

President urges outstanding students, scouts to be equipped with good discipline, public morals and sense of community



President U Thein Sein meets outstanding students and scouts at Myanmar International Convention Centre.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 8 April—“Learning of democratic practices should be started from the life of school children. Things they have learned must be put into practice. It is required to make a great stride in cultivating a good practice in exercise of freedom which is not harmful to others since the school days, understanding the core democratic values along with developing a sense of responsibility and accountability,” says President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein at the ceremony to honour the outstanding students and scouts at Myanmar International Convention Centre, here, this evening.

It was also attended by

Vice-President U Nyan Tun, the Union ministers, deputy ministers, departmental heads and officials of the Ministry of Education.

In his speech, the President said that world nations are trying hard to compete each other in the sectors of politics, economy, education, health, technology and defence to be leading countries in the international arena. It can be witnessed that sustainable development are flourishing in some developing and developed nations as good and able new generation are being nurtured constantly, enabling them to discharge duties of the State. The President urged them not only to be proficient in subjects they have learned but also to be equipped

with good discipline, public morals and sense of community, having nationalistic fervour and Union spirit. He stressed the need to be smart in every situation so that reliable new generations will emerge for the future of the country. He said that arrangements will be made for the best among the outstanding students to send them abroad for further studies. Plans are underway in cooperate with foreign universities for students to have a chance of learning tertiary education at home.

Regarding human resources development, he stressed the need to upgrade the education that ensures students to be able work in the real situation after having certain training.

The President said that

the scouts were the second generation of the future nation after the outstanding students. He added that it is intended to nurture the

He concluded his speech, saying that the future of the country relies on well-rounded youths.

Union Education

gifts to the President.

The President hosted a dinner to the students and scouts.

A total of 510 well-



Outstanding students and scouts salute President U Thein Sein at the meeting.—MNA

scouts and outstanding students to be qualified leaders. He called on those present to be law abiding citizens who say no to undemocratic behaviours.

Minister Dr Mya Aye briefed on selection of well-rounded students and scouts for 2013 fiscal year. The students displayed their talents and presented

rounded students and 480 scouts, totaling 990, are undergoing training in Nay Pyi Taw to become responsible citizens.

MNA



Students perform entertainment at the ceremony to honour the outstanding students and scouts.—MNA

Alternative publication of dailies in New Year holidays

NAY PYI TAW, 8 April —The Myanma Alinn daily, the Kyemon daily and the New Light of Myanmar daily published by the News and Periodicals Enterprise of the Ministry of Information will be in circulation alternatively during the Myanmar New Year holidays.

The Kyemon daily will be in circulation on 12, 13, 14, 15 and 16 April while the Myanma Alinn and the New Light of Myanmar daily stop their circulations on those days. The Myanma Alinn and the New Light of Myanmar will be in circulation on 17, 18, 19, 20 and 21 April while the Kyemon daily stops its circulation on those days. Advertisement service will be provided regularly on those days. All dailies will resume regular circulation starting from 22 April.—MNA

Korea-Myanmar Ocean Forum 2013 organized



YANGON, 8 April—Jointly organized by Myanmar Maritime University and Korea Maritime Institute of the Republic of Korea, 2013 Korea-Myanmar Ocean Forum took place at Chatrium Hotel, here, on 3 April.

Officials from Myanmar Port Authority, Myanmar Fisheries Federation and Department of Marine

Administration and Korean experts read out papers on maritime cooperation between the Republic of Korea and Myanmar.

Likewise, the opening of Korea-Myanmar Ocean Research Centre was held at the main building of Myanmar Maritime University the same day. Ocean Research Centre will enable the two countries to be

able to play an important role in formulation of maritime laws for Asia-Pacific region through their efforts in maritime cooperation.

Kyemon

Preparation in progress for Nay Pyi Taw Maha Thingyan Festival

NAY PYI TAW, 8 April—Under the supervision of Nay Pyi Taw City Development Committee, a water-throwing pavilion is under construction in front of the City Hall, here, in preparation for Nay Pyi Taw Maha Thingyan Festival.

According to an official of Admin Division of the committee, the opening ceremony of Thingyan Festival will be held at 5.30 pm on 13 April with the entertainment program of the Ministry of Culture.

During the water festival period, Yein troupes of ministries and companies totaling 17 will be on stage

Tyre market cool down in Yangon

YANGON, 8 April—According to a tyre wholesaler in Yangon, the market is cooling as only the sale of small tyres is stable while tyre sales for trucks and buses have fallen in the market.

“We had a brisk trade last year. Sales have slumped this year. No more buyers from rural areas. Business is bad not because of the stability of dollar exchange rate but because of the declining market,” he added.

Tyre prices for 10-wheeled and 12-wheeled trucks vary from K 200,000 to K 250,000 because of brand and quality. Likewise, tyre prices of small and medium cars are different.

Kyemon

Meiktila victims allowed to go and check their fire-ravaged houses

MEIKTILA, 8 April—Victims at relief camps in Meiktila are being allowed alternately to go and check their fire-ravaged houses.

On 6 April morning, two family members each from 140 households totaling 280 from a relief camp at Meiktila District sports ground were permitted to go and check their homes in Thiri Mingala ward.

Along the road on their way back to fire-hit residences, officials of Meiktila Township General Administration Department,



police members and measures for them. Tatmadawmen took security

Kyemon

Cash and kind for Meiktila victims

MEIKTILA, 8 April—Well-wishers are donating cash and kind to Meiktila victims through officials at the donation centre, here.

On 5 April, officials received K 4.5 million donated by Mandalay Region Advocate-General U Ye Aung Myint and well-wishers, 425 viss of beef by well-wishers, K 850,000 by One Dollar Fund Myanmar, K 500,000, 75 bags of rice, three bags of rice noodle and 100 packets of detergent powder by nuns of Mandalay Region, K 2 million and kitchen utensils by Yinmabin Station National League for Democracy in Thazi Township, three bags of clothing and foodstuff

by Yangon Region-based Youth Network, two bags of slipper, three rolls of tarpaulin and one bag of hat by 88 Generation Peace and Open Society, 10 bags of clothing, one bag of rice and firewood by Meiktila Township NLD, K 3.5 million and supplies worth K 5 million by Mandalay Region Byamaso social organization. Up to 5 April, cash donation amounted to K 102,235,000.

Kyemon

Car fire on U Wisaya Road in Yangon

YANGON, 8 April — A vehicle, Pajero, caught fire by its overheated auto pump on U Wisaya Road in Myenigon (north) ward in Sangyoung Township, here, on 4 April.

The fire accident happened to the vehicle of U Kyaw Zin, 52, on U Wisaya road near the Embassy of Saudi Arabia at about 12.30 pm on that day. As soon as they were informed of the car fire, fire crews accompanied by one fire truck of Sangyoung Fire Services Department rushed there and put out the fire in cooperation with duty-conscious persons. The fire died down at about 12.45 pm. Authorities concerned filed a lawsuit against the owner of the vehicle.—*Kyemon*



Eighty-seven villagers displaced by kitchen fire

PAKOKKU, 8 April—A fire broke out at Tekon Village in Myokhintha village-tract in Pakokku Township at about 4 pm on 6 April.

The fire started from the house of U Soe Thein in the village while frying egg in the kitchen. The fire swept through the whole house and spread nearby, destroying 22 houses.

Fire crews accompanied by 10 fire trucks from Pakokku Township Fire

Services Department and Industrial Zone managed to bring the fire under control and put it out at about 4.30 pm. The kitchen fire left 87 villagers homeless and 19 head of goat dead. Now a relief camp is being kept open for fire victims at Mya Yadana monastery in the village and health care and relief supplies are provided to fire victims.

Kyemon

Overtaken car hurts pilgrims

WAW, 8 April — A car accident happened to a vehicle carrying pilgrims from Nyaunglebin to Kyaikto skidded out of control and overturned near Hmogaton Village in Waw Township of Bago Region on Yangon-Mawlamyine

road, leaving 21 passengers wounded.

The overturned accident of the vehicle driven by Kyaw Lwin, 43, of Peinzalote Village in Nyaunglebin Township was due to excessive speed.

Kyemon



WORLD

Russia needs active civil society, Merkel tells Putin



Chinese President Xi Jinping (R) shakes hands with Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen during their meeting on the sidelines of Boao Forum for Asia (BFA) Annual Conference 2013 in Boao, south China's Hainan Province, on 7 April, 2013.—XINHUA

New head of Italian institute known as noted Japan literary scholar

TOKYO, 8 April — Giorgio Amitrano, 55, the new director of the Italian Cultural Institute in Tokyo, is an eminent Italian scholar of Japanese literature who has translated a number of popular Japanese works such as Banana Yoshimoto's "Kitchen."

"'Kitchen' became a best-selling book in Italy, selling around 300,000 copies," said Amitrano, who inspired a boom in Yoshimoto's works in his country with his translation in the early 1990s.

Amitrano's other translations include Haruki Murakami's bestsellers "Norwegian Wood" and "1Q84" as well as Kenji Miyazawa's "Night of the Milky Way Railway," which won Japan's Noma Award for the Translation of Japanese Literature in 2001.

"'1Q84' is widely read by Italians too, making it into the top 10 list," he said.

"Since I believe I understand somewhat how Japanese people feel, I'm

hoping that I can introduce Italian culture that can be easily accepted by them," said Amitrano, who assumed the post of director of the cultural institute in January.

Noting that the institute has organized operas and other events related to classical Italian culture, Amitrano said, "I'd like to introduce a little more modern parts of our culture."

Amitrano, who served as a judge for the Viareggio Prize — one of Italy's most prestigious literary awards — for 11 years until 2011, is planning to hold a major event in October related to Antonio Tabucchi, an Italian author considered a possible nominee for the Nobel Prize in Literature who died last year.

The former professor at the "L'Orientale" University of Naples, or Naples Eastern University, is also known for his friendship with popular Japanese essayist and scholar of Italian literature Atsuko Suga (1929-1998).

HANOVER, 8 April — Russian President Vladimir Putin arrived in Germany on Sunday to protest over his human rights and democracy record and a warning from German Chancellor Angela Merkel that Russia needed an active civil society to flourish.

Putin's visit to Germany and the Netherlands, Moscow's biggest trade partners in Europe, was supposed to focus on trade but comes at an awkward time after a wave of state inspections of foreign-funded non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in Russia, much

"I wasn't a proper student of hers, but I went to listen to her classes both in Italy and Japan," he said.

Amitrano said he was very excited when he found her name in a date slip of borrowers at the institute's library.

Kyodo News



Giorgio Amitrano, who assumed the post of director at the Italian Cultural Institute in January 2013, speaks during an interview with Kyodo News on 20 February at the institute in Tokyo's Chiyoda Ward. KYODO NEWS

criticized abroad.

In her address at the opening of an industrial fair spotlighting Russian business, Merkel told Putin Russia was propped by its raw material deposits and huge investment in infrastructure but Germany could help it in its aims to innovate and diversify.

"We believe this can happen most successfully when there is an active civil society," she said.

"We must intensify these discussions, develop our ideas, and we must give the NGOs, who we know as a motor for innovation, a good chance in Russia," she added to strong applause.

Germany and the Netherlands need Russia for energy and as a market for exports ranging from Volkswagen Touaregs to tulips, but are uneasy about the influence its oil and gas give it and about Putin's treatment of opponents and activists in his new Kremlin term.

Merkel had come under pressure at home to voice her

concerns to Putin, not only on the inspections of NGOs, but also on their differences over Syria's civil war and Russian criticism of the German-orchestrated financial bailout of Cyprus. Her talks with Putin would include "controversial subjects" she told reporters on the sidelines of the fair.

In his address to the trade fair Putin focused on Russia's economic strength,

noting, "despite global disarray and the global financial crisis, our country has continued to develop positively."

In an earlier interview with German broadcaster ARD, Putin had dismissed criticism of the NGO inspections and said they would not cast a shadow over the visit, echoing his repeated rejection of Western worries about his domestic policies.

Reuters



German Chancellor Angela Merkel and Russian President Vladimir Putin pose for photographers before they officially open the Hanover Messe, industrial trade fair, in Hanover on 7 April, 2013. Russia is the partner country of the Hanover fair 2013, which runs from 8-12 April.—REUTERS

TEPCO confirms 2nd leak of radioactive water at Fukushima plant

TOKYO, 8 April — Tokyo Electric Power Co said on Sunday up to 3 litres of radioactive water has leaked from a second underground storage tank at the crippled Fukushima Daiichi power plant. Following the latest series of problems at the nuclear plant, the utility set up an emergency task force headed by its President Naomi Hirose.

The latest problem was confirmed after TEPCO said late Friday night that up to 120 tons of contaminated water may have leaked into the soil from one of the seven storage tanks at the complex, devastated by a

series of explosions in the days after the March 2011 earthquake and tsunami.

Around 10,400 tons of radioactive water, cleansed of cesium, remains in the second tank, TEPCO said.

The tank is adjacent to the one where the initial leak was reported, according to TEPCO. The seven tanks, which are of the same design and covered by three layers of waterproof sheeting, were set up to store water used to cool the plant's nuclear reactors.

The utility examined water that accumulated on the sheeting around the second tank on Saturday and

detected highly concentrated radioactive substances. Since the announcement on Friday, TEPCO has been transferring tons of the remaining water to other underground storage tanks at the site. The transfer is expected to be completed on Thursday, two days after the company's initial plan.

On Saturday, TEPCO said it believes radioactive water is unlikely to flow into the sea from the first leaking storage tank located 800 metres from the shoreline. It said the water would soak into the soil as there is no drain around the site to the sea.—Kyodo News

EU, UNICEF budget 20 mln euros on water scheme in Nigerian states

ASABA, (Nigeria), 8 April — The European Union and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) will spend 20 million euros to provide water in rural areas in Nigeria's oil-rich Niger Delta region, a UNICEF official said on Sunday.

Bishmu Timilsina, UNICEF Country Representative in Nigeria, told reporters in Asaba city that Edo, Akwa Ibom, Delta, Cross River and Bayelsa states would be involved in the project.

In each of the states,

according to him, two local government areas will be selected for the programme.

He said the projects, aimed at providing potable water and ensuring improved sanitation in the benefiting communities would last for five years.

According to him, the EU and UNICEF would contribute 70 percent of the cost of the project while the participating states, the selected local government areas and the benefiting communities would contribute 30 percent.—Xinhua

Door still open on Iran atom talks, but not forever

ISTANBUL, 8 April — US Secretary of State John Kerry said on Sunday world powers would pursue further talks with Iran to resolve a decade-old dispute over its nuclear programme, but stressed that the process could not go on forever.

The six powers and Iran failed again to bridge wide differences at weekend talks in Kazakhstan, prolonging a stand-off that could yet erupt into a new Middle East war. No new talks were scheduled.

"This is not an interminable process," Kerry said after arriving in Istanbul on Sunday on the first leg of a



US Secretary of State John Kerry and his wife Teresa Heinz Kerry board a second plane after their original aircraft had mechanical problems at Andrews Air Force Base in Maryland on 6 April, 2013.—REUTERS

10-day trip to the Middle East, Europe and Asia.

He said US President

Barack Obama was committed to continuing the diplomatic process despite

what he called the complicating factor of an Iranian presidential election in June.

"Diplomacy is a painful task ... and a task for the patient," Kerry told a news conference.

Western powers suspect Iran is trying to develop the means to produce nuclear weapons under the guise of a declared civilian atomic energy programme. Iran denies the accusation.

Israel urged the powers to set a deadline of weeks for military action to persuade Iran to halt its uranium enrichment activity.

Reuters

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Annual IATI BIOMED to be held on 10-12 June, 2013 in Tel Aviv



TEL AVIV, 8 April—Annual Israel Advance Technology Industries, IATI BIOMED, the 12th National Life Science & Technology Week, organized by IATI and Kenes International in Israel, will be held on 10-12 June, 2013 in Tel Aviv, reported the Israeli Embassy.

This unique Chance-to-Speak platform will al-

low for a broader range of interests to be covered and explored, with Biomed only strengthening its reputation as the leading and most innovative international conference of the biomedical, health care and life sciences industries.

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innovative conference format. This year, participants from around the world will be involved in planning the conference agenda and influencing its content. Rather than a committee or chairperson, it is you who will determine what topics will be featured in the conference.

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the success of previous annual conferences: last year's event drew 6,000 industry players, engineers and scientists, with 1,000 participants from 42 countries and more than 3,500 one-on-one meetings.

This is the Israeli Bio-Med Industry's largest annual event and focusing on the latest technologies in the

healthcare systems worldwide.

The Israeli Life Sciences Industry, ILSI conference is the annual showcase of the Israel Bio sector, which has one of the world's very highest rates of patent filings and start-ups. This vibrant industry is a model of creativity, productivity and efficiency, and is attracting more foreign attendees who want to learn from its successes.

Visitors and Delegations from foreign countries will have an opportunity to meet Israeli companies within this filed. One may contact via email, <http://www2.kenes.com/biomed/>, for more information.

NLM

ITC judge says Samsung infringes key part of Apple patent

WASHINGTON, 8 April—Samsung Electronics Co Ltd infringed a key portion of an Apple Inc patent by including a text-selection feature in its smartphones and tablets, an International Trade Commission judge said in a preliminary decision.

South Korean-based Samsung did not infringe portions of a second Apple patent that allows a device to detect if a microphone or other device is plugged into its microphone jack, the judge said in a decision that was issued on 26 March but kept confidential until late Thursday to allow the companies to redact sensitive business information.

The full commission must now decide if they will uphold it or overturn the judge's decision. A final decision is expected in August.

If it is upheld, the ITC can order any infringing device to be barred from importation into the United States. Apple has alleged that Samsung's Galaxy, Transform and Nexus devices, among others, were among those made with the infringing technology.

Apple had filed a complaint in mid-2011, accusing Samsung of infringing its patents in making a wide range of smartphones and tablet.—Reuters

India successfully testfires nuclear capable Agni II missile

NEW DELHI, 8 April—India on Sunday successfully testfired its home-made, nuclear-capable, surface-to-surface Agni II missile from a defence base off the coast of the eastern state of Odisha, highly placed sources said.

"The medium-range Agni II missile, with a strike

range of over 2,000 km, was testfired from Wheeler Island off Odisha coast at 10.20 am. The Agni-II missile carried a dummy payload instead of a nuclear warhead during this test. The testfiring conducted by the Strategic Forces Command of the Indian Army was successful," the sources said. The Agni II missile,

developed by state-owned Defence Research and Development Organization, has already been inducted in the Indian Army. The missile is 20 metres long and weighs 17 tonnes. It can carry a payload weighing 1 tonne. India plans to testfire Agni V, with a strike range of over 5,000 km, in June.—Xinhua



India successfully testfires its home-made, nuclear-capable, surface-to-surface Agni II missile from a defence base off the coast of the eastern state of Odisha on 7 April, 2013.—XINHUA

Personalized vaccine shows promise for ovarian cancer in US



WASHINGTON, 8 April—US scientists have developed an experimental vaccine against advanced ovarian cancer that triggers anti-tumour immune responses using cells made from patients' own tumour.

The vaccine provoked a positive response in 61 percent of woman with stage 3 or 4 ovarian cancer, according to a report presented on Saturday at the American Association for Cancer Research annual meeting in Washington.

The University of Pennsylvania researchers first isolated immune cells called dendritic cells from patient's blood. They then created individualized vaccines by exposing each patient's dendritic cells to her own tumour tissue that had been collected during surgery.

They found 19 out of 31 patients clinical benefit after vaccine treatment and developed an antitumour immune response.

Of these 19 patients, eight had no measurable

disease at the end of the study and remained on maintenance vaccine therapy. One patient of the eight patients remained disease-free for 42 months following vaccine treatment, they said. While vaccination therapy alone showed about a 61-percent clinical benefit, said lead author Lana Kandalaft, the combination of both therapies showed about a 75-percent benefit.

Both treatments were given in conjunction with bevacizumab, a drug that controls blood vessel growth.

"We offer patients with ovarian cancer a potential therapy with minor side effects and a good quality of life," Kandalaft said.

The researchers said they will continue to work to improve the vaccine platform to further enhance its efficacy.—Xinhua

Apple, Google won't face poaching class action suit, yet

SAN FRANCISCO, 8 April—A US judge ruled that a lawsuit alleging a broad conspiracy among Silicon Valley companies not to poach each other's employees cannot proceed as a class action for now, but left the door open for workers to eventually sue as a group.

In a decision released on Friday, US District Judge Lucy Koh in San Jose, California said the five software engineers suing Apple Inc, Google Inc and five other companies have yet to show enough in common among the proposed class members to allow them to sue together.

But in deciding to give the plaintiffs another chance, the federal judge said she was "keenly aware" new evidence had recently become available that could support class certification. She also said the nature of the "alleged

overarching conspiracy" and desire to litigate it all at once weighed "heavily" in favour of certifying a class, which the plaintiffs' lawyers have said could include tens of thousands of people.



A woman walks past an Apple logo at the company's flagship retail store near signs for the central subway project in San Francisco, California on 23 Jan, 2013.

REUTERS

The case has been closely watched in Silicon Valley, and much of it has been built on emails among top executives, including

the late Apple Chief Executive Steve Jobs and former Google Chief Executive Eric Schmidt.

Reuters

Icahn refuses to drop proxy fight option

NEW YORK, 8 April—Billionaire investor Carl Icahn is refusing to drop the option of a proxy fight to force Dell Inc to pay a big dividend, in spite of the board committee's request that he drop his threats and launch a formal bid for the company, the Wall Street Journal reported.

Icahn had asked the board's special

committee to be reimbursed for the cost of his due diligence on Dell, a benefit the committee has already granted to rival bidders Silver Lake Partners and Blackstone Group LP.

In its response to Icahn on Friday, the committee said it would consider Icahn's request to cover the cost of his expenses for discovery, but only if he would drop his rights

to a proxy fight and threats of "years of litigation." In an interview with the Wall Street Journal, Icahn said he is considering a range of options, including his earlier proposal for a dividend, which would necessitate a proxy fight, as well as his preliminary bid to buy up to 58 percent of the company. Icahn holds a \$1 billion stake in Dell, the No 3 maker of personal computers.

"No matter how much they are willing to

pay to reimburse me I'm not going to give up the right to put in a bid that I think will be compelling to shareholders, even if the board doesn't like it," Icahn told the paper.

Blackstone and Icahn separately made preliminary proposals in late March that, if finalized, could be superior to the \$24.4 billion offer on the table from founder Michael Dell and private equity firm Silver Lake Partners LP.—Reuters

BUSINESS & HEALTH

China's debt issue not particularly serious

BOAO, (HAINAN), 8 April—China's debt issue has not reached a particularly dangerous level as the country does not have a high debt-to-GDP ratio, former finance minister Xiang Huaicheng said here on Saturday.

"The majority of the debts are internal ones, and the government has always adhered to the principle of sustainability while handling the debt issue," Xiang told a sub-forum of the 2013 Boao Forum for Asia (BFA) in south China's Hainan

Province.

He said that China's debt-to-GDP ratio stood at about 37.8 percent in 2011 and 40 percent in 2012.

"Some problems should not be ignored, although the debt issue is not so serious," Xiang said.

Take for instance, he said, the loans issued by some policy banks came from inter-bank bond, which take on the nature of government debts.

"The amount of debts in this regard is not small," Xiang said.—Xinhua

China confident it can control bird flu outbreak

BEIJING, 8 April—China can control the outbreak of an avian flu strain newly contracted by humans, a senior Chinese health official said on Sunday, a day after China reported its eighteenth case of the H7N9 virus that has so far killed six people.

China has said it is mobilizing resources nationwide to combat the new strain of bird flu, monitoring hundreds of close contacts of confirmed cases and culling tens of thousands of birds where traces of the virus were found.

"We are confident we can effectively control it (H7N9)," the head of China's National Health and Family Planning

Commission Li Bin told Reuters on the sidelines of a World Health Organization-backed event in Beijing.

Li did not elaborate, but she is the most senior Chinese health official yet to publicly comment on the subject.

The bird flu outbreak has caused global concern and some Chinese Internet users and newspapers have questioned why it took so long for the government to announce the new cases, especially as two of the victims fell ill in February.

The government has said it needed time to correctly identify the virus.

The WHO's representative to China, Dr Michael

O'Leary, repeated that no evidence of transmission between humans has been found and praised China for its efforts to determine the source of the virus.

"I'm very impressed with the action of the laboratories in this regard," O'Leary said at a World Health Day event in the Chinese capital.

Reuters



A boy looks at pigeons at a public park in People Square, downtown Shanghai on 6 April, 2013.—REUTERS

First magic mushroom depression trial hits stumbling block

LONDON, 8 April—The world's first clinical trial designed to explore using a hallucinogen from magic mushrooms to treat people with depression has stalled because of British and European rules on the use of illegal drugs in research.

David Nutt, president of the British Neuroscience Association and professor of neuropsychopharmacology at Imperial College London, said he had been granted an ethical green light and funding for the trial, but regulations were blocking it.

"We live in a world of insanity in terms of regulating drugs," he told a neuroscience conference in London on Sunday. He has previously conducted small experiments on healthy volunteers and found that psilocybin, the psychedelic ingredient in magic mushrooms, has the potential to alleviate severe forms of depression in people who don't respond to other

treatments.

Following these promising early results he was awarded a 550,000 pounds (\$844,000) grant from the UK's Medical Research Council to conduct a full clinical trial in patients.

But psilocybin is illegal in Britain, and under the United Nations 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances it is classified as a Schedule 1 drug—one that has a high potential for abuse and no recognized medical use. This, Nutt explained, means scientists need a special license to use magic mushrooms for trials in Britain, and the manufacture of a synthetic form of psilocybin for use in patients is tightly controlled by European Union regulations.

Together, this has meant he has so far been unable to find a company able to make and supply the drug for his trial, he said.

"Finding companies

who could manufacture the drug and who are prepared to go through the regulatory hoops to get the license, which can take up to a year and triple the price, is proving very difficult," he said.

Nutt said regulatory authorities have a "primitive, old-fashioned attitude that Schedule 1 drugs could never have therapeutic potential", despite the fact that his research and the work done by other teams suggests such drugs may help treat some patients with psychiatric disorders.

Psilocybin, or "magic", mushrooms grow naturally around the world and have been widely used since ancient times for religious rites and also for recreation. Researchers in the United States have seen positive results in trials using MDMA, a pure form of the party drug ecstasy, in treating post-traumatic stress disorder.

Reuters

Jordan's unemployment 1.4 pct up in Q1 year on year

AMMAN, 8 April—Unemployment in Jordan rose to 12.8 percent in the first quarter of 2013, 1.4 percent up from the same period last year, according to official figures released on Sunday. Unemployment among men stood at 11.1 percent in the first quarter of this year, while among women it reached 20.5 percent, according to figures released by the Department of Statistics, of which a copy was obtained by Xinhua.

Unemployment rate was high among holders of university degrees as it stood at 17.2 percent in the first quarter of this year, while about 0.8 percent of the unemployed are illiterate. The report, which surveyed 13,000 families across Jordan's 12 governorates, covered rural and urban areas.—Xinhua



International Monetary Fund (IMF) executive director Christine Lagarde attends a news conference at the end of a Eurogroup meeting at the European Council building in Brussels, on 25 March, 2013.—REUTERS

BOJ's policy welcome for world growth: IMF's Lagarde

BEIJING, 8 April—A huge monetary stimulus package to be unleashed by the Bank of Japan this week is a welcome step in supporting growth in the world economy, the managing director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) said on Sunday.

"Monetary policies—

including unconventional measures—have helped prop up the advanced economies, and in turn, global growth," Christine Lagarde told a forum in south China.

"The reforms just announced by the Bank of Japan are another welcome step in this direction."

Reuters

Private firms lead China's investment overseas

BOAO, (Hainan) 8 April—Chinese private firms are seeing new expansion abroad and already lead China's investment overseas, Chris Lu, CEO of Deloitte China, said on Saturday at a forum in south China's Hainan Province. The 2013 Boao Forum for Asia Annual Conference witnessed hot discussion among private firm bosses, worrying about domestic economic circumstances and expecting investment-based development overseas. They considered the present export challenges as an opportunity to set new goals, and most determined investment

overseas as the best choice.

Lu said surging operating and financing costs posed a plight to private firms, while large multinational businesses are bringing harsher competition to China's home market. Therefore, Chinese private firms formed a vigorous investment trend in foreign countries, and have already become dominant in China's foreign investment. Greenfield and contract construction topped all the overseas projects of private firms, he said.

The Deloitte China CEO said, however, that mergers

and acquisitions by private firms, mainly appearing in Europe and Americas, remains at about one-tenth of that by state-owned enterprises. Bao Yujun, chairman of the China Private Sector Association, said at the forum that private economy shall provide the main force in boosting the country's economic development. He explained that governmental public finance had been directed toward guaranteeing and improving people's livelihoods, while state-owned capital targeted areas related to the country's security, leaving private capital as the only choice to carry out



Chris Lu, CEO of Deloitte China, speaks prior to a round table meeting in Boao of south China's Hainan Province, on 6 April, 2013. A round table meeting of Boao Forum for Asia was held here for the leaders from private sector on 6 April.—XINHUA

large-scale investment in common and competitive markets.

In 2012, the private sector took over 61 percent of the total fixed assets investment overseas, and the figure in 2011 was 50 percent, according to Bao.

He suggested private firms change their style from expanding businesses on their own to developing hand in hand with local companies, which could make it easier when entering target markets.

Private entrepreneurs said the debt crisis in Europe created a golden chance for the Chinese private sector to expand through cooperation abiding by local rules.

Xinhua

WORLD

Both sides claim victory in Montenegro president vote

PODGORICA, (Montenegro), 8 April— Both sides claimed victory in a presidential election in Montenegro on Sunday, raising the prospect of a dispute over the largely ceremonial post in the tiny Adriatic country as it bids to join the European Union.

With no independent exit poll or official word from the state electoral commission, both incumbent Filip Vujanovic and opposition challenger Miodrag Lekic took to the airwaves to announce they had won.

Lekic compared his rival's claim to a "coup d'etat".

The president is largely a figurehead for Montene-

gro's 680,000 people, with real power vested in the prime minister. But a Lekic victory would set up an awkward cohabitation and deal a significant blow to the ruling Democratic Party of Socialists (DPS) after more than two decades in power.

Based on his camp's own count, the DPS's Vujanovic said he had won 51.3 percent of votes compared to 48.7 for Lekic, a former diplomat.

"This is the winning result," Vujanovic said in a televised address.

The opposition Democratic Front said Lekic was ahead according to its own count, by 50.5 percent to 49.5.

"I can announce that the people of Montenegro have entrusted me with the post of president," Lekic said in a televised address. Reacting to Vujanovic's own victory claim, he added: "We will not accept theft."

The state electoral commission, which had been expected to pronounce during the night, said it would announce the official result within 48 hours of polls closing at 8 pm (1800 GMT).

A disputed result raises the prospect of street protests, and will unnerve the European Union as it tries to steer the mountainous country through a raft of reforms to ready it for membership. Accession talks began in mid-2012, and could last several years.

Vujanovic, bidding for a third five-year term, had portrayed Lekic as a threat to Montenegro's young statehood. The country voted narrowly in a referendum in 2006 to end an 88-year state union with Serbia. Lekic, 65, is backed by a number of small parties that campaigned against independence. Around 100 supporters gathered outside his party's headquarters in the capital, Podgorica, waving Serbian national flags.

Reuters



Montenegrin President Filip Vujanovic (L) declares victory based on his camp's own vote count during presidential elections in Podgorica on 7 April, 2013. Both sides claimed victory in Montenegro's presidential election on Sunday, raising the prospect of a dispute over the largely ceremonial post in the tiny Adriatic country as it bids to join the European Union.—REUTERS

Australian dollar to be directly convertible with Chinese yuan

SYDNEY, 8 April—The Australian dollar will be made directly convertible with the Chinese yuan, Prime Minister Julia Gillard said on Monday during a visit to China, according to the Australian Broadcasting Corp.

Preempting a formal announcement on Tuesday, Gillard said the Aus-

tralian dollar will become "the third currency in the world to do so after the US dollar and the Japanese yen."

"This is a huge advantage for Australia not only for our big businesses, but also for our small and medium enterprises that want to do business here," she was quoted by ABC as

saying.

The move means Australian and Chinese firms trading with each other will not have to first convert currency into US dollars and then on into either yuan or Australian dollars, saving a small amount in transaction costs.

China is Australia's

largest trading partner in the exchange of goods and services, taking one third of all of its exports.

Gillard arrived in China on Friday to participate in the Boao Forum for Asia, an important annual gathering of Asian political and business leaders, and to meet China's new leaders.—Kyodo News

Nigeria marks world health day, warns against excessive salt, alcohol intake

ABUJA, 8 April— The Nigerian government on Sunday cautioned on excessive consumption of salt and alcohol as the world marks the Health Day.

Minister of State for Health Muhammad Pate conveyed the government message during an interview with reporters in Abuja, the West African

country capital city, adding that such high consumption could trigger high blood pressure.

The World Health Day is marked on 7 April of every year, with a theme of High Blood Pressure for this year.

The World Health Organization (WHO) is also calling for intensified efforts to prevent and con-

trol high blood pressure, also referred to as hypertension.

The organization says that worldwide, high blood pressure is estimated to affect more than one in three adults aged 25 and over, or about one billion people.

The Nigerian minister said the rise in non-communicable diseases was posing huge challenge to

health systems globally, including Nigeria.

Non-communicable diseases are increasing because of lifestyle changes and demographics, he added. The minister noted that complications such as heart and kidney diseases, stroke and others, could be prevented with effective control of blood pressure.

Xinhua



Flowers can be seen on a spring flower show in Islamabad, capital of Pakistan, on 7 April, 2013. Flowers are in full bloom as the temperature rises in Pakistan.

XINHUA

NATO airstrike kills 10 Afghan civilians, wounds six

ASSADABAD, 8 April— Ten Afghan civilians, all children were killed and six others, all women sustained injuries during military operations involving NATO-led forces aircraft in Kunar province 185 km east of Kabul on Saturday, a local official said on Sunday.

"Afghan forces backed by the NATO-led coalition forces launched cleanup operations against Taliban militants in Shigal District on Saturday morning. The operations backed by NATO-led forces aircraft and lasted until evening during which 10 children were martyred and six women sustained injuries," district governor Zalmai Khan told Xinhua.

The casualties, he added, took place during air

raids.

Meantime, governor of Kunar Province Sayed Fazlullah Wahidi in talks with Xinhua confirmed the operation, insisting 11 Taliban militants had been killed and 11 others injured during the operations that lasted for several hours in Sholtan area of Shigal District.

He also admitted that seven security personnel received injuries during the operations.

Meanwhile, Qari Yusuf Ahmadi who claims to speak for the Taliban outfit in talks with media via telephone from unknown location, confirmed the conflict but disputed the claim, saying all those killed and injured in the operations were locals.—Xinhua

Japan discovers hydrothermal mineral deposits off Okinawa

TOKYO, 8 April—Japan has discovered new seabed hydrothermal mineral deposits 130 kilometres northwest of the Okinawa prefectural capital Naha, officials said on Sunday.

A layer of hydrothermal mineral deposits found by the Japan Oil, Gas and Metals National Corp exploration vessel Hakurei is believed to be large in size and to hold abundant quantities of copper, lead, zinc and other minerals. The vessel made the discovery while surveying the area in January and February at the request of the industry ministry, the officials said, adding that JOGMEC plans to draw up a report on the layer, possibly in April.

Around the site, Japan had earlier confirmed the presence of 3.4 million tons of deposits on the seabed at a depth of 1,600 metres. The new layer was found after the exploration vessel drilled at a depth 40 metres below the known deposits, the officials said. The newly discovered layer appears to be larger than the previously confirmed deposits, according to the officials.

Kyodo News

Rocket fired from Gaza strikes southern Israel

JERUSALEM, 8 April— A rocket fired from the Gaza Strip struck southern Israel on Sunday, causing no damage or injuries, a police spokesman said.

Last week rockets fired by Gaza militants spurred Israel to carry out air strikes on the territory, the first since

the ceasefire that ended an eight-day war between Israel and Hamas in November. Police spokesman Micky Rosenfeld said the rocket, fired after sundown as Israel began commemorating its national remembrance day of the Nazi Holocaust, landed in an open area.—Reuters



A Yemeni man passes a wall with anti-smoking graffiti in Sanaa, Yemen, on 7 April, 2013. The World Health Day is celebrated on 7 April to mark the 65th anniversary of the World Health Organization that was established in 1948. The theme for 2013 is high blood pressure. The Yemeni government has been trying to restore medical services in the country after the unrest in 2011 hit hard the cash-stripped Arab state.—XINHUA

LOCAL NEWS

Victorious athletes honoured in Mandalay Region

MANDALAY, 8 April—A ceremony to honour the victorious sports teams representing Mandalay Region in the 2011-2012 Inter-Region/State sports tournaments was held at the National Theatre on 66th Street in Aungmyethazan Township on 29 March.

Mandalay Region Minister for Social Affairs Dr Win Hlaing made a speech. Managers and coaches of the victorious teams handed over championship shields

and trophies to the region ministers.

Region Minister Dr Win Hlaing, Speaker of the Region Hluttaw U Win Maung, Deputy Speaker U Aung Htay Zaw, Region Minister for Planning and Economy U Aung Zan, Region Minister for Electricity and Industry Dr Myint Kyu, Auditor-General of the region U Kyaw Win, Chairman of Mandalay Region Football Federation U Maung Ko,

Deputy Director U Wai Zin, Patron of Region Women's Sports Committee Daw Mya Sanda Win, chairman of the subcommittees and officials presented cash awards to the sports teams.

They gave K 40000 for gold medal winners, K 30000 for silver medal, K 20000 for bronze medal and coaches, amounting to K 275.3 million to the winners, managers and coaches.

Myanma Alinn

NyaungU-Myingyan Road upgraded

NYAUNGU, 8 April—Under the permission of the Ministry of Construction, Myat Noe Thu Construction Co completed upgrading of NyaungU-Myingyan Road through BOT system beginning 2010-2011 fiscal

year.

The company upgraded from five miles and two furlongs long and 18 feet wide asphalt road to 40 miles and two furlongs long and 18 feet wide one.

Thanks to the upgraded

road, vehicles can run to NyaungU-Mandalay and to Monywa, Yesagyo and Pakokku regions. Now, the vehicles take 1 hour and 15 minutes from NyaungU to Myingyan.

Myanma Alinn

Inter-village road, free clinic opened in Kyaikmaraw

NAY PYI TAW, 8 April—Mayangon-Khanaung-Yedwongon inter-village road was commissioned into service in Kyaikmaraw Township of Mon State on 27 March, with an address by Chief Minister of Mon State U Ohn Myint.

State Minister for

Development Affairs Dr Toe Toe Aung, State Hluttaw representative U Hla Tun, the director of State Development Affairs Department and a responsible person of Tawwin Myint Myat Thu Company formally opened the inter-village road.

The Chief Minister and

party strolled along the road.

The two miles and four furlongs long and 12 feet wide road was built by Tawwin Myint Myat Thu Company to benefit 25357 people of the villages.

Next, the Chief Minister and party attended the opening ceremony of a

free clinic in Kyikmaraw. The State Minister for Development Affairs and the chairman of the clinic cut the ribbon to open the clinic.

The Chief Minister expressed thanks for contribution of the wellwishers.

Myanma Alinn

Applied Leadership course concludes

MINDAT, 8 April—Four instructors from Myanmar Egress Yangon conducted the Certificate for Civil Education and Applied Leadership at Kumthi Hall in Mindat from 9 am to 4 pm on 26 March.

Altogether 60 trainees from 19 to 40 years old attended the course.

Myanma Alinn

Japan to provide assistance for banking service technology

NAY PYI TAW, 8 April—BTMU (Bank of Tokyo Mitsubishi UFJ) which is one of the top banking institutions in Japan and CB Bank signed the Business Alliance Agreement at Traders Hotel in Yangon on 28 March.

After signing an MoU on alliance, the two banks signed this agreement.

CB Bank was established in 1992 when the private banks were allowed to run their functions. In November

2011, the bank installed its branches with ATM machines.

In November 2012, CB bank started use of Master Cards, Visa Cards and Cup Cards. The bank applies Master Card pos on 4 March 2013.

BTMU of Japan has been opening its office in Yangon since 1954. Since its establishment, the Japanese bank is serving as a banking representative for loans of

Japanese government and Myanmar issues.

It is the greatest bank in Japan and stands second in the world, with a large number of branches across the world to be able to serve the world people with monetary affairs.

Thanks to cooperation between the two banks, the development momentum can be gathered in the banking service of Myanmar.

Myanma Alinn

Golden umbrella hoisted atop Montaw Pagoda in Amarapura Township



MANDALAY, 8 April—Under the arrangement of Presiding Nayaka of East Khayoe Pariyatti Monastery of Ward 9 in Lashio member of Lashio Township Sangha Nayaka Committee Bhaddanta Sujata, wellwishers U Hsan Lwin-Daw Zin Min Naing and family, and U

Tun Yin Oo-Daw Than Than Yi and family of Yangon held the umbrella hoisting of Shwemuhtaw Pagoda in Montaw Village of Amarapura Township in Mandalay Region on 26 March.

A total of 45 members

of the Sangha led by Sayadaw Bhaddanta Sujata and wellwishers hoisted umbrella atop the pagoda.

On 28 March, altogether 108 boys were novitiated and merits gained were shared. It was attended by local people.

Myanma Alinn

Air KBZ donates blood



YANGON, 8 April—In commemoration of the second anniversary of Air KBZ, a blood donation ceremony was held at National Blood Centre on Shwedagon Pagoda Road, here, on 1 April morning.

CEO U Okkar Tun of Air KBZ and in-charge of the centre Dr Daw Thida Aung made speeches.

A total of 70 pilots and flight attendants donated blood at the ceremony.

Myanma Alinn



MAWLAMYINE, 8 April—In launching the literacy campaign 2013, over 1000 students of Mawlamyine University gathered in the gymnasium of the university

on 30 March morning and called on Rector Dr Htay Aung. The rector stressed the need for them to teach the national people within a 45-day period and to abide

by disciplines. Of them, 26 volunteer teachers were assigned in Mudon, 200 in Kyaikto an 850 in Hpa-an of Kayin State.

Myanma Alinn

New asphalt road put into service in Mone

MONE, 8 April—In commemoration of the 68th Anniversary Armed Forces, a ceremony to commission the newly-built asphalt road into service was held at the archway of the road in Ward 2 of Mone in Kyaukkyi

Township of Bago Region on 23 March morning.

The road was formally opened by Kyaukkyi Township Pyithu Hluttaw representative U Nyan Swe Win, Township Administrator U Myint Khaing,

the executive officer of Township Development Affairs Committee and Mone village-tract administrator.

The newly-constructed road was 500 feet long and 10 feet wide.

Myanma Alinn

NATIONAL

Union Chief Justice receives guests from UNDP



Chief Justice of the Union U Tun Tun Oo receives Mr. Ajay Chhibber, UN Assistant Secretary-General, UNDP Assistant Administrator and Director, UNDP Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 8 April—Chief Justice of the Union U Tun Tun Oo received a delegation led by Mr. Ajay Chhibber, UN Assistant Secretary-General, UNDP Assistant Administrator and Director, UNDP Regional Bureau for Asia and the

Pacific at the hall of the Supreme Court of the Union, here, this noon.

They cordially discussed judicial system of the Supreme Court of the Union, procedures being undertaken by the courts led by the Supreme Court of the

Union for rule of law and ensuring justice in accord with judiciary policy and cooperation between the Union Supreme Court and UNDP for democracy and effective development of 2013-2015 work programmes of UNDP.

Also present at the meeting together with the chief justice of the Union were judges of the Supreme Court of the Union U Tha Htay, U Mya Thein, U Myint Han and Director-General U Sein Than of the Office of the Supreme Court of the Union.—MNA

Union Minister observes Subway Line and run of high-speed train in Seoul of Korea

NAY PYI TAW, 8 April—Union Minister for Rail Transportation U Zeyar Aung observed rapid transportation of commodities, Public transportation and rail industry and construction sites of railroad in Seoul, Sejong, Daejeon, Cheongwon and Busan cities of the Republic of Korea from 2 to 5 April.

The Union minister separately held discussions with Chairman of National Policy Committee of National Assembly of ROK Mr. Kim Jung-Hoon and Minister of Land, Infrastructural Buildings and Transport of Korea Mr. Suh Seoung-Hwan about cooperation in rail transportation sector between Korea and Myanmar.

The Union minister then observed Daewoo International, Goyang high-speed train maintenance



Union Minister U Zeyar Aung observes the scale model of high-speed train.

MNA

factory, CJ Korea Rapid Transportation Service, Korea Rail Network Authority, Korail Transportation Service, Hyundai Ratem coaches manufacturing factory, Busan Bus Terminal, Dohwa Engineering Service,

golds, Singapore, second with three golds, one silver, five bronzes, Myanmar, third with one gold, eight slivers, 20 bronzes, Thailand, fourth with eight slivers and three bronzes, Cambodia, fifth with three silvers and one bronze, Laos, sixth with one bronze.—MNA

Soo Sung Engineering Service and Shibundang DX Line subway line. The Union minister also discussed matters related to transportation service with officials concerned.

MNA

Vehicles allowed to pass through Hledan Overpass as of 10 April

YANGON, 8 April—As part of efforts to relieve the traffic congestion, overpasses are under construction in Yangon.

Although finishing touches of Hledan Overpass in Kamayut Township are not completed yet, vehicles will be allowed to pass through the overpass as of 10 April for ensuring better transport and traffic safety during the period of Maha Thingyan festival before the opening ceremony.—NLM

PERSPECTIVES

Tuesday, 9 April, 2013

Thingyan

Thingyan is the Myanmar New Year Water Festival and usually falls around mid-April (the Myanmar month of Tagu). It is a festival celebrated over a period of four to five days ending in the New Year.

The eve of Thingyan, the first day of the festival called a-kyo nei, is the start of a variety of religious activities. Buddhists usually observe the Eight Precepts, more than the basic Five Precepts, including having only one meal before noon. Thingyan is a time when Sabbath is observed by many people.

During the festival, fun-lovers standing on bamboo or wooden stages or pavilions erected along the streets splash water on passersby. Powerful water pipes douse people driving in jeeps and trucks. Children throw water at their friends, relatives, and anyone else in range, and only monks, the elderly and the uniformed personnel on duty are safe.

During Thingyan, people wash away evil things with clean and cool water while having great fun. And then they celebrate the New Year Day with a lot of pious deeds.

The next day called a-kya nei is when Thingyan truly arrives as Thagyamin makes his descent from his celestial abode to earth. The third day is called a-kyat nei and there may be two of them, an extra day in certain years. The fourth is known as a-tet nei or the last day of the water festival when Thagyamin returns to the heavens.

The water symbolizes the washing away of the previous year's bad luck and sins. On New Year's Day itself, all the water-throwing ends. This day is celebrated by releasing captive fish and birds as acts of merit, and special feasts are held for monks and performing pious deeds.

Stamps in commemoration of 65th Anniversary Myanmar-Russia Diplomatic Ties

NAY PYI TAW, 8 April—Myanma Posts and Telecommunications under the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology will sell commemorative stamps worth K 500 each to mark the 65th Anniversary of Myanmar-Russia Diplo-

matic ties at Region/State/District/Township Post Offices as of 10 April.

As a special program, the stamps that will be available at Nay Pyi Taw (General Post Office), Yangon (Post Office) and Mandalay (Post Office) will be sealed.—MNA

Pre-SEA Games Wrestling Myanmar-2013 concludes

YANGON, 8 April—Final matches of the Pre-SEA Games Wrestling Myanmar-2013 organized by Myanmar Wrestling Federation took place in conjunction with prize awarding ceremony at Theinbyu Gymnasium

in Mingala Taungnyunt Township, here, yesterday.

Deputy Minister for Sports U Thaug Htaik, AAWC President Dr. Chang Kew Kim, Myanmar Olympic Committee members and MWF President and CEC members and fans enjoyed

the finals.

At the prize awarding ceremony, MWF President U Kyaw Kyaw Linn and officials awarded the first, second and third prize winners of the Men and Women events. Among the six participant countries, Vietnam stands first with 16

NATIONAL

Appointment of ambassador agreed on

NAY PYI TAW, 8 April—The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has agreed to the appointment of H.E Ms. Maria Del Carmen Moreno Raymundo as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Kingdom of Spain to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar with residence in Bangkok.

H.E Ms. Maria Del Carmen Moreno Raymundo was born in 1965 in Valladolid, Spain. She obtained Bachelor in Law. In 1991, she joined the Spanish Foreign Service and she served in various capacities at diplomatic missions in Islamabad, New Delhi, Kuala Lumpur, Havana and Beijing. She was Chief of Staff to the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Madrid from January 2012 to 2013. She is now serving as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Kingdom of Spain to the Kingdom of Thailand.—MNA

Deputy Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw meets UN Assistant Secretary-General and party

NAY PYI TAW, 8 April—Deputy Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw U Mya Nyein met Mr. Ajay Chhibber, UN Assistant Secretary-General, UNDP Assistant Administrator and Director, UNDP Regional Bureau for Asia and Pacific and party at No. 20 Hall of Amyotha

Hluttaw, here, this evening. They cordially discussed matters on capacity building of the parliamentarians and the staff of Myanmar.

It was also attended by International Relations Committee Chairman Col Maung Maung Htoo.

MNA

NPED, UNDP sign agreement on Country Programme Action Plan



Union NPED Minister Dr Kan Zaw and Dr Ajay Chhibber, UN Assistant Secretary-General, UNDP Assistant Administrator and Director, UNDP Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific sign Country Programme Action Plan.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 8 April—A signing ceremony of Country Programme Action Plan between the Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development and United Nations Development Programme took place at the ministry, here, this morning, attended by Union Minister for NPED Dr Kan Zaw, Dr. Ajay Chhibber, UN Assistant Secretary-General, UNDP Assistant Administrator and Director, UNDP Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific, deputy ministers, directors-

general, the UNDP Resident Representative and party.

First, Deputy Minister for NPED U Hset Aung and UNDP Country Director Mr Toyli N Kurbanov signed agreement on Country Programme Action Plan.

Under the Country Programme Action Plan, UNDP will give US\$ 150 million in development

assistance to Myanmar during the period from 2013 to 2015. The provision of financial assistance to Myanmar will resume as the country regained Normal Country Status starting from January 2013. UNDP will cooperate with ministries concerned in implementation of undertakings.

MNA

Hole in one

YANGON, 8 April—While U Sai Kyaw Htin was playing golf with his colleagues on 8 April at Shwe Mann Taung Golf Resort in Mandalay, he scored hole in one with Honma Iron No.7 far from 144 yards.—NLM

UEC to share voting knowledge in ethnic languages



Union Election Commission Chairman U Tin Aye making a speech in meeting with those from political parties.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 8 April—Union Election Commission will educate the ethnic people on voting processes through its public awareness programmes in ethnic languages, Chairman of Union Election Commission U Tin Aye said in meeting with political parties this morning.

He admitted that there are weaknesses in compiling voters list, campaigning and public awareness raising.

Multi-party democracy general elections will be held in later 2015, he said.

He said the commission is making preparations for holding the elections which he guaranteed to be “free and fair”.

He said compilation of accurate voters list calls for cooperation of voters and parties.

He said the commission

would issue press releases “transparently” to inform voting processes to the public.

The commission will set the timeframe for campaigning after seeking approval from respective political parties and subcommissions.

A total of 56 political

parties have been registered at the commission.

Representatives from political parties participated in discussion. The chairman made concluding remarks.

The meeting was attended by UEC members, and chairs and officials of the political parties.—MNA

Attorney-General Office of the Union, UNDP agree on cooperation

NAY PYI TAW, 8 April—Union Attorney-General Dr Tun Shin received a delegation led by Dr. Ajay Chhibber, UN Assistant Secretary General, UNDP Assistant Administrator and Director, UNDP Regional

Bureau for Asia and the Pacific at his office, here, this afternoon. The Union Attorney-General elaborated the role of the Attorney-General Office of the Union. Dr. Ajay Chhibber replied that workshops on ensuring

the Rule of Law would be conducted in cooperation with the Attorney-General Office by laying down long-term plan. He vowed to assist in sending of scholars abroad for capacity building.

MNA

MOFA holds course for liaison officers for 2014 ASEAN Chairmanship, ASEAN Community

NAY PYI TAW, 8 April—The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has launched the first course for liaison officers as part of preparation for ASEAN Chairmanship in 2014 and ASEAN Community in 2015, at the

ministry, here, this morning. On the occasion, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Zin Yaw delivered an address.

The two-week course covers English proficiency, knowledge

on culture and traditions of ASEAN member countries, protocols, cutting-edge technologies and ceremonial etiquettes.

A total of 70 trainees are taking the course.

MNA

Air KBZ donates ambulance to funeral service association (Yangon)

YANGON, 8 April—In commemoration of the second anniversary of Air KBZ, a ceremony to donate an ambulance to Thukha Clinic was held at Funeral Service Association (Yangon) on 2 April morning.

Joint Secretary of the association Daw Ayeya

Maung Maung extended greetings. Managing Director U Moe Hsan Aung of Air KBZ explained the purpose of the donations and handed over documents related to an ambulance worth K 22 million to Chairman of the association U Kyaw Thu.

After giving a certificate of honour to the wellwisher, Chairman U Kyaw Thu spoke words of thanks.

Air KBZ is established with the purpose of enabling the passenger to enjoy smooth and convenient transportation.

Myanma Alinn

Training course on children-led disaster reduction wraps up

BAGO, 8 April—Organized by Save the Children, the training course on children-led disaster reduction was held at Shwewahtun Hotel in Bago

on 31 March.

Head of District Fire Services Department Staff Officer U Aye Myint gave lectures on danger of fire, fire preventive measures and

use of fire extinguishers to 35 teachers.

Later, the trainee teachers participated in the fire drill.

Myanma Alinn

WORLD

Britain's Cameron to meet EU leaders to push reform plan

LONDON, 8 April — Prime Minister David Cameron hopes to overcome opposition to his plan to claw back power from Brussels when he meets the leaders of Germany, France and Spain this week for talks on Britain's future in the European Union.

Cameron infuriated European allies in January when he said he would try to renegotiate terms of Britain's EU membership

and ask voters in a referendum if they wanted to stay in the bloc. France and Germany accused him of treating the EU like an "a la carte menu" from which he could pick powers. The opposition Labour Party said Britain risked sleepwalking towards EU exit.

Facing hostility to his policy across the continent, Cameron faces an uphill battle when he meets Spanish Prime Minister Mariano

Rajoy in Madrid on Monday. He flies to Paris later that day to meet French President Francois Hollande before going to Germany on Friday for talks with Chancellor Angela Merkel.

Cameron will argue the euro zone crisis means it is inevitable that the EU will undergo big changes and reform its treaties, allowing Britain to forge a new role.

"This is not about cherry-picking, but to argue as some do that you can't have a flexible Europe is wrong," he said in a statement. "We can have a flexible Europe where we don't all have to do the same things in the same way at the same time." Cameron will press the case for an EU in which countries have different roles. He will point to the fact that not all members, including Britain, signed up to the euro currency.

Reuters



Britain's Prime Minister David Cameron speaks at the Conservative Party's annual Spring Forum, in central London on 16 March, 2013.—REUTERS

Japan logs 1st current account surplus in four months

TOKYO, 8 April — Japan logged its first current account surplus in four months in February, with profits from the securities investments income account growing to outweigh the trade deficit, government data showed on Monday.

The surplus in the balance, one of the widest gauges of international trade, stood at 637.4 billion yen, the Finance Ministry said in a preliminary report.

The income account, which reflects how much Japan earns from its foreign investments, marked a surplus of 1,407.4 billion yen, up 13.1 percent from a year earlier, helped by higher dividends and profits from securities investments on the back of a weaker yen. It

marked the third consecutive month of gains.

Goods trade saw a deficit of 677.0 billion yen, as exports fell 3.5 percent from a year earlier to 5,065.9 billion yen, dragged down by a decline in exports to China and the European Union, while imports climbed 11.5 percent to 5,742.8 billion yen as demand for mineral fuels increased.

The weaker yen has pushed up import costs at a time when demand for natural gas and oil has been growing from power companies for fossil fuel-based power generation as an alternative to nuclear power after the nuclear accident at the Fukushima Daiichi power plant, crippled by the March 2011 quake-tsunami

disaster.

The ministry said the yen dropped against the US dollar by 18.8 percent and the euro by 19.7 percent on year in February, amid expectations of aggressive monetary easing by the Bank of Japan.

Kyodo News

Portuguese PM says to further cut public spending to meet bailout requirement

LISBON, 8 April — Portuguese Prime Minister Pedro Passos Coelho said on Sunday that his government will not increase taxes but will further reduce public spending to meet bailout requirement.

In a 20-minute statement, Passos Coelho said that Friday's Constitutional Court has "compromised Portugal's return to the markets and its ability to renegotiate interest on its loans as well as Portugal's image abroad, something that was built up successfully over the past 22 months."

The prime minister assured, "The government will not accept any further increase in taxes, which seems to be the solution that the Constitutional Court favours."

Tax increases "would severely jeopardize our chances of a timely recovery of the economy and job creation," he added.

Two days after the



Rob Williams (R) of Tokyo Brits, wearing his lycra top, holds a donation box as he stands next to a volunteer of the Save Minamisoma Project at Yokohama's Country & Athletic Club during a sporting event on 7 April, 2013.

The group is raising funds for an upcoming charity ride from Tokyo to Fukushima.

KYODO NEWS

South Africa to send troops to join UN mission in Congo

JOHANNESBURG, 8 April — South Africa will send troops to the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) as part of a UN mission to neutralize armed groups in the conflict-torn east of the country, a South African military spokesman said on Sunday.

The deployment comes as South Africa is coming to grips with its worst military setback since the end of apartheid in 1994. Thirteen of its troops were killed last month in a shootout with rebels in the neighbouring Central African Republic (CAR).

"The DRC deployment has nothing to do with the CAR. Neither did the CAR incident influence the decision to send the troops into the DRC. They are two dif-

ferent issues," Brigadier General Xolani Mabanga told Reuters.

The size and timing of the deployment will depend on the terms set by the United Nations, he added.

The Security Council unanimously adopted in late March a resolution establishing the so-called intervention brigade as part of the existing 20,000-strong UN force in Congo, known as MONUSCO.

It is the first time the United Nations has created such a unit within a traditional peacekeeping force.

Congo's army is fighting M23 rebels in a conflict that has dragged Congo's east back into war and displaced more than half a million people.

Reuters



Portuguese Prime Minister Pedro Passos Coelho makes a speech at his office in Lisbon, capital of Portugal, on 7 April, 2013.

XINHUA

the interpretation of the law along with many other institutionalists."

"The court decision puts the Portuguese negotiating position in fragile footing with Europe," he said, while arguing that in "exceptional times, extraordinary action is needed, something that was not un-

Internal reserves at Japan's 100 big firms rise to 99 tril yen

TOKYO, 8 April — The combined internal reserves, or retained earnings, at Japan's 100 leading companies stood at 99 trillion yen as of 31 March, 2012, according to a Kyodo News survey released on Sunday.

The figure represents a rise of 10 percent from the level on 31 March, 2009, when Japan was dealing with the financial crisis triggered by the collapse of US investment bank Lehman Brothers Holdings Inc.

The survey showed that Japanese companies are increasingly retaining profits to brace for a possible deterioration in business conditions, rather than to fund wage increases or capital spending.

Internal reserves refer to cash, deposits and other retained earnings. Financial statements describe them as earned surplus. Kyodo tallied the internal reserves listed in the financial reports of the 100 companies.

Although combined reserves at the 100 companies had dropped to 90 trillion yen as of 31 March, 2009, from 95 trillion yen a year earlier, the companies' internal reserves have since rebounded.—Kyodo News

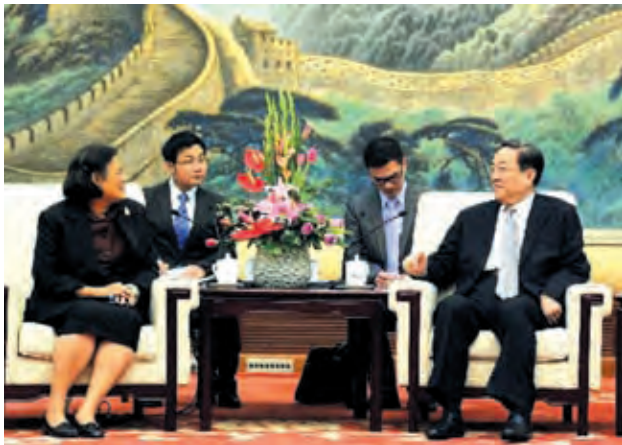


Yoshikazu Noda, a researcher at the Fukui Prefectural Dinosaur Museum, holds a fossil piece excavated at a site in Nakhon Ratchasima, Thailand, on 4 Feb, 2013.

KYODO NEWS

REGIONAL

China's top political advisor meets Thai princess



Yu Zhengsheng (R), chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), meets with Thai Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn, in Beijing, capital of China, on 7 April, 2013.—XINHUA

BEIJING, 8 April—China's top political advisor Yu Zhengsheng met with Thai Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn on Sunday. Yu, chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political

Consultative Conference (CPPCC), spoke highly of Sirindhorn's important role in enhancing cooperation in the fields of culture and education as well as science and technology between the two countries and friendship between the two peoples over the past more than 30 years.

China's newly-elected leadership will, as always, value the country's ties with Thailand and is willing to work with Thailand to maintain high-level exchanges and expand substantial cooperation, Yu noted.

Sirindhorn pledged to continue to make efforts to promote China-Thailand relations.—Xinhua

NZ to upgrade diplomatic presence to reflect growing China relationship

WELLINGTON, 8 April — New Zealand is to open a new diplomatic post in western China and expand the education staff in the three existing posts in Guangzhou, Beijing and Shanghai, New Zealand Prime Minister John Key announced on Monday.

The exact location of the new post was not identified by Key who held talks with Chinese President Xi Jinping at the Boao Forum for Asia on Sunday.

The new consulate-general in western China and the upgrading of New Zealand's diplomatic presence in China reflected the increasing importance of the relationship between the two countries, Key said

in a statement from his office.

"These decisions reflect the range and growth of New Zealand political, trade, tourism and education interests in China and will support their further development," said Key.

It was the first formal bilateral meeting between Key and Xi since Xi was officially elected President last month.

They discussed a wide range of topics and reconfirmed the target of dou-

bling two-way goods trade between China and New Zealand by 2015, said Key.

Key and then Premier Wen Jiabao set the target of doubling two-way goods trade to 20 billion NZ dollars (16.82 billion NZ dollars) by 2015 when Key visited China in 2010.

"Businesses are on track to achieve this, and my meeting with President Xi provided an opportunity to reconfirm that target," said Key.

Xinhua

Japan, Australia reach broad agreement on FTA

TOKYO, 8 April—Japan and Australia have reached broad agreement on how to deal with farm products in their ongoing negotiations on a bilateral free trade agreement, government sources said on Sunday.

Under the deal, Japan will be allowed to retain high tariffs on imports of some of its most "sensitive" farm goods in exchange for accepting a certain amount of those products from Australia at low customs duties, according to the sources.

With the deal, the two

countries are hoping to conclude the trade negotiations as early as this summer, after working out automotive tariff reductions.

The agricultural sector had been the major stumbling block since the FTA negotiations started in 2007. Australia, a major agricultural exporter, had urged Japan to eliminate tariffs on beef, wheat, dairy products and sugar. But Japan had refused to open up market access for the products. Australia decided to compromise after Japan formally announced

last month its desire to join talks on a new trans-Pacific free trade agreement.

Already a member of the US-led Trans-Pacific Partnership free trade talks, Australia is believed to have changed its long-held position in an attempt to increase its farm exports to Japan as much as possible before the new multilateral trade accord becomes effective, some of the sources said.

Under the agreement, the two countries will create low-tariff quotas for Australia to export some

beef and dairy products to Japan. But when the exports exceed the quotas, they will be subject to Japan's current high duties.

Among Australian exports to Japan, beef products are the highest in value terms. The tariff for beef is 38.5 percent. Rice is excluded from the new two-stage tariff system, according to the sources.

Kyodo News



A rescued miner is carried to an ambulance at a flooded coal mine in Weng'an County, southwest China's Guizhou Province, on 8 April, 2013. Three miners trapped in the flooded Yunda Coal Mine for about 60 hours were rescued early Monday morning. Three others remained missing at the mine, which was hit by flood last Friday. Rescuers had earlier confirmed that three miners had been dead.—XINHUA

Nine arrested in Mumbai house collapse which claimed 74 lives

NEW DELHI, 8 April—Indian police have arrested a total of nine people, including a local corporator, in connection with Thursday evening's collapse of the illegal, under-construction building near Mumbai, in which 74 people were killed and over 60 others injured, a senior police official said on Sunday.

The seven-storey building in Thane on the outskirts of India's financial capital, being built on forest land illegally, collapsed like a pack of cards trapping in debris some 100 occupants of the already built four floors of the apartment block as well as construction workers toiling for erecting three more floors. The dead included 26 children.

"A local corporator, two senior civic body officials, a police official and the two builders of the illegal building are among those now arrested by the police. The corporator of Nationalist Congress Party, an ally of the Congress-led

government in the western state of Maharashtra, Hira Patil, has been arrested for failing to act by allegedly taking bribes from the builders," he said, on condition of anonymity.

All the arrested have been slapped with various charges, including causing deaths due to negligence and criminal conspiracy. They have been remanded in police custody till 20 April by a local court.

Preliminary probe has revealed that the building, which was built in a span

of just two months using sub-standard materials, collapsed probably due to the laying of the foundation of a new building in the vicinity. "But we are waiting for a thorough probe report before we come to any definite conclusion," the official said. The high-level probe was, in fact, ordered by Chief Minister Prithviraj Chavan on Friday, who had pledged to take strict action against any government official who were found guilty. "No one will be spared," he said.—Xinhua

Whaling fleet returns to Shimonoseki from Antarctic

SHIMONOSEKI, (Japan), 8 April—Japan's three-ship whaling fleet led by the mother ship *Nisshin Maru* returned to the port of Shimonoseki, Yamaguchi Prefecture, on Sunday after completing this season's so-called research whaling in the Antarctic Ocean.

Multiple flaws and dents were visible on the bow and hull of the *Nisshin Maru*, which was rammed by vessels of antiwhaling group Sea Shepherd Conservation Society.

Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Minister Yoshimasa Hayashi told a welcoming ceremony that the group's obstructive activities "amounted to piracy, as the International Whaling Commission has recognized the legitimacy of Japan's research whaling." The *Nisshin Maru* was making a



Photo shows the mother ship Nisshin Maru of Japan's three-ship whaling fleet, which returned to the port of Shimonoseki, Yamaguchi Prefecture, on 7 April, 2013, after completing the season's research whaling in the Antarctic Ocean.

KYODO NEWS

port call at Shimonoseki for the first time in four years. Whale meat that Japan describes as a by-product of its research activities will be unloaded from the vessel starting on Monday.

The Fisheries Agency said the fleet caught a combined 103 southern

minke whales this season, the smallest catch since Japan started its so-called research whaling in the Antarctic Ocean in 1987. Critics say Japan's research whaling is merely a cover for commercial whaling.

Kyodo News



A pilot introduces the helicopter to visitors at Australian War Memorial during its Open Day in Canberra, Australia, on 6 April, 2013.—XINHUA

ADVERTISEMENT & GENERAL

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV GOLDEN FAN VOY NO (3)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV GOLDEN FAN VOY NO (3) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 8.4.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P.L where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S SEALS CO LTD**

Phone No: 256924/256914

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV JIASHENG SHAN VOY NO (-)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV JIASHENG SHAN VOY NO (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 8.4.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: BRIGHT SAIL SHIPPING LTD**

Phone No: 256924/256914

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV GUNKUL-1 VOY NO (-)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV GUNKUL-1 VOY NO (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 7.4.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P.L/S.P.W(6) where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S KULNATEE CO LTD**

Phone No: 256924/256914

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV TOPAZ ACE VOY NO (2)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV TOPAZ ACE VOY NO (2) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 9.4.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: FORTUNE SHIPPING &
AGENCY PTE LTD**

Phone No: 256924/256914

**Ministry of Transport
Myanma Port Authority
Invitation for Open Tender**

1. Myanma Port Authority is planning to implement the port and port related development projects at the Thilawa Areas. Therefore interested Tenderers are cordially invited to submit complete project proposals for the following projects-

Construction of Terminal, Storage Tanks and Related Port infrastructures for operating and distributing of Bitumen and oil products at the Thilawa Port Area Plot No (3) with the BOT system.

2. The Tender Forms together with the Tender Terms and Conditions will be purchased by the investors, companies or their legal representatives.

3. Tender Forms can be purchased with 500 USD at Account Department, Ground Floor of Myanma Port Authority, Head Office, No(10), Pansodan Street, Kyauktada Township, Yangon during office hours on 10-4-2013 and 11-4-2013.

4. Detailed information can be inquired at 01-253358, 01-387116 (Ext.303).

Myanma Port Authority

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV BANGKACHAI VOY NO (119)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV BANGKACHAI VOY NO (119) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 7.4.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S WONGSAMUT OCEAN
SHIPPING CO LTD**

Phone No: 256916/256919/256921

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV HR FACILITY VOY NO ()**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV HR FACILITY VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 8.4.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of B.S.W where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S BBC CHARTERING &
LOGISTIC GMBH & CO KG**

Phone No: 256916/256919/256921

Chinese innovations to benefit the world: Bill Gates

BOAO, 8 April—As economists frown upon a lack of innovation plaguing China's economy, Bill Gates has highlighted the innovations China is adept at that can benefit the world: in epidemic control and grain production.

In a speech delivered on Saturday evening at the Boao Forum for Asia held in south China's Hainan Province, Gates said the country's scientific breakthroughs can help Africa and less developed countries battle epidemics, hunger and poverty.

"The breakthrough science and technology that's happening here in China can help the poorest people in the world lead healthier, more productive lives," said Gates, who is the co-chair and trustee of Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

Gates said China has successfully lifted 600 million people out of poverty over the past three decades, a victory that could not have been achieved without innovation in human health and agricultural productivity.

Gates said his founda-

tion, which has been active in the country in battling HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis and reducing tobacco use, is working with the Chinese government and institutes on epidemic control and agricultural research.

"We see this potential, for example, in vaccines, where China is quickly becoming a leader," he said.

The foundation is collaborating with a Chinese institute and developer of a low-cost vaccine for Japanese encephalitis to ensure supplies of polio vaccines

and the development of less expensive doses, he said.

In addition to becoming a major supplier of vaccines, Gates said China can "play a broader leadership role by sharing its own experience" to eradicate epidemics like polio in other countries.

China has eliminated the paralyzing disease and reported no indigenous cases since 1994, thanks to a domestically-developed vaccine and a nationwide vaccination campaign, which began in 1965.

Xinhua

China confirms 21 cases of H7N9 infection

SHANGHAI, 8 April—China reported three more H7N9 infections on Sunday, bringing total number of the confirmed cases to 21 as the country is gearing up to fight the disease that has left six dead.

The latest confirmed H7N9 case was reported in east China's Anhui Province, where a 55-year-old male working in the live poultry trade was diagnosed with the virus, local health authorities said on Sunday night.

The Chinese Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (CCDCP) diagnosed the patient, surnamed Li, positive of the H7N9 avian influenza virus on Sunday.

Li began exhibiting flu symptoms on 28 March and was taken to a hospital in Bozhou City on 1 April after his condition worsened, according to a statement from the Anhui Provincial Health Department.

Li is currently in stable condition, said the state-

ment, adding that 12 others who have had close contact with the patient have not shown any signs of infection so far. Before Li's case of H7N9 was confirmed, the National Health and Family Planning Commission (NHFPC) reported that there were a total of 20 H7N9 cases across the country as of 5 pm on Sunday, including two cases that were newly reported in Shanghai on Sunday.

One is a Shanghai resident and the other is from

neighboring Anhui Province, according to Shanghai authorities.

The two male patients, 67 and 59 years old, respectively, developed flu symptoms in late March and were diagnosed with pneumonia over the last week, Shanghai's health and family planning commission said in a statement.

An initial investigation showed that six people who have had close contact with the two have not exhibited flu symptoms.—Xinhua



A health worker sprays disinfectant at a closed live poultry trade market in Feidong County, east China's Anhui Province, on 7 April, 2013.

XINHUA

ENTERTAINMENT

Actress Jessica Pare finds fame with TV's "Mad Men"

LOS ANGELES, 8 April—With her coquettish French song "Zou Bisou Bisou" and her sex scenes with new screen husband Don Draper, little-known French-Canadian actress Jessica Pare was the breakout star of TV advertising drama "Mad Men" last season.

Pare, 30, returns on Sunday as Megan Draper, the most vibrant of Don Draper's mysterious assets, while her character forges ahead with her new career as an actress in late 1960s New York.

Reuters spoke with Pare about playing Megan, how she deals with her new found fame, and the hardest thing about being part of "Mad Men."

Q: You were the delightful surprise of last season and your character is now becoming a star in her own right. What's it like being back again?

A: Last season was nerve wracking for me because I felt like the stakes were a lot higher, whereas before I had nothing to lose ... I was nervous to do really

well and that people would like me. (After a while) because I was on set almost every day of the week I was too busy to be thinking about those things and what the audience might think. That's not my job. I am there to tell Megan's story.

Q: How would you describe Megan as a person?

A: She is very optimistic. She is very joyful, vibrant and passionate about life. I think that last season we saw her make a really interesting choice to pursue her passion for performing, despite the fact that she had a very comfortable, very interesting job and she was good at it.

(In the new season) she has the acting job, she is finally working. She has the career of her dreams and the man of her dreams. She sees a Don that nobody else sees. She sees this amazing, romantic, handsome, dynamic, fun, interesting person and somebody warm and loving, and nobody else sees him that way. But then she is not able to see that other side of him that everybody else sees.

Q: How much is Megan like you?

A: A lot (laughs) ... She is from Montreal and her brother is a professor and she is an actor! Aside from those things, I think I share her optimism and her joie de vivre.

Q: Last season you had a lot of racy scenes, often in your underwear. How hard are those to do, or is it fun pretending to make love to Jon Hamm?

A: It's part of the performance. I never had hang-ups about that kind of thing. I think sex is an important part of our relationships.

Q: Are we going to see any more of your singing?

A: I don't know ...(giggles)

Q: How much advance notice do you get of the script or plots or character development from creator Matt Weiner?

A: I think he would give a performer a heads-up if there was something we needed to work on. But normally we wouldn't find out until the script comes out a few days before the cast table reading.

Q: That must be nerve-racking.

A: I like it. It was something I had to learn how to contend with. Before, I had worked more in film where you are handed your character arc before you even set foot on the set. The special challenge is to not anticipate anything in your performance.

Q: What's the hardest thing about doing "Mad Men" for you?

A: That it doesn't last all year?! (laughs) I love this job, the writing is so incredible and the stories we get to tell ... It's really important to all of us and we all believe in what we are doing. The hardest thing? Sometimes it's really hard not to eat the chocolate!

Q: I was thinking of all the herbal cigarettes and the iced tea or whatever it is they use for all the whiskey.

A: I now love the taste of the non-alcoholic wine, the herbal cigarettes smell



Actress Jessica Pare

fighting so hard ... Part of me is like

'Do it! You'll make their day.'

And the other half of me is like 'Stop it! Don't be stupid, they don't know who you are. They just shut up because you have a giant piece of kale on your teeth.'

Q: I know you can't give away the plot but I do hope we are going to see Megan throughout this new season?

A: Ooooh. I wouldn't want to spoil it for you.

Reuters



Actor Daniel Craig and his wife, actress Rachel Weisz, arrive at the 70th annual Golden Globe Awards in Beverly Hills, California, on 13 Jan, 2013.

'Betrayal' on Broadway: Craig, Weisz in love triangle

NEW YORK, 8 April—Daniel Craig and his actress wife, Rachel Weisz, are teaming up on stage this year to play a married couple in a Broadway revival of Harold Pinter's play "Betrayal" about adultery.

Craig, who has played British spy 007 in the last three James Bond films including the box office hit "Skyfall," last appeared on Broadway in 2009 alongside Hugh Jackman in "A Steady Rain."

The Mike Nichols-directed production will

be the Broadway debut for Weisz, who won an Oscar for the 2005 film "The Constant Gardener" and praise for her stage performances in "Suddenly, Last Summer" and "A Streetcar Named Desire" in London.

Weisz is currently starring in the Disney box office hit "Oz the Great and Powerful." The two British actors married in 2011 after falling for each other while working on the film "Dream House."

The couple will begin performances in October before an official on 3 No-

vember opening for a limited run of the three-character 1978 Pinter play about adultery, which is told in reverse time, producers said on Friday.

Rafe Spall, who starred in Academy Award-winning "Life of Pi," will play the third character in the love triangle, also marking his Broadway debut.

Director Nichols has won a host of Tony awards, Broadway's highest honors, most recently for productions of "Death of a Salesman" and the musical "Spamalot".—Reuters

UK rock star cancels Russia gigs over rights groups "crackdown"

MOSCOW, 8 April—British rock star and founder of the band Dire Straits, Mark Knopfler, said on Thursday he had cancelled two concerts in Russia due to what he called a crackdown on human rights groups.

Russian prosecutors and tax officials searched the offices of Human Rights Watch, Amnesty International and Memorial, Russia's oldest rights group, and other such organizations last month in what critics said were aimed at stifling criticism of President Vladimir Putin.

"Given the crackdown

by Russian authorities on groups including Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch, I have regretfully decided to cancel my upcoming concerts in Moscow and St Petersburg in June," Knopfler wrote on his website www.markknopfler.com.

Putin has signed laws to tighten controls on non-governmental organizations since he returned to the presidency in March last year, requiring those with foreign funding to register as "foreign agents", a term which echoes Cold War era hostilities. He dismissed accusations of political pressure on the rights groups by saying the checks were "routine". Knopfler said he hoped the situation would improve. "I have always loved playing in

Russia and have great affection for the country and the people," he wrote. "I hope the current climate will change soon."

Reuters



British guitarist Mark Knopfler performs during the 30th Cordoba Guitar Festival in Cordoba on 25 July, 2010.

SPORTS

Park wins second major with Kraft Nabisco triumph

SAN FRANCISCO, 8 April—South Korea's Inbee Park won the Kraft Nabisco Championship by four strokes on Sunday after shooting a final round 69 to secure her second major title.

Overnight leader Park birdied her first two holes and was never threatened at California's Mission Hills Country Club where she finished the tournament with a 15-under total of 273, well clear of second-placed compatriot Ryu So-yeon.

American Lizette Salas started the round three strokes behind 2008 US Open champion Park but double-bogeyed the first hole and tumbled to a seven-over 79.

"Well, that made my day much easier, that's for sure," Park told reporters of the opening hole. "I holed a long one on the first hole, and a birdie start is always a good thing so that gave me a lot of confidence."

Ryu surged up the leaderboard with a 65 to finish outright second on 11 under par, while Norway's Suzann Pettersen and Swede Caroline Hedwall tied for third two strokes further back.

Seven-times major winner Karrie Webb was six-under to tie for fifth at the tournament where she earned her last major triumph in 2006.

Park's win is her second of the season and moves her to No 2 in the world, behind Stacy Lewis.

"I've seen Inbee do this before," said Lewis, who finished in a disappointing tie for 32nd at one-under. "When she rolls it, you just can't beat her. She's the best putter on tour."

Reuters



Inbee Park of South Korea kisses her trophy while posing in front of the leaderboard after winning the Kraft Nabisco Championship LPGA golf tournament in Rancho Mirage, California, on 7 April, 2013.

REUTERS

Drogba's Galatasaray face huge Real Madrid task

ISTANBUL, 8 April—Didier Drogba and his Galatasaray team mates have a tough task when they try to overturn a 3-0 deficit against Real Madrid in the second leg of their Champions League quarter-final on Tuesday.

Drogba, who won the title last season with Chelsea, will take some cheer from his performance in Saturday's domestic championship game against Mersin Idman Yurdu when he scored two second-half goals in a 3-1 win.

However, the mood at Galatasaray was soured at that game by coach Fatih Terim's anger at refereeing decisions in a row which led to him and his two assistants being sent to the stands, overshadowing preparations for Tuesday's return leg in Istanbul.

In Madrid last week, Galatasaray were taught "a good lesson" by the Spanish side, according to Drogba.

"We're not at their level but I think it's a lack

of experience more than anything else," Drogba told beIN Sport. "We're learning, we're a young team. There are things that need improving."

"It's a good lesson, and one we have to show we've learned well in the return leg. We wanted to contain Madrid but we could have done it in a different way, with more audacity and aggression. We could have caused them problems as we had chances but that's the way it is," he said.

One of Galatasaray's biggest headaches is the absence of key striker Burak Yilmaz, who is suspended after picking up a yellow card in Madrid.

Turkish media reported on Friday that the Istanbul side had applied to UEFA to have the yellow card annulled.

Galatasaray will also be missing central defender Dany Nounkeu after his booking in Madrid ruled him out.

Real romped to a 5-1 victory at home to mid-table Levante on Saturday as coach Jose Mourinho left several top performers, including forward Cristiano Ronaldo, out of his starting lineup.

Ronaldo came off the bench at halftime

with Real leading 2-1 and netted his 29th goal of the La Liga campaign before setting up fellow substitute Mesut Ozil.

Reuters



Galatasaray's Didier Drogba

Some upsets favourites to win Paris marathon



Kenya's Peter Some crosses the finish line to win the 37th Paris Marathon in Paris on 7 April, 2013.

REUTERS

PARIS, 8 April—Peter Some recorded a surprise victory in the Paris marathon on Sunday, the Kenyan clocking two hours, five minutes and 38 seconds to beat Ethiopian favourite Tadesse Tola and compatriot Eric Ndiema by almost a minute in chilly conditions.

There was joy for Ethiopia in the women's race, however, when Boru Tadesse set a new course record of 2:21:05 to smash the existing mark by more than 30 seconds, according to organizers.

The previous record (2.21:37) was set last year by compatriot Tirfi Beyene.

Reuters

Serena rebounds to win third Charleston title

CHARLESTON, (South Carolina) 8 April—World number one Serena Williams bounced back from a set down to defeat former top ranked Jelena Jankovic of Serbia 3-6, 6-0, 6-2 and win her

cruised through the next two, winning 12 of the final 14 games for her second consecutive title on the clay at Charleston, South

Carolina. She also won in 2008.

Williams stepped up her play after a testy exchange in the first game of the second set. The American held up her racquet as Jankovic served, signaling she felt Jankovic served before she was ready.

"How long do I have to wait?" the Serb asked the chair umpire. "Until I'm ready," Williams replied.

Williams won the next eight points. "I just got really

relaxed and was like, 'Serena, you have to chill out and not get crazy and if you win, great. If not, you're trying,'" Williams told reporters.

More consistent play aided the turnaround, she said. "I felt so close in that first set," said Williams, who has now won 71 of 75 matches since the start of last year's clay court season.

"I felt like I could have been up 3-0. She was playing really, really well, but it was just a shot here, a shot there, and she played really well in the big points."

"I had so many opportunities that I missed. She took advantage of all of that, and she went on to glory in that first set."

Jankovic said she began to tire as the match continued.

"In the second set I had 40-15 in that first game and then again in another couple of games I had 40-15, 40-0. I should have focused and gotten those games," said the Serb. By the third set, Williams' strong play began to affect her, Jankovic said.

"I got tired," the world number 18 said. "It was my sixth match here and playing Serena is not easy — you have to run a lot of balls down and hit as hard as you can and give your maximum. 'She's so strong. She's the No1 player in the world for a reason. 'She was the better one at the end.'—Reuters



Serena Williams

GENERAL



A cargo ship sails under the Bayi Bridge across the Ganjiang River in Nanchang, capital of east China's Jiangxi Province, on 7 April, 2013. The water level of the Ganjiang River in the Nanchang segment has risen to 18.53 metres by 7 April morning, five metres higher than half month earlier and two meters higher than the same period of last year, according to the Nanchang Hydrology Station. The local government has strengthened its flood surveillance and control.

XINHUA

Perenco helicopter crashes in Peru, 13 dead

LIMA, 8 April—A helicopter chartered by French oil company Perenco has crashed in a remote northern part of Peru, killing all 13 Peruvians aboard, including one Perenco employee and representatives of three contractors, a company source told *Reuters*.

Perenco confirmed the accident, adding "at this stage, no survivors have been found." A Peruvian official usually has to confirm a death toll in an accident before a company can publicly confirm the casualties.

The helicopter went down in the sparsely populated region of Loreto, Peru, near the border with Ecuador. It had left the jungle city of Iquitos to fly to the company's Block 67, the company said.

There were nine passengers and four crew members on board, it added.

"The Peruvian Army is at the scene and two additional helicopters are supporting the rescue efforts," Perenco said in a statement.

Block 67 is a 630-square-mile (1,020-square-kilometre) block of more than 300 million barrels.

Media reports initially put the death toll at nine.

This is the second accident of the year involving a helicopter used by energy companies that work in the remote, oil-rich Peruvian jungle.

Reuters

Mitsubishi UFJ Financial to buy US real estate loan business

TOKYO, 8 April—Mitsubishi UFJ Financial Group Inc plans to purchase the US real estate loan business of the Deutsche Bank Group for around \$3.7 billion (about 360 billion yen), sources close to the matter said on Monday.

Making the acquisition through its US subsidiary Union Bank, Mitsubishi UFJ Financial aims to bolster its overseas operations

by obtaining promising assets in light of a recovery in the US real estate market and Japanese banks' sluggish domestic loan business, the sources said.

While European banks are selling non-core assets amid the debt crisis in Europe, Japanese banks have stronger financial bases, raising the possibility of more acquisitions of overseas operations.

Kyodo News

Injured Djokovic leads Serbia past US

BOISE, 8 April—Novak Djokovic overcame an early injury to his ankle and lifted Serbia to the Davis Cup semi-finals with a gritty 7-5, 6-7, 6-1, 6-0 victory over American Sam Querrey on Sunday.

"It's very strong emotion when you play for your country. I guess that's the biggest reason why I kept playing," Djokovic told reporters after securing Serbia an unassailable 3-1 lead.

"It meant a lot to me personally and the whole team and the nation, and we are very glad to be in semi-finals again."

Serbia will play Canada in the semi-finals in September.

The world number one Djokovic took a bad spill in the third game of the first set, and had to be helped off the court to have his right ankle treated.

But after wrapping his ankle in a medical timeout, Djokovic returned to the

court where his movement was not seriously hampered.

The Serbian's big-match experience came to the fore when he broke the towering American to 6-5 in the first set and sealed it with a series of high bouncing kick serves to his opponent's weaker backhand side.

Querrey rallied in the second set, dictating play with his big serve and fore-

hand to take it to a tiebreak.

Djokovic suffered a rare lapse to surrender the set, pushing a back-court volley wide and missing another forehand to hand Querrey the tiebreak 7-4.

The Serbian said that the anti-inflammatory medication he took for his ankle injury began to kick in from there, while Querrey's service speed slowed due to a strained right pectoral muscle.—*Reuters*



Serbia's Novak Djokovic hits a return to Sam Querrey of the US during their Davis Cup quarter-final tennis match in Boise, Idaho on 7 April, 2013. —REUTERS

7.6 mln disabled people receive rehabilitation services

BEIJING, 8 April—About 7.6 million disabled people received rehabilitation services in China in 2012, according to a statistical bulletin released by the China Disabled Persons' Federation (CDPF).

Rehabilitation centres were built in about 205,000 communities across the nation in 2012, employing 353,000 staff members, according to the bulletin.

A total of 724 rehabilitation institutions for the visually impaired were set up last year. About 796,000 cataract surgeries were performed, including 334,000 free operations provided for needy patients, said the CDPF. More than 1 million pieces of assistive devices

were offered to the handicapped for free or at reduced costs, including 39,000 artificial limbs, 40,000 orthotic devices and 105,000 pairs of typoscopes, according to the bulletin.

Nearly 6 million patients with severe mental disorders received rehabilitation and treatment in 2012, including 444,000 needy patients who received free medical attention.

The CDPF said 30 provincial-level rehabilitation institutions for autistic children were established across the nation in 2012, and 11,000 children have received occupational therapy. China has more than 85 million disabled people.

Xinhua



Visitors view works of Nobuyoshi Araki during an exhibition of the Japanese photographer and contemporary artist at Guangdong Times Museum in Guangzhou, capital of south China's Guangdong Province, on 7 April, 2013.—XINHUA

Dubai free zone aims for top gold trading hub

DUBAI, 8 April—The Dubai free zone will become one of the world's top trading hubs for precious metals in two years, driven by the influx of firms and customers from the emerging markets, an official said on Sunday.

Some 20 percent of the world's gold trade is flowing now in Dubai, Dr Ahmed Bin Sulayem, the executive chairman of the Dubai Multi Commodities Center (DMCC) free zone, told *Xinhua* at the 2nd annual DMCC precious metals conference. "Demand from East and West is still strong, whereas most new firms flock in from the emerging markets in Africa, India and China. We expect to host over 10,000 registered firms by 2015," said Bin Sulayem.

Bin Sulayem is hungry for more, saying that "Dubai aims to attract 50 percent of the gold trade."

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(9-4-13 09:30 am ~ 10-4-13 09:30 am) MST

- * News
- * "Thingyan Road Trip 2012" Mawlamyine & Set Sae Beach
- * News
- * Thingyan Songs & Dances
- * The Launching of Mon Precieux New York
- * News
- * Downtown Evening and Good Old Things
- * Trendy Nail Art
- * Pre-Thingyan Trade Fair and Car Show
- * News
- * Return of the Scouts
- * News
- * "Myanmar International Frontier" Israeli-Myanmar Bilateral Relations
- * News
- * Moe Ne keeps its tradition alive
- * News
- * Downtown Evening and Good Old Things
- * Trendy Nail Art
- * Let's sing & dance at Thingyan Festival
- * News
- * To Build a Better World for Autistic Kids
- * Myanmar Movies "Only Mom Can..."

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker receives UN Assistant Secretary-General



NAY PYI TAW, 8 April—Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann received Mr. Ajay Chhibber, UN Assistant Secretary-General, UNDP Assistant Administrator and Director, UNDP Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific Region, and party at Zabuthiri Hall of the Hluttaw Complex, here, at 3 pm today.

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann accepts book donation of Mr. Ajay Chhibber, UN Assistant Secretary-General, UNDP Assistant Administrator and Director, UNDP Regional Bureau for Asia and Pacific Region.—MNA

Also present at the call together with the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker were Chairman of Pyithu Hluttaw International Relations Committee U Hla Myint Oo, secretaries of the Hluttaw Committees and officials from the Hluttaw Office.

They discussed bilateral cooperation between UN agencies and the Hluttaws, and parliamentary affairs.

After the meeting, UN Assistant Secretary-General Mr. Ajay Chhibber donated 307 books for the Hluttaw Library through the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker.

The donated publications are books on international laws, human rights, parliamentary affairs, elections, constitutions and voting.

MNA

Yangon's Thamaing street blocked for overpass construction

YANGON, 8 April—Yangon Region Traffic Rule Enforcement Committee issued a notice on the use of Thamaing Railway Station Street (East) as an overpass is being built at Bayintnaung junction.

Heavy passenger buses will not be allowed to use the road from today on as the construction will occupy the middle part of the road. These buses will have to use a detour instead.

NLM

Supply of electricity, bridge, library put into service

NAY PYI TAW, 8 April—A ceremony to launch supply of electricity on a self-reliant basis was held in Chaunggale-Theingon Model Village in Pantanaw Township of Ayeyawady Region on 6 April morning.

Union Minister at the President Office U Thein Nyunt launched the supply of electricity and inspected installation of power lines.

The model village installed 1.43 miles long 0.4 KV power line with one 160 KVA transformer for supply of electricity.

On 7 April morning, the Union minister attended

the opening of Shwekyun Nadi wooden bridge in

Letpanyun Village of Maubin Township and

Shwekyuntha Library.

MNA

A ceremony to launch supply of electricity on a self-reliant basis in progress in Chaunggale-Theingon Model Village in Pantanaw Township.

MNA



“Iron Lady”

Margaret Thatcher dies



Britain's former Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher.

LONDON, 8 April—Margaret Thatcher, the “Iron Lady” who dominated British politics for two decades, died on Monday following a stroke, a spokesman for her family said. She was 87.

Britain's only woman prime minister, the tough, outspoken Thatcher, led the Conservatives to three election victories, governing from 1979 to 1990, the longest continuous period in office by a British prime minister since the early 19th century.

“It was with great sad-

ness that I learned of Lady Thatcher's death,” Prime Minister David Cameron said. “We've lost a great leader, a great Prime Minister and a great Briton.”

Thatcher died peacefully on Monday morning, said Lord Tim Bell, a spokesman for the Thatcher family.

“It is with great sadness that Mark and Carol Thatcher announced that their mother Baroness Thatcher died peacefully following a stroke this morning,” Bell said.

A grocer's daughter with a steely resolve, she became loved and loathed in equal measure as she crushed the unions and privatised vast swathes of British industry.

Queen Elizabeth said she was sad to hear the news of Thatcher's death and sent a message of sympathy to her family.

Reuters

Wider use of International payment cards offers rapid economic growth

In an interview with MD U Win Min Khaing of Myanmar Apex Bank, he said Myanmar Alin daily that, with an increase in arrivals of tourist and rapid growth in investment sector, Myanmar Apex Bank had started to allow VISA cards holders to use their cards in POS machines of the bank, helping visitors in spending money.

“Our country sees more tourist arrivals. Internationally, visitors have a habit of both carrying money and using cards. Card system facilitates big spending. So POS machines are needed. That's why we have decided to install

these machines in Myanmar without placing emphasis on profit”, he adds.

With a greater transparency in economic sector, more businessmen are eager to invest in Myanmar. As Myanmar will host SEA Games and regional conferences like ASEAN Summit and related meetings, implementation of an internationally-recognized system for the use of currency has become a must. Now Myanmar Apex Bank has fulfilled this requirement.

At present, Myanmar banks are giving competitive services to international payment card holders like VISA, Master and CUP card holders to use

their cards in the banks, as a result of a greater cooperation with the top banks in Japan and the US. Development of a certain country rests on its quality of banking service. Better banking service could lead to smooth and speedy flow of financial transaction and foreign investment.

**By: Myint Maung Soe
Photo: Tin Soe
(Myanma Alinn)**

In sale of valuable items, e-payment system will be able to facilitate domestic business, thereby generating more sales.

Myanma Alinn:
(2-4-2013)
Trs: YM

