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President U Thein Sein leaves for China to attend Boao Forum for Asia 2013

President U Thein Sein being seen off at Nay Pyi Taw Airport by Vice-Presidents Dr Sai Mauk Kham and U Nyan Tun and party.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 5 April—President U Thein Sein left here for Boao of Hainan Island of the People's Republic of China by Myanma Airways International Special Flight this morning to attend Boao Forum for Asia 2013 to be held there and to pay a goodwill visit.

Myanmar delegation led by the President were seen off at Nay Pyi Taw Airport by Vice-Presidents Dr Sai Mauk Kham and U Nyan Tun, Chief of the General Staff (Army, Navy and Air) General Hla Htay Win, the Union Ministers, Charge d' Affaires ai Mr Lu Zhi of Chinese Embassy in Myanmar and departmental officials.

The President was accompanied by Union Ministers U Wunna Maung Lwin, U Tin Naing Thein, U Than Htay, Dr Kan Zaw and Dr Myint Aung, Deputy Minister Dr Win Myint and departmental heads.

The President arrived in Sanya City of Hainan Province of the People's Republic of China at 1:20 pm local time today.

On his arrival at Sanya International Airport, he was welcomed by Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr. Le Yucheng, Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Yang Houlan, Special Envoy on Asia Affairs Mr. Wang Yinfang, Myanmar Ambassador to China U Tin Oo, embassy staff and officials concerned from the People's Government of Hainan Province.

The President then proceeded to MGM Grand Hotel of Sanya where he will stay.

MNA

President U Thein Sein being welcomed at Sanya International Airport of PRC by Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr. Le Yucheng and party.—MNA

Tender proposals of telecommunication operators scrutinized

NAY PYI TAW, 5 April—Telecommunication Operator Tender Scrutiny Committee scrutinized the documents of 22 international telecommunication operators yesterday.

It is set to grant two permits so as to provide communication service across the country. The scrutiny committee will announce the name list of those that passed pre-qualification application process on 11 April.—*MNA*

Bay Inference

NAY PYI TAW, 5 April—Weather is partly cloudy to cloudy in the Andaman Sea and South Bay and partly cloudy elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Outlook for subsequent two days

Likelihood of slight decrease of day temperatures in the Southern Myanmar areas.—*NLM*

Spectacular Shan State

Byline: Min Khant Soe (Kyemon)
Photo: Aung Kyaw Win (Kyemon)

Shan State blessed with picturesque mountains and rivers is the largest and widest state in Myanmar, covering an area of 61123 square miles with wildlife sanctuaries and natural regions.

Taunggyi bird sanctuary established in 1920 is located in Taunggyi, covering an area of 6.20 square miles. It serves as the habitat conservation of the resident bird species and dry hill forest ecosystem.

Established in 1985, Inlay Lake wetland sanctuary lies between Nyaungshwe, Pinlaung and Phekon townships, covering an area of 247.45 square miles. It is the ideal place for wetland ecosystem study and the home to water birds and hibernating birds.

Loimhmwe natural region in Kengtung Township covers an area of 16.54 square miles and was set up in 1996. It is a haven for bear and bird species. Pasa natural region in Tachilek Township was also set up in 1996 and covers an area of 29.74 square miles. It is home to pangolins and bird species.

Panlaing and Pyadalin Cave wildlife sanctuary, established in 2002 is located in Ywangan Township, covering an area of 128.88 square miles. It shelters leopards, wild goats, monkey, bird and orchid species and is also a tourist destination of eco-tourism.

Shweohdaung wildlife sanctuary lies between Thabeikkyin and Mogok townships, covering an area of 45.55 square miles. It was established in 1927 and serves as the habitat conservation of elephant, bantam, gaur, wild goats, monkey and bird species.

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LOCAL NEWS

Cash and kind donations for Meiktila victims

MEIKTILA, 5 April — Sayadaw Ashin Chandadhika and members of Myanmar Motion Picture Organization led by chairman U Zin Waing, movie and video stars and social activists presented clothing and cash donation for victims in temporary relief camps in Meiktila through the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement at a donation centre which is being kept open at Meiktila exchange on 1 April.

Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement U Phone Swe accepted K 10.64 million donated by the Sayadaw for construction of three houses, K 5.8 million by MMPO and clothing worth K 15 million by social activists. Next, the Sayadaw and party including movie stars Zin Waing, Pyay Ti Oo, Wai Lu Kyaw, Moe Aung Yin, Eindra Kyaw Zin, Aye Myat Thu and Moe Hay Ko went to relief camps where they comforted the victims.

Kyemon

Shwepyitha, Lanmadaw Townships start to take pilot census-taking

YANGON, 5 April — Among 20 townships where pilot census taking are going to be carried out, Shwepyitha Township and Lanmadaw Township started taking census on 30 March. It lasts till 10 April.

The ceremony to set up a signboard "Mass participation in nationwide census taking process" took place at No (23/25) on Phonegyi street in ward-5 of Lanmadaw Township. In taking pilot census, the ward where there are 700 households living in 260 buildings is divided into five zones. An educational staff is assigned duties to take census in each zone. Taking of census has been carried out since 30 March morning. Ward dwellers are urged to lend their helping hands in pilot census taking process by answering accurate facts and figures to the data collectors.— *Kyemon*

Mongkai mom gives birth to triplets

MONGKAI, 5 April — A young woman gave birth a set of healthy triplets one by one under the special care of health staff led by Dr Aye Naing, Head of Mongkai Township Health Department, at Mongkai Township People's Hospital on 29 March.

Daw Nan Kyar Yon, 24, of Wammei Village in Mongkai Township of Loilem District of Shan State gave birth to triplets one after another at 12.30, 12.34 and 12.36 pm.

It was the fifth time for Daw Nan Kyar Yon, wife of U Sai Salam, as she had given birth to her fourth child before giving birth to triplets. It is learnt that the mother and newborn babies are in good health.—*Kyemon*

Brake failure car crash on Yangon-Mandalay highway

NAY PYI TAW, 5 April — A passenger bus crashed into the back of a truck driving ahead of it on Yangon-Mandalay Union Highway in Zeyathiri Township, here, on 30 March. The cause of the crash was suggested as brake failure. As they were informed of a car crash near mile post No (254/4) in Pyi San Aung ward of the township, Police Sub-inspector Kyaw Zaw Aung of Nay Pyi Taw Traffic Police Corps and party rushed there and made necessary investigation into the crash. The investigation revealed that Moe Hein passenger bus driving from Tatkon Township to Pyinmana Township by Zarni Aung, 25, of Myingyan Township crashed into the back of the truck driven by Hsan Win, 29, of Pyae Sone Aung ward in Zeyathiri Township after its brake failed. The truck driver had got injury to his head in the car accident that caused damage to the windscreen of the passenger bus. But there was no report of casualties in the crash which is under investigation. — *Kyemon*

Outstanding school children go on excursion to Inlay Lake

NYAUNGSHWE, 5 April — Under the supervision of Shan State education officer Deputy Director U Htoo Myint, outstanding students, who are in Grade X, had gone on an excursion to Inlay Lake.

First, they visited the more than 150-year-old Ngaphechaung village monastery. Next, they thronged to see floating plantations in Kayla village and weaving and making silk fabric in Innpawkhon village.

Motorcyclist dies after crashing into back of stationary vehicle

MAWLAMYINE, 5 April — A motorcyclist died of serious injures after crashing into the back of a stationary lorry on Strand road in Pabedan ward in Mawlamyine at about 2.20 am on 31 March.

A motorbike driven by Zeya Chit Htwe, 26, collided with the lorry which was stationary by the side of Strand road near Ohndaw 3rd street for repair. The motorcyclist was pronounced dead on the spot at the scene of the incident.

Myoma police station opened a case about the crash and investigation is ongoing.— *Kyemon*

Young girl dies of electric shock in North Okkalapa Township

YANGON, 5 April — A young girl died after getting an electric shock at a house on Ayeyar 12th street in Nya ward of North Okkalapa Township, here, at about 6 pm on 14 March.

Next, they paid homage to Alodawpauk Pagoda in Nannpan village and PhaungdawU Pagoda in Namt-hu village.

Kyemon

Ma Aye Myat Mon, an external examiner of matriculation examinations for 2013, was killed in the tragic accident as she hopelessly held an iron sieve touching a line of worn wire in which an electric current flows while she was teasing Mg Han Thu Win, 8, son of U Aung Myo Win, who lives next door. When she got an electric shock, her feet were bare. — *Kyemon*

Uncontrolled light truck kills unknown woman

YANGON, 5 April — An unknown woman was killed in a crash involved a light truck and a trishaw she rode on Bayintnaung road in Hline Township, here, at about 5.30 am on 29 March.

The light truck driven by Zaw Min Htaik veered onto the wrong side of the road out of control and collided head-on with the trishaw on the opposite lane near Shwe Thanlwin Pagoda on Bayintnaung road in the township, leaving the unidentified woman severely wounded. The victim who is about 40 years old was pronounced dead while she was taken to Insein Hospital.

Padaukchaung police station filed a lawsuit against driver Zaw Min Htaik of Insein Township for his reckless driving and actions are underway.

Kyemon

Trash fire in Sittway University campus

SITTWAY, 5 April — A fire broke out in the Sittway University campus at about 10.50 am on 30 March. The cause of the fire was due to the trash in the compound.

Fire crews accompanied by two fire trucks and one supportive vehicle of Sittway Township fire services department battled the fire and put it out at about 11.30 am in cooperation with security members and Tatmadawmen. The fire swept through about one acre, destroying small trees in the compound. There was no report of property damage and causalities. The fire was likely caused by a lighted cigarette or cheroot which was carelessly thrown on the trash.

Kyemon

Photo shows stockpiles of stones and sand along Yangon-Mandalay railroad where maintenance works for safety of trains were carried out on 28 March.

KYEMON

WORLD

*Chinese peacekeepers give a lesson to the local students about mine during an activity to mark the International Day of Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action in Naqoura, southern Lebanon, on 4 April, 2013.—*Xinhua

Japan, US to say moving Futenma possible in FY 2022 or later

Tokyo, 5 April—Japan and the United States are likely to outline a timeframe for relocating the US Marine Corps Futenma Air Station in Okinawa Prefecture beginning fiscal 2022 or later in their forthcoming plan for returning land used by the US military, Japanese sources said on Friday.

Moving the air base out of the densely populated city of Ginowan on the main island of Okinawa and returning the land used for the facility to Japanese control will be contingent, however, on the relocation of Futenma's flight functions elsewhere in the prefecture, according to the sources.

The Japanese government is expected to announce the plan after Prime Minister Shinzo Abe meets with US Ambassador to Japan John Roos at the Prime Minister's office and sign off on it late Friday afternoon.

Under the plan to be agreed on between the two countries, Japan and the United States envision returning in fiscal 2025 or later most of the land in Okinawa Prefecture south of the US Kadena Air Base used for five US military facilities and areas.

The plan will say that work will start during the fiscal year that began this month for some of the land made eligible for "immediate return" under a bilateral agreement in April 2012, the sources said.

Returning the land used as the Futenma Air Station to Japan is contingent on Futenma's relocation to a coastal area of Nago, another city on the main Okinawa island, under an agreement between Japan and the United States.—*Kyodo News*

Syria's humanitarian crisis worsening rapidly

Beirut, 5 April—The humanitarian situation in Syria is worsening rapidly with some areas a landscape of "devastation and destruction", the Red Cross said on Thursday after a month which activists said was the bloodiest yet in the conflict.

About 70,000 people have been killed and millions displaced during the two-year-old uprising, the United Nations says. Civilians have been cut off from water, electricity and life-saving medical supplies, especially in rebel-held areas targeted by air strikes and ballistic missiles.

The Syrian government's restrictions on aid convoys have meant most supplies are distributed in government-held areas.

Peter Maurer, President of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), said aid workers had been able to do make more trips into opposition-held areas in the past two weeks, indicating Damascus may be softening its stance on convoys into such territory.

He said the workers were "not pleasantly surprised" by what they found in areas accessible for the first time, with the need for food, sanitation, water and medicine increasing.

"We saw devastation and destruction," he said.

"What we were able to achieve is not enough. The needs are growing exponentially while our ability to react is growing linearly," he said.

Convoys and volunteers for the Syrian Arab Red Crescent — the ICRC's partner in Syria — have been targeted during the civil war by both sides, who are suspicious of the group's neutrality. Several volunteers have been jailed or killed.

Maurer called for aid groups to be respected. "When we have a convoy on the road from Damascus to any part of Syria it is of the uttermost importance that this convoy is allowed to pass checkpoints and is not shot at," he said at the end of a three-day visit to neighboring Lebanon, which has 400,000 Syrian refugees.

Reuters

A boy sits by the side of a crater that activists said was caused by a bomb dropped by a Syrian Air Force fighter jet loyal to President Bashar al-Assad in al-Yadoudeh area in Deraa on 30 March, 2013.
Reuters

Laotian campaigners call for world without landmines in UN address

Thoummy Silamphan (R), who lost his hand to a landmine as a child in Laos, and Manixia Thor (C), a member of an all-female bomb-clearing team in the country, speak at the UN headquarters in New York on 4 April, 2013, International Mine Awareness Day.
Kyodo News

New York, 5 April—A man who lost his hand to a landmine as a child and a member of an all-female bomb-clearing team from Laos urged a United Nations panel to rid the world of the deadly weapons on Thursday on International Mine Awareness day.

"I am here to tell my story, not because my story is unique, but because in Laos what happened to me happens much too often," said Thoummy Silamphan, emphasizing how children and adults in his country are still dying and losing limbs decades after the Vietnam War ended in 1973.

Laos, neighbouring Vietnam, was pulled into the war and subjected to cluster bombing by the US military.

When he was eight, Silamphan came into contact with unexploded ordnance while digging for bamboo shoots for a family meal.

After being hospitalized for 18 days, Silamphan lost his left hand and faced a severe bout of depression, but eventually with encouragement from a friend overcame his difficulties.

Now as a victim assistance advocate, who also heads the Quality of Life Association in Xieng Khouang, the country's first non-profit organization created to help victims like himself, he speaks out around the world to ban cluster munitions.

Along with Manixia Thor, the deputy team leader of the Mines Advisory Group, they are kicking off a month long tour of the United States beginning in New York. Thor's uncle also lost his hand in an accident 15 years ago and it had a profound impact on her.

"We are on this tour to remind the world of what happened in Laos and how they can help us recover," Silamphan told an audience at a UN conference room, which included diplomats, UN officials and students. "The bombings of Laos were a secret, but the legacy of those bombings shouldn't be."

From 1964 to 1973, the United States carried out a secret war in Laos, ultimately dropping more than two million tons of ordnance and making the country the most heavily bombed per capita in history, according to Legacies of War, a US based organization that is raising awareness about the bombing missions carried out during the Vietnam era.

Kyodo News

US sends F/A-18 warplanes to Philippine military drills

Manila, 5 April—Washington is in this week deploying a dozen *F/A-18* fighters to the Philippines, the first time it has sent so many of the aircraft there, to take part in annual military drills with a close security ally amid rising tension in the Asia-Pacific region.

The presence of the warplanes is not connected to tensions on the Korean peninsula, a Philippine army spokesman said.

"These exercises were planned more than a year ago, well ahead of what is now happening in the region," Major Emmanuel Garcia said.

The United States plans to send a missile defence system to protect Pacific island Guam, where it has a large military base, after North Korea threatened to launch nuclear attacks on the North American mainland over disagreements on its atomic programme.

The bilateral military activities will begin on Friday with 8,000 American and Filipino troops staging mock battles and simulating disaster responses, army spokesman Garcia said.

The war games are being held to test the two allies' defence plans based on the Mutual Defence Treaty, an important link in Washington's chain of security alliances in the Asia-Pacific region. The US has similar military arrangements with South Korea, Japan, Singapore and Australia.—*Reuters*

*A F/A-18E Super Hornet assigned to the Gunslingers of Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 105 lands aboard the aircraft carrier USS Harry S Truman in this 15 Jan, 2013 handout photo courtesy of the US Navy.—*Reuters

Putin, Obama to meet at G8 summit

Moscow, 5 April—Russian President Vladimir Putin will meet his US counterpart Barack Obama on the sidelines of the upcoming G8 summit in June, a Kremlin aide said on Thursday.

"I would like to stress that the presidents have agreed for certain to hold a full-scale meeting associated with the G8 summit in Northern Ireland," Yury Ushakov told reporters.

He did not rule out the possibility that the presidents would meet during a G20 summit in St Petersburg due in September.

The official said Putin had reaffirmed an official invitation to Obama during a recent telephone conversation.

"I think (US National Security Advisor Thomas) Donilon will come to Moscow and send some signals on this account as well," the *Interfax* news agency quoted him as saying.

Both sides agreed to make "essential preparations" so that the meeting in Northern Ireland would be "substantive," Ushakov said.

He said the possible meeting between Putin and Donilon when the latter visits Russia on 15 April would depend on Putin's schedule.

Xinhua

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Samsung Electronics Q1 profit guidance beats street view

SEOUL, 5 April—Samsung Electronics (005930.KS), the iPhone's main adversary, estimated its January-March operating profit rose 53 percent to 8.7 trillion won as sales of mid-tier smartphones helped the South Korean giant tide over the off-peak season.

The guidance, released ahead of full quarterly results by 26 April, was better than an average forecast for 8.3 trillion won in a poll of 42 analysts by Thomson Reuters I/B/E/S.

That marks the end of five straight quarters of record profits for the world's biggest technology firm by revenue. But analysts say earnings will hit a new high in the current quarter as Samsung's Galaxy S IV smartphone hits the market this month.

The Galaxy S and Note series have fuelled Samsung's record-breaking earnings growth and made it the No 2 player in the global premium smartphone segment after Apple Inc (AAPL.O). But as the high-end market swarms with new offerings, Samsung is turning to less affluent customers in emerging markets, offering cheaper models such as the Rex and Galaxy Pop, analysts said.

*People look at devices at the Samsung stand at the Mobile World Congress in Barcelona, on 25 Feb, 2013.—*REUTERS

Samsung capitalised on its 30-plus smartphone models that cover nearly all price points to boost shipments to a record in the first quarter while the post-year end holiday season sapped sales at chief rival Apple, according to the analysts.

Samsung, valued at around $220 billion, estimated its first-quarter sales at 52.0 trillion won, versus a market forecast for 53.0 trillion won.—*Reuters*

Major telcos and investor Soros set sights on Myanmar

LONDON, 5 April — China Mobile(0941.HK), Vodafone(VOD.L) and a group backed by George Soros entered the race to secure a mobile licence in Myanmar, as the battle to operate in one of the last major untapped markets kicked off.

The Chinese and British groups, the first and second-largest operators in the world respectively, said on Thursday they had formed a consortium to bid for a licence in Myanmar, where the government wants to increase the number of mobile operators from two to four.

In a separate consortium, Denis O'Brien's Digicel joined forces with billionaire investor George Soros' Quantum Strategic Partners and Serge Pun, a well known business leader in Myanmar.

That consortium is looking at an initial project investment of between $1.5 billion and $2 billion, a person familiar with the situation said.

The groups made their intentions known as the deadline for pre-qualification applications closed, joining the likes of Africa's largest mobile phone company MTN(MTNJ.J), India's top mobile operator Bharti Airtel(BRTI.NS) and Singapore's SingTel(STEL.SI) in expressing an interest.

The presence of such big names reflects the wider interest in the country, when civilian government took over in 2011, setting off a wave of political and economic reforms.

Myanmar, where SIM cards are prohibitively expensive, has said it hopes to increase mobile penetration from 5-10 percent to 80 percent in three years, lifting it off the bottom of the world's ladder of mobile use.

The country stands out as a rare opportunity in international telecommunications as operators battle stagnant markets in Europe and rapid growth but very low prices in emerging markets.

"With a comparatively young and highly literate population of around 60 million, a GDP growth rate of 5.5 percent per annum and mobile phone penetration currently below 10 percent ... Myanmar will be an important new market for the global mobile industry," Vodafone said.

Reuters

*A couple uses a mobile phone on the side of a street in Yangon, on 7 March, 2013.—*REUTERS

Deadly new bird flu vindicates controversial research

LONDON, 5 April — Scientists in the Dutch city of Rotterdam know precisely what it takes for a bird flu to mutate into a potential human pandemic strain — because they've created just such mutant viruses in the laboratory.

So as they watch with some trepidation the emergence in China of a strain of bird flu previously unknown in humans, they also argue it vindicates their controversial decision to conduct these risky experiments despite fierce opposition.

Above all else, what the world needs to know about this new strain of H7N9 bird flu is how likely it is to be able to spread efficiently among human populations.

And according to Ab Osterhaus, a world leading flu researcher who is head of viroscience of the Erasmus Medical Centre in the Netherlands, studies his team and another in the United States have been doing are the best way to find out.

"At the moment we don't know whether we should go for a full-blown alert or whether we can sit back and say this is just a minor thing," Osterhaus told *Reuters* in a telephone interview.

"(To answer that) we need to know what this virus needs to become transmissible."

With 10 cases of the new H7N9 bird flu confirmed in people in China since Sunday, including four deaths, Beijing is mobilizing resources against the threat.

Japan and Hong Kong said they had also stepped up vigilance against the virus, and Vietnam banned imports of Chinese poultry.

The scientific work that can answer key risk questions is known as "gain of function" or GOF research. Its aim is to identify combinations of genetic changes, or mutations, that allow an animal virus to jump to humans.

By finding the mutations needed, researchers and ultimately health authorities are better prepared to assess how likely it is that a new virus could become dangerous and if so how soon they should begin developing drugs, vaccines and other scientific defences. Yet such work is highly controversial.

*A patient with fever (R) is accompanied by a family member while receiving treatment at the hospital where a 67-year-old H7N9 patient is being treated, in Hangzhou, Zhejiang Province, on 3 April, 2013.—*REUTERS

When two teams of scientists announced in late 2011 they had found out how to make a another strain of bird flu — H5N1 — into a form that could spread between people, alarm bells rang so loudly at the US National Science Advisory Board for Biosecurity (NSABB) that it took the unprecedented step of seeking to censor publication of the studies. In a series of GOF experiments, the scientists induced mutations into the H5N1 virus that made it transmissible among mammals through droplets in the air.

Reuters

HP chairman Lane resigns, Whitworth takes over for now

SAN FRANCISCO, 5 April—Hewlett-Packard Co (HPQ.N) Chairman Ray Lane, who has come under fire from shareholders for his role in the acquisition of software company Autonomy Plc, has stepped down, the company said on Thursday, in a shake-up that will usher in two to three new board members.

*Hewlett Packard Executive Chairman and Kleiner Perkins managing partner Ray Lane poses at his home in Atherton, California on 11 Nov, 2011. —*REUTERS

Director and activist investor Ralph Whitworth will become interim chairman until a permanent replacement is found. The action comes weeks after the Kleiner Perkins managing partner, who will remain a director, narrowly won reelection at the personal computer maker's annual shareholders' meeting with less than 60 percent of voting shares compared with 96 percent a year ago.

Two other directors who kept their seats with narrow margins, G Kennedy Thompson and John Hammergren, will exit the board, leaving the company looking for two to three new, independent replacements. Lane is one of the most prominent casualties of an acquisition that has incensed investors, who have publicly upbraided the company for paying $11 billion for Autonomy and for failing to conduct proper due diligence.—*Reuters*

Wi-Fi-enabled digital cameras proving to be a hit already

MUMBAI, 5 April—Sales of digital cameras that enable users to immediately post pictures on the web have risen sharply in Asia despite stiff competition from smartphones, an industry survey showed on Thursday. Market research company GfK said sales of WiFi-enabled cameras in 13 major Asian markets including Japan and China rose 52 percent from the year before to 8.44 million units in 2012 with a total value of $2.74 billion.

While WiFi-enabled digital stills cameras have been around since 2005, GfK said sales have only picked up in the past two years as manufacturers widened the range of models available and prices fell due to competition. There are currently 160 models of Wi-Fi ready cameras in the market, it said.

"The introduction of the WiFi feature in cameras is definitely a right step forward to stimulate and boost the camera market in this Internet age," Gerard Tan, account director for digital technology at GfK Asia, said in a statement.—*PTI*

BUSINESS & HEALTH

Bank of England keeps policy steady despite new remit

LONDON, 5 April — The Bank of England decided not to pump fresh money into its stagnant economy on Thursday, despite a new remit that gives it more leeway to disregard above-target inflation.

Further stimulus may still be on its way, however, after Chancellor George Osborne tweaked the central bank's mandate two weeks ago.

He gave the bank stronger backing to ignore the series of one-off factors that have kept inflation above target for most of the time since the financial crisis.

The remit also paves the way for a broader review of the Bank of England's monetary policy when Mark Carney, who currently heads Canada's central bank, succeeds BoE Governor Mervyn King in July. But for now there is no majority on the nine-member Monetary Policy Committee to add to the 375 billion pounds of government bonds it bought between March 2009 and October 2012, in line with economists' expectations. Interest rates remained at a record-low 0.5 percent.

The British central bank's decision contrasts with that of the Bank of Japan, which has been under more overt political pressure to stimulate its economy. It shocked markets earlier on Thursday when it pledged to double its government bond holdings within two years.

Although King and two other policymakers backed restarting the BoE's asset-buying quantitative eaisng programme in February and March, there has been no sign of a softening in the opposition of the other six members, who are more concerned about inflation and sterling weakness.

Sterling strengthened slightly against the dollar and June gilt futures fell to a session low after the bank's decision, as economists had seen a slim chance of action this month.

But economists think more stimulus is likely later in 2013, either when the central bank publishes a quarterly update to its economic forecasts next month or after the Carney's arrival.

"Although the MPC left policy on hold again today, we suspect that the decision was still a close one. And while the chances of more asset purchases in May have perhaps declined, we still think Mark Carney's arrival in July could jump-start the committee into action," said Samuel Tombs of Capital Economics.—*Reuters*

Governor of the Bank of England Mervyn King speaks to employees during the opening of the Prudential Regulation Authority, in central London on 2 April, 2013.
REUTERS

Bank of Spain overhauls supervision, puts focus on savings banks

MADRID, 5 April — The Bank of Spain said on Thursday it was overhauling its financial system supervision in line with European recommendations and will create a supervisory committee focussing on the former unlisted savings banks.

As part of the plans following a 40 billion euro (33 billion pounds) international bail-out of its banking system last year, the central bank will also create a supervisory group focused on money laundering and the sale of financial products by banks to customers, it said in a news release.

Another group will concentrate on Spain's so-called 'bad bank', set up last year as a condition of receiving aid.

Many of the savings banks, known as 'cajas', lent excessively during a decade-long property boom and were used by local politicians to fund pet projects.—*Reuters*

An employee sifts diamonds at a diamond cutting and polishing factory in Surat in Gujarat on 3 March, 2009.
REUTERS

Dominion Diamond sales rise on improved global demand

NEW DELHI, 5 April — Dominion Diamond Corp (DDC.TO) (DDC.N), formerly Harry Winston Diamond Corp, on Wednesday reported an increase in fourth-quarter sales on rising demand in the United States, China and India.

Sales from continuing operations rose 8 percent to $110.1 million, the Toronto-based company said in a statement.

The retail jewellery market improved, led by Diwali and the wedding season in India, a positive year-end holiday season in the United States and improved consumer demand in China.

Rough diamond production during the quarter increased 19 percent to 1.9 million carats.

Net income from continuing operations fell slightly in the quarter ended 31 January to $12.1 million, or 14 cents per share, from $12.7 million, or 15 cents per share, a year earlier.

In January, the company agreed to sell its luxury jewellery business to Switzerland's Swatch (UHR.VX) and focus on its diamond mines. It also renamed itself Dominion Diamond.

Net profit from discontinued operations, which includes a luxury brand segment, fell to $2.8 million in the quarter.

Flush with cash from the Swatch deal, Dominion is expected to consider buying Rio Tinto's diamond operations as Rio has said it could pull out of the diamond business.

Dominion owns 40 percent of Diavik, a diamond mine in Canada's Northwest Territories. Rio Tinto (RIO.L) (RIO.AX) owns the rest of that mine.

In 2013, Dominion Diamond's Diavik Diamond Mine is expected to produce about 6 million carats, down from 7.2 million carats in 2012, the company said.

Separately, in November, Toronto-based Dominion agreed to buy BHP Billiton's (BLT.L) (BHP.AX) stake in the Ekati diamond mine in northern Canada, betting that rising prices could extend the life of the country's oldest diamond mine.

On Monday, Dominion said it had secured all necessary regulatory approvals for that deal, and expected it to close on or about 10 April.—*Reuters*

Toyota seeks to avoid midlife crisis for youthful Scion brand

DETROIT, 5 April — Toyota Motor Corp (7203.T) executives are weighing repositioning Scion as a line of premium small cars as they debate the youth brand's future in the United States.

A decade after its launch as a way to lure younger buyers into Toyota showrooms, Scion is still a work in progress as it looks to rebound from low sales during the recession. The brand is a relatively small seller for Toyota, with its five models selling 73,500 vehicles last year. That compares with Toyota's four-car Prius line, which sold almost 237,000.

The Japanese automaker's top executives concede that Scion is at a crossroads of sorts.

"There's still debate on where we should go from here," Jim Lentz, Toyota's newly appointed chief executive of North America, told *Reuters* in a recent interview.

"One of the alternatives is we've always felt that there's going to be a big segment created of premium small cars in the US," he added. Lentz cited the push by the German luxury brands into lower-cost entries such as the Mercedes-Benz (DAIGn.DE) CLA that will sell for less than $30,000.

As part of the effort to boost sales, Scion at the New York auto show last week showed off a redesigned tC coupe that will go on sale in late May. However, the brand's future is already being discussed and options include adding a hybrid vehicle, a crossover or even a four-door sedan.

"Any of them could happen," Lentz said.

Scion's sales total last year was less than half of its 2006 peak, but far improved from 2010's nadir of about 46,000 vehicles. Officials expect to sell about 80,000 this year and research firm LMC Automotive forecasts the brand to hit 108,000 in 2020, but company officials insist the brand has never been about the numbers.

Introduced as concept vehicles at the New York show in 2002, Scion began selling cars the following year with the idea of appealing to Generation Y buyers who perceived Toyota vehicles as too stodgy.

Reuters

***Doug Murtha, Vice President of Scion for Toyota Motor Sales USA Inc, stands with the Toyota 2014 Scion tC as it is unveiled at the New York International Auto Show in New York, on 28 March, 2013.—*REUTERS**

China readies to fight new bird flu; Japan, Hong Kong on guard

***A monitor screen shows a 67-year-old patient suffering from the H7N9 bird flu strain receiving treatment at a hospital in Hangzhou, Zhejiang Province, on 4 April, 2013.—*REUTERS**

BEIJING, 5 april — The death toll from a new strain of bird flu rose to five in China on Thursday as Beijing said it was mobilizing resources nationwide to combat the virus, Japan and Hong Kong stepped up vigilance and Vietnam banned imports of Chinese poultry.

The H7N9 bird flu strain does not appear to be transmitted from human to human but authorities in Hong Kong raised a preliminary alert and said they were taking precautions at the airport.

In Japan, airports have put up posters at entry points warning all passengers from China to seek medical attention if they suspect they have bird flu.

A total of 14 people in China have been confirmed to have contracted H7N9, all in the east of the country.

One of the cases was a four-year-old child, who was recovering, the official *Xinhua* news agency said.

Two people died on Thursday, both in Shanghai, bringing the number of deaths to five, state media said. Four of the five have died in Shanghai, China's booming financial hub.

Authorities in Shanghai also discovered the H7N9 virus in a pigeon sample taken from a traditional wholesale market, *Xinhua* added, believed to be the first time the virus has been discovered in an animal in China since the outbreak began.

Reuters

WORLD

US health authorities closely monitor H7N9 flu

WASHINGTON, 5 April — The US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention said on Thursday it is following the H7N9 type of bird flu in China "closely" and coordinating with domestic and international partners.

It is also gathering more information to make an informed public health risk assessment and develop a candidate vaccine virus, the CDC said on its website. The CDC said it is also assessing "whether existing influenza diagnostic tests need to be enhanced or new ones developed." National Security Council spokeswoman Caitlin Hayden also said, "The National Security Staff is actively monitoring the H7N9 Influenza A outbreak in China." "In coordination with the government's relevant experts, we are tracking the outbreak and preparing a response if one should be required," she added.—*Kyodo News*

KLM Royal Dutch Airlines employees and others pose for photos in front of a KLM Boeing 777 jet after the aircraft carrying about 300 passengers landed at Fukuoka airport on 4 April, 2013. KLM Royal Dutch Airlines launched a direct fight service between Fukuoka and Amsterdam the same day, becoming the first carrier to regularly connect the southwestern Japanese city with Europe.
KYODO NEWS

Magnitude 5.4 earthquake shakes buildings in Mexico City

MEXICO CITY, 5 April — A 5.4 magnitude earthquake shook buildings in Mexico City on Thursday, but there were no immediate reports of injuries or damages.

The epicentre of the earthquake was in Guerrero state on Mexico's Pacific coast, the US Geological Survey reported.

A *Reuters* witness in the Pacific resort of Acapulco, the biggest city in Guerrero, said the earthquake seemed slight, with some people not even noticing the tremor.

Mexico City Mayor Miguel Angel Mancera said city services were operating normally after the earthquake.— *Reuters*

Power plant blast reported in US state of Georgia

WASHINGTON, 5 April — An explosion was reported on Thursday at a coal-fired power plant in the US state of Georgia.

The blast took place at Plant Bowen in Euharlee, which was located in Bartow County, some 50 miles northwest of Atlanta. According to a report by the local WSBTV, the Bartow County Sheriff's Office is asking residents to avoid the plant, and roads in the area are closed. According to a separate report by ALIVE 11, another local TV station, the explosion occurred at the main power house, and injuries have been reported. Georgia Power, the company that runs the plant, confirmed that it's investigating the incident.—*Xinhua*

No agreement on Syria access for UN chemical arms inspectors

UNITED NATIONS, 5 April — The United Nations and Syria have not yet agreed on how much access a team of chemical weapons inspectors will have to investigate allegations that such arms were used recently in the Syrian conflict, according to a letter to Syria's UN envoy. The United Nations said last month it would investigate the Syrian government's allegations that rebels used chemical arms in an attack near the northern city of Aleppo.

Western countries also want a probe of two additional rebel claims about the use of such arms. The opposition says Syrian President Bashar al-Assad's government carried out all three alleged chemical attacks.

"There's no agreement on access yet," a UN Security Council diplomat told *Reuters* on condition of anonymity. "The inspectors won't be deploying until there's agreement on access and other modalities."

There has been an exchange of letters about access for the investigators between Syrian Ambassador Bashar Ja'afari and the head of the UN Office of Disarmament Affairs Angela Kane, according to a letter from Kane obtained by *Reuters* on Thursday.

That letter said Ja'afari wrote to Kane on Tuesday suggesting amendments to her proposed "legal and logistical parameters" for the investigation.

Ja'afari has said repeatedly that the inspectors need only limited access to the areas related to the Aleppo incident, in which the government and rebels accuse each other of firing a missile laden with chemicals that killed 26 people.

Diplomats said Assad's government has also suggested it wants a say in who will be on the inspection team. Kane responded to Ja'afari by saying that it was "solely for the Secretary-General (Ban Ki-moon) to determine the composition of the investigation mission, which should have the necessary freedom of movement and access to conduct a thorough and objective investigation."

Kane made clear to Ja'afari that although the primary focus of the investigation would be the Aleppo incident, there were other alleged chemical weapons attacks to consider as well.

"We must remain mindful of the other allegations that chemical weapons were used elsewhere in the country," she wrote.
Reuters

Brazilian FM says BRICS summit in Durban significant

BRASILIA, 5 April — Brazilian Foreign Minister Antonio Patriota on Thursday hailed the recent BRICS summit in Durban, South Africa, as significant for launching concrete projects.

"The recent BRICS summit in Durban was especially relevant, because some concrete projects began to take shape, such as the creation of a BRICS development bank or the negotiation for a contingent agreement on foreign reserves," Patriota told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

The fifth BRICS summit brought together leaders of Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa on 26-27 March.

Patriota said the summit also facilitated bilateral meetings, such as the meeting between Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff and Chinese President Xi Jinping.

"It was a long meeting, more than an hour, with a broad and substantive agenda," the minister told the senators.

Xinhua

Policemen and paramedics taking an injured school boy into a hospital in Srinagar, summer capital of Indian-controlled Kashmir, on 4 April, 2013. At least nine school children were killed and many others injured after a school bus skidded off the road and fell into gorge in Kandiwara Kokernag some 80 Kilometres south of Srinagar.
XINHUA

Cabinet OKs bill to have armed guards on vessels to counter piracy

TOKYO, 5 April — The Cabinet on Friday approved a bill to authorize foreign security guards aboard Japanese flag-flying vessels to carry rifles to protect the vessels from pirates in waters off Somalia and elsewhere, the government said.

The bill will be submitted to the ongoing parliamentary session, and if enacted would be the first Japanese legislation to authorize private citizens to carry and use firearms.

Japan-registered vessels are currently prohibited from carrying armed guards under the firearm control law.

The bill would allow armed guards to fire warning shots to prevent pirates from approaching a vessel without taking aim at the pirates.

It would authorize guards to fire rifle shots at pirates only in an emergency where the lives of guards or other crew are at risk. Firing in violation of the provisions would be punishable by up to five years in jail or a fine of up to 1 million yen.

The legislation would be applied to tankers and other Japan-registered vessels that sail in piracy-prone waters, such as those off Somalia and the Arabian Sea. The legislation would stipulate that armed guards be allowed to board vessels only after they sail into dangerous waters.

Whenever vessels make calls at Japanese ports, authorities will be obliged to inspect them to ensure that no rifles remain on board. Unless this is confirmed, crew and freight would not be allowed to be disembarked or discharged.

The bill also stipulates that ship owners obtain approval from the transport minister for a security plan they are obliged to draw up for each vessel.

The descriptions of the plan must include such details as how rifles are stored for safekeeping as well as the capabilities of hired foreign security contractors that provide employees to guard ships.—*Kyodo News*

Bashar Ja'afari, Syrian Ambassador to the United Nations, listens as US President Barack Obama addresses the 67th United Nations General Assembly at the UN Headquarters in New York, on 25 Sept, 2012.—REUTERS

New diamond orb, umbrella hoisted atop quake-ravaged pagoda in Sagaing

SAGAING, 5 April—Due to the earthquake that hit on 11 November 2012 morning, diamond orb and umbrella of Lawkathitsa Mandaing Pagoda were tilted against other sides, in the precinct of Hsandan Monastery in Podan Ward of Sagaing.

With the auspices of Hsandan Monastery Sayadaw Bhaddanta Narada, wellwisher U Oo Maung (a) U Tun Aung-Daw Aye Than of Sanyeik Myaing (Rekkapura Clinic) family of Amarapura sponsored renovation of the pagoda and hoisted new diamond orb and umbrella atop the pagoda on 26 March morning.

Datpaung Zedi Monastery Sayadaw Bhaddanta Tejobhasa and members of the Sangha consecrated the pagoda. Wellwishers offered alms to members of the Sangha.

Myanma Alinn

Toungoo District Court concludes office work refresher course

TOUNGOO, 5 April—The office work refresher course concluded at Toungoo District Court in Bago Region on 24 March morning.

Bago Region High Court Judge U Maung Maung Shwe made a speech. Toungoo District Judge U Aung Soe explained the purpose of conducting the training course and progress of tasks.

Chief Justice of Bago Region High Court U Maung Maung Shwe presented prizes to outstanding trainees. Toungoo District Judge U Aung Soe gave completion certificates to the trainees.

After the ceremony, Chief Justice of the region U Maung Maung Shwe inspected site chosen for construction of the staff quarter in the compound of the district court and left necessary instructions.

NLM

Narcotic drugs seized at Mandalay Railway Station

MANDALAY, 5 April—The Railways Police Force arrested a drug trafficker woman on 55-up train that leaves Mandalay for Myitkyina.

On 23 March, Police L/Cpl Shu Maung Tin and party together with witness ward administrator searched the plastic backet of Ma Rwe Taung who set near seats 15/16 of the first class of 55-up Mandalay-Myitkyina train on No 1 platform at Mandalay Railway Station.

The authorities found two soft drink boxes with Chinese language from the basket and seized 17 packets of what appear to be heroin weighing 189.82788 grams from the first box and 14 packets weighing 154.10758 grams, one citizenship scrutiny card of Ma Rwe Taung and one mobile phone.

Action was taken against Ma Rwe Taung, 41, of Shwemaung Ward in Namti Township, under Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.

Myanma Alinn

Cash donated to funds of social organizations in Mawgyun

MAWLAMYINEGYUN, 5 April—Fishery entrepreneurs and fishermen of Mawlamyinegyun Township donated cash to social organizations in the town at the hall of Arojam Social Service Association in Mawlamyinegyun of Ayeyawady Region on 24 March morning.

At the ceremony, Township Administrator U Htay Maung and Chairman of Township Fishery Entrepreneurs Association U Tint Swe explained purpose of donations to the social organizations.

Next, Secretary of Fishery Entrepreneurs Association donated K 2 million for White Heart Free Clinic to Chairman of White Heart Free Health Care Service Association U Khin Maung Zin.

After that, the Fishery Entrepreneurs Association donated K 1 million to Chanmyae Home for the Aged, K 1 million to Arojam Social Service Association, K 1 million to Sitagu Hla Hsan Yin Eye Hospital, K 1.5 million to Jivindre oxygen donation association, K 1.5 million to Parami Shin blood donors association, K 4 million to Funeral Service Association and K 600,000 to the fund for construction of Township General Administration Department guest house.

Responsible persons of the associations accepted the donations and spoke words of thanks.—*Myanma Alinn*

Dagon Myothit (North) Township facilitated with new concrete street

YANGON, 5 April—In honour of 68th Anniversary Armed Forces Day, Section-1 of Bo Zin Yaw concrete street was put into service in Ward 30 of Dagon Myothit (North) Township of Yangon Region on 26 March morning.

The street is 500 feet long and 16 feet wide, built at a cost of over K 10 million. Local people contributed to construction of the concrete street.

Myanma Alinn

Care Myanmar donates two rural health branches

MUSE, 5 April—With the aim of providing better health care services to the people, Care Myanmar, an international non-governmental organization, donated modern hospital equipment and two rural health branches at the city hall in Muse on 25 March morning.

Deputy Commissioner U Moe Hein of the district extended greetings.

Assistant Country Director Ms Philippa of Care Myanmar explained the purpose of donation for effective health care services.

Head of District Health Department Dr Tin Tun explained donations of Care Myanmar for two rural health branches in Mawtaung and Lower Tongkhan villages and modern hospital equipment worth K 78 million.

Myanma Alinn

Construction of new court in Thandaunggyi Township inspected

THANDAUNGGYI, 5 April—Under the instruction of the Chief Justice of Kayin State High Court, High Court Judge U Thein Ko Ko, Kayin State Judicial Officer U Ohn Thaung and Hpa-an District Judge U Ohn Thwin on 24 March arrived at the construction site of Thandaunggyi Township Court.

Leader of the construction committee Township Judge U Nyo Htay and party reported on progress of construction tasks with the use of documentary photos.

The Justice of the high court gave instructions on timely completion of construction meeting set standard.

Crown Advance Co Ltd is building the new court of the township and the building has been completed by 95 per cent.

In meeting with the staff, the judge of the high court stressed the need to win the trusts of the people to rely on the courts.—*NLM*

People take relaxation at Chaungtha Beach

YANGON, 5 April—As summer is a hot season, the people take relaxation at the beaches.

Thus, Ngwehsaung and Chaungtha beaches are parked with holiday makers.

Especially, Chaungtha Beach, over 30 miles to Pathein which is the city of Ayeyawady Region, was crowded with those who took relaxation on 26 and 27 March holidays.

Myanma Alinn

The New Light of Myanmar

PERSPECTIVES

Saturday, 6 April, 2013

Comic remembrance

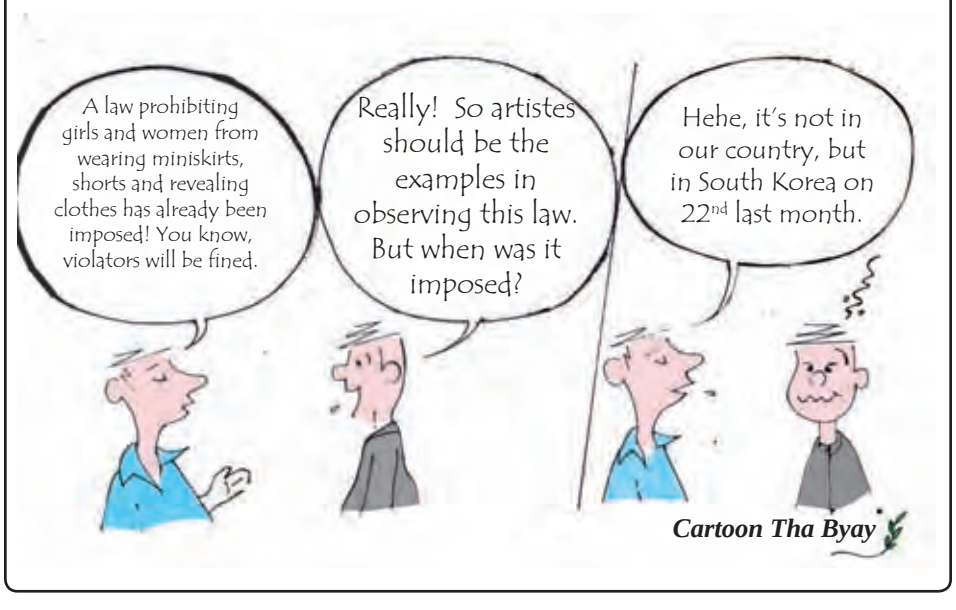
When we were children, there were large numbers of comic books published in a single month, ranging from funny stories of mischievous little boys to fascinating folktales of rural life. A comic gives children the opportunity to retreat into their own world. It is such a child-pleaser, letting us create a fantasy world of our own.

Nothing would probably match the quiet pleasure of childhood listening to stories either in the cuddle of grandma or mother. Today, such kind of scenes seems to be rather rare in urban areas following a significant increase in the number of nuclear families and raven mothers though extended families remain fairly common in rural villages.

It was also the unique pleasure to read comic books in bed when being off sick from school. Comic books then were not intended just for amusement but also to educate us somehow. The main characters took us from urban areas to rural villages, familiarized us with the countryside and rural life, communal activities, and simple lifestyles, teaching us human, cultural and moral values. Meanwhile, the stories of mischievous whizzkids ignited creative imagination of little brains.

Storytelling has almost become a thing of the past now. It is not a conservative idea to revive dying arts, but it is preserving own culture and custom. With the globalization process, foreign cartoon movies are available now in our country and it is undeniable that some are really great ones, conveying clear-cut messages. However, it is sadly found at the same time that Myanmar versions of popular foreign comic books are increasingly replacing the own-creation works, neglecting the cultural differences.

Meanwhile, there have been relatively fewer books with prominent aesthetic values as many have turned to commercialized trend of funny and fancy pieces of writing. Journalism has risen to prominence in comparison with literature. But, there is still a silver lining that easier internet access has given cartoonists the greater chance to reflect the age. But I still miss the comic and classic books that I read in my childhood and still influence my life.



Cartoon Tha Byay

ARTICLE

World Health Day 2013

Dr Aung Tun
(Ministry of Health)

World Health Day is celebrated around the world every year on April 7. Each year a theme is selected for World Health Day that highlights a priority area of public health concern in the world. World Health Day 2013 is being celebrated this year under the theme of "hypertension", otherwise known as high blood pressure. The intention of this year's campaign is to: raise awareness of hypertension and promote behavioural change with respect to primary prevention, improve the chances of early detection and promote effective management for patients. Although hypertension is a serious health problem globally, it is preventable and treatable.

The normal range of blood pressure

Blood pressure is expressed in millimetres of mercury (mm Hg). It is recorded as two numbers usually written one above the other: the first (or top) number is the 'systolic' blood pressure- the highest pressure in blood vessels, which occurs as the heart contracts (heart beat). The second (or lower) number is the diastolic blood pressure- the lowest pressure in blood vessels in between heart beats, when the heart muscle relaxes.

Normal adult blood pressure is defined as a systolic blood pressure of 120 mm Hg and a diastolic blood pressure of 80 mm Hg. However, cardiovascular benefits extend to lower systolic (105 mm Hg) and lower diastolic blood pressure levels (60 mm Hg).

High Blood Pressure (hypertension)

Hypertension, also known as high or raised blood pressure, is a condition in which the blood vessels have persistently raised pressure. Blood is carried from the heart to all parts of the body in the vessels. Each time the heart beats, it pumps blood into the vessels. Blood pressure is created by the force of blood pushing against the walls of blood vessels (arteries) as it is pumped by the heart. The higher the pressure the harder the heart has to pump.

When systolic blood pressure is equal to or above 140 mm Hg and/or a diastolic blood pressure equal to or above 90 mm Hg the blood pressure is considered to be raised or high.

Sometimes hypertension causes symptoms such as headache, shortness of breath, dizziness, chest pain, palpitations of the heart and nose bleeds. However, most people with hypertension have no symptoms at all.

Global Burden

Worldwide, raised blood pressure is estimated to cause 7.5 million deaths, about 12.8% of the total of all deaths. This accounts for 57 million disability adjusted life years (DALYS) or 3.7% of total DALYS. Raised blood pressure is a major risk factor for coronary heart disease and ischemic as well as hemorrhagic stroke. Blood pressure levels have been shown to be positively and continuously related to the risk for stroke and coronary heart disease. In some age groups, the risk of cardiovascular disease doubles for each increment of 20/10 mm Hg of blood pressure, starting as low as 115/75 mm Hg. In addition to coronary heart diseases and stroke, complications of raised blood pressure include heart failure, peripheral vascular disease, renal impairment, retinal hemorrhage and visual impairment. Treating systolic blood pressure and diastolic blood pressure until they are less than 140/90 mm Hg is associated with a reduction in cardiovascular complications.

Globally, the overall prevalence of raised blood pressure in adults aged 25 and over was around 40% in 2008. The proportion of the world's population with high blood pressure, or uncontrolled hypertension, fell modestly between 1980 and 2008. However, because of population growth and ageing, the number of people with uncontrolled hypertension rose from 600 million in 1980 to nearly 1 billion in 2008.

Across the WHO regions, the prevalence of raised blood pressure was highest in Africa, where it was 46% for both sexes combined. Both men and women have high rates of raised blood pressure in the Africa region, with prevalence rates over 40%. The lowest prevalence of raised blood pressure was in the WHO Region of the Americas at 35% for both sexes. Men in this region had higher prevalence than women (39% for men and 32% for women). In all WHO regions, men have slightly higher prevalence of raised blood pressure than women. This difference was only statistically significant in the Americas and Europe.

In Myanmar, the WHO STEP survey (2009) revealed that the prevalence of hypertension is 29.97% (male-30.99% and female-29.34%). According to Myanmar Cardiovascular project's survey findings, prevalence of hypertension has increased from (21%) in 2005 to (57%) in 2010.

The symptoms of high blood pressure

There is a common misconception that people with high blood pressure will always experience symptoms. Most people with high blood pressure actually have no symptoms at all, and may not even know they have it. Sometimes high blood pressure can cause symptoms such as headache, shortness of breath, dizziness, chest pain, palpitations of the heart or nose bleeds. If people ignore measuring blood pressure because they think symptoms will alert them to the problem, it can be dangerous because high blood pressure is often a 'silent killer'. Everybody should know their blood pressure numbers.

The risk factors for high blood pressure

High blood pressure is the result of many factors. Demographic transition, rapid and unplanned urbanization and globalization are the underlying determinants. They contribute to unhealthy behavioural risk factors. High blood pressure is one of the metabolic risk factors that leads to many NCDs.

Danger of High Blood Pressure

The higher the blood pressure, the higher the risk of damage to the heart and blood vessels in major organs such as the brain and kidneys.

If left uncontrolled, hypertension can lead to a heart attack, an enlargement of the heart and eventually heart failure. Blood vessels may develop bulges (aneurysms) and weak sports that make them more likely to clog and burst. The pressure in the blood vessels can cause blood to leak out into the brain and cause a stroke. Hypertension can also lead to kidney failure, blindness, and cognitive impairment.

The health consequences of hypertension can be compounded by other factors that increase the odds of heart attack, stroke and kidney failure. These factors included to tobacco use, unhealthy diet, harmful use of alcohol, lack of physical activity, and exposure to persistent stress as well as obesity, high cholesterol and diabetes mellitus.

The goal of World Health Day 2013

The ultimate goal of World Health Day 2013 is to reduce heart attacks and strokes. Specific objectives of the campaign are:

- to raise awareness of the causes and consequences of high blood pressure;
- to encourage people to change behaviours that can lead to hypertension;
- to persuade adults to have their blood pressure checked regularly;
- to increase the number of health facilities offering blood pressure checks; and
- to incite national and local authorities to create enabling environments for healthy behaviours.

(See page 9)

Armed Forces to continue safeguarding nation at the risk of life and limb

Vice-Senior General Thiri Pyanchi Soe Win delivers an address at graduation parade of 116th intake of Defence Services (Army) Officers Training School.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 5 April— Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Thiri Pyanchi Soe Win called for effective combination of theories learnt from books and experience throughout the life with initiatives and innovation in real world as he, on behalf of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, addressed the graduation of the 116th Intake of Defence Services (Army) Officers Training School this morning.

He called on the cadets to keep in touch with tactic and technologies of modern welfare, demanding constant learning as well as continuous training. He called on them to turn themselves into good commanders of their troops while striving for self-improvement. He spoke of the need of the armed forces to be imbued with military might, mobilization power and administrative efficiency. He called the Defence Services (Army) Officers Training School the source of leaders of various national races like the armed forces which is formed of different national races, urging them to continue safeguarding the nation at the risk of their lives.

He demanded the armed forces take an active role in development drive of the nation as the country is on democratic path. He described stability and tranquility as the bedrock of national development, calling on them to make strenuous efforts for stabilization of regions where they will be assigned.

Cadets are to perform their duties with four outlooks, namely political, military, economic and administrative outlooks, he demanded. He called for turning the armed forces to standard army. He called for comradeship and good discipline, calling them the main cause of strong intra-military solidarity. Cadets are to turn themselves to ideal leaders to their subordinates, he added.

He awarded the best cadet award winner cadet No. 177 Soe Thu the silver sword. Also present on the occasion were Daw Than Than Nwe, wife of the Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, Lt-Gen Thiri Pyanchi Aung Than Htut from Commander-in-Chief (Army) Office, senior military officers and families of graduates.

MNA

World Health Day 2013

(from page 8)

This campaign is a year-long activity extending beyond 7 April to give WHO and Member States the opportunity of implementing sustainable activities over an expanded period of time.

Communities, non-governmental organizations and individuals are encouraged to develop plans with a number of booster events to maintain momentum in conducting events throughout the year.

Know your blood pressure

All of us should know our blood pressure measurements. This is a good piece of information about our health. High blood pressure can be silent (without any symptoms). High blood pressure increases the risk of heart attacks, strokes and kidney failure. However, hypertension is treatable and preventable.

We can prevent and manage high blood pressure only if we know our measurement values. All adults should have their blood pressure checked. If blood pressure is high, they need the advice of a health worker.

For some people, lifestyle changes are sufficient to control blood pressure such as stopping tobacco use, eating healthily, exercising regularly and avoiding the harmful use of alcohol. Reduction in salt intake can help. For others, these changes are insufficient and they need prescription medication to control blood pressure.

Adults can support treatment by adhering to the prescribed medication, by monitoring their health. People with high blood pressure who also have high blood sugar or elevated blood cholesterol face even higher risk of health attacks and stroke. Therefore it is important that regular checks for blood sugar, blood cholesterol and urine albumin take place.

Control of High Blood Pressure

People who already have high blood pressure can actively participate in managing their condition. They need to:

- Adopt healthy behaviours.
- Monitor blood pressure at home (if possible).
- Check blood sugar, blood cholesterol and albumin levels.
- Get their cardiovascular risk assessed using a risk assessment tool.
- Follow advice given by doctor (s) and health workers.
- If medicines for lowering blood pressure have been prescribing, take them regularly, and as instructed.

Prevention of High Blood Pressure

Everyone can take five concrete steps to minimize the odds of developing high blood pressure and its adverse consequences.

- Healthy diet:
- Promoting a healthy lifestyle with emphasis on proper nutrition for infants and young people;
- reducing salt intake to less than 5g of salt per day (just under a teaspoon);
- eating five servings of fruit and vegetables a day;
- reducing saturated and total fat intake.
- Avoiding harmful use of alcohol i.e. limit intake to no more than one standard drink a day
- Physical activity:
- regular physical activity and promotion of physical activity for children and young people (at least 30 minutes a day).
- maintaining a normal weight: every 5 Kg of excess weight lost can reduce systolic blood pressure by 2 to 10 points.
- Stopping tobacco use and exposure to tobacco products
- Managing stress in healthy way such as through meditation, appropriate physical exercise, and positive social contact.

English Language Training Programme for Hluttaw capacity building

NAY PYI TAW, 5 April— Under Hluttaw capacity building programme, the opening ceremony of English Language Training Program was held at Hluttaw Office, here, at noon today, with an opening address by Deputy Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw U Nanda Kyaw Swa.

Retd Ambassador U Thaung Tun of Open Society Foundations (OSF) and representatives of Myanmar Scholarship Alumni Association (MSAA) Daw Zin Mar Oo and Daw Khin Khin Lwin explained the course program. And Secretary of Hluttaw Capacity Building Supervisory Team U Hla Myint Oo also elaborated on capacity building programme.

It was attended by Deputy Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw U Mya Nyein, secretaries of Hluttaw Committee, the director-general of Hluttaw Office, officials from Hluttaw Capacity Building Supervisory Team and trainees. The course runs up to 28 June.—*MNA*

Davis Cup Tennis Tournament-2013 at Pun Hlaing Golf Course

YANGON, 5 April—The Second Round Robin of 2013 Davis Cup Asia/Oceania Zone Group II took place at the Country Club of Pun Hlaing Golf Course in Hlinethaya Township, here, this morning.

Pakistani Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Amjad Majid Abbasi enjoyed the today's golf tourney. Two golfers from Pakistan and New Zealand competed in the individual event. Both individual and pairs golf competitions last till 7 April.—*MNA*

Myanmar entrepreneurs hold discussion with Norwegian guests

Myanmar entrepreneurs meet Norwegian Minister for Trade and Industry Mr Trond Giske.—NLM

YANGON, 5 April— Chairmen of organizations under the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI) held talks with Norwegian Minister for Trade and Industry Mr Trond Giske and party, at UMFCCI Headquarters on 3 April.

At the call, the Norwegian Minister said that he expressed Norway's support for Myanmar's democratic reforms. Myanmar people should pay more attention to country's economic development and peaceful co-existence. He urged Myanmar to effectively utilize its natural resources for the development of the country. He pledged that Norway would help Myanmar in the sectors of power generation, water resources management and dam projects. For promoting relations between the two countries, Norway would open its Embassy in Myanmar by the end of 2013.

Then, Norwegian team held discussions with Myanmar entrepreneurs on their respective sectors.

Moe Thuzar Soe-NLM

WORLD

Connecticut Governor signs strict gun law after Newtown shooting

MERIDEN, 5 April—Connecticut Governor Dannel Malloy on Thursday signed a tough new gun law that restricts sales of the sort of high-capacity ammunition clips that a gunman used to massacre 26 people in minutes in December in an attack at a school in the state.

The law also requires background checks for all gun purchases, expands the number of guns covered by the states' assault-weapons ban and establishes a $15 million fund to help schools improve security infrastructure.

"I hope that this is an example to the rest of the nation, certainly to our leaders in Washington who seem so deeply divided about an issue such as universal background checks, where the country is not divided itself," Malloy, a Democrat, said at the statehouse in Hartford before signing the bill into law.

The law prohibits the sale of ammunition clips capable of holding 10 or more bullets and requires owners of existing high-capacity clips to register them with the state.

Adam Lanza, the gunman who attacked a Newtown, Connecticut elementary school in December, used high-capacity clips to fire off 154 rounds in less than five minutes.

That attack, which left 20 young children dead, amplified the US debate on guns, with gun-control proponents calling for stricter limits on sales of weapons and ammunition while gun-rights advocates charge those changes would violate the Second Amendment of the US Constitution.

Several family members of the victims of the Newtown attack — which also claimed the lives of six adults at Sandy Hook Elementary School — praised the new law and called for tougher federal legislation.

"The legislation passed in Hartford will go a long way toward reducing gun violence in Connecticut, but it's not enough," said Neil Heslin, whose 6-year-old son, Jesse, died in the Newtown shooting.

Reuters

Rifles turned in are seen during a gun buyback event in Bridgeport, Connecticut, in the wake of the shootings at Sandy Hook Elementary School on 28 Dec, 2012.
REUTERS

E Asia to raise status of region's economic surveillance unit

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, 5 April—Finance and central bank deputies from 13 East Asian countries have agreed to take initial steps to elevate the region's first economic and financial surveillance body, AMRO, to the status of an international organization, official sources said on Thursday.

The move was discussed during their meeting in Brunei on Tuesday on the sideline of the annual ASEAN finance ministers' meeting.

It is considered one of the initial steps to be taken for East Asia's financial surveillance agency to be raised to the same level as financial institutions such as the Asian Development Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

The issue will be discussed further when the finance ministers from ASEAN and from China, Japan and South Korea meet in May on the sidelines of the annual general meeting of the ADB.

A joint statement issued by the ASEAN finance ministers at the end of their own meeting on Thursday said they "look forward to the institutionalization of AMRO as an international organization."

AMRO was established in April 2011 by the ASEAN+3 governments to monitor and analyze regional economies and to oversee the operation of the Chiang Mai Initiative, a multilateral currency swap arrangement launched in 2010.—*Kyodo News*

UN meeting on hunger, food security closes in Madrid

MADRID, 5 April—UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and Spanish Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy on Thursday closed the high-level UN meeting held here on hunger, food security and malnutrition.

A total of 32 countries and 17 agencies as well as non-governmental organizations, academics and representatives of the food industry and research institutions were present in the Spanish capital with an agenda to end hunger and malnutrition within a generation

The Madrid meeting aims to produce a governing document with the main conclusions over the success of the Millennium Development Goal of eradicating hunger and malnutrition.

This document will then form the basis of the report that Ban will present in New York in September and will help set new targets for beyond 2015.

"This is a vital meeting where we can define an agenda which will have its effect in the future. Hunger and malnutrition can be eliminated with good policies," said Ban in his speech which closed the meeting.

"We promise to achieve the objectives that have been fixed to achieve a better world for all of us, a world free from hunger and malnutrition," he said.

"We cannot be satisfied when there are over 850 million people who suffer malnutrition. We have made advances but there is a long way to go," said Rajoy.

Earlier in the day, the UN chief met Rajoy at the prime minister's official residence. He and Rajoy discussed Spain's wish to be included in the UN Security Council for 2015-16.

Rajoy highlighted Spain's commitment to achieving the Millennium aims, but admitted the economic crisis meant his country would not for the moment be able to donate 0.7 percent of its GDP to humanitarian aims, although he promised to increase the contribution as the economy improved.

Xinhua

Egypt seizes ship carrying arms, questions crew

CAIRO, 5 April—Egyptian navy forces seized a ship carrying heavy weapons as it entered Egyptian territorial waters in the Red Sea late on Wednesday, a military spokesman said on Thursday.

The Togolese-flagged ship, called *COMR*, was found 12 nautical miles north of Ras Muhammad in the Sinai Peninsula, general staff spokesman Ahmed Mohamed Ali said on his Facebook page.

"Inside they found a number of weapons and quantities of ammunition of various types," Ali said.

"The boat belongs to a private maritime security company which serves to secure ships passing through highly dangerous areas, especially in light of the spread of piracy in the southern Red Sea area and off the Somali coast," he added.

Security sources told *Reuters* earlier that the ship, with a crew of at least seven, spent a week in international waters before entering Egyptian waters.

The vessel was escorted into the port of Safaga, 569 km (356 miles) southeast of Cairo, where the crew members were being questioned and an investigation was under way to determine whether the weapons were legal, the sources said.—*Reuters*

Photo shows the construction site of the Grand Egyptian Museum near the Great Pyramid of Giza on 3 April, 2013. A plan of the museum is seen in the foreground. The Egyptian government said the same day it will solicit a $1 per night donation from foreign tourists at hotels in a campaign to gather money for underfunded construction of the new museum.
KYODO NEWS

Nagasaki group aims to send 20 youth peace envoys to Geneva

NAGASAKI, 5 April—A Nagasaki City-based civic group is planning to send 20 youth "Peace Ambassadors" to the UN European Headquarters in Geneva in August to deliver signatures calling for the elimination of nuclear weapons, urging high school students across Japan to apply for the role.

The group based in the atom-bombed city has been sending students annually since 1998, and 20 will be the biggest delegation.

Kyodo News

A woman of the Miao ethnic group picks up tea leaves at a tea plantation in Huishui County of the Qiannan Buyi Autonomous Prefecture, southwest China's Guizhou Province, on 4 April, 2013. Farmers here are busy with picking the "Qingming Tea" on the Qingming Festival as this kind of tea is regarded to have a better taste.—XINHUA

Global economy worries send oil prices lower

DUBAI, 5 April—After reaching a one-month high on Tuesday, the price of the "black gold" plummeted 2.74 percent on Thursday as high oil storages and woes over economic progress in China and the United States weighed on commodities and on Gulf Arab revenues.

At the Dubai Mercantile Exchange (DME), the flagship future contract DME Oman crude lost 2.96 US dollars to 104.89 dollars. Weaker manufacturing data from China and the United States at the beginning of the week renewed doubts over strong economic rebound in the world's two biggest economies. News that US oil total stocks reached the highest level since 1990 also weighed on the black gold.

The US Energy Department said crude oil supplies grew by 2.7 million barrels, or 0.7 percent, to 388.6 million barrels in the week ended on 29 March. The United States' supply of oil is now 7.2 percent above year-ago levels and the highest since 27 July, 1990, when it was at 391.9 million barrels.

In the last 12 months oil prices contracted 7.42 percent, weighing on oil supplier income. Jadwa Research in Riyadh said earlier this week, Saudi Arabia, the world's biggest oil exporter, generated 46.2 billion dollars of oil revenues in the first two months this year, down 8.8 percent over the same period last year.

Xinhua

REGIONAL

Cambodia reports 10th case of H5N1 bird flu

PHNOM PENH, 5 April— Cambodia's government and the World Health Organization announced on Thursday they had found a new case of H5N1 bird flu in a 5-year old boy living in the country's southern Province Kampot, making him the 10th person infected in the country this year.

The case is, however, believed unrelated to the lesser-known H7N9 type infections in China.

A joint statement confirmed a 5-year-old boy from Boeung Tapream village in Kampot tested positive for H5N1 flu on Tuesday. The statement said the boy developed fever, convulsions and shortness of breath 27 March and was later referred to the Kampot Provincial Hospital.

He was then sent to Kantha Bopha Hospital in Phnom Penh on March 31 and is in "critical condition," according to the statement.

The boy is the 10th person this year and the 31st person overall to become infected with the H5N1 virus in Cambodia. Of the 31 confirmed cases, 21 were children under 14, and 19 victims were female.

Minister of Health Mam Bunheng said, "Avian influenza H5N1 remains a serious threat to the health of all Cambodians."

Since 2003, there have been 623 laboratory-confirmed human cases of H5N1 avian influenza with 371 related deaths worldwide.—*Kyodo News*

Tourists feed seagulls at Haichang Polar Ocean World in Qingdao, east China's Shandong Province, on 4 April, 2013. The local government organized citizens and tourists to feed seabirds during the three-day Qingming Festival holidays so as to improve the awareness of the public to protect the ocean and seabirds. XINHUA

A model poses beside a car presented at the 9th Manila International Auto Show in Pasay City, the Philippines, on 4 April, 2013. More than 300 cars are showcased in the show.—XINHUA

Malaysia's exports in February drop 7.7 pct due to festive holidays

KUALA LUMPUR, 5 April — Malaysia's exports in February shrunk 7.7 percent year-on-year to 52.46 billion ringgit (17.12 billion US dollars) due to shorter working days and festive season, according to figures released by the Ministry of International Trade and Industry on Friday.

Shipments of manufactured goods, which make up about two-thirds of total exports, declined by 12 percent while exports of agricultural goods decreased by 18.9 percent to 5.32 billion ringgit (1.74 billion US dollars) on reduced palm oil and crude rubber exports led by lower prices.

Exports of refined petroleum products meanwhile surged by 65.2 percent.

Shipments to major export markets, China and Japan were trimmed by 15.8 percent and 7.5 percent respectively compared with last year largely due to decline in exports of electronic products.

Exports to the European Union and the United States also pared down by 8.6 percent and 10.8 percent respectively.

January's imports fell by 4.4 percent to 44.26 billion ringgit (14.44 billion US dollars) compared with a year ago.

Trade surplus in February was registered at 8.2 billion ringgit (2.68 billion US dollars), wider than January's 3.27 billion ringgit (1.07 billion US dollars).

Exports for the first two months of the year declined by 2.2 percent on an annual basis to 109.45 billion ringgit (35.72 billion US dollars).

Xinhua

Cambodia's health minister urges children to stay away from poultry to prevent bird flu

PHNOM PENH, 5 April— Cambodia's Health Minister Mam Bunheng on Thursday appealed to parents to distance their children from poultry in order to prevent the spread of bird flu from poultry to humans, said a joint statement by the Health Ministry and the World Health Organization.

"Avian Influenza H5N1 remains a serious threat to the health of all Cambodians, and kids also seem to be most vulnerable and are at high risk because they like to play where poultry are found," the minister said in the statement. "I'd like to appeal to parents and guardians to keep children away from sick or dead poultry and prevent them from playing with chickens and ducks," he said.

He added that parents and guardians must also make sure children wash their hands with soap and water after any contact with poultry. "If they have fast or difficult breathing, they should seek medical attention at the nearest health facility and attending physicians must be made aware of any exposure to sick or dead poultry," he added. The minister's appeal was made after a six-year-old boy from Southwestern Kampot Province was confirmed on Wednesday as the 10th person who contracted with Avian Influenza H5N1 in 2013.

The boy developed fever, convulsions and dyspnea (shortness of breath) on 27 March, and his mother had bought some medicines from a local pharmacy for him until his condition worsened. The boy was sent to the Kantha Bopha Hospital in Phnom Penh on 31 March.

Xinhua

Japan's Kishida to attend G-8 foreign ministerial meeting next week

TOKYO, 5 April—Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida said on Friday he will attend the two-day Group of Eight foreign ministerial meeting to be held in London next week to discuss North Korea and Syria.

During his five-day trip to Europe from Monday, Kishida told reporters, he will first attend a ministerial meeting of 10 nonnuclear countries concerned with nonproliferation and disarmament on Tuesday in the Netherlands.

After attending the meeting of the Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative in The Hague, he is scheduled to go to London to attend the G-8 meeting on Wednesday and Thursday. "At G-8, we plan to discuss regional affairs such as North Korea and Syria, and strengthening efforts for cross-border issues, including antiterrorism measures," Kishida said. The G-8 consists of Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Russia and the United States. A representative of the European Union is also expected to attend the foreign ministerial meeting.

Kyodo News

24 killed, 60 injured in building collapse in W India

NEW DELHI, 5 April— At least 24 people were killed and more than 60 others injured when an under-construction seven- storeyed building collapsed in the western Indian state of Maharashtra on Thursday evening, a senior police official said.

"The incident happened at 6.30 pm in Thane near state capital Mumbai. So far, 24 bodies have been recovered. Many more are still trapped inside the debris. The injured have been admitted to nearby hospitals," he said on condition of anonymity.

Local TV channels showed footage of disaster management officials, police officials and firefighters carrying out rescue operations throughout the night and said the building was "illegal". A probe has been ordered into the incident, the official said, adding that the builder has been booked for the deaths of 24 people, most of whom were labourers.—*Xinhua*

People gather as rescuers look for trapped people after a building collapsed in Thane, Mumbai, India, on 4 April, 2013.—XINHUA

China's Guo Chuan passes a finish buoy on his boat in Qingdao, east China's Shandong Province, on 5 April, 2013. Guo sailed back home on Friday morning to become the first Chinese to successfully circumnavigate the globe singlehanded. Aboard his Class40 yacht, 48-year-old Guo travelled about 21,600 nautical miles in 138 days before he returned to his hometown of Qingdao, where he set off on 18 November last year.—XINHUA

ASEAN, partners pledge commitment to narrow development gap

JAKARTA, 5 April—The Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) Task Force, ambassadors and representatives from the ASEAN Dialogue Partners and External Parties have held their inaugural consultation meeting to deliberate on mobilizing resources for and contribution to the implementation of the IAI Work Plan II (2009-2015), a statement sent by the ASEAN Secretariat to *Xinhua* said on Thursday.

Initiated as a new format by current IAI Task Force Chair Vietnam, the meeting serves as a place to share information among IAI stakeholders to foster a better understanding of the available resources for Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, and Vietnam (CLMV) and determines the approaches to improve delivery of IAI activities.

Xinhua

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Country Manager, Myanmar and Thailand

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ENTERTAINMENT & ADVERTISEMENT

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV MERKUR BRIDGE VOY NO (034)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MERKUR BRIDGE VOY NO (034) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 6.4.2013 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
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S MOL (S'PORE) PTE LTD
Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV VAN BLOOM VOY NO (-)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV VAN BLOOM VOY NO (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 6.4.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T. where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S VAN BLOOM SHIPPING LTD
Phone No: 256924/256914

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV KANG HING VOY NO (-)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KANG HING VOY NO (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 6.4.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T. where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S BRIGHT SAIL SHIPPING LTD
Phone No: 256924/256914

Angelina Jolie to sell jewellery line to fund overseas schools

Actress Angelina Jolie

Los Angeles, 5 April—Angelina Jolie has opened another girls school in Afghanistan and plans to fund more from the proceeds of a jewellery line going on sale this week that she helped to design, celebrity website E! News reported on Monday.

Jolie, a goodwill Ambassador for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, funded the girls-only primary school in an area outside Kabul that has a high refugee population, E! News said in an exclusive report. The school educates 200-300 girls, E! said. It showed pictures of the school, which opened in November, and a plaque acknowledging Jolie's contribution. Jolie also funded a girl school in eastern Afghanistan that opened in 2010, according to the UNCHR.

Jolie's representatives did not return calls for comment.

E! said that Jolie plans to pay for more schools by selling a "Style of Jolie" jewellery line that she helped create with jewellery maker Robert Procop. Procop designed the engagement ring given to the actress by her partner Brad Pitt in April 2012.

"Beyond enjoying the artistic satisfaction of designing these jewels, we are inspired by knowing our work is also serving the mutual goal of providing for children in need," Jolie was quoted as telling the website.

Procop's website said the "first funds from our collaboration together have been dedicated to the Education Partnership for Children in Conflict (founded by Jolie) to build a school in Afghanistan."—*Reuters*

Robert Pattinson was spotted with a male friend in the Teddy's at the Roosevelt Hotel in Hollywood in the early hours of Saturday (30 March 2013) morning.

Robert Pattinson parties without Kristen Stewart

Los Angeles, 5 April—Twilight star Robert Pattinson was spotted partying without girlfriend Kristen Stewart in the Hollywood.

The 26-year-old actor has returned to LA after a 64-day shooting schedule for his movie The Rover in Australia, reported Radar Online. Robert Pattinson was spotted with a male friend in the Teddy's at the Roosevelt Hotel in Hollywood in the early hours of Saturday (30 March 2013) morning.

"He went straight to the back and commandeered a corner table. There were a bunch of gorgeous models standing around him, but he looked disinterested in them. He was sitting with another male friend. He almost seemed timid and shy," a source said.

PTI

SPORTS

Djokovic eyes return to form in Davis Cup tie versus US

Boise, 5 April— Novak Djokovic believes he has left his recent poor form behind and will be in top shape when he leads Serbia in this weekend's Davis Cup quarter-final tie against the United States.

The world number one, who was upset last month in the semi-finals at Indian Wells by Juan Martin Del Potro and then in the third round at Miami by Tommy Haas, will open Friday's play against American number two John Isner. That match will be followed by a clash between top American Sam Querrey and Serbia's number two, Victor Troicki.

Djokovic said that he played the worst that he has in three years in his 6-2, 6-4 loss to Haas.

"You got to be ready to win and lose," Djokovic told reporters. "I've been very consistent in the last few years of my career. I understand that people are always expecting me to play semi-finals or finals of every event I play in. If a loss before that stage of the tournament happens, everybody starts questioning. "I'm feeling good. I'm moving on. I'm trying to play well here, and hopefully we can bring the win to Serbia." The tie marks just the second meeting between the US and Serbia in Davis Cup. Serbia won the only meeting, 3-2, in the 2010 in Belgrade.—*Reuters*

Novak Djokovic

Toure signs new long-term deal with Manchester City

London, 5 April—Manchester City midfielder Yaya Toure has signed a new long-term contract that will keep him at the Premier League champions until 2017, the club said on Thursday.

Toure, whose powerhouse displays were at the heart of City's run to the league title last season, said he was keen to end his career at the club he joined from Barcelona in 2010.

"This is where I want to be," the 29-year-old Toure said on the club website (www.mcfc.co.uk).

"When I first arrived at City every time I went to sleep I would dream about us winning something; now it is about us being the best team in whatever competition we take part in.

"I will never forget how I have been treated here by the fans, the club and the owners and nothing would give me greater pleasure than to finish my career as a Manchester City player."—*Reuters*

Manchester City's Yaya Toure celebrates his goal against Chelsea during their Premier League match at the Etihad Stadium in Manchester, northern England, on 24 Feb, 2013.—Reuters

Manchester United's manager Alex Ferguson reacts after the Champions League soccer match against Real Madrid at Old Trafford stadium in Manchester, on 5 March, 2013.—Reuters

Ferguson backs van Persie to end goal drought

London, 5 April—Manchester United manager Alex Ferguson is backing Robin van Persie to end a nine-game goal drought as the Premier League leaders prepare for Monday's derby clash with champions Manchester City.

"Robin doesn't need a rest, that's for sure," the Scot told reporters on Thursday. "He's a strong lad with a great physique.

"The goals will come. All strikers have little dry spells — you always hope it ends quickly. It's just part of being a striker."

The Dutchman last scored for United in a home game against Everton in February and, with 19 goals to his credit, has fallen behind Liverpool's Luis Suarez (22) as the league's top scorer.

Ferguson said van Persie was unlucky not to be credited with the winner at Sunderland last weekend, when his shot took a deflection off Titus Bramble's thigh and was given as an own-goal.—*Reuters*

Rose leads powerful English contingent at Masters

London, 5 April— It has been 17 years since Nick Faldo overtook a floundering Greg Norman to become the last Englishman to win the Masters but if the current world rankings count for anything, this year could mark the end of the drought.

There are four Englishmen, Justin Rose (3rd), Luke Donald (4th), Ian Poulter (12th) and Lee Westwood (13th), near the top of the rankings and one other, lower ranked but with recent major form. Only the United States has more players in the top 15.

None of the Englishmen has won a major yet but all have come close at Augusta National with three of the four finishing in the top eight at last year's Masters.

If recent form is any guide, Rose looms as a real contender for the coveted green jacket. The 32-year-old has not won a title in over a year but has been ultra-consistent this season.

He has recorded top-10 finishes in four of the six tournaments he has played this year, including a second placing behind Tiger Woods at last month's Arnold Palmer Invitational.

Rose has been making steady progress since announcing his arrival of the world stage as a teenage amateur at the 1998 British Open.

He finished fourth and turned professional the following day but endured a tough start to his career, missing the cut in his first 21 events.

But now, with 13 titles under his belt and top-five finishes at all four majors, he has proven himself able to handle the pressure and says his early shortcomings have helped him blossom.

"I think I was thrown into it a little bit too soon," he told a news conference earlier this year. "I think the expectations are what I really, really struggled with. But I put all my faith in hard work, though to be honest." Donald finished tied for fourth at the Masters two years ago when his star was really on the rise. He won the money lists on the PGA and European tours that season and went into last year's Masters ranked number one in the world, but could manage only 32nd.—*Reuters*

***Lee Westwood of Britain hits his tee shot on the 3rd hole during the third round of play in the Honda Classic PGA golf tournament in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida on 2 March, 2013.* Reuters**

Motorcycling—Lorenzo starts season with fastest practice time

New York, 5 April — MotoGP world champion Jorge Lorenzo started the season with a fastest lap as Yamaha swept the top three places in Thursday's first free practice for Sunday's floodlit Qatar Grand Prix.

The Spaniard lapped the Losail desert circuit with a best time of one minute 56.685 seconds set right at the end of the session. Britain's Cal Crutchlow, on a non-works Tech3 Yamaha, was second fastest in 1:56.743 ahead of Lorenzo's Italian team mate Valentino Rossi in 1:56.756.

"It's a very good way to start the season, on top. To have three Yamahas in the first three positions like in (the final test in) Jerez means this track can be positive for us," said double champion Lorenzo.

"We need to improve though because the other guys will come in the next practice." Spanish MotoGP debutant Marc Marques, last year's Moto2 champion, was the fastest Honda rider in fourth place. *Reuters*

Reigning world champion Jorge Lorenzo has led a Yamaha sweep of the top three in the first MotoGP practice session at Qatar, but not before toppling a resurgent Valentino Rossi.—Reuters

GENERAL

Bale hurt as Spurs fight back for draw with Basel

*Tottenham Hotspur's Gareth Bale lies injured during their Europa League quarter-final first leg soccer match against FC Basel at White Hart Lane in London on 4 April, 2013.—*REUTERS

LONDON, 5 April—Tottenham Hotspur fought back from two goals down to claim a 2-2 draw at home to Basel in the first leg of Thursday's pulsating Europa League quarter-final where Gareth Bale was carried off on a stretcher late on. Substitute Gylfi Sigurdsson made it 2-2 just before the hour when he cut inside and fired home a deflected shot to give Spurs a fighting chance in the second leg after the Swiss champions had stunned the home crowd by taking a two-goal lead after 34 minutes.

Spurs' joy was tempered by Bale, their shining light this season, being injured in the closing stages after appearing to turn his ankle in a challenge with David Degen.

Basel deservedly opened the scoring on the half hour thanks to Valentin Stocker. The dangerous Mohamed Salah crossed from the right and captain Marco Streller turned sharply and hit the post, with Stocker on hand to put the rebound into the empty net.

Swiss league leaders Basel doubled their advantage four minutes later through Fabian Frei, who was left unmarked to head home after Spurs defender Jan Vertonghen could only divert a corner across the area.

Spurs striker Emmanuel Adebayor then stabbed the ball home ahead of the break to give the hosts hope and the Londoners should have gone in level but Scott Parker put the ball wide of an empty net from close range.

Tottenham, who won the competition in its previous guise as the UEFA Cup in 1972 and 1984, were favourites to reach the semi-finals going into the tie but Basel have two away goals for next week's second leg at St Jakob Park.—*Reuters*

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(6-4-13 09:30 am ~ 7-4-13 09:30 am) MST

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* Hope for Myanmar's Transport System
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* "Myanmar Movies Impact" Be Happy & Perversity (Part-2)
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* Be Lover to Nature
* News
* 100% Myanmar
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* Myanmar Movies "The Water Festival Rain"

Myanmar TV

(6-4-2013, Saturday)

6:00 am
1. Paritta By Venerable MinGun Sayadw

6:25 am
2. Healthy Programme

6:40 am
3. Pyi Thu Ni Ti

6:50 am
4. Dance & Song of National Races

7:00 am
5. News

7:20 am
6. Public Debate

8:00 am
7. News

8:20 am
8. India Drama Series

9:00 am
9. News

9:20 am
10. How It's Works

9:45 am
11. Beautiful ASEAN

9:50 am
12. TV Drama Series

10:00 am
13. News

10:15 am
14. TV Drama Series

11:30 pm
15. Dance of Thin Gyan Festival

12:30 pm
16. Myanmar Movie

15:00 pm
17. News

15:15 pm
18. Celebrity and Dinner

16:15 pm
19. Myanma Traditional Game

16:25 pm
20. Dance & Song of National Races

16:35 pm
21. University Of Distance Education (TV Lectures) -Third Year (Physics)

16:50 pm
22. SEA Games Programme

17:00 pm
23. News

17:10 pm
24. Fashion Show

17:30 pm
25. Teleplay

18:00 pm
26. News

18:20 pm
27. Celebrity and Dinner

18:45 pm
28. TV Drama Series

19:00 pm
29. News

19:15 pm
30. TV Drma Series

20:00 pm
31. News

20:35 pm
32. Pyi Thu Ni Ti

20:45 pm
33. Present Song

21:00 pm
34. News
35. Public Debate
36. Myanmar Series
37. TV Drama Series
38. Gitadagale Phwintbaohn

NATO helicopter kills four Afghan police

GHAZNI, 5 April—Gunfire from a helicopter operated by NATO forces killed four Afghan police officers in the eastern Province of Ghazni, a district police chief said on Thursday.

Civilian casualties are a source of friction between President Hamid Karzai and his international allies, and the mistaken killing of members of the Afghan security forces is likely to compound Afghan government anger.

The four Afghan Local Police (ALP) officers were in a village in Deyak district when the helicopter fired on them on Wednesday, said district police chief Faiz Mohammad.

"The gunship must have mistaken the policemen for insurgents," police chief Faiz Mohammad told *Reuters*, adding that the four were not wearing uniforms. Two civilians who were nearby were wounded, he said.

A spokesman for the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force said it was "assessing" the report.

"We're aware of local reports of an alleged air strike in Ghazni Province yesterday in which several people were reportedly killed," the spokesman said.

In recent years, Deyak District has largely been under the control of the Taleban but the ALP, who are often recruited from militias, have pushed the militants out of the area.

Last week, an air strike by NATO helicopter supporting Afghan security forces killed two children and nine suspected Taleban in a different area of Ghazni Province.—*Reuters*

Pakistan-China negotiate on 1,000-megawatt nuclear power plant

ISLAMABAD, 5 April—Pakistan's Foreign Ministry spokesman confirmed on Thursday the atomic energy commission is negotiating the purchase of a 1,000-megawatt nuclear power plant from China.

"We have an ongoing cooperation with China regarding civilian nuclear technology under IAEA safeguards," spokesman Aizaz Chaudri told a weekly briefing when asked to comment on reports claiming construction of a third nuclear power plant in Chashma in southern Punjab would soon start.

Pakistan is operating two Chinese-supported 300-megawatt nuclear plants in Chashma and working on two additional 300-megawatt plants.

The Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission has been given the target to produce 8,500-megawatts by 2030 and it has already carried out extensive work to install three additional power plants in Karachi, Faisalabad and in the nuclear complex near Chashma.

Pakistan is operating its oldest 138-megawatt nuclear power plant at Hawks Bay near Karachi and one of the additional plants is expected to be located adjacent to the site.

The PAEC is also engaged in the construction of a fuel fabrication facility near Faisalabad where another nuclear power plant is planned.

Pakistan has long toyed with the idea of manufacturing its own nuclear power plants, but officials said the project had been shelved because the country did not have a contract for regular supply of uranium to undertake the production of nuclear fuel on a commercial scale.—*Kyodo News*

Central European university exchange programme reaches 20th year

VIENNA, 5 April—The Central European Exchange Programme for University Studies (CEEPUS), currently in its 20th year of existence, held its 18th ministerial conference here on Thursday.

Since 1993, more than 24,000 students and 14,000 teachers have taken part in the programme which involves cooperating universities from Central, Eastern, and Southeastern Europe, said Austrian Federal Minister of Science and Research Karlheinz Toechterle.

At the conference, the Republic of Moldova was welcomed as the 15th full member of the programme.

CEEPUS was the first academic programme in the region following the fall of the Iron Curtain to bind its members together on an equal footing, something Toechterle said "has made a significant contribution to peacemaking in the region."—*Xinhua*

Visitors look at a painting by Wu Hufan estimated at a price of 8 million to 12 million HKD (about 1 million to 1.5 million US dollars) during the preview of the Hong Kong 2013 Spring Auctions held by China Guardian Auctions Co Ltd in Hong Kong, south China, on 3 April, 2013. The two-day auctions will start on 4 April, with over 300 pieces of paintings and calligraphy as well as ceramic artworks.
XINHUA

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Chinese President Mr. Xi Jinping welcomes President U Thein Sein

NAY PYI TAW, 5 April—A ceremony to welcome President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein by President of the People's Republic of China Mr. Xi Jinping took place on the lawns of Sheraton Hotel in Sanya at 5:30 pm LST today.

On arrival at the welcoming ceremony, the President was cordially greeted by the President of the Republic of China. The Chinese President introduced welcoming party to the President. President U Thein Sein also presented his entourage to the Chinese Counterpart.

The two Presidents took salute of the Guard of Honour while the State Band played the National Anthems of the two countries.

The two Presidents inspected the Guard of Honour.

The Guard of Honour saluted the two Presidents.

MNA

President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein cordially greets those present at the welcoming ceremony.

MNA

Union Defence Minister meets Singaporean guest

NAY PYI TAW, 5 April—Union Minister for Defence Lt-Gen Wai Lwin met Mr. William Choong, Shangri-la Dialogue Senior Fellow for Asia-Pacific Security of the Republic of Singapore at the ministry this morning. They cordially discussed measures for Shangri-la Dialogue to be held in May and June. The meeting was also attended by the officials of the Ministry of Defence.

MNA

Singaporean President and party conclude visit

Singaporean President Dr Tony Tan Keng Yam being seen off byYangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe at Yangon International Airport.—MNA

YANGON, 5 April—A goodwill delegation led by President of the Republic of Singapore Dr Tony Tan Keng Yam and wife Mrs. Mary Tan left here by special aircraft at 2:20 pm today.

They were seen off at Yangon International Airport by Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Htay Aung and wife Daw Chaw, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe and wife Daw Khin Thet Htay, Region Development Affairs Minister Yangon Mayor U Hla Myint and wife, Myanmar Ambassador to Singapore U Tin Oo Lwin and wife, Singaporean Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Chua Hian Kong Robert and wife and officials.—*MNA*

The 2015 election would be a sign of progress of democratization: Mr Jimmy Carter

Former US President Mr. Jimmy Carter meets press.

MNA

YANGON, 5 April—"President U Thein Sein is a very shrewd leader. By-elections was successfully held. Myanmar sees active participations of every step of Hluttaws. Myanmar's political developments are dramatic," said US former President Mr Jimmy Carter, at a meeting with officials from political, social and religious organizations at Parkroyal Hotel this evening.

He continued to say that the world countries are taking keen interests in Myanmar. International organizations want to extend helping hands to Myanmar. Myanmar's future is in the hands of her people. He hopes that international community's interests should be durable. The 2015 election would be a sign of progress of democratization. He also said that international observers should be invited to the 2015 election including him. He urged officials to solve the challenges all Myanmar people and political leaders may face politically. After that, Mr Jimmy Carter replied to the queries raised by those present.

MNA

Development of meat production in Myanmar discussed

NAY PYI TAW, 5 April—Union Minister for Livestock and Fisheries U Ohn Myint held discussion with Chief Executive Officer and President Mr. Yoo, Jong Ha of Cheil Jedang-CJ Co from the Republic of Korean and party at the ministry, here, this morning.

The meeting focused on feedstuff production for development of meat sector in Myanmar and cooperation in livestock breeding and hatch industries for domestic and foreign markets.

MNA

Singaporean Minister observes Yangon urban housing projects

NAY PYI TAW, 5 April—Union Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lwin and Minister of National Development of the Republic of Singapore Mr. Khaw Boon Wan met officials from Department of Human Settlement and Housing Development at Kanaung Hall in Dagon Seikkan Township yesterday noon. They then observed urban housing development projects and Star City Housing projects being implemented by Department of Human Settlement and Housing Development.

MNA