

The New Light of Myanmar

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New turbines in Yangon to go into operation



Photo shows 50-MW gas power plant project under construction in the compound of Hlawga gas power plant.
MNA

YANGON, 18 April— Union Minister for Electric Power U Khin Maung Soe inspected 50-MW gas power plant project being built in the compound of Hlawga gas power plant this morning.

The project which started on 27-9-2012 has been completed by 70 percent. The plant installed with natural gas-fired engine of Spain-made Dresser-Rand Company will undergo a test-run as of 15 May, which can generate 26 mega watt.

After that, the Union minister also visited 240-MW Mitsubishi Gas Turbine that is handed over by Thailand and turbines in the compound of Ywama power plant.

The 240-MW Ywama project is a short-term project to satisfy power demand of the State and people

as quickly as possible. Germany-made Caterpillars (CG 260-16) turbines are installed at 50-MW gas power plant on 18-9-2012 and will be put into service as of 1 July. The Union minister inspected arrival of machines at 120-MW power plant project being built by TOYO THAI Co, installation of gas turbines, construction of switchyard and control room in the compound of Ahlon power plant. Turbines made from GE Company of Hungary will start running soon.

The Ministry is placing more emphasis on fulfilling the power demand of the State and people. Efforts are being made for full power distribution in the SEA Games and ASEAN Summits through short- and long-term projects.—MNA

EU set to lift all sanctions against Myanmar

NAY PYI TAW, 18 April— It is learnt based on news reports of Reuters that the European Union (EU) is expected to lift all sanctions on Myanmar next week, except for an arms embargo, in recognition of the remarkable reform process of Myanmar.

On 17 April, EU Ambassadors held a meeting on withdrawal of sanctions against Myanmar and approval will be sought at the ministerial meeting on 22 April. Lifted EU sanctions will allow European companies to make further investments in Myanmar, competing with other countries.

As a wave of political and economic reforms has been in place since the new government took office in 2011, EU a year ago suspended its sanctions against Myanmar for a year. It is now planned to lift its all sanctions against Myanmar with the exception of the embargo on arms, in support of ongoing significant process of political, economic and social reform.

“Expansion of export market could lead to greater productivity and creation of more job opportunities could generate per capita income and improve living standard. Competitiveness with other countries like Cambodia and Laos which are allowed to enjoy GSP will be enhanced. Moreover, value of export is expected to reach up to US\$ 500 million than that of in 2004 if EU sanctions are lifted as Myanmar saw only export value of US\$ 210 million last year, 2012 while the country made its garment exports to EU worth over US\$ 400 million in 2004”, says Chairman of Myanmar Garment Entrepreneurs Association U Myint Soe regarding a surge of interest from overseas investors that could bring development of SME sector in Myanmar, high competitiveness of production sector, robust exports and more employment opportunities.

MNA

Taninthayi Region Maha Thingyan Festival concludes



On Myanmar New Year Day, the region chief minister and officials release fingerlings and salt water prawns into Seikkantha River.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 18 April— The prize-awarding ceremony for “yein” troupe of Taninthayi Region Maha Thingyan Festival took place at the City Hall’s pandal in Dawei on 16 April. The wife of the Region Chief Minister Daw Ekari Khaing and officials presented first, second and third prizes to winners.

After concluding remarks by Region Chief Minister U Myat Ko, the audience sang “Man-taung-yeik-kho” song to conclude the ceremony.

On Myanmar New Year

Day, the region chief minister, region ministers and officials released fingerlings and salt water prawns into Seikkantha River.

The region chief minister attended a respect-paying ceremony to aged

persons at Sasana Beikman and gave presents to them.

In the evening, the region chief minister heard Parittas recited by Sayadaws followed by provision donating ceremony.

MNA

KNPP has strong desire to march towards genuine peace

NAY PYI TAW, 18 April— “Karen National Progressive Party (KNPP) has firmly believed that could the country develop only when peace prevails in the country. And KNPP has a strong desire to march towards a genuine peace through the current peace-making process between KNPP and the government,” said U Shwe Myo Thant of KNPP at 55th Anniversary Tagundaing (Kay-Hto-Bo) festival in Loikaw of Kayah State on 7 April. He also urged all people including

those in Kayah State to join hand in peace-making process.

Daw Day Day Phaw of KNPP said she is at the age of 60. So, it has been 37 years since she was in the jungle. At that time, she never expected that she would have a chance to set foot again in her native town. Unexpectedly, thanks to the goodwill and farsightedness of the President, I am very happy to set foot again in my native town.

“Efforts would be made for overcoming any

difficulties in peace-making process. Cooperation would be made for the development of Kayah State by maintaining peace,” said State Chief Minister U Khin Maung Oo at a dinner hosted to KNPP culture troupe at his residence on 10 April.

The ceasefire between KNPP and the government was reached on 7 March, last year and Union-level peace talks were held on 9 June, the same year.

Kyee Myint Naing (Loikaw)



MCDC workers clear debris off water in moats



MANDALAY, 18 April—Mandalay City Development Committee is carrying out sanitation of Mandalay City and all-round development tasks for the dwellers.

In so doing, the workers of the committee is clearing weeds and garbage in the water around Nanmyo and growing flowery plants at parks in various townships of Parks and Playgrounds Department of the committee.

Moreover, the workers place emphasis on clearing of weeds and garbage in the water of moats with the use of machinery.

Myanma Alinn

Summer Golf Championship 2013 25-27 April

YANGON, 18 April—With the aim of developing golf sport and turning out outstanding golfers who can bring honour to the nation, Yangon City Development Committee will organize the YCDC Cup Summer Golf Championship 2013 with the sponsorship of Dagon Beverages at the City Golf Resort from 25 to 27 April.

Those wishing to take part in the championship may dial 09-73209600, not later than 23 April.

Myanma Alinn

MCDC supplies drinking water to Mandalarians

MANDALAY, 18 April—Water and Sanitation Department under the Mandalay City Development Committee supplies drinking water to monasteries and local people in this summer.

On 9 April, a 1200-gallon-capacity tanker of the committee supplied drinking water free of charge to the local people in Ward D of Pyigyidagun Township.—Myanma Alinn

Rural people get knowledge of animal health

SALIN, 18 April—Under the instruction of the Magway Region Government, Salin Township Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department of the region conducted the rural animal health workers course No 1/2013.

On 7 April morning, a ceremony to conclude the training course was held at Yarpay Hall of Basic Education High School in

UNDC Resident Representative calls on Mandalay Region Chief Justice

MANDALAY, 18 April—Chief Justice of Mandalay Region High Court received Resident Representative Mr Paul Jan Maria van

Hoof, Local Governance Assessment Technical Expert of UNDC and party at the hall of the region Chief Justice on 9 April morning.

Also present at the call were Region High Court Judge U Kyi Thein and Region Judicial Officer U Myo Tint.—Myanma Alinn

Border Affairs Ministry gives talks on women's affairs



NAY PYI TAW, 18 April—Women's Affairs Organization of the Ministry of Border Affairs organized the talks on women's affairs at the assembly hall of the ministry on 9 April morning.

Patrons of the Ministry

WAO Daw Myint Myint Soe and Daw Khin Lay Myint made speeches.

Chairperson of the organization Dr Thin Thin Mon explained threats of alien culture and Chairperson of Education and Training Department Daw Khin Nyein

Aye, Myanmar women and Myanmar culture.

Later, Patron of the organization Daw Myint Myint Soe presented K 1 million each to WAO and Maternal and Child Welfare Association of the ministry.—MNA

Educative talks given to local people in Putao Township

PUTAO, 18 April—An educative talk was given to local people at the hall of Mulashidee suspension

Bridge in Mulashidee Village of Putao Township in Kachin State on 30 March morning.

Head of District Health Department Dr Thein Sein gave lectures on health and fitness, Commander of Township Police Force Police Major Tha Zaw on traffic rules, crime reduction, drug elimination and anti-human trafficking, Administrator of Wildlife Conservation U Thein Lwin on conservation of Khakabo national park and Head of Township Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department Dr Win Maw on ways to prevent infection of diseases.—Myanma Alinn

CSC issued to eligible citizens in Kyaukme Township

KYAUKME, 18 April—In implementing Moe Pwint-5 Plan, Kyaukme Township Immigration and National Registration Department made a field trip to village-tracts on 7 March.

Head of the Township Department U Aung Thwin Oo and staff issued citizenship scrutiny cards to 111 villages in Nakhaw Village and Loikhaw Village in Kyaukme Township through one-day service.

Myanma Alinn

Over 1500 applicants sit for examination of teachers



KYAUKPADAUNG, 18 April—As the Union government undertakes development of human resources and creates job opportunities for the people, the Ministry of Education invited the applications for daily wage teachers at primary school level, laboratory assistants (III) and general workers (men) from 18 to 31 March.

In Kyaukpadaung

Township, a total of 454 men and 1404 women applied to the jobs.

Altogether 397 men and 1151 women applicants, totalling 1548 sat for the examinations at respective levels at Basic Education High School No 1, No 2, PEBS (Myoma Kwethhit) and BEHS No 1 extended exam centres on 9 April morning.

Myanma Alinn



Body-building and Physical Culture Contests were held at Aung San Gymnasium on 7 April. Associate Professor Dr Thazin Lwin (Chemistry Department of Yangon University) presents prize to a winner in above 5 feet and three inches event of women's physical culture contest.—MYANMA ALINN

WORLD

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, Time Magazine's most influential person of past decade



NAY PYI TAW, 18 April—Time Magazine yearly conducts Time 100 Anniversary Poll. To mark its 10th edition of the TIME 100, a poll was

conducted through online for the most influential person of the past 10 years out of eminent persons around the world.

At the final stage of voting on 17 April, Chairperson of Pyithu Hluttaw Rule of Law and Tranquility Committee Daw Aung San Suu Kyi won over world famous Pop star Lady Gaga (61%-39%).

So, Time's editorial board announced that Daw Aung San Suu Kyi had been chosen as the most influential person of the past decade.—MNA

Osprey aircraft from Okinawa to join exercise in S Korea

SEOUL, 18 April—Osprey aircraft will be sent from a US Marine Corps from Japan's Okinawa Island to South Korea next week to participate in a joint US-South Korea military exercise, a US military official said on Thursday.

Kyodo News

US not ready to recognize Venezuela's new president

WASHINGTON, 18 April—The United States said on Wednesday it has not decided whether to recognize Nicolas Maduro as Venezuela's new president, reiterating a call for a recount of the presidential votes. Secretary of State John Kerry told lawmakers that he was doubtful about the US sending a delegation to attend Maduro's swearing-in ceremony slated for Friday.

"If it's under contested circumstances, I'd be very doubtful of that," he told the House Foreign Affairs Committee in his testimony about his agency's budget for the 2014 fiscal year.

We think there ought to be a recount. I don't know



Nicolas Maduro

whether it's going to happen in the next days," Kerry said.

As acting president, Maduro won Sunday's presidential election by garnering 50.66 percent of the votes, beating opposition challenger Henrique Capriles, his close foe, by

a margin of less than 2 percentage points.

Capriles, citing irregularities in the polls, rejected the results and demanded a recount of all votes, a call echoed by the US and the Organization of American States.

Xinhua

Envelope addressed to Obama possibly laced with deadly poison

WASHINGTON, 18 April—White House security has intercepted a letter addressed to US President Barack Obama that tested positive for the toxic poison ricin, the Federal Bureau of Investigation said on Wednesday.

The envelope containing "a granular substance" was received at an offsite mail screening facility, the FBI said in a statement, adding operations at the White House have not been affected. The FBI also said it

will conduct further tests to determine the nature of the substance. "There is no indication of a connection" to the deadly bombing in Boston on Monday, it said.

The development came a day after US media reported on Tuesday a letter sent to Sen Roger Wicker, a Republican from Mississippi, tested positive for ricin.

The Associated Press reported both letters to Obama and the senator were postmarked Memphis, Ten-

nessee, citing a FBI bulletin obtained by the news agency.

"To see a wrong and not expose it, is to become a silent partner to its continuance," both letters said, the AP reported. Meanwhile, Sen Carl Levin, a Democrat from Michigan, also revealed on Wednesday that staff in his local office in the state received a suspicious letter earlier in the day and law enforcement officials are performing tests on it.

Kyodo News

Deadly explosion, fire rip through Texas fertilizer plant

WEST, (Texas), 18 April—An explosion tore through a fertilizer plant and leveled dozens of homes in a small Texas town late on Wednesday, killing a number of people, injuring more than 160 and spewing toxic fumes that forced the evacuation of half the community.

Officials declined to say how many people died in the explosion in the town of West but said they expected to find more bodies as search teams combed through the rubble of the plant and surrounding homes.

"I've never seen anything like this," McLennan County Sheriff Parnell McNamara said. "It looks like a war zone with all the debris."

The blast, triggered by a fire at the West Fertilizer Co. plant, was reported at about 8 pm CDT (0100 GMT on Thursday) in West, a town of about 2,800 people about 80 miles south of Dallas and 20 miles north of Waco.



The remains of a fertilizer plant burn after an explosion at the plant in the town of West, near Waco, Texas early on 18 April, 2013.—REUTERS

The cause of the fire was unknown, officials said. Waco police Sergeant W. Patrick Swanton said investigators would examine whether the blaze originated from "criminal activity or whether it ... got sparked from some type of chemical reaction".

"We do have confirmed fatalities," Texas Public Safety Department spokesman D.L. Wilson told a news conference early on Thursday, about four hours after the explosion. "The number is not current yet. It could go up by the minute."

West Mayor Tommy Muska told Reuters that five or six volunteer firefighters who were among the first on the scene were missing.

Officials said flames that continued to smolder inside the plant posed two threats — the possibility of setting off further explosions and the emission of hazardous fumes into the town.

Swanton said a residual fire burning underneath additional chemical tanks had been brought under control "and I don't think that is any longer a threat". Wilson said about half the town, about eight to 10 blocks, had been evacuated and that "we might even have to evacuate on the other side of town" if winds shift overnight as expected.

Firefighters had been battling a fire at plant and evacuating nearby residences and a nursing home for

about 50 minutes before the blast occurred.

CNN reported that at least two people had been killed, but that figure could not be independently confirmed.

Wilson said 50 to 75 homes were damaged by the explosion and a fire that followed, and that a nearby 50-unit apartment complex had been reduced to "a skeleton standing up." Muska put the number of destroyed homes at between 60 and 80.

Wilson said 133 people had been evacuated from the nursing home, which was heavily damaged, but it was not immediately clear how many residents of the facility were hurt. Three hospitals in Waco and Dallas were receiving the bulk of patients from the disaster. "We are seeing a lot of lacerations and orthopedic-type injuries ... things you would expect in an explosion," said David Argueta, vice president of operations at Hillcrest Baptist Medical Centre in Waco.

US Representative Bill Flores, whose district includes West, said he doubted any foul play was involved. "I would not expect sabotage by any stretch of the imagination," he told CNN.—Reuters

Failure of Kosovo talks deals blow to Serbia's EU hopes

BRUSSELS, 18 April—Serbia and Kosovo failed to agree on a plan to tackle the ethnic partition of Serbia's former province on Thursday, casting doubt on Belgrade's prospects of getting the go-ahead to start talks on joining the European Union in June. After around 14 hours of talks in Brussels between the Serbian and Kosovo prime ministers, billed as a make-or-break session, EU foreign policy chief Catherine Ashton said differences remained between the two sides.

She said however that their differences were "narrow and very shallow" and held out hope there could

yet be an agreement before an EU ministerial meeting on Monday at which she is expected to make a recommendation on whether Serbia is ready to start talks on joining the EU. "We have some hours left. I hope in that time, that both delegations will reflect on whether they can take the final steps necessary to finish this agreement and to move their people forward into the future," she said in a statement. Agreement between Serbia and Kosovo is seen as crucial to Belgrade's chances of securing approval from EU leaders at a June summit to open talks on joining the 27-na-

tion bloc. Membership talks would be a milestone in Serbia's recovery from a decade of war and isolation under late strongman Slobodan Milosevic and provide a much-needed boost for its ailing economy, still the biggest in the former Yugoslavia.

Kosovo broke away from Serbia in 1998-99, when NATO waged an 11-week air war to halt the killing and expulsion of ethnic Albanian civilians by Serbian forces trying to crush a guerrilla insurgency. Kosovo declared independence in 2008 and is recognized by more than 90 countries, including the United States, but Serbia does not recognize its secession.

Serbia retained de facto control over a small, Serb-populated pocket of north Kosovo, in an ethnic partition that frequently flares into violence and that the EU says must end. Kosovo Prime Minister Hashim Thaci said he had accepted proposals on normalizing relations with Serbia that Ashton had put forward but that Serbia had rejected them.—Reuters



A man walks over a bridge in the ethnically divided town of Mitrovica on 17 April, 2013.—REUTERS

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Some Google services hit by partial outage

NEW YORK, 18 April—Google Inc is experiencing a small outage of some of its popular applications such as Gmail and Google Drive, the search engine said on Wednesday.

The company disclosed on its website that six of its 13 applications were having partial status disruptions.

The issue with Gmail, for example, is affecting less than 0.007 percent of Google Mail users, who

cannot access their accounts.

Google said in a response to a request for comment that it is currently investigating the issue and will post the cause once the investigation is complete.

“For everyone who is affected, we apologize—we know you count on Google to work for you and we’re working hard to restore normal operation for you,” Google said.—Reuters



The Google signage is seen at the company's headquarters in New York on 8 Jan, 2013.—REUTERS

Samsung explains why Galaxy S4 doesn't come with FM radio

NEW DELHI, 18 April—Samsung Galaxy S4 was unveiled by the company on 14 March. While the phone boasts high-end specs like a 5-inch full-HD screen with 441 pixels per inch, a 1.6GHz Exynos octa-core processor in some regions and a 1.9GHz Qualcomm Snapdragon quad-core processor in others, and 2GB of RAM, it received criticism in some quarters for missing out on a rather basic feature: FM radio. The omission of FM was indeed a strange one from Samsung. While Apple has never shipped an iPhone with built-in FM radio—despite receiving its share of criticism—Samsung's first three flagship devices, and indeed, most other phones, come with FM radio.

In that sense, Samsung customers are used to enjoying the feature. There have been complaints since the omission was confirmed after Galaxy S4 was officially unveiled but Samsung was mum on the subject until now.

Samsung's Facebook page in Russia has made the following announcement on the subject, which was picked up by GSM Arena via Hi-Tech.Mail.Ru.



Our studies show a trend shift of interest to digital broadcasting, specifically—focus on listening to music content in social networks or on the channel YouTube.

The flagship model of our products are focused on customers who use digital content, which use modern formats and channels of information consumption.

While Samsung may be right in believing that flagship customers tend to be focused on digital content, the fact is, if you take something away from people after they become used to it (in other Galaxy flagships), they are far more likely to complain, than if they never enjoyed the feature in the first place.

Something tells us we haven't heard the last on the Samsung Galaxy S4 FM radio debate. What do you think of Samsung's decision? Will your decision to buy the Galaxy S4 be impacted by it? Let us know via the comments.

Samsung Galaxy S4 key specifications
* 5-inch full-HD (1080x1920) Super AMOLED display (441 ppi)

BEIJING, 18 April—Scientists have confirmed that an orchid found by a tourist in South China is a new species. Uniquely, the orchid is entirely yellow, has no leaves for photosynthesis and carries the biggest seeds of all known orchids.

Named by scientists as *Danxiaorchis sinchiana*, it was discovered in the remote mountains of Shaoguan, Guangdong Province, by tourist Zhu Jiaqiang.

In May 2010, Zhu and some friends were hiking in Danxia when Zhu was astonished to see six beautiful orchids growing in a grassless area.

Zhu took photos of the orchids and put them on the Internet, attracting the attention of botanists.

Zhai Junwen, from the Chinese Academy of Sciences' South China Botanical Garden, said, “It is different from any orchid species recorded. When I



The leafless orchid has been confirmed as a new species.—XINHUA

saw Zhu's photo, I saw it was very special, so I contacted him immediately.”

Scientists from the garden, the National Orchid Conservation Centre and the Shenzhen Orchid Conservation and Research Centre went to the mountains with Zhu. After careful research efforts, they concluded it is a new species. Their research was published in *Plos One*, a US science journal, on 4 April,

and this week the scientists held a news conference to announce the discovery.

Liu Zhongjian, a senior expert with the Asia branch of the International Union for Conservation of Nature's orchid group, said, “The discovery of *Danxiaorchis sinchiana* has enriched the diversity and gene bank of the orchid species, and the special structure of the seed provides a new research inter-

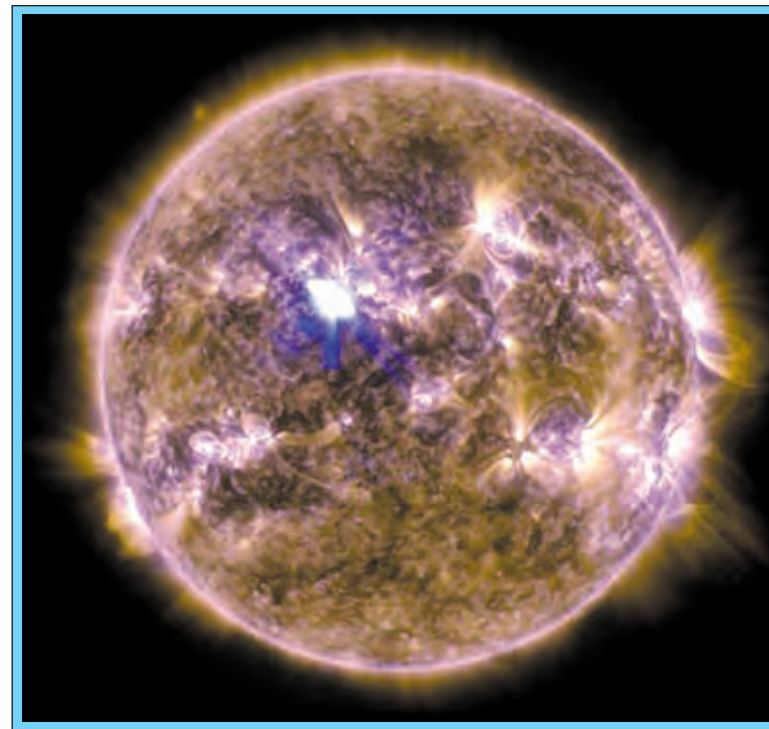
est for orchid evolution.” Liu referred to the Danxia landform, found only in southeast and southwest China and which consists of red-coloured sandstones and conglomerates largely from the Cretaceous.

“The discovery reconfirmed the specificity of the Danxia landform, enriched the diversity and improved the visibility of biodiversity research on it,” Liu said.

The orchid is not the first new species found in the region, with some plant species previously reported in the area. However, human activities have limited the range of orchid species.

Liu suggested authorities build a protection zone for the new species and start gene research for a possible reproduction study.

So far, scientists have found 21 individual *Danxiaorchis sinchiana*, with the total number estimated at less than 100.—Xinhua



NASA's Solar Dynamics Observatory captured this image of a powerful M6.5 class flare, the strongest of 2013 at the time, at 3:16 EDT on 11 April, 2013. This image shows a combination of light in wavelengths of 131 and 171 Angstroms. XINHUA

Microsoft, Hon Hai sign patent deal for Android, Chrome devices

TAIPEI, (China), 18 April—Microsoft Corp and Hon Hai Precision Industry Co Ltd signed a global patent licensing agreement on Wednesday designed to protect Hon Hai clients from patent claims arising from their use of Google Inc's Android and Chrome operating systems.

Google and Microsoft have been locked in patent battles, with Microsoft contending that the systems infringe its software patents. Microsoft has in the past chosen to pursue hardware makers rather than Google itself for royalties.

“Foxconn's clients don't need to worry about infringing Microsoft's patents

anymore, because Foxconn has signed the agreement for them,” said Vincent Shih, chief legal officer of Microsoft Taiwan Corp. Hon Hai is the flagship listed entity of Foxconn Technology Group.

Shih said more than 50 percent of the global contract makers that manufacture Android devices, including Hon Hai's local peers, Pegatron Corp, Quanta Computer Inc, Compal Electronics Inc and Wistron Corp, have signed similar agreements with Microsoft. Technology companies are increasingly defending their turf in the courts, seeking penalties for alleged patent and trademark infringements and injunctions to stop product sales. One

well-known example is the ongoing legal war between Apple Inc and Samsung Electronics Co Ltd that has taken place in 10 countries as they battle for market share.

Brand name companies such as Samsung Electronics, LG Electronics, HTC Corp, Acer have also settled with Microsoft over their use of Android, but Motorola Mobility, which Google bought last year, is fighting a range

of patent issues with Microsoft in courts in the United States and Germany.

Hon Hai spokeswoman Laura Liu said the company is also in talks with other software companies on different patent agreements.

Hon Hai is Apple's largest manufacturing partner. The group also makes products for Nokia, Dell Inc, Sony Corp, among others.

Reuters



The Microsoft logo is seen at their offices in Bucharest on 20 March, 2013. REUTERS

BUSINESS & HEALTH

No poultry contact in some Chinese bird flu cases

GENEVA/BEIJING, 18 April — The World Health Organization said on Wednesday that a number of people who have tested positive for a new strain of bird flu in China appear to have had no contact with poultry, adding to the mystery about a virus that has killed 17 people to date.

Chinese authorities have slaughtered thousands of birds and closed some live poultry markets to try to slow the rate of human infection, but many questions remain unsolved, including whether the H7N9 strain is being transmitted between people.

WHO spokesman Gregory Hartl confirmed that “there are people who have no history of contact with poultry”, after a top Chinese scientist was quoted as saying this applied to about 40 percent of those infected.

“This is one of the puzzles still (to) be solved and therefore argues for a wide investigation net,” Hartl said in emailed comments.

Hartl an international team of experts going to China soon would include in their investigation the possibility that the virus can be spread between people,

although there was “no evidence of sustained human-to-human transmission”.

“It might be because of dust at the wet markets, it could be another animal source beside poultry, it could also be human-to-human transmission,” he said by telephone.

Wendy Barclay, an

influenza expert at Imperial College London, said it could be hard to reveal or rule out exposure to poultry—or to wild birds, which could also be a possible source of infection:

“The incubation time might be quite long, so visiting a market even 14 days before might have resulted in infection.”

Hartl said two new suspected cases of possible human-to-human transmission were being investigated.

The first is a couple in Shanghai who tested positive, Hartl said, adding that the wife had died and husband was still sick. A seven-year-old girl in Beijing was the first case in the capital at the weekend and the boy next door has also tested positive, but is not showing symptoms, he said.

Reuters



Researchers in protective suits test samples of a suspected case of the H7N9 avian influenza virus at the provincial centre for disease control and prevention in Hangzhou, capital of east China's Zhejiang Province, on 17 April, 2013.—REUTERS

Japan exports rise as weak yen helps; business mood up



People walk at a street in Tokyo's business district on 17 April, 2013. — REUTERS

TOKYO, 18 April — Japanese exports picked up in March from a year earlier, beating forecasts and offering hope that a weaker yen is starting to support a slow upturn in the export-reliant economy as business confidence continues to improve. Ministry of Finance data showed exports rose 1.1 percent in March from a year earlier, against a 0.4 percent gain expected by economists in a Reuters poll, after a 2.9 percent drop in February.

For the fiscal year to March 2013, Japan logged a record trade deficit of 8.17 trillion yen (54.9 billion pounds), reflecting a slump in global demand and higher fuel import costs.

The figures showed exports to the United States jumped 7.0 percent from a year earlier, but shipments to China fell 2.5 percent.

Separately, the monthly Reuters Tankan survey showed manufacturers' sentiment improved for a fifth successive month in April, although pessimists

still slightly outnumber optimists. “The broad picture remains intact as the weaker yen is having more of an impact on boosting imports than exports, while the recovery in the world economy, particularly China, is tepid,” said Takeshi Minami, chief economist at Norinchukin Research Institute in Tokyo.

“We'll need to wait at least until around summer before the weaker yen enhances price competitiveness of Japanese products abroad to boost exports.”

The yen fell to a four-year low after the Bank of Japan unleashed a massive \$1.4 trillion stimulus programme this month, enacting a key part of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's push for aggressive policy to end deflation and revive the economy. Analysts say it takes time for the yen's slide to boost exports while it immediately boosts import costs, weakening the trade balance. Still, the weak yen is boosting business morale.—Reuters

Exxon has no estimate for restart of Pegasus oil pipeline

WASHINGTON, 18 April — Exxon Mobil Corp (XOM.N) said on Wednesday it had no estimate for the restart of a pipeline that spilled 5,000 barrels of oil in a small Arkansas town last month and sparked debate about the safety of carrying heavy crude from Canada across the United States.

A US Department of Transportation source said Exxon had not yet submitted a restart plan.

“At this time, our focus remains on clean-up operations,” Exxon spokesman David Eglington said of the Pegasus pipeline, which spilled the crude oil in a middle-class section of Mayflower, a town of about 2,300 people.

He said DOT's Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administra-

tion must approve Exxon's plans to repair, test and restart the pipeline before the 90,000-barrel-per-day line can be returned to service.

The DOT source said, “When they will submit that (restart plan) and when we would approve it, I can't say,” adding that some restart plan approvals have taken a day, while others have taken much longer.

Exxon said on Tuesday that it had installed a new section of the pipeline a day after it removed the broken portion.

The 52-foot-long (15.8 metre) damaged pipeline piece was being shipped to an independent lab for metallurgy tests to figure out why it broke. The testing must be completed before Exxon is allowed to restart the pipeline.

Reuters



Spilt oil from Exxon pipeline runs between homes in North Woods Subdivision in Mayflower, Arkansas in this on 1 April, 2013 photo released to Reuters on 11 April, 2013.—REUTERS



World Bank President Jim Yong Kim

World Bank chief says social equality key to poverty reduction

WASHINGTON, 18 April — Promoting social equality, such as empowering the disadvantaged and women, is key in poverty reduction, World Bank President Jim Yong Kim said here on Wednesday.

“If you grow, and you are not including young people, you are not including the poorest, you are not including the women, you are building instability in the society,” said Kim during an event held at the World Bank headquarters. “So you got to think about how the poorest and the most marginalized participate,” he stressed. “That's our position.”

With respect to gender inequality, Kim rejected the notion that this is acceptable in certain cultures, citing the huge improvement in this regard in the Republic of Korea

(ROK) where he was born in 1959.

“There is still a long way to go in South Korea. But despite the Confucian culture, women became part of the workforce. Despite the Confucian culture, laws were changed in order to give women many more rights. Just recently, they elected a woman as president,” he noted.

On 2 April, the World Bank chief called for global action toward ending extreme poverty by 2030 and improving the lives of the most vulnerable people in the developing countries.

The World Bank estimated in 2010 that about 21 percent of the global population, or 1.3 billion people, lived in extreme poverty — below the poverty line of 1.25 dollars per day.—Xinhua

BOJ may reach two percent inflation target by spring 2015



The Bank of Japan building is pictured in Tokyo, on 29 March, 2013. —REUTERS

BANGALORE, 18 April — The Bank of Japan could achieve its inflation target of 2 percent as early as spring 2015, the Nikkei reported on Thursday.

The central bank said earlier this month it would achieve the inflation target in two years, the Nikkei said. The BOJ is expected to raise its projected

consumer price growth for fiscal 2013 to between 0.5 percent and 1 percent from an average of 0.4 percent at its policy board meeting on 26 April, the daily said without naming sources.

The forecast for fiscal 2014 could increase to around 1.5 percent from 0.9 percent, the Nikkei said.

Reuters

WORLD

Terrorism knows no boundaries

BEIJING, 18 April — It is not the first time we learn, in a painful way, that terrorist attacks can be on anyone, no matter how old they are or which country they come from. An eight-year-old boy, a “dream daughter” aged 29, and a Chinese citizen whose identity was not disclosed at the request of the victim’s family, lost their lives in the Boston Marathon attacks. Twin bombs exploded near the finish line where fans, friends and families gath-

ered to cheer for the triumphant moment of completion for the 24,000 runners on Monday.

An event of joy and celebration was suddenly turned into a traumatic memory of death and destruction. The deep sense of shock, anger, frustration and a desire for justice are felt not only in the United States. Any country, whose flag is flying at the scene of the blast, would share American people’s grief and resolve to never let the

tragedy happen again.

In an age of globalization, no country can be immune from terrorist threats. An indiscriminate attack on the public, with devices so easily made, can leave families of different nationalities, races and colours in mourning. The deadly blast near the finish line is a cruel reminder that the human race is far from finishing the marathon toward peace and safety. It needs more efforts of the international community to build a harmonious world free from terror and fear.

In this regard, China and the United States, both victims of the latest terrorist attack, shared common ground. As two major powers, the pair can jointly play a constructive role in promoting global counter-terrorism cooperation. In this highly interconnected world, people of all countries are becoming more susceptible to terrorist attacks. The Boston assault serves yet another reminder of the danger and the task for every nation ahead.—Xinhua



Students sign their names to express condolence to the Chinese victim in Boston Marathon blasts at Boston University in Boston, the United States, on 17 April, 2013. — XINHUA

In strawberry fields, immigration reform holds sweet promise

OXNARD, (California), 18 April — California farm worker Antonia Espinoza would likely be throwing in the towel and heading back to her native Mexico to see her children, if not for the work of eight US senators in Washington. The bipartisan group of senators unveiled on Tuesday their proposal for immigration reform that would remove the threat of deportation for millions of undocumented workers and open a door for them to one day become US citizens.

Espinoza, 32, lives with her US-born daughter but is missing the other four children she left behind in Mexico so she could work in the strawberry fields in Oxnard, California, where pickers can take home \$80 to \$100 a shift on good days. If not for the

promise of legislation, she said on Tuesday, “I would be there right now.” “It’s been too long. I want to see them now. I can’t because, if this legislation passes, I’ll have papers and I won’t have to worry,” said Espinoza, who is from Oaxaca, Mexico, and has not seen her children there during her latest four-year stay in the United States. “I hope this time they’re going to do it and not just talk about it,” she said. The proposed bill, which President Barack Obama endorsed on Tuesday, gives farm labourers like Espinoza a faster path toward US citizenship than other undocumented workers.

It would give legal status to undocumented workers who were employed in agriculture in the past two

years. After five to seven years, they could apply for permanent residency. Other workers would have to wait 10 years. United Farm Workers union President Arturo Rodriguez estimates that a million farm workers and their families could gain legal status under the Senate bill.

“This is a huge step forward,” Rodriguez said, adding that the workers would be

able to buy cars and homes, engage openly in society and travel without fear. They also would have more protections on the job. While the bill is touted by its Republican and Democratic supporters as the best chance to overhaul immigration since the 1980s, it will likely face a months-long battle, with the biggest challenge expected in the Republican-led House of Representatives.—Reuters



Field workers pick strawberries in Oxnard, California, on 16 April, 2013. — REUTERS

Putin calls for independent journalism

MOSCOW, 18 April—Independent journalism was instrumental to the democratic development of Russian society, President Vladimir Putin said on Thursday.

“Active, independent, fearless journalism is in need today more than ever,” Putin said in his address to the 10th Congress of the Russian Union of Journalists.

Nowadays, journalists were not only “chroniclers”, but also direct participants in

major events in Russian history, Putin said.

Reporters played a leading role in shaping people’s ideas, values, moral and political principles, as well as forming the national agenda, he said.

Meanwhile, Putin said journalists should work to unite the society against corruption, injustice, bureaucratic lawlessness, xenophobia and nationalism.

Xinhua



Britain’s ‘Iron Lady’ Margaret Thatcher

Margaret Thatcher laid to rest at grand funeral

LONDON, 18 April — Britain’s ‘Iron Lady’ Margaret Thatcher was laid to rest on Wednesday at a grand funeral attended by world leaders and personalities, reflecting the former Prime Minister’s stature as a strong yet divisive figure.

India was represented by Union Minister Farooq Abdullah, who was among 2,300 dignitaries at the ceremony held at St Paul’s Cathedral for Britain’s longest serving Prime Minister who died of a stroke aged 87 on 8 April.

PTI

Brazil reaffirms support for Venezuela’s election results

RIO DE JANEIRO, 18 April — Brazil’s Foreign Minister Antonio Patriota on Wednesday reaffirmed his country’s support for Venezuela’s presidential election results, whose close count has sparked controversy. “We respect Venezuela’s sovereignty,” he said, adding that an eventual full recount of votes is an internal matter for the country. US representative to the UN Susan Rice, who had a meeting with Patriota earlier in the day, said her country is in favour of a full recount.

“President Obama is interested in the recount of 100 percent of votes, so that we can be sure that all Venezuelans can accept the result,” Rice said. During the elections held on Sunday, interim president Nicolas Maduro beat oppo-

sition candidate Henrique Capriles by a mere 1.5 percentage points, or some 272,000 votes. Capriles has not acknowledged defeat and is demanding a full recount. According to Capriles, there were several irregularities in the election process. Venezuela’s National Electoral Council, however, has confirmed Maduro’s victory, and the South American Union (Unasur), which sent representatives to monitor the elections, said the council’s decision should be upheld.

Earlier in the week, Patriota had already conveyed Brazil’s support for Unasur’s stance on the election results and expressed his hope that the political conflicts in Venezuela, which have already resulted in seven deaths, will cease.

Xinhua

Illegal immigration remains problem in northern Brazilian state

RIO DE JANEIRO, 18 April — The influx of illegal Haitian immigrants into Brazil’s northern Acre state remains a problem that local authorities can not solve on their own, Governor of Acre Tiao Viana said on Wednesday.

“I expressed our concern because Acre is a vulnerable area. The state can not deal with this alone,” Viana said, adding that as a border state, Acre is a backdoor to both the entry of illegal immigrants and criminal activities such as international drug trafficking. He said things have improved since last week, as the federal government has set up an operation to provide assistance to the immigrants, but more measures need to be taken.

The increase of Haitian immigrants began after the 2010 Haiti earthquake, which levelled much of its capital city Port-au-Prince.

The immigrants entered Brazil through its borders with Peru and Bolivia, reaching Brazil’s northern state of Acre in the Amazon rainforest region.

The illegal immigration to Acre has become a social problem for local governments. Last week, Viana declared a state of social emergency in two border towns of Epitacio-landia and Brasileia, as the state can not cope with the infrastructure and financial burdens brought by the newcomers.

In order to curb illegal immigration, Brazilian Foreign Ministry has set up an operation in the border areas to provide documents and work permits to over 900 immigrants so far. Local authorities also called for the help of the federal government in dealing with the immigration routes as well, as they believed lack of restrictions along the borders has encouraged illegal immigration.

On Monday, a representative of Brazilian Foreign Ministry met with diplomats from Haiti, Bolivia, Peru and Ecuador to find ways to halt the rise in illegal immigration. The Brazilian government hopes to prevent the influx of illegal immigrants and criminal activities without changing Brazil’s tradition of welcoming immigrants.

Xinhua

Charging elephant injures two tourists in South Africa park

JOHANNESBURG, 18 April — A Polish and a Chinese tourist visiting South Africa’s flagship Kruger National Park were taken to hospital after an elephant charged their car and overturned the vehicle on Monday, park officials said. An emergency medical team was dispatched by helicopter to the accident scene in

the vast park. The Polish man, who was not identified, suffered broken ribs while the Chinese woman, also not identified, had no major injuries, park spokesman William Mabasa said.

“We stay here every day. We meet elephants on the road,” Mabasa said. “We basically give them space but tourists some-

times don’t.” More than 1 million people visit Kruger each year and incidents of this sort are rare but not unheard of with the animals that can flip cars and uproot trees with ease.

The last incident of this sort took place in November 2012, when an elephant overturned a car, injuring one passenger.—Reuters

WORLD

Russian PM Medvedev defends record after Putin warning

MOSCOW, 18 April — Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev defended his government's record in a combative speech to parliament on Wednesday after President Vladimir Putin signaled he may be losing patience with his long-time ally. There has been speculation for months in the media and among political analysts that Putin, now 60, could make Medvedev a scapegoat if Russia's economy continues to decline.

Medvedev hit back after unauthorized video footage showed Putin threatening to sack unnamed senior officials over a failure to

implement his social spending plans — for which responsibility ultimately lies with Medvedev's government. Putin had just told the cameras to stop rolling at a meeting with regional officials and government ministers, and his angry, unguarded remarks revived months of speculation that he has lost confidence in Medvedev.

Medvedev, 47, who has been prime minister since last May, asked for parliament's support in a long-planned report on his government's work that lasted an hour and 45 minutes. "We live in a dynamic, fast-developing world. It



Russia's Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev makes an address to the Lower House of Parliament in Moscow on 17 April, 2013.—REUTERS

is so global and so complex that we sometimes cannot keep up with the changes," he said, acknowledging that Russia could be dragged into recession if global commodity prices keep falling.

"On the other hand, we live in a society that

offers huge opportunities. So I hope that ... Russia tomorrow will be a country that is strong and comfortable to live in." In a rallying cry to parliament, he called for unity and respect for his government's work.

Reuters

Thai high-speed rail system to speed up movement of goods and passengers

BANGKOK, 18 April — The multi-billion dollar high-speed rail system that Thailand will be building is primarily designed to speed up the movement of goods and passengers, promote domestic consumption and boost the country's economic growth, according to Pansak Winyarat, chief economic adviser to Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra.

In an interview with

Xinhua, Pansak said that with a budget of about 730 billion US dollars, to be financed by loans, the rail system will be modernized and expanded throughout the country to link its major provinces with one another and with its neighboring countries. Equipped with high-speed trains, the rail system will be able to deliver farm produce such as fresh foods and vegetables much faster than ever

to varied destinations, either within the country or abroad, said Pansak, who also served as economic adviser to former premiers Chatchai Choonhavan and Thaksin Shinawatra. Phase one of the hi-speed rail system, which is estimated to cost 25 billion US dollars, will link Bangkok to Chiang Mai in the north, Nakorn Ratchasima in the northeast, Pattaya in the east and Hua Hin in the

upper south. Pansak said that under the current rail system, it will take more than 12 hours to travel from Bangkok to Chiang Mai for a distance of 700 kilometres. But under the proposed hi-speed train system running from 250 to 300 kilometres per hour, it will only take less than four hours over the same distance. "We've designed the high-speed rail system to deliver fresh fruits and vegetables aside from shuttling passengers," Pansak said.

He said that the efficient transport of goods by the modern railway system would mean less cost for consumers. "For that reason, people would buy more of the fast-delivered farm products while the farmers would undoubtedly make more earnings."—Xinhua

Australia allocates more fund to improve indigenous people's health

CANBERRA, 18 April — Australian government has announced 777 million Australian dollars (805 million US dollars) to extend the funding for improving the health of indigenous people for three years, the Prime Minister's office said on Thursday. The funding is part of a renewed National Partnership Agreement on Closing the Gap in Indigenous Health Outcomes for a further three years to 30 June 2016.

This funding will ensure indigenous Australians continue to benefit from improved health services and help to close the gap in

indigenous disadvantage. The government hopes that the health scheme will close the gap in life expectancy between indigenous and non-indigenous Australians within a generation, and halve the gap in mortality rates for indigenous children under five within a decade.

The Commonwealth government will ask the States and Territories to also continue their investment to renew the National Partnership Agreement. Under the current National Partnership Agreement, due to expire on 30 June, 2013, governments provided 1.58

billion Australian dollars (1.64 billion US dollars) over four years to improve access to health services for indigenous families and communities.

This year's Closing the Gap report showed that local health services were helping to lead a comprehensive approach to chronic disease management, encouraging people to undergo health checks and follow-ups. In 2011-12, 65,501 health assessments were provided to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 15 and over, a 34 percent increase from 2010-11.—Xinhua

Most Chinese cities see higher home prices

BEIJING, 18 April — New home prices rose in almost all Chinese cities in March, as transactions soared ahead of renewed government control measures, data from the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) showed on Thursday. Of a statistical pool of 70 major Chinese cities, 68 saw home prices increase in March from a month earlier, up from 66 in February, the NBS said in a statement on its website.

Expectations of higher home costs after the implementation of government control measures contributed to a purchase rush in March, which prompted property developers to either cancel discounts or hike prices, said Liu Jianwei, a senior statistician with the NBS.

Meanwhile, March is

traditionally a peak season for housing sales, adding to the market heat, Liu noted. First-tier cities recorded the largest monthly increase in new home prices, with Shanghai's 3.2-percent growth topping the list, followed by 2.8 percent in Shenzhen and 2.7 percent in Beijing.

Home prices continued to decline in China's eastern city of Wenzhou, the only city that saw a price decrease last month. On a year-on-year basis, 67 cities registered higher prices in March, according to the statement. The equivalent figure in February was 62. Both Beijing and Guangzhou logged declines of 11.2 percent, the largest year-on-year decrease among the 70 cities.

Xinhua



A Pakistani girl walks on the debris of her collapsed house at earthquake hit area in southwest Pakistan's Mashkel on 17 April, 2013. At least 40 people were killed and over 300 others injured in a 7.9-magnitude earthquake that hits Pakistan on Tuesday afternoon, an official of National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) said.—XINHUA

Chicago corn, wheat fall while soybeans rise

CHICAGO, 18 April — Chicago agricultural commodity futures were traded mixed on Wednesday, with corn and wheat prices down while soybeans price up on technical support.

The most active corn contract for May delivery fell 2.75 cent, or 0.41 percent, to close at 6.605 dollars per bushel. July wheat fell 0.5 cents, or 0.07 percent, to settle at 7.0725 dollars per bushel. July soybeans rose 4.75 cents, or 0.35 percent, to close at 13.80 dollars per bushel.

According to Chi-

cago Mercantile Exchange (CME), for corn, on Wednesday morning's ethanol production data disappointed traders after production for the week ending 12th April averaged 832,000 barrels per day, down 2.6 percent compared with last week and down 5.9 percent compared with last year. Total ethanol production for the week was 5.82 million barrels.

Chicago wheat traded higher for most of Wednesday's session on a most mixed day for physical commodity markets. Current demand in wheat market

is sluggish, which should help improve the carryout in the 2012-13 crop year. US equities pushed sharply lower, which likely caused some funds to cover existing positions in peripheral markets, such as wheat.

For soybeans, May soybeans traded slightly lower midday but exploded to the upside late in the session. The breakout was likely technically driven but there were also rumors that the port workers in Brazil may go on strike on Thursday. No confirmation of this has been made at this point.—Xinhua

A child plays beside tulip flowers at the Zhongshan Park in Beijing, capital of China, on 16 April, 2013. XINHUA



PERSPECTIVES

Friday, 19 April, 2013

Cultivate qualified youths

The government has been making a series of reforms since taking office. It could make the breakthroughs such as clearance of foreign debts, removal of sanctions, reentering into the world community, etc.

The new government's undertakings and policies have transparency. Now Myanmar people are enjoying the fruits of democracy. Mismanagement has lagged the country behind in development in the past. And efforts are being made for ensuring clean government and good governance.

Today is the age of knowledge. So, knowledge is taking a leading role in every aspect. It needs to develop qualified human resources so as to keep abreast of developed countries. It may take a long time to become a developed country if one relies only on its natural resources. Taking a look at world countries, some developed countries are not rich in natural resources. But they have reached developed status thanks to the qualified human resources. Flourishing of meritocracy is crucial for qualified human resources development.

Meritocracy means a system in which the talented are chosen and moved ahead on the basis of their achievement. The talented ones deserve rewards for his or her qualifications. So, the meritocratic system is so crucial for organizations as well as for the whole country. For emergence of that system, there should be healthy competitiveness. The countries or organizations that encourage meritocracy are on the top lists. We must love meritocracy.

Myanmar participates in 2nd SEAKF Karatedo Championship

YANGON, 18 April—A 23-member Myanmar Karatedo contingent led by President Dr Win Zaw of Myanmar Karatedo Federation left here for the Philippines on 16 April to participate in 2nd SEAKF Karatedo Championship to be held in Pampanga of the Philippines on 16-21 April, which is organized by South East Asia Karatedo Federation. The MKF president will attend South East Asia Karatedo Federation Congress.

MNA

Myanmar sports team leaves for China

YANGON, 18 April—Myanmar swimming and diving team left here for China yesterday to conduct joint sport exercise for achieving success at XXVII SEA Games. The team comprises manager Daw Than Than Myint and instructors Mr Cui Xiao Feng (China) and Daw Aye Aye Soe and athletes.

MNA

ARTICLE

What is the “Meaning of Archaeology”?

The word “Archaeology” derives from the Greek word: archaeo and logy. Archaeo means ancient and logy means study. Archaeology, therefore, is the study of past human society based upon the material culture and environmental data what they left behind.

It is the method of finding out about the human past of human race in its material aspects, and the study of the products of this past. These aspects may be the way people lived, the way they worshipped, the way they built, their art, their trade and their travels.

Archaeology deals with all the material remains of man, the objects he used and made, his dwelling places and defensive structures, his tools and weapons, the remains of his food, his own bones and burial places and from these, deduces how he lived.

Thus, archaeology provides the information for the prehistory of man, his history before the beginnings of written records. In fact, many written records are only found in the course

of archaeological investigations, using objects and other excavated evidences as the main source of data. Archaeological evidence can give clues about the past.

When an artifact is found, an archaeologist must have to ask three questions. (1) Who made it? (2) When was it made? (3) What was it for? Almost anything can be used to shed light on the past: the foundations of the buildings can show what sort

discipline.

Archaeologists collaborate with geologists in studying about the history of the earth, with metallurgists in studying the rock or metal from which tools were made, with palaeobiologists in studying plant and animal remains, with physicians or anatomists in studying the diseases from which people buried evidence but also with sites and objects of all kinds. Ancient objects are

human existence, therefore, only archaeological evidence can give clues about the past.

Furthermore many branches of archaeology are wide-ranging including prehistory (the study of humankind before the advent of writing, historical archaeology (the study of humankind in the historical period) and industrial archaeology (preservation of old industrial buildings) and also of all associated equipment and machinery of all kinds.

Archaeology does not just deal with buried evidence but also with sites and objects of all kinds. During the excavation, the excavator, for the most part, provides the frame work, by producing the evidence that, as a particular way and used particular objects.

Other objects such as works of art, coins, and problems of technology may be referred to experts in these particular fields. When the results are all assembled, we get a bigger picture of some aspect of the subject.

Professor Dr Yee Yee Aung (University of Yangon)

of houses people lived in, the remains of tools show how they worked animal bones and plant remains show what they ate, pollen and remains of trees and plants can indicate the type of climate and vegetation at that time.

Archaeology is a scientific study, and as such involves skilled and laborious work. Because archaeology uses many types of material remains as evidence, the subject of archaeology overlaps just about every other academic

seldom found by accident. These are valuable clues from searching ancient site.

The primary methods of archaeology are exploration and excavation. Full information can rarely be obtained without excavation. Archaeological sources of evidence have enabled much more complete picture of the past to be compiled.

The period of human history before writing, however, known as prehistory, lasted for hundreds of thousands of year. For the majority of

Emphasis placed on timely completion of oil and gas pipeline project



Union Minister for Energy U Than Htay inspects control room of gas pipeline laying project in Amarapura Township.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 18 April—Union Minister for Energy U Than Htay inspected the control station of Myanmar-China crude oil and natural gas pipeline project near Thayettan Village of Amarapura Township in Mandalay Region yesterday.

In meeting with officials, the Union minister stressed the need for timely completion of pipelines laying tasks to send the gas as scheduled. As Foreign Investment Law has been enacted, national races experts and staff members are to be appointed systematically, he said. Local skilled workers

are to be turned out and substituted in the places of foreign technicians, he said. He noted that emphasis is to be placed on environmental conservation in implementing the project.

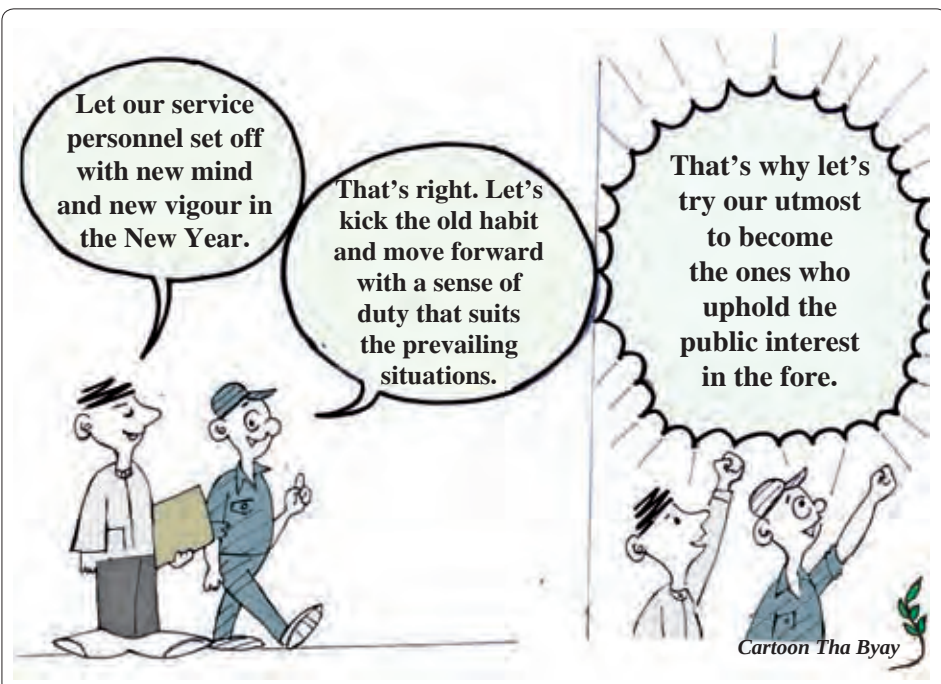
Later, the Union minister inspected progress of the project.—MNA

Ayeyawady Region Chief Minister attends closing of Maha Thingyan festival

NAY PYI TAW, 18 April—Closing ceremony of Maha Thingyan festival in Ayeyawady Region

took place in Patheingyi on 16 April. Region Chief Minister U Thein Aung awarded the winning teams.

The following day, he also attended fish releasing, Parittas recitation and respect-paying ceremonies.—MNA



LOCAL NEWS

MPF launches emergency, complaint-handling phone lines

NAY PYI TAW, 18 April—Myanmar Police Force under the Ministry of Home Affairs has put hot lines into place at Myanmar Police Force HQ and region/state police stations to enable the public to submit tip-offs and complaints over illegal acts, misappropriation and corruption.

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

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

of State Police Force in Lashio, and Kengtung Police Station in Kengtung have emergency numbers of 199.

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

MNA

Globetrotters enter Myawady



MYAWADY, 18 April—Under the arrangements of the Myanma Tourism Service of the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism and Trans Asia Route Co Ltd of Thailand, a total of 51 Thais and one Malaysian entered Myanmar through Mae Sot-Myawady border with

the use of 16 motorcycles and 13 vehicles on 5 April.

Accompanied by Liaison Officer Daw Hset Hset Win and tour guides U Htay Aung and Daw Nan Zin Myo Aung, the flock of globetrotters continued their travelling along Myawady-Kyaikto-Nay Pyi Taw-Inlay-Bagan-Pyay-

Yangon-Mawlamyine-Myawady route and left for Mae Sot on 16 April.

They had taken permission from the Vice-President for their tour package.

The local authorities provided management and security services to them.

Myanma Alinn

Traffic accident kills two motorcyclists

PATHEIN, 18 April—A motorcycle bumped against a truck near Kyaukpon Tawya Monastery on Pathein-Chaungtha Road in Pathein Township at 12 noon on 4 April.

SIP Aung Kyaw Zeya Maung (Traffic Police)

and surveillance squad members of No. 2 police station inspected the traffic accident.

A motorbike driven by U Maung Maung Htay, 51 together with U Aung Aung, 52 on the back seat from Pathein to the

suspension bridge collided with a truck driven by Thet Paing, 42 on the road.

Two motorcyclists died on the spot.

The authorities are trying to arrest Thet Paing who escaped from the scene.—Myanma Alinn

Chin national boys novitiated in Pakokku Township

PAKOKKU, 18 April—A ceremony to initiate Chin national boys into novicehood was held at Tilawkayama Monastic Education School in Pakokku of Magway Region.

On 3 April, Union Minister for Religious Affairs U Hsan Hsint attended the ceremony and donated Buddha images and clothes to 63 Chin national boys.

Chairman of Township Sangha Nayaka Committee Maha Withutayama (Central) Monastery of Pakokku Sayadaw Bhaddanta Ariyavamsa



administered the Five Precepts, and members of the Sangha recited Parittas.

Abbot of the monastic education Maha

Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Bhaddanta Paññavamsa initiated the boys into novicehood. The Union Minister supplicated on

religious affairs.

The Chin nationals are from Khwirein Village, 25 miles of Mindat.

Myanma Alinn

Knowledge of child protection disseminated in Sittway

SITTWAY, 18 April—Myanmar Red Cross Society and UNICEF jointly organized the talks on Child Protection Project in wards and villages of Sittway Township recently.

“In meeting with local people in wards and villages, we gave lectures on protection of children and nurturing plans with the

assistance of UNICEF,” said Daw Myat Myat Hlaing of the field trip team.

At the meeting hall of Basic Education Middle School No. 8 in Magyi-myaing Ward of Sittway, Daw Myat Myat Hlaing of Sittway Township Red Cross Brigade explained the plan for protection of child and replied to queries raised by Red Cross members.

Myanma Alinn

Bridge spanned over Pyu Creek

PYU, 18 April—The Pyu Creek Bridge, built on a self-reliant basis, was commissioned into service in Okphyat area of Pyu Township in Bago Region on 7 April morning.

Chief Minister of Bago Region U Nyan Win, Pyu Township Pyithu Hluttaw representative U Nyunt Hlaing, Amyotha Hluttaw representative U Thet Naing Oo, Township Adminis-trator

U Than Aung of Township General Administration Department, departmental officials, members of non-governmental organizations and local people totalling over 600 attended the opening ceremony of the bridge.

Members of the construction committee presented gifts to officials concerned. The Chief Minister and party formally opened the bridge.

The bridge, 320 feet long and 10 feet wide, was constructed at a cost of K 23 million. The bridge can withstand two-ton loads of vehicles, tractors, trawlergies and bullock carts.

The facility links Uyonsu Village of Dagundaing Village-tract and Zikhon Village in Pyu Township of Bago Region.

Thanks to the bridge, the local people enjoy fruits of better transportation all the year round.

Myanma Alinn

CFIG of China donates six fire engines

MUSE, 18 April—CFIG Company Group of China donated six fire engines to the Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry at the office of Muse District Forest Department in Muse of Shan State (North) on 9 April.

Six fire engines were worth US\$ 179,406.

The donation of six fire engines by China was for the sixth time, amounting to

US\$ 2,018,886.

Managing Director Mr Li Zhong Shu of China International Forestry Group of China handed over documents related to fire engines to General Manager U Win Shwe of Timber Extraction Branch of Myanma Timber Enterprise of the Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry.

Myanma Alinn



A total of 15 buffaloes and 19 oxen confiscated from smuggling were sold at the hall of Township General Administration Department in Indaw of Katha District in Sagaing Region on 1 April. Local farmers taking their cattle they had recently bought.—MYANMA ALINN

Japan logs record trade deficit of 8.17 trillion yen in FY 2012

TOKYO, 18 April — Japan logged a record trade deficit of 8.17 trillion yen in fiscal 2012, the second straight year of red ink, as a territorial spat with China and the European debt crisis stifled exports, with energy imports surging due to the halt of nuclear power plants, the government said on Thursday. It was the first time that Japan's trade balance has remained in deficit for two years in a row since 1980, when the country was hit by the second oil crisis, the Finance Ministry said.

Among comparable data available since fiscal 1979, the previous largest trade deficit on a business year basis was 4.42 trillion yen logged last fiscal year. Japan's trade balance is unlikely to improve soon, as demand for natural resources has been growing from domestic utilities boosting thermal power generation as an alternative to stalled atomic power, following the emergency at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear

power plant crippled by the March 2011 quake-tsunami disaster, analysts said.

In addition, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's policy of pursuing drastic monetary easing, aimed at beating chronic deflation, could lower the yen further, pushing up import costs and preventing Japan's trade balance from improving substantially, they added. In fiscal 2012, the value of exports fell 2.1 percent from a year earlier to 63.94 trillion yen, down for the second consecutive year, against a backdrop of fewer shipments of vehicles and engines to China as well as of semiconductors and other electronic parts to Europe, according to a preliminary report issued by the ministry.

Japan registered its first trade deficit with the European Union in the fiscal year through March, while also posting its largest deficit with China, which has been wrangling with Tokyo over a group of

uninhabited islands in the East China Sea. The trade deficit with the 27-member group hit 424.00 billion yen and that with China 4.00 trillion yen, respectively, the ministry said. The value of imports was up 3.4 percent to 72.11 trillion yen for the third straight yearly increase as those of liquefied natural gas jumped 14.9 percent and of crude oil 5.3 percent, the ministry said.

Takeshi Minami, chief economist at the Norinchukin Research Institute, said, "There remains a high bar for Japan to restart the operation of nuclear reactors and imports of crude oil and LNG are likely to hover at high levels." Imports could also soar as demand for goods at home would expand later this fiscal year in anticipation of planned consumption tax hikes from the current 5 percent to 8 percent in April 2014 and to 10 percent in October 2015, he added. The trade deficit of Japan, which imports more than 90 percent

of its energy resources from overseas, "could linger at least until the middle of fiscal 2014," starting April next year, Minami said.

The Finance Ministry, meanwhile, said the yen weakened against the US dollar by 4.6 percent on an average basis in fiscal 2012 from the previous year.

A falling yen usually drives up import prices, though it bolsters exports by making products of Japanese firms cheaper and more in demand in other nations, and lifting the value of their overseas revenue in yen terms.—Kyodo News

Yemen militants killed in US drone strike

SANAA, 18 April — An al-Qaeda leader and four militants were killed in a US drone strike on their vehicle south of Yemen's capital Sanaa late on Wednesday, a government official said.

Washington has stepped up attacks on al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) — considered by Western governments to be one of the most dangerous arms of the global militant network. The group exploited widespread anti-government protests in 2011 to seize swathes of territory in the southern part of Yemen, before being driven back in a US-backed offensive in June last year.

The leader, named as Hamid al-Radmi, died with four of his followers in the town of Wessab in Dhamar Province, the official told Reuters on condition of anonymity. Shoring up stability and security in Yemen is a priority for the United States and its Gulf Arab allies because of the country's location next to the world's top oil exporter, Saudi Arabia, and key shipping lanes.

The United States does not usually comment on strikes by its pilotless aircraft in Yemen. The Yemeni government tolerates such strikes but also usually does not comment on the US role in specific incidents. In January, Yemeni sources said a US drone killed at least six suspected al-Qaeda members in a strike on their vehicle in northern Yemen.—Reuters

Chinese fishing boat on fire in Antarctic, 97 crew rescued



Image provided by the Communications Office of the Chilean Air Force shows smoke rising from Chinese fishing vessel "Kai Xin". All 97 crew members of the Chinese fishing vessel were rescued on 17 April, 2013 in the Antarctic waters after a fire broke out on board, the Chinese Embassy to Chile has confirmed.—XINHUA

SANTIAGO, 18 April — All 97 crew members of a Chinese fishing vessel were rescued on Wednesday in Antarctic waters after a fire broke out on board, the Chinese Embassy in Chile confirmed. Earlier, the Chilean Navy said in a statement that a Norwegian-flagged vessel rescued the Chinese fishermen.

"Some 90 members of the crew of the Chinese fishing vessel 'Kai Xin', which was sailing in Antarctic waters, were rescued by the Norwegian vessel 'Juvel' on Wednesday morning, after a fire broke

out on the fishing ship from unknown causes," the statement said. According to Chile's search and rescue maritime service, the fire broke out at 8:30 am local time (1130 GMT) in a location 55 km northwest of Chile's O'Higgins Antarctic base. There were 97 crew members on board when the ship was rescued, Chilean media reported. The Chinese Embassy said it had launched an emergency mechanism to keep close contact with Chilean authorities after being informed of the accident.

Xinhua

Syrian army, rebels clash around air base near Lebanon border

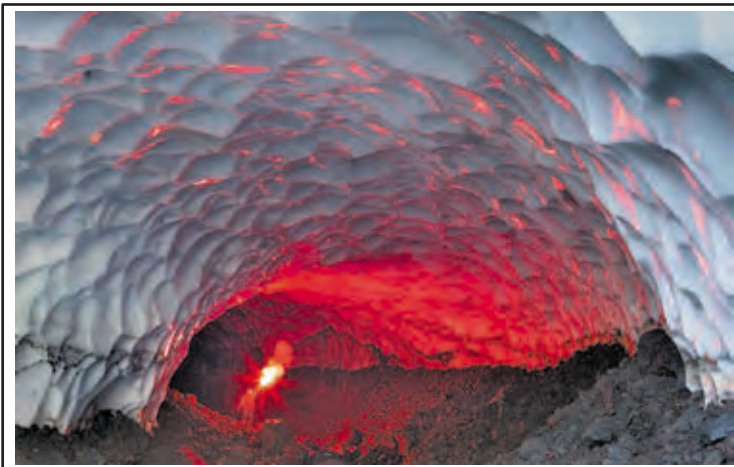
AMMAN, 18 April — President Bashar al-Assad's forces killed at least 27 people on Wednesday in fighting to fend off a rebel advance on a Syrian military air base near the Lebanese border, opposition campaigners said. Rebel fighters breached defences of the Qusair Air Defence Base, located some 14 km (nine miles) from Lebanon's Bekaa Valley, a stronghold of the pro-Assad Lebanese Shi'ite movement Hezbollah, after a one-month siege, activists in the area said. But the army countered with rockets and aerial bombings on rebel-held areas in the vicinity, the source said.

Video footage taken by activists in a makeshift clinic showed a man weeping over bodies of members of his family they said were killed by an army rocket attack on the nearby village of al-Bouaida al-Sharqiya. Among them were two girls, one with a

leg blown off and her head partly missing and another girl wrapped in a blanket and her head covered in a white scarf. "Leave me, leave me," the man cried as he embraced the body of one of the girls, while other men tried to pry him off the body.

Opposition activist Nader al-Husseini said the base, which has a runway but no active planes, was an important rebel target because it is being used to bomb the surrounding countryside. He said rebel fighters appear to have entered the perimeter of the base but troops were firing back. The Qusair farming area is a key supply line from Lebanon for opposition fighters in the city of Homs to the north. Opposition military sources say the army has been seeking to recapture several towns along the routes from Homs to Qusair to cut off the supply line.

Reuters



These incredible pictures were taken by Russian photographers on expedition in the eastern Siberian peninsula. The caves have been carved into glacial ice by a hot spring gushing from the regions Mutnovsky volcano. XINHUA

40 percent of Australian adults drink to get drunk

CANBERRA, 18 April —Forty percent of Australian adults (or 4.5 million) drink to get drunk and an overwhelming majority of Australians believe more must be done to address alcohol-related harms, a latest survey showed on Thursday.

The survey, Annual Alcohol Poll 2013 by Foundation for Alcohol Research and Education, found 77 percent of Australian adults are drinkers. According to the result, two in five Australians — and more than 60 percent of young adults — are drinking to get drunk.

While the poll showed an overall decline in the number of Australians drinking, a number of other indicators highlight

that Australians continue to drink to excess.

The poll also included selected Alcohol Use Disorders Identification Test (AUDIT) questions which revealed that 23 percent of Australian drinkers had not been able to stop drinking once they started and 26 percent couldn't remember what had happened the night before.

The foundation's

chief executive Michael Thorn said the survey findings highlighted the need for alcohol reform, such as increased liquor pricing and advertising ban.

"Governments around the country seem unwilling to take action, yet this poll again makes clear that Australians recognize that alcohol use results in devastating harms," he said.

Xinhua



REGIONAL

Top Chinese legislator stresses promoting rule of law



Zhang Dejiang (C), chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress (NPC), presides over a symposium on pushing forward the rule of law with NPC deputies at all levels in Yantai, east China's Shandong Province, on 15 April, 2013. Zhang made an inspection tour in Shandong from 15 to 17 April. —XINHUA

JINAN, 18 April—Top Chinese legislator Zhang Dejiang has stressed promoting the rule of law in national governance and social administration.

During his three-day visit to Shandong Province that started on Monday, Zhang, chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress

(NPC), called on deputies to people's congresses at all levels to stick to the rule of law and uphold the authority of the Constitution and the laws. The key to com-

prehensively promoting the rule of law is to improve lawmaking, Zhang said, urging scientific and democratic legislation, as well as increased and orderly participation from the public. Legislative procedures should be enhanced, including improved argumentation, research and evaluation of lawmaking, as well as increased legislation in major fields, he said.

Zhang also urged strict law enforcement, law-based administration and judicial justice to protect the interests of the public and maintain social order. During his visits to enterprises, the countryside and communities in Shandong, Zhang urged efforts to speed up the transformation of the economic growth pattern, safeguard food security and improve people's livelihoods.—Xinhua

Terror strikes B'lore, 16 injured in bomb blast near BJP office

BANGALORE, 18 April—Terror struck Bangalore today ahead of the upcoming Karnataka Assembly elections when a low-intensity bomb exploded near the bustling BJP city office in a busy residential area injuring 16 people, including 11 policemen.

The bomb, apparently strapped to a motorbike with a Tamil Nadu registration plate parked between a van and a car, went off around 10.

PTI

More than 40 unaccounted for after boat sinking in Indonesia

JAKARTA, 18 April—One person is dead and more than 40 others are unaccounted for after a boat carrying employees of a company in the Indonesian part of Borneo Island sank on Wednesday, a government official said.

Sutopo Purwo Nugroho, spokesman at the Jakarta-based National Disaster Mitigation Agency, said the boat, which regularly brought employees of the company across the Mahakam River in East Kalimantan Province,

sank at 6 pm due to a leakage in the wooden boat. "The boat was carrying about 50 employees when it sank, but we don't know the exact number of people on board," Nugroho said.

He said one person has died, eight have been found alive and more than 40 others are missing. Search has been halted due to heavy rains and it's already dark," he said, adding the search and rescue efforts will continue on Thursday morning.

Kyodo News



Evacuated villagers are seen by their shelter tents at Changyi Village of Liantie Township in Eryuan County under Dali Bai Autonomous Prefecture, south-west China's Yunnan Province, on 17 April, 2013. A 5-magnitude earthquake jolting Dali on Wednesday morning has affected 123,000 people. —XINHUA

China's top political advisor meets Cambodian guests

BEIJING, 18 April—China's top political advisor on Wednesday met with a delegation of Cambodia's royalist Funcinpec party led by its head Norodom Arun Rasmey. Yu Zhengsheng, chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), said the Communist Party of China (CPC) has maintained long-term relations with Funcinpec, adding that exchanges and cooperation between the two parties have aided the growth of bilateral ties.

Yu said the CPC will continue to strengthen its cooperation with Funcinpec. Yu, who is also a member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, said China-Cambodia relations have maintained growing momentum in recent years, as the two sides have ex-

panded exchanges, cooperation and people-to-people contacts.

President Xi Jinping met with Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen in south China's Hainan Province earlier this month and the leaders of the two countries reached an important consensus on reinforcing the all-around strategic cooperation partnership between China and Cambodia, Yu said.

China and Cambodia will celebrate the 55th anniversary of the establishment of the diplomatic relationship between the two this year.

The two countries will also hold a series of activities under the theme of "The Year of China-Cambodia Friendship." Yu said China is ready to work with Cambodia through those events to boost bilateral ties. Arun said she will adhere to a friendly policy toward China.—Xinhua



A harbour seal pup is shown to visitors at Osaka Aquarium Kaiyukan in Osaka's Minato Ward on 17 April, 2013. The male pup, yet to be named, was born on 24 March, 2013.—KYODO NEWS

S Korea's foreign minister may visit China, Japan around late April



South Korea's Foreign Minister Yun Byung Se

SEOUL, 18 April—South Korea's Foreign Minister Yun Byung Se is considering visiting China and Japan later this month for talks with his counterparts amid the heightened tension on the Korean Peninsula, *Yonhap News Agency* reported on Thursday.

Yonhap quoted an unidentified South Korean Foreign Ministry official as saying that "talks are under way with the related countries" to realize the visits.

The report said they are likely to take place in late April ahead of President Park Geun Hye's visit to the United States for a summit meeting with President Barack Obama on 7 May.

Yun's talks with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi and Japanese Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida are expected to take up ways to defuse tensions on the Korean Peninsula.

Kyodo News

ADVERTISEMENT & GENERAL

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 Cotract
(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 Cotract
(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

Myanma 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

Diverse arts festival brings the world to Beijing

BEIJING, 18 April—

There are not many chances to hear Jose Carreras sing in Chinese, but Beijing audiences are about to get a rare opportunity. The tenor will perform Chinese song My Beijing, My Home on 27 April at the National Centre for the Performing Arts.

His concert will kick off the 13th Meet in Beijing Arts Festival, which runs until 30 May. According to Zhang Yu, president of China Arts and Entertainment Group, which presents the festival, Carreras is practicing his Chinese in preparation for the concert.

“Compared with 13 years ago when Meet in Beijing started, both China and the world have changed a lot,” Zhang says. “China has become closer to the world, and that is showcased in the festival.” Over 60 art troupes from more than 20 countries will per-



A scene from Beijing People's Art Theatre's drama *White Deer Plain*.—XINHUA

form some 50 indoor and 100 outdoor shows, as well as putting on many exhibitions and educational events.

A diverse festival, the 2013 Meet in Beijing (www.meetinbeijing.org.cn) will present many per-

formances, including a vocal recital by soprano Renee Fleming, a concert by the Horn Orchestra of Russia, drama Scoundrel Vs Angel, dance drama Water Language, and Chinese Minority Art Exhibition.

Xinhua

India to double renewable energy capacity by 17

NEW DELHI, 18 April— India plans to double its renewable energy capacity to 55,000 MW by 2017 as part of efforts to increase efficiency of its energy use, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh said here today.

“It is proposed to dou-



Prime Minister Manmohan Singh

ble the renewable energy capacity in our country from 25,000 MW in 2012 to 55,000 MW by the year 2017,” he said inaugurating the Fourth Clean Energy Ministerial conference here.

PTI

ENTERTAINMENT

Jennifer Lawrence, Bradley Cooper win big at MTV Movie Awards



Jennifer

LOS ANGELES, 18 April—Hollywood stars Bradley Cooper and Jennifer Lawrence were big winners at the MTV Movie Awards after picking up award for best male and female performance for Silver Linings Playbook.

The duo also shared a gong for best kiss for the same mov-

ie. Accepting the second award, Cooper said, “Jennifer’s not here but she was great to kiss.”

Adam Sandler and Chris Rock took to the stage to present Jamie Foxx and Samuel L Jackson with the iconic golden popcorn statuettes for best moment for Django Unchained.

Star Trek’s Zoe Saldana, Zachary Quinto and Chris Pine too to the stage to honour Marvel’s Avengers Assemble as winner of best fight.

Director Joss Whedon later took home the Movie of the Year for Avengers Assemble. Tom Hiddleston also picked up the best villain award for his role as Loki in Thor and paid tribute to One Direction singer Liam Payne’s dog, who shares his name with the

evil Marvel comic character.

“I would like to thank Liam Payne from One Direction, who I believe has named his dog Loki. Liam’s dog is certainly better looking, better bred and most certainly more well known with more Twitter followers than me and even though they don’t know who Liam’s dog is in Asgard, it’s all about getting the word out,” he said.

Host Rebel Wilson won the breakthrough performance award for her role in Pitch Perfect and shared the gong for Best musical performance with her Pitch Perfect cast mates. Zac Efron, Danny McBride and Seth Rogen presented the Twilight actor Taylor Lautner with the best shirtless performance award.

Kerry Washington gave a glowing speech about her frequent co-star Jamie Foxx before he took to the stage to accept the MTV generation award, his second gong of the night. Macklemore and Ryan Lewis and Selena Gomez were among the performers at the ceremony.

PTI



Bradley

Brad Pitt’s chicken korma, Indian beer treat courtesy Angelina Jolie

LONDON, 18 April—Angelina Jolie bought back Brad Pitt’s favourite curry after her visit to the UK.

The Tomb Raider actress — who was overseas last week as part of the G8 summit, assuming her role as United Nations special envoy for refugee issues — arranged for her fiancé’s much-loved meal to be flown back home to the US with her after Brad was unable to join her on the trip.

Angelina — who has children Maddox, 11, Pax, nine, Zahara, eight, Shiloh, six, and four-year-old twins Knox and Vivienne with Brad — is said

to have ordered a lamb bhuna, chicken korma and chicken tikka from the heartthrob actor’s favourite curry house in Surrey, south east England, where they visited during their stay in Richmond.

A source told *The Sun* newspaper: “Brad is back in America and has been longing for a decent curry.”

“He really misses their Indian takeaway nights from when they lived in Surrey last year. Angelina arranged as a surprise for a load of it to be cooked and flash-freeze packed for her to fly home.”

So while she was at the G8, she sent her

bodyguard Ray and eldest son Maddox to collect it and to stock up with more treats.

“They even got a load of Kingfisher and Cobra beer for Brad to wash it all down with.”



Angelina Jolie, Brad Pitt



A similar ritual is carried out by soccer star David Beckham, who is known to ensure his home comfort meal of pie and mash from a shop in Waltham Abbey, Essex, is flown out to France while he trains for team Paris Saint-Germain.

Shop owner Tony Lane explained: “We’ve already been told to send our pies over to France—and it’s not unusual. We did the same when he was at Madrid and even deliver them when he stays at the Savoy [hotel] in London.

“And if he wants me to come and cook for him there, my door is open.”

PTI

Robert Pattinson, Kristen Stewart: happily ever after?

LOS ANGELES, 18 April—Robert Pattinson and Kristen Stewart are happier than ever.

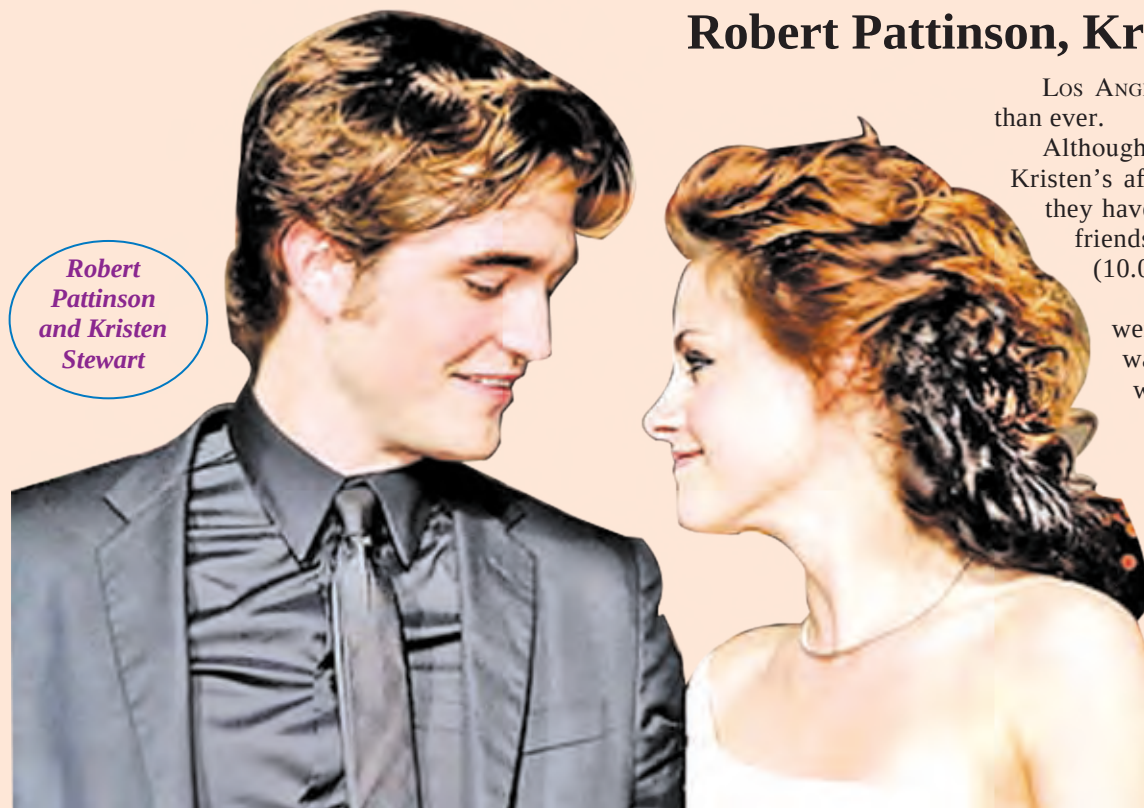
Although the couple went through a rough patch and briefly split when Kristen’s affair with married director Rupert Sanders was revealed last year, they have put it behind them and were openly affectionate at a dinner with friends in Los Angeles to celebrate Kristin’s 23rd birthday on Wednesday (10.04.13).

A source told HollywoodLife: “They were so cute together, they weren’t glued to each other’s side,” an eyewitness tells us. “Kristen was being a good hostess and working the room. But whenever they were standing near each other, they were touching. Rob had his arm draped around her a lot and every once in a while they’d sneak a kiss. They both looked so in love!”

“They were listening to indie rock, lots of Black Rebel Motorcycle Club and Father John Misty. It got pretty loud, it was a great party!” Afterwards they attended Hanson’s album release party at Los Angeles Jane’s House Lounge, along with friends Nikki Reed and Ashley Benson.

An onlooker said: “Rob came in and sat down alone for about five minutes. And then Kristen came in with a security guard and sat down next to Rob. They were all hanging out in front of the other guests and looked like they were having a great time together.”

PTI



Robert Pattinson and Kristen Stewart

SPORTS

Newcastle's Taylor could miss all of next season

LONDON, 18 April—Newcastle United defender Ryan Taylor could miss all of next season after his comeback from a serious knee injury in August was cut short, the Premier League club said on

(www.nufc.co.uk).

“Ryan has worked so hard and diligently since his injury. Ryan will continue

to receive the full support of everyone at Newcastle United during this difficult time for him,” added manager Alan Pardew.

Newcastle, who sit five points above the Premier League drop zone with five fixtures remaining, were dealt a blow

Wednesday.

The 28-year-old had returned to training after he suffered the cruciate injury in a Europa League qualifier last year.

“It is likely that Taylor will miss the majority, if not all, of next season,” the club said on their website



Newcastle United's Ryan Taylor celebrates scoring against Sunderland during their English Premier League soccer match in Sunderland, northern England on 20 Aug, 2011.—REUTERS

to their

survival chances when goalkeeper Tim Krul dislocated his shoulder against Sunderland on Sunday.

Krul will undergo surgery on Monday and is expected back at the end of July.

Reuters

Stuttgart set up German Cup final with Bayern Munich

BERLIN, 18 April—VfB Stuttgart edged past surprise package Freiburg 2-1 on Wednesday to set up a German Cup final against Bayern Munich and secure a European spot for next season.

With Bayern having already clinched the Bundesliga title this season, Stuttgart, 12th in the league and off the European spots, are assured a place in next season's Europa League even if they lose the June 1 final in Berlin.

Three-time winners Stuttgart, who last reached the final in 2007, got the early goal they were aggressively looking for when Arthur Boka slotted home after a dazzling 40-metre run by Ibrahima Traore in the 10th minute.

Their joy was shortlived, however, when Jan Rosenthal sprinted clear



Martin Harnik of VfB Stuttgart challenges Pavel Krmas (R) of SC Freiburg during their German soccer cup (DFB Pokal) semi-final soccer match in Stuttgart, on 17 April, 2013.—REUTERS

and beat keeper Sven Ulreich with a well-placed shot in Freiburg's first offensive foray in the 14th.

Austria international Martin Harnik, who had missed a huge chance in the opening minutes, restored Stuttgart's lead with a close-range header off the bar on the half hour.

“These are special moments and that is why we do this job,” said Stuttgart coach Bruno Labbadia, whose team competed in the Europa League this season but had a disastrous start to the new year.

“My team fought with everything they had. This team has gone to its limits constantly in the past 2-1/2 years and now it is being rewarded for it.”

Freiburg, who are fifth in the Bundesliga and on track to qualify for European football next season, tried to come back.

But keeper Ulreich denied Max Kruse with a fine save in the visitor's only good effort in the second half as the 59,000 Stuttgart fans started celebrating and chanting “We are going to Berlin”.—Reuters

Djokovic battles through pain, Nadal cruises

MONTE CARLO, 18 April—Novak Djokovic's gamble on his injured ankle at the Monte Carlo Masters appeared to be backfiring before he dug in to battle past Russian Mikhail Youzhny 4-6, 6-1, 6-4 in the second round on Wednesday.

While Djokovic grimaced and growled through the pain barrier to fight back from 0-4 down in the opening set, Rafa Nadal was all smiles after launching his bid for a ninth consecutive Monte Carlo crown with a ruthless 6-1, 6-2 win over Australian Marinko Matosevic.

World number one Djokovic, who sprained his ankle on Davis Cup duty 10 days ago, made a late call to participate in the tournament in his adopted home

town and was relieved to have survived his first match on clay this season.

“I'm not 100 percent because of my physical issue but I'm still in the draw. I live here. Everything's alright,” Djokovic said in a courtside interview.

During a training session on Tuesday, Djokovic avoided putting too much pressure on his ankle but he did not have that luxury as Youzhny made him chase the ball around the court.

Once Djokovic levelled at 4-4, he relied on his greater weight of shot to see him through even though he twisted his ankle again during the second set.

“(It was painful) for the next 15 minutes, then it kind of faded away because I had a good protection ... I am happy to win because

I'm happy to compete,” Djokovic told reporters.

Following an exchange of breaks in the third set,



Rafael Nadal of Spain returns the ball to Marinko Matosevic of Australia during the Monte Carlo Masters in Monaco on 17 April, 2013.—REUTERS

he broke decisively in the ninth game and sent Youzhny packing with an ace on match point.

The Serbian will next take on 14th-seed Juan Monaco who took full advantage of Ernests Gulbis's

third-set meltdown to win 6-0, 3-6, 6-3.

The Latvian was penalised a game for smashing his racket against the umpire's chair following a point penalty for kicking the ball.—Reuters

Bolt to head cast at London's “anniversary games”



Jamaican Olympic gold medallist Usain Bolt leaps ahead to win the “Mano a Mano Men's 150 metres” challenge on Copacabana beach in Rio de Janeiro on 31 March, 2013.—REUTERS

LONDON, 18 April—Usain Bolt will return to London to compete in the IAAF Diamond League meeting at the Olympic Stadium in

which he achieved a clean sweep of gold medals last year. The Jamaican six-times Olympic champion will head a glittering cast as

London's Queen Elizabeth Park celebrates the one-year anniversary of the Olympic opening ceremony.

The meeting, held on 26-28 July, will feature 29 Olympic medalists, including 12 champions and four world record holders. Britain's heptathlon champion Jessica Ennis and double Olympic champion Mo Farah will also take part.

Sprinter Bolt's presence in the 100m and 4x100m relay will top the bill, however, as he puts the finishing touches to his preparations for August's world championships in Moscow.

Other than the Olympics, it will be his first com-

petitive appearance in London since 2009, partly due to Britain's tax laws which could have seen him give up a share of his appearance or prize money and endorsements. An exemption for “non-residents” is now in force and Bolt said he was relishing the chance to play a part in what is being dubbed the “Anniversary Games.”

“I'm looking forward to coming back to the UK, especially with it being a year since winning three gold medals in the Olympic Stadium,” Bolt who repeated his Beijing hat-trick in London last year, said in a statement.—Reuters

Gonzo set for Picasso test after Augusta artistry

MADRID, 18 April—Gonzalo Fernandez-Castano is itching to play what he describes as “probably the best course” in his homeland at this week's Spanish Open after his best major performance in the Masters on Sunday.

Fernandez-Castano's top-20 finish included a third round in the company of Tiger Woods, following on from the world number one's dropped-ball controversy.

Next stop for the genial Spaniard, nicknamed ‘Gonzo’, is the venue for the only European Tour event this season in his home country.

“It's an indescribable course, there aren't many left like it, a work of art that must be kept and cared for as if it were a Goya or a Picasso,” the 32-year-old told the European Tour website (www.europeantour.com).

“Hopefully, we will get some wind, which is its main defence, to add to the spectacle,” added the world number 31.

Fernandez-Castano

said he was sad that the financial crisis, which has crippled his country's economy, has also deprived Spain of more top-level tournaments. “It's a shame that we have only one event in Spain this year, and that's the reason why I am here,” said the six-times European Tour winner.

“Had it been a different tournament, I would have taken a break, but it's my national Open. I know that Reale and the other sponsors, together with the Federation, have made a great effort to maintain it, so I'm happy to support it.”

Reuters



Gonzalo Fernandez-Castano of Spain hits from a sand trap on the second hole during final round play in the 2013 Masters golf tournament at the Augusta National Golf Club in Augusta, Georgia, on 14 April, 2013.

REUTERS

GENERAL

China says investigating human-to-human spread of bird flu

BEIJING, 18 April — China is investigating the possibility of human-to-human transmission of a new strain of bird flu that has killed 17 people and is examining “family clusters” of people infected with the virus, a top health official was quoted as saying. Authorities have slaughtered thousands of birds and closed some live poultry markets to slow the rate of human infection. But many aspects of this new variety of bird flu remain a mystery, particularly whether the H7N9 strain is being transmitted between people.

China has warned that the number of infections, 82 so far, could rise. Most of the cases and 11 of the deaths have been in the commercial capital Shanghai. Feng Zijian, the director of the health emergency centre at the Chinese Centre for Disease Control and Prevention, told reporters on Wednesday that

“we are paying close attention to these cases of family clusters.”

“(We) are still analyzing in-depth to see which has the greatest possibility — did it occur first from avian-to-human transmission, and then a human-to-human infection, whether they had a common history of exposure, were exposed to infected objects or whether it was caused by the environment,” Feng said. His comments were reported in a statement

posted on the website of the National Health and Family Planning Commission.

One of the families that China is studying is made up of two brothers and their father who died of the virus, Feng said. “This family cluster case still doesn’t change our understanding of the characteristics of the disease in general — that it is transmitted from birds to people and there’s no evidence of human-to-human transmission,” Feng said.

Reuters



Chickens are seen at a poultry farm on the outskirts of Shanghai on 16 April, 2013. — REUTERS

Journalist killed in NW China construction accident

URUMQI, 18 April — A female journalist died and another was seriously injured in an accident while interviewing on a construction site in Urumqi, capital of northwest China’s Xinji-

ang Uyur Autonomous Region, on Thursday morning.

The editorial office of the *Urumqi Evening News*, where the two journalists worked, confirmed that the two were accidentally

crushed by a forklift at a site under a viaduct on Tuanjie Road around 11 am.

The injured journalist has been rushed to hospital nearby, it said.

Xinhua

Armstrong’s samples showed steroids in 1999



Seven-time Tour de France winner Lance Armstrong awaits the start of the 2010 Cape Argus Cycle Tour in Cape Town on 14 March, 2010.

REUTERS

PARIS, 18 April — Lance Armstrong returned four samples with traces of banned corticosteroids in the 1999 Tour de France, the International Cycling Union (UCI) said on Wednesday, although the governing body added it did not handle them as positive tests.

On Tuesday the Belgian newspaper *Het Nieuwsblad* published a copy of an alleged internal UCI memo which said a lawyer for the sport’s ruling body had said the American’s samples from the 1999 showed traces of corticosteroids on four occasions.

Armstrong, who has been banned for life and admitted to doping his way to seven consecutive Tour titles from 1999-2005, had

already admitted to using corticosteroids for a saddle sore in 1999 although he produced a back-dated Therapeutic Use Exemption (TUE) to justify the use of a banned substance.

“During the Tour, Armstrong was tested 15 times. In the four samples indicated below traces of triamcinolone, a corticosteroid, were found. No other prohibited substances were found,” the UCI said, adding that the samples in question were collected on 4, 14, 15 and 21 July.

The governing body said the French Ministry of Sports also ruled that no doping offence had been committed.

“The samples taken during the 1999 Tour de France were analyzed by

the French National Anti-Doping Laboratory in Châtenay-Malabry,” the UCI said.

“The French Ministry came to the conclusion that there had been no anti-doping rule violation. In a conversation with the UCI’s Dr Schattenberg at the time, the French Ministry doctor confirmed that the presence of traces of corticosteroids found in samples taken from Armstrong was compatible with the use of a skin cream; that the use of a skin cream was accepted

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(19-4-13 09:30 am ~ 20-4-13 09:30 am) MST

- * News
- * Malaysia Healthcare Expo Myanmar 2013
- * Beauty of Colourful Yangon Photo Contest and Exhibition
- * News
- * Evergreen Classical Music (Part-17)
- * News
- * Prioritize Equally
- * Trouble of Passenger Vs Life of Vendor
- * News
- * Myanmar Business Boom
- * USPTO hosts Intellectual Property Workshop
- * News
- * The 11th Dr Tin Shwe Literary Award Presentation Ceremony & Winner’s Expression
- * News
- * A Trip to Mon State “Mawlamying”
- * News
- * Prioritize Equally
- * Trouble of Passenger Vs Life of Vendor
- * News
- * Myanmar Mega Factory (Episode-I)
- * Myanmar Movies “Guilt Over Love”

Myanmar TV

(19-4-2013, Friday)

- | | |
|--|--|
| 6:00 am | 2:15 pm |
| 1. Paritta By Venerable Mingun Sayadaw | 20. Myanmar Video (Part-3) |
| 6:30 am | 3:00 pm |
| 2. To Be Healthy Exercise | 21. News |
| 6:40 am | 3:15 pm |
| 3. Song of National Races | 22. Thingyan Performance by Young Kids |
| 6:45 am | 3:50 pm |
| 4. Documentary | 23. Documentary |
| 7:00 am | 4:00 pm |
| 5. News | 24. News |
| 7:20 am | 4:15 pm |
| 6. Teleplay | 25. Song of National Races |
| 8:00 am | 4:20 pm |
| 7. News | 26. University Of Distance Education (TV Lectures) - First Year (Oriental) |
| 8:25 am | 4:40 pm |
| 8. India Drama Series | 27. Road to 27 th SEA Games (Badminton) |
| 9:00 am | 5:30 pm |
| 9. News | 28. India Drama Series |
| 9:20 am | 6:20 pm |
| 10. How It’s Works | 29. Amazing World |
| 9:45 am | 6:45 pm |
| 11. TV Drama Series | 30. TV Drama Series |
| 11:00 am | 7:00 pm |
| 12. CLEVER | 31. News |
| 11:25 am | 7:15 pm |
| 13. Beautiful Asean | 32. TV Drama Series |
| 11:35 am | 8:00 pm |
| 14. Thingyan Performance by Young Kids | 33. News |
| 12:00 pm | 8:35 pm |
| 15. News | 34. People Talk |
| 12:25 pm | 8:50 pm |
| 16. Myanmar Video (Part-1) | 35. Present Songs |
| 1:00 pm | 9:00 pm |
| 17. News | 36. News |
| 1:15 pm | 37. Nostalgia to Myanmar Cultural Arts |
| 2:00 pm | |
| 18. Myanmar Video (Part-2) | |
| 2:00 pm | |
| 19. News | |

Tibet to get top-notch telescope

LHASA, 18 April — A powerful, state-of-the-art telescope will have a trial run in southwest China’s Tibet Autonomous Region at the end of this year, making professional observation possible on the “roof of the world,” a local scientist told *Xinhua* on Thursday. The KOSMA telescope, a 3-metre sub-millimetre-wave instrument, is part of the Yangbajain Astronomical Observatory at Yangbajain Township on the suburbs of Tibet’s capital of Lhasa. The telescope is being currently tested.

“It is China’s first sub-millimetre-wave telescope that can perform regular astronomical observation and Tibet’s first professional telescope,” said Wang Junjie, a researcher with China’s National Astronomical Observatories of Chinese Academy of Sciences. It is also the highest sub-millimetre-wave telescope in the Northern Hemisphere, according to Wang, who

is also the leader of the telescope project jointly conducted by Chinese and German scientists.

The initiative, launched in 2009, is dedicated to joint research between several Chinese institutes and Germany’s University of Cologne. It saw the dismantling of the KOSMA telescope in the Swiss Alps in 2009 and relocation to the current site at an altitude of 4,300 metres, one of the best places to observe cosmic rays in the world. Wang said that superb atmospheric transparency had also made the site an ideal one.

Under the agreement, the telescope will be owned by China but the University of Cologne will be given 20 percent of observation time after it goes operational. Wang said the telescope will be used to study subjects including molecular clouds and star formations, and, “We expect to make breakthroughs in research.”

Xinhua



Photo taken from a Kyodo News helicopter shows an area on Miyake Island in the Pacific illuminated on the evening of 17 April, 2013, after a series of quakes hit the island. An earthquake of preliminary magnitude 6.2 jolted the island that day along with dozens of tremors, the Japan Meteorological Agency said.

KYODO NEWS

Collective Recitation and Prayer Meeting held

YANGON, 18 April—On the auspicious occasion of Myanmar New Year, Interfaith Group held a Collective Recitation and Prayer Meeting at YMCA Hall in Botahtaung Township, here, this noon.

Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe said in his message that amity and relations between four major religions in Myanmar are of special

importance as traditional culture, education and social status of all the faiths are interrelated.

After that, the leaders of religious group gave blessings to all. Interfaith Group (Myanmar) was formed under the guidance of the Ministry of Religious Affairs on 31 January, 2008. It aims to ensure mutual understanding without any political influences, to build

trust and understanding and to have amity between religions. It is the fifth time of their gathering. The group will form Interfaith Groups in villages, wards, townships, districts and regions across the country.

MNA

Collective Recitation and Prayer Meeting in progress.—MNA



Union A & I Minister visits plantations in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area



Union Minister U Myint Hlaing inspects mechanized farming (3000-acre) near Hotel Zone in Dekkhinathiri Township.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 18 April—"Emergence of mechanized farming across the country would bring about harmonious development," said Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing during

a visit to the plantations near Thabyaygon Village in Pobbathiri Township, here, this morning.

He also visited mechanized farming (3000-acre) near Hotel Zone in Dekkhinathiri Township

and Pale thwe summer paddy plantation near Alyinlo Village in Pyinmana Township.

He also urged agriculturalists to extend a helping hand to farmers in all aspects.—MNA

Slight earthquake hits inside Myanmar

NAY PYI TAW, 18 April—A slight earthquake of magnitude 4.5 Richter Scale with its epicenter inside Myanmar,

(about 50 miles northwest of Kathar), about 175 miles north-northwest of Mandalay seismological observatory was recorded

at 09 hrs 31 min 36 sec M.S.T today, announced the Meteorology and Hydrology Department.

MNA

Kayin State enjoys water festival

NAY PYI TAW, 18 April—People from Hpa-an in Kayin State took part in Maha Thingyan Water festival

happily on 14 and 15 April. State Chief Minister U Zaw Min, Speaker of State Hluttaw U Saw Aung

Kyaw Min, state ministers and their wives also happily participated in the water festival.—MNA

Respects paid to the aged in Loikaw

NAY PYI TAW, 18 April—The closing ceremony of the central water throwing pandal of Kayah State was held at the central pandal in Loikaw on 16 April evening. State Chief Minister U Khin Maung Oo delivered a New

Year speech.

The state chief minister and state ministers doused water to "yein" troupe member and presented awards to first, second and third prize winners.

They offered flowers,

water, lights and alms to Sutaungpyae Maha Muni Mogaung Pagoda yesterday morning.

At Sasana Beikman in Loikaw, they paid respects to the aged and donated offertories.—MNA



Ayeyawady Bridge (Malun) to be opened soon

By Tin Hlaing



Construction tasks of Ayeyawady Bridge (Malun) undertaken by Special Projects Construction Group (4) of Public Works under Ministry of Construction were completed in March 2013, and it will be commissioned into service soon.

The bridge built near mile post No 11/4 on Migyaungye-Pahtanago Road in Ywathit Village and Sitkoebin (Sitkhobin) Village of Magway Township in Magway District of Magway

Region in November 2009 has successfully been completed within the four-year period.

The main section of the bridge is 3215 feet long flanked by the 1312 feet long approach motor roads on Migyaungye bank and Malun bank. The approach railroad is 1927 feet long on Migyaungye bank and 2012 feet long on Malun bank.

The motorway on the bridge is 28 feet wide and the railroad, 10 feet wide.

The bridge has three-foot pedestrian way on either side.

The bridge is of 1.5 metres diameter foundation bored pile type. The lower structure of the facility is of reinforced concrete. The upper structure of the main bridge is of steel frames and the approach motor roads and railroad, reinforced concrete.

Myanma Alinn:

10-4-2013

Trs: TTA