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Outcomes of the BFA Annual Conference 2013 will provide with great avenues for effective realization of economic reform process of Asia

President U Thein Sein delivers an address at Boao Forum for Asia Annual Conference 2013 at Boao in Hainan Province in China.

MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 7 April— President U Thein Sein addressed the opening of Boao Forum for Asia Annual Conference 2013 at Boao in Hainan Province, People's Republic of China this morning.

It was attended by heads of state and governments, presidents of international organizations, the Chairman of the Board, Boao Forum for Asia and members, the general secretary of Hainan Province Communist Party, and invited guests. President U Thein Sein was accompanied by Union Ministers U Wunna Maung Lwin, U Tin Naing Thein, U Than Htay, Dr Myint Aung, Dr Kan Zaw and Myanmar Ambassador to China U Tin Oo.

Chairman of the Board, Boao Forum for Asia former Japanese Prime Minister Mr Yasuo Fukuda extended greetings.

Chinese President Mr Xi Jingpin, Brunei Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzadin Waddaulah, and President of Kazakhstan Mr Nursultan Nazarbayev delivered inaugural speeches.

President U Thein Sein in his opening address said the main theme for this year's Boao Annual Meeting—Asia Seeking Development for All: Restructuring Responsibility & Cooperation" is truly "relevant and timely". He said though the economic growth in emerging economies in Asian countries is encouraging, the financial crisis in certain European countries and instability of the global economy led to decline in external demand leaving impact on the economic development in Asia and the Pacific Region. In 2012, the rates of the global economic and trade growth were estimated at 3.5 per cent and 3.7 percent respectively, he pointed out. In order to maintain economic growth in the region, he said, comprehensive economic cooperation has been carried out through the establishment of the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) by increasing regional demand, creating job opportunities and promoting regional production by inviting investments from regional countries and international community and enhancing investment in the infrastructure of the ASEAN region within the appropriate policy framework. Nowadays, most countries in the world are experiencing new challenges while coping with several traditional issues. Despite these uncertainties, all countries in the world, regardless of being rich or poor, should view things from the optimistic approach, he suggested. The President believes that in spite of increasing global challenges, uncertainties and high risks, it would be able to maintain the success in our region through upholding our regional political, social and economic stability continuously; striking a balance between food and energy security and environmental safety and maintaining economic growth in the region.

The government of Myanmar is placing a great emphasis on collaboration, transparency, accountability and inclusiveness in political, economic and social reform processes.

As Myanmar is at a strategic geographical position connecting East and West Asia, the development of Myanmar will contribute to the regional development in Asia. In line with the main theme of this year's BFA Annual Conference "Asia Seeking Development for All: Restructuring, Responsibility & Cooperation", reform measures will be required for respective sectors and collaborative initiatives will be taken for all-round development so as to overcome the challenges of financial crisis, natural disasters, food insecurity and energy insufficiencies.

Maintaining sustainability and resilience will play a vital role at national, regional and global levels to overcome all forms of challenges. In fact, these new challenges are being faced globally, and hence, a multi-dimensional approach would be the answer to overcoming these challenges. Since this is a daunting task, regional integration efforts all over the world will greatly contribute to solving the issue of global concern.

Only through concerned efforts of each and every country, the success of the regional integration is to be realized.

(See page 9)

President U Thein Sein being welcomed back by Vice-Presidents Dr Sai Mauk Kham and U Nyan Tun at Nay Pyi Taw Airport.

MNA

LOCAL NEWS

Union SWRR Minister visits relief camps in Meiktila

MEIKTILA, 7 April— On her arrival at a guest house in Meiktila on 5 April, Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Daw Myat Myat Ohn Khin heard reports on situation in Meiktila and provision of relief supplies presented by Director U Than Htut Swe and a supplementary report made by Deputy Minister U Phone Swe.

Next, the Union minister visited relief camps which are being kept open at BEHS No (1), Meiktila District Sports Ground and BEHS No (2) where she gave instructions on arrival of relief aid, supply of drinking water, sanitation and health care service.

After inspecting the pre primary school, the Union minister visited the relief camp at BEMS No (6) where she comforted the victims. Next, officials concerned presented two sets of Flat TV, 100 tubes of toothpaste and 200 toothbrushes donated by U Aung Zaw Myint (Chairman of Shwe Wah Lin International) and Agga Maha Thiri Thudhamma Theingi Dr Daw Myat Myat Ohn Khin and family to the victims.

MNA

Community-based mobile clinic arrives in Pobbathiri Township

NAY PYI TAW, 7 April — Community-based mobile health care service was given to local people of Pyoke Kwe village in Pobbathiri Township, here, on 27 March. Responsible persons of Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association and PMCT Project and IPPF Project, the medical superintendent of 50-bedded Pobbathiri Township Hospital and medical staff, a team of eye specialists from 200-bedded Pyinmana Township Hospital and dentists from 1000-bedded Nay Pyi Taw Hospital took part in the free health care service.

First, the Secretary of MMCWA spoke on the occasion. Next, two assistant surgeons gave talks on prenatal care and contraceptive methods.

Then packets of iodized salt, cakes of soap and free medical check-ups including eye and dental care were provided to the aged and expectant mothers.

While providing medical treatment to locals at the mobile clinic organized by MMCWA was in progress, World Health Ambassador (US) Mr Thein Minh Do and party visited there.

MNA

Kitchen fire engulfs four houses in YeU Township

YEU, 7 April— Four houses were reduced to ashes in a fire caused by an ember in the kitchen in YeU Township of Shwebo District in Sagaing Region on 3 April.

It was an ember that had set other materials on fire. It swept through the whole house of Sar Eid (a) U Khin Maung Hsan on 11th street in Aung San ward of the township at about 12 pm while all family members fell asleep and destroyed other houses and cattle shed.

Fire fighters accompanied by two fire trucks and one water bowser responded to the fire in cooperation with police members and auxiliary fire brigade members. It took about one hour to put out the fire. One motorbike, one bicycle, one power generator, one water pump and four houses were gutted in the fire.—*Kyemon*

Two more overturned car accidents occur in March 2013

YANGON, 7 April— In Yangon Region, two more car accidents that left vehicles overturned were added to the list of road accidents for March this year while the number of car crashes occurred in March dropped by two cases compared to last year.

According to the press meet conducted by All Private Bus-Line Control Committee (Central) on 3 April, five people were killed and 86 sustained injuries in 16 car crashes and one car accident in which a vehicle overturned in March 2012. This year saw only 14 crashes but there were three overturned car accidents. Six people were dead and 72 wounded in the fatal traffic accidents in March 2013.

Five car crashes happened to passengers buses under the bus lines of the All Bus-Line Control Committee (Downtown), one to a passenger bus of Than Myan Thu bus line, two to East District committee bus line, three to West District committee bus line and three to North District bus line. Each bus of three bus lines— Than Myan Thu, West District committee and South District committee— involved in overturned car accidents.—*Kyemon*

Pre SEA Games Invitational Wrestling Competition kicks off

YANGON, 7 April— Union Minister for Sports U Tint Hsan accompanied by Deputy Minister U Thaung Htaik and Myanmar Wrestling Federation President U Kyaw Kyaw Lin attended the opening of Pre SEA Games Invitational Wrestling Competition at Theinbyu gymnasium in Mingala Taungnyunt Township, here, on 5 April.

After the MWF President extended greetings and the deputy minister delivered an address, the opening ceremony followed.

Next, the Union minister cordially greeted wrestlers who were about to take part in the contest.

Although it is planned to organize the invitational competition with the participation of eight countries including the host country, Myanmar, Indonesian and Filipino wrestling teams failed to partake in the contest. Only six teams from Myanmar, Thailand, Singapore, Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos will be available in the event. The competition will include men's Greco and free style events with seven classes and women's free style event with seven classes. A total of 21 gold medals will be presented to the winners of competition that will be held at Theinbyu gymnasium up to 7 April.

Kyemon

Outstanding students go on excursion to Pakokku

PAKOKKU, 7 April — A crowd of 170 outstanding students went on an excursion to Pakokku from their recreation centre in Bagan on 4 April.

They visited 2.16 miles long Ayeyawady Bridge (Pakokku) and thronged to pay homage to Thiho Shin Buddha Image at ward-5 in Pakokku.

Next, they went to Shwe Mudaw Pagoda at ward-1 (Buddha Hillock), Sithu Shin Buddha Image and Pakham monastery in Yezagyo Township. — *Kyemon*

WORLD

Venezuelan Acting President and Presidential Candidate Nicolas Maduro (C), shakes hands with his supporters during a campaign event held at Puerto Ayacucho, state of Amazonas, Venezuela, on 6 April, 2013. REUTERS

Russia to seek return of child adopted by US family

Moscow, 7 April— Moscow will try to bring back a two- year-old Russian boy adopted by a US couple along with his elder brother, who died in January, said a high-ranking Russian official on Saturday.

Admitting that the return of Kirill Kuzmin would probably be "extremely hard," the Russian Foreign Ministry's human rights envoy, Konstantin Dolgov, revealed that Moscow would raise the issue during bilateral adoption talks to be held in mid-April in Washington.

"A US-Russian adoption agreement allows Russia to at least request the return of an adoptee if that is believed to be in their best interests," the *RIA Novosti* news agency quoted Dolgov as saying.

Kirill Kuzmin and his three-year-old brother Maxim were adopted last year by US Texan couple Alan and Laura Shatto. Maxim was found dead with injuries outside the Shattos' house three months after the adoption.

Some Russian officials claimed that Maxim had been abused by his foster parents, but US authorities ruled that his injuries were self-inflicted.

Kirill currently remains with the Shattos, who denied abusing the children and faced no charges over the case.—*Xinhua*

Typhoon-like storm hits western Japan

Tokyo, 7 April—A typhoon-like spring storm battered a wide area of western Japan on Saturday as a fast-growing low-pressure system triggered torrential rain, the Japan Meteorological Agency said.

The foul weather forced railway operators and air carriers to cancel many services. Japan Airlines Co and All Nippon Airways Co together cancelled about 150 flights.

In Tottori Prefecture, two tourists from South Korea were injured while riding bicycles, local authorities said, adding one, a 57-year-old woman, remained unconscious.

By Sunday, gusts of up to 126 kilometres per hour are expected to strike western, eastern and northern Japan, while waves of 6 to 8 metres are expected in coastal waters, the agency said. Rainfall of 92.0 millimetres per hour was observed in Miyazaki, Prefecture, an all-time high there. Per-hour rainfall of 88.5 mm and 73.5 mm was also recorded in Shingu, Wakayama Prefecture, and Muroto, Kochi Prefecture, respectively. As for wind, a maximum velocity of 123 kph was registered in Anan, Tokushima Prefecture.

The weather agency said the low-pressure system is forecast to move over the Sea of Japan, with an atmospheric pressure of 970 hectopascals at its centre — equivalent to that of a typhoon — at 9 am on Sunday. As the system is expected to join up with another around Hokkaido by Monday morning, the Hokuriku region on the Sea of Japan coast and northern Japan areas could still be affected by stormy winds on Monday, it added.

Kyodo News

Photo shows people near a shore being pounded by high waves in Shirahama, Wakayama Prefecture, on 6 April, 2013, as a typhoon-like powerful spring storm hit a wide area of western Japan.—KYODO NEWS

Google mapping issue to be raised in Indian parliament

New Delhi, 7 April— An Indian lawmaker said on Saturday that he will raise the issue of alleged illegal mapping of India by Internet search giant Google this month in the Indian parliament, as the company's action is threatening India's national security.

Tarun Vijay, Member of Parliament at Rajya Sabha, or Upper House of Parliament of India, said a lot of highly sensitive installations have been included in Google's mapping of India, such as air force bases and navy bases. "Google has not complied with the existing mapping policy of India, which restricts publishing of any annotation or point of interest without getting it vetted by the agencies designated for the purpose," he said.

"I am going to raise the issue of India's mapping policy, the relevant laws and Google's violations in the next sitting of the Parliament beginning 22th April," said Vijay, a member of the opposition Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). The images collected and displayed by Google include Mig fighters, Jaguars and blast pens, which can be targets of missile attacks or terrorist attacks, he said.

Vijay said these images of defence installations and other sensitive spots cannot be seen or deciphered through satellite images. Therefore, there must have been people on the ground who have identified these annotations for Google.

The lawmaker said he sent questions to Google last month on its mapping activities, but so far the company has not answered "one single of these questions," he said.

Vijay, who is also the national spokesman of the BJP, said he has raised the issue with Indian Defence Minister AK Antony.

Meanwhile, the Survey General of India, a government agency charged of mapping India, has also raised the issue with Google and reported to the relevant Indian authorities about the alleged violations of laws by Google in India.

Xinhua

Sandstorm engulfs UAE, reduces visibility

Dubai, 7 April—A major sandstorm intensified early Saturday in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and reduced the visibility in parts of the gulf country to less than 1,200 metres.

The UAE National Meteorology Institute had predicted the advent of the sandstorm with a rise in temperature earlier this week but underestimated its tenaciousness. The institute expects the sandstorm to last until Sunday.

On Saturday, temperature climbed above 35 degrees Celsius across the country and fine sand covered roads, houses and parked cars.

While Dubai's visibility was reduced around 2,000 meters, the UAE capital Abu Dhabi was stricken more seriously as its visibility is less than 1,200 metres.

The UAE police have issued an alert to motorists, advising them to lower the speed. Most beaches have been closed and boat owners and tourists have been warned against water sports until further notice. Infants, elders and people with breathing problems have been told to refrain from going outdoors.—*Xinhua*

Air strike kills 15 in Aleppo, Assad warns of regional turmoil

Beirut, 7 April—A Syrian government air strike killed 15 people on Saturday, including nine children, in a district of the northern City of Aleppo where Kurdish fighters have been battling forces loyal to President Bashar al-Assad, a violence monitoring group said.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said a warplane had bombarded the western edges of the Sheikh Maqsoud District of Aleppo, Syria's biggest city, where Assad's forces have been battling rebels for nine months.

In Damascus, state media said rebels fired a mortar bomb into the heart of the capital, killing one person, wounding several others and causing damage to buildings and cars nearby.

Assad has lost swathes of territory in the north and east of the country. Rebels hold several eastern and southern districts of Damascus and pose a growing challenge in the southern province of Deraa — cradle of the two-year uprising — which could become a platform for a fiercer assault on the capital.

Reuters

Smoke rises after mortar bombs landed on the Kafr Sousa area in Damascus on 6 April, 2013 in this handout distributed by Syria's national news agency SANA.—REUTERS

Mexico President against Japan's bid to guard farming in TPP talks

Los Angeles, 7 April—Mexican President Enrique Pena Nieto has expressed concerns about Japan's attempt to secure tariff exemptions for rice and some other farm products when it joins talks on a new trans-Pacific free trade agreement.

In written replies to questions submitted by *Kyodo News* ahead of his four-day visit to Japan starting on Sunday, Mexico's President said Japan should respect the principle of seeking to eliminate all tariffs on trade between members of the Trans-Pacific Partnership talks.

Pena Nieto, who is scheduled to meet with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on Monday, pointed out that members of the TPP negotiations have agreed to seek a high level of trade liberalization.

"Japan has to also comply with this kind of high ambition," Pena Nieto said. Mexico formally joined the US-led TPP talks in November 2012 after announcing its desire to participate in 2011, along with Canada. Abe announced Japan's interest in taking part last month.

During Abe's first face-to-face meeting with US President Barack Obama in February in Washington, the two leaders confirmed that Japan is not required to commit to the zero-tariff principle prior to its joining TPP talks and may be able to win exemptions in the course of negotiations.

Japanese farmers, traditional supporters of Abe's Liberal Democratic Party, have strongly opposed participation in the TPP talks, out of worries over an influx of cheaper agricultural imports should trade in farm products be liberalized. Under such circumstances, the Japanese government is seeking to protect some agricultural products, including rice, wheat and sugar, from tariff elimination. The Pacific free trade talks also involve Australia, Brunei, Chile, Malaysia, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore and Vietnam.

Kyodo News

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

*Image provided by the Salvadorean Ministry of Culture shows the Director of archeology at the National Directorate of Culture Heritage, Shione Shibat (R) with a colleague, observing one of the two indigenous stone zoomorphic heads found in Chalchuapa Township, 80 kilometres west of San Salvador, capital of El Salvador on 5 April, 2013. The pieces were found during an excavation by Salvadorean and Japanese archaeologists. With the findings it has been determined that the aspects that characterize the cultures that developed between 800 BC and 300 AD are making carved stone sculptures, as in other archaeological sites in Mexico, Guatemala and Honduras, archaeologists mentioned.—*XINHUA

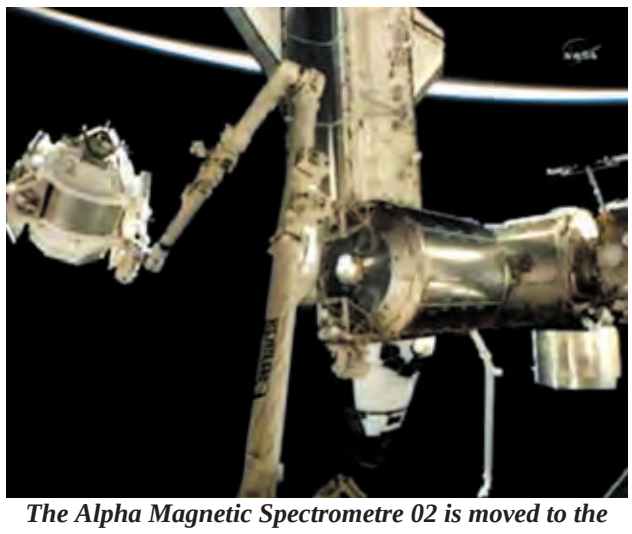
Scientists home in on mysterious dark matter

GENEVA, 7 April— Scientists said on Wednesday they may be close to tracking down the mysterious "dark matter" which makes up more than a quarter of the universe but has never been seen.

A final identification of what makes up the enigmatic material would solve one of the biggest mysteries in physics and open up new investigations into the possibility of multiple universes and other areas, said researchers.

Members of an international team had picked up what might be the first physical trace left by dark matter while studying cosmic rays recorded on the *International Space Station*, said the head of the Europe- and US-based research project Samuel Ting.

He told a packed seminar at the CERN research centre, near Geneva, the team had found a surge of positron particles that might have come from dark matter.



*The Alpha Magnetic Spectrometre 02 is moved to the International Space Station aboard the station's robot arm for installation on the orbiting laboratory with the shuttle Endeavour and the Earth's horizon as a backdrop is this still image from NASA TV on 19 May, 2011.—*REUTERS

In the coming months, he said, the CERN-built AMS particle detector on the space station "will be able to tell us conclusively whether these positrons are a signal for dark matter or if they have some other origin".

Dark matter, once the stuff of science fiction, "is one of the most important mysteries of physics today," Ting, a professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and 1976 Nobel physics prize winner, has written. Sometimes called the sculptor of the universe's millions of galaxies because of the way its gravity shapes their formation, its existence has long been recognized because of the way it pushes visible stars and planets around.—*Reuters*

Stars seen forming perilously close to black hole

WASHINGTON, 7 April— Astronomers using a telescope in Chile say they have spotted signs of star formation perilously close to the supermassive black hole at the centre of the Milky Way Galaxy.

If confirmed, it would be the first time that star formation was observed so close to the galactic centre, according to researchers at the Northwestern University in America.

The centre of our galaxy, 27,000 light-years away in the direction of the constellation Sagittarius, is home to a monstrous black hole with a mass of four million Suns. Extending outward from this gravitational behemoth for many light-years is a turbulent region of space that is thought to be wracked by such extreme tidal forces that any star-forming clouds of dust and gas would be stretched thin and shredded long before infant stars could emerge.

"People think it is very hard to form stars near a supermassive black hole," said lead author Farhad Zadeh of the Northwestern University in a statement. "But what we seem to have found are patches of dust and gas that have become so dense that they are able to overcome their inhospitable surroundings."

Astronomers using the Atacama Large Millimetre/ submillimetre Array in Chile spotted telltale jets of material bursting out of what appear to be dense cocoons of gas and dust. These jets, if they were observed in more placid surroundings, would indicate the formation of a young star.

"What we see in these images from ALMA are outflows that appear very much like what we see in star-forming regions elsewhere in galaxy," said Zadeh.

These molecular clouds may have become so massive and dense, possibly by colliding together, that they cross the all-important threshold that allows internal gravity to take over, starting a chain of events that inexorably leads to the birth of a new star, he said. The results were published on Friday in the *Astrophysical Journal Letters*.

Xinhua

Whale fossil raises questions about mammal evolution

WELLINGTON, 7 April—A New Zealand geologist has dated a prehistoric whale fossil to a period much more recent than previously thought, raising new questions about the evolution of modern mammals. The fossil of a dwarf baleen whale from northern California was estimated at 700,000 years old, compared with the previously youngest known fossils of the same species dated at about 3 million years, according to University of Otago researcher Robert Boessenecker.

The fossil showed that the 4 to 5-metre long Herpetocetus, thought to be the last survivor of the primitive baleen whale family called cetotheres, had survived from the pre-Ice Age Pliocene epoch, a time before many modern marine mammals appeared. Baleen whales of the type were most common much earlier, about 10 million to 15 million years ago. "That this whale survived the great climatic and ecological upheavals of the Ice Age and almost into the modern era is very surprising as nearly all fossil marine mammals found after the end of the Pliocene appear identical to modern species," Boessenecker said in a statement. "Other baleen whales underwent extreme body size increases in response to the new environment, but this dwarf whale must have still had a niche to inhabit which has only recently disappeared."

Xinhua

Samsung Electronics marketing blitz stirs debate over innovation

SEOUL, 7 April— Samsung Electronics is spending more on marketing than R&D for the first time in at least three years, prompting some pundits to warn that the IT giant is sacrificing innovation at a time when the market is teeming with ever smarter gadgets.

The South Korean firm, which warned on Friday it will not post record quarterly earnings for the first time since 2011, looks set to spend big bucks on marketing upcoming mobile devices, including the Galaxy S4 smartphone, to convert more iPhone and iPad users loyal to arch rival Apple Inc.

While the new Galaxy smartphone, unveiled to much fanfare in New York last month, will boast a motion-detecting technology that stops and starts videos depending on whether someone is looking at the screen, and flip between songs and photos at the wave of a hand, industry watchers say the device would not overturn an industry that lives and dies by innovation.

"(Samsung) lagged behind in creating a new category. Apple created a new category with tablets. We are waiting to see something like that happen from Samsung," said Rachel Lashford, an analyst at research firm Canalys in Singapore.

*A Samsung outdoor advertisement sits atop an office building in Seoul, on 5 April, 2013.—*REUTERS

Samsung spent a record 13 trillion won ($11.6 billion) on marketing last year. That was $1.3 billion more than what it poured into research and development.

The firm does not provide marketing and R&D spending forecasts. Some analysts said they expect Samsung to continue spending more on its marketing campaigns than on R&D this year as it fights the next wave of products from Apple.

Smartphone makers are increasingly just tweaking existing specifications such as increasing screen sizes.

Reuters

Micromax Ninja A91 spotted online for Rs 8499

NEW DELHI, 7 April— Micromax Ninja A91 has been spotted over at online retailer Saholic for Rs 8499. The phone is listed as available with delivery promised within 3 business days, as of filing this report.

Micromax Ninja A91 comes with 4.5-inch TFT LCD display with 480x854 pixel resolution. The device and is powered by a MediaTek MT6577 1GHz dual-core processor alongside 512MB RAM and 4GB internal storage expandable up to 32GB via microSD card. The phone comes with a 5-megapixel rear camera and a VGA front camera. Connectivity options on the Micromax Ninja A91 include Bluetooth, Wi-Fi, 3G and Micro-USB. Micromax Ninja A91 is a dual-SIM dual-GSM standby phone that comes with a 1,800mAH battery and runs on Android 4.0 Ice Cream Sandwich. There's no word on when Micromax will officially launch the Ninja A91.

Micromax has recently been riding high on the success of the Micromax Canvas 2 and Micromax Canvas HD. Though the Micromax Canvas HD made a lot of buzz when it was announced, the phone's availability in the market has been constrained due to supply issues and the recent changes in custom duty structure, that resulted in a price hike.

PTI

BUSINESS & HEALTH

US judge widens 'morning-after' pill access for young girls

NEW YORK, 7 April—A federal judge on Friday ordered the US Food and Drug Administration to make "morning-after" emergency contraception pills available without a prescription to all girls of reproductive age and criticized the Obama administration for interfering with the process for political purposes.

The ruling in a Brooklyn court is the latest step in the years-long legal saga over the pill known as "Plan B," a drug that has also sparked political and religious battles. Reproductive-rights groups cheered the decision as overdue, while anti-abortion and some religious groups condemned it. The order reverses a surprise December 2011 decision by US Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius. After the FDA decided to approve over-the-counter sales with no age limits, Sebelius ordered it to reverse course, barring girls under 17 from buying the pills without a prescription.

President Barack Obama supported that restriction, invoking his daughters. But the timing, 11 months ahead of the Presidential election, sparked criticism that he was trying to placate social conservatives.

A Plan B One-Step emergency contraceptive box is seen in New York, on 5 April, 2013.—REUTERS

In his ruling, US District Judge Edward Korman called Sebelius's decision "arbitrary, capricious and unreasonable."

"The motivation for the secretary's action was obviously political," he wrote.

Scientists and activists who have long been involved in emergency contraception reached the same conclusion about Sebelius's 2011 decision. "I thought it was an act of cowardice," said Dr Michael Greene, professor of obstetrics and gynecology at Harvard Medical School and a long-time adviser to the FDA. "It was during the run-up to the 2012 election, and the administration didn't want the Republicans to beat them over the head with this" during a campaign when Obama was trying to appeal to middle-of-the-road voters.

Because physicians and doctors advising the FDA had concluded that the morning-after pills were safe for younger adolescents and did not cause promiscuity, critics saw Sebelius's decision as an instance of politics trumping science—something that particularly riled activists who had been led to expect otherwise. "In the first days of the administration in 2009, we were told that this White House would make science- and fact-based decisions," said Jon O'Brien, President of Catholics for Choice, which supports abortion rights.—*Reuters*

S&P affirms Britain's AAA rating, maintains negative outlook

LONDON, 7 April—Standard & Poor's (S&P), an international credit rating company, on Friday affirmed Britain's AAA sovereign credit rating, but maintained its "negative" outlook, leaving the landmine of downgrading in the future.

"We believe that the government will implement its fiscal mandate and that it has the ability and willingness to respond rapidly to economic challenges," S&P said in a statement issued in London.

The outlook reflects "our view of at least a one-in-three chance that we could lower the ratings if the UK's economic and fiscal performances were to weaken beyond our current expectations," S&P added.

The rating company also expected that the 2.43-trillion-US dollar economy will grow on average by 1.6 percent a year from 2013 to 2016.

British Treasury responded that the S&P statement is a "reminder that our country cannot afford to simply run away from our problems."

British government cut its growth projection for this year from 1.2 percent to 0.6 percent on 20 March and expected the government's net debt to begin falling in 2017-2018 fiscal year, a year later than previous planned.

S&P placed British rating on a negative outlook last December. Moody's, another credit rating agency, however, cut British treasured triple-A rating by one notch in February, as it felt pessimistic on the country's economic growth and fiscal consolidation outlook.

Xinhua

Italy cabinet approves 40 billion euros of state payments to firms

ROME, 7 April—Italy's caretaker cabinet approved a decree on Saturday to pay some 40 billion euros ($52 billion) of the state's debts to private companies over the next 12 months. The decree, intended to provide vital liquidity to cash-strapped firms and help tackle a deep recession, had been scheduled to be approved last Wednesday but was delayed due to doubts over how to fund the measure. The massive backlog of bills owed by Italy's public administration has been a longstanding source of complaint by companies which have struggled to raise credit from banks facing increasingly tight credit conditions themselves. Mario Monti's outgoing government said on Saturday it was committed to not breaching the European Union's deficit ceiling of 3 percent of gross domestic product. "We have to follow a path between the two requirements to help our economy to recover...and to maintain budget discipline," Economy Minister Vittorio Grilli told a news conference. "It's a narrow path but a path that is absolutely viable." He said the government planned to monitor the situation again in September and the Economy Ministry would be able to adopt corrective measures if the deficit was heading over a "precautionary" limit of 2.9 percent.

The headquarters of the Bank of Italy is pictured in downtown Milan on 11 Jan, 2013.—REUTERS

The government says settling the bills will provide a sorely needed cash injection for an economy now stuck in its longest recession for 20 years. Italy has faced weeks in political limbo with no party able to form a government while economic problems continue to pile up. Monti last month hiked the 2013 deficit target sharply to 2.9 percent of GDP from 1.8 percent, just fractionally below the EU's 3 percent ceiling, after last year's deficit came in at exactly 3 percent.

Reuters

WHO celebrates World Health Day 2013 with theme on hypertension

GENEVA, 7 April—On the occasion of celebrating the World Health Day on 7 April with a theme on hypertension, the World Health Organization (WHO) called on Wednesday for greater efforts to prevent and control this disease, which is also known as high blood pressure. Hypertension is estimated to affect more than one in three adults aged 25 and over (or about one billion people) worldwide, and contributes to almost 9.4 million deaths due to heart attacks and strokes annually; it also increases the risk of conditions such as kidney failure and blindness, said Director-General Margaret Chan on a commemorative meeting for the World Health Day held at WHO headquarters in Geneva on Wednesday.

Hypertension usually does not show any symptom for years or even decades and vital early warning signals would go unheeded, said the Director-General.

"Our aim today is to make people aware of the need to know their blood pressure, to take high blood pressure seriously, and then to take control," said Chan, emphasizing that knowing the blood pressure level is the first critical step to prevent and control hypertension. According to the report "A Global Brief on Hypertension—silent killer, global public health crisis" issued by WHO on Wednesday, Africa sees the highest prevalence of hypertension (46 percent of adults aged 25 and over), while the Americas the lowest (35 percent).

Owing to appropriate public policies and better access to health care, high-income countries have a lower prevalence of hypertension (35 percent) than low- and medium-income countries (40 percent).

The prevention and control of hypertension requires the efforts from government and policy makers, and health workers, academic research community, civil society, private sector and families and individuals all have a role to play, the report stated.

For the part of WHO, it has guidance for member states to establish appropriate and multisectoral policies and to implement affordable and effective solutions to reduce health and financial burden linked to hypertension by offering tools such as WHO/International Society of Hypertension risk prediction charts to aid risk management and providing evidence-based guidance on the appropriate use of medicines, said the organization. The World Health Day, which marks the anniversary of the establishment of WHO in 1948, is celebrated annually on 7 April, with a different theme each year, featuring an area of priority in global public health.—*Xinhua*

"Father of targeted therapies" receives top US Award

WASHINGTON, 7 April—Alex Matter, known as the "Father of Targeted Cancer Therapies", was granted on Friday the eighth Szent-Gyorgyi Prize for Progress in Cancer Research at an Award Ceremony in Washington. Matter, CEO of the Experimental Therapeutic Centre of Agency for Science, Technology and Research in Singapore, has been recognized for his contributions to the development of the first drug specifically targeting a molecular lesion in cancer.

The first targeted cancer therapy, imatinib mesylate, or Gleevec, contributed to a major breakthrough in the treatment of Chronic Myelogenous Leukemia (CML).

It has then been its successfully applied to other malignant cancers by turning off the signal of the protein causing these cancers.

With Gleevec, the outcome of treating CML has been changed from the dismal and often deadly to a nearly 90 percent long-term survival with little or no side effects.

"Matter's work on Gleevec marked a dramatic change in cancer therapy," said chair of the 2013 Prize Selection Committee Chen Zhu, who is also a vice chairperson of China's National People's Congress Standing Committee, "This was the first successful knowledge-based discovery of small molecule drug that targeted a cancer-specific protein." Matter's "innovative research and scientific discovery has led us to a new stage of effectively treating and eventually curing cancer," said Chen, who is also Chairman of Chinese Medical Association.

Xinhua

Alex Matter (C), CEO of the Experimental Therapeutic Centre of Agency for Science, Technology and Research in Singapore, is awarded the eighth Szent-Gyorgyi Prize for Progress in Cancer Research.—XINHUA

WORLD

Carnivorous plant in Aichi Pref confirmed as new species

NAGOYA, 7 April, —A carnivorous plant found only in Aichi Prefecture has been confirmed as a new species, a researcher at Aichi University of Education said on Saturday.

The pitcher plant with purple-red flowers was initially believed to have been the same species as the white-flowered Drosera indica, which is designated as an endangered species by the Environment Ministry.

However, Mikio Watanabe, Professor of plant classification at the university, conducted a genetic level analysis and determined that the Aichi plant is a different species.

Drosera indica grows naturally from India to Japan and is found domestically in areas ranging from the Kanto to Kyushu regions.

"I'm planning to study how the plant came from the continent and how it has diversified into several different species," Watanabe said.—*Kyodo News*

Kerry to press Turkey on Israel ties, Syrian border, Iraq

ISTANBUL, 7 April—US Secretary of State John Kerry will press Turkey on Sunday to quickly normalize relations with Israel, keep its border with Syria open to refugees and improve ties with Iraq, a senior US official said.

Kerry arrived in Istanbul some two weeks after US President Barack Obama brokered a rapprochement between Turkey and Israel, whose relations were shattered by the killing of nine Turkish citizens in a 2010 Israeli naval raid on a Gaza-bound flotilla.

The rapprochement could help regional coordination to contain spillover from the Syrian civil war and ease Israel's diplomatic isolation in the Middle East as it faces challenges posed by Iran's nuclear programme. Despite Obama's having pulled off a diplomatic coup on 22 March—a three-way telephone call with the Israeli and Turkish prime ministers, who had not spoken since 2011 — Washington has some concerns that Turkey might be backtracking on the deal.

Israel bowed to a long-standing demand by Ankara, once its close strategic partner, to apologize formally for the deaths aboard the Turkish vessel *Mavi Marmara*. It was boarded by Israeli marines who had intercepted a flotilla challenging Israel's naval blockade of the Palestinian-run Gaza Strip.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office said he had agreed to conclude an agreement on compensation and that he and Turkish Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan agreed to normalize ties, including returning their ambassadors to their posts.

A senior US official told reporters travelling with Kerry that he "will encourage Turkey to expeditiously implement its agreement with Israel and fully normalize their relationship to allow for deeper cooperation between the two countries." While the official denied the United States was worried the Turkish government might be backing away from the deal, another US official earlier this week said Washington was concerned.—*Reuters*

US Secretary of State John Kerry talks to reporters after finding out that the aircraft had a mechanical failure before take off, at the Andrews Air Force Base in Maryland on 6 April, 2013.—REUTERS

Russia calls UN stance on investigation of chemical weapons use in Syria unacceptable

MOSCOW, 7 April—The UN Secretariat unacceptably takes an unconstructive and inconsistent approach on investigating the alleged use of chemical weapons in Syria, the Foreign Ministry said on Saturday.

In response to a request of the Syrian government to investigate the possible use of toxic substances near Aleppo on 19 March, the UN Secretariat demanded "unlimited access for experts to all facilities in Syria and to all persons whom experts believe it necessary to interrogate," the ministry said in a statement. "Such approach reminds of the policy towards using weapons of mass destruction in Iraq. The policy was based on deliberately false data and lead to common consequences," the ministry said.

The ministry said the UN Secretariat, under the pressure of certain states, took "an unconstructive position and in essence wrecks the investigation of concrete information."

Moscow considers such actions "unacceptable and inadmissible" in terms of discussing crises and other disputes, the ministry said.—*Xinhua*

NPA receives record 360,000 reports on "dubious financial deals"

TOKYO, 7 April—Police received a record 364,366 reports on "dubious financial transactions" such as money-laundering from financial institutions last year, the National Police Agency said on Saturday.

The figure was up 8.0 percent from the previous year.

The agency has identified 886 criminal cases, including 15 moneylaundering and 106 visa overstaying cases, based on the reports, up 316 from the previous year, it said.

An NPA official said the increase in the number of reports came "as we have provided information to financial institutions on how to spot dubious transactions through reference cases."

Kyodo News

Democrats lose fight in Montana Senate over ballot measures

HELENA, (Montana) 7 April—Over loud objections from Democrats, Montana's Republican-controlled Senate on Friday voted to put proposals on the 2014 ballot that would tighten voter registration and restrict the rights of third parties to compete in general elections.

The measures, which are expected to be approved by the Republican-majority House, do not need approval from the Democratic governor. They would go before Montana voters in November of next year.

Democrats tried to stall action on the bills through a rarely used parliamentary procedure, demanding that the vote be delayed until a missing Democratic senator was found and brought into the chamber.

But Republicans moved forward anyway, prompting Democrats to leap to their feet, shout objections and pound on their desks with everything from coffee mugs to copies of the Montana constitution.

"We did what we had to do and it's done," said Senate Majority Leader Art Wittich.

"I'm saddened by what we saw today — it's worse than Washington, DC," Governor Steve Bullock said. "I'm not embarrassed by men and women demanding a right to speak—I'm disappointed by those who denied it."

The measures would ask voters to eliminate same-day voter registration, and put in place a new primary election system that only allows the two political parties that get the most votes in the primaries to be on the ballot in the general election.

Both are seen as benefiting Republicans. Third parties have acted as spoilers for some Republican candidates in recent elections. Same-day voter registration is considered a plus for Democrats.

Any ballot-measure bills that pass the Montana Legislature with a simple majority of both chambers move right to a public vote, bypassing the governor's office.—*Reuters*

Bozeman Democratic Senator Mike Phillips (R) holds a copy of the Legislature's rule book in Helena, Montana on 5 April, 2013. —REUTERS

Italian gov't issues decree for debt repayment to private companies

ROME, 7 April—Italian Premier Mario Monti's outgoing cabinet of technocrats on Saturday issued a long-awaited decree law for a public debt-repayment plan to private companies.

At least 40 billion euros worth of debt payments were guaranteed to companies by the government, which plans to pay back 20 billion euros this year and 20 billion in 2014, Monti told a Press conference.

He said the move will provide a cash injection fundamental for an economy which is experiencing its longest recession for 20 years. "The debts accumulated so far by public administrations had dumped the burden on the future of businesses and citizens," he highlighted.

Italian public administrations have one of Europe's worst track records for paying creditors, as they owe to companies, most in the construction and healthcare sectors, an overall debt estimated at between 90 and 130 billion euros.

Earlier this week Monti assured the European Commission that the debt-repayment plan will not affect the commitment of Italy to keeping its deficit for 2013 under the threshold of three percent of gross domestic product (GDP).

His outgoing government also denied rumours that would be turning to regional income tax hikes to fund burdensome debt repayments in a country whose public debt at 127 percent of GDP is the second highest in the eurozone after Greece.

Xinhua

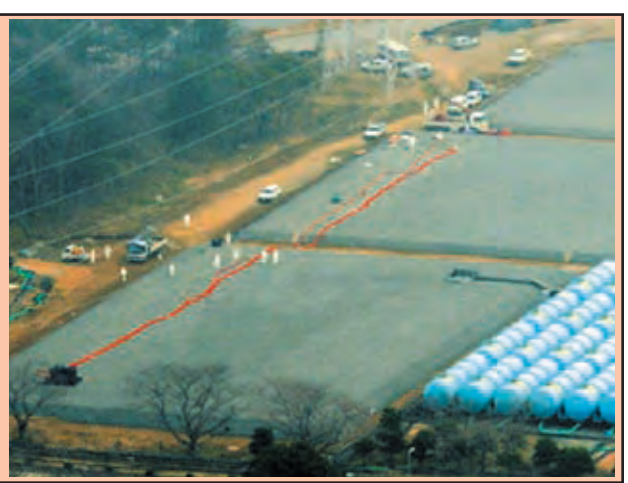


Photo from a Kyodo News helicopter shows the site (c) of one of the underground reservoir tanks where up to 120 tons of contaminated water may have leaked into soil at the crippled Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant in Fukushima Prefecture on 6 April, 2013. Tokyo Electric Power Co began transferring water from the tank to other underground tanks (front).
KYODO NEWS

Lost purse handed over to owner

YANGON, 7 April—U Kyin Hlaing and wife Daw San Htay of Dawbon Township took a taxi to their home on 11 March. On arrival at the home, they knew they had lost their purse, and so they informed the authorities that their purse may be left on the taxi.

Thanks to the authorities, taxi driver (owner) Lt-Col Thein Tun (Retd) handed over the purse at the office of Dawbon Township Development Affairs Committee on 24 March.

The purse contained 35 US$ 100 notes, 15 notes of one dollars, five dollars and 10 dollars, one tical gold chain, one pair of State lottery and two citizenship scrutiny cards.

Purse owner U Kyin Hlaing thanked the officials for their efforts and the taxi driver.—*Myanma Alinn*

Summer swimming course wraps up

YANGON, 7 April—The first summer swimming course 2013 organized by Kokkine Swimming Club concluded at the swimming pool of the club in Bahan Township of Yangon Region on 31 March morning.

Vice-Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Committee Deputy Minister for Sports U Thaung Htaik made a speech. Patron of the club U Nyein Kyaw and Chairman U Than Tun Aung made speeches and presented certificates of honour to the trainees.

Responsible persons of the club presented prizes to outstanding trainees and cash awards to the trainers.

The deputy minister then awarded the youngest and eldest trainees.

Myanma Alinn

Helping hands to disabled persons

PATHEIN, 7 April—Shwe Min Thar Foundation (Myanmar) donated equipment to disabled persons from Yekyi, Ngathainggyoung and Athok townships of Ayeyawady Region at Yekyi Hall in Yekyi Township of Pathein District on 27 March afternoon.

Ayeyawady Region Minister for Forestry and Mines U Soe Myint made a speech. Chairman of the foundation (Myanmar) U Myat Thu Win explained the purpose of donation and opening of Yekyi Township branch.

Next, the foundation presented four wheel-chairs, 12 crutches and one white cane to the disabled persons.

Myanma Alinn

Volunteer youths recount literacy campaign experience at get-together

YANGON, 7 April—The get-together of volunteers of 3-Rs campaign was held at Royal Rose Restaurant, here, on 26 March.

The faculty members and students of Yangon University voluntarily participated in the literacy campaign across the nation from 1964 to 1984 to teach rural people and needy persons who missed the chance to pursue education and dropped out the school enrolment for various reasons.

A total of 106 volunteer youths of Yangon University joined the literacy campaign in summer of 1983 and they teach about 1500 adult illiterates of Mingin Township. Leader of the literacy campaign volunteers U Myo Thant (Myanmarsar Department of Yangon University) made a speech.

On the occasion, they donated books to the library of Basic Education High School in Mingin Township.—*Myanma Alinn*

Myawady to build shelter for human trafficking victims

MYAWADY, 7 April—A ceremony to drive stake for construction of the home of human trafficking victims was held at the Deikhtanaung field near Women's Affairs Organization in Ward 3/4 in Myawady on 27 March.

The construction of the building was contributed by Japanese Government and local people under the auspices of Ngwehintha Sayadaw Bhaddanta Vimala.

Deputy Commissioner U Than Swe of Myawady District drove stake for the construction.

The building will be 160 feet square two-storey building. It will cost FEC 115,489 . Aungzeya Company will engage in construction of the building.—*Myanma Alinn*

Anniversary celebration of free clinic held in Bago

BAGO, 7 April—The anniversary ceremony of Free Sangha Clinic was held on the eastern stairway road to Shwemawdaw Pagoda in Bago on 27 March, attended by Chairman of the Clinic and members.

Disciples of Padamya Sayadaw donated cash to the fund of the clinic to provide health care services to the people.

As U Tun Tun Oo-Daw Khin Mar Wai and family of Hsan Thit Pharmaceuticals Trading donated a dentist chair and equipment, the clinic can now give dental services to the people.

Those wishing to make donation to the fund of the clinic may contact Tel: 09-5300618 of treasurer U Kyaw Maung and 052-201705 of the clinic.—*Myanma Alinn*

Retaining walls in Katha to prevent erosion

KATHA, 7 April—The retaining walls are under construction in Katha not to cause landslides due to erosion of Ayeyawady River.

The retaining wall is located at Pabegon of Ward 3 in Katha Township. Ward administrator U Tin Win and local people participated in construction tasks.

A local remarked that construction of the retaining wall was the best. If necessary, the authorities should grow perennial plants along the banks for sustain ability of the retaining walls.

Myanma Alinn

Garbage fire destroys rubber plants

MOHNYIN, 7 April—A fire broke out at rubber farms near old Saka Village of 10th-Mile Village in Mohnyin Township of Kachin State on 28 March noon.

Over 4900 rubber plants on over 60 acres of land were destroyed in the fire.

The fire stated from the act of setting fire on garbage which was collected from the separated areas among rubber farms to prevent danger of fire. Unfortunately, a total of 1586 rubber plants of U Sawng Yein, 700 plants of U Sawng Bawm, 1199 plants of U Sawng Ki, 900 plants of U Sawng Chan and 580 plants of U Chan Yaw were destroyed.

Now, rubber latex is being collected from most of the plants, and products of the plants are meeting standard, said rubber farm owners

The rubber farm owners informed the rubber industry committee to seek compensation for their losses.—*Myanma Alinn*

Rural region in Yenangyoung Township gets tube-well

YENANGYOUNG, 7 April—In commemoration of the 68th Anniversary Armed Forces, a tube-well sunk at a cost of K 20 million by Rural Region Development Department under the Ministry of Border Affairs was launched in Sargi Village of Kangyi Village-tract in Yenangyoung Township on 24 March.

On the occasion, Township Administrator U Kyaw Kyaw, Region Hluttaw representative U Win Tint and Executive Officer U Thin Oo of Township Development Affairs Committee formally launched the tube-well.

The ceremony was also attended by departmental officials, members of social organizations and local people totalling 350.

Myanma Alinn

The New Light of Myanmar

PERSPECTIVES

Monday, 8 April, 2013

Mutual respect and understanding

From the very start, we have already anticipated conflicts and difficulties may arise during our period of democratic transition. But with a united effort, we must brace and overcome these challenges in unity. As we rebuild our society, we must rise above decades of historical bitterness, confrontational approaches, and a zero-sum attitude in solving our differences.

In this time of change towards an open society, the government is trying utmost to share information in a truthful and transparent manner.

Moreover, the Constitution guarantees the right of all citizens to worship freely any religion they choose. So, we warn all political opportunists and religious extremists who try to exploit the noble teachings of these religions and have tried to foment hatred among people of different faiths for their own self-interest: their efforts will not be tolerated. We will take all necessary and effective action to stop their conspiracies in accordance with our Constitution and our existing laws. All perpetrators of violence will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

Actually, it is only a very small minority of individuals who have been responsible for spreading rumors that could incite riots, causing fear among the general public who only wish to live peacefully. And we are very pleased to see local authorities, community and religious leaders coming together to form riot-prevention committees to protect the people.

We are happy to see a concerted effort from civil society organizations, leaders of communities, government agencies and security forces to prevent the spread of conflict to other cities and towns. This indicates that citizens from different ethnic and religious groups are working together to create a peaceful society based on democratic norms and a proud nation that is based on mutual respect and understanding.

ARTICLE

Eco and Pilgrimage Touristic Attraction Sacred Man Shwe Set Taw Hill Range

There is a thriving trading town called Minbu in Magway Region, mid Myanmar. Twenty six miles to the south west of Minbu, runs the western Yoma hill range covered with thick forests and crisscrossed by brooks and streams. On the most easterly off shoot of this range are dotted religious edifices of different sizes and designs belonging to different ages of Myanmar archaeology and history. Strange rock formation of the hill gave rise to legends and mysteries that came to acquire religious associations with the arrival of Buddha Sasana there.

The tow most well-known and reverently venerated religious monuments on this hill are Man set taw ya or Man Shwe Set Taw. "Set taw ya" means Buddha's Foot Print. There are five kinds of pagodas depending on what they contain inside. (1) Dhatu Zedi, Pagoda in which mortal remains of the Buddha or Saint [such as hair, tooth, bones or bone ashes] were enshrined, (2) Dhamma Zedi, pagoda in which Buddha's teachings, partly or wholly recorded on stone, wood, paper, metal or any material were enshrined (3) Paribawga Zedi, pagoda in which utensils such as alms bowl, bathing robe, staff, water strainer or couch etc. used by the Buddha or Saint monks were enshrined (4) Udisa Zedi, pagoda in which images, statues, sculptors or painting in the likeness of the Buddha or saint monk were enshrined for worship and (5) Pada Zedi, pagoda in which foot print of the Buddha or saint monk were encased for veneration. Therefore, the two edifices on Minbu Hill Range are Pada zedis which interned two foot prints of the living Gotama Buddha which Buddhists believe to have been left there for veneration.

The pleasant Minbu Hill Range, the unmatched glories of its natural landscape and the sublimity and sacredness of the two pada zedis were painted in words and poetic imageries of monk and lay writers of the Inwa period onwards in

Maha Saddhamma Jotika dhaja Sithu Dr Khin Maung Nyunt

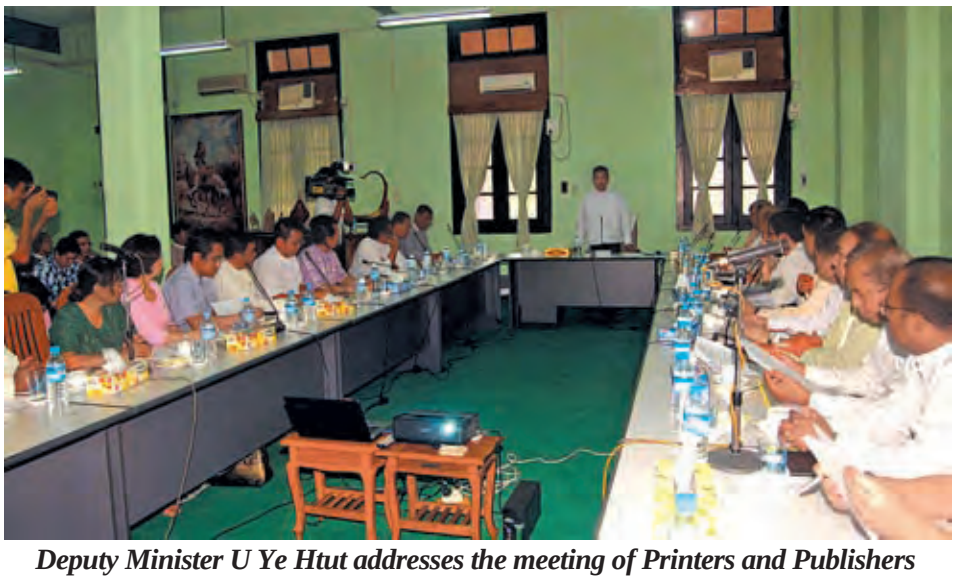
Myanmar literary history. Notably three monk poets of Inwa Period, Shin Maha Silawintha in his Tada Uti Mawgun, Shin Maha Rahta thaya in his Mingala Zedi Mawgun and Shin Uttamakyaw in his Tawlar poem, composed verses of exceptional literary qualities, vividly describing their on food land journey from the capital Inwa to Minbu Hill Range on pilgrimage to the two Pada Zedis [Shwe set taw or Man set taw ya]. Later in Konbaung Period [1752-1885 A.D] one noted monk Sayadaw of Minbu U Aubatha in his translation into Myanmar of Vessandara Jataka [Buddha's birth story] was so inspiried by the natural beauties of his native place that he excelled in his description of the Himlalyan mountains and Winkaba forest into which Prince Vessandara, his wife Madi and son and daughter were exiled for some years. Of course U Aubatha had never been to Himalya Mountains. But as a native of Minbu he knew full well of Minbu Hill Range and the two pada zedis. So in his translation of Vessandara jataka, U Aubatha gave his vast knowledge of flora, fauna, geology, geography and forestry of Minbu Hill Range. His translated Vessandara Jataka was a prescribed text book for high school in British colonial days and two English head masters had translated it into English.

Bagan, the capital of First Myanmar Union was founded on the east bank of the River Ayeyawaddy., in central Myanmar. It had eleven economic zones in irrigated areas in Kyaukse about over 150 miles to the north east. Also there were six economic zones in Minbu area to the west, such as (1) Saku (2) Salin (3) Phaung Lin (4) Kyabin (5) Maypinsaya and (6) Lei Kaing. It was in Lei Kaing that the legend of the two pada zedis originated. In the time of living Gotama Buddha, the lands of the eastern bank of the River Ayeyawaddy were called Tampadipa—and those on its western bank were called Thunaparanta. Lei Kaing in Thunaparanta was then known as Verneiksa gama [Big village of Traders]. At that village lived two merchant brothers Maha Punna the elder and Cula Punna, the younger. They took by turn alternate duties- if one went out overseas the other remained at home to look after their successful business. It was during his oversea journey to Maijimadesa [India] that the elder brother Maha Punna chanced to visit Gotama Buddha in Jetavana Vihara in Savatthi, and heard his Dhamma teachings. He requested the Buddha to come to his village for teaching. The Buddha agreed. Maha Punna returned home and with his younger brother and villagers built a big monastery for the Buddha and his disciple monks to reside when they arrived. As there was not enough time to cut down teak trees for building, they used sandal wood, because there were sandal wood trees grown profoundly in the neighbourhood. Originally sandal wood tree was brought from Malayu [Malaysia] by Cula Punna some years ago. The big sandal wood monastery had 108 large rooms, 1060 windows and 100 flights of steps and roofed by elaborately carved spires. In Maha Sakarit year 123, the 8th ordained year of the Buddha, the Buddha and 500 monk disciples arrived and stayed in the big monastery to preach the Dhamma everyday for one week to the village community. Every early morning the Buddha made his routine round of receiving alms food.

One morning, the Buddha met a naga serpent named Nammanda at the river [Today Man chaung stream]. Naga serpent invited the Buddha to his domain for Dhamma teachings. The Naga serpent and the community embraced the teachings. They requested the Buddha to give them his representa-tion to venerate whereupon the Buddha left his foot print on a mud bank at the foot of the Hill Range [now known as Auk Set tawya, Foot print below the hill].

(See page 9)

Deputy Information Minister meets chairmen, executives of MPPA, MPBSA



***Deputy Minister U Ye Htut addresses the meeting of Printers and Publishers Association and Myanmar Publishers and Book Sellers Association.*—MNA**

NAY PYI TAW, 7 April—In meeting with chairmen and executives of Myanmar Printers and Publishers Association and Myanmar Publishers and Book Sellers Association at the meeting hall of Printing and Publishing Enterprise on Theinbyu Road in Yangon today, Deputy Minister for Information U Ye Htut said that discussions on Printing and Publishing draft law were held with international organizations and foreign embassies in order to meet international standards.

The deputy minister elaborated on discussions held with international organizations and foreign embassies, suggestions given by local media and civil societies and comparisons between provisions of the draft law and international norms and explained suggested points that will be submitted to Pyithu Hluttaw Bill Committee.

Chairman of Myanmar Printers and Publishers Association Dr Tin Tun Oo and Chairman of Myanmar Publishers and Book Sellers Association Dr Tha Tun Oo discussed that suggested amendments and suggestions regarding the draft law would be presented during the prescribed period. Next, those present took part in the discussions on the draft law.

It was also attended by departmental heads of the Ministry of Information and officials, responsible persons of civil societies and media men. — *MNA*

Outcomes of the BFA Annual Conference 2013...

(from page 1)

He said he was convinced that the Boao Forum for Asia Annual Conference 2013 will bring us new visions, strategies and successful means for the fundamental developments of the people of all countries.

He concluded his speech, saying that the outcomes of the BFA Annual Conference 2013 will provide us with great avenues for effective realization of the economic reform process of Asia.

Next, Heads of State/ Government of Finland, Mexico, Peru, Zambia, Australia, Cambodia, New Zealand, Algeria and Mongolia, the President of the 67th Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations and the Managing Director of International Monetary Fund delivered addresses.

Then the President attended luncheon together with the heads of state/ government. In the evening, the President left for Myanmar by air and arrived in Nay Pyi Taw at 5.45 pm.

The President and party were welcomed back at Nay Pyi Taw Airport by Vice-Presidents Dr Sai Mauk Kham and U Nyan Tun, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, the Union Ministers, the Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command, departmental heads and the Charge d' Affaires ai of Chinese Embassy in Myanmar Mr Lu Zhi.

MNA

Home of 3rd UNSG becomes...

(from page 16)

as soon *as he took o*ver the post. In this regard, I would like U Thant to be reviewed."

She adds, "My father always spoke about the crucial role of education in improving the morality of an individual. His words come to coincide with ongoing education reforms of the government. We received much assistance from the government in turning the house into the museum."

U Thant Museum is currently open for a while ahead of the official opening and will be kept open to public between 9 am to 4 pm till 11 April. The museum is due to open around October or November after renovation. It is set to complete with a small library sometime in the future.

U Thant Museum will display photos and documents of the third UNSG.

MNA

Eco and Pilgrimage Touristic Attraction...

(from page 8)

Later, on his round of alms food, receiving on the summit of Thisarbanda Hill, the Buddha met a hermit who after hearing the Buddha's teachings became an Arahat saint. At the request of the latter, the Buddha left his foot print on a flat stone at the edge of the Hill. [It is now called Ahtet Set taw yar, the Foot Print on the Hill].

Before returning to Savatthi, the Buddha gave his divine prophesy – that the sandal monastery would be ruined and disappeared in course of time, but one noble king from Tampadipa kingdom would arrive there to build a commemorative pagoda on the site of the sandal wood monastery [Today it is Kyaungtawya Pagoda]. The two Foot Prints at the Minbu Hill Range would become Pada Zedis for worship by generations to come and Buddha Sasana would be established there. Maha Punna, now a Buddhist saint monk should remain at his native village to keep propagating the Dhamma. Four places where monk Maha Punna had preached Dhamma were (1) Yey Boke village (2) Kya Khar village (3) Saku Town and (4) Yey Thanat Pin Kone village.

In the Buddhist Era 1637, Myanmar Era 454, King Alaungsithu of Bagan arrived Lei Kaing, during his royal inspection tour. He built Kyaungtaw yar Zedi on the site of the sandal wood monastery and donated 23509 acres of land for religious use and these glebe lands were assigned to the care of Sangha Raja he appointed. Around Kyaungtaw yar Zedi 50 monasteries in the inner compound and 99 in the outer compound were built for missionary monks. He donated all revenues, taxes, tolls, ferry fares and court fees collected in Minbu areas to religion for maintenance, repair, renovation and holding of annual festival.

But after the downfall of Bagan, Minbu Hill Range and the two Pada Zedis fell into oblivion, swallowed by thick greens. It was only in the reign of King Tha Lun (1629-1648 A.D) of Second Inwa Period that monk Sayadaws led by the Abbot of Taunghphila, at the royal behest, re-discovered these monuments, which were revived, repaired and renovated. Pilgrims began visiting as new roads were constructed by later kings. In Myanmar Era 1058 Monk Ashin Thudhammasara of Lei Kaing moved the Foot Print on the stone at the edge of the Hill to present site. In doing so, little toe was accidentally broken. He substituted a gold toe in it.

It is interesting to learn that places' and monuments' names are associated with their natural environment and legends. Thus the hills around the upper Pada Zedi were named after saint monk Thisarbanda. It is said in the legend that he in his previous existence was a hunter on this Hill Range. So the hill near the Pada Zedi is now called "Mokesoe Taung" [Hunter's Hill] down below is another hill where the hunter used to make leather out of the games he captured is now called "Thayey Kyet Taung" [Leather Making Hill]. To the right of the Hunter's Hill there is an enormous stone on which the hunter often knelt down to watch games. It has little pools of spring water which people believe is therapeutic to cure all eye diseases.

The long on foot journey to the Hill Range has many rest stations bearing land mark names- about 7 miles away to the west of Saku Town, there was a forest in which the hunter chase wild rabbits. It is now called "Yone Kyi Taw" [Look out for wild rabbits]. Little white pieces of stone about the size cooked rice on the Range are believed to be the remains of the Buddha's alms food and rice grains from his mouth when he cleaned his mouth with water. The last station at the descent of the Range is named "The Hunter with his archer descent" station. There is a natural cavern near Ahtet Set Taw yar Zedi. It is said the famous beautiful Queen Shin Bo Mei took refuge in that cave for sometimes and she and her maids were engaged in weaving in that cave. Today Myanmar women visit it to pray that they could master weaving. The Man Chaung brook encircles the Hill Range three times and touches at three places.

There are two stone inscriptions, though they are not original, they contain reliable data about the history of the Hill Range, and the monuments on it. They are (1) Stone Inscription of Set Tawyar Phayar and (2) Shwe Set Taw Tazaung Stone Inscription. They recorded religious dedications of kings, monks and people with dates and data- King Kyanzittha [M.E 427] , King Alaung Sithu [M.E 485 and 512], King Narapatisithu [M.E 545] of Bagan dynasty, King Min Khaung I [M.E 767] and King Min Khaung II [M.E 847] of Inwa dynasty donated glebe lands and pagoda slaves to take care of the monuments. In the second Stone Inscription were recorded the building tazaungs [covered cause ways] on the Range and glebe lands.

Successive Myanmar kings issued royal orders making the Hill Range and the forests "Abaya thana" [No danger zone] or sanctuaries.

Man Set Tawyar festivals is the long lasting festival. It begins yearly in mid February when Nga Htway [River cat fishes] start visiting Kyaung Taw yar Zedi via the River Ayeyawaddy. Where they come from when the festival begins and where they return to, after the festival, nobody knows. They are of different sizes, so tamed that you may call them to come to you and stroke and touch them, embrace them to feed balls of cooked rice. World environmentalists go there to see this amazing phenomenon at yearly festival of Kyaung taw yar Pagoda. From Kyaung taw yar festival, you may stretch out your legs by any land vehicles to visit Minbu Hill Range and Pada Zedis. Man Set taw yar festival lasts from February to the last days of Thingyan, New Year festival in April.

It is the festival for pilgrims, visitors, tourists, merchants, businessmen and local petty traders. Around the hills and on Man Chaung stream are built makeshift hotels of bamboo, thatch and leaves, with modern facilities especially for foreign tourists. Bazaars and stalls sell day and night anything and everything that is saleable. Cool, clear and believed to be therapeutic running water of Man Chaung stream is very inviting at least a brief dip in it, for cleaning your physical body and cleansing your mind from all worries and sins.

But this peaceful brook may turn into the River of No Return, when unex-pected heavy rain storm arises and in no time avalanches of aquatic bodies from all hills come down, creating cruel crushing waves and whirlpools causing tragic casualties. Today weather forecast stations are installed and there are early warnings.

You can fly to Magway airport and take any vehicle to Sagu town to proceed to the Hill Range or take a long lazy riverine trip up to Lei Kaing Kyaung Taw Yar, to have fun with pilgrim fishes, and from there go to Minbu Hill Range. On return, to save time, take a direct flight from Magway airport to Mandalay, or Nay Pyi Taw or Yangon international airports. In the British colonial days, glob-trotters and researchers took the labour of visiting these places, despite difficult transportation and they left their travelogues, with the remark that their arduous journey was rewarding.

Sailing Championship (Pre-SEA Games) continues

Nay Pyi Taw, 7 April— The 2013 Myanmar National Open Sailing Championship (Pre-SEA Games) continued today at Ngwehsaung Beach in Ngwehsaung Sub-Township of Pathein District in Ayeyawady Region.

The Championship included Optimist Overall, Optimist Girls, International 420 Overall, RS One (Under 16), RS One (Under 19), RS One Overall, Half Rater, Laser Standard and Laser Radial.

Ten managers and thirty-seven athletes from host Myanmar, one manager and eight athletes from Singapore, one manager and ten athletes from Thailand, five managers and eleven athletes from the Republic of Indonesia, six managers and nineteen athletes from Malaysia and one athlete from the Republic of India totaling 189 athletes are taking part in the event. The prize awarding ceremony and dinner will be held tomorrow.

The Championship is a warming up for the coming SEA Games.—*MNA*

MPF launches emergency, complaint-handling phone lines

Nay Pyi Taw, 7 April—Myanmar Police Force under the Ministry of Home Affairs has put hot lines into place at Myanmar Police Force HQ and region/state police stations to enable the public to submit tip-offs and complaints over illegal acts, misappropriation and corruption.

The public may reach the numbers for their information and complaints but are requested to avoid manners causing disruptions to these phone lines.

Myanmar Police Force HQ, Nay Pyi Taw Police Force, Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Mon, Rakhine and Shan State Police Forces, Sagaing, Taninthayi, Bago, Magway, Mandalay, Yangon and Ayeyawady Region Police Forces, Offices of Commanders of East, West, South and North District Police Commanders in Yangon Region, No (1) Police Station in Taunggyi, Office of Deputy Commander of State Police Force in Lashio, and Kengtung Police Station in Kengtung have emergency numbers of 199.

Phone numbers receiving complaints from the public are Myanmar Police Force HQ (067-412222 and 067-412444), Nay Pyi Taw Police Force (067-550333), Kachin State Police Force (074-21444), Kayin State Police Force (058-23355), Sagaing Region Police Force (071-24996), Taninthayi Region Police Force (059-23998), Bago Region Police Force (052-23999), Magway Region Police Force (063-28099), Mandalay Region Police Force (02-61444), Mon State Police Force (057-24987), Rakhine State Police Force (043-22833), Yangon Region Police Force (01-2302199), Shan State Police Force (081-2125455) and Ayeyawady Region Police Force (042-23844).

MNA

WORLD

Toyota taking on rivals with cost efficiency, new designs

Toyota Motor Corp President Akio Toyoda speaks at a ceremony to celebrate production of its fully remodeled Crown luxury sedan at the carmaker's Motomachi plant in the city of Toyota, Aichi Prefecture, on 17 Jan, 2013. KYODO NEWS

NAGOYA, 7 April—Having drawn lessons from a series of predicaments since the 2008 global economic downturn, Toyota Motor Corp is focusing on lowering its production costs worldwide and improving its competitiveness in product design as it faces intense competition from overseas rivals.

"We are finally getting out of a long tunnel after the Lehman shock," Akio Toyoda, President of the Nagoya-based automaker, told some 230 graduates of the Toyota Technical Skills Academy in February, a training institute within the company.

But Toyoda has repeatedly warned against complacency even after his firm regained the world's top position in new vehicle sales in 2012. In 2008, Toyota surpassed General Motors Co in sales to become the top seller for the first time. But its reign was short-lived.

Sales soon plunged in the wake of the global economic slowdown triggered by the collapse of the Lehman Brothers Holdings Inc. Toyoda, a scion of the automaker's founding family, had to deal with a massive recall in the United States shortly after becoming the president in June 2009.

The company's hardship was compounded by natural disasters. The March 2011 earthquake and tsunami devastated northeastern Japan and caused a disruption to the supply chain of Toyota and other Japanese automakers, and massive flooding in Thailand severely hit its parts suppliers there months later, prolonging production cutbacks.—*Kyodo News*

South Africa's Mandela leaves hospital after pneumonia

JOHANNESBURG, 7 April—Former South African President Nelson Mandela left hospital on Saturday after more than a week of treatment of pneumonia that raised global concern about the health of the 94-year-old anti-apartheid leader.

"(He) has been discharged from hospital today ... following a sustained and gradual improvement in his general condition," the South African Presidency said in a statement.

A military ambulance pulled into Mandela's spacious Johannesburg home before the statement was released. The Presidency said Mandela, who spent about 10 days in hospital, would receive further medical care at his residence.

This was the third health scare in four months for the Nobel Peace Prize laureate, who became South Africa's first black president in 1994 and who is a global symbol of tolerance and the struggle for equality.

He was in hospital briefly in early March for a check-up and was hospitalized in December for nearly three weeks with a lung infection and after surgery to remove gallstones.

Mandela stepped down as president in 1999 and has not been politically active for a decade. But he is still revered at home and abroad for leading the long campaign against apartheid and then championing racial reconciliation while in office.

His lung problems date from when he contracted tuberculosis as a political prisoner. He spent 27 years on Robben Island and in other jails for trying to oust the white-minority government.—*Reuters*

An ambulance believed to be transporting former South African President Nelson Mandela arrives at his house in Houghton on 6 April, 2013.—REUTERS

Two new bird flu cases in China amid poultry crackdown

SHANGHAI, 7 April—Two more people have contracted bird flu in Shanghai, China's health ministry said on Saturday, as authorities closed live poultry markets and culled birds to combat a new virus strain that has killed six people.

State-run *Xinhua* news agency said authorities planned to slaughter birds at two live poultry markets in Shanghai and another in Hangzhou after new samples of the H7N9 virus were detected in birds at the three sites.

More than 20,000 birds have been culled at another Shanghai market where traces of the virus were found this week.

Officials in Shanghai, China's financial hub, closed all the city's live poultry markets on Saturday, emptying food stalls.

All poultry trading was banned in Nanjing, another eastern Chinese city, although local officials said they had not found any trace of the bird flu virus and declared that chicken on the retail market was safe to eat, official media reported.

The new strain of bird flu has infected 18 people in China, all in the east. Six people have died in an outbreak that has spread concern overseas.

The World Health Organization (WHO) said that 10 infected people were severe cases and two were mild cases. It reiterated there was no evidence of ongoing human-to-human transmission of the virus.

"More than 530 close contacts of the confirmed cases are being closely monitored. In Jiangsu, investigation is ongoing into a contact of an earlier confirmed case who developed symptoms of illness," the Geneva-based WHO said in a statement on Saturday.—*Reuters*

Shanghai municipal government holds a news conference about prevention and control on H7N9 bird flu, in Shanghai, on 5 April, 2013.—REUTERS

Portugal ruling poses difficulties for bailout goals

Marques Guedes, Portugal's State Secretary for Cabinet Matters, prepares to make a statement to the media after a cabinet meeting in Lisbon on 6 April, 2013.—REUTERS

LISBON, 7 April—Portugal's government said on Saturday the constitutional court's rejection of key austerity measures from this year's budget creates "serious difficulties" in meeting international commitments under a bailout.

Following an extraordinary cabinet meeting after the court ruling late on Friday, State Secretary for Cabinet Affairs Luis Marques Guedes told reporters the decision "jeopardizes the country's hard-earned credibility" gained with its European partners and lenders.

Marques Guedes said Prime Minister Pedro Passos Coelho will meet President Anibal Cavaco Silva to discuss the "complex situation" after the court's ruling, which the government has said it would accept.

The constitutional court on Friday rejected four out of nine contested austerity measures in this year's budget in a ruling that deals a heavy blow to government finances. Still, analysts say the rejection should not provoke a governability crisis and expect replacement measures to be found with the European Union and International Monetary Fund.

The government would not provide estimates for how much the rejected measures are worth, but analysts have said at least around 900 million euros ($1.17 billion) in net revenues and savings are compromised.—*Reuters*

Nepali wrongly jailed in Japan issues book on his ordeal this month

KATHMANDU, 7 April—A book chronicling the wrongful imprisonment of a Nepali man in Japan and the suffering it caused him and his family will be released in Nepal in late April, publishing sources said on Saturday.

In the book, Govinda Prasad Mainali, who was freed from a Yokohama prison last June after 15 years of incarceration for the murder of a Japanese woman wrongly blamed on him, will lay bare for the first time in his own words the circumstances leading to his arrest, a run of bad luck that put the blame for the murder on him and his mistreatment during interrogation and imprisonment.

The book highlights instances in which he was pushed, pulled, and dragged during some of the 40 interrogation sessions he faced while in custody and other instances of verbal abuse he faced while in prison, the sources say.

Kyodo News

Provincial governor escapes suicide attack in S Afghanistan

QALAT, (Afghanistan) 7 April—The governor of southern Afghan Province of Zabul escaped a suicide attack in the Provincial capital of Qalat which left the suicide bomber and another dead on Saturday, spokesman for provincial administration Sharif Nasiri said.

"A terrorist with explosive device strapped on his body blew himself up next to the provincial governor while he was visiting patients in a hospital in Qalat city, leaving a doctor dead and injuring a bodyguard of the governor," Nasiri told *Xinhua*, adding the governor escaped unhurt and he is safe and sound.— *Xinhua*

An Afghan policeman stands guard near the blast site in Qalat, capital city of Zabul Province, south Afghanistan, on 6 April, 2013.—XINHUA

REGIONAL

Japan gov't eyeing cash benefits for people in disaster-hit areas

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe (front C) is briefed on 6 April, 2013, by Masanori Yamamoto (front R), mayor of the city of Miyako, Iwate Prefecture, at a levee in the Toro area of the city that was heavily damaged by the March 2011 earthquake and tsunami.
KYODO NEWS

YAMADA, (Japan), 7 April—Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said on Saturday he will consider by next fall whether to provide cash benefits to people living in areas devastated by the 2011 earthquake and tsunami and rebuilding houses.

"We will carry out mortgage tax breaks nationwide. But I'm thinking about specially providing extra for victims of the disaster," Abe told reporters in the town of Yamada, Iwate Prefecture. "I will consider the benefits by next fall."

The possibility of providing special benefits comes as the consumption tax in Japan, currently standing at 5 percent, is set to be raised to 8 percent in April 2014 and 10 percent in October 2015.

Abe made the remarks after receiving a request from people in the northeastern city that the tax rate should remain unchanged for victims of the disaster rebuilding their houses.

Earlier in the day, Abe visited Miyako, another city in Iwate Prefecture, and surveyed the current situation from atop a 10-metre coastal levee."I will do my utmost to reconstruct housing and the community," said Abe, who was on his fifth trip to disaster-ravaged areas since assuming the premiership in December.

Kyodo News

Campaigning for Nagoya mayoral race begins

NAGOYA, 7 April—Official campaigning for the Nagoya mayoral election started on Sunday, with three candidates, including incumbent Takashi Kawamura, entering the field.

Kawamura is up against Tamio Shibata, a 48-year-old former part-time lecturer at Aichi University of Education who is backed by the Japanese Communist Party, and Tadamasa Fujisawa, a 43-year-old former city assembly member who is supported by the Aichi prefectural chapters of the Liberal Democratic Party and the Democratic Party of Japan.

Kawamura, 64, pushed through a 5 percent municipal income tax cut and, if elected, aims to increase this to 10 percent but his rivals argue the tax cut should be annulled.

Voters go to the polls on 21 April.

Kawamura, a former House or Representatives member, became Nagoya's mayor in 2009 and heads a local political party called Tax Cut Japan.

He resigned in January 2011 in the midst of a stormy confrontation with the municipal assembly over his tax cut plan. He ran again and was reelected mayor in February that year.

Kyodo News

Rescuers get out of a mine shaft of a flooded coal mine in Weng'an County, southwest China's Guizhou Province, on 6 April, 2013. Nine miners were trapped underground and 32 others were lifted out of the mine shaft safely after a flooding occurred at the Yunda Coal Mine on early Saturday morning.—XINHUA

Chinese President delivers message of peace, openness

BOAO, (Hainan), 7 April —Chinese President Xi Jinping promised China's contribution to peace and development of Asia and the world at an international forum here on Sunday.

China will vigorously promote development and prosperity in both Asia and the world, Xi said when delivering a keynote speech at the opening ceremony of the Boao Forum for Asia (BFA) Annual Conference 2013 held in Boao, a coastal town in south China's Hainan Province.

This is the first time Xi, who became Chinese President in March, has attended a multilateral diplomatic meeting in China.

"The more China grows itself, the more development opportunities it will create for the rest of Asia and the world," Xi said.

In the coming five years, the country's imports will reach about 10 trillion US dollars and its outbound investment will reach 500 billion dollars, according to the president.

The number of its outbound tourists may exceed 400 million, he said.

President Xi also pledged that the country will continue to "properly handle differences and frictions" with relevant nations.

While upholding its sovereignty, security and territorial integrity, China will maintain good relations with its neighbours and overall peace and stability in the region, he said.

"Countries, whether big or small, strong or weak, rich or poor, should all contribute their share in maintaining and enhancing peace," Xi said.

No one should be allowed to throw a region, even the whole world, into chaos for selfish gains, he said.

Although growing interactions inevitably lead to frictions, it is important that countries resolve differences through dialogue in the larger interest of the sound growth of their relations, he said.

China will increase connectivity with its neighbours, including building a regional financing platform and advancing economic integration within Asia, he said.

The President also pledged that China will promote trade and investment liberalization and facilitation, step up bilateral investment and explore new cooperation areas with other countries. As a non-governmental and non-profit international organization founded in 2001, the BFA works to promote regional economic integration and bring Asian countries closer to their development goals. The 2013 forum focuses on the theme of "Asia Seeking Development for All: Restructuring, Responsibility and Cooperation."

Xinhua

Chinese President Xi Jinping delivers a keynote speech at the opening ceremony of the Boao Forum for Asia (BFA) Annual Conference 2013 in Boao, south China's Hainan Province, on 7 April, 2013. —XINHUA

1st batch of Cambodian peacekeepers arrive home from S Sudan

PHNOM PENH, 7 April—The 1st batch of 152 Cambodian troops returned home safely from South Sudan on Saturday after they had completed one-year peacekeeping mission under the framework of the United Nations.

At the Military Airbase in Phnom Penh, the returnees were welcomed by Gen Pol Saroeun, Commander-in-Chief of the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces, and Marc Derveeuw, Coordinator of the United Nations Development Programme to Cambodia, as well as their family members.

Speaking at the homecoming ceremony, Pol Saroeun said the successful mission has not only increased the fame and prestige of Cambodia's armed forces, but also brought good reputation to the people of Cambodia as a whole.

"This time is also the same as the previous ones since they come back with the same number as they left," he said.

Marc Derveeuw, coordinator of the United Nations Development Programme to Cambodia, said that South Sudan is a new country still finding its feet in the world. Permanent peace and stability are still a long way off and uncertainty and danger are often real and present.

The return of the 1st batch was made after the 2nd group of 152 left the country to replace them on Thursday.—*Xinhua*

The first batch of 152 Cambodian troops attend a welcome ceremony upon their arrival from South Sudan, in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, on 6 April, 2013. The first batch of 152 Cambodian troops returned home safely from South Sudan on Saturday after they had completed one-year peacekeeping mission under the framework of the United Nations. —XINHUA

Singapore issues advisory for travellers back from China's bird flu-affected provinces

SINGAPORE, 7 April—Singapore's health ministry on Saturday issued an advisory for travellers returning from China's bird flu-hit provinces to look out for certain symptoms, though it fell short of advising against travelling to these provinces.

The ministry said that travellers who have gone to Shanghai, Anhui, Jiangsu and Zhejiang should look out for symptoms of respiratory illness, such as fever and cough.

They are advised to seek early medical attention if ill with such symptoms and inform doctors of their travel history.

The ministry also advised travellers to the affected areas in China to remain vigilant, observe good personal hygiene, and try to avoid direct contact with poultry, birds or their droppings.

China has reported 16 cases of human infections with H7N9, including six deaths, in Shanghai, Anhui, Jiangsu and Zhejiang.

Xinhua

ADVERTISEMENT & GENERAL

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FAA to delay planned closure of air traffic towers

The air traffic control tower is shown at the Ramona Airport in Ramona, California on 12 March, 2013.
Reuters

Washington, 7 April— Putting off one of the most high-profile consequences of the broad US "sequester" budget cuts, the Federal Aviation Administration on Friday delayed plans to close air-traffic control towers at 149 smaller airports.

The FAA, which oversees the nation's air-traffic system, said it would keep funding the towers until 15 June in order to resolve legal challenges brought by airports.

"This has been a complex process and we need to get this right," Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood said in a prepared statement.

The tower closures had prompted a fierce backlash from industry groups and some lawmakers, who accused the Obama administration of jeopardizing air safety in order to build political pressure to rescind $85 billion in spending cuts, known as the sequester, that kicked in on 1 March.

The FAA must trim roughly 10 percent of its budget by the end of the 30 September fiscal year. The tower closures, which would have started on Sunday, were part of that effort.

With the towers closed, pilots at those facilities would have to coordinate takeoffs and landings on their own.

The FAA said the decision would not compromise safety because the smaller airports handle only about 1 percent of commercial air traffic.

But industry officials said the FAA's decision would inevitably create more safety risks by removing much-needed supervisors where all sorts of aircraft, from propeller-driven student planes to military jets, share the same airspace. Several airports filed legal challenges arguing that the FAA had bypassed its own safety and environmental review process.

"For us, it really is good news. We've got some time to continue to work out the problem," said Spokane, Washington, airport manager Larry Krauter, who was one of the first to take legal action.—*Reuters*

US food company gets four-million-dollar penalty for ammonia accidents

Houston, 7 April— US food company Tyson Foods has reached a nearly-4-million-dollar settlement with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to settle alleged violations of the Clean Air Act regulations on ammonia refrigeration systems at 23 facilities in four states, it was announced on Friday.

The EPA said in a release that the settlement is a result of eight separate incidents between 2006 and 2010, in which anhydrous ammonia was accidentally released at various Tyson plants, resulting in one fatality, multiple injuries and property damage, according to a report on the news website Arkansasonline.com.

The agency said that it found multiple occasions of non-compliance with the Clean Air Act's chemical accident- prevention provisions. Failure to follow the general industry standards to test or replace safety valves and improperly co-located gas-fired boilers were among the violations cited by the EPA.

The settlement agreement requires Tyson to pay a civil penalty of 3.95 million US dollars and create a special program for meeting risk management programme requirements of the federal Clean Air Act, according to the report.

The company also is required to spend at least 300,000 dollars to purchase anhydrous ammonia-related emergency response equipment for fire departments in eight communities.

Tyson Foods, based in Springdale, Arkansas, is the country's leading processor and marketer of chicken, beef and pork.

Anhydrous ammonia is considered a poisonous gas, but is commonly used in industrial refrigeration systems. Exposure to its vapors can cause temporary blindness and eye damage, and irritation of the skin, mouth, throat, respiratory tract and mucous membranes. Prolonged exposure to the vapor at high concentrations can lead to serious lung damage and death.

Xinhua

Boeing conducts test flight for new 787 battery system

New York, 7 April— Boeing Co said on Friday that it made the final test flight of its *787 Dreamliner* to demonstrate the new battery system as a part of a certification test for the Federal Aviation Administration in the US. "Today's flight marks the final certification test for the new battery system, completing the testing required by the US Federal Aviation Administration," Boeing Spokesperson Marc Birtel said in a Press release following the flight.

The company said that the flight was "uneventful" and "the certification demonstration plan was straightforward." US authorities have grounded the worldwide fleet of 50 *Boeing 787s* since one of them operated by All Nippon Airways Co made an emergency landing on 16 January at Takamatsu Airport in western Japan due to smoke in the cockpit, nine days after the battery fire occurred on one of Japan Airlines Co's *Dreamliners* at Boston's Logan International Airport.—*Xinhua*

Cambodian PM heads to China for Boao Forum, official visit

Phnom Penh, 7 April —Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen, accompanied by a group of senior government officials and businesspeople, on Saturday left for China to attend the 2013 Boao Forum for Asia in Hainan Province and for an official visit.

According to the schedule, the Premier will deliver a speech at the opening ceremony of the Boao Forum for Asia Annual Conference 2013 on Sunday, Sry Thamarong, Minister attached to Prime Minister Hun Sen, told reporters at Phnom Penh International Airport before the departure. After that, he will pay a courtesy call on Chinese President Xi Jinping. On the sidelines of the forum, Hun Sen will also meet with Australian Prime Minister Julia Gillard.

After the forum, Prime Minister Hun Sen will head to Beijing for an official visit on 8 April. In Beijing, the premier will hold an official talk with Chinese Premier Li Keqiang.

"Eight documents will be signed by the two sides, focusing cooperation in banking, social and economic development, infrastructure development, irrigation system development, and education," Sry Thamarong said.

He said two important agreements among the eight documents are the action plan on the implementation of the China-Cambodia Comprehensive Strategic Partnership of Cooperation and the Memorandum of Understanding on the 5 million tons oil refinery project among China Development Bank, China Export and Credit Insurance Corporation, China Perfect Machinery Industry Corporation and Cambodian Petrochemical Company in the investment amount of 1.67 billion US dollars.

At the end of the visit, both sides will agree to mark the year 2013 as the 55th anniversary of the establishment of the diplomatic relationship between China and Cambodia and the "China- Cambodia Friendship Year". In Beijing, Hun Sen will also pay separate courtesy calls on Zhang Dejiang, chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress of China, and former Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao, said Sry Thamarong.

Xinhua

Britain says believes "terrorists" planning attacks in Mogadishu

London, 7 April—- Britain said on Friday it feared imminent terrorist attacks in the Somali capital Mogadishu, in an update of its advice for travellers to the east African country.

Britain's Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) already advises against any travel to any part of Somalia. "Our advice makes clear that there continues to be a high threat from terrorism and that the FCO believes that terrorists are in the final stages of planning attacks in Mogadishu," the Foreign Office said in a statement.

It gave no further details about who Britain believed might commit the attacks or where its information came from.

Security in Mogadishu has improved since Islamist group al Shabaab fled the city after a military offensive in August 2011. But bombings and assassinations are still frequent.

On Tuesday a bomb exploded in Mogadishu outside the headquarters of Somalia's biggest bank, wounding at least two people, hours after members of al Shabaab ordered the company to cease operations in areas under their control.—*Reuters*

***A general view of Somalia's capital of Mogadishu on 8 Dec, 2012.*—Reuters**

Angelina Jolie opens school in Afghanistan

Angelina Jolie is known for her charity work.

LOS ANGELES, 7 April—Hollywood actress Angelina Jolie has reportedly opened a school in Afghanistan through her newly-established foundation — The Education Partnership for Children of Conflict.

The 37-year-old has funded the girls educational establishment that caters to about 200 to 300 students. The school is located just outside Kabul and the actress hopes it will be the first of many schools she sets up.

Jolie is also planning to fund more schools by selling her own self-designed accessories collection, the Style of Jolie, to retail stores for the first time with 100 percent profits going to her foundation.

"Beyond enjoying the artistic satisfaction of designing these jewels, we are inspired by knowing that our work is also serving the mutual goal of providing for children in need," femalefirst.co.uk quoted Jolie as saying. The actress, who is also United Nations Goodwill Ambassador, is known for her charity work. Last year, Jolie was left in tears after visiting a Syrian refugee camp.—*PTI*

Justin Bieber and Selena Gomez

Selena Gomez orders Justin Bieber to delete documentary footage of her

LOS ANGELES, 7 April—Selena Gomez has ordered Justin Bieber to remove all footage of her from his upcoming documentary.

The Spring Breakers actress — who split from the 19-year-old Canadian popstar earlier this year after two years — is worried he will include her in the sequel to his hugely successful 3D movie Never Say Never, which is expected to be released around Christmas.

A source told HollywoodLife.com that the 20-year-old brunette beauty "texted Justin, flipping out" when a friend told her she is likely to be featured because his team has been recording footage for about a year. *The insider* claimed that Selena "just wants to move on" and "she made it clear that she does not want to be in the movie, DVD extras or anything at all."

A friend close to Selena also hit back at reports blaming her for Justin's recent bad behaviour and insisted she hasn't been sending him mixed messages by texting him on a regular basis.

The source said: "[Justin] just bugs the s*** out of [Selena] and the only reason she picks up her phone is because it's easier than dealing with harassment.

"It's so typical that a man would blame a woman for the fact that he's ruining his life and it's sexist stupidity."

PTI

Richie Sambora will not be performing during the current leg of the band's Because We Can tour.

Why Richie Sambora quit Bon Jovi world tour

LOS ANGELES, 7 April—Richie Sambora allegedly quit Bon Jovi's world tour because of tensions between him and frontman Jon Bon Jovi.

The 53-year-old guitarist — who previously confirmed he bowed out of their current tour because of "personal issues" after failing to perform at their latest gig in Calgary, Canada last night (02.04.13) — is not struggling with substance abuse issues and quit because he was fed up of how he was being treated by Jon, according to sources.

The insiders told gossip website TMZ.com that tensions between the duo exploded recently and one described it as a "classic Jagger/Richards blowup". The main reason for the tension is allegedly money.

During the Calgary concert, Jon told the crowd: "I had two choices: pack up and go home or give you everything I got ... Richie Sambora won't be performing for a while. If there's ever a night I need you, it's tonight, Calgary!"

The band's team hope they will reconcile their differences before the band play in Los Angeles on 19 April.

Richie — who has battled alcohol addiction in the past — has been spending his downtime with her daughter Ava, 15, and they enjoyed a trip to Hawaii last week. In 2011 Richie was left out of dates on the band's touring schedule to attend rehab but sources close to him insist he is still clean.—*PTI*

SPORTS

Sparkling Bayern win Bundesliga in record time

BERLIN, 7 April—Bayern Munich won their 23rd German league title in record time on Saturday by winning 1-0 at Eintracht Frankfurt to open up an unassailable 20-point lead with six games remaining.

The Bavarians ended the two-year reign of Borussia Dortmund by clinching a 22nd Bundesliga title faster than any club in the league's 50-year history.

Bastian Schweinsteiger flicked the ball into the net with a neat backheel in the 52nd minute to lift Bayern to 75 points ahead of second-placed Dortmund, who beat Augsburg 4-2.

"It's a fantastic moment and I'm winning a league title after 23 years again," said coach Jupp Heynckes, who guided Bayern to the championship in 1989 and 1990 during his first stint as coach.

"I have won a few championships in my time as player and coach but never when it was still that cold," he said of the fastest title win in Bundesliga history.

"My players are now harvesting all the work they put in throughout the year. They put into action exactly what I told them."

Heynckes will make way for Spaniard Pep Guardiola at the end of the season by which time Bayern, who are chasing an unprecedented treble for a German club, might have added the Champions League and domestic Cup trophies.

Fresh from a 2-0 Champions League quarter-final, first leg victory at home to Juventus, Bayern should have taken the lead much earlier against Frankfurt, with Xherdan Shaqiri rattling the post with a low shot in the 10th minute.

David Alaba missed a penalty by firing against the same spot 15 minutes later as the visitors showed some nervousness.

But Germany international Schweinsteiger made sure of their 11th straight league win this year with his seventh goal of the campaign, turning in a superb Philipp Lahm cross after the fullback's burst down the right wing.—*Reuters*

Bayern Munich's players celebrate after winning their German first division Bundesliga soccer match against Eintracht Frankfurt and the German soccer Championships in Frankfurt, on 6 April, 2013.—REUTERS

Quintana fends off favourites in Tour of Basque Country

BEASAIN, (Spain), 7 April—Colombia's Nairo Quintana fended off overwhelming favourite Richie Porte of Australia to take a surprise overall win in the Tour of the Basque Country on Saturday.

The 23-year-old Movistar rider finished second in the final, hilly individual 24-kilometre time trial at Beasain, 17 seconds down on world champion Tony Martin which was enough for Quintana to claim the biggest win of his career.

Paris-Nice winner Porte, victorious on Friday's mountain stage, was a below-expectations fourth in the time trial, 40 seconds behind German Martin, and had to settle for second overall, 23 seconds adrift of Quintana in the final standings.

Porte's Sky team mate and former race leader Sergio Luis Henao of Colombia dropped to third at 34 seconds. "I've been looking for a big win like this since Paris-Nice," Quintana told reporters. "I don't know if you can call this (victory) a surprise.

"This time trial definitely suited me, with so many hilly sections, and I've been gambling on a good performance here all week.

Reuters

Colombia es Pasion's cyclist Nairo Quintana celebrates on the podium after the seventh and final stage of the Tour of Catalunya cycling race in Barcelona on 27 March, 2011.
REUTERS

Serena crushes Venus in Charleston semi-final

CHARLESTON, (South Carolina) 7 April—World number one Serena William breezed past older sister Venus 6-1, 6-2 in their first meeting since 2009 in the semi-finals of the Family Circle Cup in Charleston, South Carolina on Saturday.

Serena, who won her fifth match in a row against Venus, will face former number one Jelena Jankovic of Serbia in Sunday's final as she goes for her third Family Circle title.

Jankovic outlasted Switzerland's Stefanie Voegele 6-4, 6-7, 6-2 in a much tougher encounter lasting two hours and eight minutes. Serena, 31, needed only 22 minutes to take the first set against the fifth seed Venus, delivering eight winners to zero unforced errors.

She then completed the 54-minute straight-set victory over 32-year-old Venus to prevail for the 14th time in 24 matches against her sister.

"Venus has had a great week, and honestly, if she hadn't had to play so many matches, it would have been a much tougher match," Serena told reporters.

The semi-final came a day after both had played third-round and quarter-final matches on Friday because of rain delays earlier in the week. "She'll never admit it, but I don't think she was 100 percent," Serena said. "But you will never get that out of her.

"And quite frankly, three matches for her is much tougher than three matches for me. It's definitely not easy — because I'm struggling, and I can't imagine what she must be feeling."

Venus was playing in her second Premier-level semi-final since returning from her seven-month illness lay-off in March last year.

"I felt pretty good actually — it would have been nicer to have more space between the matches, but it did not work out," she said.

Jankovic, 28, gave the 63rd ranked Voegele hope after losing the second set tie-break before stepping on the gas in the final set, winning the last four games for the victory.

Reuters

Serena Williams

Park fires into lead of Kraft Nabisco Championship

SAN FRANCISCO, 7 April—South Korean Inbee Park fired a five-under 67 to surge into a one-shot lead after the second round of the Kraft Nabisco Championship, the first major of the women's golf season on Friday.

The 2008 US Open champion notched six birdies and just a lone bogey to move to seven-under for the tournament at Mission Hills Country Club in Rancho Mirage California, one clear of American Lizette Salas.

"I'm very happy with my play today on a tough golf course I think I handled myself very well especially with the wind," Park told reporters.

"The back nine was pretty tough but I hit the ball where I wanted to and I putted very well today so that's why I got a good score today.

"I'm really excited that I could play for a win this weekend," she added.

"That's just something really special but I'm not trying to think too far ahead, there are two more rounds so hopefully I can do my best and it's going to be enough."

Sweden's Caroline Hedwall (68) and Italian Giulia Sergas (69) share third at five-under.

Salas enjoyed plenty of local support and managed five birdies to one bogey as she stayed on the heels of Park.

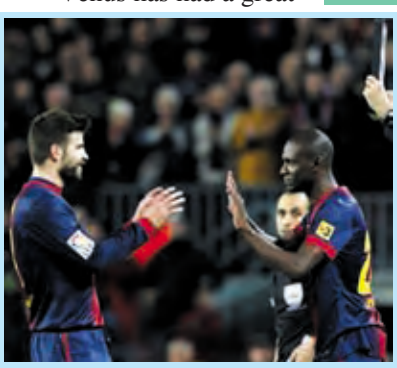
Salas has three top-10 finishes this season and is hoping to ride her form to a maiden major championship.

"I'm very pleased. I've been pleased with my ball striking all week," she said.

"I missed a few short putts on the front nine and I knew the wind was going to kick in on my back nine so I just really tried to stay patient and focus on dialing in those irons.

"I'm looking forward to more birdies. It's nice to be in contention at a major but I can only take it one shot at a time."—*Reuters*

Inbee Park of South Korea tees off on the 17th hole during the second round of the Kraft Nabisco Championship LPGA golf tournament in Rancho Mirage, California, on 5 April, 2013.—REUTERS



Barcelona's player Eric Abidal (R) replaces Gerard Pique against Mallorca during their Spanish First division soccer league match at Camp Nou stadium in Barcelona, on 6 April, 2013.
REUTERS

Abidal makes emotional return for Barcelona

BARCELONA, 7 April—Eric Abidal returned to competitive action for the first time since a liver transplant in April last year when he came on for the final 20 minutes of Barcelona's 5-0 La Liga win over Real Mallorca on Saturday.

The 33-year-old former France defender, who was passed fit to return to training with his team mates last month, is a huge favourite with the Barca fans and was greeted with a rousing ovation when he replaced Gerard Pique in the 70th minute.

In a pitch-side television interview with Spanish broadcaster Canal Plus, Abidal thanked the cousin who provided part of his liver for the procedure.

"It was a very special moment for me after a year out," said Abidal, wearing a shirt with 'Merci mon cousin' on the front.

"I want to thank my cousin as without him I would not be here today. It is a unique moment," he added.

Abidal's return is well timed as Barca centre backs Carles Puyol and Javier Mascherano and full back Adriano are all out injured at a critical stage of the season.

Reuters

GENERAL

People participate in the pillow fight at the Nathan Phillips Square in Toronto, Canada, on 6 April, 2013. XINHUA

Private gold sales mitigate public sector purchases, bringing down price

DUBAI, 7 April—The gold price fell nearly to a one- year-low in the first week of April as private sales of the yellow metal mitigated buying from public sectors worldwide, said Dubai's first bank Emirates NBD.

The gold price fell over by 15 US dollars on Friday, standing at 1,582 dollars, 0.93 percent down from last week. "It is rather disturbing to see how easy and with no visible resistance the mark of 1,550 dollars would be broken," noted Gerhard Schubert, head of the banks' precious metals department.

Despite the increase in war rhetoric on the Korean peninsula and uncertainty over the latest talks between the world powers and Iran on the latter's nuclear enrichment, stocks were still favoured over the safe haven gold, said Schubert.

He added that "It appears that some constituents of the investment community have shifted, or are still looking to execute changes to their asset allocation, away from precious metals and mostly into equities."

Government spending cuts ("sequester cuts") in the United States, which were enforced by law after the government and opposition in congress failed to agree on a federal budget, could lead to a slowdown of the world's biggest economy in the second half of 2013, according to Schubert.

In addition, the eurozone's efforts to tackle the sovereign debt crisis would not reach momentum before Germany's elections in September, triggering a "wait-and-see"-attitude among the hedge funds when it comes to gold, said Schubert. Nevertheless, one door was still open for upwards dynamics as " the important Chinese physical markets were closed during the latter part of last week," he noted, adding that it would be interesting to see how the Chinese consumers react once the markets reopen on Monday.

The recent outbreak of H7N9 avian influenza "is expected to have, together with curbs of the property segment in China, a negative effect on the projected recovery of the economy."—*Xinhua*

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(8-4-13 09:30 am ~ 9-4-13 09:30 am) MST

* News
* "Thingyan Road Trip (2012)"Yangon
* News
* Thingyan Songs & Dances
* News
* First Come first Practice
* Reunion of Scout Association
* News
* "Myanmar Movies Impact" On the shoulder (Part-II)
* News
* Singapore-Myanmar Business forum
* Building a Smart and Connected Myanmar Cisco
* News
* Vanishing Treasure of Myanmar
* News
* First come First Practice
* Reunion of Scout Association
* News
* Aesthetic Chinlone
* Myanmar Movies "Mischievous Destiny"

Myanmar TV

(8-4-2013, Monday)

6:00 am
1. Paritta By Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw

6:30 am
2. To Be Healthy Exercise

6:35 am
3. Dance & Song of National Races

6:45 am
4. Pyi Thu Ni Ti

7:20 am
5. People Talk

8:00 am
6. News
- International News

8:20 am
7. SEA Games Go For Gold (CHINLONE)

8:40 am
8. Dance of Thin Gyan Festival

9:00 am
9. News

9:20 am
10. Cartoon Series

9:45 am
11. TV Drama Series

10:00 am
12. News

10:15 am
13. TV Drama Series

11:00 am
14. New Melody

11:50 am
15. Danec of Thin Gyan Festival

12:00 pm
16. News

12:30 pm
17. Myanmar Move (Part-1)

1:00 pm
18. News

3:15 pm
19. TV Drama Series

4:25 pm
20. Dance & Song of National Races

4:30 pm
21. Univerdity Of Distance Education (TV Lectures)
- Second Year (Botany)

4:50 pm
22. SEA Games Programme (Pencaksilat)

5:30 pm
23. Yaung Aung Thingyan

6:00 pm
24. News

6:20 pm
25. Teleplay (SEA Games)

6:50 pm
26. TV Drama Series

7:00 pm
27. News

7:15 pm
28. TV Drama Series

8:00 pm
29. News
- International News
- Weather Report

8:35 pm
30. People Talk

9:00 pm
31. News
32. Cartoon Series
33. Documentary
34. India Drama Series

Querrey puts US level with Serbia in Davis Cup

BOISE, (Idaho), 7 April—Top American Sam Querrey picked a good time to pull off his first five-set Davis Cup victory when he stopped Victor Troicki 7-6, 3-6, 4-6, 6-1, 6-4 to level the United States' tie against Serbia 1-1.

Querrey's victory boosted the hosts after world number one Novak Djokovic earlier raced past John Isner 7-6, 6-2, 7-5.

Querrey, who just took over the top American ranking last month, looked tired and without confidence after Troicki won the second and third sets.

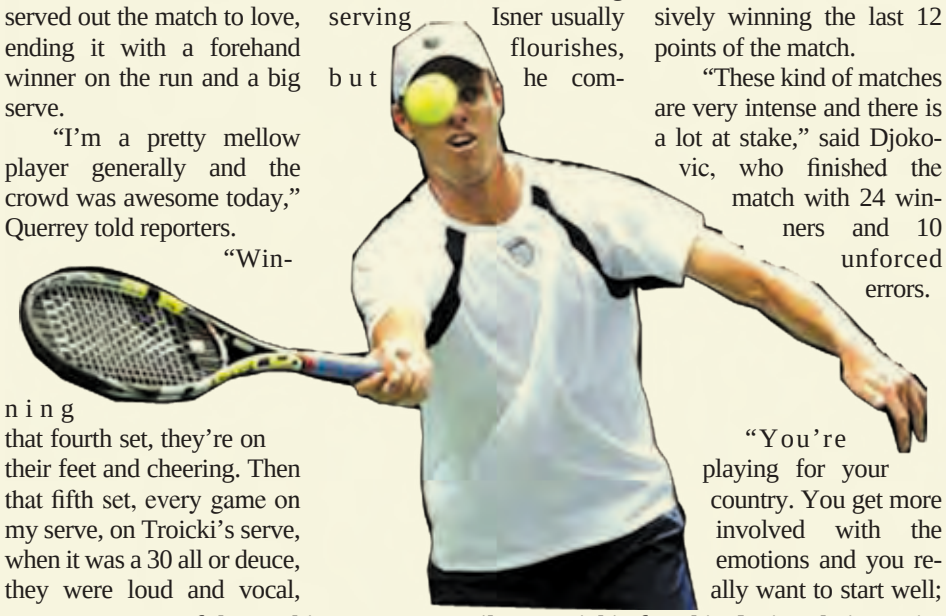
But with the charged-up crowd screaming in his ears, Querrey revived and powered through the fourth set before a tooth and nail battle for the fifth.

Querrey fought off two break points in the fourth game of the deciding set, and then broke the Serbian to 5-4 with a big forehand return that Troicki couldn't lift over the net.

The American then served out the match to love, ending it with a forehand winner on the run and a big serve.

"I'm a pretty mellow player generally and the crowd was awesome today," Querrey told reporters.

"Winning that fourth set, they're on their feet and cheering. Then that fifth set, every game on my serve, on Troicki's serve, when it was a 30 all or deuce, they were loud and vocal, and it helped a lot."



Sam Querrey of the US hits a return to Viktor Troicki of Serbia during their Davis Cup quarter-finals tennis match in Boise, Idaho, on 5 April, 2013.—REUTERS

Djokovic started off slowly against Isner and was broken in the third game when he double faulted twice, but the tall American handed the break back in the sixth game when he committed three straight unforced errors. The two went into a tiebreaker where the big serving Isner usually flourishes, but he committed a key forehand error when serving and went down 2-0.

Djokovic successfully rode the lead to take the tiebreaker 7-5 when he deceived the American with an off-speed serve.

Djokovic played more aggressively after that and flew about the court, decisively winning the last 12 points of the match.

"These kind of matches are very intense and there is a lot at stake," said Djokovic, who finished the match with 24 winners and 10 unforced errors.

"You're playing for your country. You get more involved with the emotions and you really want to start well; you want to bring the first point to Serbia."

Djokovic was not originally scheduled to play doubles on Saturday, but he said he had left open the possibility of teaming with Nenad Zimonjic against the world's top team of Bob and Mike Bryan.—*Reuters*

Nigerian fuel tanker explosion kills at least 36

LAGOS, 7 April—At least 36 people were killed when a fuel tanker exploded after crashing into a crowded bus in southern Nigeria, officials said on Saturday.

The Federal Road Safety Commission said the crash happened on Friday on the Benin-Ore road linking the commercial hub of Lagos with southeast Nigeria. Three people were injured.

Traffic accidents are common in Nigeria, where roads are bad and safety standards poor.

At least 95 people were killed in July last year in southern Nigeria when a petrol tanker crashed and caught fire as people crowded around it to scoop up the fuel.—*Reuters*

French soldiers and Cote d'Ivoire soldiers attend a joint drill ahead of the latters' departure for Mali, in Toumodi, 200 kilometres northwest of Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire, on 6 April, 2013.—XINHUA

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The New Light of Myanmar

Monday, 8 April, 2013

Vice-President U Nyan Tun inspects regional development tasks in Ayeyawady Region

NAY PYI TAW, 7 April— Accompanied by Union Ministers U Aye Myint, U Tint Hsan and U Kyaw Lwin, Deputy Ministers U Ohn Than, U Han Sein, U Aung Than Oo and departmental heads, Vice-President U Nyan Tun arrived in Pathein of Ayeyawady Region by air yesterday morning.

Vice-President U Nyan Tun and party were welcomed by Region Chief Minister U Thein Aung and officials at Pathein Airport. They then left Pathein for Ngwehsaung Beach by Tatmadaw helicopter. The Vice-President and party arrived in Ngwehsaung Beach where Pre- SEA Games National Sailing Championship is being held and spoke words of encouragement to athletes.

The Vice-President heard reports on plans for development of yachting presented by the president of Myanmar Yachting Federation at Yacht Club on Ngwehsaung Beach and the Union ministers and officials gave supplementary reports to the Vice-President.

The Vice-President gave guidance on successful holding of sailing event at the SEA Games and proceeded to Myaungmya.

The Vice-President and party met townselders and industrialists at the briefing hall of Myaungmya Gunny Factory and heard reports requirements for regional development tasks presented by the industrialists. The Vice-President coordinated the reports and called for development of industrial zone.

Afterwards, the Vice-President and party looked into Myaungmya Industrial Zone on a motorcade and flew to Pathein in the evening.

Vice-President U Nyan Tun and party visited football academy in Pathein this morning and officials of Myanmar Football Federation conducted them round the academy. The Vice-President attended to the needs in nurturing new generation athletes.

In meeting with townselders and industrialists at the briefing hall of Pathein Industrial Zone, the Vice-President said that development of industries including SMEs depends on infrastructural development like energy and transport sectors, emergence of entrepreneurs, inflow of financial resources, creativity and technological development, rapid growth in ICT and research works. It is necessary to invite foreign investments as acquisition of capital and technology is essential perquisite for development of economic entities. Measures are being taken for enhancement of market competition and production to be able to promote SMEs and to compete with other countries in production and service sectors in 2015 when ASEAN Free Trade Agreement will be realized, he added.

The Vice-President and party left Pathein for Nay Pyi Taw by air. They were seen off at Pathein Airport by the Region Chief minister and officials.—*MNA*

Vice-President U Nyan Tun speaks words of encouragement to athletes at Ngwehsaung Beach.

MNA

Home of 3rd UNSG becomes museum

YANGON, 7 April— The opening of U Thant Residence and Museum was held yesterday as the house of the former Secretary-General of the United Nations at No. 31 Panba Street in Kamayut Township has been turned into a museum in his remembrance. The opening ceremony was attended by Union Ministers at the President Office U Soe Thane, U Aung Min, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe, Yangon Mayor U Hla Myint, ambassadors from foreign embassies, chairperson of U Thant's residence maintenance group daughter of U Thant Daw Aye Aye Thant, founder and chairman of Yangon Heritage Trust Thant Myint-U and members, and invited guests.

Daw Aye Aye Thant extended greetings on the occasion. Union Minister U Aung Min called U Thant one of the respected leader on international stage, cheering up the lead role he had taken in peace process of both Myanmar and the global countries. "Human values are the all what U Thant has left for the next generations," said the Union minister, describing him as the exemplar of human values who had devoted his whole life to peace process and conflict settlement without discrimination against colour, race, religion and ideological beliefs. The Union minister suggested the peace process a long journey, calling for walking together towards the destination of a peaceful and developed democratic nation based on human values.

Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe described U Thant as one of the world's notable figures and a Myanmar patriotic. He mentioned the works U Thant had done for peace and prosperity of Myanmar, expressing his pleasure for having a chance to acknowledge and praise his works.

Thant Myint-U gave an account on opening of the museum. The Yangon region chief minister, Daw Aye Aye Thant formally opened the museum. The Union ministers and party then looked round the displays. The museum also provides information about education programmes being undertaken by U Thant Institute.

Daw Aye Aye Thant, daughter of U Thant, said the museum is opened in order that youths of today and the next generations can learn what his father had done and hoped in his capacity as the United Nations Secretary-General.

She says, "Why had U Thant succeeded in his works? Especially, in Cuba crisis, he managed to negotiate for peace within months to prevent the outbreak of Third World War

(See page 9)

The opening of U Thant Museum in progress.—MNA

Daw Aye Aye Thant.

Photo shows interior view of U Thant Museum.