to reveal the guidelines of the new policy, only saying that “the ideal solution for Lebanon is that those refugees return to their homeland, but since most of them have lost their homes because of the ongoing military action, probably erecting safe camps for them will be a feasible solution.”

He added that “this solution cannot be applied without the consent of the Syrian government or if the refugees refuse to return in the current circumstances.”

Lebanon has adopted so far the policy of “open border” with the Syrians fleeing the ongoing violence in their homeland.

UN renews call for human rights monitoring in Western Sahara

VIENNA, 11 April — UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on Thursday renewed his appeals for sustained human rights monitoring in the disputed territory of northern Africa’s Western Sahara and warned against unfair exploitation of the region’s natural resources.

The comments were included in Ban’s latest report to the 15-nation UN Security Council, an advance copy of which was obtained by Reuters.

Morocco took control of most of the territory in 1975 when colonial power Spain withdrew, prompting a guerrilla war for independence that lasted until 1991 when the United Nations brokered a cease-fire and sent in a peacekeeping mission known as MINURSO.

Ban said he welcomed Morocco’s willingness to allow special investigators from the UN Human Rights Council to visit the territory and the Polisario Front independence movement’s willingness to work with United Nations rights bodies.

“The end goal nevertheless remains a sustained, independent and impartial human rights monitoring,” Ban said. While Ban did not say it directly, UN officials and diplomats say that he would like the UN mission in Western Sahara to take on monitoring human rights violations in the territory, but Morocco, backed by France, has vigorously resisted the idea.

The renewal of the mandate of the peacekeeping mission marks an annual battle in the Security Council between France, which defends Morocco’s position, and a number of African and Western nations supporting Polisario.

After sending the report to the council on Thursday, the United Nations issued at least two revised versions of it over the course of several hours. The latest version removes the term “monitoring” mechanism and only refers to “monitoring.”

Ahmed Boukhari, the Polisario’s UN representative, said he was disappointed Ban’s report did not go further, adding that Rabat and Paris were putting pressure on the world body.

Group of deputies wants Gorbachev investigated over Soviet break-up

MOSCOW, 11 April — A small group of lawmakers have asked Russia’s top prosecutor to investigate whether the last Soviet leader, Mikhail Gorbachev, should face treason charges over his role in the 1991 collapse of the Soviet Union. Gorbachev dismissed the request as an act of publicity-seeking and said there were no grounds to charge him.

It follows a surge of patriotism since Russia’s annexation of Crimea from Ukraine last month, which has revived nostalgia among some Russians for the Soviet Union and boosted President Vladimir Putin’s popularity ratings.

The seven-page request for an investigation, signed by Gorbachev and other senior Soviet officials, violated the law and the will of the people by letting the republics that made up the Soviet Union declare independence and break away.

“As a result of these criminal actions, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, a global superpower, was destroyed and ceased existing as a geopolitical reality,” says the letter.

Signed by five lawmakers including two members of the United Russia party loyal to Putin, it was sent to Russian Prosecutor General Yuri Chaika on Wednesday.

The Prosecutor General’s office declined comment but said it generally takes up to 10 days to decide whether to start an investigation. Gorbachev is celebrated in the West for his policies of “perestroika” (restructuring) and glasnost (openness) and not resorting to widespread use of force to hold the Soviet Union together.

But many Russians blame him for the super-power’s collapse and some hanker for what they see as the relative stability of Soviet times.

EU’s Ashton affirms support for Egypt roadmap, anti-terrorism war

CAIRO, 11 April — EU foreign policy chief Catherine Ashton affirmed on Thursday EU’s support for Egypt’s future roadmap and its ongoing war against terrorism, official MENA news agency reported.

“Ashton affirmed EU keenness on maintaining relations with Egypt and the completion of Egypt’s future roadmap,” MENA quoted Egyptian presidential spokesman as saying.

Egypt has been facing terrorist attacks against police and military personnel and facilities over the past few months. Extremist groups supporting ousted Islamist President Mohamed Morsi have claimed responsibility for most of the attacks.

Last July Egypt’s military announced a roadmap after Morsi’s removal, which included a new constitution and presidential and parliamentary elections. Ashton’s visit came ahead of the country’s first post-Morsi presidential elections slated for late May.

She is expected to hold talks with the main two presidential hopefuls, ex-military chief Abdel-Fattah al-Sisi and leftist leader Hamdeen Sabahi.

Group of deputies wants Gorbachev investigated over Soviet break-up

MOSCOW, 11 April — A small group of lawmakers have asked Russia’s top prosecutor to investigate whether the last Soviet leader, Mikhail Gorbachev, should face treason charges over his role in the 1991 collapse of the Soviet Union. Gorbachev dismissed the request as an act of publicity-seeking and said there were no grounds to charge him.

It follows a surge of patriotism since Russia’s annexation of Crimea from Ukraine last month, which has revived nostalgia among some Russians for the Soviet Union and boosted President Vladimir Putin’s popularity ratings.

The seven-page request for an investigation, signed by Gorbachev and other senior Soviet officials, violated the law and the will of the people by letting the republics that made up the Soviet Union declare independence and break away.

“As a result of these criminal actions, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, a global superpower, was destroyed and ceased existing as a geopolitical reality,” says the letter.

Signed by five lawmakers including two members of the United Russia party loyal to Putin, it was sent to Russian Prosecutor General Yuri Chaika on Wednesday.

The Prosecutor General’s office declined comment but said it generally takes up to 10 days to decide whether to start an investigation. Gorbachev is celebrated in the West for his policies of “perestroika” (restructuring) and glasnost (openness) and not resorting to widespread use of force to hold the Soviet Union together.

But many Russians blame him for the super-power’s collapse and some hanker for what they see as the relative stability of Soviet times.

EU’s Ashton affirms support for Egypt roadmap, anti-terrorism war

CAIRO, 11 April — EU foreign policy chief Catherine Ashton affirmed on Thursday EU’s support for Egypt’s future roadmap and its ongoing war against terrorism, official MENA news agency reported.

“Ashton affirmed EU keenness on maintaining relations with Egypt and the completion of Egypt’s future roadmap,” MENA quoted Egyptian presidential spokesman as saying.

Egypt has been facing terrorist attacks against police and military personnel and facilities over the past few months. Extremist groups supporting ousted Islamist President Mohamed Morsi have claimed responsibility for most of the attacks.

Last July Egypt’s military announced a roadmap after Morsi’s removal, which included a new constitution and presidential and parliamentary elections. Ashton’s visit came ahead of the country’s first post-Morsi presidential elections slated for late May.

She is expected to hold talks with the main two presidential hopefuls, ex-military chief Abdel-Fattah al-Sisi and leftist leader Hamdeen Sabahi.
Effective use of external loans for poverty alleviation in Myanmar

By Aung Khin

The Asia Development Bank estimated in 2013 that Myanmar could follow Asia’s fast growing economies and expand 7 to 8 percent a year, becoming a middle income nation, and triple per capita income by 2030 if it can overcome substantial development challenges by further implementing across-the-board reforms.

According to the research by the World Bank Group, the country’s economy grew by 6.5 percent in the 2012-2013 fiscal year. The main drivers of growth were surges in natural gas explorations, services, construction, foreign direct investment and strong commodity exports.

Though Myanmar is rich in natural resources and thus a solvent client, and it is geo-strategically well-located between Asia’s largest emerging powers, there is little evidence that the population has so far benefitted from such advantages.

According to the World Factbook and World Development Indicators, the total external debt of Myanmar at the end of 2012 was over USD 5 billion. The second largest country in Southeast Asia had a negative growth (decline) of external debt by 6.43 percent from USD 7 billion in the last 10 years from 2002 to 2012.

President U Thein Sein said at the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw on Wednesday that the amount of loans currently spent is lower than the aids and loans offered by foreign countries. He also urged the ministries concerned to set priorities in accordance with reform strategies and to closely coordinate with donors and organizations to be able to effectively use the aids and loans.

As both local and external debts of the country are a burden for all citizens, the use of the budget should be transparent and effective for the welfare of the public who are still lagging behind those of neighbouring countries in terms of wages and living standards. Under these circumstances, the relevant bodies, including the Anti-Corruption Commission, should monitor the actual expenditures of public funds to avoid embezzlements in the country.

Poem:

Maha Thingyan in New Year

Padauk flowers in the bloom
Thingyan Festival is coming soon;
Fragrant water will be splashed
Affectionate ties are to be blessed;
Traditional short drums appear
With amusing style of Shwe Yoe dancer;
His melodious dance is so prominent
Making onlookers feel acquainted;
Eugenia leaves spread its shoots
Fresh and green are for strong mood;
Wishing free from all dangers
Splashing water each other;
Tagu month is unrivalled
Fantastic moment with festival;
Auspiciousness is extended
All can enjoy the calmness;
Thingyan clear all angers
Smile appears together;
In pouring Thingyan water
Old years’ defilements are cleared;
Joyous moods are in rhythm
Happy, exciting in Thingyan;
As one of the ancient cultures
We should conserve it forever;
Small glutinous rice dumplings
They keep our hearts exciting;
Washing hairs of the aged
Doing merits seasonal trait;
Good deeds turn out peaceful minds
They represent tranquil signs.

Pho Laylone Thaung Ko Ko
Translation: AK

Inspirating the Young Heart

Kyï Mun

To inspire the hearts and minds of young people, let me present the following sayings, maxims, proverbs, etc., mostly from memory.

* This to me is life;
  That, if life be a burden,
  I’ll join to make it
  But the burden of a song.
  -Bailey

* To strive, to seek, to find and not to yield.
  -Tennyson

* I don’t seek opportunities;
  I create them.
  -Napoleon Bonaparte

* Be bold and mighty forces will come to your aid.
  -The Bible

* Making a common thing uncommonly well
  will bring you success.
  -Anonymous

* To dare nobly, to will strongly, and never to falter in
  the path of duty.
  -Anonymous

* Think the most, feel the noblest, and act the best.
  -Anonymous

* Make new friend but keep the old;
  one is silver and
  the other is gold.
  -Anonymous

* Be strong inside, permit no defeat and fight all you can.
  -Anonymous

* Give all to love, obey they heart.
  -Emerson

* Be strong and good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed.
  -The Bible

* Be resolute, fear no sacrifice and surmount all difficulties to win victory.
  -Anonymous

* Be ye transformed by the renewal of your mind.
  -The Bible

* You only have to take one step at a time and to keep on.
  Keep on keeping on no matter how hard the going may be.
  -Napoleon Hill

* A man’s reach should exceed his grasp, or what’s
  Heaven for?
  -Anonymous

* Every good tree brings forth good fruit.
  -Matthew 7:17

* God is “Father, Mother, Nurse, Teacher/ Master/ Educator, Food, Shepherd, Life, Knowledge, Truth and Light.
  -Clement of Alexandria

* In due season we shall reap, if we faint not.
  -Galatians 6:9

* Learn one simple skill because each man should
  prove his own work.
  -Anonymous

* Faith, hope and trust confidence.
  -Richardson Drift

* To live is to fight, to suffer, and to love.
  -Elizabeth Lesueur

* Nothing great was ever done without much endurance.
  -St. Catherine of Siena

* Always earn, learn and be in earnest.
  -Anonymous

* Enduring patience is the highest austerity.
  -Bhagavad Gita

* Dare to cultivate hope, courage and wisdom-hope is
  the shield, courage, sword and wisdom, chariot.
  -Anonymous

* One step, and then another.
  And the longest walk is ended;
  -Anonymous

* And the largest rent is mended;
  -Anonymous

* One brick upon another,
  And the highest wall is made;
  -Anonymous

* One flake upon another,
  And the deepest snow is laid.
  -Anonymous

* “Little by little all the tasks are done,
  So are the crowns of the faithful won.”
  -Anonymous

* The wisdom of life is to endure what we must, and
  to change what we can.
  -A Jewish Proverb

U Kyï Mun residing in Yangon is a
consultant of NAING GROUP CO., LTD.
Kyaukse Industrial Zone produces gas turbines

KYAUKSE, 11 April—Ministry of Electric Power and APR Energy Co of the US install machines for 82-megawatt natural gas turbines at Kyaukse Industrial Zone.

Up to 9 April, they have installed 68 gas turbines. On completion, the turbines will be used for generating electricity to the power grid.

On his inspection tour of Kyaukse Industrial Zone, Mandalay Region Chief Minister U Ye Myint heard reports on installation of gas turbines at the project, installation of power lines and supply of electricity presented by electricians and officials.

The 82-megawatt gas turbines will be operated as of first April to generate 25 per cent electricity. Soon after, the turbines will be run in full swing for supplying electricity to the power grid for public consumption.—Maung Pyi Thu (Mandalay)

Anti-rabies talks given to families of servicemen in Mohnyin, Kachin State

MOHNYIN, 11 April—An educative talk on prevention against rabies was held at the hall of No 904 Artillery Control Command on 8 April.

The talks was given to families of regiments and units, with an address by Commander Brig-Gen Thet Naing. Dr Win Oo of Mohnyin District Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department explained animals bearing rabies, virus for the disease, infection of virus, symptoms of rabies, vaccination for anti-rabies.

A total of 170 officers, other ranks and family members of No 904 Artillery Control Command attended the talks. Officials of the department injected 35 dogs after the talks.—NLM-001

Rural Development Department spends fund on construction of Thegaw Bridge

PYAY, 11 April—The authorities of Padaung Township is building roads and bridges in rural areas for smooth transport.

Rural Development Department funded K 20.7 million for construction of 70 feet long Thegaw Bridge on Launzgali-Thegaw Road in Padaung Township of Pyay District.

Officials of Pyay District RDD on 8 April looked into progress of Thegaw Bridge and its standard.

Myanmar, US physicians give free medical treatments

TATKON, 11 April—Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association and US-based WHA doctors performed medical treatment free of charge to the local people at Basic Education Post-Primary School in Aungmye Township, Nay Pyi Taw Area, on 8 April morning.

President of MMCWA Dr Daw Mon Mon Aung made a speech. Medical Officer of Myitta Sanyay Clinic Dr San San Hlaing, Dr Zaw Tun Oo and Dr Thet Naing gave talks on expectant mother care, malaria disease, dengue hemorrhagic fever and elephantiasis diseases.

They donated nutritious foods to older persons, iodized salt and soaps to expectant mothers and books to Aungmye Yeiktha Village library.

The medical team gave health care services to 873 people free of charge from villages and wards of Tatkon.

Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)
Northern Ireland charges man with murder in Omagh bombing

BELFAST, 11 April — Northern Ireland has charged a man with 29 counts of murder in the 1998 Omagh bombing, the worst attack in decades of violence in the province, police said on Thursday.

Just months after a peace deal was struck, 29 people, including a woman pregnant with twins, were killed and more than 200 were wounded in the attack. No one has been criminally convicted for it.

Seamus Daly, who lives in Culloville, County Monaghan in the Republic of Ireland, was arrested on Monday when he crossed the border into Northern Ireland. The “Good Friday” peace agreement largely ended more than three decades of violence in which more than 3,600 people died between mainly Catholic Irish nationalists, seeking union with Ireland, and predominantly Protestant unionists who want to remain part of the United Kingdom.

The peace has remained largely unchanged, though the province suffers regular tensions between the communities and small groups of dissidents opposed to the agreement.

The only man to stand trial on a murder charge for the Omagh attack was acquitted in 2007. The Real IRA, a group opposed to the peace accord, claimed responsibility.

Daly is one of four men who were found to have been responsible for the bombing in a civil action taken by some of the families of the victims in the absence of a successful criminal conviction.

The four were ordered by the Northern Ireland High Court to pay £1.5 million (US$2.5 million) compensation. No money has ever been paid and Daly has consistently denied being involved.

Daly also faces two charges in relation to a car bombing in Lisburn in April 1998, a police spokesman said. He will appear in court on Friday to have the charges formally put to him. — Reuters

Four Taiwanese face drug-smuggling charges in New Zealand

WELLINGTON, 11 April — New Zealand Police and Customs officers have arrested four visitors from China’s Taiwan in connection with the smuggling of more than 11 kg of crystal methamphetamine into New Zealand.

The investigation began on 24 March when customs officers discovered the illegal drugs concealed in heavy metal boxes at an air cargo inspection facility at Auckland International Airport, police said on Friday.

Detective Senior Sergeant Lloyd Schmid said the methamphetamine had a street value of more than 11 million NZ dollars (US$9.3 million US dollars).

Three men and a woman, all from Taiwan, appeared in the Auckland District Court on Thursday charged with drug importation and supply, Schmid said in a statement.

Two of the men, aged 19 and 29, arrived in New Zealand on 24 March, said the statement, but no information was given on the other man and the woman.

“The success of this enquiry builds on that which we have achieved over recent years working closely with New Zealand Customs and our other partner agencies,” Schmid said. — Xinhua

The Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting of the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) is held in Washington DC, capital of the United States, on 10 April, 2014. — Xinhua

NATO satellite photos show Russian military buildup near Ukraine

MOSCOW, (Belgium), 11 April — NATO unveiled satellite photographs on Thursday it said showed deployments of some 40,000 troops near the Ukrainian frontier, along with long lines of tanks, armoured vehicles, artillery and aircraft ready for action.

“This is a force that is very capable, at high readiness, and, as we have illustrated through the imagery, is close to routes and lines of communication,” British Brigadier Gary Deakin said at a briefing at NATO military headquarters at Mons in southern Belgium.

“It has the resources to be able to move quickly into Ukraine if it was ordered to do so,” he said. If Russian political leaders took a decision to send forces into Ukraine, the first Russian forces could be on the move within 12 hours.

NATO has spotted Russian forces at more than 100 different sites close to the Ukraine border, he said.

The Western alliance displayed the commercial satellite images to reporters, a view back up its warnings of a Russian military buildup that could threaten Ukraine.

Russia denies massing forces near the border and accuses NATO of fomenting concern to rally support for the alliance.

Many of the sites in the images appeared to be fields rather than established military sites. The sites were located between about 40 kilometres (25 miles) and 150 kilometres of the Ukraine border, according to the images shown.

Russia’s occupation and annexation of Ukraine’s Crimea region has caused the biggest crisis in East-West relations since the Cold War and led to fears in Kiev that Moscow could send forces into other parts of Ukraine.

“They have all the capabilities: air, special forces, artillery, They have everything,” Brigadier Deakin said.

The satellite pictures exhibited by NATO showed long lines of tanks, armoured vehicles, artillery and aircraft parked and ready for action at a series of makeshift staging posts.

US Secretary of State John Kerry has accused Russian agents and special forces of stirring up separatist unrest and said Moscow could be trying to prepare for military action.

Russia denies the accusations and has dismissed concerns over a troop buildup.

In a buildup that began in early March, the satellite images showed that Russia has amassed not only infantry and artillery but electronic warfare units, helicopters and aircraft, said another NATO officer, speaking on condition of anonymity. — Reuters

Poland honours plane crash victims on 4th anniversary

WARSZAWA, 11 April — A commemoration of the fourth anniversary of the plane crash near Smolensk on 10 April, 2010, was held on Thursday morning.

After a mass in the parliamentary chapel, Sejm (lower house) and Senate Speakers Ewa Kopacz and Bogdan Borusewicz laid flowers at a plaque in memory of the 18 parliamentarians who died in the crash.

Prime Minister Donald Tusk, parliamentarians, Warsaw officials and victims’ families took part in an official commemoration at the Powazki military cemetery where 28 of the victims are buried.

Defence Minister Tomasz Siemoniak laid flowers and lit a candle at the plaque on the Defence Ministry building, commemorating those victims of the crash who were linked to the military.

Representatives of the Polish Council for the Protection of Struggle and Martyrdom Sites and the Polish Embassy in Russia laid wreaths and lit candles at the site of the crash in Smolensk. Smolensk officials and local Poles were also present.

President Bronislaw Komorowski and his wife Anna, together with the families of crash victims who had a connection to the office of president, took part in a commemorative mass celebrated in the Presidential Palace chapel.

Law and Justice (PiS) leader Jaroslaw Kaczynski, twin brother of late President Lech Kaczynski, together with other PiS politicians laid flowers and lit candles in front of the Presidential Palace in Warsaw. — Xinhua

DR Congo’s Nyamulagira volcano likely to erupt next week

KINSHASA, 11 April — The Nyamulagira volcano is currently in highly intense activity that can lead to a blowout in the coming days of next week, said an expert on Thursdays in Goma, a city in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo. “The eruption of Nyamulagira will have no impact on the famous volcano Nyiragongo, whose activity is in a normal state,” said Kacso Karume, member of the Volcanic Observatory of Goma (OVG).

Karume reassured local residents that they will be informed of the evolution of the volcano.

The Nyamulagira volcano is located 22 km north of Goma, capital of North Kivu Province.

According to a member of the security of Virunga National Park, assigned to the Congolese Institute for Nature Conservation (ICCN), the volcano poses no threat to mountain gorillas and other animals that live there.

Recent eruptions of Nyamulagira date back to November 2011 and January 2010. — Xinhua

Police stand in the rubble after a car-bomb ripped through the market town of Omagh in Northern Ireland on 15 Aug, 1998. — Reuters

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Recent eruptions of Nyamulagira date back to November 2011 and January 2010. — Xinhua
Sony urges consumers to stop using some Vaio models for fear of burns

SAN FRANCISCO, 11 April — Sony Corp urged consumers Friday to stop using some models of its Vaio Fit 11A personal computer released in February due to possible overheating of the battery that could result in partial burns. Subject to the request are the models SVF11N19EJS, SVF11N1AJ and SVF11N1BAJ. The company is now identifying the products’ serial numbers.

The Japanese electronics maker said it is considering repairing or replacing the affected PCs free of charge or refunding the purchase price.

Sony asked consumers to shut down and unplug the PCs, and discontinue their use. The company has already halted shipments of the product.

Between 19 March and 8 April, overheating in the battery pack melted three of the PC models in Japan, Hong Kong and mainland China.—Kyodo News

Google to sell Glass to public next week

WASHINGTON, 11 April — The US government on Thursday urged companies to share information with each other about cyber threats and issued guidance making clear that doing so would not violate antitrust laws. The new push comes as many top retailers and other companies have suffered major data breaches. Most recently, the “Heartbleed” bug was found to have exposed personal data to hackers, prompting Facebook Inc, Google and others to take steps to mitigate the impact on their users.

“Legitimate cyber threat sharing can help secure the nation’s networks,” James Cole, the No 2 official at the US Justice Department, told reporters in a briefing on new guidance the agency issued along with the Federal Trade Commission.

If companies don’t discuss competitive information such as pricing or output when sharing cyber-security details, they will not run afoul of antitrust laws, the head of the Justice Department’s antitrust division, Bill Baer, said.

Cole said he had heard concerns from some companies that they felt restricted in sharing details of cyber threats with others because of antitrust concerns, but declined to name the companies or discuss specific problems that had arisen.

Better sharing of cyber threat information among companies as well as between the private sector and the government have been a top concern in the US government’s effort to bolster the cyber defenses of the nation’s critical industries.

As part of the effort, President Barack Obama last year signed an executive order, making it easier for companies to access data about online threats that is held by the government, among other things. The government in February also introduced standards meant to help companies in nationally critical industries better defend against cyber attacks, though it is unclear how widely the voluntary measures are being adopted.

Several high-profile breaches this year have put a spotlight on corporate cyber-security, particularly the massive theft of about 40 million payment card records plus 70 million other records, including addresses and phone numbers, belonging to customers of No 3 retailer Target Corp.

Shoo fly: pesky insect escapes using fighter jet maneuvers

WASHINGTON, 11 April — What does a tiny fruit fly have in common with the world’s most advanced fighter jets like the US Air Force’s F-22 Raptor? More fighter jets like the US Air Force’s F-22 Raptor? More than you might think.

Scientists using video cameras to track a fly’s aerial maneuvers found the insect employs astonishingly quick mid-air banked turns to evade predators much like a fighter jet executes to elude an enemy.

The fact that flies are airborne acrobats should not surprise anyone who has ever swum a flywaterter at one, only to watch the little insects easily escape.

The researchers at the University of Washington synchronized three high-speed cameras operating at 7,500 frames a second to learn the secrets of what the flies do to make themselves so elusive.

They tracked the mid-air wing and body motion of the fruit fly species Drosophila hydei, which is about the size of a sesame seed, inside a cylindrical flight chamber after the insects were shown an image that suggested an approaching predator.

The flies produced impressive escape responses, almost instantaneously rolling their bodies like a military jet in a banked turn to steer away. While executing the turn, the flies showed that they could roll on their sides by upwards of 90 degrees, sometimes flying almost upside down.

“They generate a rather precise banked turn, just like an aircraft pilot would, to roll the body and generate a force to take them away from the threat,” said University of Washington biology professor Michael Dickinson, who led the study. “That happens very quickly. And it’s generated with remarkably subtle changes in wing motion. We were pretty astonished by how little they have to do with their wing motion to generate these very precise maneuvers,” he said.

The fly flaps its wings about 200 times a second, and in almost a single wing beat can reorient its body to maneuver away from the threat and continue to accelerate, Florian Muijres, another of the researchers, said in a statement.

“I suspect that these are very ancient reflexes,” Dickinson added. “Very shortly after insects evolved flight, other insects evolved flight to eat them. Circuits for detecting predators are very, very ancient. But this one is just being implemented in a high-performance flight machine.”

A lot of light was needed to accommodate the cameras’ extraordinarily high shutter speeds, but because a fly would be blinded by the necessary amounts of normal light, the researchers used very bright infrared lights. Like people, fruit flies do not see infrared light.

“I’ve always been fascinated by flies. Everybody thinks that they have a simple nervous system, but I think it’s exactly the opposite. They just have a really tiny one. But it’s incredibly compact. They do so much with just this brain the size of a salt grain,” Dickinson said.—Reuters
Cambodia’s political crisis may soon be over, leaders say

PHNOM PENH, 11 April — Cambodia’s political crisis that has dragged on for nearly seven months may be nearing an end as the leaders from the ruling and opposition parties have reached a tentative deal, Prime Minister Hun Sen said on Thursday.

Hun Sen of the Cambodian People’s Party said he spent around 45 minutes on the telephone with Sam Rainsy, president of the Cambodia National Rescue Party, concerning election reform and the opposition party’s call for an early election.

He said a draft agreement is being worked out and the two parties’ leaders might meet as early as Friday at the Royal Palace if Kern Sokha, the CNRP’s co-leader, endorses what was tentatively agreed between him and Sam Rainsy. Hun Sen suggested the next general election, currently set to be held in July 2018, could be moved forward by five months to February of 2019.

“Given that the international community deems the (threatened) fourth nuke test of North Korea to be very grave, they will inevitably come up with equally grave countermeasures” if it happens, he said, adding that those measures “will be far more painful than before.”

A fresh test would constitute “a different level of provocation” compared with the North’s three previous tests in 2006, 2009 and 2013, both “symbolically and practically,” the diplomat said, adding that China too is “keenly aware” of the seriousness of the issue.

North Korea said late last month it will carry out a “new form” of nuclear test in an apparent protest of condemnations made at the United Nations of its recent rocket and missile launches.

Van crash in Thailand kills eight Cambodians

BANGKOK, 11 April — A van veered off the road and hit a tree in east Thailand’s Chathaburi Province on Friday morning, killing eight Cambodian passengers and injuring 12 others, including the driver.

The 12 injured, including four in critical condition, have been rushed to three hospitals, Suchart Khwanchai, chief of rescue at the Sawang Katanyu Foundation, was quoted by the Bangkok Post newspaper as saying.

The van reportedly crashed at around 7:10 am local time, which carried 19 Cambodian passengers from Rayong province to a border checkpoint in Chathaburi. The gas fuel cylinders exploded twice after the crash, causing a fire that killed some passengers trapped inside the van, Suchart said.

Japan’s new pro-nuclear energy policy draws mixed responses

TOKYO, 11 April — Japan’s new energy policy that supports the use of nuclear power drew mixed responses Friday, with utilities welcoming it and nuclear opponents saying it was not enough to address the consequences of the 2011 Fukushima crisis.

“We think there is great significance in this policy. We expect it to be steadily promoted,” Makoto Yagi, head of the Federation of Electric Power Companies of Japan, said in a statement after the government decided on the so-called Basic Energy Plan.

In the plan, the first of its kind since the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear disaster, the government said nuclear power is an “important” source of energy that it will continue to uphold the country’s spent fuel recycling policy.

It also said it will push for the resumption of nuclear reactors, pending new safety regulations, which currently offline as their safety has to be checked in light of new regulations introduced last July. Fukuig Gov. Issei Nishikawa, head of the prefecture that hosts the largest number of reactors in the country, also expressed support for the energy plan, saying it is a “starting point for Japan’s energy policy which has been vague.”

But some local governments expressed concern over nuclear safety as the plan makes little reference to safety measures or to areas that have to prepare for evacuation in the event of emergencies, which were expanded in the wake of the Fukusima crisis.

“I am very worried that reactors will restart without sufficient safety measures being taken,” Shiga Gov. Yukiko Kada said. Shiga Prefecture does not host a nuclear power plant, but is located next to Fukuke Prefecture. Meanwhile, a group of Diet members seeking an end to nuclear power generation criticized the plan for “not taking heed of the lessons learned from the Fukushima accident.”

“A Cabinet decision on an energy plan that marks a return to nuclear power... clearly goes against the feelings of the people of the disaster-affected areas and the general public,” the group said in a statement.

The Japan Renewable Energy Foundation expressed disappointment over what it sees as a “passive attitude” on the introduction of renewable energy sources, compared with trends in other countries.

The plan said the government will seek to boost renewable energy above the level aimed at in the past, touching on domestic energy outlooks compiled before the nuclear crisis that expected renewables to increase to 13.5 percent of total electricity supply in 2020 and about 20 percent in 2030.

S Korea warns N Korea not to conduct 4th nuke test

SEOUL, 11 April — A senior South Korean diplomat on Friday warned North Korea against carrying out another nuclear test, saying the international community would come up with “grave countermeasures” to punish it, according to Yonhap News Agency.

“North Korea is very mistaken if it thinks that it can get away with conducting a fourth nuclear test,” the diplomat was quoted as saying.

“Given that the international community deems the (threatened) fourth nuke test of North Korea to be very grave, they will inevitably come up with equally grave countermeasures” if it happens, he said, adding that those measures “will be far more painful than before.”

A fresh test would constitute “a different level of provocation” compared with the North’s three previous tests in 2006, 2009 and 2013, both “symbolically and practically,” the diplomat said, adding that China too is “keenly aware” of the seriousness of the issue.

North Korea said late last month it will carry out a “new form” of nuclear test in an apparent protest of condemnations made at the United Nations of its recent rocket and missile launches.

Vietnam holds expo to show potential in garments, textiles

HO CHI MINH CITY, 11 April — More than 500 companies from 26 countries and regions are showcasing their most advanced technologies and accessories in textile and garment industry at the ongoing “Saigon Tex 2014” exhibition in Vietnam’s southern Ho Chi Minh City on Friday.

Open for public visits from Thursday to Sunday, Vietnam’s Saigon Textile/Garment Fabric and Accessories Exhibition is an avenue for exhibitors to widen their markets and seek new clients from Vietnam, according to organizers.

The upcoming Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP) Agreement and other trade and tax agreements currently being negotiated have made the Vietnamese garment and textile market appealing for foreign textile and garment machinery manufacturers as well as fabric and accessory makers.

According to Le Trung Hai, vice president of the Vietnam National Textile and Garments Group, Vietnam had negotiated with many countries and regions to sign co-operation agreements, all of which the TPP and the country will have to make a huge investment in sectors serving the garment and textile industry.
Strong 6.1 quake shakes Nicaragua, no major damage

Managua, 11 April — A strong earthquake shook western Nicaragua on Thursday, knocking out power and phone lines in some areas of the capital, Managua, a Reuters witness said, but there were no reports of fatalities or major damage.

The quake had a magnitude of 6.1, the US Geological Survey said, and was very shallow at a depth of 6.2 miles. It was previously reported as having various magnitudes ranging up to 6.4.

Some residents in Managua rushed out into the streets, clearly nervous.

“There are no injuries, no loss of life so far, nor even any significant material losses,” Nicaraguan government spokeswoman Rosario Murillo said on local radio, adding that the government was checking reports that two dozen homes had suffered some damage.

The earthquake struck at 2327 GMT, 19 miles northeast of the town of Nagarote or 31 miles north-northwest of the capital Managua, USGS added.

The quake was followed by aftershocks.

A magnitude 6.1 quake is capable of causing severe damage. —Reuters
**ENTERTAINMENT**

**New York, 11 April** — Filming for “The Railway Man,” about a former British Army officer Colin Firth dreamt he was but was bluffing and didn’t know.

The English Oscar-winner for the film, based on a true story, and the responsibility woman who had suffered in silences, was no stranger to playing silent, finding the power of forgiveness.

“I was supposed to know. And in the dream there were old men saying I’ve got to say where it goes, it in an interview ahead of the film’s US release.

Firth, 53, plays Eric Lomax a passion for trains and railway who meets his wife on a train that he had been tortured as a prisoner during the building of the Thail- annmar (Burma) Railway, or what came known as the “Death Railway.”

The railway, built by the pire of Japan in 1943 to suppress attack on the British colony of Myanmar, used forced labour, including Asian civilians and Allied prisoners of war, many tens of thousands of whom died of beatings, torture and exhaustion.

Like many men of his generation Lomax didn’t talk about the war but relived his experiences in nightmares, until he was coaxed into confronting his demons and tormentor.

Firth won a best actor Oscar in 2011 for “The King’s Speech,” about King George VI’s battle to overcome a speech impediment, and was no stranger to playing silent, brooding types. But Lomax’s harrowing story of the suffering of thousands of prisoners of war, the torture inflicted by their captors and their inner torment was different.

“It did reflect how it nothing equivalent to ever happened to Lomax,” said Firth.

“I felt because this had happened to me, I heard about the his book, that he was
dying in 2012, at the age of 93, while the film was being edited. Reading the book and meeting Lomax was invaluable for Firth because his role is so silent and the feelings are internalized.

“I had to inhabit imagi-

British actor Colin Firth arrives with his wife Livia Giuggioli of Italy for the film premiere of “Railway Man” at the 38th Toronto International Film Festival in Toronto on 6 Sept, 2013. — Reuters

Every so often you’re called to interpret a story which is very, very precious and that was the case with this. It became personal,” he added.

Australian director Jonathan Teplitzky (“Burning Man”)
saying their father was there too during the war and hadn’t spoken about it until now.

“Sometimes you are an instrument for a story that really needs to be told properly and I think Firth was conscious of the fact that it wasn’t just his precious book, that he was actually speaking for all the guys that didn’t speak out,” Firth said. — Reuters

**KISS, Peter Gabriel inducted by Rock and Roll Hall of Fame**

**New York, 11 April** — Flamboyant rockers KISS and British singer-songwriters Peter Gabriel and Cat Stevens were inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame on Thursday, but, as they had vowed, the four original members of KISS did not perform.

The 1970s shock-rockers known for their outrageous costumes and make-up and hits such as “Rock and Roll All Nite,” did not directly comment on the Hall of Fame’s decision to honor only the band’s original members, leaving out current bandmembers Eric Singer and Tommy Thayer.

“We are humbled to stand up on this stage,” said founding member Gene Simmons, accepting the band’s induction made by guitarist Tom Morello. But Simmons did mention by name other band members, some current, who were not included in the Hall of Fame honours.

Paul Stanley, who has also been critical of the Hall’s induction process, focused on the band’s fans, saying “for our fans, this is vindication.”

In his induction, Morello echoed that sentiment, noting “KISS was never a critics’ band, KISS was a people’s band.”

He also observed that the over-the-top theatrical band was noteworthy for, among other things, influencing acts ranging from Lady Gaga to Garth Brooks to Slipknot.

In previous years the Hall of Fame has included varying mixes of past and present members of bands such as The Grateful Dead and Metallica which have had evolving rosters.

Stevens performed at the concert and ceremony in Brooklyn, as did Gabri-
el, lead vocalist for the progressive rock band Genesis who went on to a solo ca-

He performed with the band’s current lineup of Paul Rodgers, Steve Hackett, Phil Collins, and Mike Rutherford. He also performed with the band’s original lineup of Peter Gabriel, Steve Hackett, Mike Rutherford, and Tony Banks.

Stevens’ performance included songs from his solo album “So” and Genesis’ hit “In the Air Tonight.”

Stevens’ induction speech focused on the band’s legacy and their impact on the music industry.

In his speech, Stevens spoke about the band’s influence on other artists and the importance of keeping the band’s legacy alive.

He also mentioned the band’s contributions to the music industry, including the creation of the first successful independent record label and the development of the first successful independent record company.

Stevens’ induction speech was met with a standing ovation from the audience at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

After being inducted by Chris Martin, Gabriel sang “Digging in the Dirt,” and his hit “In Your Eyes,” from the 1980s youth romance, “Say Anything.”

After singing out by name musicians, as well as engineers, producers and even agents he has worked with, Gabriel paid tribute to the power of music, which he said “can make you feel so alive... and think that the world would, could and should be a much better place, and occasionally make you very, very happy.”

**Japanese dancer wins int’l youth ballet competition**

**New York, 11 April** — A 17-year-old Japa-

Japanese dancer wins int’l youth ballet competition

nese ballet dancer won the top prize on Thursday in a senior age division at this year’s Youth America Grand Prix.

Haruo Niyama, who in February won the prestig-

ious Prix de Lausanne international ballet competition for young non-professional dancers in Lausanne, Switzer-

land, captured the gold medal in the division for men aged 15 to 19.

“I was very nervous, but am pleased I could enjoy dancing in some degree,” Niyama said in a
telephone interview with Kyodo News.

Jun Masuda, 14, came first in the division for men aged 12 to 14.

In the women’s sec-

tions, Yuki Sugiyama came second in the division for 12 to 14.

Launched in 1999, the annual contest aims to provide educational and professional opportunities to young dancers aged 9 to 19 by offering scholarships to dance schools and the chance to receive contracts with dance companies worldwide.

Kyodo News.

**Haruo Niyama**

— Kyodo News.

**Reuters**
US may give up demand for zero Japan beef tariffs in trade deal

Tokyo, 11 April — The United States appears willing to accept a big cut in Japanese tariffs on beef imports rather than insist on scrapping the levy, the Nikkei business daily said on Friday, as the two countries seek a trade deal seen as vital to a broader regional pact.

US Trade Representative Michael Froman and Japanese Economics Minister Akara Amari wrapped up two days of intense talks on Thursday on the bilateral deal, a cornerstone of the US-led Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), with both saying progress had been made but that big gaps remained. “There was a bit of progress but big differences remain,” Agriculture Minister Yoshimasa Hayashi reiterated at a news conference on Friday.

Trade Minister Toshimitsu Motegi told reporters that a 24 April summit between US President Barack Obama and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe would be an important juncture for the trade talks, but repeated Japan’s stance that the meeting was not a deadline for a deal.

Kyodo news agency reported. The United States wants Japan to open its rice, beef and pork, dairy and sugar sectors — politically powerful sectors that Abe has vowed to defend. Japan wants a timetable on US promises to drop tariffs of 2.5 percent on imports of passenger cars and 25 percent on light trucks.— Reuters

Honduras, Venezuela have world’s highest murder rates

MEXICO CITY, 11 April — Honduras retains the world’s highest murder rate, according to a United Nations report published on Thursday, with the Americas over-taking Africa as the region with the most per capita murders per 100,000 people.

Torn apart by gang warfare and invaded by Mexican drug cartels, the Central American nation of Honduras had a 2012 murder rate of 90.4 homicides per 100,000 people, almost double Venezuela’s rate of 53.7.

According to the UN Office on Drugs and Crime’s report, Central America fared particularly badly. Belize had a murder rate of 44.7, while El Salvador’s was 41.2 per 100,000.

In a previous report in 2011, Honduras topped the list, with El Salvador in second place and Venezuela in third.

In the UN’s latest report, the Americas overtook Africa as the region with most murders, thanks to a surge in organized crime, which is often funded from the proceeds of drug smuggling.

Nearly 40 percent of the 437,000 murders committed globally in 2012 took place in the Americas, with the majority in Central and South America, the report found.

“Overall, organized crime (or) gang-related homicide accounts for 30 percent of homicides in the Americas,” the report said.

Central American countries have a long history of gang violence, such as Honduras, have seen the problem worsened in recent years after Mexican drug cartels moved in, taking advantage of shaky public institutions to set up key logistical operations for moving drugs from South America to the United States.

Other countries with high murder rates include Guatemala, with 39.9 murders per 100,000; South Africa with 31; Colombia with 30.8; and Brazil with 25.2.

In Mexico, where about 85,000 people have died in drug-related killings since a 2007 military-led assault against the warring cartels, the murder rate was 21.5 per 100,000.

Reuters

Valencia stun Basle as Juve, Benfica and Sevilla win

London, 11 April — Valencia turned the tables on a stunned Basle side to reach the Europa League semi-finals on Thursday with a 5-0 win after extra time thanks to a Paco Alcacer hat-trick as they recovered from a three-goal first-leg deficit.

It completed a good night for Spain as 10-man Sevilla tormented a fragile Porto side to win 4-1 on the night and secure a 4-2 aggregate victory while competitive favourites Juventus and Benfica safely negotiated their quarter-finals.

Serie A leaders Juve beat Olympique Lyon 2-1 in Turin to go through 3-1 on aggregate with an Andrea Pirlo freekick and a Samuel Umtiti own goal while Benfica’s Rodrigo scored twice in a 2-0 home win over AZ Alkmaar to complete a 3-0 overall success.

Basle, who were reduced to nine men in extra-time, went into the second leg 3-0 up and full of confidence at a high-ly-charged Mestalla stadium, but they came up against a Valencia side with the bit between their teeth.

No team had overhauled a three-goal deficit in a knockout tie since the Europa League started in 2009 but the hosts signaled their intent when Alcacer beat keeper Yann Sommer after collecting Joao Pereira’s pinpoint pass in the 38th minute. The impossible became faintly probable four minutes later when Eduardo Vargas headed home from Fede Cartabia’s corner and the deficit was then wiped out with 20 minutes remaining as Alcacer rifled the ball into the top corner to send the home fans into raptures and set up a thrilling finale.

Alcacer missed a superb chance to win the tie in normal time but was denied by the excellent Sommer when one-one-one and the extra-time match went into extra time.

Basle’s task was made even harder when Marcelo Diaz was then sent off for kicking out and Gaston Sauro was dismissed after picking up two yellow cards in two minutes.

The almost inevitable winner arrived with six minutes of extra time remaining when Alcacer steered the ball home from close range after Pablo Priatti’s cross and Juan Bernat made the tie safe by lifting the ball over Sommer when through on goal.

“The fans were with us to the end and it’s an honour to have this support in the good times and the bad,” Valencia’s hat-trick hero Alcacer said in an interview with Spanish television broadcaster Gol TV.

“I missed a chance late in the game and I was really down on myself but then thank God I had another in extra time and I was able to put it away.” — Reuters

MYANMARTV

(12-4-2014, Saturday)

6:00 am 1. Pantatta By Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw
6:20 am 2. Physical Exercise
7:00 am 3. News/Weather Report
7:20 am 4. Business News
8:30 am 5. India Drama Series
9:00 am 6. News/International News
9:40 am 7. Dance Of Thingyan Festival
10:15 am 8. TV Drama Series
11:25 am 9. Thin Gyan Performance by Young Kids
12:00 pm 10. News/International News/Weather/Report
12:25 pm 11. Round Up Of The Week’s Local News
2:30 pm 12. Business News
3:00 pm 13. News
4:15 pm 14. Teleplay
4:40 pm 15. News
5:15 pm 16. University Of Distance Education (TV Lectures) Second Year (Zoology)
5:30 pm 17. News
5:50 pm 18. Documentary
6:00 pm 19. News
6:20 pm 20. Teleplay
8:00 pm 21. News/International News/Weather/Report
9:00 pm 22. News
23. Teleplay

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(12-4-14 07:00am-13-4-14 07:00am) MST

* Local News
* Great Shwedagon-Auspicious Grounds And Devotional Place
* World News
* Green Grocer
* Local News
* Auspicious and Traditional Thingyan
* World News
* A Girl Guide
* Local News
* A Visit To Kayah State (P4)
* World News
* Entrepreneur “Kalayar Pi Wai Shan”
* Local News
* Karaweik Palace- A Symbol of Glorious Myanmar Culture
* World News
* Myammar Hipist
* Local News
* Enchanting Rakhine Land
* World News
* My Father The Porter
* Local News
* A Dream A Destina-tion (Hpa an)
* World News
* Inspiration
* Local News
* Myanmar Traditional Wedding Dressing Style
* World News
* Thingyan Dance-Summer Beauty and Festivity
* Local News
* The Eldest Woman on Earth?
* World News
* Distinguished Myanmar Lady “Kyn Po”
Guardiola struggles to entertain tough Bavarian crowd

MUNICH, 11 April — Bayern Munich coach Pep Guardiola displayed signs that he has yet to fully adapt to life at the German champions following Wednesday’s win over Manchester United, complaining of a passive home crowd and the huge expectations placed upon his team.

The Bavarians remain on course for a second successive treble, having already sewn up the Bundesliga, and reached the semi-finals of the Champions League and German Cup in the Spaniard’s maiden season at the club.

However, they are not playing with quite the same authority as last season, when they dispatched Juventus 4-0 on aggregate in the Champions League quarter-finals and demolished Barcelona 7-0 in the last four under retired coach Jupp Heynckes.

When you don’t win, people ask why, but this is football. You can’t win all the time but we have won the championship, we are in the Champions League semi-final,” Guardiola told reporters after the 3-1 second leg win at Allianz Arena. “Everything is not enough in this club.”

Guardiola added that the crowd only got behind his team in the last half an hour, when they came from behind for a win that secured a 4-2 aggregate triumph.

“Maybe we have to play better. After this, people will think in the same way as last season,”Guardiola added, adding that he is ready to entertain his home city.

“Blatter after season’s win over Manches- ter United,”Guardiola displayed signs that he has yet to fully adapt to life at the German champions following Wednesday’s win over Manchester United, complaining of a passive home crowd and the huge expectations placed upon his team.

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Guardiola, ranked fifth in the world, back to one over par and in position to salvage a decent round. However, after a bogey at 14 Mickelson took his second seven at the par-five 15th, where he span his short approach back off the front bank and into the pond on the way to a double-bogey.

“Although I eased into it, I hit it solid, (but) I hit it terribly. It was just perfect all day and there was possibilities for low scores and I actually played well,” said a disappointed Mickelson, 43, “I know it’s hard to say that, but I actually played well and I just made a lot of little mental errors.”

“I made a lot of little mistakes around the green, but I didn’t hit anything unsolid. I hit them solid, I just misjudged the shot.”

Mickelson started with six pars before taking a triple bogey seven at the par-four seventh, where he cross-cropped through the green after sending a flop shot firmly to the other side of the green and chipped back too strong the other way as his vaunted short-game touch deserted him.

“I just hit them too firm, both of them on seven,” lamented the American, ranked fifth in the world.

Birdies at the 10th, where he sank a curling 50-foot birdie, and 13th holes, moved the big lefthander back to one over par and in position to salvage a decent round. However, after a bogey at 14 Mickelson took his second seven at the par-five 15th, where he span his short approach back off the front bank and into the pond on the way to a double-bogey.

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Augusta, (Georgia), 11 April — Adam Scott, playing with the freedom and unwavering self-belief of a man who has already achieved his life’s ambition, made a spectacular start to his Masters title defence on Thursday.

Unshackled from the pressure he had shouldered for years following his breakthrough major win last year, the Australian shot a three-under-par 69 to finish the opening round near the top of the leaderboard. He spoiled what could have been an even better round when he hit his tee shot into the water at the 12th hole for a double-bogey but could hardly have been happier as he strode around the Augusta National course without a care in the world.

“There’s no doubt winning the Masters last year had me a little more comfortable on the first tee than I’ve ever been in the past,” he said. — Reuters