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Nay Pyi Taw packed with devotees, pilgrims for performing meritorious deeds

NAY PYI TAW, 17 April—Today is New Year Day in 1375 Myanmar Era. Devotees and pilgrims took Sabbath, set fish, birds and cattle free, took care of older persons and performed meritorious deeds across Nay Pyi Taw.

The devotees also offered water, flowers and meals to pagodas and consecrated Buddha images there from the morning to the evening.

Nay Pyi Taw Uppatasanti Pagoda was packed with pilgrims in groups or individuals the whole day.

Likewise, Datusaya Datpaungsu, Phayakoehsu, Yanaungmyin Shwe-ywethla, Lawkamarazein,



Congregation receiving precepts from members of Sangha on New Year Day in 1375 Myanmar Era.—MNA

Koekhangyi and Lawkayanhnein pagodas, stupas and religious edifices were thronged with devotees and pilgrims.

In the evening,

members of the Sangha recited Parittas at ministries, staff quarters and roads in townships of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area. Dwellers paid respects to

older persons and served refreshments to all the people.

Under the auspices of the presiding Nayaka of Maha Withutayama

Tagundaing Monastery in Pyinmana this morning, wellwishers at home and abroad together with Donors' Hands (Pyinmana) Association paid respects

to over 100 older persons of above 75 years and presented K 20,000, medicines and foodstuff each to them.

MNA

Parittas recitation over Nay Pyi Taw and its environs



Members of Sangha led by State Ovadacariya Pyinmana Maha Withutayama Zaygon Monastery Presiding Nayaka Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Bhaddanta Kavisara reciting Parittas on the flight.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 17 April—Members of the Sangha led by State Ovadacariya Pyinmana Maha Withutayama Zaygon Monastery Presiding Nayaka Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Bhaddanta Kavisara accompanied by Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs U Soe Win, Nay Pyi Taw Council Member U Myo Nyunt and officials flew around Nay Pyi Taw and its environs this morning, reciting parittas on the New Year Day. The deputy minister and officials dispensed Metta by scattering parittas water from the helicopter.

MNA

Meritorious deeds performed in Nay Pyi Taw on Myanmar New Year Day

NAY PYI TAW, 17 April—As today is Myanmar New Year Day, pagodas and monasteries across Nay Pyi Taw were teeming with those who received parittas delivered by members of Sangha, kept the Sabbath and performed meritorious deeds in accord with Myanmar traditions and customs.

The fifth parittas recitation ceremony was held at the cave of Uppatasanti Pagoda where Union Minister U Thein Nyunt and the congregation received Nine Precepts

delivered by Ovadacariya Sayadaw of Uppatasanti Pagoda this morning.

Next, members of Sangha recited parittas and the Union minister and party presented offertories to members of Sangha.

Moreover, a fish-releasing ceremony took place in the compound of Thatta Thattaha Pagoda on Udayayanthi hillock in Pobbathiri Pagoda, here.

The Union minister, departmental heads, religious associations of ministries and local people set various kinds of 15,000 fingerlings free into Mingalar Lake. Then, the Union minister and party paid homage to stupas and visited religious edifices in the compound. — MNA

Bago Region Chief Minister presents prizes, gifts to the aged

NAY PYI TAW, 17 April—Bago Region Chief Minister U Nyan Win enjoyed water festival at Taungoo Central Pandal, Southern Command Pandal and Taungoo Airbase Pandal on 15 April (Akyat Day).

The Region Chief Minister presented cash awards and trophies to first, second and third prize

winning choral dance troupes and extended greetings for Myanmar New Year at the Central Pandal in Bago yesterday (Atet Day).

The Region Chief Minister released fish into Mazin dam of Bago before donating gifts to the aged at the respect paying ceremony held at Buddha Athan Dhamma Beikman.—MNA



As parts of meritorious deeds on New Year Day, Union Minister U Thein Nyunt and party release various kinds of 15,000 fingerlings into Mingalar Lake.

MNA

LOCAL NEWS

Prayer of Ngadatgyi Buddha image reopened in Kungyangon



YANGON, 17 April—Storm Nargis hit Yangon Region on 2 May 2008, causing large volume of loss and damages.

The 108 years old Gandakuti building of the Buddha Image built in Falan Monastery in Thongwa-Paybin Village, three miles to Kungyangon, collapsed in the storm. But, Ngadatgyi Buddha image had no

damage.

Under the auspices of Falan Monastery Sayadaw Bhaddanta Paññobhasa, member of the Region Working Committee of the Sangha, wellwisher U Kyaw Khaing-Daw Khin Khin Aye of Yangon donated K 150 million with other contributions K 20 million by local people to reconstruct the 100 feet long and 90

feet wide prayer hall for the Buddha image.

On 27 March 2013, the ceremony to share merits gained for construction of the prayer hall of the Buddha image took place at the hall. Kungyangon Township Pyithu Hluttaw representative U Lun Thi and wellwishers offered alms to 50 members of the Sangha.

Myanma Alinn

MCDC control traffic congestion prevention

MANDALAY, 17 April—Modern Zaygyo Market in Mandalay and its surrounding roads namely 26th street, 84th street junction to 27th street, and Mann Myanmar Plaza are hustling and bustling with buyers, sellers, vehicles, motorcycles and bicycles daily.

As a result, traffic jams cause along the roads to the markets. Therefore, officials of Mandalay City Development Committee, Traffic Police Force and Mandalay City All Private Bus-Line Control Committee jointly perform clearance of traffic congestion on the streets and roads.

Under the Bus-line



Control Committee, 500-600 of 833 vehicles from 43

bus lines ply their routes daily for smooth transportation of

over 50,000 local people.

Myanma Alinn

Outstanding BOD member, staff honoured in Mandalay

MANDALAY, 17 April—The prize awarding for outstanding executives and staff was held at Chan Myae Trading Cooperative Ltd in Aungmyethazan Township of Mandalay on 6 April.

Staff Officer of Township Cooperative Officer U Kyaw Hsan Lin gave words of

honour and the Chairman of the Board of Directors made a speech.

Next, the chairman awarded BOD member U Aung Than and staffs.

The BOD member award winner secured K 50,000 and the staff, one and a half salary.—Myanma Alinn



Environmental conservation discussed for Inlay Lake

NYAUNGSHWE, 17 April—A workshop on sustainable development of Inlay Lake was held at the Intha literature and culture and development hall in Nyaungshwe on 6 April.

At the workshop, Dr

Than Than Sein touched on important role of organic endorsement and guideline for cultivation through organic system, use of organic fertilizer, use of organic anti-fungus and pesticides for environmental

conservation, Dr Khin Hnin Yu on agricultural sector in Inlay Lake and organic methods, Dr Kyaw Nyein Aye on facts about organic foods and applied biotechnology for agriculture.

Myanma Alinn

Refresher course for service persons of MCWA delivery rooms commences

YANGON, 17 April—The refresher course for service persons at delivery rooms of MCWA was opened at the Hluttaw Office on Shin Saw Pu Road in Dagon Township on 2 April.

Patron of Yangon Region Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee Daw Khin Thet Htay presented membership ID cards to 68 members.

She handed over clean delivery kit and posters to



District WCWSCs.

Daw Khin Aye Nwe, wife of the Yangon Mayor, handed over K 500,000 donated by Yangon City Development Committee to the officials.

Next, she presented K 700,000 for renovation of

the delivery room of South Okkalapa Township MCWA and K 500,000 for Kyauktan Township MCWA delivery room.

Altogether 23 trainees from 22 delivery rooms attended the course.

Myanma Alinn

10-wheeled vehicle, motorcycle in head on collision

INDAW, 17 April—A 10-wheeled Nissan collided with a motorcycle at mile posts 140/2 and 140/3 on Shwebo-Myitkyina Road at 4 pm on 5 April in Aungmyitha Ward, Indaw of Katha District in Sagaing Region.

The motorcyclist was injured in the incident and rushed to the hospital. However, he was dead due to serious injuries at the hospital at 7.45 pm.

Indaw Police Station opened a file of lawsuit against the Nissan's driver.

"We took action against 154 vehicles, 521 motorcycles, 31 trawleries and 23 tuk-tuks from January to 4 April 2013 due to breaking traffic rules. We gave talks on traffic rules to the people," said a member of Traffic Rules Enforcement Committee.

Myanma Alinn

Mobile Teams protect consumers, earn income for the State

BAGO, 17 April—Under the instructions of the President Office, Mobile Team-1 is assigned duty on Muse-Mandalay trade route and Mobile Team-2 on Myawady-Yangon trade route.

The mobile team on Myawady-Yangon route comprises 18 staff including the director of commercial and consumer affairs department, 12 staff of Customs Department, 29 of Myanmar Police Force, two representatives of Bago Region Government, one from Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, two from

media and 20 local workers, totalling 84.

The team is discharging duty to protect the consumers, control illegal trade, earn correct incomes for the State and prevent illegal trade.

Mobile Team-2 is based at the strategic junction of the road to New Sittoung Bridge and Nyaungkhashe-DaikU Road to check vehicles that drove from Thai-Myanmar (Myawady-Mae Sot trade zone) and those from Mawlamyine, Thaton, Bilin and Kyaikto townships.

The educative period was designated from 21 November 2012 to 20

January 2013.

The Union government allows merchants to freely trade various commodities with tax except lacquer, cigarette and various beers.

The authorities of the team inspected one of five vehicles with the loads of commodities that had paid tax and checked custom-duty list with commodities. If there is any difference between the list and real commodities, the authorities will confiscate the extra commodities in line with the Customs Law.

However, the team does not confiscate the goods of passengers on a manageable scale but seizes

unlicensed goods hidden in the vehicles that carried toddy palm leaves, bags of lime, gravels, coconuts, minerals and grams.

From 21 January to 1 April, the Mobile Team-2 has confiscated commodities worth K 861,423,213.

Some drivers did not obey to stop their vehicles ordered by the team and evaded their vehicles through the detours.

Up to now, the mobile team seized spoilsable goods, foodstuff and meats that can harm the consumers and systematically destroyed beers, lacquer and confiscated licenced goods.—Myanma Alinn

WORLD

Obama says FBI investigating Boston explosions as “act of terrorism”

US President Barack Obama delivers a statement on Boston Marathon explosions at the White House in Washington DC, capital of the United States, on 16 April, 2013.—XINHUA

WASHINGTON, 17 April —US President Barack Obama said on Tuesday the FBI was investigating Monday’s explosions at

called the explosions, which killed three and injured more than 100, “a heinous and cowardly act.”

“And given what we now know about what took place, the FBI is investigating it as an act of terrorism,” said Obama, “Any time bombs are used to target innocent civilians, it is an act of terror.” Obama said the authorities still did not know “who carried out this attack or why, whether it was planned and executed by a terrorist organization, foreign or domestic, or was the act of a malevolent individual.”

But he vowed again that the government will “find whoever harmed our citizens” and “will bring them to justice.” Obama said the federal

government will continue to mobilize and deploy all appropriate law enforcement resources to the investigation and response work.

US Defence Secretary Chuck Hagel on Tuesday called the deadly bombings at Boston Marathon a “cruel act of terror,” while saying it was important not to jump to conclusions before having all the facts. The twin bombs exploded at around 3 pm local time (1900 GMT) on Monday within seconds of each other near the finish line of one of the world’s most revered races. The authorities said the bombings left three dead and injured over 140. Yet US media reported the casualties had soared to 176.—Xinhua

Abe sends condolence message to Obama over Boston explosions

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe.

TOKYO, 17 April—Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe sent US President Barack Obama a message of condolences early Wednesday for the victims and their families affected by the deadly Boston Marathon bomb blasts, the Foreign Ministry said.

Japanese Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida also conveyed his sympathy to US Secretary of State John Kerry, the ministry said. Kishida told reporters in the morning that US authorities were in the process of investigating the blasts, including the

possibility of terrorism. “Our country is watching the situation with keen interest,” he said.

Defence Minister Itsunori Onodera said the “entire international community should send a firm message” in response to the blasts. “I have not seen any reports that Japanese nationals have been victims,” Prime Minister Shinzo Abe told a parliamentary session in the morning. “Police have stepped up security at key facilities and enforced thorough security at locations where many people would congregate.”

Kyodo News

Pakistan ex-President Musharraf barred from running in 11 May poll

ISLAMABAD, 17 April —A Pakistani election tribunal on Tuesday barred former President Pervez Musharraf from taking part in the upcoming general election, a decision that dashes the former military ruler’s hopes of making a political comeback. Musharraf returned to Pakistan in March after four years of self-exile and filed papers in four constituencies to run in the general election scheduled for 11 May.

The election tribunal overruled local officials in Chitral, saying that Musharraf had abrogated the Constitution while he was in power and was not qualified to run for public office. The three other constituencies refused to accept Musharraf’s nomination papers. Musharraf has launched his own political party — the All Pakistan Muslim League—to prepare for the 11 May elections.

On Friday, the Islamabad High Court extended until 18 April the protective bail granted to Musharraf, who faces charges for placing hundreds of judges under



Pakistan former President Pervez Musharraf.

house arrest, when he imposed emergency rule and suspended the Constitution in 2007. Musharraf, a former army general who ruled Pakistan from 1999 to 2008, has denied all charges and said he will defend himself in court.—Kyodo News

Britain stages grand funeral for “Iron Lady” Margaret Thatcher

LONDON, 17 April —London will stage its biggest political funeral in almost half a century on Wednesday when Britain’s governing elite join the Queen and global leaders to bid farewell to former Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, better known as the “Iron Lady”. In an event comparable to that of Winston Churchill’s funeral in 1965, Thatcher’s coffin will be carried atop a horse-drawn gun carriage through streets lined with admirers, and some detractors, from parliament to the city’s most famous cathedral.

The bells of London’s

iconic Big Ben clock tower will fall silent for the first time since Churchill’s funeral and more than 700 men and women from Britain’s armed forces will honour a woman who led them to victory in the 1982 Falklands War as foreign dignitaries from around 170 nations look on. Thatcher, who ruled Britain from 1979 to 1990, died on 8 April after suffering a stroke. In life, the woman the Soviets christened the “Iron Lady” divided the British public with her free-market policies which sometimes wrought wrenching change on communities. In death it

is no different.

Polls have shown that many are unhappy that the estimated 10-million (\$15 million) pound bill for the funeral is being picked up by the taxpayer, while some left-wing lawmakers say the pomp-filled funeral is excessive and amounts to a party political advert for her ruling Conservative party. But her admirers, of which there are many in her party and in southern England, argue that her historical profile merits such a funeral. She was the country’s first and only woman premier, was Britain’s longest-serving prime minister of the 20th century, and won three general elections.

More than 2,300 mourners will attend including 11 serving prime ministers from around the world, the British government’s entire cabinet, two heads of state and 17 foreign ministers. But there will be notable absences. Former Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev is too frail to attend and Nancy Reagan, the widow of Thatcher’s great US ally Ronald Reagan, is also unable to come.—Reuters



The coffin of former British prime minister Margaret Thatcher rests in the Crypt Chapel of St Mary Undercroft, at the Palace of Westminster in London on 16 April, 2013.—REUTERS

Venezuela accuses opposition of plotting coup, seven dead

Supporters of opposition leader Henrique Capriles take part in a demonstration to demand a recount of the votes in Sunday’s election, in front of the office of the National Electoral Council (CNE), in Maracaibo on 16 April, 2013.—REUTERS

CARACAS, 17 April—Venezuelan President-elect Nicolas Maduro accused the opposition on Tuesday of planning a coup against him after seven government supporters were killed in clashes over his disputed election victory. Opposition leader Henrique Capriles

wants a full recount of votes from Sunday’s election after official results showed a narrow victory for Maduro, who is late socialist leader Hugo Chavez’s hand-picked successor.

Opposition demonstrations outside electoral authority offices around

the country passed off peacefully on Tuesday, in contrast to Monday night when youths in Caracas and other cities blocked streets, burned tires and fought with police. The authorities said the seven deaths included two people shot by opposition sympathizers while celebrating Maduro’s win in a middle-class area of the capital, and one person killed in an attack on a government-run clinic.

“This is the responsibility of those who have called for violence, who have ignored the constitution and the institutions,” a furious Maduro said in a speech to the nation. “Their plan is a coup d’etat.” Officials also said more than 60 people had been injured, including one woman whom protesters tried to burn alive, and 170 people were arrested.

Reuters

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Photo News

Honda to open energy-efficient plant



Photo taken 16 April, 2013, shows work to install solar power generation equipment on the roof of a new auto production plant of Honda Motor Co in Saitama Prefecture near Tokyo. The automaker opened to the Press the environmentally friendly auto production plant scheduled to start operations in July.

KYODO NEWS

35,000 application software for smartphones found dangerous

TOKYO, 17 April—More than 35,000 software applications targeting smartphone users in Japan have been found to be dangerous due to concerns such as misuse of personnel information, a study by Netagent Co, a Tokyo-based information security company, showed on Wednesday.

The dangerous applications account for one-tenth of about 348,000 applications running on the Android operating system the company examined from last October to March. Netagent graded the applications on a scale of five — dangerous, high (risk), medium, low and safe.

Kyodo News

HP aims to revolutionize computers with motion-control technology

SAN FRANCISCO, 17 April—Computers controlled by a swipe of the hand — a staple of science fiction flicks like “Minority Report” — could soon hit the mass market as the result of a new deal between Hewlett-Packard Co and a San Francisco startup called Leap Motion.

As the world’s largest PC maker, HP’s move to embrace motion-sensing technology could potentially change how people interface with computers in the same way that Apple Inc made touch-screen technology mainstream with the 2007 launch of the iPhone — or when Apple first introduced the mouse to consumers in 1983. Leap Motion, a three-year-old firm with less than 100 employees in San Francisco, manufactures sensor units about the size of a pack of gum, which it claims can track the individual movements of 10 fingers with 1/100th of a millimetre precision.

The units can plug into any computer and allow the use of apps or software designed for motion-control sensors. Under the new deal, HP will initially ship Leap Motion’s sensors with its products before eventually embedding the technology

directly into HP computers, the companies said.

The sensors are on sale at major retailers for \$80 but will not ship until 13 May. The companies did not say when the HP devices with built-in sensors would be sold. “Consumers want to go to the next level when creating and interacting with digital content,” Ron Coughlin, an HP senior vice president in charge of consumer PCs, said in a statement on Tuesday. “Leap Motion’s groundbreaking 3-D motion control combined with HP technology and amazing developer apps will create incredible user experiences.”

The agreement comes at a time when tech manufacturers like Microsoft Corp, Google and Apple have all expressed interest in motion-sensing technology. In 2010, Microsoft brought the technology to millions of

living rooms with its popular Kinect box made to be used with the Xbox game console. Last year, Samsung Electronics Co Ltd unveiled a television set that could be controlled from across the room with hand gestures.

Andy Miller, Leap Motion’s chief operating officer and a former Apple executive, said the motion technology could both enhance recreational uses such as gaming and be a practical tool for business professionals. In order to show off its wide appeal, Leap Motion has invited third-party developers to make apps in a model similar to Apple’s App Store. So far, 50,000 developers have requested developer toolkits to create apps that use gestures to create 3-D models, simulate musical instruments or even manipulate surgical robots.

Reuters



A user demonstrates a new motion-control sensor in this undated handout photo provided by Leap Motion on 15 April, 2013.—REUTERS

New US rocket cleared for test flight from Virginia spaceport

CAPE CANAVERAL, (Florida), 17 April—A second US company hired by NASA to fly cargo to the International Space Station was cleared to test-fly its *Antares* rocket from a newly developed commercial spaceport in Virginia, officials said on Tuesday.

Orbital Sciences Corp plans to launch its 130-foot (40-metre)-tall *Antares* rocket late Wednesday afternoon from the newly built Mid-Atlantic Regional Spaceport, located at NASA’s Wallops Flight Facility south of Chincoteague, Virginia.

The rocket will carry an 8,378-pound (3,800-kg) dummy capsule designed to mimic the company’s *Cygnus* spacecraft, which is slated to debut on *Antares*’ second flight this summer.

Like startup Space Exploration Technologies, or *SpaceX*, a privately-owned firm based in Hawthorne, California, Orbital Sciences built its cargo ship in partnership with NASA. *SpaceX* followed up a May

2012 test flight with two cargo runs to the space station under a \$1.6 billion contract.

In addition to winning \$288 million from NASA for *Antares* and *Cygnus* development, Orbital holds a \$1.9 billion contract to fly cargo to the station, a \$100 billion research laboratory that flies about 250 miles above Earth.

SpaceX also is working to upgrade its *Falcon 9* rocket and *Dragon* capsule to fly astronauts to the station. Orbital lost out on its bid to develop a space taxi service, but hopes to parlay its cargo-hauling business into additional government and commercial contracts.

“We feel pretty strongly that a successful test flight, and also a successful demo (run to the space station) later, will help us in our marketing a great deal,” said Frank Culbertson, executive vice president with Orbital Sciences and a former astronaut and NASA manager.

The company had

hoped to debut its new rocket and capsule more than a year ago, but the programme was delayed due to construction and certification issues with the Wallops



Island launch pad. NASA regularly flies small sub-orbital rockets, high-altitude balloons and scientific airplanes from Wallops. The *Antares* booster will be the biggest rocket to be launched from the island.

The goal of Wednesday’s mission is to place the simulated *Cygnus* cargo ship into an orbit about 160 miles above the planet, demonstrating the rocket’s lift capacity and the ability to separate the payload.

The Orbital Sciences Corporation *Antares* rocket is seen on the Mid-Atlantic Regional Spaceport (MARS) Pad-0A at the NASA Wallops Flight Facility in Virginia on 16 April, 2013.—REUTERS

White House threatens veto of House cybersecurity bill



Air Force personnel work at the Air Force Space Command Network Operations & Security Centre at Peterson Air Force Base in Colorado Springs, Colorado on 20 July, 2010.—REUTERS

WASHINGTON, 17 April—The White House on Tuesday threatened to veto a House of Representatives bill aimed at improving US cybersecurity, citing among other things concerns about privacy protections.

In a repeat of last year’s events, the Obama administration issued a new veto threat on the cybersecurity bill co-authored by House Intelligence Committee Chairman Mike Rogers, saying it needed to better protect private information and gave too much liability protection to companies.

“The Administration still seeks additional improvements and if the bill, as currently crafted, were

presented to the president, his senior advisors would recommend that he veto the bill,” the statement of administration policy said on Tuesday.

The House is expected to vote on the bill later this week. To try to gain support of the White House and in an effort to appease concerns of civil liberties groups, Intelligence Committee leaders made some changes to the wording of the bill, which is very similar to a bill passed by the House in 2012 that focused on helping companies and the US government share information on cyber threats. Changes this year include a provision prevent-

ing companies from using information they receive for anything but cybersecurity purposes. It also includes added roles for privacy and civil liberties oversight.

“The Committee adopted several amendments to (the bill) in a good faith effort to incorporate some of the administration’s important substantive concerns. However (it) ... still does not address these fundamental priorities adequately,” said Caitlin Hayden, a National Security Council spokeswoman.

In 2012, legislation authored by Rogers and Democrat Dutch Ruppersberger passed the House but died in the Democratic-controlled Senate after President Barack Obama similarly threatened to veto it. The White House has sought a more comprehensive piece of legislation that would also set minimum security standards for critical companies.

Michelle Richardson of the American Civil Liberties Union on Tuesday called the veto threat “completely justified” and said it did not bode well for the bill’s future in the Senate.

Rogers’ office did not immediately comment.

Reuters

BUSINESS & HEALTH

Coca-Cola to return some distribution to US franchisers



A woman walks past a Coca-Cola truck at a distribution centre in Alexandria, Virginia on 16 Oct, 2012.

REUTERS

NEW YORK, 17 April— Less than three years after spending billions of dollars to acquire most of its US distribution operations, Coca-Cola Co (KO.N) is starting to sell it off again.

Getting out of the capital-intensive, low-return business of

World experts to help China with bird flu investigation

GENEVA, 17 April— An international team of flu experts will go to China this week to help with investigations into the deadly H7N9 virus, the World Health Organization (WHO) said on Tuesday.

Chinese authorities said eight more people were infected with the new strain of avian flu that has killed 14 people among 71 confirmed cases, state news agency Xinhua said. The new cases were in the eastern provinces of Jiangsu and Zhejiang, it said.

No human-to-human spread of the virus has been confirmed.

“We’re still trying to

delivering bottles and cans of soda to stores, restaurants and vending machines will improve margins. That, and a higher-than-expected quarterly profit on Tuesday, sent shares of the world’s largest soft-drink maker up nearly 6 percent.

Coke and PepsiCo

find out more information about the reservoir (of the virus). From what we know at the moment, the poultry markets have been a focus of attention, but the fact-finding mission will be looking into this as a key target of its research,” WHO spokesman Glenn Thomas told a regular UN news briefing in Geneva. The team going to China includes four specialists in areas such as emerging viruses, human-to-animal flu viruses and epidemiology, as well as an unspecified number of WHO staff, Thomas said. Another WHO spokesman, Gregory Hartl, said it would be made up of eight people in all.

BoE’s King stresses limits of monetary policy

WASHINGTON, 17 April — Monetary policy cannot do all the work of stimulating economic recovery, Bank of England head Mervyn King said on Tuesday.

“There are limits on the ability of monetary policy to stimulate demand,” King told a conference sponsored by the International Monetary Fund.

King also said the economy would not rebound firmly as long as banks have too little capital.

The Bank decided not to pump fresh money into its stagnant economy earlier this month, despite a new remit that gives it more leeway to disregard above-target inflation.

Reuters



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

Inc (PEP.N) both acquired their North American bottling operations in 2010, in moves aimed at cutting costs, speeding innovation and turning around a sagging market where increasingly health-conscious consumers drink less soda. Coke said on Tuesday it would return more quickly than expected toward a franchise model in the United States, where independent companies will deliver the drinks to local stores. Unlike in the past, Coke plans to continue producing the drinks.

“This is a different model than elsewhere in the world, but we see this as the right time to go forward with these bottling partners,” Steve Cahillane, president of Coca-Cola Americas, said in

an interview.

The five bottlers expected to expand their territories in upcoming transactions with Coke are Coca-Cola Bottling Co Consolidated (COKE.O), Coca-Cola Bottling Co United Inc, Swire Coca-Cola USA, Coca-Cola Bottling Co High Country and Corinth Coca-Cola Bottling Works Inc.

Depending on the situations, the deals might include an outright territory sale, a territory swap or a sub-bottling arrangement by which the bottler would make ongoing payments to Coke in exchange for operating rights. The agreements are subject to the parties reaching definitive deals by the end of 2013, with closings expected in 2014. —Reuters



Workers vaccinate chicks with the H9 bird flu vaccine at a farm in Changfeng county, Anhui Province, on 14 April, 2013. —REUTERS

One of the points the mission wants to investigate is how some people seem to fight off the infection. “There are some examples of mild cases, and also some cases of people improving, who have gone from critical to a stable condition, and

that is something that will be explored by the fact-finding mission,” Thomas said.—Reuters

HCL Technologies profit up 73 percent, beats estimates

BANGALORE, 17 April —HCL Technologies Ltd (HCLT.NS), India’s fourth-biggest software services provider, beat analysts’ estimates with a 73 percent rise in quarterly profit after winning orders and reducing staff for the second quarter in a row.

Net profit rose to 10.4 billion rupees in its fiscal third-quarter ended 31 March from 6 billion rupees in the year-earlier period, said HCL Technologies, whose customers include Finnish mobile phone maker Nokia Oyj(NOK1V.HE).

The result compared with the average forecast of 9.35 billion rupees in a survey of 16 analysts by Thomson Reuters I/B/E/S. HCL follows a July-June fiscal year.

It was also much faster than a 3 percent rise in quarterly profit at larger rival Infosys Ltd(INFY.

Ford raises stake in China’s Jiangling Motors

BEIJING, 17 April— Ford Motor Co (F.N) has raised its stake in Jiangling Motors Corp Ltd (000550.SZ) to 31.5 percent and is looking to increase it to as much as 32 percent over the next year, both companies said on Wednesday.

Ford has bought 13,002,396 of Jiangling’s Hong Kong dollar-denominated B-shares

\$705 million.

“We will continue to evaluate the market for JMC equity and may purchase the remaining portion of the 2 percentage points between now and January 20, 2014,” it said in a brief statement.

During the first three months of this year, Jiangling, which makes JMC light trucks, SUVs,



Ford cars are reflected in the company’s logo at the carmakers’ booth on media day at the Paris Mondial de l’Automobile, on 28 Sept, 2012. —REUTERS

(200550.SZ) so far this year, accounting for roughly 1.5 percent of the Chinese automaker’s outstanding shares, Jiangling said in a stock exchange filing, adding it was a sign of confidence in it by the US carmaker.

Ford said it may raise its stake to 32 percent, the limit currently allowed by the securities regulator. After the latest purchase Ford’s stake is worth about

and Ford’s Transit van, sold 56,420 vehicles, up 7.1 percent from a year earlier, outperforming a 2.5 percent gain in China’s overall commercial vehicle sales.

Jiangling’s yuan-denominated A-shares climbed 0.2 percent to 16.4 yuan in mid morning trading, outperforming a 0.3 percent fall in the CSI300 index of top Chinese companies .CSI300.

Reuters



Employees work on their computer terminals on the floor of an outsourcing centre in Bangalore on 29 Feb, 2012. —REUTERS

NS), which has been losing market share to the likes of HCL and industry leader Tata Consultancy Services Ltd(TCS.NS). Shares of Infosys plunged 21 percent on Friday after it issued lower-than-expected revenue guidance.

TCS is due to report March quarter results later on Wednesday.

During the quarter, HCL added 37 customers. The company reduced 791

staff, taking the total to 84,403 from 85,194 at the end of the December quarter, maintaining tight control of headcount after shedding jobs in the previous quarter as well. The future of the IT industry lies in transforming traditional outsourcing into higher-value services that solve business problems with technology innovations, Vice Chairman Vineet Nayar said in a statement.

Reuters

WORLD



Former Hiroshima Mayor Tadatoshi Akiba (L) receives the 2013 Otto Hahn Peace Medal, a prominent German honour, from the United Nations Association of Germany at a ceremony in Berlin on 16 April, 2013, for his ongoing efforts to abolish nuclear weapons.
KYODO NEWS

Ex-Hiroshima mayor Akiba receives German peace award

BERLIN, 17 April — Former Hiroshima Mayor Tadatoshi Akiba on Tuesday received the 2013 Otto Hahn Peace Medal, a prominent German honour, from the United Nations Association of Germany for his continued efforts to abolish nuclear weapons. At the award ceremony in Berlin, Akiba, 70, a former chairman of Mayors for Peace, called again for nuclear weapons to be abolished by 2020, as sought by the group of world mayors.

At a Press conference prior to the ceremony, Akiba requested leaders of the nuclear powers as well as North Korea and Iran to visit Hiroshima and Nagasaki so they can become aware of the inhumanity of nuclear weapons by listen-

ing to the accounts of atomic-bomb survivors. The two Japanese cities were devastated by US atomic bombings in 1945 during World War II.

Founded in 1998, the peace medal is named after the Nobel prize-winning German scientist Otto Hahn. In principle, the award is given every two years. Past recipients include former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev and Muhammad Ali, an American former world heavyweight boxing champion. The 2011 award went to the world renowned conductor Daniel Barenboim. Akiba was first elected to the mayoral office in 1999 after having served as a House of Representatives member. He retired in 2011. —Kyodo News

US Pentagon chief to pay first visit to Israel

WASHINGTON, 17 April — US Secretary of Defence Chuck Hagel said on Tuesday that he will visit Israel in a few days in the first trip to the Middle East since taking office in February.

"I'm gonna be in Israel in a few days. Our interests are very clear and common ... and I think the Israelis know that and we know that," Hagel told a US House Appropriations Defence subcommittee hearing, without disclosing further details of the trip.

Dealing with Iran's nuclear crisis is expected to top the agenda of Hagel's first visit to Israel, the staunchest US ally in Middle East. Hagel, who was criticized for his shaky stance toward Israel during his nomination process, said that the military relationship between the two countries "is as close as it's ever been, whether it's missile defence, Iron Dome

(anti-missile systems), or in the rocket defence."

When asked whether the US would provide aid even if Israel launches unilateral strike against Iran to rid it of its nuclear programme, Hagel said it is a policy issue that President Barack Obama would have to decide.

But he stressed that the US military is "able to support whatever policy decisions the president makes." —Xinhua



US Secretary of Defence Chuck Hagel

Brahimi eyes new UN envoy role in Syria, dropping Arab League

UNITED NATIONS, 17 April — UN-Arab League Syria envoy Lakhdar Brahimi hopes to revamp his role as an international peace mediator in the Syrian conflict as a United Nations envoy without any official link to the Arab bloc, UN diplomats said on Tuesday. Brahimi has become increasingly frustrated with the league's moves to recognize the Syrian opposition, which he feels has undermined his role as a neutral mediator, diplomats told Reuters on condition of anonymity.

"The joint special representative feels that the Arab League approach makes it difficult for him to carry out his mandate," a diplomat said. "He feels that it would be best to be associated only with the United Nations at this point to ensure his neutrality." Another UN diplomat confirmed the remarks. There have been rumours circulating for weeks that Brahimi might resign, though dip-

lomats said his preference was to remain involved in Syrian peace efforts through the United Nations, an organization he has worked with for decades.

Brahimi will present an update to the UN Security Council on Friday about the situation in Syria's two-year-old civil war, which the UN says has claimed more than 70,000 lives. "We expect Brahimi to offer another bleak report," a diplomat said. The Arab League has suspended Syria's membership and

last month invited opposition leaders Moaz Alkhatib and Ghassan Hitto to attend a summit in his place. The Syrian National Coalition, an opposition bloc recognized by the Arab League as the sole representative for conflict-torn Syria, opened its first embassy in Qatar last month in a diplomatic blow to President Bashar al-Assad.

Assad said earlier this month that "the Arab League itself lacks legitimacy. Daily death tolls in Syria of around 200 are

not uncommon, monitoring groups say. More than a million refugees have fled the country and the Syrian Red Crescent says nearly 4 million have been displaced internally. Diplomats said Brahimi has grown extremely frustrated at the inability of the Security Council to unite behind his calls for an end to the violence and a peaceful political transition. His predecessor, former UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan, voiced similar frustration when he resigned last August.

The 15-nation Security Council has been deadlocked since the start of the conflict, with 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. Syria's conflict started with peaceful protests against four decades of Assad family rule that were violently suppressed. An armed struggle ensued. —Reuters



International mediator Lakhdar Brahimi is seen during a meeting with Arab League chief Nabil Elaraby during their meeting in Cairo on 17 Feb, 2013. — REUTERS

Ex-rebels launch reprisals in Central African Republic capital

BANGUI, 17 April — Members of a rebel movement that seized power in Central African Republic last month launched a reprisal raid on a stronghold of the ousted former president on Tuesday as the United Nations voiced concern at the deteriorating security situation there. Fighters from the Seleka rebel coalition, which overthrew President Francois Bozize on 24 March, opened fire in the same area of the capital Bangui where at least 13 people were killed and dozens more were injured in clashes on Sunday.

Seleka gunmen told Reuters they reacted after one of their members was killed by residents in the Boy-Rabe neighbourhood, a bastion of Bozize loyalists. "One of our men was riding a motorcycle through the neighbourhood this morning when youths stoned him to death.

You think we can let that go?" an angry fighter told Reuters as heavy gunfire rang out nearby. "Since these guys want to prove they're as stubborn as their boss, Bozize, we're going to show them what we're made of," he said.

The shooting continued for around two hours, but there were no immediate reports of casualties.

"It's true, our men were angry and entered this neighbourhood to avenge their murdered brother...but we quickly calmed the situation down," said Colonel Mahamat Saleh, a senior Seleka officer. He said Seleka fighters had only fired their weapons into the air to disperse crowds of young men. The movement's leader, Michel Djotodia, drew international condemnation

months. A United Nations spokesperson said on Tuesday that Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon condemned "Seleka's acts of violence against the civilian population." Navi Pillay, the UN's High Commissioner for Human Rights, said cases of targeted killings, arbitrary arrests, torture, recruitment of children, rapes, disappearances and kidnappings had been reported follow-



Soldiers from the Seleka rebel alliance stand guard as the Central African Republic's new President Michel Djotodia (not pictured) attends Friday prayers at the central mosque in Bangui on 29 March, 2013. — REUTERS

and sanctions after declaring himself president last month.

After pledging to respect a peace deal signed earlier this year, he was chosen by a transitional council on Saturday to lead the mineral-rich but impoverished former French colony to elections within 18

ing the rebel takeover.

"I call all on parties involved in the crisis ... to put an end to the prevailing insecurity and violence plaguing the country," he said. Central African Republic's Red Cross say at least 119 people have been killed since Bozize's overthrow. —Reuters

LOCAL NEWS

NAY PYI TAW, 17 April—The newly-upgraded Myothit 9th asphalt road was commissioned into service in Lewe of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area on 6 April morning.

Members of Nay Pyi Taw Council U Kan Chun and U Myint Swe, Hluttaw representatives U Htay Win and U Hmat Gyi, members of Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee, the township administrator and officials, members of social organizations and local people attended the ceremony.

Director (Engineer) of Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee U Aung Moe explained matters related to the new road.

Nay Pyi Taw Council member U Myint Swe

Lewe dwellers get newly-repaved road



explained development undertakings of the council in the Nay Pyi Taw Council Area. Next, Council member U Myint Swe, Nay Pyi Taw

Development Committee member U Kyaw Myint and Lewe Township Administrator U Aung Lwin formally opened the new

road.

The 1800 feet long repaved road was constructed at a cost of K 34.8 million.

Myanma Alinn

Narcotic drugs seized in Mawlu of Indaw Township



MAWLU, 17 April—Leaders of surveillance squad SIP Soe Lin and SIP Min Thein Tun of Mawlu Police Station in Indaw Township of Katha District in Sagaing Region, together with witnesses and Sinkho Village Administrator U Khin Maung Oo, searched the house of Po Thee in Sinkho Village at 5.30 pm on 4 April.

The squad seized two bottles of heroin weighing 0.5 gram, one box of cigarette with

five buildings brand.

Mawlu Police Station opened a file of lawsuit against Po Thee under the law.

Myanma Alinn

ASEAN Taekwondo C'ship coordinated

YANGON, 17 April—A coordination meeting on Pre-SEA Games 11th ASEAN Taekwondo Championship that will be held from 9 to 11 May and the Davis Cup Asia/Oceania Zone

Group IV/III was held at the hall of Sports and Physical Education Department in Kyaikkasan Grounds in Tamway Township on 6 April.

Deputy Minister for Sports U Thaug Htaik made a speech. Vice-Presidents and secretaries, executives of Myanmar Taekwondo Federation and officials participated in discussions on successful organizing the championship and arrangements for the competitions.—MNA

spoke words of thanks. A total of 60 university students under the supervision of faculty members will join the activities of literacy campaign to 30 villages in Ngaphe Township of Magway Region.

Myanma Alinn

Ngaphe dwellers see green light of literacy

NGAPHE, 17 April—A ceremony to launch the literacy campaign for 2013 was held at Basic Education High School in Ngaphe on 30 March.

Deputy Commissioner U Khin Maung Myint of Minbu District General Administration Department, Rector Dr Aye Kyaw of Magway University, Director U Hla Win of Department of Myanmar Education

Research Bureau and officials, faculty members of the university, townselders and local authorities.

The deputy commissioner and the rector made speeches.

Assistant Director Daw Cho Aye of the Region Education Department explained matters related to activities of the literacy campaign. Student Ma Khin Mar Win, MA (Geography),

Religious titles offered to exam-passed monks

NYAUNGLEBIN, 17 April—Nyaunglebin Township Religious Affairs Department of Bago Region offered religious titles to the monks who passed the religious examinations in 2012, at Khindan Monastery in Ward 5 of Nyaunglebin on 28 March morning.

At the ceremony, Township Administrator U Thihan Soe supplicated on religious affairs and offered titles to exam-passed monks.

This year, eight monks passed the Pahtamagyi examination, 20 in the Pahtamalat and 27 in the Pahtamange in

Nyaunglebin and four from nunnery in the Pahtamalat and one in the Pahtamange in Pyuntaza, said Head of Township Religious Affairs Department U Win Myint.

Also present on the occasion were Chairman of Township Sangha Nayaka Committee Baingda Village Mingala Thukha Monastery Sayadaw Bhaddanta Muninda, Nyaunglebin Khindan Monastery Sayadaw Maha Ganthavaçaka Pandita Bhaddanta Pavara and departmental officials.

NLM

Laws, rules on pesticides, fertilizers clarified in Kengtung

KENG TUNG, 17 April—Kengtung District and Township Agriculture Departments held the ceremony to clarify pesticide laws and rules at the hall of the township department in Ward 5 of Kengtung in Shan State (East) on 17 March.

Head of Kengtung District Department U Cho Naing Tun made a speech.

In-charge of land

utilization section U Patric View explained matters related to fertilizer laws and rules and in-charge of crop protection sector U Aung Thu, pesticides laws and rules.

Officials replied to queries raised by those present. The head of district department gave concluding remarks.

Myanma Alinn

Thai entrepreneurs focus on runs of flight from Thailand to Mawlamyine

MAWLAMYINE, 17 April—A passenger flight SAAB-304B of NOK MINI airlines of Thailand landed at Mawlamyine Airport via Mae Sot of Thailand, at 10.05 am on 31 March.

A total of 27 Thai entrepreneurs led by Jian Charnnarong went down in

Mawlamyine.

Of them, 20 Thai entrepreneurs planned to meet with the Mon State government to run the flight from Thailand to Mawlamyine. The remaining seven entrepreneurs proceeded to Hpa-an.

Myanma Alinn

Underground water tapped for summer paddy in Dabayin Township

DABAYIN, 17 April—Dabayin Township is located in Shwebo District of Sagaing Region, growing over 60000 acres of summer paddy and over 120,000 acres of monsoon paddy annually.

In 2012 rainy season, lesser rainfalls declined flow

of water to Thaphanseik Dam. In 2013 cultivation season, the township earmarked growing of 10000 acres of summer paddy. Therefore, farmers sank artisan wells to tap underground water to be supplied to summer paddy and sesame.

Myanma Alinn



Cultural talks given to members of Zabuthiri Township WAO

NAY PYI TAW, 17 April—Organized by Zabuthiri Township Women's Affairs Organization, the talks on culture was given at the hall of Township General Administration Department on 5 April.

Chairperson of Township WAO Daw Maw Maw made a speech. Head of Township Agriculture

Department Daw Yi Yi San read the article written by Myanmar Professor Dr Khin Swe Myint of Yangon University on Myanmar women and Myanmar culture.

Teacher Daw Aye Moe Aung of Basic Education High School No. 22 read the paper on valuable norms of Myanmar women and

danger of alien culture compiled by Assistant Lecturer Dr Thwe Thwe Nwe of Myanmar Department of Yangon National Culture and Fine Arts University.

Altogether 150 members of WAO and Maternal and Child Welfare Association attended the talks.—Myanma Alinn

PERSPECTIVES

Thursday, 18 April, 2013

A true PSM

Although we are not so much familiar with public service media-PSM yet, this system has been in operation in Europe for more than 70 years even though their systems may be different from one another. A significant example is the BBC that has been an independent PSM institution for many years.

The truth is that PSM never represents any government or political party or economic organization. So PSM means an independent organization totally free from any kind of economic, political or other influences. It holds a broader perspective in presenting an issue or a problem or a crisis as a way of disseminating comprehensive public knowledge. Especially, its view of a crisis is to solve the root cause with the participation of all stakeholders whether individual persons or organizations. Its ultimate aim is to defuse a crisis, and not to ignite or fuel it.

Besides, PSM never regards any piece of information that may lead to disintegration of the nation, incite racial or religious conflicts or hatred and communal violence as valuable.

The uniqueness of PSM is that it always stands by the poor, the weak, the vulnerable, the minorities and the grassroots as it is a non-profit and a non-commercial organization. It has the noble mission to highlight the cultures, customs and lifestyles of ethnic races and the plight of the underprivileged which the commercial dailies or private publications or profit-motive TV and radio normally fail to do.

Now we are in the midst of reform program, and the government in office has already adopted the people-centred policy to serve its citizens well. Accordingly, State-owned media will no longer be appropriated to act as the mouthpiece as in the past. So the best role given to the State-owned media in our changing landscape is to serve the people as true PSM.

ARTICLE

All-round Developments of Renovations and Constructions of Religious Edifices and Implementations of Religious matters and affairs throughout the Republic of the Union of Myanmar dedicating to the noblest task of the purification, perpetuation, propagation and promotion of the Buddha Sasana

According to the present statistical census of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the present population of the entire nation stand at over 60 millions. About 85 per cent of population takes faith in Theravada Buddhism.

It is known that the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has been a predominant Theravada Buddhist Nation in the world throughout age since years ago.

Consequently, the members of the Sangha, the entire multifarious Buddhist people and the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, hand in hand, are striving to carrying out the noble tasks of all-round developments of the renovations and new constructions of religious buildings and implementations of religions matters and affairs leading to the purification, perpetuation, propagation and promotion of the Buddha Sasana throughout the country.

We all Buddhists know that such all-round developments of renovations and new constructions of religious edifices have been done since the time of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar.

We all Buddhists, from generation to generation, throughout the Republic of the Union of Myanmar will never forget such noble kinds of these historic events in the history of Buddhism of Myanmar.

During the period of the Government of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, the noble tasks and historic noble events

Ba Sein

leading to the purification, perpetuation, propagation and promotion of the Buddha Sasana were successfully carried out. And now, the new Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar is carrying out these noble tasks in continuation.

In order to confer more religious titles on the eminent members of the Sangha for their outstanding activities and contributions to promotion and propagation of the Buddha Sasana (teachings of the Buddha) at home and abroad, the law for presentation of religious titles was enacted in 1991 as law No. 41/91 of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar. According to

the Law for presentation of religious titles, more religious titles have been presented to the eminent members of the Sangha at home and abroad since then. It is learnt that members of Sangha from foreign countries have not been presented religious titles since 1962.

With a view of strengthening the friendly and religions relations between the People's Republic of China and the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and to promote and propagate the Buddha Sasana (teachings of the Buddha) all over the world, the Sacred Tooth Relic of the Buddha from the People's Republic of China was conveyed to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar in 1955, 1994, 1996 and 2011 respectively to be paid homage here. While the Sacred Tooth Relic of the Buddha from the People's Republic of China was being paid homage in the Union of Myanmar in 1994 and the other two Sacred Replica-Tooth Relics of the Buddha were also paid homage at the same time.

According to the strong wishes of the members of the Sangha, the pious Buddhist people and the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar under the guidance of the State Sanghamahanayaka Committee of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, these other two Sacred Replica-Tooth Relics of the Buddha were enshrined each in the two Buddha Tooth Relic Pagodas, one in Yangon and another in Mandalay. The Buddha Tooth Relic Pagoda (Yangon) was completed in November 1996 and the Buddha Tooth Relic Pagoda (Mandalay) in December 1996 respectively.

These two Pagodas will stand forever as significant symbol of everlasting friendship and relationship between the People's Republic of China and the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, and also will be a sacred place of Buddhist people and Buddhist communities throughout the world.

The everlasting noble

tasks for hoisting the grand new golden umbrella (Hitaw) of the most famous Shwedagon Pagoda and all-round renovations and restorations of the sacred stairways and gateways of the Pagoda were successfully carried out by generous donations and supporting of the government and the pious multifarious Buddhist people throughout the country.

And also, some parts and edifices of Sule and Botahtaung Pagodas in Yangon have been renovated and restored by generous donations of the Buddhist people.

And also, most ancient pagoda in Bagan (the famous ancient city of the nation) are being renovated and restored in original style by generous pious Buddhist people under the aegis of the Government. Renovations and restorations of most ancient pagodas in Bagan have been completed. In addition, renovations and new constructions of many pagodas, monasteries and other religious buildings in States and Regions throughout the country were carried out. Besides, the Lokamanicula Pagoda which was built by the Government of the Union of Myanmar in Lumbini Park, the Birthplace of the Buddha, Nepal, was completed in 1995.

In addition, it is further learnt that according to the arrangements of the concerning ministries of the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Buddhist people throughout the nation are allowed to visit the four sacred places of the Inspiring Awareness and Apprehension of the Omniscient Buddha in India and Nepal every year.

Moreover, the immense sacred Lokachantha Abhaya Labha Muni Marble Buddha Image was respectfully established by the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar in order to be paid homage by internal Buddhist people and international Buddhist communities. The Buddha Image is respectfully located in Insein Township, Yangon Region.

(See page 9)

Ministry of Transport organizes 14th respect-paying ceremony

YANGON, 17 April—The 14th ceremony to pay respects to elderly of the Ministry of Transport was held at the Dhammayon of the Ministry of Transport in the precinct of Maha Wizaya Pagoda, here, this morning.

Union Minister for Transport U Nyan Tun Aung and wife Daw Wai Wai, departmental heads and their wives paid respects to the aged and presented gifts to them. At the ceremony, K 3,910,000 were presented to altogether 339 older persons.—MNA

Union Minister U Nyan Tun Aung and wife Daw Wai Wai present gifts to the aged.—MNA



NATIONAL



*Devotees on the platform of Thatta Thattaha Pagoda in Nay Pyi Taw.
(News on page-1)—MNA*

Mandalay Mayor's Maha Thingyan Pandal concludes

MANDALAY, 17 April—The prize awarding ceremony of Mandalay Mayor's Maha Thingyan Pandal for Myanmar Traditional Cultural Maha Thingyan Water Festival 2013 took place at the pandal in front of Mandalay City Development Committee Building yesterday evening, attended by Mandalay Region Chief Minister U Ye Myint.

Secretary of Mandalay City Development

Committee U San Maung, Committee Member (1) U Myint Thein, and Committee Member (2) U Khin Maung Tin presented cash awards to artistes, judges and Yein Troupe members through responsible persons.

Afterwards, Joint-Secretary U Thet Naing Tun, Committee Member (3) U Tun Kyi, Mandalay Mayor Development Affairs Minister U Aung Moun and Rector Dr Khin Maung Oo of Yadanabon

University also awarded winners of photo contest, pandal contest and decorated vehicle contest.

Mandalay Region Chief Minister U Ye Myint presented championship trophy and cash award to first prize winning Myanan Mandalay decorated vehicle representing Mandalay District. Today's cash presentation of Mandalay Mayor's Central Thingyan Pandal amounted to K 79.15 million.—MNA



Photo shows first prize winning Myanan Mandalay decorated vehicle representing Mandalay District.—MNA

All-round Developments of Renovations and...

(from page 8)

Furthermore, we all Buddhists across the world heartily know that the significant World Buddhist Summit which was attended by both internal and international Buddhist delegates and representatives was successfully held in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar in

December 2004. The Summit was earnestly organized and sponsored by the Government of the Union of Myanmar. This concrete and noble event of successfully holding such significant world Buddhist Summit is the most important milestone in the world Buddhist history.

And now, we all Buddhists throughout the

country are very pleased and honored to learn that the **Uppatasanti Pagoda of 325 feet in height, the Replica of the most famous Shwedagon Pagoda**, has been already built in Nay Pyi Taw, the capital of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Paying homage to the newly-built Uppatasanti Pagoda, the Replica of the most famous Shwedagon Pagoda in Yangon, will be like just paying homage

Diplomatic corps observe Mongla Region

NAY PYI TAW, 17 April—Diplomatic corps and their families from 12 countries and officials of UNHCR, UNRC and ICRC led by Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin yesterday morning met Chairman U Sai Lin and members of Peace and Unity Committee at the conference hall of the

administrator's office in Mongla, Special Region (4) in Shan State (North). The committee chairman made clarification on Mongla situation, development tasks, plantations for alternative development, goals and necessities.

The Union minister and party then observed the development of Mongla,

Border Gate and border post No 218 (1), the scenic beauties and its environs from the hill of the replica of Shwedagon Pagoda and Drug Elimination Museum there.

Afterwards, they also visited Myanmar-Thailand Border Friendship Bridge and Tarlot Market in Tachilek.—MNA



Diplomatic corps and their families and officials of UNHCR, UNRC and ICRC led by Union Minister U Wunna Maung Lwin being welcomed by national race girls at the airport.—MNA

Union Culture Minister visits Mandalay Fine Arts School

NAY PYI TAW, 17 April—On his inspection tour of office building and staff quarters of State School of Fine Arts School (Mandalay), Union Minister for Culture U Aye

Myint Kyu called on staff to make constant learning to be proficient in their respective subjects and called for unity among service personnel.

Next, the Union

minister visited Department of Archaeology, National Museum and Library (Mandalay Branch) and inspected the building and site.—MNA

Dy Health Minister attends 2013 ASEAN-China Summit Forum on Traditional Medicine

NAY PYI TAW, 17 April—A Myanmar delegation led by Deputy Minister for Health Dr Win Myint on 11 April paid a visit to Guangxi Medical University in Nanning, the People's Republic of China.

There, the delegation met with the rector of the university and faculty members, and discussed bilateral cooperation between Guangxi Medical University and Myanmar

universities of medicines in academic matters and sending Myanmar scholars to Guangxi Medical University.

On 12 April morning, the deputy minister addressed the opening of 2013 ASEAN-China Summit Forum on Traditional Medicine held at International Convention and Exhibition Center in Yulin city, China's Guangxi province. The deputy

minister then observed the 2013 China-ASEAN Traditional Medicine Expo.

After that, he held a meeting with Former Vice-Minister of Ministry of Health and Commissioner of State Administration of Traditional Chinese Medicine Mr Wang Guoquan and party. The meeting focused on bilateral cooperation in promoting of the production and use of traditional remedies.

MNA

to the most famous Shwedagon Pagoda which was built in the lifetime of the Omniscient Buddha in 103 Great Era (589 BC) over 2557 years ago.

And also, we all Buddhists throughout the Republic of the Union of Myanmar know that monastic education schools which were faint out and nearly disappeared in our country could have been re-introduced by the Government of the Republic of the

Union of Myanmar. For higher studies of Buddhism, the two Pariyatti Sanana Universities could be established, one in Yangon and another in Mandalay. And now, young members of the Sangha at home and abroad are attending these two universities for further studies of Buddhism. Besides, an International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University has been established already in Yangon, the second capital

of Republic of the Union of Myanmar. This university will be a permanent learning centre for further studies of the Theravada Buddhism in the Buddhist world.

Such noble tasks of all-round renovations and new constructions of pagodas, monasteries and other various religious buildings throughout the country were successfully carried out in a large scale across the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.



Honoured guests pose for pictures with Napoleon Bonaparte's throne to be displayed at an exhibition of furniture and ornaments from the Fontainebleau Palace from 1804 to 1815 in south China's Macao, on 15 April, 2013. The exhibition will be held from 18 April to 14 July at Macao Museum of Art. —XINHUA

Letter sent to US senator tested positive for ricin

WASHINGTON, 17 April — US police on Tuesday intercepted a letter addressed to Senator Roger Wicker, which has been tested positive for ricin. Lawmakers on Capitol Hill confirmed that the Capitol Police intercepted the letter at an off-site postal screening centre on Tuesday morning and advised senators in a later briefing that

none of their offices were in danger.

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid confirmed that the letter was addressed to Senator Wicker. Senator Mary Landrieu told reporters after the briefing that the Capitol Police were investigating the sender of the letter and had shut down the post offices in both of the upper and lower chambers

of US Congress.

Landrieu said the police were in full investigation and did not think anyone on Capitol Hill was in danger. The incident came one day after two bombings rocked near the finish line of the Boston Marathon on Monday that killed three people and injured over 170.

Xinhua

Florida battles slimy invasion by giant snails

ORLANDO, 17 April — South Florida is fighting a growing infestation of one of the world's most destructive invasive species: the giant African land snail, which can grow as big as a rat and gnaw through stucco and plaster. More than 1,000 of the mollusks are being caught each week in Miami-Dade and 117,000 in total since the first snail was spotted by a homeowner in September 2011, said Denise Feiber, a spokeswoman for the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

Residents will soon likely begin encountering them more often, crunching them underfoot as the snails

emerge from underground hibernation at the start of the state's rainy season in just seven weeks, Feiber said. The snails attack "over 500 known species of plants ... pretty much anything that's in their path and green," Feiber said. In some Caribbean countries, such as Barbados, which are overrun with the creatures, the snails' shells blow out tires on the highway and turn into hurling projectiles from lawnmower blades, while their slime and excrement coat walls and pavement.

"It becomes a slick mess," Feiber said. A typical snail can produce about 1,200 eggs a year and the creatures are a particular



A Giant African land snail is seen in this handout picture from the Florida Department of Agriculture Division of Plant Industry taken on 9 Sept, 2011. — REUTERS

pest in homes because of their fondness for stucco, devoured for the calcium content they need for their shells. The snails also carry a parasitic rat lungworm

that can cause illness in humans, including a form of meningitis, Feiber said, although no such cases have yet been identified in the United States. —Reuters

Suicide bomb attack kills 16 in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, 17 April — A suicide bomb attack near a meeting of the anti-Taliban Awami National Party on Tuesday night killed 16 people and injured more than 35 others, including a prominent leader of the party, local media said.

Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan, known as the Pakistani Taliban, has claimed responsibility for the attack against the ANP. A suicide bomber blew himself near the vehicle of Ghulam Ahmad Bilour, senior vice

president of the party, after a rally in Peshawar in connection with the 11 May general elections.

Bilour, who is contesting a National Assembly seat from Peshawar, was slightly injured and taken to hospital. Four policemen including a senior official were among those killed, according to local police. "We won't bow before terrorists. We will fight with them on their turf," Asfandiyar Wali, head of the ANP, told the media. —Kyodo News

Plea deal talks under way for US soldier accused in Iraq killings

SEATTLE, 17 April — A US soldier charged with killing five fellow servicemen in 2009 at a military counseling centre in Iraq is seeking a plea deal with Army prosecutors that would spare him from facing the death penalty, his lawyer told Reuters on Tuesday.

Army Sergeant John Russell, under confinement at Joint Base Lewis-McChord near Tacoma, Washington, is accused of going on a shooting frenzy at Camp Liberty, adjacent to the Baghdad airport, in an attack his lawyers have insisted stemmed from combat stress. Jury selection for his court-martial had been set to begin this week.

But those proceedings were paused while negotiations continued between the two sides on a possible deal in which Russell would plead guilty to murder in return for prosecutors agreeing not to seek the death penalty, his civilian attorney, James Culp said.

The pretrial agreement that we are working through would have John plead guilty to murder-two, intentional murder, where John takes responsibility for the intentional killing of five people," he told Reuters. Army prosecutors declined to discuss the status of the case.

The prosecution, which has accused Russell of acting with premeditation, is likely to seek a sentence of life without the possibility

of parole, Culp said.

He declined to say what punishment he would recommend. Assuming the talks lead to an agreement, the presiding judge in the case, Army Colonel David Conn, will question Russell next Monday in a proceeding known as a "providence inquiry" to determine whether the circumstances of the shooting support a guilty plea and that Russell believes he is guilty.

Reuters



Wilburn Russell, 73, displays a portrait of his son, Sergeant John M. Russell, the Army sergeant who is accused of killing five fellow soldiers in Iraq, outside of his son's home in Sherman, Texas on 12 May, 2009.

REUTERS

Japan's population falls by record 0.22% to 127.52 million in 2012

TOKYO, 17 April — Japan's population fell by a record 0.22 percent to 127,515,000 as of 1 Oct, 2012, while people aged 65 or older surpassed the 30 million mark for the first time, government data showed on Tuesday. The figures in the survey of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications were the latest proof of Japan's aging society. The decline of 284,000 in the total population, which also included foreign nationals, was the largest of its kind since comparable data became available in 1950.

Data showed that it was also the second year in a row that the population has fallen. Ministry officials attributed the decline to the number of deaths exceeding births and a rise in the number of foreign residents who left Japan compared with those entering Japan because of the impact of the March 2011 earthquake and tsunami in northeastern Japan and the country's economic slump. The ministry's figures showed people aged 65 or older accounted for record high 24.1 percent of the total population.

The number of those

in this age bracket rose by 1,041,000 to 30,793,000 partly because many of those born in Japan's baby-boom years of 1947-1949 have now turned 65 years old, in a telling sign that measures such as increased social welfare spending must be addressed swiftly. Meanwhile, those aged below 14 fell to a record low of 13 percent. The population decreased in 40 of the country's 47 prefectures. Fukushima Prefecture ranked first with a decline of 1.41 percent. The prefecture in northeastern Japan is host to the Fukushima Dai-ichi power plant that was crippled by the March 2011 disaster.

Of the seven prefectures that posted gains, Okinawa topped the list with a 0.56 percent increase. The ministry survey found that it is the first time for the number of people aged 65 or older to surpass those aged below 14 in all prefectures. Akita Prefecture had the highest percentage of those aged 65 or older at 30.7 percent, followed by Kochi Prefecture at 30.1 percent and Shimane Prefecture at 30.0 percent.

Kyodo News



A photographer takes pictures of kites during a competition of flying kites in Weifang, east China's Shandong Province, on 6 April, 2013. A total of teams of contestants were involved and 1,164 kites were displayed on the event here on Tuesday. — XINHUA

REGIONAL

Philippine president to attend ASEAN summit in Brunei

MANILA, 17 April—Philippine President Benigno Aquino III will attend the 22nd Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Summit in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei, the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) said on Wednesday.

The DFA said Aquino will continue to advocate maritime security and cooperation and the review of the ASEAN charter with the objective of streamlining the international organization's work and meetings. The summit, which will be held on 24 and 25 April, has the theme of "Our People, Our Future Together." It will also feature the Retreat Session, which will revolve around the following: the ASEAN Community 2015,



Philippine President Benigno Aquino III

ASEAN's central role and the regional architecture, ASEAN's future direction, and an exchange of views on regional and international issues. Aquino will join his counterparts in the 9th Brunei-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines East ASEAN Growth Area (BIMP-EAGA) Summit after the Retreat Session.—Xinhua

US helicopter with 21 aboard makes crash landing near DMZ in Korea

SEOUL, 17 April—A US Marine CH-53E Super Stallion helicopter burst into flames after making a hard landing during a military exercise near the demilitarized zone with North Korea on Tuesday, but all 21 military personnel on-board escaped and were safe, the US military said.

All 21 personnel, including five crew members, were transported to a US military hospital in Seoul and 15 have been released from the hospital, while all others are in stable condition, the US-South Korea Combined Forces Command said in a statement. The crew is from the 31st

Marine Expeditionary Unit based in Okinawa, Japan, the statement said.

The helicopter was taking part in the Foal Eagle military exercise in South Korea that is scheduled to run through the end of this month.

The US military said the *Super Stallion* and five other helicopters were training over a shooting range in Cherwon near the North Korean border when the incident took place. "A comprehensive investigation will take place to determine the facts and circumstances surrounding the incident," the statement said.—Kyodo News

China confirms 77 H7N9 cases, 16 deaths

BEIJING, 17 April—During the period from 6 pm on Monday to 8 pm on Tuesday, China confirmed 14 new cases of H7N9 avian influenza, with two more death reported in Shanghai. The National Health and Family Planning Commission said in its daily update on H7N9 cases that a total of 77 H7N9 cases have been reported in China, including 16 cases that have ended in death.

A total of 30 cases, including 11 ending in death, have been reported in Shanghai. Twenty cases, including two deaths, have been reported in Jiangsu Province, and 21 cases, including two deaths, in Zhejiang Province. Anhui Province has reported three cases, with one death. Beijing has reported one case

6.8-magnitude quake hits Papua New Guinea, no tsunami warning issued

SYDNEY, 17 April—A strong 6.8-magnitude earthquake has struck Papua New Guinea (PNG) on Wednesday, Geoscience Australia said.

The earthquake, at a depth of 20 kilometres, occurred near the north coast of New Guinea, PNG at 8:55 am (Australian Eastern Standard Time) on Wednesday, according to the Geoscience Australia. No destructive tsunami warning has been issued by

the Pacific Tsunami Warning Centre.

However, the centre says earthquakes of this size sometimes generate local tsunamis that can be destructive along coasts located within a hundred kilometres of the earthquake epicentre. "Authorities in the region should be aware of this possibility and take appropriate action," the centre said in its tsunami bulletin.

Xinhua

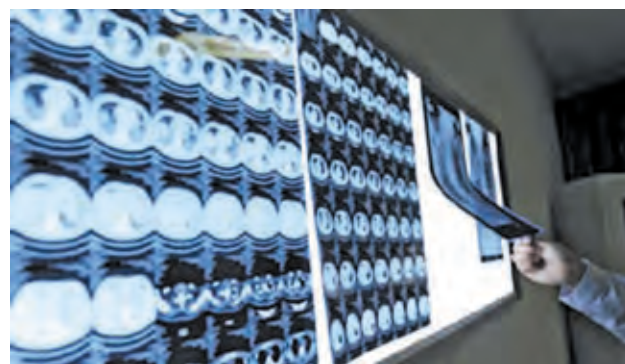
Nine injured in SW China quake

KUNMING, 17 April—Nine people have been slightly injured after a 5.0-magnitude earthquake jolted the Dali Bai Autonomous Prefecture in southwest China's Yunnan Province on Wednesday morning, local authorities said.

The epicentre of the quake, which occurred at 9:45 am, was located in the border area between Eryuan and Yangbi counties, with a depth of 11 km. Aside from the three injured people, cracks have appeared in some houses, said the Yunnan Provincial Civil Affairs Department.

A 60-member rescue team is on its way to the affected area, said the department. The Yunnan provincial disaster relief and civil affairs authorities have also dispatched a work team to the area.

"We really felt the shaking, which lasted a long time. Residents rushed out of their houses for shelter," said Xu Yuhua, a villager in Liantie Town, Eryuan. Leading officials in Dali have also rushed to the affected area to guide rescue and relief work. In March, a 5.5-magnitude earthquake injured 30 people in Eryuan.—Xinhua



and two have been reported in Henan Province.

China officially confirmed the occurrence of humans infected with the H7N9 virus late last month. Those who have had close contact with people infected by H7N9 have been placed under medical observation and have exhibited no abnormal symptoms, the commission said.

According to the commission, China's confirmed

H7N9 cases are isolated and there has been no sign of human-to-human transmission.

According to a joint inspection group composed of the commission and the World Health Organization, humans contracted the virus from infected fowl or the contaminated environment. The H7N9 cases may keep increasing until the pollution sources are under effective control.—Xinhua

Two local train lines from Japan, Taipei begin partnership

YOKOSUKA, (Japan), 17 April—Enoshima Railway Co said on Tuesday it will partner with Taiwan's regional Pingxi Line to start a programme in which passengers on one line will receive an all-day pass in exchange for a used all-day pass on the other.

The campaign, which will run on 1 May to 31 March, is part of a tourism cooperation agreement between the Japanese railway line, known also as Enoden, and Taiwan Railway Administration. The Pingxi Line is popular among Japanese tourists for its scenic route.

The 12.9-kilometre line travelling through valleys near Taipei opened as a coal mine railroad in 1921 when Japan ruled Taiwan. Sites along the line are popular among Taiwanese and Japanese tourists for their

nostalgic appeal, such as a shopping district and towns with old-fashioned mailboxes.

"We hope that the programme will boost tourism on both sides," an Enoden employee said. Enoden runs a roughly 10-km link—through a residential area, a tunnel and along a beach—between Kamakura and Fujisawa, both in Kanagawa Prefecture southwest of Tokyo.

Kyodo News



Supplied photo shows a train of Enoshima Railway Co in Kanagawa Prefecture near Tokyo. Enoshima Railway said on 16 April, 2013, that it will partner with Taipei's regional Pingxi Line to start a programme in which passengers on one line will receive an all-day pass in exchange for a used all-day pass on the other.

KYODO NEWS



A South Korean firefighter in chemical suits participates in a training for chemical accidents in a thermal power plant in Seoul, South Korea, on 16 April, 2013. XINHUA

Powerful quake hits Iran-Pakistan border area, kills 40

ISLAMABAD, 17 April—A powerful earthquake measuring magnitude 7.9 struck Iran's southeastern region bordering Pakistan on Tuesday afternoon, killing at least 40 people and injuring 300 others in the Province of Baluchistan in western Pakistan, Pakistani

authorities said.

Iranian authorities said it had yet to confirm any quake-related death as of Tuesday night, maintaining that the damage did not become serious due to the fact that the area is a sparsely populated desert. But The Associated Press said it is

possible that Iran may have tried to cover up the extent of the damage.

The earthquake caused no damage to the nuclear power plant a Russian company is building in Iran's port city of Bushehr, company officials said.

Kyodo News

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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV ASIATIC DAWN VOY NO (1316)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ASIATIC DAWN VOY NO (1316) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 20.4.2013 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 CHINA SHIPPING
(MALAYSIA) AGENCY SDN BHD**

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV KOTA TABAH VOY NO (547)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA TABAH VOY NO (547) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 20.4.2013 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

INVITATION TO TENDER

For the development of Mobile Communication Networks (Line Expansion and Swap)

Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications, Ministry of Communications and Information Technology hereby invites the Tenders to the tendering of the development of Mobile Communication Networks (Line Expansion and Swap) in accordance with the Tender Documents.

The Tender Documents are available starting from 22nd April, 2013 from Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications as the Buyer at the following address, at the cost of Myanmar Kyats 100,000 (non-refundable).

Office No. 2, Ministry of Communications and Information Technology.

Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications, **Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.**

The Work shall be financed by Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications. The Tender and all accompanying documents shall be prepared in accordance with the Tender Documents and shall be delivered by hand to the above mentioned office.

The delivery of the Tender shall not be later than 04:00 pm, Myanmar standard time on 6th May, 2013. The Tender shall be opened publicly at the same place on 20th May, 2013 at 10:00 am Myanmar standard time on the same day and all Bidders shall be requested to be present at this time.

Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications

Sandstorms hit northwest China

BEIJING, 17 April— Sandstorms will continue to sweep most parts of northwest China on Wednesday, the National Meteorological Centre forecast. The affected areas will include parts of southern Xinjiang, western Inner Mongolia, western Gansu, central and northern Ningxia and northern Shaanxi.

From Tuesday, a cold front has caused sandstorms in northwest China, especially parts of Xinjiang and Inner Mongolia, the centre said in a statement on its website. Sandstorms can cause health problems and may trigger or worsen illnesses like coughs and allergies, the statement warned.— *Xinhua*

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV FRISIA LAHN VOY NO (027)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV FRISIA LAHN VOY NO (027) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 20.4.2013 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 ORINET OVERSEAS
CONTAINER LINES**

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV MOROTAI VOY NO (205)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MOROTAI VOY NO (205) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 20.4.2013 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 CMA CGM**

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

Sculptor Whiteread explores the simple life in new UK show

LONDON, 17 April— Garden sheds, tin cans and other everyday objects form the backbone of a new show by British sculptor Rachel Whiteread which celebrates the simple things we take for granted in life. "Detached", which runs from 11 April to 25 May at London's Gagosian Gallery, is the culmination of three years' work and marks a departure for Whiteread from her large-scale works such as "Embankment", which filled the massive Turbine Hall in London's Tate Modern.

Upon entering the gallery, visitors are greeted by the sight of three concrete casts of common garden sheds, marked with the rough grainy texture of wood and pock marks. "They are casts from little humble buildings — sheds essentially — and they're cast in concrete, so there is no entrance, you can just see it from the outside," Whiteread said.

The works are a far cry from "Embankment" where Whiteread decked out the Turbine Hall with thousands of translucent white polythene casts of cardboard boxes in stacks or her "Judenplatz Holocaust Memorial" in Vienna where she cast an inverted library in concrete with the closed pages of the books turned outward in remembrance of Austrian Jews killed by the Nazis.

"I'm hoping people will somehow think about how humble the pieces are and maybe how our lives are and how we relate to the world and really that all of this work is made from nothing," the artist told *Reuters*. "These things are just very simple objects that we totally take for granted from day to day." The exhibition also features coloured resin casts of doors and windows as well as her experimentation with smaller objects such as tin cans, bones and bottles.

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Tin Ohnmar Tun & The Law Chambers
Ph:0973150632
Email: law_chambers@seasirga.com.mm
(For: Ella Cheong LLC, Singapore)
Dated 18 April, 2013.



Whiteread, who is the first woman to have won Britain's prestigious Turner Prize, is famous for her large scale installations of houses, buildings and rooms exploring the presence of empty spaces. "The first thing I ever cast was a spoon. I pressed the spoon into the sand and then poured in some metal and then what I ended up with was a spoon without its 'spooness' and that was a very kind of powerful starting point for me."

Reuters

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Dated 18 April, 2013.

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(For: Ella Cheong LLC, Singapore)
Dated 18 April, 2013.

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THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR

MINISTRY OF ENERGY

Dated: 11th April, 2013

INVITATION FOR BIDS TO CONDUCT PETROLEUM OPERATIONS IN MYANMAR OFFSHORE AREAS (2013)

1. The Ministry of Energy of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar hereby announces Invitation of Sealed Bids for Petroleum Operations to be conducted in Myanmar Offshore Areas (Shallow Water and Deep Water Blocks) on production sharing basis.

2. The following Offshore blocks are available for bidding in this bidding round:-
Offshore Shallow Water Blocks

No.	Block	Area	Type of Contract
(1)	A-4	(Rakhine Offshore Area)	PSC
(2)	A-5	(Rakhine Offshore Area)	PSC
(3)	A-7	(Rakhine Offshore Area)	PSC
(4)	M-4	(Moattama Offshore Area)	PSC
(5)	M-7	(Moattama Offshore Area)	PSC
(6)	M-8	(Moattama Offshore Area)	PSC
(7)	M-15	(Tanintharyi Offshore Area)	PSC
(8)	M-16	(Tanintharyi Offshore Area)	PSC
(9)	M-17	(Tanintharyi Offshore Area)	PSC
(10)	M-18	(Tanintharyi Offshore Area)	PSC
(11)	YEB	(Tanintharyi Offshore Area)	PSC

Offshore Deep Water Blocks

No.	Block	Area	Type of Contract
(1)	AD-2	(Rakhine Offshore Area)	PSC
(2)	AD-3	(Rakhine Offshore Area)	PSC
(3)	AD-4	(Rakhine Offshore Area)	PSC
(4)	AD-5	(Rakhine Offshore Area)	PSC
(5)	AD-9	(Rakhine Offshore Area)	PSC
(6)	AD-10	(Rakhine Offshore Area)	PSC
(7)	AD-11	(Rakhine Offshore Area)	PSC
(8)	AD-12	(Rakhine Offshore Area)	PSC
(9)	AD-13	(Rakhine Offshore Area)	PSC
(10)	AD-14	(Rakhine Offshore Area)	PSC
(11)	AD-15	(Rakhine Offshore Area)	PSC
(12)	AD-16	(Rakhine Offshore Area)	PSC
(13)	MD-1	(Moattama Offshore Area)	PSC
(14)	MD-2	(Moattama Offshore Area)	PSC
(15)	MD-3	(Moattama Offshore Area)	PSC
(16)	MD-4	(Tanintharyi Offshore Area)	PSC
(17)	MD-5	(Tanintharyi Offshore Area)	PSC
(18)	MD-6	(Tanintharyi Offshore Area)	PSC
(19)	YWB	(Tanintharyi Offshore Area)	PSC

3. All interested parties are cordially invited to submit **“the Letter of Expression of Interest”, together with Company’s Article of Association (AOA), Memorandum of Association (MOA), Certificate of Incorporation, latest Annual Report and latest Financial Statement (or) Financial Report and Detailed Track Record, which are to be endorsed for authenticity by the respective Embassy of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar** at the place of Company’s registration (or) establishment or nearest, in sealed envelopes superscripted **“Confidential” “Myanmar Offshore Blocks First Bidding Round-2013”**, to the following address and **the closing date and time for receiving the submissions will be 14th June 2013 at 16:30 hours.**

Director General
Energy Planning Department
Ministry of Energy
Building No.6, Nay Pyi Taw
The Republic of the Union of Myanmar

4. The “Letter of Expression of Interest” must be submitted together with all the documents mentioned in above paragraph 3. If the “Letter of Expression of Interest” is not accompanied by all the documents mentioned in above paragraph 3, it will be not considered. Also if the submission is not received at the Ministry of Energy within the stated closing date and date of 14th June 2013 at 16:30 hours, the late arrivals will not be considered.

5. The petroleum operation shall be conducted on production sharing basis and the party(s), who desire to enter into the Production Sharing Contract (PSC) with the Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise (MOGE) must have technical competency, financial capability, experience, expertise and technical Know-how to conduct petroleum exploration and development works in Offshore areas and must have good track record with respect to offshore petroleum operations.

6. The potential bidders will be pre-qualified and selected. Then the potential bidders who passed pre-qualification will be presented with General Overview of each Block consisting of representative data and information, free of charge, by Geological/Geophysical Team of Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise.

7. The potential bidders will also be explained and provided with Standard Terms and Conditions of both Shallow Water and Deep Water Blocks by Energy Planning Department, in order to submit proposal(s).

8. The potential bidders will be allowed to submit up to three (3) proposals for any three (3) offshore blocks (Shallow Water and/or Deep Water and/or both) together with proposed Terms and Conditions. The proposal submitted shall be on a block by block basis.

9. Due to time limitation and in anticipation to interests shown by many international oil companies, there will be no negotiation with respect to proposed terms and conditions. Hence, potential bidders has a single chance to submit their proposed terms and conditions and the submitted proposed term and condition must be a final one and non-negotiable.

10. The potential bidders’ proposed Terms and Conditions together with other relevant information as stated in above paragraph 3, will be evaluated and the best offered Terms and Conditions will be selected for awarding.

11. The potential bidders must cooperate with a minimum of one (1) Myanmar national owned company registered at Energy Planning Department, Ministry of Energy, of their own choosing in Shallow Water Blocks. The potential bidders must conduct Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) without participation of any Myanmar national owned company in Deep Water Blocks.

12. Energy Planning Department will provide the list of Myanmar national owned companies registered at Energy Planning Department to interested foreign companies, for Shallow Water Blocks.

Director General

Energy Planning Department

Ministry of Energy

Building No.6, Nay Pyi Taw

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Note: For further inquiry (and/or) information, please contact the followings:-

- (1) Director General
Energy Planning Department
Ministry of Energy, The Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Tel: 95-67 411 099/ 411 057
Fax: 95-67 411 113
Email: myanmoe@mptmail.net.mm
- (2) Managing Director
Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise
Ministry of Energy, The Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Tel: 95-67 411 055/ 411 056
Fax: 95-67 411 125
Email: mogedirplan@energy.gov.mm
- (3) Myanmar Embassies in respective Countries

Justin Bieber takes heat for hoping Anne Frank would have been fan

LOS ANGELES, 17 April—Teenage pop star Justin Bieber is taking heat on social media after the Anne Frank House reported he visited the Amsterdam museum and wrote in the guest book he hoped the young Holocaust victim would have been a “belieber,” the popular term for his fans.

A post on Saturday on the Facebook page of the museum said Bieber had visited the previous night and stayed over an hour, along with a group of friends and guards as fans waited outside to “see a glimpse of him.”

“In our guestbook he wrote: ‘Truly inspiring to be able to come here. Anne was a great girl. Hopefully she would have been a believer,’ the museum said in the Facebook post.

Regarding that last sentence in the guest book,

a large share of the hundreds of commentators on the museum’s Facebook post reacted negatively to Bieber’s choice of words.

“Anne Frank a believer? That is by far one of the most self-serving things I’ve ever read, like ever,” Facebook user Tania Saez Pinto wrote.

“I think she would be smart enough not to buy his records,” Facebook user Menachem Rephun wrote on the page.

Media commentators also joined in the fray.

Scott Simon, host of US-based National Public Radio programme “Weekend Edition Saturday,” said on Twitter, “Anne would be wise enough to just laugh.”

Anne Frank, who died at age 15 at the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp in 1945, is one of the most well-known and celebrated Jewish victims of the Holocaust.

caust.

Readers around the world have read her diary, which was first published in 1947 and details the deprivations and personal triumphs she and her family experienced in hiding during the Nazi occupation of the Netherlands.

A representative for Bieber declined to comment.

Some commentators on social media sites commended Bieber for caring enough about Anne Frank’s story to visit the Amsterdam museum, which is built into the house where she and her family hid before their arrest.

And the museum itself in its post about the visit from Bieber, a Canadian-born sensation whose hit songs include “Baby” and “U Smile,” did not criticize him.

Annemarie Bekker, a spokeswoman for the Anne Frank House, said museum officials were “a bit overwhelmed” by the negative reaction to Bieber’s statement.

“He’s a 19-year-old boy taking the effort to come and see the museum, and we’d like to point that out, and I think it’s quite innocent what he put down,” Bekker said.

Bieber is on tour in Europe.—Reuters



Canadian singer Justin Bieber performs in a concert at the Atlantico pavilion in Lisbon on 11 March, 2013.—REUTERS

SPORTS

Shaqiri, Gomez steer treble-hungry Bayern to Cup final

BERLIN, 17 April—Xherdan Shaqiri scored one goal and set up three and substitute Mario Gomez notched a quick hat-trick as Bayern Munich, chasing a treble of titles, crushed VfL Wolfsburg 6-1 on Tuesday to move into the German Cup final.

Germany international Gomez, who came on as a substitute in the 77th minute struck three times in six minutes to complete another big-scoring win this season.

The Bavarians, who won the Bundesliga title earlier this month and face Barcelona in their Champions League semi-final first leg next week, will face either VfB Stuttgart or Freiburg, who play on Wednesday.

With Franck Ribery suspended, defender David

Alaba injured and coach Jupp Heynckes rotating the line-up, Bayern needed some time to adjust.

“Wolfsburg made it hard for us for a long time,” Heynckes told reporters. “We were not fully there at the start.”

I told them at halftime what I think must change and it seems to have worked. “I am happy for Mario that he got his hat-trick. It goes to show that we have three top strikers in this team.”

Forward Mario Mandzukic struck against his former club in the 17th minute after good early work from Shaqiri. Arjen Robben doubled their lead after another pin-point pass from the Swiss midfielder.

Wolfsburg briefly bat-

tled back and Brazilian Diego cut the deficit with a stinging 18-metre shot that flew past Manuel Neuer on the stroke of halftime.

Shaqiri, however, restored Bayern’s two-goal cushion with an unstoppable low drive from the edge of the box five minutes after the restart and cut back for substitute Gomez to tap in after a darting 20-metre sprint in the 80th minute.

The Germany forward, who lost his spot to Mandzukic this season and could be playing his last matches for Bayern with reports linking him with a move to England and Spain, had time to grab two more as Wolfsburg imploded.

Bayern secured their 23rd German league title—their first since 2010—earlier this month with six games to spare.—Reuters



Bayern Munich’s Xherdan Shaqiri (2L) passes to Mario Gomez (2R) to score a goal against Wolfsburg’s goalkeeper Diego Benaglio (L) during their German soccer cup (DFB Pokal) semi-final match in Munich on 16 April, 2013.—REUTERS

Boxer Vijender Singh cleared in drug test

MUMBAI, 17 April—India’s boxing pin-up boy Vijender Singh, who had been accused of taking heroin, has been cleared in an out-of-competition drug test, the sports ministry said on Tuesday.

Singh, who won a middleweight bronze at the 2008 Beijing Olympics, was ordered by the ministry to take a test after local police accused him of using heroin on several occasions amid allegations from a fellow boxer.

“Vijender Singh...along with four others was subjected to an out-of-competition

test for banned substances,” the sports ministry said in a statement.

“The Ministry...is glad to announce that on the basis of these tests none of the boxers were found to have used any banned substances in the recent past.”

Singh came under scrutiny when a fellow boxer told investigators after a \$24-million drug haul in the northern state of Punjab last month that he and Singh had consumed heroin supplied by a drug dealer. The 27-year-old Singh denied the allegation.

Reuters



Uzbekistan’s Abbos Atoev (R) fights India’s Vijender Singh during their quarterfinal Men’s Middle (75kg) boxing match at the London Olympic Games on 6 Aug, 2012.—REUTERS

Jimenez returns from broken leg at this week’s Spanish Open

MADRID, 17 April—Former Ryder Cup stalwart Miguel Angel Jimenez will make his comeback from a broken leg at this week’s Spanish Open, the national golf federation said on Tuesday.

The 49-year-old sustained the injury while skiing in Spain’s Sierra Nevada in December.

Jimenez, the oldest winner in European Tour history, will be

Miguel Angel Jimenez of Spain poses with his trophy after winning the Hong Kong Open golf tournament on 18 Nov, 2012.
REUTERS



playing in his 599th event on the circuit and looking to add to the four top-10 finishes he has amassed in 25 appearances in the Spanish Open. This

year’s edition, which starts on Thursday, is being held at the Parador de El Saler course near Valencia where Jimenez tied for third place in 2001.

Reuters

Red Bull boss slams conspiracy theories

SHANGHAI, 17 April—Red Bull boss Christian Horner slammed Formula One conspiracy theorists on Sunday after Mark Webber’s Chinese Grand Prix ended with a wheel coming off his car and a penalty for causing a collision. The Australian, barely on speaking terms with world champion team mate Sebastian Vettel after a ‘team orders’ row at the previous race in Malaysia, had started from the pitlane after Red Bull failed to put enough fuel in his car for qualifying.

“It’s complete rubbish, forget conspiracy,” Horner angrily told a reporter who alluded to

some of the wilder speculation that there might be something more sinister behind the Australian’s problems.

“We’re all about trying to get two cars to the finish as high as we can,” added Horner, whose team have won the last three championships. “Anybody who thinks there is a conspiracy here against either driver does not know what they are looking at...There is no conspiracy.”

Webber was certainly ready to accept the blame



Red Bull Formula One driver Mark Webber of Australia loses his rear wheel as he drives during the Chinese F1 Grand Prix at the Shanghai International Circuit, on 14 April, 2013.—REUTERS

for some of his misfortune on an afternoon that went from bad to worse and lasted just 18 laps. He collided with the Red Bull-owned Toro Rosso of Frenchman Jean-Eric Vergne, for which he was given a three-place grid penalty for next weekend’s race in Bahrain, and coasted into retirement as a rear wheel broke loose and bounced away. By then, he had already pitted twice. “I was coming from a reasonable distance behind, Jean-Eric was

really wide, but when we came close to the apex he wanted to hit it,

which he is entitled to do, but by then I was committed to the inside and the incident happened,” he said.

“The guys thought the tyre was fixed when we left the stop, but it came off on the out lap,” he added of the final blow to his hopes. “We have had a few problems this weekend; I think we could have done something from our start position today, but it wasn’t meant to be.” The afternoon was in stark contrast to Malaysia, where he led until Vettel ignored instructions from the pit wall not to overtake and took the victory.

The feud between the team mates was the talk of the Shanghai paddock before the race but they never came close to each other on track. “If Mark Webber didn’t have bad luck, he’d have no luck at all,” commented his former team mate David Coulthard on BBC television.

Reuters

Djokovic ready for Monte Carlo gamble, Del Potro wins

MONTE CARLO, 17 April—Novak Djokovic will be hoping his gamble to play in the Monte Carlo Masters does not leave his claycourt season going bust after he decided to test his injured ankle in the glamorous principality.

Djokovic’s participation provided a boost to the organizers, who now have three of tennis’ Big Four playing in the event, with only Roger Federer opting to stay away from Monaco.

While Djokovic, who badly sprained his ankle 10 days ago, eight-times champion Rafa Nadal and US

Open holder Andy Murray will begin their seasons on red dirt on Wednesday, Juan Martin Del Potro moved into the third round with tricky 1-6, 6-4, 6-3 win over Alexandr Dolgoplov on Tuesday.

The towering Argentine, who had not played on clay since last year’s French Open, struggled to find his feet in the opening set as Dolgoplov dictated play and produced some fine dropshots.

As the sun set over the Mediterranean, Del Potro started to play deeper and

took advantage the Ukrainian’s wayward shots to wrap up the next two sets for victory. “It was really tough to start playing on clay against him. You always try to play long rallies to feel the clay, to settle your play,” fifth seed

Del Potro said. “He plays fast, he comes to the net often ... After one hour and a half, I felt better,” added the world number six, who had not planned to come to Monte Carlo but was given a wildcard.—Reuters



Djokovic of Serbia arrives for a training session during the first round of the Monte Carlo Masters in Monaco on 16 April, 2013.
REUTERS

GENERAL



Juries of the Tiantan Award are present at the opening ceremony of the 3rd Beijing International Film Festival at the Temple of Heaven Park in Beijing, on 16 April, 2013. The week-long film festival this year will add a new competition sector, namely Tiantan Award. And over 1,300 film masterpieces from 63 countries and regions will be brought to the event.—XINHUA

Portugal increases investment in Colombia

BOGOTA, 17 April—Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos on Tuesday praised Portugal's increased investment in Colombia and forecast more. Portuguese companies now operating in Colombia included Jeronimo Martins, Prebuild, which was building a large industrial park near Bogota, and the Pestana hotel chain, Santos said on Tuesday while welcoming Portuguese counterpart Anibal Cavaco Silva, who is leading a business delegation here.

"We are expecting more than 1 billion US dol-

lars in Portuguese investment through these and other companies ... and the list will continue to grow thanks to the important business delegation that accompanies you today," he said.

"Portugal, a country of seafarers and explorers, has found a new destination in Colombia," Santos said, noting the good diplomatic relations between the two countries. Meanwhile, Silva affirmed the interest of Portuguese businesses.

"Portuguese business owners show great interest in the Colombian market. We want Colombian en-

trepreneurs to get to know better Portugal's potential," Silva said, adding his country had made advances in the technology field. Silva also offered Portugal's support in the Colombian government's ongoing peace talks with the rebel Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), saying, "Peace is fundamental for consolidating democracy, but also for development (and) the improvement of people's well-being." The Portuguese head of state is scheduled to leave Colombia on Wednesday for Peru.

Xinhua

Fed official warns monetary easing risk on financial stability

WASHINGTON, 17 April — US Federal Reserve Vice Chair Janet Yellen on Tuesday said that central bankers should remain alert to the financial risk against the backdrop of ongoing monetary easing policies.

Speaking at a seminar hosted by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) before the upcoming Spring Meetings of the IMF and World Bank scheduled to kick off on 19 April, Yellen said that the concern about financial stability risk was a "very important question."

The Fed's monetary easing policies are "intended to promote a return to prudent risk-taking, reflecting a normalization of credit markets that is essential to a healthy economy," Yellen said. "Obviously, risk-taking can go too far."

Since the onset of the financial crisis, the Fed has kept its short-term interest rate at a historically low level and completed two rounds of quantitative

easing programs, known as QE1 and QE2. It is now purchasing longer-term government debt and mortgage-backed securities at a pace of 85 billion US dollars per month, dubbed as QE3, to stimulate bank lending and economic growth.

"Low interest rates may induce investors to take on too much leverage and reach too aggressively for yield. I don't see pervasive evidence of rapid credit growth, a marked buildup in leverage, or significant asset bubbles that would threaten financial stability," she said.

"But there are signs that some parties are reaching for yield, and the Federal Reserve continues to carefully monitor this situation," she said.

"We are prepared to use any of our many instruments as appropriate to address any stability concerns," Yellen added.

Xinhua

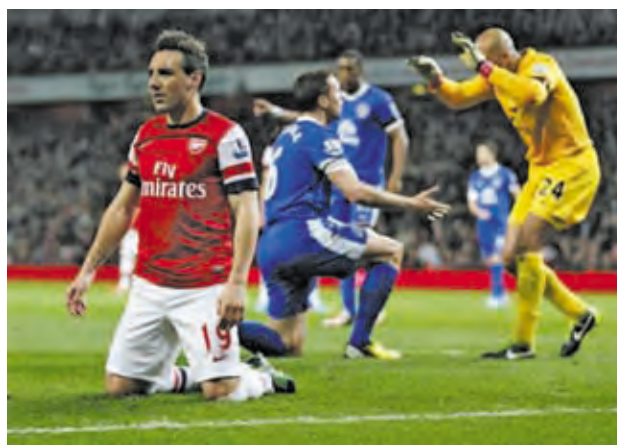
LONDON, 17 April — Arsenal missed the chance to take another step towards securing a Champions League place after fellow European hopefuls Everton held firm in a lively 0-0 Premier League draw at the Emirates on Tuesday.

The Londoners, who had won four in a row to move up to third and are chasing qualification for the continent's elite competition for a 16th straight season, had the better opening with French striker Olivier Giroud guilty of two bad misses.

Giroud prodded wide at full stretch with the goal at his mercy late in the first half and blazed over from a good position near the end to cap a frustrating night for the hosts who were put off their stride by a well-organised and combative Everton side.

"The game was basically down to physical intensity, it was unbelievable from first to last minute," said Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger.

Arsenal held to goalless home draw by Everton



Arsenal's Santi Cazorla reacts after an unsuccessful attempt scoring attempt past Everton goal keeper Tim Howard (R) during the English Premier League match at Emirates Stadium in north London on 16 April, 2013.

REUTERS

"The referee let a lot go unpunished and in the end we put a lot of effort in. Maybe we used too much power instead of placing the ball.

"The finishing was missing. I think (Everton midfielder) Darron Gibson could have been sent off. He got away with a few tonight. We are in a strong position but we have to win our next game.

If we keep this spirit

6:00 am

1. Paritta By Venerable Mingun Sayadaw

6:25 am

2. To Be Healthy Exercise

6:40 am

3. Dance & Song of National Races

6:50 am

4. Documentary

7:00 am

5. News

7:20 am

6. People Talk

7:30 am

7. Teleplay

8:00 am

8. News / International News

8:25 am

9. My Mind Game My SEA Games

9:20 am

10. How It's Works

9:50 am

11. Documentary

10:00 am

12. News

10:15 am

13. Kyae Pwint Myaye Yin Khone Than

11:00 am

14. Sing & Enjoy

12:00 pm

15. News / International News

12:30 pm

16. Myanmar Video (Part-1)

1:00 pm

17. News

Myanmar TV

(18-4-2013, Thursday)

1:15 pm

18. Myanmar Video (Part-2)

2:00 pm

19. News

2:15 pm

20. Myanmar Video (Part-3)

3:00 pm

21. News

4:30 pm

22. University Of Distance Education (TV Lectures) - Third Year (Economic)

4:45 pm

23. Cute Little Dance

4:50 pm

24. Road to 27th SEA Games

5:00 pm

25. News

5:15 pm

26. India Drama Series

6:00 pm

27. News

6:20 pm

28. Approaching Science Discovery World

6:50 pm

29. TV Drama Series

7:00 pm

30. News

7:15 pm

31. TV Drama Series

8:00 pm

30. News / International News / Weather Report

8:35 pm

30. CLEVER

32. Myanmar Movie

Yangonites perform meritorious deeds on New Year Day

YANGON, 17 April—Pagodas, stupas and monasteries in townships and wards in Yangon were packed with devotees keeping the Sabbath and performing meritorious deeds on the New Year Day.

The Shwedagon Pagoda Board of Trustees organized a fish and bird releasing ceremony in conjunction with the 17th blood donation ceremony at designated places on the precinct of the Pagoda this morning. Members of the board and religious associations and pilgrims offered fruits, flowers and water to Buddha Images and received Parittas delivered by Ovadacariya Sayadaws. They then released fingerlings into Shin Uppagutta Mingalar Lake and birds.

Next, the blood donation ceremony followed at Chanthagyi

prayer hall.

Likewise, Maha Wizaya Pagoda, Tooth Relic Pagoda (Yangon), Thiri Mingala Kaba Aye Pagoda, Lawkachantha Abaya Labha Muni Buddha Image, Aparazita Hsandawshin Kyaikwaing Pagoda, Kyaikkasan Pagoda, Botahtaung Kyaikdaet Pagoda, Sule Pagoda, Shwephonepint Pagoda, Melamu Pagoda, Ngahtatgyi, Chaukhtatgyi and Koehtatgyi Pagodas and pagodas and stupas in townships in Yangon Region were crowded with devotees.

Moreover, ceremonies to pay respects to the aged, alms offering ceremonies, fish releasing ceremonies and refreshment donation ceremonies were held in townships and wards.

Young people and members of social organizations carried out social activities



Shwedagon Pagoda packed with devotees and pilgrims.—MNA

on the New Year Day.

Besides, Parittas recitation ceremonies were organized at departmental buildings and on streets in respective wards. Passenger

buses of All-bus Line Control Committee and taxis provided passengers with free transportation service on the New Year Day.—MNA

Myanmar New Year Day marked in Mandalay



Maha Muni Buddha Image being offered water by pilgrims.—MNA

MANDALAY, 17 April—Today, being Myanmar New Year Day of 1375 ME, famous pagodas, monasteries and religious edifices in Mandalay were packed with devotees and pilgrims. Some generous, pious persons did good deeds such as releasing fingerlings to the lakes, offering water to famous pagodas, doing meditation and donating blood.

Most famous pagodas including Maha Muni Buddha Image and some religious edifices in Mandalay were teemed with devotees. Some kept the Sabbath in those pagodas and made donation there

from 4 am onwards.

The blood donors from around the corner of the country donated blood at Mandalay General Hospital this noon.

At 8 am today, a group led by Mandalay Region Government held a ceremony of releasing fingerlings and birds and of paying respect to the aged.

The families of Mandalay City Development Committee held a paritta recitation ceremony at City Hall. The congregation led by Mandalay Mayor U Aung Moun and wife received Five Precepts from Venerable Sayadaw

Dr Panditavarab-hivamsa of State Pariyatti Sasana University (Mandalay) and presented offertories.

In the evening, the Sayadaws recited Paritta and shared merit gained.

MNA

Ministry of Rail Transportation holds New Year Parittas recitation

NAY PYI TAW, 17 April—Ministry of Rail Transportation held new year Parittas recitation ceremony at the auditorium of the ministry, here, this evening. Union Minister U Zeyar Aung and wife, Deputy Minister U Chan Maung and wife and the congregation received the

Five Precepts and Parittas delivered by Pyinmana Township Sangha Nayaka Committee Vice-Chairman Thanlan Monastery Sayadaw Bhaddanta Ñanavamsa. Then they donated offertories to the Sayadaws and shared merits gained.

MNA

YCDC holds Parittas recitation ceremony on New Year Day

YANGON, 17 April—Yangon City Development Committee held a Parittas recitation ceremony at City Hall, here, this morning.

On the occasion, Yangon Mayor U Hla Myint and wife Daw Khin Aye Nwe and the congregation received the Nine Precepts from State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Chairman Bhamo Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Rattha

Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Bhaddanta Dr Kumarabhivamsa.

Then, the Yangon Mayor and wife donated offertories to the monks.

The monks, the Yangon Mayor and wife and officials poured Parittas water into the dam of Yeku Waterworks in Mayangon Township.

MNA

Moderate earthquake hits outside Myanmar

NAY PYI TAW, 17 April—A moderate earthquake of magnitude 5.1 Richter Scale with its epicenter outside Myanmar (Yunnan, China) about 350 miles northeast of

Mandalay seismological observatory was recorded at 08 hrs 18 min 26 sec M.S.T today, the Meteorology and Hydrology Department announced.

MNA

Parittas recitation for Yangon Region Government

YANGON, 17 April—Yangon Region Government organized a ceremony to recite parittas at the office of the region government this evening. Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe, the region Hluttaw speaker and officials received the Five Precepts from Chairman of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Abhidhaja Maha Rattha

Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotika Dr Kumarabhivamsa. Then, the members of Sangha recited Parittas.

The chief minister, the region hluttaw speaker and officials presented offertories to the members of Sangha and received a sermon delivered by the chairman Sayadaw.

MNA