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Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker asks support from New Zealand House of Representatives

Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann poses for documentary photo together with Speaker of House of Representatives of New Zealand Mr David Carter.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 30 March—Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann paid a call on Speaker of House of Representatives of New Zealand Mr David Carter at Parliament Buildings in New Zealand on 27 March.

The New Zealand Speaker congratulated the Myanmar Speaker for fruitful political reforms in Myanmar, promising to closely support and share democratic experience to Myanmar.

He reckons that Myanmar parliament has started to gain public trust. Though the New Zealand Parliament is always listening to people's voices, said the New Zealand Speaker, there are times when New Zealand people complain their voices are gone "unheard" by the parliament. So, ombudsmen are established to take care of public complaints, thereby forging the foundation of democracy added the Speaker.

The Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker asked for support, experience-sharing and recommendations from New Zealand, calling them being crucial for Myanmar democratization process. He invited the New Zealand Speaker to visit Myanmar bicameral parliament. He believes that cooperation between the two parliaments would contribute to friendship and cooperation between two governments and peoples.

The Speaker of New Zealand's parliament expressed his support for the Myanmar government's economic and socio-economic reforms apart from political reforms in transition to democracy.

He also affirmed that the New Zealand government would provide assistance for agricultural and livestock breeding sector of Myanmar.

After the meeting, the Speaker of New Zealand's parliament hosted a dinner in honour of the Myanmar delegation.

The delegation held talks with Ms Mayan Street, Chairperson of the Regulation Review Committee of New Zealand parliament, visited the parliament and held talks with Mr Phil Goff, Opposition Spokesperson on Foreign Affairs and Mr Nathan Guy, Minister of Primary Industries, on 27 March.

The Myanmar delegation attended a Maori Powhiri welcoming ceremony at Museum Marae on 26 March in Wallington.

They also visited Te Papa Museum, Ombudsman Office, Ministry of Justice Office of Treaty Settlement, State Attorney-General Office, Statistics New Zealand and Electoral Commission.

In Auckland, the delegation visited Modern Dairy Farm and Auckland University Law School.

The goodwill delegation led by Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann left Wellington on 28 March and arrived in Sidney Airport at 4.25 pm local time.

Myanmar Medical Association in Australia hosted a dinner in honour of the delegation. At the dinner, Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann met with national races of Myanmar and some organizations in Australia and discussed latest development of Myanmar and duties, responsibilities and undertakings of Hluttaw.

Speaker Thura U Shaw Mann and wife Daw Khin Lay Thet and party arrived back here by air this evening.

They were welcomed back at Yangon International Airport by Deputy Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw U Nanda Kyaw Swa and wife, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe and wife, Speaker of Yangon

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Republic of the Union of Myanmar
President Office
Notification No. 34/2013
4th Waning of Tabaung 1374 ME
30 March, 2013
Formation of Central Management Committee for Emergency Period

1. To control and handle the current rioting, the Central Management Committee for Emergency Period is formed with following personnel.
   (a) Lt-Gen Ko Ko — Chairman
   Union Minister
   Ministry of Home Affairs
   (b) U Aung Min — Vice-Chairman
   Union Minister
   Ministry of President Office (4)
   (c) U Ohn Myint — Member
   Union Minister
   Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries
   (d) U Khin Yi — Member
   Union Minister
   Ministry of Immigration and Population
   (e) U Win Myint — Member
   Union Minister
   Ministry of Commerce
   (f) Commodore Aung Thaw — Member
   Deputy Minister
   Ministry of Defence
   (g) Maj-Gen Zaw Win — Member
   Deputy Minister
   Ministry of Border Affairs
   (h) U Ye Htut — Member
   Deputy Minister
   Ministry of Information
   (i) U Phone Swe — Member
   Deputy Minister
   Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement
   (j) Brig-Gen Kyaw Kyaw Tun — Secretary
   Chief of Myanmar Police Force
   Deputy Minister
   Ministry of Home Affairs
2. The tasks of the Central Management Committee for Emergency Period are as follows:
   (a) to ensure effective cooperation between the security forces of the government;
   (b) to join hands with regional governments in making swift response if riots occur;
   (c) to carry out effective preparedness not to occur sectarian and religious riots again;
   (d) to be able to prevent instigation across the country, to expose main instigators of riots and to take action against them;
   (e) to form township, ward, village guards for the people-centered police system in cooperation with Myanmar Police Force and
   (f) to coordinate the tasks with the help of civil societies.
3. Region and state governments are also to form similar committees.

Sd/ Thein Sein
President
Republic of the Union of Myanmar

LOCAL NEWS

New three-storey building for Bago University

BAGO, 30 March — The opening of a new three-storey building (Ottha Building) for Bago University took place at the university, here, on 25 March.

Union Minister for Education Dr Mya Aye, Deputy Minister Dr Ba Shwe and Bago Region Social Affairs Minister Dr Kyaw Oo formally opened the new building, and Bago Region Chief Minister U Nyan Win unveiled the signboard of the new three-storey building.—*Kyemon*

Mandalay-Yangon passenger down-train derails near Toungoo

TOUNGOO, 30 March — A railroad accident happened to No (12) passenger down-train at an intersection of the railroad with a motorway between mile post Nos (166/4) and (166/5) near Toungoo railway station at about 6 am on 26 March.

The Mandalay-Yangon express train driven by U Zaw Maung Maung Oo derailed as its passenger coach (BDTEZ 12546) behind the locomotive (D. F 1315) left the track, causing a six-hour long delay.

As soon as the train derailment occurred, officials of Myanmar Railways and railway police members took necessary measures and the express train resumed its services with the help of another locomotive and headed towards Yangon. Necessary investigation into the derailment is ongoing.

Kyemon

Loaded truck overturns on Yangon-Mandalay Union Highway

YEDASHE, 30 March—A 22-wheeled truck loaded with 17000 paper boxes each of which includes 24 one-liter engine oil containers plunged down the roadside after crashing into a bridge at a turn on Yangon-Mandalay Union Highway near Myohla in Yedashe Township at about 12.15 am on 25 March.

The loaded truck driven by Kyaw Lin, 23, of Hlinethaya Township overturned due to its heavy load after hitting the left rail of Bridge No (209/2) while making a turn on the road. Goods onboard the truck fell onto the ground underneath the bridge. The driver and a truck conductor escaped unhurt. Myohla police station filed a lawsuit against them. — *Kyemon*

Implementation of Regional development tasks in Naga Self-Administered Zone

NAY PYI TAW, 30 March — The leading committee of Naga Self-Administered Zone carried out regional development undertakings in Lahe Township of the zone under the supervision of Rural Region Development Department of the Ministry of Border Affairs.

During 2012-2013 fiscal year, construction of Laungnauk-Lokkon gravel road and Naungpon-Karhlan-Kyuyam earth road, building of earth, gravel and tarred roads and bridges and water supply task in Leshe, Lahe and Nangyun Townships and availability of electricity through solar power for 20 housings and 600 houses was implemented, meeting set standards for the long-term benefit of local people in the zone.

MNA

Man detained in possession of stimulant tablets

YANGON, 30 March — A man was arrested with stimulant tablets near a bus-stop on Kyaikkhauk Pagoda road in Aungchantha ward of Thanlyan Township at about 10.30 pm on 26 March.

A patrol police led by Police Sub-inspector Aung Naing seized eight stimulant tablets worth K 40000 inside a small metal container from Ye Lin Tun, 27, of Warso ward in Dawbon Township while the patrol police was conducting a search of him as his behavior made them suspicious.

The police also confiscated K 65550 and others including his citizenship scrutiny card, a handset and two capsules. Thanlyan Township police station filed a lawsuit against him and investigation is ongoing.

Kyemon

Electrical overload cause fire in Mandalay

MANDALAY, 30 March — A fire accident happened to a house at sector No (292) in Nannaungmyin ward of Mahaaungmye Township of Mandalay at about 2 pm on 28 March. Seven houses were burnt to ground in the fire.

The fire sparked by electrical overload of a wall socket used for TV, DVD player and refrigerator. It caused a short circuit, setting fire to the bamboo wall. The fire swept through the whole house of Daw Myint Myint Mar and spread other houses, reducing them to ashes.

Loss of property in the fire amounted to K 3,058,700. The house owner was charged with reckless use of electricity. — *Kyemon*

Motorcyclist dies after crashing into brick block

MAWLAMYINE, 30 March — A motorcyclist died after crashing into a brick block in front of Kada village police outpost in Kyaikmayaw Township of Mon State at about 6.45 am on 18 March.

An unlicensed motorbike driven by Maung Ah Pa Laing of Kyun village in the township skidded out of control and hit the brick block that supports a signboard. He had suffered serious injuries and was pronounced dead on the way to Mawlamyine General Hospital. Eyewitnesses said that the crash was due to excessive speed.

Kyaikmayaw police station opened a case about the fatal road accident.

Kyemon

Photo shows a car accident in which a Hilux hit a roadside tree near the main gate of Hmawby Airbase on Yangon-Pyay road at about 12.15 pm on 27 March. The driver was charged with reckless driving by the police station concerned. —KYEMON

No end to Italy deadlock despite President's efforts

ROME, 30 March— Italy remained in political deadlock on Friday after a new round of talks led by President Giorgio Napolitano failed to break the stalemate created by elections last month that left no group able to form a government alone.

Napolitano, 87, conducted a swift round of talks with the three main forces in parliament on Friday after the failure of a week of efforts by centre-left leader Pier Luigi Bersani to win support for a new government.

But all the parties remained in the same entrenched positions they have occupied since the 24-25 February election, with no sign of movement from any of them.

Bersani won the largest share of the vote in the election but fell short of a majority in parliament.

The third biggest force, Beppe Grillo's populist 5-Star Movement, which holds the balance of power, on Friday again rejected backing a Bersani government or any administration not led by them.

The centre-left in turn reiterated that it would not enter a coalition with Berlusconi, which the 76-year-old billionaire media magnate said after his talks with Napolitano was the only way out of the crisis short of a snap new election.

Italy's former Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi (C) speaks to reporters after a meeting with Italian President Giorgio Napolitano at Quirinale Palace in Rome on 29 March, 2013.—REUTERS

Bersani's Deputy, Enrico Letta, said after meeting Napolitano that a coalition with Berlusconi's centre-right, "would not be the choice of change the country has asked for."

Berlusconi and 5-Star both ruled out backing a technocrat government like the one led by outgoing Prime Minister Mario Monti, whom they both blame for pushing Italy into recession.

This had been seen as a possible alternative way to give Italy the government it needs to address a deep economic crisis.—*Reuters*

Obama touts infrastructure in Florida trip focused on economy

MIAMI, 30 March— President Barack Obama walked into the mouth of a giant tunnel in Miami on Friday to highlight proposals to boost investment in US infrastructure, a move designed to show a leader still focused on the economy in the midst of broader policy battles in Washington.

Obama's tour of the Port of Miami tunnel project and a subsequent speech were aimed at convincing members of the US Congress to back proposals that would leverage taxpayer dollars into funds to rebuild American roads, bridges and other infrastructure.

"My main message is, let's get this done," he said. "Let's rebuild this country that we love."

Obama, as he has in the past, said he wanted to develop a national infrastructure bank and capitalize it with $10 billion. The idea is to pull in private-sector funding and pick projects based on merit. He would also create "America Fast Forward Bonds" that would help state and local governments attract money for infrastructure projects. These would be direct subsidy bonds in which the issuer would receive a 28 percent subsidy of the borrowing cost as a way of attracting a wider set of investors.

In addition, Obama would add $4 billion to support two programmes that are used to provide grants for infrastructure projects like the Miami tunnel.

US President Barack Obama delivers remarks on infrastructure investment at PortMiami in Miami, Florida, on 29 March, 2013.—REUTERS

It is unclear how far the proposals will go in Congress. Republicans are reluctant to support what they consider government stimulus spending after a much criticized $787 billion stimulus plan that Obama managed to push through Congress in 2009.—*Reuters*

Putin promotes Russian People's Front as new power base

Russia's President Vladimir Putin (L) attends a conference held by the All-Russian People's Front group in the southern Russian city of Rostov-on-Don on 29 March, 2013.—REUTERS

ROSTOV-ON-DON, (Russia) 30 March— Russian President Vladimir Putin staged a televised meeting on Friday with a loyal support group called the People's Front, suggesting he may promote it as an alternative power base to his scandal-plagued ruling party.

At an event that mixed echoes of Soviet Communist Party congresses with the atmospherics of a US talk show, Putin said he planned to raise the Front's status by making it a "public movement" and holding a formal founding congress in June.

He first set up the Front two years ago to broaden the appeal of his ruling United Russia party after regional elections showed its influence waning. Since then, United Russia's reputation has taken further blows. At Friday's event, Putin made a series of populist pledges to loyalists assembled in the southern heartland city of Rostov-on-Don — ranging from curbs on severance pay for corporate bosses to better care for orphans, to higher standards for teaching Russian history in schools.

"We will meet regularly ... so that what we promised our citizens is not forgotten," Putin said.

Sitting in the front row flanked by activists, he called for uniforms at state schools and for a post-Soviet version of the honourary title Hero of Socialist Labour. He made good on the latter promise by creating the title Hero of Labour of the Russian Federation in a decree signed shortly after the meeting.

Reuters

Japan, US "energetically" discussing return of five Okinawa facilities

TOKYO, 30 March— Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said on Saturday that Japan and the United States "are energetically negotiating" the return to Japanese control of the five facilities and areas leased to the US military south of the US Kadena Air Base in Okinawa Prefecture.

The two countries are vigorously engaging in the talks over the plan for the return "so we could agree on it, including its concrete schedule," Abe told reporters at Haneda Airport in Tokyo before leaving for Mongolia.

He declined to elaborate, however, on whether the two countries could specify the timeframe for the return, saying, "All issues are now under negotiations."

Meanwhile, several bilateral sources said on Saturday the two governments are planning to stipulate that the US Marine Corps' Futenma air station in Okinawa should be returned to Japanese control over the next nine years.

Kyodo News

People clean up the explosion site in Mumbai, India, on 29 March, 2013. At least five people were killed and three others sustained injuries in an explosion at a small-scale industrial unit in Mumbai on Friday, a senior police official said.—XINHUA

Afghan, ISAF forces detain two Taleban including local leader

KABUL, 30 March— Afghan and NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) on Friday arrested two Taleban elements including a senior local leader in Taleban former stronghold Helmand Province, 555 km south of Afghan capital Kabul, a statement of the alliance released here said.

"During an operation in Nahr-e Saraj District of Helmand today, an Afghan and coalition security force arrested a senior Taleban leader and detained one other insurgent," the statement added. Without identifying the name of the arrested local leader, the statement stressed that the leader "is believed to exercise operational control over multiple insurgent cells throughout Helmand Province, committing multiple attacks against Afghan and coalition forces."

Xinhua

Rebels' rising mortar attacks against Syrian capital reflect eagerness for civil disobedience

DAMASCUS, 30 March— After several unsuccessful attempts to storm the Syrian capital Damascus or at least to paralyze the daily life in the busy city, rebels in Syria have seemingly opted to escalate their mortar attacks on several parts of the city to push the people toward a compulsory civil disobedience.

Mortar shells have increasingly hit government institutions, schools and residential buildings alike, terrifying people, killing many while forcing most of Damascenes to stay indoors.

On Friday, one person was killed and others wounded when two mortars slammed southern Damascus' suburb of Jaramana.

A day earlier, the faculty of architecture engineering in Damascus University was hit with twin mortars that killed more than 15 students and injured 20 others.

Syria's Special Judicial Investigation Committee ordered on Friday the judicial police to accelerate the investigation regarding the "criminal acts" against Syrian citizens, including the university incident.

Quoted by Syria's state-run news agency *SANA*, Judge Ahmad Zaher al-Bakri said that the committee asked the judicial police to expand the investigation regarding firing mortar shells at the Architecture Faculty to reach any information that help identify the terrorists.

Xinhua

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Russian spaceship makes shortest journey to dock with ISS

MOSCOW, 30 March—Russian spaceship *Soyuz TMA-08M* has docked at the *International Space Station (ISS)* within six hours, the fastest ever journey to the orbiting laboratory, the Russian space agency Roscosmos said on Friday.

The *Soyuz-FG* rocket, carrying the *Soyuz TMA-08M* spaceship, was launched from the Baikonur space centre in Kazakhstan at 00:43 Moscow time on Friday (2043 GMT Thursday). The spacecraft docked a Russian Poisk module of the ISS at 06:28 Moscow time (0228 GMT), Roscosmos said.

The *Soyuz* made the journey under a six-hour "beeline" scheme after orbiting the Earth four times instead of the usual 30 times.

This was the first time that such scheme was used for a manned space flight as the shortcut option was used only for missions of unmanned cargo ships before.

The crew of Russian Pavel Vinogradov, Alexander Misurkin and American Christopher Cassidy are expected to spend the next five months aboard the station after joining incumbent crew Canadian Chris Hadfield, Russian Roman Romanenko and American Thomas Mashburn.—*Xinhua*

***A man walks past an MTS shop in St Petersburg on 18 March, 2013.*—REUTERS**

Russia's MTS acquires stake in parent's bank

MOSCOW, 30 March—Russia's top mobile phone operator MTS said on Friday it has acquired a 25.1 percent stake in MTS Bank for 5.1 billion roubles ($164 million) by buying additional shares issued by the bank.

The deal was concluded in accordance with the terms of an indicative offer between MTS, MTS Bank and their majority shareholder Sistema that were announced in October 2012.

MTS now owns around 27 percent of MTS Bank, Sistema has a 65.3 percent stake, while the balance of shares is held by other minority shareholders, MTS said in a statement.

Reuters

Chinese scientists unlock key genetic code of wheat

BEIJING, 30 March—Scientists from China and the United States have mapped a key genetic code for bread wheat, a discovery that will help improve the crop's productivity and ability to withstand extreme conditions.

The sequencing and drafting of the A genome, one of the three basic genomes of wheat, was published on the website of the journal *Nature* on Monday. Researchers present the generation, assembly and analysis of a whole-genome shotgun draft sequence of the genome of wheat T urartu, the donor of the A genome.

The identification of around 38,000 wheat genes is expected to help provide a valuable resource for accelerating deeper genomic breeding studies and offer a new foundation for the study of wheat evolution, domestication and genetic improvement.

The research, launched by a team from the Institute of Genetics and Development Biology under the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), was conducted by Shenzhen-based BGI, a leading genomics organization, and the University of California, Davis.

Bread wheat (Triticum aestivum) is one of the most widely cultivated and consumed food crops in the world. It feeds about 40 percent of the world's population and provides 20 percent of a human's daily recommended amounts of calories and protein. Major efforts are underway around the world to increase the crop's yield and quality by boosting genetic diversity and resistance to cold, drought and disease.

However, the extremely large size and polyploid complexity of the wheat genome have so far posed substantial barriers for researchers to gain insight into its biology and evolution.—*Xinhua*

China to build two more Antarctic research stations by 2015

BEIJING, 30 March—China is planning to build two new research stations in Antarctica by 2015 and site inspections are already being conducted by an expedition team, the State Oceanic Administration (SOA) said on Thursday.

A summer station that can be used from December to March will be set up between the existing Zhongshan and Kunlun Stations to provide replenishment and other logistical support, the SOA said.

The station will be used to study geology, glaciers, geomagnetism and atmospheric science in Antarctica. A perennial station will also be built in Victoria Land in Antarctica by 2015. The station will allow researchers to carry out multi-disciplinary research on bio-ecology and satellite remote sensing, according to the SOA.

China's three existing Antarctic research stations are the Great Wall, Zhongshan and Kunlun stations.—*Xinhua*

Chinese regulator calls for tighter supervision of Apple

SAN FRANCISCO, 30 March—Apple Inc has come under criticism from a Chinese marketplace regulator, which called for stronger supervision of the iPhone-maker's consumer policies within the country, according to state-run media.

On Thursday, the official China National Radio cited a Thursday notice from the State Administration for Industry and Commerce that urged authorities to protect consumers' rights in accordance with the law. According to CNR's website report, the notice mentions Apple but stops short of specifying what exactly they need to go after and how to do so. The notice, CNR said, was in response to widespread reports since 15 March on how Apple's after-sales service had hurt Chinese consumers.

***A visitor tries an iPhone at an Apple store in Beijing on 28 March, 2013.*—REUTERS**

Apple was singled out on 15 March by state-run China Central Television in an annual corporate malpractice expose. Other media outlets have since taken up the baton, focusing on the company's warranty policy on Mac laptops, which critics say is shorter than in other countries. The Communist Party mouthpiece, the *People's Daily*, ran an editorial on Wednesday attacking Apple for its "unparalleled arrogance". An Apple spokesman said the company would not discuss regulatory matters. Apple's popularity has helped offset some of the state-run attacks, which has incited strong push-back from many Chinese Internet users for what they see as unfair treatment doled out to the iPhone maker.

Reuters

Solar plane to set out to cross US in early May

MOUNTAIN VIEW, 30 March—The first crossing of the United States by a solar-powered plane is expected to start in just over a month, its creators said on Thursday, as they make final preparations for an attempt two years from now at the first round-the-world flight without any fuel.

Swiss pilot Bertrand Piccard and project co-founder and pilot Andre Borschberg, whose Solar Impulse made its first intercontinental flight from Spain to Morocco last June, aim for their plane to take off from near San Francisco in early May and land at New York's John F Kennedy Airport about two months later.

With the wingspan of a jumbo jet and weighing the same as a small car, the Solar Impulse is just a test model for the team as they build a new aircraft they hope will circumnavigate the globe in 2015.

The project began in 2003 with a 10-year budget of 90 million euros ($112 million) and has involved engineers from Swiss lift maker Schindler and research aid from Belgian chemicals group Solvay — backers who want to test new materials and technologies while also gaining brand recognition.

Unveiling the current plane at a news conference at Moffett Field on San Francisco Bay, Borschberg highlighted the cramped conditions of the cockpit in the Solar Impulse.

"That's a bad economy seat —you would not fly on this airline," he joked. "The next one should be good business class."

While the current plane was set up for 24-hour flights, the next one would have to allow for up to five days and five nights of flying by one pilot—a feat never yet accomplished.—*Reuters*

***A man walks below a wing on the Solar Impulse at Moffett Field in Mountain View, California on 28 March, 2013.*—REUTERS**

BUSINESS & HEALTH

Big depositors in Cyprus to lose far more than feared

Depositors wait to enter a branch of Laiki Bank in Nicosia on 29 March, 2013.—REUTERS

NICOSIA, 30 March—Big depositors in Cyprus's largest bank stand to lose far more than initially feared under a European Union rescue package to save the island from bankruptcy, a source with direct knowledge of the terms said on Friday.

Under conditions expected to be announced on Saturday, depositors in Bank of Cyprus will get shares in the bank worth 37.5 percent of their deposits over 100,000 euros, the source told *Reuters*, while the rest of their deposits may never be paid back.

The toughening of the terms will send a clear signal that the bailout means the end of Cyprus as a hub for offshore finance and could accelerate economic decline on the island and bring steeper job losses.—*Reuters*

Prescription drugs cost least at Costco and most at CVS

LOS ANGELES, 30 March—Some of the most popular prescription drugs that recently became available in generic form are sold at the lowest prices at Costco and at the highest prices at CVS Caremark, according to an analysis by Consumer Reports.

Failing to comparison shop for drugs—such as generic Lipitor to lower cholesterol or generic Plavix to thin the blood—could result in overpaying by $100 a month or even more, depending on the drug, the report said.

The article will be available in the May issue of Consumer Reports.

Consumers may find good deals at local independent pharmacies, Consumer Reports said.

One of the big takeaway messages from the analysis is that the customer must ask the pharmacist for the best price, the publication said.

"Especially for the independent pharmacies, if they want to retain your business and loyalty, they will help you get the best price," Lisa Gill, an editor at Consumer Reports, said.

One reason for the wild cost fluctuations may be that different types of stores have different business incentives, she said.

"It really comes down to a store's business model. For example, big box stores tend to use their pharmacies as a way to get consumers through the door with the expectation that they'll buy other things," Gill added.

Victor Curtis, senior vice president of pharmacy for Costco, said the retailer does not sell below costs and that its pharmacy is a contributor to Costco's overall profitability.

Consumer Reports conducted its analysis by using "secret shoppers" who called more than 200 pharmacies throughout the United States to get retail prices, without using insurance, on a month's supply of five blockbuster drugs that have recently become available as generics.

Shoppers push a trolley outside a Costco Wholesale store in Los Angeles, California on 6 March, 2013.
REUTERS

The drugs were diabetes drug Actos (pioglitazone); antidepressant Lexapro (escitalopram); cholesterol fighter Lipitor (atorvastatin); blood thinner Plavix (clopidogrel); and asthma drug Singulair (montelukast).

There was a difference of $749 between the highest and lowest priced stores.

For example, one month's supply of generic Lipitor costs $17 at Costco, Consumer Reports' secret shoppers found. The same drug cost $150 at CVS. Rite Aid and Target had similarly high prices.

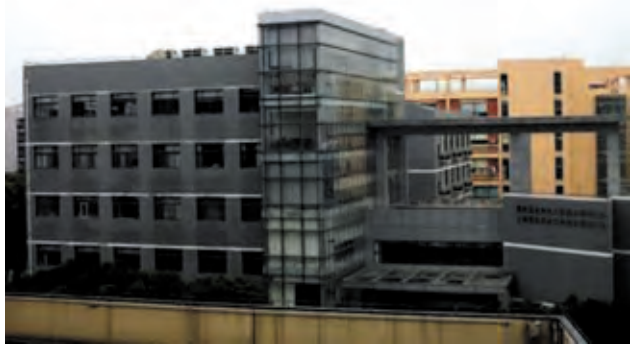
Consumer reports recommends getting refills for 90 days instead of 30 days, as most pharmacies offer discounts on a 3 months' supply.—*Reuters*

Quarter of US firms in China face data theft: business lobby

BEIJING, 30 March—A quarter of firms that are members of a leading US business lobby in China have been victims of data theft, a report by the group said on Friday, amid growing vitriol between Beijing and Washington over the threat of cyber attacks.

Twenty-six percent of members who responded to an annual survey said their proprietary data or trade secrets had been compromised or stolen from their China operations, the American Chamber of Commerce in China report said.

"This poses a substantial obstacle for business in China, especially when considered alongside the concerns over IPR (intellectual property rights) enforcement and de facto technology transfer requirements," the Chamber said. A US computer security company, Mandiant, said in February a secretive Chinese military unit was likely behind a series of hacking attacks that targeted the United States and stole data from more than 100 companies. That set off a war of words between Washington and Beijing. US Representative Dutch Ruppersberger said last month American companies suffered estimated losses in 2012 of more than $300 billion due to trade secret theft, much of it the result of Chinese hacking.



The National Information Security Engineering Centre, a building commissioned by the People's Liberation Army's Cyber Unit, is seen at the Zhangjiang High Technology Park, on the outskirts of Shanghai on 16 March, 2013. Faculty members at a top Chinese university have collaborated for years on technical research papers with a People's Liberation Army (PLA) unit accused of being at the heart of China's alleged cyber-war against Western commercial targets.—REUTERS

China says the accusations lack proof and that it is also a victim of hacking attacks, more than half of which originate from the United States.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Hong Lei called the survey a "completely irresponsible action".

"We hope the relevant side doesn't politicize financial and trade problems, does not exaggerate the so-called issue of online leaks and does more conducive things for China and the United States," Hong told reporters. The Chamber's survey was conducted among 325 members across China late last year, before the release of Mandiant's report.

Only 10 percent of companies in the survey said they would use China-based cloud computing services, with most citing cyber security concerns as a reason. Blocked Internet searches in China had impeded business for 62 percent of respondents.

US officials have pressed China to address Internet attacks and cyber spying against American companies. US President Barack Obama raised hacking concerns in a phone call with Chinese President Xi Jinping earlier in March. A recent assessment by US intelligence leaders said for the first time cyber attacks and cyber espionage had supplanted terrorism as the nation's top threat.—*Reuters*

Consumer data support sturdy first-quarter growth picture

WASHINGTON, 30 March—Consumer spending rose in February and sentiment among Americans perked up this month, further signs of an acceleration in economic activity in the first quarter after a near stall late last year. The data on Friday also showed a rebound in income growth, putting the economy in a better shape to deal with tighter fiscal policy, particularly $85 billion in across-the-board federal government spending cuts, known as the "sequester."

"The economy is in a good place now in terms of momentum and strength, and it will need it as the government spending cuts will take something off growth as the year progresses," said Chris Rupkey, chief financial economist at Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi UFJ in New York. Consumer spending increased 0.7 percent last month after a 0.4 percent rise in January, the Commerce Department said.

Though part of the increase in spending, which accounts for about 70 percent of US economic activity, was because of higher gasoline prices, Americans also bought long-lasting goods such as automobiles and spent more on services. Gas prices at the pump increased 35 cents a gallon last month. After adjusting for inflation, spending was up 0.3 percent after advancing by the same margin in January.—*Reuters*

Michael Dell spoke with Blackstone during "go-shop"

NEW YORK, 30 March—Dell Inc founder and CEO Michael Dell met with private equity firms Blackstone Group LP and Francisco Partners during the computer maker's "go-shop" period, a person familiar with the matter said on Friday. The meetings, which took place on 7 and 8 March, will be disclosed in Dell's proxy statement on Friday and indicate Blackstone explored early on the possibility of keeping Michael Dell as CEO in a bid to take over the company, the person said on condition of anonymity because the information is not yet public.

Michael Dell also met this week with Blackstone senior managing directors Dave Johnson and Chinh Chu, although the outcome of these discussions has yet to become clear, the person added. Blackstone and Dell did not immediately respond to requests for comment. During a 45-day go-shop period that expired last week, Dell explored alternatives to Michael Dell's and Silver Lake's $24.4 billion offer for the world's number-three PC maker.—*Reuters*

Michael Dell arrives at the launch event of Windows 8 operating system in New York, on 25 Oct, 2012.
REUTERS

China Merchants Bank 2012 net profits rise 25 pct

BEIJING, 30 March—China Merchants Bank, the country's fifth largest bank by market value, said on Thursday that its net profits increased 25.31 percent year on year to 45.27 billion yuan (7.22 billion US dollars) in 2012. The company's net interest income gained 15.81 percent from one year earlier to 88.37 billion yuan, while revenues from other sources rose 25.91 percent to 24.99 billion yuan, the bank said in a statement filed to the Shanghai Stock Exchange.

The value of the lender's total assets amounted to 3.41 trillion yuan, an increase of 21.94 percent from a year earlier. Its non-performing loan ratio went up 0.05 percentage points to 0.61 percent as of the end of 2012, while its capital adequacy ratio came in at 12.14 percent, 0.61 percentage points higher from 2011, the statement said.—*Xinhua*

WORLD

New York to resume search for remains from 11 September attacks

NEW YORK, 30 March —New York City plans to start sifting through earth and debris recovered from the World Trade Centre site on Monday to look for the remains of victims from the attacks of 11 September, 2001, officials said on Friday.

The city's Office of the Chief Medical Examiner on Friday advised families of the dead about the new sifting operation, the first since 2010, a spokeswoman said in a statement. The Medical Examiner's office has identified remains of 1,634 people out of 2,752 killed when suicide hijackers crashed into the twin towers, leaving more than 1,000 families without any physical remains of those who died.

After the initial clean-up of the site, the city scaled back operations to search for remains, drawing criticism from families of the dead, who said they could not properly grieve. The city widened its search again in 2006.

The next search will comb through 590 cubic yards (451 cubic metres) of excavated material taken from and near the World Trade Centre site, said Caswell Holloway, deputy mayor for operations, in a memo to Mayor Michael Bloomberg made public by the Medical Examiner's office. Much of the site known as Ground Zero is a construction zone for new skyscrapers and a memorial where the twin towers once stood.

The building under construction known as One World Trade Centre has surpassed the Empire State Building as the tallest in New York and, when completed, would be the tallest in the Western Hemisphere at 1,776 feet.—*Reuters*

People walk by the World Trade Centre site before ceremonies marking the 11th anniversary of the 11 September, 2001 attacks on the World Trade Centre at Ground Zero in New York on 11 Sept, 2012.
REUTERS

Abe to meet with Mexican leader in Tokyo in early April

TOKYO, 30 March—Japan and Mexico are arranging a summit between Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and President Enrique Pena Nieto in Tokyo on 8 April, a meeting that would kick off in earnest Japan's diplomatic campaign to join trans-Pacific free trade talks, government sources said on Friday.

Abe is expected to convey to his Mexican counterpart Japan's readiness to join the negotiations that Mexico entered last year, and call for cooperation as Japan seeks approval for its participation from other countries already involved in the talks.

During the meeting, Abe plans to express Japan's intention to secure exceptions to tariff elimination for items such as rice and barley, which are described by Tokyo as "sacrosanct," according to the sources.

The summit will be Abe's first face-to-face contact with a leader of a country already involved in the negotiations for the US-led free trade initiative—known as the Trans-Pacific Partnership, or TPP—since he formally announced Japan's readiness to join the talks on 15 March.

The upcoming meeting will mark the start of Japan's diplomatic drive to join the talks in July at the earliest, when countries involved in the negotiations may hold a meeting.

As part of the campaign, Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida is arranging a trip to Mexico and Peru, another country involved in the talks, during Japan's Golden Week holidays between late April and early May.—*Kyodo News*

Bombs at five Iraqi Shi'ite mosques kill 19

BAGHDAD, 30 March—Car bombs hit five Shi'ite mosques in Baghdad and the northern Iraqi City of Kirkuk just after prayers on Friday, killing 19 worshippers and injuring another 130. Ten years after the US invasion that toppled Saddam Hussein, Iraq is still grappling with political turmoil and Sunni Islamist insurgents linked to al Qaeda, who are stepping up attacks on Shi'ite targets and security forces.

Friday's blasts hit Shi'ite mosques in southeast and north Baghdad while another tore the front off a mosque in Kirkuk, an ethnically mixed city of Arabs, Kurds and Turkman 170 km (100 miles) north of the capital.

"We were listening to the cleric's speech when we heard a very strong explosion. Glass scattered everywhere and the roof partially collapsed," said Mohammed, a victim wounded in the Kirkuk blast, his shirt still covered in blood.

Police and health officials said the attacks in Baghdad killed 16. Three more died in Kirkuk, where the blast left a jumble of concrete wreckage in the mosque and on the street outside.

Attacks in Iraq are still less common than during the Sunni-Shi'ite slaughter that erupted at the height of the last war, when insurgents bombed the Shi'ite al-Askari shrine in Samarra in 2006, provoking a wave of retaliation by Shi'ite militias.

Al-Qaeda's local wing, Islamic State of Iraq, has vowed to keep up attacks and security officials say insurgents are regrouping in the deserts of western Iraq, invigorated by the war Sunni rebels are waging in Syria over the border.

Al-Qaeda in Iraq claimed responsibility for a wave of bombings and suicide attacks earlier this month that killed around 60 people on the 10th anniversary of the US invasion.

Sunni Islamists see Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki's Shi'ite-led government as oppressors of the country's Sunni minority and are targeting Shi'ites to try to trigger the kind of inter-communal mayhem that killed thousands in 2006-7.

Reuters

Residents inspect a damaged vehicle at the site of a bomb attack in Kirkuk, 250 km (155 miles) north of Baghdad, on 29 March, 2013.—REUTERS

No solution in sight for Gaza's severe water crisis

GAZA, 30 March—The Gaza Strip's ongoing water crisis looks unlikely to be solved any time soon with pollution affecting 95 percent of the aquifer in the Palestinian coastal enclave, Palestinian and international experts said on Friday.

Husam Zaqout, the Gaza-based expert of environment, told a local workshop marking the International Water Day that the groundwater in the Gaza Strip "is polluted to different degrees by toxic organic and non-organic materials."

He warned that the water pollution and shortage may develop into a full-scale humanitarian crisis sooner than people expect.

Since Islamic Hamas movement took control of the Gaza Strip in 2007, Israel has been imposing a blockade against the Palestinian enclave.

The embargo makes it difficult to build an efficient water sanitation infrastructure for the rapidly growing population.

"Water shortage in Gaza climbed to 80 million cubic metres," said Zaqout, adding that the rocks in the aquifer are gradually eroding, giving rise to the amount of salt and pollutants in the water it contains.

Monzer Shublaq, Director General of the Gaza waters authority, told *Xinhua* that another factor behind the water crisis is Israel' s abuse of Gaza's groundwater.

Shublaq accused Israel of establishing dozens of huge water pumps along its border with Gaza. He said these pumps have taken an excessive amount of groundwater from Gaza's aquifer, drawing in salty seawater and polluted water to fill up the hole.

Xinhua

Tanzanians dig for survivors after building collapse

DAR ES SALAAM, 30 March—A building under construction collapsed in the centre of Tanzania's commercial capital Dar es Salaam on Friday and rescuers searched for survivors under the rubble, with conflicting reports about the number of dead.

A senior police officer initially told reporters 15 people were killed and two people were pulled out alive. Hours later, the mayor for central Dar es Salaam, Jerry Silaa, said two people were killed and 17 survivors had been found.

The building, in the Kariakoo District, was at least 12 storeys high. Witnesses said some cars were crushed in the collapse and people were using their hands to pull away masonry. Rescue workers said they heard the voices of people trapped, possibly including boys who had been playing soccer nearby when the building collapsed. Some witnesses said construction workers may also have been trapped.

Tanzania's buoyant economy has fuelled a construction boom, and Kariakoo in particular has been a focus for building. The speed of construction has raised concerns over standards.

Senior government officials also gathered at the scene.—*Reuters*

An aerial view shows bystanders watching rescuers search for survivors amongst the rubble of a collapsed building in the Kariakoo District of central Dares Salaam on 29 March, 2013.—REUTERS

Turkish PM urges PKK to lay down weapons before withdrawing

ANKARA, 30 March—Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Friday called on the outlawed Kurdish Workers' Party (PKK) to lay down arms before withdrawing from Turkey. In an interview with private broadcaster CNN Turk, the Turkish Prime Minister urged PKK members to lay down arms so as to prevent further confrontation, as "our security forces would not engage with those who already laid down arms."

According to Erdogan, around 1,500 to 2,000 PKK militants still remain in Turkish territory.

The Turkish government has been holding peace negotiations with Ocalan since last October, with the aim of outlining a timetable for the disarmament of PKK militants and their withdrawal from Turkish territory.

Last week, jailed PKK leader Abdullah Ocalan called on his group to end armed struggle and withdraw militants from Turkish territory to northern Iraq where the PKK members have hideouts. The PKK, listed as a terrorist organization by Turkey, the United States and the European Union, took up arms in 1984 in an attempt to create an ethnic homeland in southeastern Turkey.—*Xinhua*

LOCAL NEWS

MR upgrade Mohnyin, Mogaung stations

MOHNYIN, 30 March—Myanma Railways plans to upgrade Mohnyin and Mogaung stations in Kachin State in 2012-2013 fiscal year and Hopin Station in 2013-2014 fiscal year.

Engineer II U Win Myint and party of Myanma Railways are building 500 feet long, 30 feet wide and one feet thick platform at Mohnyin State and decoration of roof and walls.

At present, the platform with measurement of 217 feet long, 32 feet wide and one foot and nine inches thick has been constructed at Mogaung Station.

Myanma Alinn

Summer culture course opened in Hline

HLINE, 30 March—Jointly organized All Myanmar Theravada Buddhist Organization and Border and Hill Region Sasana Nuggaha Association, Hline Township Sasana Nuggaha Association, Myittawady Parahita Monastery and Ward 16 Sasana Nuggaha Association, the summer culture course was opened at the Myittawady Monastery on 20 March.

Vice-Chairman of Region Sasana Nuggaha Association U Ye Aung, Chairman of Township Association Thiha Thudhamma Manijotadhara U Khin Hla, Secretary of Township Association U Hla Tun, ward administrator U Htin Kyaw Win and course instructor Daw Khin Thanda Oo formally opened the course.

Vice-Chairperson of District Association Thudhamma Theingi Daw Ohnma Lwin donated cash to the fund of the course.

Over 700 trainees attended the course.

Myanma Alinn

Rice and provisions donated to hill region monasteries

NAY PYI TAW, 30 March—Ministry of Border Affairs and Nay Pyi Taw Council donated provisions to five monasteries from hill region of eastern part of Pyinmana Township.

On 16 March, the donation ceremony was held at Aungmingala Monastery in Thanmaye Village.

Member of Nay Pyi Taw Council Col Myint Aung Than and party took the Five Precepts from hill region missionary Sayadaw Maha Saddhammajotikadhaja Bhaddanta Ñaninda of Koetaphoneso Village.

They then donated provisions and alms worth K 1 million to five monasteries.

Myanma Alinn

Vocational training course commences in Myitkyina

MYITKYINA, 30 March—Jointly organized by Vocational Training School of Myitkyina Township Social Welfare Department and Myitkyina Airbase, the vocational course No 1/2013 was opened at the hall of the airbase on 21 March, with an address by Family Organizing and Discipline Enforcement Committee Daw Marlar Hsint. Principal of the school Daw Khin Ohn Myint explained the purpose of conducting the course. Coach instructors Daw Annie and Daw Khin Myint Kyi are providing training to the trainees up to 9 April.—*Myanma Alinn*

Rice donated to nuns in Mandalay

MANDALAY, 30 March—The rice donation ceremony was held at Shwedinga Monastery on Upoktaw Ward of Aungmyethazan Township on 18 March evening.

It was attended by Daw Myat Ngwe, wife of Mandalay Region Chief Minister U Ye Myint, region ministers and wellwishers. Nuns from Atulawady, Thitayanthi and Thitsakami nunneries opened the ceremony with recitation of Namo Tassa.

The Chief Minister's wife and wellwishers donated rice and cash to nuns from three nunneries.

At the ceremony the donations amounted to K 1,215,000 and rice worth K 199,900.

Myanma Alinn

ATR-72 600 airplane introduced

YANGON, 30 March—Air KBZ introduced the already bought new ATR 72-600 airplane was held at Parkroyal, here, on 21 March.

Deputy Managing Director U Khin Maung Myint of Air KBZ Ltd explained matters related to ATR 72-600 airplane.

Deputy Managing Director U Khin Maung Myint, CEO U Okkar Tun and General Manager (Commercial) U Myat Thu replied to queries raised by media persons.

Air KBZ was established in 2010. ATR-72 600 can admit 69 passengers. The newly-bought airplane runs its schedules as of 31 March.

Myanma Alinn

Padaung disseminates public-centred health care

PADAUNG, 30 March—Population Service International (Myanmar) and Township Health Department of the Ministry of Health jointly opened the public-centred health care anti-malaria course at the hall of People's Hospital in Padaung Township on 13 March. Head of Township Health Department Dr Thin Thin Hlaing made a speech.

Coach instructors Dr Hein Ko Ko, Dr Win Htut and Dr Pyae Pyae Phyo from PSI gave lectures on matters related to malaria and preventive measures.

Population Service International provided health care services to 4207 malaria suspected persons and 477 malaria patients from 2010 to 2013 in Padaung Township.

Myanma Alinn

Loans for members of market cooperative society

HSIPAW, 30 March—Hsipaw Township Rural Development Supervisory Committee held a coordination meeting in conjunction with the loan disbursement ceremony at the hall of Zaygyodaw Market Cooperative Society Office on 20 March afternoon.

Chairman of the cooperative society U Aye Kyaw explained development of the society and financial tasks. Chairman of the Supervisory Committee Township Administrator U Myo Tint Zaw reviewed the reports.

Next, the township administrator, the chairman of the society U Aye Kyaw and officials presented loans to 10 members of the cooperative society.

The cooperative society constituted with 529 members of vendors is operating its functions with over K 150 million.

Myanma Alinn

Farmers learn tractor driving, farming equipment utilization in Pathein

PATHEIN, 30 March—Under the instruction of Ayeyawady Region Chief Minister U Thein Aung and under the supervision of Head of Ayeyawady Region Agriculture Mechanization Department U Aung Myint and Head of District AMD U Khin Maung Myint, technicians of the department conducted the farmers in the operating of tractors and farming machinery control course at Basic Education Primary School in Hsattwin Model Village in Kangyidaunt Township of Ayeyawady Region on 18 March.

Deputy Commissioner U Aye Maung Kyi of Pathein District made a speech.

Head of District AMD U Khin Aung Nyunt explained the purpose of training course.

Kangyidaunt Township Administrator U Myint Swe, Head of District Agriculture Mechanization Department U Sai Kyar Ohn and technicians conducted the training to 62 farmers from Pathein, Kangyidaunt, Kyaunggon, Thabaung, Kyonpyaw, Yekyi and Ngaputaw townships.

Myanma Alinn

The New Light of Myanmar

PERSPECTIVES

Sunday, 31 March, 2013

Invisible threat to us

It is not entirely exaggerated that ozone depletion can aggravate the impact of UV radiation on human health ever further. The more ozone layer becomes thinner, the greater people get acute and chronic UV-related health effects on the skin, eye and immune system triggered by overexposure to higher UV radiation level. Although small amounts of UV are beneficial to people and essential in the production of vitamin D, excessive exposure to sunlight is widely accepted as a root cause of skin cancer as UV index which is up to 10-11 can be harmful to the human skin.

Now daily temperature is about to reach its peak in April that is considered to be the hottest month of the year in our country. Most of Myanmar people have little awareness of the risk of UV rays and they lack a wide knowledge about health effects of UV radiation. According to a well-known local meteorologist, Myanmar is brought face-to-face with the danger of higher UV level as UV index is up to 9 in some regions and states. Even in Yangon, UV index had reached 12.8 since one month ago and it is expected to increase more than 13. Alarm bells on skin cancer and permanent blindness begin to sound to be cautious that a high UV index is very dangerous for our health. Statistics indicate that worldwide annual deaths of about 66,000 people and some 12 to 15 million who go blind annually are due to UV-related diseases like skin cancers and cataracts.

It is time to heighten the public awareness of health hazards of UV radiation and to develop sun protection measures which is urgently needed for Yangonites and dwellers of other cities and towns. As sun's UV rays are the strongest at noon and after noon, simple precautions to be adopted are shade, clothing and umbrellas or hats which are best protection when you walk outside in the midday sun. If you are going to be out in the sun, it is required to protect yourself from too much exposure to the UV rays and to adopt the following sun safety practices —limit exposure to direct sunlight during these hours, search for shade under the scorching heat, keeping the shadow rule in your mind: "Watch your shadow— short shadow, seek shade!", wear tight woven, loose fitting clothing and sunglasses, and take cover under an umbrella or hat that offer good sun protection.

Latter Day Saint Charities donates wheelchairs

NAY PYI TAW, 30 March—Latter Day Saint Charities of US donated 95 wheelchairs and equipments for the disabled to Social Welfare Department of Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement at the department yesterday.

Country director of Latter Day Saint Charities explained the purpose of donation and handed over the documents related the wheelchairs and equipment through the Director-General of Social Department. It is sixth donation by Latter Day Saint Charities.

MNA

NATIONAL

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker...

(friom page 1)

Region Hluttaw U Sein Tin Win and Deputy Speaker U Tin Aung, officials of Pyithu Hluttaw Committee and Commissions.

The delegation members Chairman of Pyithu Hluttaw International Relations Committee U Hla Myint Oo, Chairman of Pyithu Hluttaw Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries Development Committee U Soe Naing and officials also arrived back.

MNA

***Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann and party visit Auditor-General Office in New Zealand.*—MNA**

Cash and kind donated for victims at relief camps in Meiktila

***Deputy Minister Maj-Gen Zaw Win donates cash assistance to Chief Minister of Mandalay Region U Ye Myint.*—MNA**

NAY PYI TAW, 30 March—Cash and kind donation ceremony for victims in Meiktila took place at communications staff quarters, Meiktila, this morning, attended by Mandalay Region Chief Minister U Ye Myint, Deputy Minister for Border Affairs Maj-Gen Zaw Win, Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement U Phone Swe, officials and wellwishers.

Deputy Minister Maj-Gen Zaw Win clarified the purpose of donations.

At the ceremony, wellshers donated rice, instant noodles, edible oil, purified drinking water, blankets, longyies worth K 55,980,000 through Region Chief Minister U Ye Myint and Deputy Minister U Phone Swe.

The deputy minister for border affairs and party visited relief camps at No 1 BEHS and Magyigon monastery where they viewed health and provisions of victims and donated K 1.7 million to Magyigon Monastery Sayadaw.—*MNA*

Press Release
Lists of banks, bank branches and exchange counters for FEC withdrawal programme

1. In accordance with the guidance of the Government and the Ministry of Finance and Revenue, the Central Bank of Myanmar is implementing the withdrawal of Foreign Exchange Certificates (FEC) to avoid the losses of FEC holders. In doing so, FEC can be exchanged at the following bank, bank branches and exchange counters across the country, totaling 357.
   (a) 282 branches of Myanma Economic Bank
   (b) Myanma Foreign Trade Bank
   (c) two branches of Myanma Investment and Commercial Bank
   (d) two branches of Myanmar Citizens Bank Ltd
   (e) Cooperatives Bank Ltd
   (f) seven of Myanmar Oriental Bank (MOB)
   (g) Asian Green Development Bank
   (h) Yoma Bank Ltd
   (i) seven of Small and Medium Industrial Development Bank Ltd
   (j) two of Ayeyawady Bank Ltd
   (k) Myanma Livestock and Fisheries Development Bank Ltd
   (l) First Private Bank Ltd
   (m) Tun Foundation Bank Ltd
   (n) seven of United Amara Bank Ltd
   (o) four of Inwa Bank Ltd
   (p) three of Myanma Apex Bank Ltd
   (q) three of Myawady Bank Ltd
   (r) 31 of Kanbawza Bank Ltd
2. Services and their name lists of those banks, branches and exchange counters are listed in the appendix. (The appendix is available at the Central Bank of Myanmar's Website and advertisement supplement of daily newspapers)
3. FEC can be also exchanged for kyat at the private banks and the companies that do not include in the list of banks, branch banks and exchange counters described in the para (1).
4. FEC withdrawal rate will be equivalent to USD exchange rate at every banks and counters.
5. FEC holders can exchange their FEC at the above-mentioned banks, branches and counters along with their documents (Citizenship Scrutiny Card or Passport or Company Register) in line with bank procedures.
6. For any inconvenience, can contact the following addresses.

Foreign Exchange Management Department of CBM
Ph: 01-543136, 01-543532, 01-559278 and 01 8603748
Fax: 01-543532
Email: nawehhpaw305@gmail.com

7. The above-mentioned facts are available at the Central Bank of Myanmar's website: www.cbm.gov.mm.

FEC Withdrawal Supervisory Committee

NATIONAL

Union Attorney-General meets foreign guests

NAY PYI TAW, 30 March—Attorney-General of the Union Dr Tun Shin received delegation led by Mr Go Hashimoto of Nishimura & Asahi Law Firm of Japan at his office yesterday.

The meeting focused on legal assistance in settling commercial disputes, aids by Daiwa Security Group Companies to establish stock exchange, Japanese investments in Myanmar and signing New York Convention by Myanmar.

He also met Democracy and Governance Officer Mr Gerry Porta of USAID at the same venue this noon. They discussed the role of the office and duties of region/state advocates-general.

Member Mr Jacobs of USAID said they would assist in drafting bills and shared his experiences of drafting bills.

MNA

Interfaith meeting held to discuss peace and harmony of all communities

YANGON, 30 March—Organized by National Social and Economic Advisory Council to the President and Myanmar Peace Centre, an interfaith meeting took place at Myanmar Peace Centre here this afternoon. It was participated by State Ovada Cariya Sayadaws, members of the President's National Social and Economic Advisory, personnel from political parties and religious organizations, the chairman and members of Myanmar Movie Asiayone and businessmen and personnel from community associations. Before the meeting, U Aung Naing Oo of Myanmar Peace Centre explained the purpose of the meeting and Sayadaw Bhaddanta Gunika Bhivamsa, Joint Secretary Sayadaw of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee, delivered an address and Dr Ashin Paññasiha read out the message of Sitagu Sayadaw Dr Ashin Nannissara.

During the meeting, all participants discussed and gave suggestions for peace and harmony of all communities in Myanmar.

MNA

National Social and Economic Advisory Council of the President and Myanmar Peace Centre jointly hold an interfaith meeting.—MNA

Committee for Implementing Latpadaungtaung Copper Mine Project Report holds work coordination meeting

Work coordination meeting of Committee for Implementing Latpadaungtaung Copper Mine Project Report in progress.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 30 March—The work coordination meeting of the Committee for Implementing Latpadaungtaung Copper Mine Project Report took place at the meeting hall of Region Government Office in Monywa, here, yesterday noon, with an address by Committee Chairman Union Minister at the President Office U Hla Tun.

Union Minister U Hla Tun said that the government has assigned subcommittees to implement investigation report on Latpadaungtaung copper mine project. For it, the government is providing necessary assistance to respective ministries.

He urged officials to educate local people and have transparency. Officials are to follow procedures for administration and the rule of law. It also needs to seek the difficulties in the regions, he added.

The Vice-Chairman Region Chief Minister reported on committee's undertakings, completion, difficulties, peace and stability and rural development. Deputy Ministers and deputy leaders submitted completion, follow-up programme and difficulties.

After that, Union Ministers U Ohn Myint, U Win Tun and Dr Myint Aung, and deputy minister Chief of Myanmar Police Force Police Brig-Gen Kyaw Kyaw Tun also discussed work programmes. After that, Union Minister U Hla Tun highlighted transparency, dissemination of knowledge and international standards.

So far, a total of 510 farmers in villages of Latpadaungtaung copper mine project area have been compensated K 1637.9 million for their farmlands.—*MNA*

New gravel road reduces travel time in Pyu Township

PYU, 30 March— A newly opened road has saved the travel time between two villages in Pyu Township.

The gravel road was 2065 ft long and 10 ft wide linking Waegyi and Ohbo villages in Pyu Township and it was inaugurated on 22 March as a gesture of hailing the 68th Anniversary Armed Forces Day.

The road was constructed at a cost of 20,750,000 funded by the Pyu Township Development Affairs Department and was formally opened by Pyu Township Administrator U Than Aung and Pyu Township Development Affairs Department Executive Officer U Aung Myint Htay.

NLM

The opening ceremony of gravel road in progress in Pyu Township.

Meiktila Central market re-opened

NAY PYI TAW, 30 March—Thanks to 24-hour security measures of security forces, Tatmadawmen and duty-conscious people, the clouds of fear over Meiktila skies have dispersed with locals back to normal life.

Meiktila Central market was re-opened this morning. Likewise, stores, shops, eateries, kiosks, teashops and bazaars are also open now. In addition, transportation services have also resumed to the happiness of locals and travelers.—*MNA*

Notice

1. Yangon City Development Committee will collect tolls on using new Strand Road from vehicles which pass on it as from 1 April, 2013, at the following rate.
   (a) Vehicles which are 14 ft and under in length K1500 rate
   (b) Trucks with vehicle weight 20 tons and above K4000 rate
2. A vehicle will be charged at the above rate only one time during 24 hrs from 6 am to 6 am the next day.

Yangon City Development Committee

WORLD

South Africa says Mandela makes progress, in good spirits

Nelson Mandela sits beneath the window of his prison cell on Robben Island near Cape Town, on 28 Nov, 2003.—Reuters

Soweto, (South Africa), 30 March—South African former President Nelson Mandela is in good spirits and making progress, doctors said on Friday, after the 94-year-old anti-apartheid hero was taken to hospital for the third time in four months for a lung infection.

The medical report was a relief to South Africans who had been anxiously praying and waiting for an update on the health of the Nobel Peace Prize laureate, hospitalized before midnight on Wednesday. Global leaders sent their best wishes.

President Jacob Zuma's government had already reported Mandela was responding well to treatment, and Zuma had sought to reassure the nation, recalling that the revered statesman's advanced age meant he required frequent medical checks.

"President Nelson Mandela is in good spirits and enjoyed a full breakfast this morning," Zuma's office said in a statement.

"The doctors report that he is making steady progress. He remains under treatment and observation in hospital," it added. Mandela became South Africa's first black President after winning the country's first all-race election in 1994.

A former lawyer, he is revered at home and abroad for leading the struggle against white minority rule—including spending 27 years in prison on Robben Island—and then promoting the cause of racial reconciliation.

In churches across South Africa, many included Mandela in their prayers on Good Friday, one of the most important days in the Christian calendar.

At the Regina Mundi Catholic Church in the Soweto township outside Johannesburg where Mandela once lived, churchgoers lit candles for him. "He's an icon today and we are free because of him," parishioner Oupa Radebe said.—*Reuters*

British soldiers in Mali for military training

Bamako, 30 March—Dozens of British soldiers are in Mali for the military training of local troops, according to the Presidency of the war-torn West African country.

The Presidency said on Thursday 21 British soldiers arrived in Mali earlier this week to join 40 others from the Royal Marines and the Royal Artillery for the training.

The statement released by the Presidency said 21 soldiers from the Royal Irish Regiment arrived in Bamako on Tuesday under the auspices of the European Training Mission for the Malian Army (EUTM).

Francois Lecointre, a French general who is the head of the European Union Training Mission (EUTM), said the training of the Malian soldiers by the EU instructors will begin on 2 April.

EUTM hopes to contribute to the improvement of the military capacity of the Malian Armed Forces, so that they are able to reestablish the country's territorial integrity under the control of the civilian authorities.

The training programme which will last for 15 months targets four battalions and will bring together 200 instructors from 15 EU member states.

Xinhua

Deforestation in Brazil's Amazon up 26 pct

Rio de Janeiro, 30 March—The area of deforestation in Brazil's Amazon rain forest from August 2012 to February 2013 increased by 26.6 percent year-on-year, an official institute said on Thursday.

According to the satellite detection system, Deter, of the National Space Research Institute (INPE), 1,695 square km of forest —Sao Paulo, South America's largest city—were destroyed in the six-month period, compared with the 1,339 square km destroyed during the same period a year ago.

The midwestern state of Mato Grosso has the largest deforested areas of 734 square km, followed by the northern states of Para with 428 square km and Rondonia with 270 square km, the institute said.

Brazil's environmental protection agency Ibama said it has stepped up patrols in the Amazon region after it was informed of the increase in deforestation.

"We have started the Green Wave operation, occupying critical areas that amount to 54 percent of the deforestation in the Amazon Rainforest region," Ibama Director Luciano de Meneses said.

Xinhua

Seven killed in northern Mexican bar shooting

Ciudad Juarez , 30 March—Seven people were killed when a gunman opened fire in the early hours of Friday in a bar in northern Mexico, which has seen a resurgence in drug-related violence in recent weeks.

The man, armed with an AK-47 assault rifle, killed four men who were clients in the bar in Chihuahua state as well as three women who worked there, said a spokesman for the state attorney general's office. "It has not been determined whether the attack is connected to drug trafficking, but by the type of weapon involved, it is to be assumed," said spokesman Carlos Gonzalez.

The attack occurred in the city of Chihuahua, the capital of the state that is also home to Ciudad Juarez, considered one of the most violent cities in the world until recently. The attacker entered the bar with his face covered by a bandana, said the spokesman.

Chihuahua has seen heavy fighting between the local Juarez cartel and the Sinaloa cartel, led by Joaquin "Shorty" Guzman, who is seeking to control the city that is one of the main routes for trafficking drugs into the United States.

In spite of a change of government in December and a new strategy that avoids direct confrontation with the powerful cartels, violence in Mexico has picked up in recent weeks with fighting along the border, in the western state of Michoacan and the tourist destination of Cancun.

Nearly 3,200 people have been killed in drug-related violence during the first three months of President Enrique Pena Nieto's government, according to Mexican government data.

Reuters

Firefighters try to put out the fire after an oil tank exploded in Gaoliu Township in Qingzhou, east China's Shandong Province, on 29 March, 2013. An oil tank exploded and caught fire in east China's Shandong Province on Friday, leaving one person seriously injured and another one missing, local authorities said.
Xinhua

Two people missing after light plane crashes into sea in New Zealand

Wellington, 30 March —A light plane crashed into the sea off the coast of Kawhia in New Zealand North Island's Waikato region on Saturday.

Wreckage has been found but two people were missing.

The Rescue Coordination Centre said the twin-engined *Beechcraft Baron* aircraft was flying from Ardmore to Timaru when it reported engine failure and lost radar contact, at about 12.20 pm on Saturday, Radio New Zealand reported.

It said the wreckage and an oil slick has been found 20 km north west of the entrance to Kawhia Harbour near Gannet Island.

Spokesperson Steve Rendle said a helicopter was doing an aerial search while the coastguard is scouring the sea for the missing people.

Xinhua

Cherry trees blossom in downtown Vancouver, Canada, on 29 March, 2013. Vancouver is home to thousands of cherry trees that blossom mostly in April.—Xinhua

Hundreds of migrants rescued off Italian coast

Rome, 30 March—Italian coastguards said on Friday they had intercepted almost 700 mostly African migrants trying to get to the country on board 10 flimsy and rickety boats.

One vessel crammed with 150 people sent out a distress call about 80 miles off the tiny Sicilian island of Lampedusa on Friday afternoon, the service said. Emergency services were sent to rescue them and another 70 people in a rubber craft nearby. All the other boats were stopped over the last two days.

Italy's coast is a common destination for migrants from north and sub-Saharan Africa.

Thousands have died during the risky voyage across the Mediterranean as a result of shipwreck, harsh conditions and a lack of food and water, say activists.

"With the arrival of the spring and the subsequent improvement in the weather conditions, migrant attempts to reach the Italian coast have picked up massively," the coastguard said in a statement. A 15-metre long rubber boat carrying 98 people from sub-Saharan Africa was intercepted 96 miles off the coast of the tiny Sicilian island of Lampedusa on Thursday, a coastguard official said.

Rescue workers then received an emergency call from another boat carrying 131 people from sub-Saharan Africa, Pakistan and Bangladesh close to Lampedusa, which they brought to shore.

Overnight the coastguard rescued 31 people from Morocco and sub-Saharan Africa on a boat off the southern coast of Sicily, which was also heading to Lampedusa. The official said 214 other migrants, mainly from Africa, on five boats had also been detained in the past 48 hours. All the migrants are being held in reception centres in Sicily and Lampedusa, the official said.—*Reuters*

REGIONAL

Thai opposition leader calls for early construction of high-speed rail linking China via Laos

BANGKOK, 30 March — Former Thai Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva urged on Thursday the government to build a high- speed railway to link Thailand with China via Laos at the initial stage of a historic 730-billion-US-dollar logistics reconstruction scheme.

He also expressed opposition to the government's plan to borrow loans to finance the scheme, saying it should instead be covered by the government budget.

Debating a legislation seeking loans to finance the Thai government's "railroad revolution" and other logistics reconstruction plans, the leader of the opposition Democrat Party advised that the planned construction of a high-speed train project between Bangkok and Nong Khai, Thailand's northeastern Province sharing border with Laos, should be implemented ahead of a similar project to link the capital city with the northern city of Chiang Mai, the hometown of incumbent Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra.

"Why should a Bangkok-Chiang Mai high-speed route be built ahead of a Bangkok-Nong Khai route? Why should a Bangkok-Chiang Mai route be built ahead of a Bankok-Padang Besar route?

"To serve the Prime Minister's policy toward the making of a connectivity between Thailand and the ASEAN neighbour states, the Nong Khai, Padang Besar and Dawei destinations should be taken into account first," said Abhisit.—*Xinhua*

A crane lifts the containment top head to cap the first unit of the Haiyang Nuclear Power Plant in Haiyang, east China's Shandong Province, on 29 March, 2013. The first unit of the Haiyang Nuclear Power Plant, which will be installed with the third generation of nuclear power technology, the AP1000, has seen completion of its civil construction on 29 March. The unit is planned to come into stream at the end of 2014 with annual generation capacity of 17.5 billion Kwh.
XINHUA

Japan to set up force against cyber attack

TOKYO, 30 March — Japan's National Police Agency will establish a force of special investigators to combat Internet cyber attacks, *Kyodo News Agency* reports.

Japan is to strengthen its defence capabilities against cyber attacks from government bodies and high tech enterprises. The special force will compromise of around 140 staff and will be affiliated to local police departments.

The special force will be in charge of supervising online posts which try to incite cyber attacks, analyzing the characteristic of cyber attacks and alerting government bodies and enterprises. The special force will also be allowed to cooperated with other countries to combat attacks.

The force will also establish an information sharing system with public services including electric power, gas and high tech companies.

Xinhua

People visit a booth on the opening day of the 4th Malaysia International Shoe Festival (MISF) in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on 28 March, 2013. —XINHUA

20 percent Nepalis have access to Internet

KATHMANDU, 30 March— Around 5.7 million Nepalis accounting for 20 percent of the total population have an access to Internet now, a report said on Friday.

The increase has been witnessed due mainly to the mobile service companies, which simultaneously provide mobile-based Internet to a large chunk of users, said the report released by Nepal Telecom Authority.

Among the key internet providers, government-owned Nepal Telecom has 2.6 million subscribers, while private company NCell has 2.9 million customers. These two companies account for 96.5 percent (5.5 million) of the total internet users.

Despite a subscription boom, Internet is mostly limited to urban areas of Nepal, where 80 percent of population live in the rural areas. Government has provisioned nominal fee for Internet providers to expand services in rural areas. However, the Internet providers say their investment is at risk when they operate in the countryside without some protection measures in place.—*Xinhua*

Five killed in factory explosion in Mumbai

NEW DELHI, 30 March —At least five people were killed and three others sustained injuries in an explosion at a small-scale industrial unit in Mumbai on Friday, a senior police official said.

"The incident happened in Sakinaka area of Mumbai's Andheri area. Those killed were factory workers who got crushed under a wall of an adjoining building, which collapsed due to the explosion in the aluminium sheet manufacturing unit.

Those injured sustained burn injuries," he said, on condition of anonymity.

Police and fire brigade officials rushed to the spot soon after the explosion. "This is just an accident, not any kind of terror act as those injured did not sustain any splinter injuries. However, a probe has been ordered to ascertain the exact cause of the incident," the official added. Explosions are common in factories in India because of lack of basic safety requirements. Many industrial units don't adhere to the safety norms and authorities also don't properly inspect them and enforce laws.—*Xinhua*

Bangladeshi Army chief to visit India next week

NEW DELHI, 30 March —Bangladeshi Army chief General Iqbal Karim Bhuiyan will visit India next week, sources said on Friday.

"General Bhuiyan will arrive in India on 1 April. He will lead a delegation to this country. During his four-day tour, he would hold talks with Indian Defence Minister AK Antony, Indian Army chief General Bikram Singh, Indian Air Force chief Air Chief Marshal NAK Browne and Indian Navy chief Admiral DK Joshi," the sources said.

India is helping Bangladesh with "building capacity" of the Bangladeshi military, including imparting training, conducting exercises and providing military supplies and technology.

Xinhua

Chinese leaders urge rescue of landslide-trapped workers in Tibet

BEIJING, 30 March —Chinese President Xi Jinping and Premier Li Keqiang on Friday ordered top efforts to rescue workers who were buried in a massive landslide in a mining area in Tibet Autonomous Region.

At least 83 workers were buried in a landslide that occurred around 6 am on Friday in Maizhokunggar County of Lhasa, the regional capital. The buried, including two Tibetans, were workers from a subsidiary of the China National Gold Group Corporation.

Xi, who is paying state visits abroad, and Li, respectively, have told local authorities to spare no efforts to rescue the buried and prevent secondary disasters.

They also urged to lose no time to confirm the number of buried workers and determine the cause of the landslide.

Some 1,000 rescuers, including police, firefighters and medical personnel, are working at the site, which is at an altitude of 4,600 metres.

Local authorities and officials of the State Administration of Work Safety, Ministry of Land and Resources and State-owned Assets Supervision and Administration Commission of the State Council have also led work teams to guide rescue efforts at the affected mining area.

Liu Yunshan and Zhang Gaoli, who are both the Standing Committee members of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee Political Bureau, as well as other senior officials also expressed their concerns for the trapped workers.

Xinhua

Photo taken on March 29, 2012 shows the scene where a large-scale landslide hit a mining area in Maizhokunggar County of Lhasa, southwest China's Tibet Autonomous Region. Dozens of workers from a subsidiary of China National Gold Group Corporation were trapped. The exact number of trapped workers were not immediately known. —XINHUA

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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV ESM CREMONA VOY NO (070)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ESM CREMONA VOY NO (070) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 31.3.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P 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
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China, Greece boast huge potential in tourism cooperation: Athens mayor

BEIJING, 30 March—Beijing and Athens, as well as China and Greece on broader horizon, boast huge potential for cooperation in tourism, visiting Athens Mayor Georgios Kaminis told *Xinhua* here on Friday.

Kaminis, who is in Beijing on his maiden trip to China, said his main purpose is to seek approval from the Chinese side for the opening of a direct air route to Athens so as to attract more Chinese tourists to Greece, where tourism industry serves as a pillar of the economy and provides nearly 20 percent of employment.

Tourism earnings, which accounted for 16.5 percent of the country's GDP in 2011, fell by 4.6 percent year on year to 9.89 billion US dollars in the first 11 month of 2012, according the central bank of Greece.

Kaminis said it is more cost-effective now to visit the ancient city of Athens, one of the most favoured tourist destinations in the world, as the eurozone debt crisis has made tour there less expensive.

In Athens, tourists can set out on a shopping spree of world's top brands and feast on tasty traditional Greek cuisine, Kaminis said. "We have traditional Greek cuisine, part of Mediterranean cuisine, which is nutritional and healthy. They can also enjoy a very good time and good weather," the major added.

Earlier on Friday, the mayor attended the first meeting of the Beijing-Athens Cooperation Committee, which was established to promote inter-city cooperation in commerce, agriculture and tourism.

Meanwhile, Kaminis said he came here also to promote a post-graduate programme between the University of Athens and China's University of International Business and Economics on China-EU relations, and push for the establishment of a business council to attract more Chinese investments in Athens.

Xinhua

A visitor takes pictures of a wood sculpture at the African Wood Sculpture Collection exhibition in Nanjing, capital of east China's Jiangsu Province, on 29 March, 2013. The exhibition kicking off on Friday displays near 600 wood carving works from dozens of countries in the sub-Saharan Africa.—XINHUA

People ask for job opportunities at a booth by army force during the job fair at the Vancouver Convention Centre in Vancouver, Canada, on 28 March, 2013. The 47th and final BC Jobs Start job fair kicks off in Vancouver on Thursday, with the participation of more than 50 employers. Until February 2013, the umemployment rate in BC is 6.3% and the government expected about one million job openings will be seen by 2020 in the Province.—XINHUA

World Bank nods to 230-mln-USD loan to Morocco to modernize agriculture

RABAT, 30 March—The World Bank (WB) on Friday approved a loan of 203 million US dollars to Morocco to further help the country modernize its agricultural sector, the bank bureau in Rabat said in a Press release.

The loan is part of the support for the Green Morocco Plan, a large-scale agricultural programme aiming to improve food security and promote Morocco's integration into the global economy, among others.

"Developing a liberalized and diversified market environment will boost the performance of the agri-food sector and contribute to reducing rural poverty," said Simon Gray, WB's Maghreb Country director.

The Green Morocco Plan, the country's core agricultural strategy which started in 2008, also aims to provide better opportunities to farmers by transforming the agri-food sector into a stable source of growth, competitiveness and broad-based economic development in rural areas.

The agricultural sector contributes to 19 percent of the country's gross national product (GNP) and employs over 4.5 million people. Morocco plans to double the value-added of the agricultural sector and add another 1.5 million jobs in the sector by 2020.—*Xinhua*

WB loans to Sri Lanka to help fight non-communicable diseases

COLOMBO, 30 March—The World Bank (WB) has approved a concessionary loan of 200 million US dollars to Sri Lanka to help the government provide health services to mitigate escalating non-communicable diseases such as obesity, diabetes and cancer, a statement said here on Friday.

The project is expected to benefit the whole population of 21 million people of the country, especially the poorer and more vulnerable population groups who depend more on public health services.

Those who will benefit directly from this project are those vulnerable to under-nutrition, maternal and childcare problems.

The funding will also cover people suffering from a range of ailments including tuberculosis, dengue, leptospirosis, HIV/AIDS as well as persons with acute and chronic non-communicable diseases like injuries, heart diseases, strokes, hypertension, diabetes mellitus, cancers and mental disorders.

"The current health system needs improvements to deal effectively with emerging health problems of a middle-income country such as ours," WB Senior Health Specialist Kumari Vinodhani Navaratne was quoted as saying in the statement.

The WB estimates that during the past half-century, the proportion of deaths due to cardiovascular diseases has increased from 3 percent to 24 percent while that due to infectious diseases has decreased from 42 percent to 20 percent.

Xinhua

Photo taken on 27 March, 2013 shows vendors duplicating keys in old town of Havana, Cuba. Since Cuba permitted the existence of small private businesses in 2010, the number of individual businessmen has reached over 400 thousand, mainly in restaurant, rental housing, transportation, food processing and marketing among the 178 permitted trades.—XINHUA

Over 200 rescued from ice floes off Latvia coast

RIGA, 30 March—A total of 219 people who were stranded on two ice floes that drifted from the shore of Latvia has been rescued successfully on Friday, media reports quoted Latvian emergency ministry as saying.

Among them, 180 residents were stranded on an ice floe near Vakarbulli beach, while another 39 were on an ice floe near Majori beach in the Gulf of Riga, according to the local reports.

Strong winds and high waves have washed one of the ice floes some four kilometres from the shore, causing trouble for the rescue, which was joined by boats, helicopters and navy ships.

Latvian authorities have issued warnings, urging people to avoid ice-fishing or walking on ice, said the reports.—*Xinhua*

Armenia, China sign pact on technical, economic cooperation

YEREVAN, (Armenia), 30 March—Armenian Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Sergey Manasaryan and Ambassador of China to Armenia Tian Changchun have signed an agreement in Yerevan on technical and economic cooperation between the two countries, the Armenian Ministry of Foreign Affairs announced in a Press release on Friday.

The agreement foresees the construction of a Chinese school of regional significance in Armenia.

Within the frameworks of technical and economic cooperation between Armenia and China, a number of agricultural, public health and transportation projects have been implemented in Armenia with the support of the Chinese government.

Xinhua

Why James Franco refused a romance with Lindsay Lohan

Lilo wanted their relationship to become romantic, but James Franco refused because he felt that he would be taking advantage of the "troubled" star.

New Delhi, 30 March —James Franco turned down sex with Lindsay Lohan because she had "issues".

The Spring Breakers actor met the troubled actress — who is due to begin her sixth stint in rehab in May — through mutual friends and though she wanted their relationship to become romantic, he refused because he felt that he would be taking advantage of the "troubled" star.

SiriusXM host Howard Stern asked him: "You turned down sex with Lindsay Lohan, didn't you? Back then when she was a lot hotter?" He replied: "Oh, gosh. Poor Lindsay. I haven't talked to her in a while... We were friends. My house in LA was being redone, so I did this thing where I just stayed at the [Chateau Marmont] hotel, and she had been living there for a couple years. I mean, I don't want to brag about it. I don't know how that got out. She was having issues even then, so you feel weird. Honestly, she was a friend. I've met a lot of people that are troubled and sometimes you don't want to do that."

The 34-year-old actor has been romantically linked with his Spring Breakers co-star Ashley Benson, and though he refused to confirm the rumours, he did admit he is ready to settle down.

He said: "Let's say I'm dating. I'm getting older. I would like a long-term relationship."—*PTI*

Eva Mendes hates filming love scenes

Eva Mendes will be seen with Ryan Gosling in the movie The Place Beyond the Pines.

London, 30 March— Even though the 39-year-old actress plays the love interest of her real life boyfriend Ryan Gosling in new movie The Place Beyond the Pines, she admitted filming the romantic scenes were still difficult.

She told *Us Weekly magazine:* "Love scenes are awful. Let's just say that. They're always awkward."

However, Eva says working with Ryan was great because he helped to make her better. She said: "We knew each other for years before filming. You can be friends with someone and not like how they work but I respect him so much. He certainly upped my game."

Eva has also recently said she gets upset when people call her sexy, because there is so much more to her than just looks.

She said: "Being sexy is just one component of who I am — it's a thing I can be. It's a side of myself I can tap into, just like I can tap into my funny side, my quirky side or my dramatic side. It's not what I am.

"I know I can do the kind of work where people are going to recognise me just as much for my determination and sensitivity and humour as for being sexy."

PTI

US rapper Gucci Mane

US rapper Gucci Mane jailed for alleged assault

Atlanta, 30 March— Rapper Gucci Mane was jailed in Georgia on Wednesday for allegedly hitting a fan in the head with a champagne bottle at an Atlanta nightclub earlier this month.

Mane, whose real name is Radric Davis, turned himself in to authorities late on Tuesday, according to Fulton County Sheriff's Office records.

Mane, 33, faces an aggravated assault charge after causing a "severe laceration" to the man whom he hit with a champagne bottle on 16 March, according to a police report. The fan had approached Mane and tried to strike up a conversation, police said. Mane left the nightclub before police arrived.

A magistrate judge denied bond for Mane at his first court appearance on Wednesday, sheriff's spokeswoman Tracy Flanagan said.

Mane did not enter a plea. His next hearing will be on 10 April, Flanagan said.—*Reuters*

Demi Lovato back for "X Factor," 2 new judges yet to be announced

Los Angeles, 30 March — Singer Demi Lovato will return as a judge on TV contest "The X Factor" for a second year, broadcaster Fox announced on Thursday, but there was no word on two more open positions on the celebrity panel.

The 20-year-old former Disney Channel star will be back in her seat when the show returns in the fall of 2013 along with creator Simon Cowell.

"I couldn't be happier that Demi wants to come back this year," Cowell said in a statement.

"She's a superstar in her own right and was a fantastic mentor last year. Even though she can be really, really annoying - I truly enjoyed working with her and so did the artists."

"X Factor" producers however have yet to announce replacements for departing judges Britney Spears and record producer Antonio "L.A." Reid, who quit at the end of the show's second season in December.

"There are going to be four judges," a source close to the show said on Thursday, but gave no details on who they might be or when the two new names would be announced.—*Reuters*

Recording artist Demi Lovato performs "Give Your Heart a Break" during the VH1 Divas 2012 show in Los Angeles, on 16 Dec, 2012.—Reuters

SPORTS

PSG show Barcelona what to expect with Montpellier win

*Paris St-Germain's Jeremy Menez (L) challenges Montpellier's Daniel Congre (C) and Hilton (R) during the Ligue 1 soccer match at the Parc des Princes Stadium in Paris on 29 March, 2013.—*REUTERS

PARIS, 30 March—Paris St Germain offered a glimpse of what Barcelona can expect in their Champions League clash next week when Kevin Gameiro finished off a lightning quick counter attack to earn the Ligue 1 leaders a 1-0 home win against Montpellier on Friday.

Substitute Gameiro tapped in from a Zlatan Ibrahimovic cross 10 minutes from time after David Beckham started a counter attack nine minutes after coming on as a substitute.

PSG have 61 points from 30 games and lead second-placed Olympique Lyon, who take on Sochaux on Sunday, by eight points.

The hosts were denied two possible penalties after Benjamin Stambouli brought down Jeremy Menez and Gregory van der Wiel in quick succession. Ibrahimovic came close with a 20-metre snapshot that shaved Geoffrey Jourdren's left post. Jourdren dived to his right to tip away Thiago Silva's header as PSG increased the pressure in a lively first half. PSG, however, struggled to break the deadlock, prompting Carlo Ancelotti to substitute midfielder Clement Chantome with striker Kevin Gameiro while Beckham came in for Marco Verratti.

Beckham had an almost immediate impact as the former England captain's pass was collected by Menez, who released Ibrahimovic on the left for the Sweden striker to gift Gameiro with the perfect pass.

Four days before Barca try and impose their possession game at the Parc des Princes in a much-anticipated Champions League quarter-final first leg, PSG showed they were quick on the break.

They could be even more dangerous on Tuesday when Brazil forward Lucas and Argentine striker Ezequiel Lavezzi are expected to be back in action after missing Friday's game through injury. French champions Montpellier barely threatened the PSG defence, which once again was perfectly marshalled by the impressive Thiago Silva.

Montpellier are seventh on 45 points, six points from a Champions League preliminary-round spot.

On Saturday, fourth-placed St Etienne will leapfrog Olympique Marseille into third if they beat strugglers Troyes away.—*Reuters*

Casillas must wait for Real Madrid return

MADRID, 30 March—Real Madrid goalkeeper Iker Casillas is back in training after injury but lacks the necessary sharpness to make the squad for Saturday's La Liga game at Real Zaragoza, according to assistant coach Aitor Karanka. The Spain and Real captain has been out with a broken finger since January and also missed the World Cup qualifiers against Finland last Friday and France on Tuesday.

"The medical team passed him fit a week ago but he doesn't have the competitive edge needed to be 100 percent for games," Karanka told a news conference on Friday.

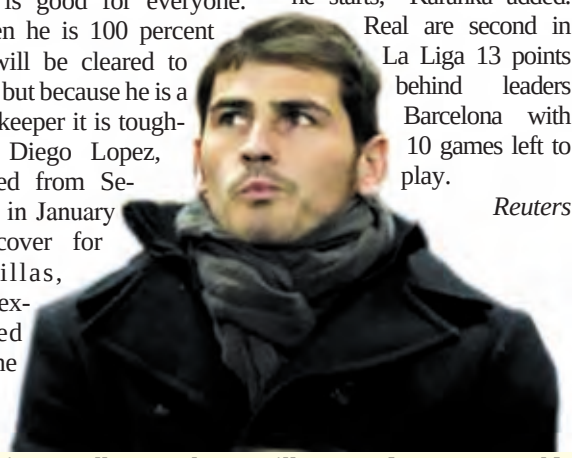
"He is training well and this is good for everyone. When he is 100 percent he will be cleared to play but because he is a goalkeeper it is tougher." Diego Lopez, signed from Sevilla in January as cover for Casillas, has excelled in the 11 games he has played for Real. In that time the team have qualified for the King's Cup final and the last eight of the Champions League.

There has been lots of speculation about whether Casillas will be restored to Real's side when he has recovered, especially bearing in mind the frosty relationship that media reports say exists between him and coach Jose Mourinho.

Real survived the international break unscathed by injuries and have a full squad available for Saturday's game, bar one doubt over Portugal defender Fabio Coentrao. "Coentrao is in the squad and we will see how he goes tomorrow as to whether he starts," Karanka added.

Real are second in La Liga 13 points behind leaders Barcelona with 10 games left to play.

Reuters



*Spain's goalkeeper Iker Casillas attends a 2014 World Cup qualifying soccer match between France and Spain at the Stade de France stadium in Saint-Denis, near Paris, on 26 March, 2013.—*REUTERS

Wheatcroft leads in Houston, McIlroy and Mickelson make cut

LOS ANGELES, 30 March—Unheralded American Steve Wheatcroft carded another five-under-par 67 to take a one-shot lead after the second round of the Houston Open on Friday, while major winners Rory McIlroy and Phil Mickelson fought hard to just make the cut at Redstone Golf Club.

The 35-year-old Wheatcroft only earned a start for the event through Monday qualifying but now sits at 10-under, holding the 36 hole lead over fellow Americans Jason Kokrak (69) and DA Points (71) who are tied second at nine-under.

England's Brian Davis (70) and former British Open winner Stewart Cink (66) are joint fourth at seven-under.

World number two McIlroy will get the chance to continue to hone his wayward game before the US Masters after he ground out a two-under-par round of 70 to make the cut on the number at one-under.

McIlroy, a week from being deposed by Tiger Woods from golf's rankings summit, managed three birdies and just the lone bogey in a more accomplished effort than his opening round of 73.

"It was okay. It was definitely more consistent today than yesterday," McIlroy told reporters. "I gave myself quite a few chances. It could have been a couple better, but, you know, it was an improvement on yesterday."

*Steve Wheatcroft of the US hits out of the sand trap on the 17th hole during second round play at the Canadian Open Golf tournament at St. George's Golf and Country Club in Toronto on 23 July, 2010.—*REUTERS

The Northern Irishman's season has been less than stellar, with the twice major winner adding next week's Texas Open in San Antonio to his schedule as he seeks form ahead of the year's first major at Augusta National which starts on 11 April. Since signing a new equipment deal with Nike in the offseason, he has missed the cut in Abu Dhabi, lost in the first round of the WGC Match Play Championship and walked off mid-round at the Honda Classic when headed for another missed cut.—*Reuters*

Barcelona lifted by return of Vilanova and Abidal

MADRID, 30 March—Eric Abidal was included in Barcelona's squad to play Celta Vigo in La Liga this weekend only a few days after coach Tito Vilanova returned following two months out receiving cancer treatment.

France international Abidal, 33, has not played since having a liver transplant last April, and was passed fit to return to training with his team mates last month.

His return is timely with fellow defenders Carles Puyol, Adriano Correia and Jordi Alba all out injured for Saturday's trip, and a Champions League quarter-final first leg away to Paris St Germain approaching next Tuesday.

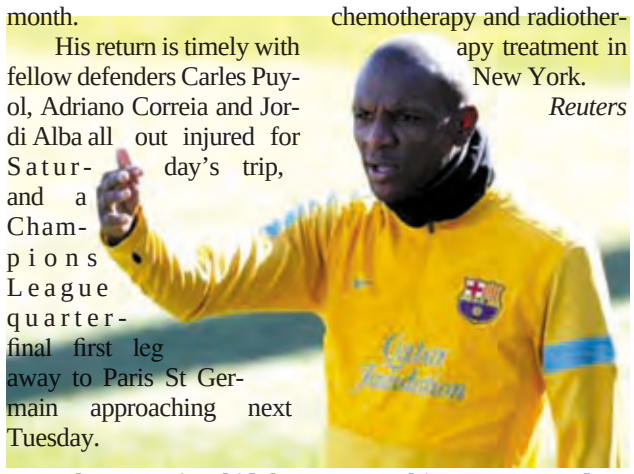
"An example for everyone! Congratulations Abi!" Barca striker David Villa said on his Twitter feed.

Abidal last played for Barca in a 2-1 win at Atletico Madrid in February last year.

Vilanova will not travel to Vigo, but his assistant Jordi Roura said there was a strong possibility he could join the team in Paris.

Vilanova flew back to Barcelona on Tuesday after two months undergoing chemotherapy and radiotherapy treatment in New York.

Reuters



*Barcelona's Eric Abidal gestures to his team mates during a training session at Ciutat Esportiva Joan Gamper in Sant Joan Despi near Barcelona on 13 Feb, 2013.—*REUTERS

Murray to face Ferrer in Miami final

MIAMI, 30 March—Britain's Andy Murray fought back for a 6-7, 6-1, 6-2 win over France's Richard Gasquet to reach the final of the Sony Open where he will face Spaniard David Ferrer on Sunday.

Murray recovered after making a mess of the first set where he was serving for it at 5-4 but double-faulted on break point and ended up losing out in the tie-break.

Gasquet had been playing some inspired tennis but he was outplayed in the second set and the Scotsman never looked in danger in the third.

"The first set was a tough one to lose, because I obviously served for the set and then at the end of the set you kind of look up at the stats and I had hit over 20 winners and lost the set," the Scotsman told reporters.

"So I realized I had to cut out the unforced errors. I did a good job of that. Halfway through the second set I started to find the right way to play, the right shots to go for and I did well after that," he said.—*Reuters*

*Spain's David Ferrer returns a shot to Germany's Tommy Haas in their men's singles semi final match at the Sony Open tennis tournament in Key Biscayne, Florida on 29 March, 2013.—*REUTERS

GENERAL

Firefighters try to control a forest fire in Panama City, capital of Panama, on 29 March, 2013. The cause of the forest fire is still under investigation.—XINHUA

Lebanese fisherman injured by Syrian fire

BEIRUT, 30 March—A Lebanese fisherman was injured on Friday after a Syrian boat which entered Lebanese territorial waters opened fire on his fishing boat off the northern coast of Arida. The fisherman, identified by the state-run *National News Agency* as Khaled Ahmed al-Ali, was injured in the leg.

The Syrian navy has often fired at fishing boats in Lebanese territorial waters since early 2011, when Syria's political unrest erupted.

In January 2012, a young Lebanese fisherman was killed and his uncle injured when Syrian soldiers opened fire on them near Arida. But Damascus said then the sailors were smugglers and it was other nearby Lebanese vessels that fired first.—*Xinhua*

Students queue to get water beside a water well at the Junior High School of Shixiawan Township in Dingxi City, northwest China's Gansu Province, on 28 March, 2013.— XINHUA

Cambodia's economy to grow by 7 pct in 2013

PHNOM PENH, 30 March—Cambodia's economy is projected to grow by 7 percent this year, Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Keat Chhon said Friday.

He said the growth still is contributed by garment exports, tourism, agriculture, real estate and construction.

The minister added that the country's political stability, macroeconomic and financial stability and transparent legal framework will encourage more foreign investors to come to Cambodia in years to come.

"With this expected growth, Cambodia will get out of the classification of a low-income to a lower-middle-income country at the end of this year," he said at the opening of the 3rd Cambodia Industry-Handicraft Fair at the Diamond Island Exhibition Centre.

Lower-middle-income countries are those with GDP per capita between 1,006 US dollars and 3,975 US dollars, as defined by the World Bank.

Last year, Cambodia's GDP per capita was nearly 1,000 US dollars, and it was expected to rise to 1,080 US dollars this year, Keat Chhon said.

Xinhua

French public debts rises to 1833.8 bln euros

PARIS, 30 March—Public debt of France widened by 15.8 billion euros (20.25 billion US dollars) to stand at 1,833.8 billion euros by the end of the fourth quarter 2012, official figures showed on Friday.

As a percentage of gross domestic product (GDP), it peaked at 90.2 percent in the fourth quarter, 0.3 point higher compared to the third quarter 2012, the national statistics bureau INSEE said in its latest report.

Furthermore, the net public debt rose by 32.2 billion euros, INSEE added.

In the meantime, the French government public deficit reached 4.8 percent of the GDP, according to the official data.

The government had projected a deficit of 4.5 percent of GDP, estimating its public debt would stand at 89.9 percent in 2012.

Heavily plagued by climbing unemployment and sluggish economy, the Eurozone's second largest economy has admitted it might not fulfil its pledge of cutting public deficit of GDP to 3 percent in 2013, but suppose it stands at 3.7 percent.

Xinhua

Rodgers calm over Suarez exit talk

LONDON, 30 March—Liverpool manager Brendan Rodgers on Friday insisted he has no intention of panicking over Luis Suarez's future after the Uruguay striker hinted he would consider an offer from a more successful club.

With Liverpool unlikely to qualify for next season's Champions League, many reports have claimed Suarez will be targeted by big-spending Paris Saint Germain, Juventus and Manchester City.

And ahead of World Cup qualifiers last week the 26-year-old gave an interview in his homeland which fuelled the speculation as he suggested he would listen to offers from Champions League teams. Losing Suarez, Liverpool's most influential performer this season with 29 goals in all competitions, would be a major blow.

But Rodgers claims there is no need for Reds fans to fear the departure of their talisman. "I haven't spoken to Luis yet. He was back late yesterday and we just ran the medical team over him and he trained this morning," he said.

Liverpool manager Brendan Rodgers.—XINHUA

"All I am aware of is we have an outstanding player who has given everything for the club and he is very happy here.

"Every time he goes away, there is always something. I always say to players I have a simple rule: when you are with Liverpool just talk about Liverpool and when you are away with your international team concentrate on your international team so there is no drama.

"So what he says when he is with Uruguay is of no great relevance to Liverpool."—*PTI*

Tunisia denies rumours of setting up US base in country

TUNIS, 30 March—Tunisia's Defence Ministry spokesman denied rumours of allowing a US military base to be set up in his country, the official *TAP* Press agency reported Friday.

Colonel Major Mokhtar Ben Nasr told reporters in the capital Tunis that those rumours relayed by certain media and social networking websites were "baseless."

He meanwhile said the recent visit of head of the US Africa Command, General Carter Ham, in Tunisia was a farewell visit.

Ham, who met Tunisia's leaders and defence officials during his visit, warned against the threat posed by al-Qaeda in the North African nation and the Maghreb.

Xinhua

Jennifer Lopez axed from IPL 6 opening ceremony

KOLKATA, 30 March—Indian Premier League organizers have dropped pop diva Jennifer Lopez from the opening ceremony of its sixth edition, to be held in Kolkata on 2 April .

According a report in *The Sun,* the 43-year-old singer was said to have demanded a private plane and dozens of hotel rooms for her entourage. She also wanted to bring along her personal stylists, assistants and chef as well.

Describing Jennifer's demands as 'idiotic', a source said: "The demands were outrageous. She effectively priced herself out of an event which has a huge audience." However a spokesman for the singer has said she had turned down the deal because she was busy recording an album.

Last year singer Katy Perry, who was dressed in Bollywood attire, performed at the IPL 5 opening ceremony, watched by an estimated 56 million people.

International rap artist Pitbull has been roped in this year to perform alongside Bollywood stars Shah Rukh Khan, Katrina Kaif and Deepika Padukone.—*PTI*

Thermal power plant fire kills one, injures three in Ukraine

KIEV, 30 March—At least one person was killed and three others were injured in a massive fire that broke out on Friday at a thermal power plant in eastern Ukraine, the State Service for Emergencies said.

The accident occurred at 3.15 pm local time (1315 GMT) at Uglegorsk power plant in Donetsk region, when the blaze broke out inside the power station unit and spread rapidly to the roof, triggering a large amount of smoke which was sweeping through the nearby area, it said.

According to the State Service for Emergencies, the fire has been already put out.—*Xinhua*

Trucks are led to the Yichang New Bridge on the Lianyugang-Horgos Highway in Sanmenxia City, central China's Henan Province, on 28 March, 2013. The Yichang New Bridge opened its two-way traffic on 29 March morning, after its construction passed the latest test. The 80-metre-long section of the old Yichang Bridge which was under repair collapsed after an explosion involving a fireworks-laden truck on 1 February. The accident claimed 13 lives.
XINHUA

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Mandalay Region chief minister calls for public cooperation in security measures

NAY PYI TAW, 30 March—Mandalay Region Chief Minister U Ye Myint called for public cooperation in restoration of law and order as he met Meiktila townselders at Meiktila District General Administration Department this noon.

Also present on the occasion were Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement U Phone Swe, Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Brig-Gen Kyaw Zan Myint, region ministers, administrators and officials.

Mandalay Region Chief Minister U Ye Myint meeting with townselders at Meiktila District General Administration Department.—MNA

The region chief minister called on the townselders to cooperate with authorities concerned in taking security measures. He also elaborated on security measures of the Myanmar Police Force and the armed forces.

The townselders put further questions about security measures and reported on security measures being undertaken. Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Brig-Gen Kyaw Zan Myint explained in detail joint security measures of the ministries and townselders.

MNA

Union SWRR Minister attends disaster management coord meeting

NAY PYI TAW, 30 March—Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Daw Myat Myat Ohn Khin attended a coordination meeting on ICT application in disaster management on 23 and 24 March in Tokyo, Japan.

The meeting was also attended by disaster prevention and relief ministers from Sri Lanka, the Philippines, Thailand, Turkey, Cambodia, Chile, Indonesia and Bangladesh, delegates from ICT-related establishments, and radio and television stations.

The meeting focused on ICT-aided disaster prevention, emergency responses, data-sharing, ICT infrastructure, and cooperation of government, private organizations and people for effective disaster management.

The Myanmar delegation went to Japan Meteorological Agency and Japan Broadcasting Cooperation (NHK) to observe disaster prediction, reporting and data flow management through ICT application on 24 March.

MNA

Weather Forecast for First Dekad of April 2013

Bay of Bengal Condition

Weather will be partly cloudy in the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

Rainy condition

Rainy days are expected about 2 to 3 days in Upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Regions, Kachin, Shan, Kayin and Mon States, weather will be partly cloudy in Yangon and Ayeyawady Regions and Rakhine State and generally fair in the remaining Regions and States.

Day temperature

Day temperatures will be above April average temperatures in Lower Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway Regions, Kayin and Mon States and bout April average temperatures in the remaining Regions and States.

NLM

Winner cyclists awarded in Pre-SEA Games Cycling Contest

NAY PYI TAW, 30 March— The Pre-SEA Games Cycling Contest was opened at the cycling ground at Pozaung Hill in Ottarathiri Township on 28 March.

Chairman of the Leading Committee for Organizing the XXVII SEA Games Union Minister for Sports U Tint Hsan, deputy ministers and guests enjoyed participation of cyclists in the contest.

Chandra Rafasnzani of Indonesia secured the first prize in the cross country men's event and Kusmawati Yazid of Indonesia in the women's event. Pyo Wai Zin of Myanmar stood second in the men's event. Tanaphon Jarupeng of Thailand won the first prize in the downhill men's event and Vipavee Deekballes in the women's event. Buanin of Indonesia stood first in the men's BMX event and Nicha Prasoetsria of Thailand in the women's event. The Union minister and party awarded the winners. In the evening, the Union minister hosted a dinner to the managers, coaches and cyclists at Mount Pleasant Hotel.—*MNA*

Development undertakings going well around Taninthayi Region

NAY PYI TAW, 30 March— Advanced tailoring course No 34 and basic tailoring course No. 63 concluded at Kawthoung Domestic Training School, with an address by Taninthayi Region Chief Minister U Myat Ko. The region chief minister inspected roadworks on Myeik Union Expressway and met departmental personnel at Karathuri Sub-township and Bokpyin Township. He visited Kyaunglamu Village Basic Education Primary School and inspected road condition along Taninthayi-Myiek Road on 23 March.

He met departmental personnel, village administrators and townselders at Kanmaw Village Basic Education Middle School in Kyunsu Township the following day. He then visited Kanmaw Station Hospital and Sakhanthit Village.

The region chief minister inspected Kye Bridge construction site, development undertakings in Pulaw, Palauk regions, condition of Myeik-Dawei raod section, construction of BEMs (branch) in Nyeinchanaye Village in Thayetchaung Township.

MNA

Myanmar's first solar-powered groundwater pumping put into service

By *Tin Hlaing (Meiktila)*

Today, world people are suffering drastic efforts of drought, untimely heavy rain, hailstones falling, severe storms and intense heat triggered by climate change.

While the world is encountering climate change, the first-ever solar-powered under-ground water pumping system has been introduced in Taung-dwingyi Township of Magway Region that lies in the dry zone of Myanmar under the directives of Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Khin Zaw. Tapping underground water started on 18 December 2012 with the use of a borehole drilling machine of Water Resources Utilization Department under Yanpal creek in Kokokwa village of the township. Thanks to strenuous efforts of staff led by Deputy Director U Hla Min of the department, works to tap groundwater from 80 feet below the surface with the use of a 10-inch diameter pipe were completed on 21 December 2012.

Next, Assistant Director U Thet Shae and Staff Officer U Thein Aung of Irrigation Department carried out sinking of tubewell and installation of 39 solar panels. Next changing 20 200-volt batteries using solar panels was undertaken by Assistant Director U Maung Maung Lwin of Irrigation Department. Then feeding electricity to the water pumping followed. In this way, groundwater ws transported to Kyi-yoe-kyi lake situated 2000 feet far from the tubewell via three-inch water pipeline on 10 March. The tubewell can produce 6000 gallons of clean groundwater per hour. As solar power-run groundwater pumping system will supply water to lakes in summer, thereby contributing towards greening of the region and adequate supply of drinking water for local people and their cattle, local people are appreciated with the efforts of officials concerned. So, the first solar-powered groundwater pumping was put into service in Taungdwingyi Township.

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