The New Light of Myanmar
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President U Thein Sein calls for cent per cent operation of Nay Pyi Taw mechanized farm by monsoon

President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein presents gifts to staff from the departments under the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 9 April—President U Thein Sein visited reclamation site of 900-acre mechanized farms to be irrigated through Setsetyo creek and construction site of diversion weir.

The President called for cent per cent operations of the farm, irrigation system and roads by coming monsoon.

The President and party then visited construction site of Setsetyo diversion weir. Union Minister U Myint Hlaing reported the President on work progress.

The construction of diversion weir will be beneficial to environmental conservation. It would also prevent 900-acre farmlands from inundation in rainy seasons. The diversion weir will enable farmers to employ multiple cropping patterns.

The President presented gifts to those from Irrigation Department, Agriculture Mechanization Department and Agriculture Department.

The President called on visiting officials from Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) to cooperate in agriculture sector of Myanmar and updated that Myanmar would receive aids from JICA to penetrate Japanese market. Myanmar will start to export Seintalone mangoes and dragon ball fruits to Japanese market this season.

The President invited Japanese assistance for the country's shift from conventional farming to mechanized one and microfinance loans which he called "essential to farmers in Myanmar".

The President disclosed his supports for closer cooperation between the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation and JICA to strengthen intergovernmental and people-to-people connectivity.

The President and party looked round irrigation system of Setsetyo diversion weir, land reclamation for mechanized farming and thriving vegetable plantations and farmlands in the irrigation area of Setsetyo dam in a motorcade.

The site where new mechanized farmlands are being reclaimed is located between Ottarathiri and Pobbathiri Townships in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area.—*MNA*

Alternative publication of dailies in New Year holidays

NAY PYI TAW, 9 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 on12, 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*

President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein views land reclamation site of 900-acre mechanized farms.
MNA

Preparations for ASEAN Paralympic Games discussed

NAY PYI TAW, 9 April—The coordination meeting on opening and closing ceremony for the 7th ASEAN Paralympic Games to be held in January 2014 was held at the Ministry of Culture yesterday afternoon.

Union Minister for Culture U Aye Myint Kyu gave a speech and members of Committee for Preparing and Rehearsing Opening and Closing Ceremony reported on their respective sectors.—*MNA*

Weather Forecast for Second Dekad of April 2013

Bay of Bengal Condition

A low pressure area may form over the South Bay of Bengal and further intensify into a depression. Weather will be partly cloudy to cloudy in the Andaman Sea and South Bay and partly cloudy elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Rainy condition

Rainy days are expected about 6 to 7 days in Taninthayi Region and Kachin State, 4 to 5 days in Upper Sagaing, Bago, Yangon and Ayeyawady Regions, Rakhine, Kayin and Mon States and 1 to 2 days in the remaining Regions and States.

Day temperature

Day temperatures will be above April average temperatures in Lower Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway, Bago and Yangon Regions, Kayin and Mon States and about April average temperatures in the remaining Regions and States.—*NLM*

LOCAL NEWS

Mandalarians prepare for Maha Thingyan water festival

MANDALAY, 9 April— Aimed at enabling Mandalarians to partake joyfully in Myanmar traditional Maha Thingyan water festival, construction of water-throwing pavilions including Mandalay's Mayor water-throwing pavilion are in progress on the ring road of the moat in Mandalay where companies and national race entrepreneurs were granted permission to build 34 water-throwing pavilions in accord with prescribed rules and regulations. There will be 26 pavilions on 26th street, south of the moat, 15 on 66th street, east of the moat and three on 80th street, west of the moat totaling 34 which are under construction.

In the neighbourhood of Kandawgyi in Mandalay, 10 water-throwing pavilions will be available and 15 in downtown area.

Kyemon

Collision between loaded truck, motorbike kills young man

LASHIO, 9 April — A fatal road accident occurred in Lashio of Shan State (North) on 3 April, causing a young man dead.

A loaded 22-wheeled truck driven by Ye Lin Tun, 32, collided with a motorbike driven by Aung Nyunt, 18, of Lashio Township together with Aik Tun, 17, who was on the back seat in front of One One Store on Hsenwi road in ward-12 in Lashio.

During the accident, Aik Tun was pronounced dead on the spot as he was run over by the front tyre of the truck while he was flung to the ground by the collision.

But the motorcyclist, Aung Nyunt, suffered minor injuries.

Lashio police station filed a lawsuit against the truck driver.

Kyemon

Car vandals cause nearly K 1.8 million worth of damage to three vehicles in Shwepyitha Township

YANGON, 9 April — Three vehicles had been vandalized by a drunken mob of four vandals who threw stones at the front and rear windscreens of the cars and drove away by a motorbike in Shwepyitha Township at 11.40 pm on 24 March.

A Probox driven by Ko Ko, 35, of ward-10 in the township had fallen victim to a vandal attack from the motorbike driving on the opposite lane by four men who threw stones at it. The front windscreen of the Probox was smashed in the stone attack. The next vandal attacks happened to a taxi driven by Ko Win Khaing, 42, of the township and a stationary 10-wheeled bus near Shwe Yon bus-stop, leaving the windscreens of the two vehicles broken. The vandal attacks caused nearly K 1.8 million worth of damage to the three vehicles.

Shwepyitha police station opened a case and is launching an investigation to expose the four drunken vandals. —*Kyemon*

Two robbers sentenced to five years in jail with hard labour

YANGON, 9 April — Two suspects were given a five-year prison sentence with hard labour each by Dalla Township Court on 1 April as they were found guilty of committing an armed robbery, taking golden items, cash and handset away from the house of the owner of Annawa Moe fish brokerage on Kanaung Street in Banyadala ward of Dalla Township.

The incident occurred at her house while Daw Ohnma Swe, 45, was at her fish brokerage on Bogyoke street. As she was informed of the armed robbery at her house by Daw Ohn Myint, her housemaid, she rushed there and she found her belongings—gold chain, golden bracelet, golden locket, one handset and K 70000—worth over K 2.4 million were stolen by the robbers. Dalla township police station opened a case and made necessary investigation into the robbery. Police members arrested two suspects—Ko Ko Chit, 22, and Aye Naing (a) Ange Lay of Kyisu village in Kyonphar village-tract in Bogale Township— together with stolen gold wares.

Kyemon

Thetkalchaung bridge construction in full swing on Pathein-Ngapudaw road in Kangyidaunt Township

NAY PYI TAW, 9 April— Union Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lwin inspected progress of tarmacking of Pathein-Ngapudaw road and progress in installation of steel trusses and construction of approach road and bridge at the worksite of Thetkalchaung bridge construction project on 7 April.

In meeting with officials at the briefing hall, the Union minister called for timely completion of construction works meeting set standard, safety of steel truss installation, systematic management of engineers. He stressed the need of greater coordination in dealing with their respective tasks.

Thetkalchaung bridge is being built at mile post No (12/0) on Pathein-Ngapudaw road in Kangyidaunt Township of Pathein District in Ayeyawady Region. Upon completion, the 1880 feet long bridge will have a 24 feet wide motorway flanked by three feet and six inches wide pedestrian lanes on either side. The main structure of the reinforced concrete bridge will have steel truss frames and concrete floor. Its water clearance will be 40 feet high and 215 feet wide and it can withstand 60 ton-load of each vehicle. Thanks to the bridge, local people will be able to travel from Pathein to Ngapudaw within a short period of time.

MNA

JICA, MSR conduct survey in Yamethin Township

YAMETHIN, 9 April — Under the program of Improvement of Communications Networks sponsored by Japanese Government, members of Site Survey Team of Yangon-based Japan International Cooperation Agency-JICA and members of Myanmar Survey Research led by U Thura Win visited Yamethin Exchange in Mandalay Region on 6 April in order to conduct a survey for Soft Loan Project.

Yamethin District communications officer U Nyo Maung and in-charge of microwave station U Khin Maung Than handed over documents related to township profiles and list of the buildings in the townships where a survey will be carried out.

It is learnt that local people are very appreciated the government's drive to improve communications network and to alleviate poverty through the wider use of low-priced mobile phones.

Kyemon

WORLD

UN's Ban says all claims of chemical arms use in Syria need investigating

*UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon speaks at a news conference at the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) in the Hague on 8 April, 2013.—*Reuters

The Hague, 9 April— An advance team of UN-mandated experts has gone to Cyprus and is awaiting permission from the Syrian government to investigate allegations of chemical weapons attacks, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said on Monday.

Syria has asked the United Nations only to investigate what it says was a rebel chemical attack near Aleppo. The opposition has blamed President Bashar al-Assad's forces for that strike and also wants the UN team to probe other alleged chemical attacks by the government.

There have been three alleged chemical weapons attacks — the one near Aleppo and another near Damascus, both in March, and one in Homs in December. The rebels and Assad's government blame each other for all of them.

Russia, an ally of Syria, has supported Damascus against demands from Western powers that the investigation be widened.

Ban has made clear he wants an all-encompassing inquiry, saying it was the "firm principle" of the United Nations that investigators be granted access to all areas where chemical weapons were allegedly used.

After meeting in The Hague with the head of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), which is providing scientists and equipment, Ban said an advance team was in Cyprus, ready to go to Syria within 24 hours.

"All we are waiting for is the go-ahead from the Syrian government to determine whether any chemical weapons were used, in any location," Ban said. "I urge the Syrian government to be more flexible, so that this mission can be deployed as fast as possible." An exchange of letters between Syria's UN Ambassador Bashar Ja'afari and UN disarmament chief Angela Kane showed that the two sides are far from agreement, UN diplomats said on condition of anonymity.

Reuters

ADB urges Asia to explore cleaner energy sources

Manila, 9 April—The Asian Development Bank on Tuesday stressed the need for Asia to "aggressively explore" new and cleaner energy sources to fuel its rapid growth in the coming decades, saying securing an adequate energy supply will be critical to sustaining developing Asia's growth.

Asia is moving along a dangerously unsustainable energy path that will result in environmental disaster and a gaping divide in energy access between rich and poor unless the region dramatically changes course, warned Changyong Rhee, the ADB's chief economist, as the bank released its Asian Development Outlook 2013 report.

"Asia could be consuming more than half the world's energy supply by 2035, and without radical changes carbon dioxide emissions will double," Rhee said.

He said Asia "must both contain rising demand and explore cleaner options, which will require creativity and resolve, with policymakers having to grapple with politically difficult issues like fuel subsidies and regional energy market integration."

With 6 percent annual growth, the report says developing Asia could produce 44 percent of global gross domestic product by 2035.

"This 'Asian Century' scenario would see the region's share of world energy consumption rise rapidly from barely a third in 2010 to 51-56 percent by 2035.

With insufficient energy, developing Asia would need to scale back its growth ambitions."

Kyodo News

German Chancellor Angela Merkel (C) and Russian President Vladimir Putin (2nd L) visit the Hannover Industrial Exposition in Hannover, Germany, on 8 April, 2013. The 2013 Hannover Industrial Exposition began on 7 April. Xinhua

US Navy to field first laser weapon, could shoot down a drone

Washington, 9 April —The US Navy said on Monday it will deploy for the first time a laser weapon on one of its ships that could be capable of shooting down drones and disabling vessels.

"The future is here," said Peter Morrison at the Office of Naval Research's Solid-State Laser Technology Maturation Programme.

The weapon is being billed as a step toward transforming warfare. Since it runs on electricity, it can fire as long as there is power at a cost of less than $1 dollar per shot.

"Compare that to the hundreds of thousands of dollars it costs to fire a missile, and you can begin to see the merits of this capability," Chief of Naval Research Rear Admiral Matthew Klunder, said in a statement.

***The amphibious transport dock ship USS Ponce is seen underway in the US 5th fleet area of responsibility in the Red Sea in this on 16 Feb, 2011 handout photo provided by the US Navy. —*Reuters**

The prototype, which one official said cost between $31 million and $32 million to make, will be installed aboard the *USS Ponce*, which is being used as a floating base in the Middle East, sometime in fiscal year 2014, which begins in October.

Klunder said the Navy expects that someday incoming missiles will not be able to "simply outmaneuver" a highly accurate laser beam travelling at the speed of light. A new report from the Congressional Research Service praises the laser technology but also notes drawbacks, including the potential it could accidentally hit satellites or aircraft. Weather also affects lasers.

"Lasers might not work well, or at all, in rain or fog, preventing lasers from being an all-weather solution," it said in its report issued on 14 March.

Reuters

Iran to launch two projects related to nuclear programme

Teheran, 9 April — Iran will inaugurate two big projects related to its nuclear programme in the central Province of Yazd on Tuesday, official *IRNA* news agency reported on Monday. Saghand uranium complex is projected to extract uranium from 350-metre depth of the ground and the extracted uranium will then be processed into yellow cake (a kind of uranium concentrate powder) in another complex, Shahid Rezaeenejad, in the city of Ardakan, the report said.

Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad will open the two projects on Tuesday on the occasion of National Nuclear Technology Day.

Xinhua

Abe calls for practical English teaching in education system reform

Tokyo, 9 April— Prime Minister Shinzo Abe called on Monday for more practical English-language education as the ruling party's advisory panel submitted to him a set of education reform proposals, including a requirement of the Test of English as a Foreign Language for entry to and graduation from public universities.

Japan must make its English education "more suited for practical use," Toshiaki Endo, chief of the Liberal Democratic Party's education system reform panel quoted Abe as saying at their meeting at the premier's office.

Endo handed to Abe the proposals to drastically reform English-language education, revamp science and mathematics education, and enhance information and communications technology education.

On English education reform, the panel proposed making it a prerequisite for students to score certain minimum points in TOEFL or other established exams to gauge knowledge and skills in the language to be recognized as qualified to enroll in, or graduate from, public universities.

Kyodo News

***Wu Hongbo, UN Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, delivers a speech during a meeting of the UN Forum on Forest 10th session in Istanbul, Turkey, on 8 April, 2013. The UN Forum on Forest 10th session has convened in Istanbul on Monday and draws attendance of 197 members and observer states. Participants will consider and put forward a range of measures to improve sustainable forest management. —*Xinhua**

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

HTC posts record-low quarterly profit after delayed phone launch

TAIPEI, 9 April—HTC Corp reported a record-low quarterly profit on Monday that missed analysts' estimates after it delayed the full launch of its 2013 flagship smartphone model, which will now debut against Samsung Electronics' newest Galaxy.

A shortage of cameras meant HTC managed to introduce its latest HTC One phone in just three markets by the end of the first quarter instead of the planned 80. It does not expect to kick off sales across Europe, North America and the Asia-Pacific region before the end of April.

Samsung Electronics Co Ltd has said its Galaxy S4 will be available in 155 countries by the end of April.

HTC said its unaudited net profit was T$85 million ($2.85 million) in its January-March first quarter, compared with T$1 billion in the prior quarter and T$10.9 billion in the same period last year. It was the lowest since HTC began reporting quarterly profits in 2004.

***HTC smartphones are displayed in a mobile phone shop in Taipei on 8 April, 2013.—*REUTERS**

The Taiwanese smartphone maker was expected to post a net profit of T$467.5 million, according to the average forecast of 18 analysts polled by Thomson Reuters I/B/E/S.

First-quarter revenue was T$42.8 billion, lower than the T$50-60 billion range that HTC had forecast in February. Revenue in the fourth quarter was T$60 billion.

"As HTC failed to establish its brand image by selling its most important flagship phone on time, it'll be very difficult to push on the mid- and low-end phones when HTC launches them in Q3-Q4," said Dennis Chan, an analyst with Yuanta Securities in Taipei. "Sales in the second quarter will bounce, but they will lose momentum again in Q3-Q4."

The company has partnered with Facebook Inc, which unveiled new software last week called "Home" that replaces the home screen on some Android smartphones, and introduced a $100 HTC-made handset that is pre-installed with the new app.

Reuters

Oceans may explain slowdown in climate change

OSLO, 9 April—Climate change could get worse quickly if huge amounts of extra heat absorbed by the oceans are released back into the air, scientists said after unveiling new research showing that oceans have helped mitigate the effects of warming since 2000.

Heat-trapping gases are being emitted into the atmosphere faster than ever, and the 10 hottest years since records began have all taken place since 1998. But the rate at which the earth's surface is heating up has slowed somewhat since 2000, causing scientists to search for an explanation for the pause.

Experts in France and Spain said on Sunday that the oceans took up more warmth from the air around 2000. That would help explain the slowdown in surface warming but would also suggest that the pause may be only temporary and brief.

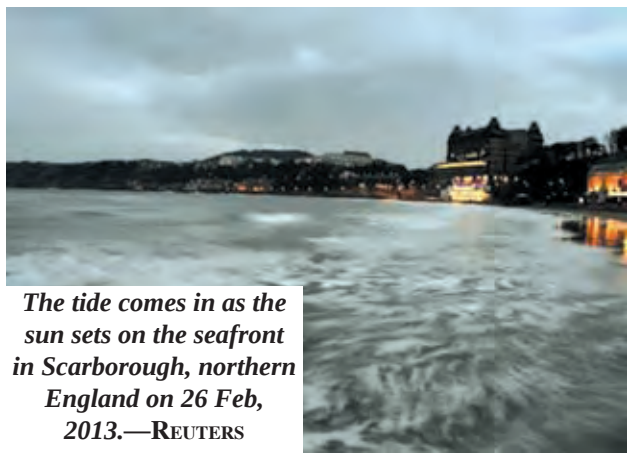
"Most of this excess energy was absorbed in the top 700 metres (2,300 ft) of the ocean at the onset of the warming pause, 65 percent of it in the tropical Pacific and Atlantic oceans," they wrote in the journal *Nature Climate Change*.

Lead author Virginie Guemas of the Catalan Institute of Climate Sciences in Barcelona said the hidden heat may return to the atmosphere in the next decade, stoking warming again.

"If it is only related to natural variability then the rate of warming will increase soon," she told *Reuters*.

Caroline Katsman of the Royal Netherlands Meteorological Institute, an expert who was not involved in the latest study, said heat absorbed by the ocean will come back into the atmosphere if it is part of an ocean cycle such as the "El Nino" warming and "La Nina" cooling events in the Pacific.

She said the study broadly confirmed earlier research by her institute but that it was unlikely to be the full explanation of the warming pause at the surface, since it only applied to the onset of the slowdown around 2000.—*Reuters*



***The tide comes in as the sun sets on the seafront in Scarborough, northern England on 26 Feb, 2013.—*REUTERS**

Ericsson says to buy Microsoft IPTV business

STOCKHOLM, 9 April—Telecom equipment maker Ericsson said on Monday it had struck a deal to buy Microsoft Corp's Mediaroom IPTV business, which makes software used by phone companies to deliver television over the Internet. Ericsson said in a statement the deal would make the company, the world's biggest mobile networks maker, the leading provider of IPTV. The company, which did not disclose the purchase price, said it expected to close the deal during the second half of 2013.

Mediaroom is situated in Mountain View, California and employs more than 400 people worldwide, it added. Internet protocol television (IPTV) uses the same technology that powers the Internet to transmit multimedia content over telecom and cable networks. Ericsson wants to cater to phone companies that are competing with cable, satellite and web-based media providers. "This acquisition contributes to a leading position for Ericsson with more than 40 customers, serving over 11 million subscriber households," said Per Borgklint, Ericsson Senior Vice President and Head of Business Unit Support Solutions. Ericsson said the global IPTV market was estimated to reach 76 million subscribers in 2013 with revenues of $32 billion, growing to 105 million subscribers and $45 billion in 2015.—*Reuters*

To crack human brain's code, a search for visionaries

WASHINGTON, 9 April—To crack the code of the human brain, Cori Bargmann figures it's the best to keep an open mind.

As one of two leaders of a scientific "dream team" in the initial phase of President Barack Obama's ambitious $100 million project to map the brain, Bargmann said the first step is to find the right combination of people to set research priorities.

"You might start with people who are very senior and are household words in their fields, and then you may realize that what (you) actually need is the young Turk who's a visionary wild man," Bargmann said.

Bargmann, a neuro-biologist at The Rockefeller University in New York, and William Newsome, a neurobiologist at Stanford Medical School in California, are the co-chairs of a committee announced by the White House on Tuesday for the Brain Research through Advancing Innovative Neurotechnologies Initiative. That long title has been dubbed BRAIN for short.

***William Newsome, a neurobiologist at Stanford Medical School, shown in this undated handout publicity photograph, is one of two co-chairs of a scientific "dream team" making the first steps toward mapping the human brain as part of the Obama administration's BRAIN initiative.—*REUTERS**

Both Newsome and Bargmann are at the top of the neurobiology pyramid, professors at premiere institutions, winners of dozens of scientific honors and awards, authors of research papers in prestigious journals. As Newsome noted wryly, "I don't need this aggravation, to some extent, but I think this is really important."

Bargmann, who recalls watching the first Apollo moon landing in 1969 as an 8-year-old, this year won a $3 million Breakthrough Prize in Life Sciences for her work on the genetics of neural circuits and behaviour and synaptic guidepost molecules.

This project was something no scientist, so far, has turned down.

"If there's going to be a programme to try to do something significant and the taxpayer's going to be involved in it, you make the time to try to help," she said. "As far as I know, everyone who was asked to help said yes."

The BRAIN effort isn't quite like any other, Bargmann said. Even the Human Genome Project had a more focused goal at the start: to determine the precise sequence of chemical "letters" that constitute the full complement of human DNA.

Reuters

***A page from the Skype website is seen in Singapore on 10 May, 2011.—*REUTERS**

UAE telco Etisalat says unblocks Skype website

DUBAI, 9 April—The United Arab Emirates' top telecom operator Etisalat has stopped blocking the website of Skype, the world's No1 Internet-based phone call provider, although the move could put further pressure on the state-controlled firm's revenue. Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) providers such as Skype allow for free internet-to-internet phone calls and messaging, while tariffs for internet-to-mobile or landline phone calls are dramatically cheaper than by conventional means.

Skype is owned by Microsoft Corp. Etisalat, in an announcement made on its Facebook page, said it had unblocked access to Skype's website on Monday. Such access had been denied for several years. *Reuters* was able to access Skype's website with an Etisalat mobile phone. The statement did not say whether Skype-to-phone calls were also now possible and Etisalat did not reply to requests for more comment. It initially announced it had unblocked access to Skype's website last week via Twitter, then deleted the tweet. "It is becoming less sustainable to maintain restrictions on VoIP because the way people use communications is rapidly changing," said Matthew Reed, a principal analyst at Informa in Dubai. "So there is an argument that it's better for operators to find a way to work with over-the-top internet players such as Skype, rather than forlornly trying to fight market trends."

Yet allowing these services will mean operators lose a big chunk of their international call revenues, Reed added. These are an important source of income in a country where the vast majority of the population are expatriates and instant messaging services such as Whatsapp and BlackBerry Messenger have also eaten into international text revenue.

Reuters

BUSINESS & HEALTH

Fitness after 65 is no one-size-fits-all endeavour

NEW YORK, 9 April—America's sageing population is posing special challenges, fitness experts say, because it is difficult to design effective workout routines for people with such a wide range of abilities.

For one 70-year-old, the goal may be to run a marathon, for another it's getting out of a chair.

"If you are teaching 10-year-olds, it's perfectly reasonable to do an activity that everybody would participate in," said Dr Wojtek Chodzko-Zajko, an expert on aging with the American College of Sports Medicine. But 20 80-year-olds could be as different as chalk and cheese."

Carol Johnson, 80, works out on a treadmill at a recreation centre in Sun City, Arizona, on 5 Jan, 2013.—REUTERS

Some baby boomer could be athletic, he explained, while others would be unable to get out of bed. There are now more Americans age 65 and older than at any other time in US history, according to Census Bureau figures. Some 40 million people age 65 and over lived in the United States in 2010, accounting for 13 percent of the total population. The older population grew from 3 million in 1900 to 40 million in 2010.

Older adults should be doing aerobic activity to help maintain body weight, strengthening exercises to develop and maintain muscle mass and some type of flexibility training, according to Dr James Graves, Dean of the College of Health at the University of Utah. Physical activity can reduce the risk of diseases such as diabetes, hypertension and osteoporosis, he said, as well as improve the quality of life by maintaining functional capacity, such as the ability to climb stairs, open doors, and carry groceries.

"A very healthy 70-year-old can safely participate in high-intensity activity while a frail 60-year-old needs to lower the intensity," said Graves.

"My recommendation is to work with a personal trainer or group leader who has knowledge and qualifications to work with the elderly." Mary Ann Wilson is the creator and host of the "Sit and Be Fit," a senior fitness programme that has aired on US public television since 1987.

The majority of her viewers are women over 65. For that population, she said, the goal of exercise is health and well-being, not physical prowess. "Gravity has been working on them for 70 years," said Wilson, a registered nurse who specialized in geriatrics.

Reuters

Australia's trade deficit narrows in February

SYDNEY, 9 April—Australia's trade deficit narrowed to 178 million AU dollars (186.24 million US dollars) in February, according to data released on Wednesday by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS). The result was less than economists' forecasts of a 1 billion AU dollar deficit.

The ABS said the balance on goods and services was a deficit of 178 million AU dollars in February, a fall of 1,037 million AU dollars on the deficit in January. Exports of goods and services rose 3.0 percent to 25,642 million AU dollars in February while imports of goods and services fell 1.0 percent to 25,820 million AU dollars in the month.

Xinhua

Arsenic found in German beers

WASHINGTON, 9 April—High levels of arsenic have been detected in some German beers and are believed to come from a filtering material widely used in food production, said a report released on Sunday.

The report did not name specific brands, but said the arsenic levels in 140 samples of beers sold in Germany are above the 10 microgram per litre threshold for drinking water. The element entered the beverage during the filtration process, said authors of the report, released here at a national meeting of the American Chemical Society.

"When arsenic level in beer is higher than in the water used during brewing, this excess arsenic must come from other sources," said Mehmet Coelhan from the Munich Technical University. "We analyzed all materials, including the malt and the hops used during brewing for the presence of arsenic."

The researchers found that the arsenic came from a filtering material called kieselguhr, or diatomaceous earth, used to remove yeast, hops and other particles and give the beer a crystal clear appearance. Kieselguhr consists of fossilized remains of diatoms, a type of hard-shelled algae that lived millions of years ago. It finds wide use in filtering beer and is an ingredient in other products. "We concluded that kieselguhr may be a significant source of arsenic contamination in beer," Coelhan said. "This conclusion was supported by analysis of kieselguhr samples. These tests revealed that some kieselguhr samples release arsenic."—*Xinhua*

Experts triple estimate of world dengue fever infections

LONDON, 9 April—Around 390 million people are infected each year with dengue fever—the world's fastest-spreading tropical disease—more than triple the current estimate by the World Health Organization, experts said on Sunday.

The new finding, based on several years of analysis, underscores the growing burden of the mosquito-borne viral disease, which is also called "breakbone fever" because of the severe pain it can cause.

There is as yet no approved vaccine or specific drug to treat dengue, which is not normally fatal but lands many victims in hospital.

Researchers from the University of Oxford and the Wellcome Trust presented their results, along with a detailed map of dengue distribution, in the journal *Nature*.

Their new figure includes 96 million severe cases and approximately 300 million mild or asymptomatic episodes. That compares with the WHO's most recent estimate for overall infections of 50-100 million a year, The high number of relatively mild cases offers little cause for comfort, since it suggests the reservoir of disease is far larger than expected.

What is more, dengue is a disease that hits more than once and people who get it mildly first time are more likely to have a serious episode if bitten again by an infected mosquito. "The asymptomatic patients, in terms of the future burden of disease, are a very important contributor," said Jeremy Farrar, director of Oxford University's tropical disease research unit in Vietnam.

Spread by the Aedes aegypti mosquito, dengue has grown rapidly along with urbanization and globalization because it thrives in tropical mega-cities and is easily spread in goods containing small puddles of water, such as used tires.

Climate change is also making more parts of the planet habitable for the dengue-spreading mosquito.

As a result, half the world's population is now exposed to the disease, mostly in the developing world—but also in parts of southern Europe and the southern United States.

Reuters

The hand of a child, who has been put on drip after showing symptoms of dengue fever, is seen in the pediatric emergency room of a public hospital in Santo Domingo on 13 Aug, 2010.—REUTERS

EU's Rehn: Big depositors could suffer in future bank bailouts under new law

European Economic and Monetary Affairs Commissioner Olli Rehn holds a news conference after a Eurogroup meeting in Brussels on 16 March, 2013.—REUTERS

HELSINKI, 9 April—Big bank depositors could take a hit under planned European Union law if a bank fails, the EU's economic affairs chief Olli Rehn said on Saturday, but noted that Cyprus's bailout model was exceptional. "Cyprus was a special case ... but the upcoming directive assumes that investor and depositor liability will be carried out in case of a bank restructuring or a wind-down," Rehn, the European Economic and Monetary Affairs Commissioner, said in a TV interview with Finland's national broadcaster YLE.

"But there is a very clear hierarchy, at first the shareholders, then possibly the unprotected investments and deposits. However, the limit of 100,000 euros is sacred, deposits smaller than that are always safe." The European Commission is currently drafting a directive on bank safety which would incorporate the issue of investor liability in member states' legislation.—*Reuters*

Heart disease culprit found in red meat

WASHINGTON, 9 April—The cholesterol and saturated fat in red meat may not the real culprit for heart disease as another compound — carnitine — could harden the arteries, according to US researchers. The researchers said that gut bacteria metabolizes carnitine into trimethy-lamine-N-oxide (TMAO), a metabolite they previously linked to the promotion of atherosclerosis in humans. Further, the researchers said that a diet high in carnitine promotes the growth of the bacteria that metabolize carnitine, compounding the problem by producing even more of the artery-clogging TMAO.

"Carnitine metabolism suggests a new way to help explain why a diet rich in red meat promotes atherosclerosis," said study author Stanley Hazen, section head of Preventive Cardiology & Rehabilitation in the Miller Family Heart and Vascular Institute at Cleveland Clinic. Prior research has shown that a diet with frequent red meat consumption is associated with increased cardiovascular disease risk, but that the cholesterol and saturated fat in red meat does not appear to be enough to explain the increased cardiovascular risks. The researchers followed 2,595 patients undergoing elective cardiac evaluations and also examined the cardiac effects of a carnitine-enhanced diet in normal mice compared with mice with suppressed levels of gut microbes. Finally, they found a new connection between red meat and cardiovascular disease. While carnitine is naturally occurring in red meats, including beef, venison, lamb, mutton, duck, and pork, it's also a dietary supplement available in pill form and a common ingredient in energy drinks.

Xinhua

WORLD

Aid group pleads with UN to do more for Syria's children

UNITED NATIONS, 9 April— The aid group Save the Children pleaded with members of the UN Security Council on Monday to do more for Syria's children, nearly 2 million of whom need help because of the country's 2-year-old civil war.

The UN Security Council has been deadlocked since the start of the conflict, with Syrian President Bashar al-Assad's close ally Russia — with the aid of China — using its veto power to block any condemnations or attempts to sanction Assad's government.

"From the very beginning of the crisis in Syria, children have been its forgotten victims — facing death, trauma and suffering, and deprived of basic humanitarian aid," Save the Children said in a report presented to the 15-nation council on Monday.

"Children are increasingly being put directly in harm's way as they are being recruited by armed groups and (government-aligned) forces," it said. "There have even been reports that children as young as 8 have been used as human shields."

The threat to children begins before they are born, it said. Since hospitals and health workers are being attacked, women are reluctant to go to hospitals. It added that nearly 2 million Syrian children were in need of aid.

"This means more births are taking place at home, without a skilled birth attendant," the report said, adding that access to food was also a serious problem for Syrian families.

Save the Children, a US-based non-governmental charity organization, said last month that Syria's children were being shot at, tortured and raped.

Carolyn Miles, president and chief executive officer of Save the Children, told *Reuters* in an interview that the main message she brought the deadlocked Security Council was that aid access must be improved and pledges of relief funds paid out.

Reuters

***Girls walk on rubble of damaged buildings by what activists said was shelling by forces loyal to Syria's President Bashar al-Assad in Jouret al Shayah area in Homs, on 8 April, 2013.—*REUTERS**

US envoy says must fight mistrust for Middle East peace

***Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu (C) speaks with US Secretary of State John Kerry as President Shimon Peres (R) sits beside them during a ceremony marking Israel's annual day of Holocaust remembrance, at Yad Vashem in Jerusalem on 8 April, 2013.—*REUTERS**

JERUSALEM, 9 April— US Secretary of State John Kerry said on Monday he is trying to break down mistrust on both sides of the "festering" conflict between Israelis and Palestinians and would not rush into a new peace process.

Making his third visit to the region in less than three weeks, Kerry met Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas in Ramallah on Sunday night and was to sit down to dinner with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Monday night.

"I am intensely focused on this issue ... because it is vital, really, to American interests and to regional interests to try to advance the peace process and because this festering absence of peace is used by groups everywhere to recruit and encourage extremism," Kerry told reporters travelling with him.

While Kerry gave no details of his talks, Palestinian officials said he had revisited a 2002 Arab League proposal that offered full Arab recognition of Israel if it gave up land seized in a 1967 war and accepted a "just solution" for Palestinian refugees.

"The US discussed a renewal of the initiative from the Arab League's part," Abbas aide Nimr Hammad told *Reuters*.

Rejected by Israel when it was originally proposed at a Beirut summit in 2002, the plan has major hurdles to overcome. Israel objects to key points, including a return to 1967 borders, the inclusion of Arab East Jerusalem in a Palestinian state and the return Palestinian refugees to what is now Israel.

Kerry said he was trying to chip away at the mutual mistrust that has built up during the conflict, whose main issues include borders, the status of Jewish settlements on the West Bank, the fate of Palestinian refugees and the status of Jerusalem.

Reuters

Japan set to join TPP talks as nod expected from US this week

TOKYO, 9 April— Japan and the United States are likely to conclude this week their preparatory talks on the Trans-Pacific Partnership free trade negotiations, clearing the way for Japan to join the full-fledged talks involving 11 nations in July at the earliest, government sources said on Tuesday.

Japan has agreed to allow the United States to retain the tariffs it imposes on automobiles and trucks imported from Japan for some time while securing fair competition in the insurance sector.

After the conclusion of the bilateral talks, US President Barack Obama is expected to notify the US Congress and seek its approval for Japan's participation in the negotiations on the trade liberalization pact covering the Pacific Rim nations. The approval process is expected to take at least 90 days. While Japan must still obtain approval from Australia, Canada and New Zealand to join the TPP negotiations, Japanese officials believe Tokyo is firmly on course to get the green light, with the three countries awaiting a US decision.

Since Prime Minister Shinzo Abe announced Japan's intent to join the TPP talks on 15 March, Japan has been calling for TPP negotiating countries to hold a negotiation round in July, seeking to join the rule-making process that has already entered its third year.

Kyodo News

Nepali guide becomes 1st Mt Everest casualty this season

KATHMANDU, 9 April— A 46-year-old Nepali guide fell into a crevice on the slopes of Mt Everest, becoming the first casualty of this year's spring climbing season, a mountaineering official said on Monday.

Mingma Sherpa, among a select few Sherpas nicknamed "icefall doctors" for their expertise in fixing ropes over the treacherous Khumbu Icefall on the mountain, met instant death after falling into the crevice on Sunday afternoon while returning after fixing ropes, Tilak Pandey told *Kyodo News*.

His body has been recovered and handed over to his family members in Solukhumbu District, which is home to the world's tallest mountain.

The spring climbing season is the most popular among climbers seeking to scale the 8,848-metre peak. Every year, hundreds of climbers ascend the mountain in May after having spent weeks on its lower slopes acclimating to the altitude.—*Kyodo News*

Train derailed by landslide in central Italy, 17 injured

ROME, 9 April—A total of 17 people were injured on Monday morning when two compartments of a passenger train veered off the tracks in central Italy due to a landslide, local media said.

The train, which was travelling towards the town of Perugia in the Umbria region, derailed when it impacted a small landslide on the tracks at the exit of a tunnel.

Although the train conductor was able to swiftly brake, he could not avoid the accident, local television quoted railway authorities as saying. The 17 passengers, mostly commuters and students, were injured but not seriously. Some were rushed to a nearby hospital.—*Xinhua*

Fiji speaks for G77 at UN Forum on Forests

SUVA, 9 April—Fiji delivered a statement on behalf of the Group of 77 as its chair at the tenth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests, underscoring the importance of forest financing to the group as a means of its achieving sustainable forest management, the Fijian government said on Tuesday.

Inia Seruiratu, Fiji's minister of fisheries and forests, was participating in the first two days of the meeting, a dedicated ministerial segment involving plenary and two roundtable discussions.

The meeting was officially opened by Turkish prime minister on Monday in Istanbul and ends next Friday.

In his statement, one of the issues Seruiratu underscored was the importance of forest financing to the G77 as a means of its achieving sustainable forest management, according to a statement from Fiji's Ministry of Information.

The call for increased level of forest funding has been a consistent position of the group and it recognizes the need for support that many developing countries require to enable them to sustainably manage their forests.

Seruiratu said there is also "a need to develop and strengthen the role of governments on forest issues, including public-private-partnerships and private sector engagement, where appropriate".

Fiji's participation in UNFF sessions "is important given the priority that (the Fijian) government places upon the sustainable development of our forests and natural resources generally", said the Ministry of Information, adding that in its capacity as chair of the G77, Fiji's involvement in the tenth UNFF session is " particularly necessary as developing countries continue to advocate their common interests as a bloc".

Xinhua

Image provided by Hugo Chavez Campaign Command shows Venezuelan Acting President and presidential candidate Nicolas Maduro attending a campaign in Maturin, Monagas State, Venezuela, on 8 April, 2013. Venezuela will held presidential elections on 14 April.

XINHUA

Shwebo Hospital gives free health care to local people

SHWEBO, 9 April—The Union Government has raised allotment of budget for health and education sectors.

The government recently provided 224 items of medicine to Shwebo Hospital (100-bed), 62 to station hospitals, 39 to rural health centres and 24 to rural health branches.

On 31 March, a meeting was held to clarify free health care services to the people with the use of State-provided medicines. As of 25 March, Shwebo Hospital gives free health care services to emergency patients and expectant mothers, one day free treatment to patients from the wards and needy patients spending the interest obtained from medical trust-fund worth K 23,040,293, and blood and anti-snake venom.

The meeting was attended by Pyithu Hluttaw representative Dr Aung Than of Shwebo Township, Head of District Health Department Dr Thet Thet Sein, Commander of District Police Force Police Lt-Col Ohn Hlaing and members of the hospital supervisory committee.

Myanma Alinn

MPF launches emergency, complaint-handling phone lines

NAY PYI TAW, 9 April—Myanmar Police Force under the Ministry of Home Affairs has put hot lines into place at Myanmar Police Force HQ and region/state police stations to enable the public to submit tip-offs and complaints over illegal acts, misappropriation and corruption.

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

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

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

Shwehnget Creek Bridge under construction in Indaw Township

MAWLU, 9 April—Shwehnget Creek is a natural barrier for Manhe Village of Indaw Township in rainy season.

With the concerted efforts, over 100 local people participated in cornerstone laying ceremony for construction of Shwehnget Creek Bridge on Manhe-Mawlu road on 22 March.

The bridge will be of reinforced concrete type, costing about K 1.1 million. Ko Kyaw Hein-Daw Chit Su Yi and family of Manhe Village contributed as a sole donor to construction of the bridge.—*Myanma Alinn*

New umbrella hoisted atop Nwalaboh Hill Pagoda

MAWLAMYINE, 9 April—A new umbrella was hoisted atop Nwalaboh Hill Pagoda in Kyonka Village of Paung Township in Mon State on 26 March morning.

It was attended by Chairman of Township Sangha Nayaka Committee Pangon Village Thaya-nyeinchan Monastery Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kosalla and 70 members of the Sangha, Township Administrator U Myint Naing and township level departmental officials, totalling about 500. Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kosalla, three members of the Sangha and the township administrator hoisted the umbrella atop the pagoda and shared merits gained.—*Myanma Alinn*

MCF awards winners in women's single event

YANGON, 9 April—Jointly organized by Sports and Physical Education Department under the Ministry of Sports and Myanmar Chess Federation, the Myanmar traditional chess women's single tournament was held recently.

The prize presentation ceremony took place at the hall of the federation at Aung San Stadium, here, on 29 March afternoon.

Vice-President of the federation U Win Aung extended greetings and presented the first prize to May Hsu Lwin, the second to May Hset Lwin (Yangon) and the third to Su Su Hlaing (Ayeyawady) respectively.

Myanmar will take part in the men's and women's Myanmar traditional chess event in the XXVII SEA Games in 2013.

Tentatively selected players will be chosen for the traditional chess squad from this tournament.

Myanma Alinn

76th birthday of Dr Ashin Ñanissara marked on Sagaing Hill

MONYWA, 9 April—The rice offering to mark the 76th birthday of Sitagu Sayadaw Dr Ashin Ñanissara was held at Sitagu International Buddhist Academy on Sagaing Hill on 26 March, attended by Chief Minister of Sagaing Region U Tha Aye and wife Daw Wai Wai Khaing, region ministers and their wives, departmental officials and wellwishers who donated rice and alms to over 100 members of the Sangha led by long life Waso Sayadaw.

The Chief Minister and party attended the second convocation of the academy.

Chancellor Sayadaw Ashin Ñanissara and the rector Sayadaw conferred PhD, MA, BA and IA degree certificates to the monks. Moreover, certificate of Padaka and certificates were also conferred to recipient monks.

Rector Sayadaw Bhaddanta Nandamala-bhivamsa and the Chancellor Sayadaw delivered words of advice. At the ceremony, two monks got PhD degree and 57 monks, MA degree.

The Chief Minister and party then viewed repairing of frames at Ayeyawady Bridge (Yadanatheinga) that was hit by the earthquake last year.

On 27 March, the Chief Minister attended the meeting to coordinate rehabilitation at Pyishwebo Yeiktha in Shwebo.

After inspecting 192 feet long and 38 feet wide lecture hall of Shwebo University, the Chief Minister looked into progress of gravel road in Shwebo Industrial Zone.

Myanma Alinn

KandawU 3rd street inaugurated in Nyaunglebin

NYAUNGLEBIN, 9 April—In honour of the 68th Anniversary Armed Forces Day, KandawU 3rd concrete street, upgraded by Nyaunglebin Township Development Affairs Committee in 2012-2013 fiscal year, was opened at the archway of the street on 22 March morning.

Executive Officer U M Hla Thaung of the committee explained the purpose of building the concrete road. Ward administrator U Shein Aye spoke words of thanks.

The executive officer presented commemorative pennants to officials.

Next, Township Administrator U Thihan Soe, Executive Officer of Township DAC U M Hla Thaung and Commander of Township Police Force Police Major Tin Aung cut the ribbon to open the street.

The newly-opened street is 660 feet long and 10 feet wide, built at a cost of K 11,419,412 by the committee.—*NLM*

Permits issued to farmers in Thanlyin Township

THANLYIN, 9 April—A ceremony to present farming permits to farmers took place at the Thahtaykwin Village Administrator in Thanlyin Township of Yangon South District in Yangon Region on 31 March.

It was attended by secretary and members of the district and township farmland management committee and local farmers.

Secretary of the district committee U Khin Soe explained the purpose of issuing the permit and gave permits to each farmer.

In Thanlyin Township, farming permits will be issued to 9062 farmers from wards and villages for 15566 farmland plots.

Myanma Alinn

Don't Smoke

The New Light of Myanmar

PERSPECTIVES

Wednesday, 10 April, 2013

Weigh consequences of improper use of mobile phones

It is not entirely exaggerated that mobile phones have become such a part of everyday life that it is hard to imagine how people managed without them, given the convenience, freedom of movement and ease of social networking they bring. But not everyone may be a fan and there are those who would be quite happy to return to the pre-cellphone days.

High on the list are parents who have to bear the brunt of costs stemming from the extensive use of cellphones by their offspring. Meanwhile, the prolong use of mobile phones is a growing health problem and it is an increasingly important issue in both developed and developing countries.

Therefore, it is time to heighten the public awareness of health hazards resulting from the excessive use of cellphones and to educate children under ten over the danger of using cellphones.

In the changing world, people have to work day and night along the tune with an upbeat since the clock has been set forward for prosperity. At such a time, use of mobile phones is a must in order to keep pace with development but we need to weigh the consequences of improper use of the gadgets.

It has turned out that the proper use of mobile phones is not only the right thing to do, it is the smart thing to do for families with low incomes and thrifty practice should be introduced in order to offset the increased cost of living. Only then, will those who are completely obsessed with mobile phones be free from serious financial problems and be able make their money go a long way.

NATIONAL

Letpadaungtaung committee meets local residents, calls for cooperation

Chairman of Committee for Implementation of Report of Investigation Commission on Letpadaungtaung Copper Mine Project Union Minister U Hla Tun meets village-tract administrators and local people at the project area.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 9 April— Chairman of Committee for Implementation of Report of Investigation Commission on Letpadaungtaung Copper Mine Project Union Minister U Hla Tun, vice-chairmen and committee members, Union Minister U Ohn Myint and officials met village-tract administrators and local people at the project area yesterday afternoon.

He called for cooperation among the Union government, the region government and the local people in the project as it is the crucial one for development of the entire nation.

Committee vice-chairmen Sagaing Region Chief Minister U Tha Aye and Adjutant-General Lt-Gen Khin Zaw Oo had extensive discussions over regional development, compen-sations, land disputes and employment opportunities.

Committee member Union minister Dr Myint Aung also discussed the future plans and Union minister U Ohn Myint, the poverty alleviation tasks.

Joint secretary of the committee deputy director-general of General Administration Department under the Ministry of Home Affairs U Tin Myint made discussion on constitution and other pieces of legislation.

The village-tract administrators reported necessities of each village.

The chairman, vice-chairmen, members and the Union minister donated 21 TVs to basic education schools.

Vice-chairman Adjutant-General Lt-Gen Khin Zaw Oo presented publications and furnishings for libraries donated by Myanmar Wenbao and Myanmar Yangtze Copper Company Ltd.

The committee chairman in his concluding remarks assured his committee would protect the interests of the people.

The committee chairman and party were briefed on the relocation plans, environmental conservation plans by officials by Myanmar Wenbao Copper Company's briefing hall.

The committee chairman than attended to the needs.—*MNA*

Rehabilitation works in Rakhine State gaining momentum

NAY PYI TAW, 9 April— At the lounge of Sittway Airport yesterday, Rakhine State Chief Minister U Hla Maung Tin reported on the conflict that occurred in Rakhine State, opening of relief camps and progress of rehabilitation works, construction of makeshift housings for victims to Union Minister for Immigration and Population U Khin Yi, the US Ambassador, the Australian Ambassador and representatives of UN agencies.

The Union Minister and party visited relief camp in Kyeinnibyin Village of Pauktaw Township, the relief camp in Myebon Township and that of Bawdupha Village in Sittway Township.

The Union Minister, the Chief Minister, ambassadors and representatives of UN agencies discussed construction of temporary housings for the victims, supply of drinking water, raising health care services, rejoining original works and creation of job opportunities.—*MNA*

Means sought to develop shrimp farming

NAY PYI TAW, 9 April— Deputy Minister for Livestock and Fisheries U Khin Maung Aye held meeting with General Manager Mr. John F. Diener of Malaysia-based Gold Coin Group and party on possible cooperation in shrimp breeding at the ministry, here, this morning.

The meeting focused on bilateral cooperation between the company and the local entrepreneurs in promoting shrimp farming to satisfy the market demand.—*MNA*

Mascots Co., Ltd donates modern hospital equipment to Yangon General Hospital

YANGON, 9 April—In commemoration of 15th anniversary celebration, Mascots Co., Ltd donated Fuji FCR-Computed Radiography System and printer worth USD 65,000 to the X-ray department of Yangon General Hospital at Traders Hotel on Sule Pagoda Road, here, this morning.

Managing Director of Mascots Co., Ltd Dr Win Kyaw made clarification about donation and Managing Director of Fujifilm Thailand Mr Nozomu Hashimoto, the equipment and accessories.

Later, Managing Director Dr Win Kyaw handed over the documents related to the hospital equipment to Dean/ Professor U Lin Tun Tun of X-ray Department of YGH.

MNA

Managing Director Dr Win Kyaw donates Fuji FCR-Computed Radiography System and Printer worth US$ 65,000 to Dean/ Professor U Lin Tun Tun of X-ray Department of YGH.—MNA

E-Major students of Dagon University to pay respects to faculty members

YANGON, 9 April—Old students of English major at Dagon University will hold the seventh ceremony to pay respects to faculty members at Royal Rose Restaurant in Shwegondine of Bahan Township from 9.30 am to 1 pm on 1 May.

The students of English major at the university in 1992-2006 academic year are invited to attend the ceremony without fail. Those wishing to make donation may contact 095404756 of Ko Maung Maung Oo, 095031137 of Ko Myo Than Tun, 095102668 of Ma Htar Ei Win, 0943033198 of Ma Aye Thida Naing, 09448044078 of Ma Hteik Htar, 0973105035 of Ma Ei Ei Phyo, 0973135529 of Ma May Kyi Tun, 098634512 of Ma May Han Hnin, 0973092392 of Ma Kyin Kyin Sweet, 095506345 of Ma Thwe Hnin Yi Hlaing, 0973106997 of Ko Sai Min Latt and 095087424 of Ma May Thazin Phu. The students who graduated from the university after 2006 academic year may contact the above-mentioned telephone numbers to join the organizing committee as executive committee members.

NLM

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker calls for "mutually beneficial"...

(from page 16)

He also called for participation of all walks of life in legislation to ensure the rule of law.

Chairperson of Pyithu Hluttaw Rule of Law and Tranquility Committee Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and Chairman of Banks and Monetary Development Committee U Aung Thaung also participated in discussion.

The Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker called on academicians and organizations from related fields to make suggestions for the draft law safeguarding rights of farmers.

He said, "There are still much more to do to reform monetary sector and management mechanism."

He also met Vice-President of German Parliament Dr hc Wolfgang Thierse at Pyithu Hluttaw Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Committee's Yangon office this evening.

The meeting which was also attended by Deputy Speaker U Nanda Kyaw Swa, Committee Chairmen U Hla Myint Oo and U Htay Oo focused on parliamentary cooperation.

MNA

Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann receives Vice-President of German Parliament Dr hc Wolfgang Thierse.
MNA

Navy commissions battle ships

***Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing takes salute onboard naval vessel.*—MNA**

NAY PYI TAW, 9 April—Myanmar Navy commissioned its battle ships at No.3 Navy Jetty in Thanlyin Station this afternoon, attended by Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing.

It was also attended by Chief of the General Staff (Army, Navy and Air) General Hla Htay Win, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Thura Thet Swe, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Maj-Gen Khin Aung Myint, senior military officers from the Commander-in-Chief (Army) Office, the Yangon Command Commander, the Commander of Ayeyawady Naval Command Headquarters, Commander of Thanlyin Station and officers and other ranks from Thalyin Station.

A total of seven vessels were commissioned at today's ceremony. This is the first-ever dock in Myanmar, called "Saya Shan dock" in honour of Myanmar carpenter Saya Shan who built Myanmar's first-ever a steam battle ship.

The acting commander of Naval Dockyard Command Headquarters handed over the documents related to the vessels through an official. The Senior General and party inspected the vessels.

MNA

MMCWA receives donations for its 23rd anniversary

***Donation ceremony to mark 23rd anniversary of Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association in progress.*—MNA**

NAY PYI TAW, 9 April—Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association received donations to be used for the 23rd Anniversary of the association at the meeting hall of the association in Dekkhinathiri Township, here, this morning.

The invited persons from the Ministry of Health, the Chairperson of Nay Pyi Taw Maternal and Child Welfare Association and members and donors attended the ceremony.

MMCWA President Dr Mon Mon Aung made a speech on the occasion. The MMCWA President, CEC members Daw Khin Than Win, Daw Thet Thet Swe and secretary Daw Thazin Nwe received the donations and returned honouring certificates to the donors.

The donations will contribute towards carrying out public service work of the association.

MNA

New school building handed over in Saizang Village of Chin State

NAY PYI TAW, 9 April—The Government of Japan, under its Grant Assistance for Grass-Roots Human Security Projects (GGP) Scheme, granted US$ 105,369 for a humanitarian program entitled "The Project for Construction of Saizang Kindergarten's Building in Chin State." The hand-over and opening ceremony of Saizang Kindergarten's Building was held on April 7, 2013.

Ms. Sumie ARIMA, Second Secretary of Embassy of Japan to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Township Administrator of Tiddim Township, Staff Officer of Tiddim Township Social Welfare Department, Village Administrator of Saizang Village, U Nang Kyint Paung, Chairman of Christian Children Development Center and members of the School Construction Committee together with Village Elders attended the said ceremony.

Currently about 140 children are attending there.—*NLM*

Embers cause fire in Butalin Township

BUTALIN, 9 April — A fire broke out at Ye Htwet village in Butalin Township of Monywa District at about 10 pm on 1 April.

The fire was due to the embers at the thatched house of U Chit Aung in the village. Four houses were reduced to ashes in the fire. The fire died down at about 11.30 pm thanks to efforts of fire crews of Butalin Township Fire Services Department and villagers.

Similar fire outbreak occurred at the thatched house of Daw Khin Mar Aye in Zeetaw village at about 1 pm on 6 April. The stove fire licked the bamboo wall of the kitchen and gutted the whole house. The kitchen fire spread nearby houses, burning 15 houses to the ground.

A total of 80 fire victims from 15 households are being given shelter at the post-primary school in the village.

Kyemon

Take fire preventive measures

WORLD

Latvian PM denies massive inflows of money from Cyprus

TOKYO, 9 April— Latvian Prime Minister Valdis Dombrovskis denied reports on Monday that Russian money has flowed into the Baltic country in massive amounts following the financial crisis in Cyprus, saying he has not seen any "extraordinary developments" in that regard.

"So far we do not see any major inflows of this money," he said during a speech in Tokyo, noting nonresident deposits, which make up around half of all deposits in Latvian banks, are at the level of the period prior to the 2008 global financial crisis.

There is speculation in the media that Russian money has been flowing to Latvia, following the recent financial crisis in Cyprus, which has led to a bailout requiring big depositors at Cypriot banks to take losses. Dombrovskis also refused to equate the financial situation in his country with that in Cyprus, saying Latvian banks' assets are equivalent to around 130 percent of gross domestic product, considerably lower than the 700 to 800 percent seen in Cyprus.

"We have a small banking sector," he said.

The prime minister added that Latvia does not intend to engage in "chasing" the money leaving Cyprus in search of a haven, because it is seen as a "higher-risk activity."

Latvia, which joined the European Union in 2004, is seeking to join the 17-member eurozone and adopt the euro as its currency by 2014.

Dombrovskis made the case for Latvia's bid to accede to the currency union, saying the former Soviet republic has met all the requirements for joining the club, including on inflation and the ratios of its budget deficit and public debt to GDP.

The prime minister also said he plans to ask his Japanese counterpart Shinzo Abe to support Latvia's bid to join the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, an association of 34 developed economies, when the two men hold a summit on Wednesday.

Kyodo News

Photo taken on 8 April, 2013 shows the venue of the Second US-China State and Province Education Leaders Dialogue at Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts, the United States, on 8 April, 2013. Participants from China and the United States would have discussions on the education quality and under-achieving schools, as well as US-China partnerships and exchanges on education in the two-day dialogue. —XINHUA

West sees enough substance for Iran talks to continue

Participants from the US, Russia, China, France, Britain and Germany prepare to start talks with Iranian negotiators in Almaty on 5 April, 2013. —REUTERS

BRUSSELS, 9 April— World powers believe there are enough grounds to keep talking to Iran about its disputed nuclear programme, a senior Western diplomat said on Monday, even though the latest round of negotiations made little apparent progress.

"There is enough substance for these negotiations to continue," the diplomat, speaking on condition of anonymity, told reporters. "I would not expect a breakdown."

At a meeting in the Kazakh city of Almaty on Friday and Saturday, the six nations — the United States, Russia, China, France, Britain and Germany — tried to persuade Iran to give up its most sensitive uranium-enrichment work to allay concerns that Teheran is seeking the means to make atom bombs.

Iranian negotiators did not accept the offer — coupled with a pledge of modest relief from crippling economic sanctions—and the two sides failed to even agree to meet again.

But Western diplomats are at pains to show that diplomacy will continue, in part to avoid escalating tensions with Israel which has threatened to bomb Iranian nuclear sites if negotiations and sanctions fail to force it to change course.

They are wary, however, of fuelling criticism that Iran may be playing them for time. US Secretary of State John Kerry said on Sunday the negotiation process could not go forever.

"We are clear talks for (the sake of) talks are not acceptable," the senior diplomat added.

Some Western diplomats have said that while the two sides failed to bridge their differences in the decade-old dispute in Almaty, there was some optimism because of the apparent willingness of Iranian negotiators to engage in detailed discussions of their proposal.

Iran denies having any military intentions and says it needs nuclear power to generate electricity and for medical purposes. It wants the international community to recognize its right to enrich uranium and lift major economic sanctions.

The powers argue international rules apply only to countries that subject their nuclear work to stringent oversight by the United Nations, something Iran refuses to do.

Reuters

BOJ mulled more easing steps at Shirakawa's last meeting

TOKYO, 9 April— Bank of Japan policymakers discussed further monetary easing steps such as buying government bonds with longer maturities at the last policy-setting meeting chaired by former Governor Masaaki Shirakawa on 6 and 7 March, the minutes of the meeting showed on Tuesday.

Among other options raised by the members at the meeting were lowering the interest rate on excess bank reserves at the BOJ and expanding the purchase of risky assets such as exchange-traded funds, according to the minutes.

"The time might be approaching for the bank to reconsider" the framework for monetary easing, one member said.

At the meeting, Policy Board member Sayuri Shirai proposed immediately starting the open-ended asset purchasing and integrating the BOJ's asset-purchase programme for monetary easing with its regular bond-buying via market operations. But the proposals were rejected by the board.

In considering ways to purchase long-term government bonds, some members said it was important for the central bank to ensure the market's confidence that its large-scale purchases were not a form of "fiscal dominance," or financing government debt.

One member, meanwhile, noted that it might be possible for the government to share any losses from risk asset purchases by the BOJ.—*Kyodo News*

Greens ask US to delay Keystone decision after Arkansas leak

WASHINGTON , 9 April —Environmental groups on Monday asked the Obama administration to extend the approval process of the Keystone XL pipeline, using last month's spill of heavy Canadian crude oil in Arkansas as their latest reason to delay the project. The Obama administration is deciding whether to approve the Canada-to-Nebraska leg of TransCanada Corp's proposed pipeline, which would link Canada's oil sands, the world's third richest crude oil deposit, to refineries in Texas.

The State Department, which issued a draft environmental assessment of the $5.3 billion project on 1 March, indicated then that a final decision could come by July or August.

The assessment is now in a 45-day public comment period that runs through 22 April. Then the administration has 90 days to decide whether the project is in the national interest.

Leading green groups, including the Sierra Club, the Natural Resources Defence Council, and 350.org, asked the agency to prolong the comment period to 120 days after a pipeline spilled thousands of barrels of Canadian crude in a suburban neighbourhood in Mayflower, Arkansas in late March.

Spilled crude oil is seen in a drainage ditch near Starlite Road in Mayflower, Arkansas on 31 March, 2013.
REUTERS

The State Department did not immediately respond to the request for comment about the letter.

Exxon Mobil Corp's Pegasus pipeline, which runs from Illinois to Texas and can transport more than 90,000 barrels per day, remains shut after 22 homes were evacuated as a result of the oil-spill. "A 45-day comment period ... is entirely inappropriate in light of so many unanswered questions surrounding the Mayflower disaster," the letter said. The 800,000 barrel per day Keystone pipeline would be far larger than Pegasus. President Barack Obama is expected to be the final arbiter on the Keystone decision, which splits important parts of his base: environmentalists, who are mostly opposed, and organized labour, which has backed the pipeline and the construction jobs it is likely to create.—*Reuters*

Indian PM to visit Germany this week

NEW DELHI, 9 April— Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh will visit Germany this week along with five ministers, during which several pacts are likely to be inked between the two countries, a top official of the External Affairs Ministry said on Monday.

"Several pacts are likely to be signed during the high-profile visit. The ministers of the two countries will also meet and discuss possible areas of cooperation. Defence and other areas are also high priority. We do have a very substantive cooperation in defense, even though our defence minister (AK Antony) is not visiting this time," Indian Foreign Secretary Ranjan Mathai told the media.

During his three-day visit to Berlin, starting on 10 April, the Indian Prime Minister will co-chair with German Chancellor Angela Merkel the second meeting of inter-governmental consultations to discuss all possible areas of cooperation.

The five ministers in his delegation include External Affairs Minister Salman Khurshid, Commerce Minister Anand Sharma, in addition to the Foreign Secretary and National Security Adviser Shiv Shankar Menon.

Germany is India's largest trading partner in Europe and is also the eighth largest foreign direct investor in India.—*Xinhua*

Yao Wang (L), Executive Director of the Boao Forum for Asia, invites journalists to ask questions during a Press conference at the Boao Forum for Asia (BFA) Annual Conference 2013 in Boao, south China's Hainan Province, on 8 April, 2013. The three-day forum closed on Monday.—XINHUA

Extended protection area could stop NZ dolphin extinction

WELLINGTON, 9 April — New Zealand's two heavily endangered dolphin species could be saved from extinction if fishing restrictions were extended out to a depth of 100 metres around the coast, according to a New Zealand study.

Protected areas, where gill nets and trawling were banned, had been shown to effectively stop the fall in populations of Hector's dolphins, which are believed to number just over 7,000, University of Otogo zoology associate professor Liz Slooten said.

In the sanctuary at the South Island's Banks Peninsula, survival rates had risen by 5.4 percent since it was created in 1988, Slooten said in a statement on Monday.

"However, nationwide, Hector's dolphins continue to slide towards extinction, mainly due to continuing by-catch in areas with few or no dolphin protection measures," she said.

Hector's dolphins ranged to six nautical miles off the west coast of the South Island, but protection only extended to two nautical miles offshore, and then only for three months of the year, she said.

Several scientific organizations, including the Scientific Committee of the International Whaling Commission and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) had recommended that protection be extended out to 100 metres deep.

If the recommendation were adopted, it was calculated that dolphin populations could recover to around 15,000 within 40 years.

The New Zealand government has come under increasing international pressure to do more to protect its native South Island Hector's dolphins, which is believed to number just 7,270, and the North Island Hector's dolphin, also known as Maui's dolphin, which is thought to number just 55.

Xinhua

Ambulance dispatches in Japan projected to peak in 2023

TOKYO, 9 April—The number of ambulance dispatches in Japan is expected to peak at around 6.20 million in 2023, continuing to rise from the record high of 5.80 million in 2012, a projection made by the Fire and Disaster Management Agency showed on Monday.

Ambulance dispatches will rise in line with the increasing number of elderly people taken to hospital for treatment of acute diseases and injuries resulting from falls, among other reasons, according to the projection from the agency under the Internal Affairs and Communications Ministry.

With the increase in dispatches, it is taking longer for ambulances to arrive and there could be further loss of life due to the delays.

The agency has been studying a system for ambulances to attend emergencies on a priority basis according to the degree of urgency, while making efforts to train people in first aid.

Compared with the agency's projection in 2010, which forecast ambulance dispatches would peak at around 6.09 million in 2030, the latest projection, compiled in cooperation with researchers, shows dispatches will peak earlier and will be greater in number.

Ambulance dispatches are likely to decline gradually from 2024, according to the projection.

Kyodo News

Toyota Boshoku sets up production base in Laos for 1st time

NAGOYA, 9 April—Toyota Boshoku Corp, a group company of Toyota Motor Corp, said on Monday it has set up a company in Laos to manufacture vehicle interior components, its first production base in the country.

The new company, named Toyota Boshoku Lao Co, will begin production of vehicle seat covers and other interior components in April 2014, with an eye to supplying them to its seat production base in neighbouring Thailand.

With the enhanced production system, Toyota Boshoku aims to further optimize production and distribution in Asia and Australia.

With an investment of about 500 million yen from Toyota Boshoku and another group company Toyota Tsusho Corp, the new company is set to have an annual production capacity of vehicle interior components for 200,000 cars.

The company, to be set up on a tract of an 80,000-square-metre plot in Savannakhet Province, is expected to employ about 180 people when it begins production.

Kyodo News

Photo taken on 21 Feb, 2013, shows an Okinawa Woodpecker, temporarily captured for an ecological survey in the village of Higashi, Okinawa Prefecture. The endangered species has beautiful red-tipped feathers around its belly.—KYODO NEWS

Indonesia on alert over H7N9, steps up monitoring

JAKARTA, 9 April—Indonesian Deputy Trade Minister Bayu Krisnamurthi said on Monday that the new strain of bird flu H7N9 has not entered Indonesia, but the country is on alert over possible spread of the virus and keeps monitoring the development of the disease.

Indonesia has had experience of being hit, the hardest, by avian influenza, H5N1 virus, which has killed 160 people out of 192 infected since 2005.

"Until now, there is no impact of (H7N9) based on report of WHO. But we have to be alert and we will watch closely the development of the virus," he said on the sidelines of a business meeting at JS Luwansa hotel.

The deputy minister said that cooperation with the agency in charge of animal disease had been carried out to investigate imported products.

Indonesia has just manufactured over 10 million bird flu vaccines to halt spread of a new strain of bird flu that has attacked ducks in main Java Island and killed hundreds of thousands of them, Indonesian Agriculture Minister Suswono Arsyaf has told *Xinhua*.

At the end of last year, Indonesian experts found a new strain of H5N1 virus on duck, which is more virulent.—*Xinhua*

Singapore lifts suspension of food imports from parts of Japan

SINGAPORE, 9 April—The Agri-Food and Veterinary Authority of Singapore on Monday lifted a suspension of food imports from seven prefectures in Japan that had been imposed after the Fukushima nuclear crisis in 2011.

The AVA said in a statement on its website that it is resuming food imports from Tokyo, Chiba, Ibaraki, Gunma, Kanagawa, Saitama and Tochigi prefectures with immediate effect.

With this move, only food imports from Fukushima Prefecture remains suspended.

It said the decision follows a review by the AVA and assurances from the Japanese Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries on the safety of food from Japan.

The move will allow milk and milk products, meat and meat products, eggs, seafood, fruits and vegetables from those seven prefectures to be imported into Singapore.

However, the lifting of suspensions comes with the condition that every consignment has to be accompanied by a certificate of origin and pre-export laboratory report, which certifies that the food has been tested for radioactivity and found to be free from radioactive contaminants. It said it will continue to closely monitor food imports from Japan to ensure that they are free from radioactive contaminants. It assured that food imported from Japan that is available in Singapore is safe for consumption.

Kyodo News

Photo taken in February 2013 shows a woman of the indigenous Kenyah people, whose earlobes are stretched, in a village on Kalimantan Island, Indonesia. It has been a tradition in the Kenyah to pierce their newborn baby girls' ears for earrings to extend the earlobes, but as their lifestyle has been modernized, local people say no parents of newborn girls follow the custom nowadays.
KYODO NEWS

Singapore to remove pensions for administrative officers

SINGAPORE, 9 April—The pensions for Singapore's administrative officers and judicial appointment holders, and a long-term retention package will be introduced instead for administrative officers, Deputy Prime Minister Teo Chee Hean said on Monday.

A gratuity plan will be introduced for judicial and statutory appointment holders.

The new retention package was introduced with the aim of retaining officers for leadership and policy continuity within the public service, following a review by the Public Service Division.

The change will affect about 300 administrative service officers, judicial and statutory appointment holders, the Public Service Division said. Retired officers will not be affected.

In another change, the officers and appointment holders will receive a National Bonus instead of the current Gross Domestic Product Bonus, similar to the changes to the salaries of political appointment holders.

Xinhua

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Yangon. 10 April 2013

MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY HOLIDAY NOTICE

As the wharves, warehouses and chellan Offices of Yangon Port will be closed on the 12th APRIL 2013 to 21st APRIL 2013 (New Year Public Holiday), Loading, Unloading and delivery for Goods will be received on Payment as Holiday Fees.

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV MOROTAI VOY NO (204)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MOROTAI VOY NO (204) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 9.4.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S CGM CGM

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV KOTA RAKAN VOY NO (307)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA RAKAN VOY NO (307) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 9.4.2013 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 ADVANCE CONTAINER LINES

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV EVER ABLE VOY NO (339)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV EVER ABLE VOY NO (339) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 9.4.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.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 EVER GREEN SHIPPING LINES

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV OSSIAN VOY NO (13007)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV OSSIAN VOY NO (13007) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 9.4.2013 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 T.S LINES

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

Bank Holiday

All Banks will be closed on 12th April (Friday) to 21st April (Sunday) 2013 Myanmar New Year Holidays, Under the Negotiable Instruments Act.

Central Bank of Myanmar

Italian police arrest 37 in mafia haul

PALERMO, 9 April— Italian authorities arrested 37 people accused of involvement in the Sicilian Mafia, including the mayor of a town on the island, police said on Monday.

The arrests, on charges including organized crime and extortion, were ordered by the Palermo anti-mafia office to tackle what police said was a network to control businesses in towns around Sicily's capital.

Among those arrested was the mayor of Montelepre, a town of 6,000 famous as the home of 1940s "Robin Hood" bandit leader Salvatore Giuliano, as well as a livestock breeder who police said was the head of the ring.

Anti-mafia prosecutor Francesco Messineo told reporters the investigation had revealed a concerted attempt to influence local politics. "Here we have two municipal governments... that have been the subject of strong mafia contamination," he said.

Italy has long struggled against the ingrained influence of mafia organizations whose operations are estimated to constitute up to 10 percent of gross domestic product.

Italy's main crime groups — the Sicilian Cosa Nostra, Calabria's 'Ndrangheta and the Camorra from the southern city of Naples — have a total annual turnover of 116 billion euros (98.5 billion pounds), the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime says.

Reuters

Singapore Botanic Gardens eyes UNESCO heritage status

SINGAPORE, 9 April— Singapore is preparing for a bid for the Singapore Botanic Gardens to be listed as a UNESCO World Heritage site, Acting Minister for Culture, Community and Youth Lawrence Wong said on Monday.

If successful, it will be Singapore's first UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) World Heritage.

The garden, founded in 1859 by a horticultural society, was chosen for submission because it fulfils the criteria of having outstanding universal value, and it contributes to the region and the world, Wong said.

Rubber seeds grown in the garden propelled the growth of the rubber industry, and the development of Singapore from a fishing village to one of the world's busiest ports in the 20th century, he said.

News of the garden in a bid for UNESCO Heritage status has made headlines recently in Singapore since 1 April.

Wong told lawmakers on Monday that the decision to nominate the gardens was based on a study commissioned by the Ministry for Information, Communications and the Arts, and was done in consultation with experts, academics and other stakeholders.

"There was indeed consultation done, in the lead-up to even identifying the Singapore Botanic Gardens," he said. "It was not the only site that was highlighted as a possibility."

The National Heritage Board and the Singapore Botanic Gardens are currently working together on the bid and have hired a consultant to put together a nomination dossier, including a site management plan, by February 2014.

Upon submission of the nomination documents, experts from one of UNESCO's advisory bodies will carry out site assessments and study the dossier before making their recommendations. This process takes about a year.

The World Heritage Committee will then meet around June 2015 to vote on the nomination.

Xinhua

Over 11,000 soldiers to participate in Russian Victory Parade

MOSCOW, 9 April— Over 11,000 servicemen are to take part in a military parade in Moscow on 9 May, a Russian military officer said on Monday.

A total of 11,312 servicemen will be involved in the parade on Moscow's Red Square. One hundred and one military vehicles will march past the Kremlin and eight Mi-8 helicopters will fly over the capital's main square, Col Gen Vladimir Chirkin said at a meeting in the Defence Ministry.

The parades to mark the victory in the Great Patriotic War in 1945 will be joined by 24 Russian cities.

Chirkin said it was the first time in three years the cadets would take part in the Russia's largest patriotic event.

"I consider that decision to be right. It would preserve years-long traditions," Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu said.

The First Victory Parade took place in Moscow on 24 June, 1945.

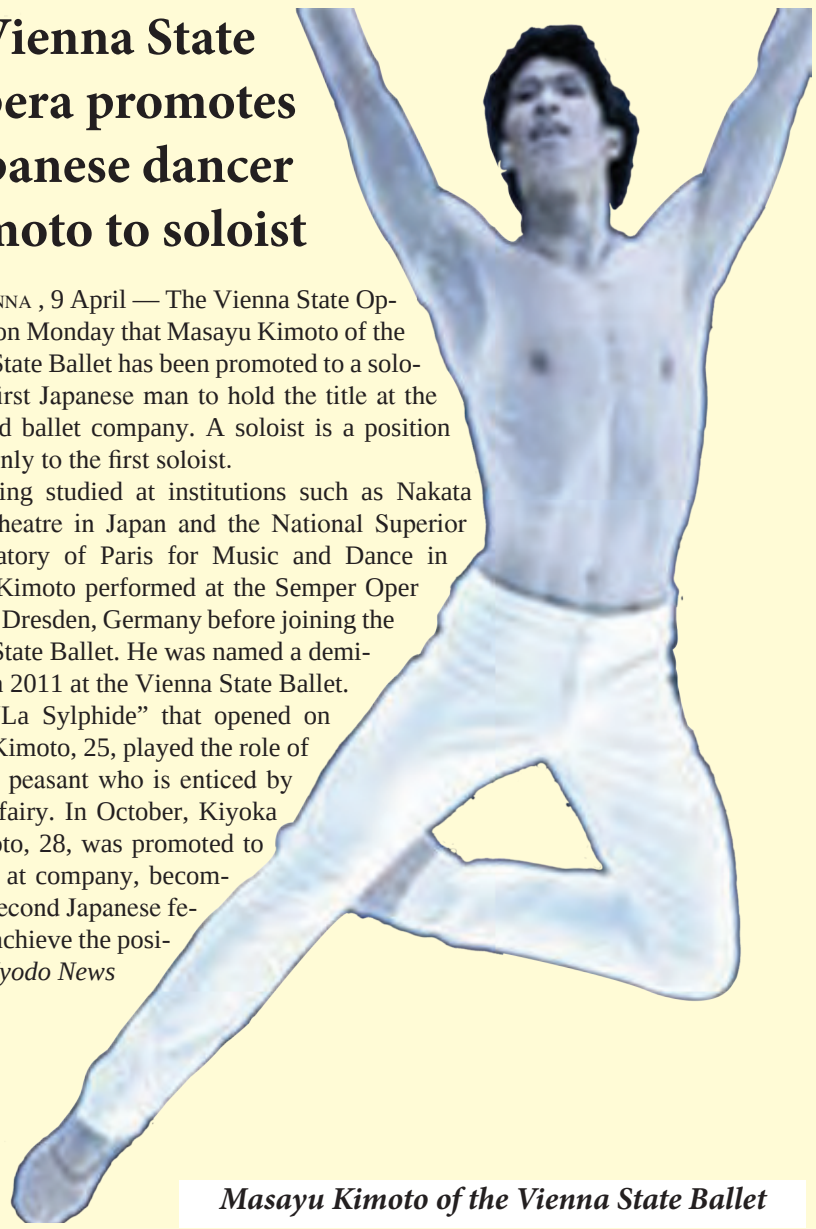
Xinhua

An Indonesian boy jumps into water as he and others play in a river at a slum in Bekasi, West Java Province, Indonesia, on 8 April, 2013.

XINHUA

ENTERTAINMENT

Vienna State Opera promotes Japanese dancer Kimoto to soloist



Masayu Kimoto of the Vienna State Ballet

Vienna , 9 April — The Vienna State Opera said on Monday that Masayu Kimoto of the Vienna State Ballet has been promoted to a soloist, the first Japanese man to hold the title at the renowned ballet company. A soloist is a position second only to the first soloist.

Having studied at institutions such as Nakata Ballet Theatre in Japan and the National Superior Conservatory of Paris for Music and Dance in France, Kimoto performed at the Semper Oper Ballet in Dresden, Germany before joining the Vienna State Ballet. He was named a demi-soloist in 2011 at the Vienna State Ballet.

In "La Sylphide" that opened on Friday, Kimoto, 25, played the role of James, a peasant who is enticed by a forest fairy. In October, Kiyoka Hashimoto, 28, was promoted to a soloist at company, becoming the second Japanese female to achieve the position.—*Kyodo News*

Streep voices admiration for "Iron Lady" she played in film

London, 9 April —Actress Meryl Streep, who won an Oscar for her portrayal of Margaret Thatcher in the 2011 film "The Iron Lady", praised the former British prime minister on Monday as a pioneer for the role of women in politics. Britain's first and only female political leader died on Monday, aged 87, after suffering a stroke.

Streep, 63, described Thatcher as a trailblazer, "willingly or unwillingly", for female political leaders. "To me she was a figure of awe for her personal strength and grit," the American actress said in a statement. "To have given women and girls around the world reason to supplant fantasies of being princesses with a different dream: the real-life option of leading their nation; this was groundbreaking and admirable."

Streep paid tribute to Thatcher for rising to the position of prime minister from her upbringing as a grocer's daughter on the back of her own hard work. The multi-Oscar-winning actress acknowledged that the right-wing Thatcher divided opinion. But Streep said Thatcher deserved credit for standing by her convictions despite the "special hatred and ridicule, unprecedented in my opinion, levelled in our time at a public figure who was not a mass murderer".—*Reuters*

Actress Meryl Streep poses for photographers after unveiling a poster for her new film "The Iron Lady" opposite the Housese of Parliament in central London on 14 Nov, 2011
Reuters

Lindsay Lohan buries the hatchet with Scary Movie 5 producer

New Delhi, 9 April — Lindsay Lohan has decided to show her support for Scary Movie 5. The 26-year-old actress, who makes a cameo in the big screen comedy alongside her pal Charlie Sheen, was originally planning to skip the red carpet premiere in Hollywood on 11 April, 2013 because she was upset at the film's producers for making fun of her legal troubles but has now decided to bury the hatchet.

A source told E! News that that the actress, who was recently sentenced to 90 days in rehab after pleading "no contest" to charges for lying to police about driving during a car crash last June and must enter a treatment facility before 2 May, will join her co-stars Charlie, J P Manoux, Molly Shannon, Jerry O'Connell and Ashley Tisdale at the event before flying to Palm Springs for the Coachella Music Festival. It was previously revealed that the newly single actress, who split from her latest boyfriend Avi Snow this week after a brief romance, was furious with the film's producers for releasing a clip in December that mocked her real life legal troubles. The clip showed her screaming in horror, while watching a fake news clip of her probation being revoked and she claimed it was supposed to show her watching one of her old movies Herbie.

A source previously said: "Producers assured Lindsay she'd have the final say on what jokes went in ... so she was livid when she saw the probation joke instead. Lindsay feels this final joke was meant as payback from producers — all because they blame her for holding up the shoot and trashing her trailer.

PTI

Halle Berry pregnant with second child

Los Angeles, 9 April — Actress Halle Berry, who already has a daughter Nahla, 5, with ex Gabriel Aubry, is expecting her first child with fiance Olivier Martinez. The 46-year-old's representative confirmed the news, saying, "We can confirm that Halle Berry and Olivier Martinez are expecting a child."

Berry got engaged to her hunky Dark Tide co-star Martinez, 47, back in January 2011. The couple confirmed the happy news a few months later, but have yet to set a wedding date, reported *Us magazine*. In an interview recently, Berry had admitted that Nahla was pining for a sibling.

"That's the thing. My daughter is asking me. Every night we pray to God, and she's so sweet. She says, 'God, please bring me a bunk bed and a baby sister.' And I say, 'I can do one of those things, I know for sure! The other one we have to keep praying on.' What do you say to her when she wants that and can't understand why God's taking so long, you know?," she said. — *PTI*

Halle Berry is expecting her first child with fiance Olivier Martinez.
PTI

According to reports, the actress was furious with the film's producers for releasing a clip in December that mocked her real life legal troubles.
PTI

SPORTS

Aguero fires City to victory in Manchester derby

Manchester United players fail to stop Manchester City's Sergio Aguero, in blue, from breaking through to score during their English Premier League soccer match at Old Trafford Stadium, Manchester, northern England on 8 April, 2013.—REUTERS

MANCHESTER, 9 April—Sergio Aguero tore through the Manchester United defence to score the winner as Manchester City beat the Premier League leaders 2-1 on Monday to remind them they are still champions for a few more weeks.

Second-placed City's second successive league win at Old Trafford, following last season's 6-1 demolition job, allowed them to narrow the gap on their neighbours to 12 points with seven games remaining.

A blistering opening 10 minutes gave way to a scrappy first half before City broke the deadlock in the 52nd minute with James Milner's deflected goal.

The lead lasted only seven minutes before an unfortunate own goal from City captain Vincent Kompany following a superb free kick by Robin van Persie but substitute Aguero came on to snatch the points with a classy finish in the 78th minute.—*Reuters*

Manchester United's Phil Jones (C) heads onto the back of Manchester City's Vincent Kompany to score during their English Premier League soccer match in Manchester, northern England on 8 April, 2013.—REUTERS

Clarke withdraws from Masters with hamstring injury

AUGUSTA, 9 April—Former British Open champion Darren Clarke has pulled out of this week's US Masters because of a lingering hamstring injury, the Northern Irishman said on Monday. The 44-year-old, who has made 11 appearances in the season's first major championship, suffered the injury just over a week ago while holidaying on the Bahamas island of Abaco.

"It is with deep regret that I will not be able to play at Augusta this year," Clarke said on his website (darrenclarke.com/). "Playing in the Masters is one of golf's greatest pleasures and I am very disappointed to be missing out." Clarke, who won his only major title at the 2011 British Open after holding off Americans Phil Mickelson and Dustin Johnson, was also forced to withdraw from last week's Texas Open on the US PGA Tour because of the injury.

Despite having rest and extensive treatment on his hamstring, Clarke felt he would not be able to cope at the Masters with the challenge of competing on the notoriously hilly terrain at Augusta National. The Northern Irishman, whose best finish at the Masters was joint eighth on his tournament debut in 1998, said he will continue having treatment on his hamstring in the Bahamas. Clarke will not be replaced in the field for the 2013 Masters, which starts on Thursday.

Reuters

Darren Clarke of Northern Ireland hits out of the bunker onto the 9th green during the first round of the European Masters golf tournament in the Swiss mountain resort of Crans-Montana on 30 Aug, 2012.—REUTERS

Kuchar sees progression leading to major victory

AUGUSTA, 9 April—With big victories adding up on his PGA Tour profile, Matt Kuchar hopes his natural progression will lead him to the missing piece on his resume —a major championship. The 34-year-old American won last year's prestigious Players Championship and notched his first World Golf Championships title this year at the Accenture Match Play for his fifth career win. After finishing tied for third at the 2012 Masters, Kuchar believes he is ready to take the next step at the year's first major when the Masters begins on Thursday at Augusta National. "It just gives me confidence knowing that I can contend in major championships, that I can be there late on Sunday," Kuchar said on Monday about last year's Masters. "It was my first real chance to win a major coming down the stretch late on Sunday."

Kuchar, who along with Masters winner Bubba Watson were the only two players to break par all four rounds last year, was tied for the lead after making an eagle on the par-five 15th hole in the final round but bogeyed the 16th and missed out on joining a playoff with Watson and Louis Oosthuizen. "It just feels like one of those stepping stones into continuing to contend and winning majors, just having that experience that I've been there," he said. "The more times you're there, the more comfortable you get with it."

While some major championship winners carefully devise their preparations ahead of major tournaments, world number nine Kuchar said he believed consistency was the best way to flourish in the majors. "To me I always felt like it was hard to turn things off and on. I would like to kind of be 'on' with regularity and play well week in and week out, and I felt like that was the best preparation...and let that carry into major championships. "I'd like to be able to kind of roll out of bed, know that I'm going to be hitting it good and have a good chance when I tee it up. I felt like my game has progressed that way."

While Kuchar, who began this season with a pair of top 10s in Hawaii, raved about the condition of Augusta National he was a little worried about how fast the greens were running. "It seems every year when I play practice rounds, you kind of get a feeling that the greens get quicker and quicker each day," said Kuchar, who will be playing in his seventh Masters. "They are already quick. They are already firm. I'm a little nervous to think what awaits us on Thursday."—*Reuters*

Boxing: Yaegashi knocks off WBC flyweight champ Igarashi

TOKYO, 9 April—Akira Yaegashi won his second weight class after dethroning WBC flyweight champion Toshiyuki Igarashi by unanimous decision on Monday. The sixth-ranked Yaegashi previously held the WBA minimumweight title, which he lost to Kazuto Ioka last June. He is the 10th Japanese-trained fighter to conquer two weight divisions.

Yaegashi and Igarashi had fought each other in high school and university. Igarashi won all four bouts back then, but there was no questioning the 30-year-old Yaegashi's victory on Monday. The three judges had Yaegashi ahead by five, seven and nine points. Igarashi, who was successful in his first title defense in November, left the ring with his face covered in blood.

Akira Yaegashi

"I wanted to get back at Igarashi," said Yaegashi, now 17-for-20 with nine knockouts. "I put my pride as a man on the line. I couldn't have won this fight had it not been for all the support I received, and I want to thank everyone who helped me along the way." As part of a tripleheader at Ryogoku Kokugikan, bantamweight champion Shinsuke Yamanaka won by TKO in the 12th round over Filipino challenger Malcolm Tunacao.

Yamanaka, with 18 wins and two draws from 20 fights including 13 knockouts, defended his title for the third time. In the super featherweight division, Takashi Miura became the new champion, flooring Mexico's Gamaliel Diaz by TKO in the ninth round. Miura knocked down Diaz four times before the referee stopped the fight. The 28-year-old has 25 wins in 29 bouts (19 knockouts) with two draws and two defeats.—*Kyodo News*

Greek federation welcomes improved state funding

ATHENS, 9 April—Greek athletics will receive improved state funding close to $6.5 million after the national federation SEGAS protested against original proposals for cuts of up to 80 percent.

SEGAS said in a statement on its website (www.segas.gr) on Monday that it welcomed the government's change of heart, although the amount of 4,916,800 euros was still 30 percent less than in 2012. In February the state promised to revise the severity of proposed funding cuts and allocated an extra 11 million euros to stop some beleaguered federations from closing down.

The budget for Olympic sports federations has been slashed by 50 percent year on year since 2010, while cuts of between 60 and 80 percent were due to be put into effect for 2013 under the country's austerity measures.

Water polo and swimming have also suffered, with Greece pulling their swimmers out of the European short-course championships at the end of last year for the first time in 16 years.

Reuters

Matt Kuchar of the US holds the trophy after beating Hunter Mahan 2&1 during the championship match of the WGC-Accenture Match Play Championship golf tournament in Marana, Arizona on 24 Feb, 2013.—REUTERS

GENERAL

Volvo Ocean Race unveils longest ever route for 2014-15

Volvo Ocean Race team Puma sails during eighth leg of Volvo Ocean Race in Lisbon on 10 June, 2012. The eighth leg of Volvo Ocean Race starts today from Lisbon to Lorient in France.—REUTERS

ALICANTE, (Spain) , 9 April — The next edition of the Volvo Ocean Race in 2014-15 will be the longest ever, after organizers announced on Monday a route taking in 10 cities in nine countries and lasting almost nine months.

The 12th edition of the round-the-world yacht race will begin in Alicante, Spain on 4 October, 2014 and visit Recife (Brazil), Abu Dhabi (UAE), Sanya (China), Auckland (New Zealand, Itajai (Brazil), Newport, Rhode Island (United States), Lisbon (Portugal), Lorient (France) and Gothenburg (Sweden), finishing on 27 June, 2015.

The full race distance will be 39,895 nautical miles. The previous longest edition, won by French skipper Franck Cammas in 2012, was 39,270 nautical miles. "This new route means two visits to Brazil just when it is the world capital of sport," Race CEO Knut Frostad told Reuters. "To be going there right between the soccer World Cup in 2014 and the Olympics in Rio in 2016 is very exciting."

Reuters

UN agency reopens Gaza food distribution centres

GAZA, 9 April—The main UN humanitarian agency for Palestinians said on Monday it was reopening its Gaza food distribution centres after suspending operations last week in response to violent protests over aid cutbacks.

The centres, which the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) closed on Thursday after demonstrators stormed its headquarters, supply food to 800,000 Palestinians—nearly half the population of the impoverished Gaza Strip.

Announcing that food distribution centres and relief offices would reopen on Tuesday, Adnan Abu Hasna, UNRWA's Gaza media adviser, said the agency had received "assurances from the relevant parties over the safety of its staff".

The violence on Thursday was part of a dispute that had been brewing for weeks in the territory, which is governed by the Islamist Hamas movement.

Robert Turner, UNRWA's director of Gaza operations, said the agency faced a $68 million shortfall in 2013 and that it had decided to cut a $40 annual handout to 106,000 Gaza refugees to save some $5.5 million. To soften the blow, the agency offered job programmes to help the poorest families.

Reuters

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(10-4-13 09:30 am ~ 11-4-13 09:30 am) MST

* News
* "Thingyan Road Trip 2012"Mawlamyine & Blue Island
* News
* Thingyan Songs & Dances
* News
* Pesticide and Cancer
* Myanmar Thingyan Water Festival & Artist's View
* News
* Myanmar Mega Factory (Episode-II)
* News
* Regional Rice Dialogue
* New Rays For the Service Personnel
* News
* My Tour around Hopone City
* News
* Pesticide and Cancer
* Myama Thingyan Water Festival & Artistis' View
* News
* Myanmar Movies "Touching Bonds"

Myanmar TV

(10-4-2013, Wednesday)

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

6:25 am
2. To Be Healthy Exercise

6:40 am
3. Pyi Thu Ni Ti

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

7:00 am
5. News

7:20 am
6. Teleplay

7:40 am
7. Dance of ThinGyan Festival

8:00 am
8. News / International News

8:25 am
9. Sin A Song

9:20 am
10. How It's Works

9:50 am
11. TV Drama Series

10:00 am
12. News

10:15 am
13. TV Drama Series

11:00 am
14. Bakey World

11:15 am
15. Approaching Science Discovery World

11:40 pm
16. Dance of ThinGyan Festival

12:00 pm
17. News / International News

12:25 pm
18. Myanmar Movie (Part-1)

1:00 pm
19. News

1:15 pm
20. Myanmar Movie (Part-2)

2:00 pm
21. News

2:15 pm
22. Myanmar Movie (Part-3)

3:00 pm
23. News

3:15 pm
24. India Drama Series

4:00 pm
25. News

4:35 pm
26. University Of Distance Education (TV Lectures) -First Year (Mathematics)

5:00 pm
27. News

5:15 pm
28. Fashion Show

5:25 pm
29. Documentary

6:00 pm
30. News

8:35 pm
31. People Talk

8:45 pm
32. Present Songs

9:00 pm
33. News / International News
34. My Mind Game My Sea Garres (Part-1)

Portugal court ruling forces cuts on education, health

LISBON, 9 April—Portuguese will suffer from cuts to schools and hospitals to protect civil service benefits after the constitutional court rejected austerity measures that would have reduced holiday bonuses and other public sector perks.

The government has had to scramble to find new areas to cut after the court concluded that it was unfair to single out civil servants for reductions in benefits under measures imposed to meet the terms of an international bailout programme.

The decision deepens the divide between a protected class of civil servants and other workers, whose lives have become far more precarious during the worst recession since the 1970s.

Although public sector pay has fallen faster than in the private sector during Portugal's economic crisis, state workers still earn on average double the wages of the private sector. Meanwhile, all Portuguese have been hit since January by the largest tax hikes in living memory, and many economists believe more austerity measures will prolong and deepen the slump.

"This decision left me very worried. Civil servants benefit, but not the private sector. It's in the public sector where the government has to cut," said Sonia Castro 39, an unemployed secretary.

Jose Manuel, 56-year-old taxi driver in Lisbon, said the only outcome he sees is that "our lives will only get worse."

The European Commission and particularly Germany have urged Lisbon to waste no time in coming up with new savings in order to keep its bailout programme on track.

On Sunday, Prime Minister Pedro Passos Coelho reaffirmed Lisbon's commitments to its fiscal tightening goals under an EU/IMF bailout, promising to compensate for the court decision with other spending cuts.—*Reuters*

People relax near Times Square in New York City on 8 April, 2013. Seasonal temperature went above 22 degrees Celsius for the first time since Spring started.
XINHUA

People walk as cherry blossoms bloom on the edge of the Tidal Basin in Washington DC, capital of the United States, on 8 April, 2013. Peak bloom of the US Capital's cherry blossoms arrived on Monday, almost two weeks later as originally predicted between on 26 and 30 March.—XINHUA

French photographer escapes Afghan kidnappers after four months

KABUL, 9 April—A French photographer kidnapped in Afghanistan four months ago fled his captors on Monday and was now safe in the hands of officials from his embassy, the Afghan Interior Ministry said.

A second French hostage in Afghanistan was freed by his captors, a spokesman for France's foreign ministry said, without providing any details.

Twenty-nine-year-old freelance Pierre Borghi had been chained up in a crudely dug hole covered by a trap door but managed to escape and reached a checkpoint manned by government security guards in central Wardak Province, an Afghan official said.

Borghi, from Grenoble in south-eastern France, was brought to the Interior Ministry's headquarters in Kabul at about 4:30 pm (1200 GMT) and left in the company of French embassy officials less than an hour later, ministry spokesman Sediq Sediqqi said.

Reuters

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The New Light of Myanmar

Wednesday, 10 April, 2013

Myanmar people themselves need to solve their internal affairs peacefully

***President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein addresses the meeting on Rakhine State Peace and Stability Implementation Central Committee.*—MNA**

NAY PYI TAW, 9 April— Rakhine State Peace and Stability Implementation Central Committee meeting took place at the meeting hall of Union Government in Presidential Palace, here, this morning, with an address by President U Thein Sein.

It was attended by Vice-President U Nyan Tun, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win, Vice-Chairman of the Committee and members, the Union Ministers, Rakhine State Chief Minister, deputy ministers and departmental heads.

In his speech, the President explained the rehabilitation of victims ahead of monsoon, the soonest implementation of the remaining works, daily assistance, construction of buildings and houses, choosing of sites for construction of buildings and peace and stability.

Vice-Chairman Union Minister Lt-Gen Thet Naing Win submits the report.
MNA

He urged the officials to assist in ensuring livelihood and rerunning of businesses. Major livelihood of people in Rakhine State are farming and fishing. They need to be provided with farm equipment, fuel, paddy strains and fertilizers and fishing gear in the coming raining season. He urged the Rakhine State government and the Union government to make cooperation for returning to normalcy, he added.

Long-term plan for handling of Rakhine conflict should be set. Myanmar people themselves need to address the internal affairs peacefully. The number of security forces will be reduced along with improvement in peace and stability, he added.

He expressed special thanks to UN agencies and the ambassadors from the volunteer countries for their helps since Rakhine conflict erupted.

***Deputy Minister Maj-Gen Zaw Win takes part in discussion.*—MNA**

He continued to say that for providing necessary assistance to the victims, a Sittway-based organization comprising the delegates from the respective ministries is to be formed under the leadership of the Ministry of Border Affairs.

After that, Vice-Chairman Union Minister Lt-Gen Thet Naing Win and Chief Minister U Hla Maung Tin, Central Committee Secretary Deputy Minister Maj-Gen Zaw Win submitted the reports.

Then, the Union ministers discussed their respective sectors. In conclusion, the President said that implementation of Rakhine State peace and stability is a must. He urged respective committees to implement their works as quickly as possible.

MNA

***Rakhine State Chief Minister U Hla Maung Tin participates in discussion.*—MNA**

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker calls for "mutually beneficial" taxation laws

YANGON, 9 April— Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann stressed the need to prescribe "mutually beneficial" taxation laws in meeting with industrialists and bankers at Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry Headquarters here this afternoon.

Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Nanda Kyaw Swa and chairs and members of Pyithu Hluttaw committees and commission were also present at the meeting.

Members of UMFCCI and sister organizations, and officials of Customs Department, Internal Revenue Department and Central Bank of Myanmar discussed tax-related issues.

Their frank discussions were welcomed by the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker assuring that the parliament would act on their suggestions.

(See page 9)

Significant day temperatures (9-4-2013)

Chauk	**43°C**
Aunglan	**42°C**
Gangaw	**42°C**
Gyobingauk	**42°C**
Bawlakhe	**42°C**

***Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann meets with industrialists and bankers at the Office of UMFCCI.*—MNA**