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Union Ministers meets employers, worker representatives for success of microfinance scheme



Union Minister U Maung Myint delivers an address and Union Minister U Kyaw Hsan attends the meeting with entrepreneurs and employee representatives for conducting microfinance works in Hlinethaya Industrial Zone.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 20 April —Union Minister for Cooperatives U Kyaw Hsan and Union Minister for Labour, Employment and Social Security U Maung Myint met with entrepreneurs and worker representatives at Kanaung Hall of Hlinethaya Township Industrial Zone in Yangon

this morning. Union Minister U Maung Myint said so far 476 workers associations and 19 employers' associations have been formed across the nation. Emphasis is being placed on the affairs of workers and farmers while the nation is being shaped into a democracy. It is glad to see development of CMP

that could bring about job opportunities in alleviating poverty. He called on both employees and employers to have a sense of responsibility and accountability in implementing the microfinance scheme, saying that collaborative efforts of the government, employers and workers could help

ensure improvement in social standard of all workers.

Next, Union Minister U Kyaw Hsan said microfinance was designed not only to help workers enjoy their welfare at the present time but also to stand on their own feet during the period of next four or five years. He continued that microfinance was a

Delegates from political parties visit PRC

YANGON, 20 April— At the invitation of the External Communication Department of Chinese Communist Party of the People's Republic of China, the delegates from five political parties left here for China this afternoon to make excursion tour there.

The visiting delegates are U Khin Maung Swe and U Sein Hla Oo from National Democratic Force, U Han Shwe, U Thein Tun and U Pe

Lein Maung from National Unity Party, Dr Aye Maung and U Zaw Aye Maung from Rakhine Nationalities Development Party, Naing Khin Maung Hsint and Min Chan Non from All Mon Regions Democracy Party and U Saw Than Myint and U Tin Hsan from Shan Nationalities Democratic Party. They will visit Beijing, Kunming and other towns in China till 29 April.

MNA

pragmatic process that could promote socio-economic status of rural people and urban dwellers. Plans are underway to effectively assist in boosting national economy as cooperative is the second pillar of the national economy. He urged workers of industrial zones to contribute their efforts for the success of microfinance task.

Then Union ministers and officials concerned answered the queries raised by worker representatives.

MNA

Respects paid to the aged in Kalay

NAY PYI TAW, 20 April—A respect paying ceremony to the aged persons for the second time of Cetana Ahlinkarya Association was held at Aungshupan Aledaik of Maha Thandayon Monastery in Kalay Township, Sagaing Region yesterday morning.

The members of the Association paid respects and presented gifts to the aged totaling 57.—MNA

Significant progress in Myanmar brought about by sweeping reforms

NAY PYI TAW, 20 April— "Because of steps towards democratic reform and stronger human rights protections, Myanmar is now making progress", US Secretary of State John Kerry said of Myanmar as the human rights report was released at the US Department of State yesterday, according to a news report of Reuters.

"And by starting to embrace universal rights, the Myanmar government has opened the doors to a stronger partnership with their neighborhood and with countries around the world. It is likely to continue to focus on promoting and protecting the rights of all people in the country. Many challenges remain", says John Kerry.

Moreover, Acting Assistant Secretary of the US Department of State Uzra Zeya says, "we are encouraged by what is



US Secretary of State John Kerry.

happening in Myanmar. The government has released political prisoners. Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and members of the National League for Democracy were elected to parliament in largely transparent and inclusive by-elections. The government is relaxing some press censorship".

Human Rights Report-2012 of the US Department of State covers human rights situations of

199 countries including about prisons, corruption of governments, labour and women rights which are given more attentions than that of previous ones. Remarkable progress in Myanmar human rights situations brought about by the government's reform processes including occurrence of conflicts and some challenges are presented in the report.

MNA

Xi orders rescuing troops to make "every possible effort"

BEIJING, 20 April —A powerful earthquake hit the southwestern Chinese province of Sichuan on Saturday, leaving more than 150 people dead and more than 2,500 injured, many of them seriously, local media reported.

The magnitude 7.0 earthquake, which struck Lushan county in the city of Ya'an at 8:02 a.m., ripped apart roads and destroyed houses, forcing thousands of people to move out of their homes.



The official Xinhua News Agency said about 140,000 residents in Lushan will have to be relocated.

Chinese President Xi Jinping on Saturday ordered rescuing troops in the quake-hit zone in southwest China's Sichuan Province to make "every possible effort."

The 7.0-magnitude quake has caused severe losses to the security of people's lives and properties, Xi said in his instruction to the armed forces and armed police.

The troops must be quickly dispatched to the front line of the quake-relief work to rescue residents and treat the injured in every possible way, Xi said.

They have also been instructed to take precautionary measures against secondary disasters and help local governments to relocate affected people, as well as safeguard social stability of the quake zone.

Troops should also take care of their own safety, Xi said.—Xinhua/Kyodo

Mountaineering teams clinch victories in scaling hills

YANGON, 20 April—A 65-member mountaineering team of Yangon, Hpa-an, Yangon East, Foreign Languages Universities and Institute of Education (Yangon) led by Vice-Chairman of Higher Education Department (Lower Myanmar) Universities' Hiking and Mountaineering Association U Sein Tun (Associate Professor, Mathematics Department of Dagon University) and Secretary Daw Swe Swe Ohn (Lecturer of Chemistry Department of

Hpa-an University) made a trip to ascend mountains in southern Chin State on 1 April and they could scale Mount Vitoria(a) Natma Hill at an altitude of 10500 feet.

On their way back home, they visited Chin national race villages and observed lifestyle of the local people and cultural heritage.

Likewise, a mountaineering team comprising 16 members of Natural Call Foundation of Universities Hiking and Mountaineering Association led by Patron

of the association Patron of Myanmar Women's Sports Federation Professor Dr Khin May Ohn (Retd Rector of Yangon University of Nursing) left here on 8 April to climb Phanganran snow-capped mountain in Kachin State which is 14106 feet high. A similar team comprising 21 members led by Executive Committee member Dr Soe Min Aung of the association started their endurance trip of Kalaw-Inlay-Kakku region route to Taunggyi District on 12 April.—Myanma Alinn

Citizenship scrutiny cards issued to eligible citizens



YANGON, 20 April—In implementing Moe Pwint-5 Plan, Mingala Taungnyunt Township Immigration and National Registration Department issued citizenship scrutiny cards to local people in Ward 20 of the township from 1 April

to 31 May.

Staff Officer of the Township Department U Khin Maung Nyunt implemented the plan, by issuing cards to 3198 citizens and exchanging old household registrations with new ones to 2154

households.

The department relieved restrictions of rules for taking cards. On 6 April, the department issued cards to 58 citizens in Sanpya Pha-Hsa-Pa-La Ward.

Myanma Alinn

Cash and kind donated to monastic education students

KALAY, 20 April—A ceremony to provide cash and kind to students of Kalay-Chin Hill missionary school and those of monastic education school was held at Maha Thandaryon Pariyatti Monastery in Kalay Township at 7 pm on 6 April, attended by Kalay Township Pyithu Hluttaw representative U Tin Hlaing and wellwishers.

Donations were made by Salin Taikthit Monastery Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Ashin Tikkha of Mandalay Hill and Sayadaw Bhaddanta Neminda, Chairman of Myanmar Hilly Region and Coastal Region Buddhist Missionary Organization U Hla Win and wellwishers.

The donations were accepted by the Sayadaws and teachers from monastic education schools.

A total of 20 of 32 monastic education schools

are teaching 2000 students.

The wellwishers donated cash and kind to 87 schools from Kalay, Gangaw, Haka, Falam, Tamu and YeU townships.—Myanma Alinn

Car crash leaves one dead, five injured in Zabuthiri Township

NAY PYI TAW, 20 April—A car that stopped at the traffic light near Advanced Market on Yazathingaha Road in Zabuthiri Township of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area was hit by another car with high speed due to out of control.

At 1.20 pm on 13 April, Myanmar Mini Saloon driven by Zaw

Lin, 36 of Wunnatheikdi Ward running from the hotel zone to the traffic light of advanced market on Yazathingaha Road hit a vehicle driven by Myo Oo, 27.

Driver Zaw Lin was injured. He died on the way to Nay Pyi Taw General Hospital (1000-bed). Other injured persons Kyaw Myo Oo, 29, U Ko



RESPECTS PAID TO THE AGED: Patron of respect paying committee Col Myo Myint (Retd) presents K 100,000 to older person U Tan Bun Tan, 101 years old, at 64th respect paying ceremony of Zaygyi, Talai, Ngagyawpho and Ohbo Wards of Kyimyindine Township at Maha Ponnyawpakara Dhammayon on Myanmar New Year Day morning.

MYANMA ALINN

Kawkareik District emphasizes boosting production of monsoon paddy

KAWKAREIK, 20 April—With the aim of increasing per-acre yield of monsoon paddy in Kawkareik District, soil preparations, ploughing and fertilizer broadcasting was carried out at 10.14 acres of farmland of U Maung Htay in Yankok Village-tract of Kawkareik Township on 8 April morning with the use of two tractors and five power-tillers of Agriculture

Mechanization Department.

Head of District Agriculture Department U Hla Thein and members of the district agricultural coordination committee, Township Administrator U Hsan Oo and township agricultural coordination committee shared knowledge of agricultural technology to the farmers.

It was attended by

Yankok Village administrator U Saw Khin Hla and 120 farmers.

Kawkareik District plans to conduct similar works on 300 acres in Kawkareik Township and 100 acres in Kya-in-seikkyi Township. It was reported that Kayin State government will distribute seeds of beans and pulses to the farmers.

Myanma Alinn

SWD invites applicants for vocational courses

YANGON, 20 April—The Social Welfare Department under the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement will conduct the one-month tailoring course, photographic course, printing, computer and hair dressing courses and the one-year electronic course on 13 May.

The trainee must be between 18 and 45 years old.

Those wishing to attend

the courses may dial 01-9661712, 09-73074856 and 09-49306407.

Those allowed to attend

the course will enjoy stipends, hostel for accommodation and cost of meal.

MNA



The closing and prize presenting of Maha Thingyan festival was organized by Yangon West District General Administration Department on 16 April. Daw Myint Myint Kyi, Chairperson of District Women's Affairs Organization, wife of Deputy Commissioner Dr Kyaw Thu Zaw, presents second prize to Kyimyindine Township of Yangon Region.

MYANMA ALINN

WORLD

Boston Marathon bombing suspect caught after day-long manhunt

WATERTOWN, (Massachusetts), 20 April —Police captured a 19-year-old man suspected of carrying out the Boston Marathon bombings with his older brother after a day-long manhunt on Friday that closed down the city and turned a working-class suburb into a virtual armed camp.

The break in the case sent waves of relief through the Boston suburb of Watertown where armoured vehicles roamed the streets and helicopters flew overhead through the day.

Residents and police officers cheered and clapped when the suspect, Dzhokhar Tsarnaev, was caught after an exchange of gunfire with police.

A Massachusetts State Police spokesman said Tsarnaev was bleeding and in serious condition in a



Members of the public cheer as police officers leave the scene where Dzhokhar Tsarnaev, the surviving suspect in the Boston Marathon bombings, was taken into custody in Watertown, Massachusetts on 19 April, 2013.

REUTERS

hospital. He had been hiding in the stern of a boat parked in the backyard of a house in Watertown, police said. A resident called police after seeing blood on the boat. President Barack Obama told reporters at the White House after the suspect's

capture that questions remained from the bombings, including whether the two suspects received any help. The Boston Police Department said in a message on Twitter: "CAPTURED!!! The hunt is over. The search is done. The terror is over.

And justice has won. Suspect in custody."

Boston Mayor Tom Menino said, "we got him" on Twitter. Tsarnaev is one of two brothers believed to have set off bombs made in pressure cookers and packed with ball bearings and nails at the finish line of the world-famous event, killing three people and injuring 176. The older brother, Tamerlan Tsarnaev, 26, was killed on Thursday night in a shootout with police less than a mile from where Friday night's capture took place.

"We are so grateful to bring justice and closure to this case," Massachusetts State Police Chief Colonel Timothy Alben told a news conference. "We are exhausted folks, but we had a victory here tonight."

Reuters

Maduro sworn in, Venezuela to review disputed vote



Venezuela's President Nicolas Maduro gestures after being sworn into office in Caracas on 19 April, 2013.

REUTERS

CARACAS, 20 April—Nicolas Maduro was sworn in as Venezuela's president on Friday at a ceremony attended by leaders from Iran to Brazil after a decision to widen an electronic audit of the vote took some of the heat out of a dispute over his election. Maduro, a bus driver-turned-foreign minister who became the late Hugo Chavez's chosen successor, narrowly beat opposition challenger Henrique Capriles in the election last Sunday.

Capriles refused to accept the result, alleged widespread irregularities, demanded a full recount and called his supporters onto the streets in protest. The government says eight people were killed in post-election violence and Maduro blamed the deaths on Capriles, although the opposition says

Maduro allies staged some incidents to distract attention from the dispute over balloting. Maduro took the oath of office alongside a large framed photo of the socialist Chavez, who led Venezuela for 14 years before losing a battle against cancer last month.

"I swear, on the eternal legacy of our founding fathers ... on the eternal memory of our supreme commander, that I will uphold this constitution," Maduro said. In his first speech as president, which coincided with Venezuela's celebration of its declaration of independence, Maduro offered a sentimental tribute to Chavez, the fiery and charismatic socialist whose death from cancer in March triggered Sunday's vote.

Reuters

SDF overseas rescue operations on land to be allowed

TOKYO, 20 April —The Cabinet of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on Friday endorsed a bill to revise the Self-Defence Forces law to allow the SDF to transport Japanese and foreign nationals using land vehicles in emergency situations overseas.

The bill was compiled in response to the hostage crisis in Algeria in January that resulted in the deaths of at least 40 people, including 10 Japanese. Transportation in such situations is currently restricted to ships and airplanes.

The government and the ruling coalition of the Liberal Democratic Party and the New Komeito party aim to enact the bill during the current Diet session, but it remains unclear if it will win approval in the opposition-controlled House of

Councillors. Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga stressed the need to allow the SDF to use land vehicles to protect Japanese nationals, while Defence Minister Itsunori Onodera said public expectations of SDF operations are growing.

The revised bill envisions enabling the SDF to transport Japanese nationals, foreigners, their relatives, government and business officials and medical staff in need of help in armored trucks and other vehicles.

While the current law says transportation shall be carried out when safety is assured, the new bill says such operations can take place if transportation can be carried out safely after discussing the expected dangers and measures to avoid them.—Kyodo News

Italy centre-left backs ex-PM Prodi as presidential candidate

ROME, 20 April—Italy's centre-left backed former Prime Minister Romano Prodi as candidate for president on Friday, setting up a battle with the centre-right alliance of Silvio Berlusconi and increasing the likelihood of a snap election within weeks. The election of the next head of state to succeed President Giorgio Napolitano, whose term ends on 15 May, is crucial to ending a two-month stalemate since a parliamentary poll in February which left no party able to form a government.

The selection of Prodi represents a stark turnaround for centre-left leader Pier Luigi Bersani, whose attempt to impose 80-year-old former Senate speaker Franco Marini on the party after an agreement with Berlusconi failed on Thurs-

day. Democratic Party (PD) president Rosy Bindi said after the meeting that the choice of Prodi had removed the threat of a split and the party was united behind him. "The party expressed itself unanimously," she told reporters.

However the choice was immediately rejected by former premier Berlusconi's camp, which said it was likely to prevent any government being formed and lead to early elections. "If the PD is answering us in this fashion, it's not us choosing elections, it's the PD that's adopting a position of total opposition to us," said Fabrizio Cicchitto, a close ally of Berlusconi. Marini fell far short of the two thirds majority required for election after dozens of centre-left electors cast blank ballots in the first

round of voting, effectively sinking his candidacy and forcing the party to look for a new candidate.

The president is elected by a joint sitting of the two houses of parliament



joined by 58 regional delegates in a complex process requiring several rounds of voting.

The first three rounds of voting require a two-thirds majority but in

United Nations special envoy to the Sahel Romano Prodi, a former Italian prime minister, speaks during an interview with Reuters at the headquarters of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization in Rome on 12 March, 2013.

REUTERS

Palestinian President to start talks over gov't formation



RAMALLAH, 20 April —Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas said on Thursday that he will start discussions to form a new government soon.

Abbas' announcement was made during a meeting of the Palestine Liberation Organization's Executive Committee in the West Bank city of Ramallah, a member of the committee told Xinhua. Abbas on

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas

Saturday accepted the resignation of Prime Minister Salam Fayyad, but asked him to stay until a new government is formed.

Fayyad's resignation allegedly resulted from differences with Abbas over power. Fayyad, a US-educated economist, was not a member of the mainstream Fatah party headed by Abbas. Fatah members seeking more influence on the government have reportedly pushed for Fayyad's resignation.—Xinhua

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Purported pictures of cheaper iPhone's plastic rear shell surface

NEW DELHI, 20 April—Case manufacturer Tactus has shared purported pictures of the rear shell of Apple's much rumoured lower-cost iPhone. The rear shell is White in colour and appears to have been made from plastic polycarbonate. This could also open the possibility of the phone coming in multiple colours, as reported earlier. The case maker also informs that the device will be available in Black, White, Blue, Red and Yellow colours, citing the 'factory producing this secretive project' as a source.

Posting an image of the shell on its blog, Tactus informs that the actual phone might be around 9mm thick, 120mm in height and around 62-65mm in width, making it both taller and wider than the iPhone 4 and 4S. It's difficult to verify the credibility of the image of the case. Accessory makers have produced mock-up cases in the past that have at times turned out to be accurate.

The case maker goes on to report that the budget iPhone will be powered by an A5 processor similar to the iPad Mini with



a 32nm diecast and that it will have a 3.5-inch retina screen, like the iPhone 4S. The phone is expected to sport a 5-megapixel rear camera.

It even mentions that the budget iPhone would go on sale October 15th for \$300. However, we'd take it with a grain of salt as an accessory maker or anyone part of Apple's supply chain is unlikely to have accurate information of Apple's exact device plans.

Just a few days back KGI Securities analyst Ming-Chi Kuo came out with a new research report that said that the Phone 5S, low-cost iPhone and iPad mini 2 will begin shipments later than its previous expectation. He had also confirmed a plastic shell for the budget iPhone and had said that Apple was finding it difficult to keep the plastic shell of the low-cost iPhone as thin as it would like.

PTI

China's BYD mulls leaner, greener "re-birth" plan

SHANGHAI, 20 April—BYD Co, one of the better known Chinese brands thanks to a stake held by billionaire US investor Warren Buffett, may stop making conventional gasoline-fuelled cars within two years and focus on 'new energy' battery models as part of a "re-birth plan" to arrest a slump in sales.

Shares in BYD, which once harbored long-term ambitions to be as big as Toyota Motor Corp, have tumbled by almost three quarters since a late-2009 peak, as net profit crumbled to just 81.4 million yuan (\$13.15 million) last year from 3.8 billion yuan four years ago.

Now, the \$7.7 billion company is poring over internal plans to radically adjust and possibly streamline its business—which sprawls across batteries, cellphone assembly, solar panels, LED



Workers work in front of the logo of Chinese car manufacturer BYD (Build Your Dreams) Auto, at the World Electric Vehicle Symposium and Exposition (EVS) in the southern Chinese city of Shenzhen in this 4 Nov, 2010 file photo.—REUTERS

light bulbs, and electric and gasoline-powered cars and buses.

At the heart of the 're-birth' is a plan to ditch gasoline-fuelled cars, and maybe offload its solar panel business, and concentrate on new greener battery technologies, said two sen-

ior BYD executives, who asked not to be named as the plans have not been finalized.

The company is expected to unveil its Green Hybrid Technology at the Shanghai auto show on Saturday.

"We're trying to reposition ourselves around

what we do best"—producing advanced but affordable iron-phosphate lithium-ion batteries, one of the executives said. BYD is a world leader in rechargeable batteries.

It's a bold move, and not without risk. But the executives said BYD, based in the southern industrial city of Shenzhen, recognizes it needs to find an edge in its business, which has suffered as auto sales, which accounted for around half the company's revenue, slumped. BYD last year sold 457,700 cars.

The executives said BYD would likely in future only design 'green' electrified cars, phasing out selling gasoline cars over the next couple of years.

Reuters

Nokia to launch Windows Phone-based phablet to rival Samsung's Galaxy Note series

MUMBAI, 20 April—Following reports of Microsoft's plans to update Windows Phone 8 to support full-HD displays, new rumours of Nokia working on a large screen smartphone or phablet that's similar in size to Samsung's Galaxy Note series have surfaced online.

According to a report by *Financial Times*, Nokia intends to launch a number of flagship devices later this year, including a supersized tablet phone. The publication cited people with knowledge

Last-minute glitch postpones debut of new US rocket

CAPE CANAVERAL, 20 April—A US company hired by NASA to fly cargo to the International Space Station canceled plans to launch its new *Antares* rocket on a demonstration mission on Wednesday after a last-minute technical glitch, officials said.

The 13-story rocket developed by Orbital Sciences Corp had been slated to lift off from a new commercial spaceport in Virginia at 5 pm EDT (2100 GMT) and place a dummy cargo capsule into orbit.

The test flight is expected to clear the way for the company's trial cargo run to the International Space Station later this year.

If successful, Orbital Sciences would then start working on an eight-flight, \$1.9 billion contract to fly supplies to the station for NASA.

About 12 minutes before launch from the Mid-Atlantic Regional Spaceport on Wallops Island, Virginia, an umbilical line on the rocket's upper-stage fell away prematurely, prompting a cancellation, said NASA launch commentator Kyle Herring.

The next launch attempt is targeted for no earlier than Friday, although weather at the Wallops Island Flight Facility could be a problem. Meteorologists are forecasting high winds and possible thunderstorms.

"You learn a little bit from every launch attempt," John Steinmeyer, a senior project manager with Dulles, Virginia-based Orbital Sciences, said during a NASA TV broadcast. "We'll take the lessons learned from today and move into another attempt as soon as it's safe to do so."—Reuters



Fog rolls in as the Orbital Sciences Corporation Antares rocket sits on the Mid-Atlantic Regional Spaceport (MARS) Pad-0A in this NASA handout photo taken at the NASA Wallops Flight Facility in Virginia on 19 April, 2013.—REUTERS

Blackstone ends pursuit of Dell

NEW YORK, 20 April—Blackstone Group LP has ended its pursuit of Dell Inc, three people familiar with the matter said on Thursday, easing the way for founder Michael Dell and his private equity partner Silver Lake to go ahead with a \$24.4 billion deal to acquire the world's No 3 PC maker.

New York-based Blackstone pulled out just a month after it first launched a chal-

lenge to the billionaire's attempt to take private the PC maker he founded.

Blackstone withdrew citing an unprecedented 14 percent drop in industry PC sales in the first quarter of 2013 and a lower earnings forecast by the Dell's management, which saw operating income dropping from \$3.7 billion to \$3 billion in the current fiscal year, one of the sources said.

Blackstone and activist investor Carl Icahn, who has taken a significant stake in the company and opposes Michael Dell's buyout, had made preliminary offers to the company challenging the deal with Silver Lake.

Icahn's chances of a successful rival offer are viewed by analysts and investors as slimmer than Blackstone's, yet the deal with Silver Lake still faces significant opposi-

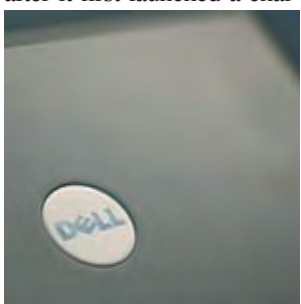
tion from some Dell shareholders, including Southeastern Asset Management, the activist investor that owns 8.4 percent of the company.

Dell, Blackstone and Silver Lake declined to comment. Icahn could not immediately be reached for comment.

Icahn and Blackstone each offered alternatives that would keep part of the company public. Icahn has proposed paying \$15 per share for 58 percent of Dell, while Blackstone had indicated it could pay more than \$14.25 per share for the whole of Dell.

Both deal structures involve saddling the company with a good deal of debt and keeping it on public markets. Silver Lake's \$13.65 per share all-cash offer would see Dell go private.

Reuters



A Dell laptop computer is pictured in New York in this 26 Aug, 2008 file photograph.—REUTERS



BUSINESS & HEALTH

Gold bullion worth 600 mil yen

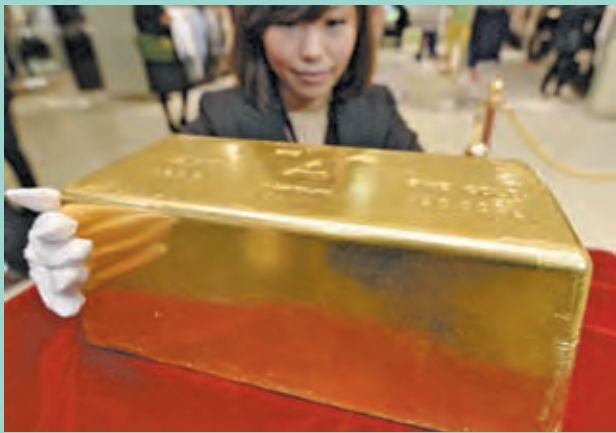


Photo shows a piece of gold bullion, weighing 120 kilograms and worth 600 million yen (\$6 million), at Takashimaya department store in Tokyo's Shinjuku District on 19 April, 2013. The store began a special display the same day of the gold block, letting visitors touch it, to mark the launch inside the department store of a shop specializing in purchasing gold.—KYODO NEWS

Penguin offers to scrap Apple e-book deals to end EU antitrust case

BRUSSELS, 20 April—Media group Pearson's Penguin unit has offered to scrap e-book deals with Apple that imposed price restrictions on Amazon and other retailers, EU antitrust regulators said on Friday.

The concessions, if accepted by the European Commission, would make Penguin the fifth book publisher to settle with regulators, ending a 16-month long investigation without any finding of wrongdoing or fine.

Regulators were concerned such pricing deals could hold back development of the e-book market, with higher prices for consumers. Amazon

has the biggest share of that market.

Apple and publishers Simon & Schuster, News Corp unit HarperCollins, Lagardere SCA's Hachette Livre and Verlagsgruppe Georg von Holtzbrinck, the owner of Germany's Macmillan, reached a settlement with the Commission in December.

Penguin's concessions include ending "most-favoured nation" contracts for five years. Such clauses bar rival retailers from selling e-books more cheaply than Apple.

Retailers will also be allowed to set prices or discounts for a period of two years. The concessions are similar to those offered

WHO data on bird flu raises new questions about human transmission

BEIJING, 20 April—More than 50 percent of patients infected with a new type of bird flu in China had no contact with poultry, the World Health Organization said on Friday, further raising questions about whether the virus was transmitted between humans.

The H7N9 virus has so far infected 87 people in China and killed 17, but it remains unclear how they contracted the disease. A Chinese official earlier this week said about 40 percent of patients had been in no contact with poultry.

The WHO's China

representative, Michael O'Leary, issued the new data, but said human-to-human transmission was rare.

"As the investigation gets deeper we're finding that more than half have had no contact with poultry", O'Leary told a briefing.

"It's hard to definitively rule in or rule out chickens", he said. "This is still an animal virus that occasionally infects humans. With rare exceptions, we know that people are not getting sick from other people".

O'Leary said investigators had tested 80,000 birds for the flu, but only 40



Employees dispose uninfected dead birds at a treatment plant as part of preventive measures against the H7N9 bird flu in Guangzhou, Guangdong Province, on 16 April, 2013.—REUTERS

tested positive and none of those was sick.

"This is unusual in that we haven't been finding sick birds", he said.

An international team of epidemiologists and other

experts led by the WHO and Chinese government officials will visit live chicken markets and hospitals over the next several days in Beijing and Shanghai.

Reuters

UK MPs say mortgage scheme may be costly or counterproductive

LONDON, 20 April—A British government scheme to help home-buyers risks being costly, counterproductive and a danger to the Bank of England's political independence, a non-partisan committee of legislators said on Saturday.

Chancellor George Osborne pledged to guarantee up to 130 billion pounds of higher-risk mortgages and offer 3.5 billion pounds of shared-equity loans to home-buyers in his annual budget statement last month.

But in a report on Osborne's budget, a parliamentary committee said the plans were vague and left the government exposed to large potential losses as well as failing to effectively tackle a shortage of housing.

Committee chairman Andrew Tyrie — a member of Osborne's Conservative party — said the loan guarantees "may have a number of unintended consequences". "It is by no means clear that a scheme, whose primary outcome may be to support house prices, will ultimately be

in the interests of first-time buyers," the report concluded.

The government has not yet published details of the fees it will charge banks to cover the expected costs of defaults under the scheme, and the committee said this would be hard to calculate accurately. It was also not convinced by Osborne's claims that it would tackle a shortage of homes to buy. On Friday, Osborne defended his plans to reporters at a briefing in Washington, where he was attending an International Monetary Fund meeting.

"We are in a period of real weakness in the housing market, so I think the risks of a housing bubble are really non-existent," he said.

"The absolutely key thing is that this scheme is time-limited and we have given the keys to its continued operation to the Bank of England's Financial Policy Committee (FPC) which can turn this scheme off in the next parliament," he added.

Reuters



Penguin books are seen in a used bookshop in central London on 29 Oct, 2012.—REUTERS

by the other publishers last year.

Interested parties have a month to comment on Penguin's proposals before the Commission makes a final decision.

The Pearson unit is merging with German media group Bertelsmann's publishing unit Random House.

Reuters

APEC ministers to discuss free trade as TPP stays in focus

SYRABAYA, 20 April—Trade ministers of the 21-member Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum are likely to discuss free trade and tariff elimination on information technology products on Saturday when a two-day gathering for attaining leveled, sustainable growth in the region kicks off in Surabaya, Indonesia.

The meeting comes as Japan's bid to participate in the negotiations for creating a massive free trade pact called the Trans-Pacific Partnership remains in focus, with the country in the final stage of winning the backing of all 11 members.

The first day will open with a breakfast session followed by a session on elimination of tariffs on information technology products enforced by the World Trade Organization. Japan will send Economy, Trade and Industry Minister Toshimitsu Motegi to the gathering.—Kyodo News

Flybe estimates profit at lower end of its expectations

LONDON, 20 April—The Flybe Group Plc (FLYB.L) said underlying loss for the full year would be at the lower end of its previous expectations and revenue growth would be relatively muted.

Flybe, Europe's largest regional airline, said revenue for the year ended

March 2013 would be in line with the year earlier, at the lower end of its previous forecast.

The company said in January that it expected year-on-year revenue growth of up to 2 percent.

It recorded total revenue of 615.3 million pounds in 2012.

Costs, including fuel, are estimated to increase by about 2.5 percent, in line with expectations, Flybe said. Forward ticket sales revenue for Flybe UK for the 2013 summer flying programme currently shows an increase of 2 percent over the same period last year, driven by a growth in passengers.

Separately, airline company Dart Group Plc (DTG.L), which owns carrier Jet2.com, said pretax profit for the year ended on 31 March would be ahead of current market expectations helped by lower-than-anticipated winter losses. Flybe shares closed at 42 pence on Thursday on the London Stock Exchange, while those of Dart Group closed at 148.25 pence.

Reuters



A Flybe aircraft lands at Edinburgh Airport in Scotland on 24 May, 2011.—REUTERS



A woman walks past a new residential property development in London, on 21 March, 2013.—REUTERS

WORLD

Japan Diet OKs bill to allow online election campaign



Photo shows a House of Councillors plenary session at the Diet building in Tokyo on 19 April, 2013, shortly after the passage of a bill to allow the use of Facebook, Twitter and other social networking websites in election campaigning, starting with 2013 summer's upper house election. — KYODO NEWS

TOKYO, 20 April — The Diet enacted a bill on Friday to allow the use of Facebook, Twitter and other social networking websites in election campaigning, starting with this summer's upper house election. The House of Councillors unanimously voted for lifting the ban on such online

campaigning by revising the Public Office Election Law. The revision will also enable political parties and candidates to use e-mail to call for votes and liberalize the use of banner advertisement by parties to attract people to their websites.

The move is the latest effort by Japanese lawmakers

to address people's apathy toward elections or politics, especially among youth, which has been demonstrated by low voter turnouts. This could lead to the creation of a political environment in which young voters and many others enhance their interest in politics," Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga told reporters. The bill was passed by the powerful House of Representatives earlier this month.

To prevent the abuse of online tools in campaigning, the revised law stipulates those who use false identities face imprisonment for up to two years or a fine of up to 300,000 yen (about \$3,000). It can also suspend the civil rights of perpetrators. Internet service providers will be authorized to delete libelous comments within two days at the earliest, after agreeing with those who post them. —Kyodo News

Regulators start checking safety of Japan's sole operating reactors

TOKYO, 20 April — The Nuclear Regulation Authority on Friday started a process to check whether Japan's two operating nuclear reactors are safe enough to be allowed to remain online beyond July when new safety requirements will take effect.

The NRA has decided to conduct the safety assessment before July on the No 3 and 4 reactors at the Oi plant in Fukui Prefecture to facilitate the introduction of the new regulations

it has worked out following the 2011 accident at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear complex.

Operators of reactors that are currently offline will have to wait for the requirements to come into force before applying for their restarts. If the NRA acknowledges that the two reactors operated by Kansai Electric Power Co have no serious safety problems, they will be allowed to continue operating through September, when they will

have to undergo mandatory routine checkups.

A panel joined by regulators and Kansai Electric officials held its first meeting on Friday to discuss the issue. The panel plans to compile its assessment in the latter half of June and report the outcome to a gathering of all five NRA commissioners.

During the Friday's meeting, Kansai Electric explained that it plans to finish necessary preparations by the end of June to

13 Afghan policemen killed in Taliban attack

GHAZNI, (Afghanistan), 20 April — Thirteen Afghan Local Police (ALP) personnel were killed early Friday morning when Taliban launched attack on a checkpoint in Andar District in the country's eastern province of Ghazni, an official said.

"Taliban raided an ALP checkpoint in Gandaer area in Andar District early Friday morning, killing 13 ALP cops," the district administrative chief,

Mohammad Qasim Destiwal, told Xinhua.

Details about the incident was not immediately clear, however, the official said an investigation into the incident was underway. The ALP or community police was established in August 2010 to protect villages and districts around the war-torn country where Afghan army and police have limited presence.

The Taliban, which has been waging an insur-

gency for more than a decade, has recently intensified attacks as the spring and summer known as fighting season is drawing near.

On Thursday evening, Usman Jan, a senior district official with the Afghan intelligence agency, was killed in a drive-by shooting in Ismail Khil district of eastern Khost Province, the district administrative chief Mohammad Younus told Xinhua.

Xinhua



People race during Hung Kings' Temple Festival 2013 in Phu Tho Province, Vietnam, on 18 April, 2013. The Hung Kings' Temple Festival was recognized as the World's Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in 2012. XINHUA

Indian analyst suggests India, China expand border trade

NEW DELHI, 20 April — An Indian analyst suggested on Friday that India and China open more border crossings for trade to strengthen economic ties between the two countries. Senior Indian journalist, columnist and author Sunanda K Datta-Ray made the appeal in an article published by the Asian Age daily on his latest trip to the Indian state of Sikkim bordering China's Tibet Autonomous Region. "It must be nearly 40 years since I made my way to Nathula, the pass at 14,400 feet (4,389 metres) that is supposed to be one of the three Himalayan trade routes between India and China," he said. "It was a different world. Sikkim was a monarchy then and India and China bitterly critical of each other."

Ray described how traditionally trade between

Sikkim and China's Tibet Autonomous Region was conducted along 13 routes. But these were all closed after the 1962 border war between India and China

He said things began to look up in 1991 when two new markets were set up at Sherathang in Sikkim and Rinzingang in China under the 1991 Sino-Indian memorandum of understanding.

The number of items both on the import and export list from Sikkim were increased resulting from trade between Sikkim and China.

Ray said that even though two other passes along the India-China border, Gunji in Uttarakhand and Shipki in Himachal Pradesh, were opened, the total trade on the border areas is an infinitesimal fraction of the 66 billion US dollar bilateral trade.

Xinhua

17 killed in Afghan violence

KABUL, 20 April — At least 17 people were killed in Taliban-led attacks in Afghanistan on Friday, authorities said. In the latest string of violence, a Taliban suicide bomber stroke security forces in the country's southern Province of Helmand, injuring seven people.

"A militant detonated an explosive-laden car along a road in Sanging District when Afghan police and foreign soldiers were patrolling the area. The blast killed the attacker and injured seven others," the district administrative chief, Daud Noorzai, told Xinhua.

The injured included five Afghan policemen and two civilians, the official said adding, "Their wounds were not life-threatening. " Notorious for growing pop-

py and militancy, Helmand has been known as Taliban hotbed.

Early Friday morning, Taliban launched attack on an Afghan Local Police (ALP) checkpoint, killing 13 ALP personnel in eastern Ghazni Province.

The ALP or community police was established in August 2010 to protect villages and districts around the Afghanistan where army and police have limited presence.

"Taliban raided an ALP checkpoint in Gandaer area in Andar district early Friday morning, killing 13 ALP cops," the district administrative chief, Mohammad Qasim Deeswal, told Xinhua.

Details about the incident was not clear, however, the official said that majority of the victims were

sleeping when the attack took place and that an investigation into the incident was underway.

The Taliban, which has been waging an insurgency for more than a decade since its regime was toppled by a US-led invasion in late 2001, has recently intensified attacks as the spring and summer known as fighting season is drawing near.

The militant group has warned civilians to stay away from official gatherings, military convoys and others regarded as the legitimate targets. In northern Badakhshan province, one Afghan border policeman and two militants were killed when Taliban raided police checkpoints in Wardoj district on early Friday morning.

Xinhua

Giant panda "Shulin" plays in his enclosure at the Liuzhou Zoo in Liuzhou, south China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region on 19 April, 2013. Male giant pandas "Mingbang" and "Shulin" were shown on public display for the first time at the zoo on Friday, who were brought here from Sichuan Province last month and they will live here in the next five years. XINHUA



WORLD

China, Italy pledge to enhance cooperation in education

MILAN, 20 April—China and Italy have pledged to strengthen cooperation in education. “China will support as always the cooperation and exchanges in education with Italy,” Chinese Vice Education Minister Du Yubo said on Friday at the opening ceremony of the Chinese Higher Education Day and China Education Expo.

The activities, held in the 150-year-old Politecnico di Milano University,

attracted 200 officials, educators and students from the two countries.

Du said China will encourage interaction between Chinese and Italian students, deepen cooperation with Italy through seminars, student exchanges and Chinese language teaching.

There are currently some 13,000 Chinese students in Italy and around 4,130 Italian students in China. Exchanges and

scholarships are among the programmes promoted by the China Scholarship Council (CSC), which co-organized the Milan event with Politecnico di Milano. In 2012, the council offered scholarships to 4,407 Chinese students to study in European Union (EU) member states, and 1,858 students from EU countries to study in China, CSC Secretary General Liu Jinghui said.

Xinhua



Performers rehearse at the Esplanade theatre in Singapore, on 19 April, 2013. French DCA dance company presented the dance “Octopus” directed by French choreographer Philippe Decoufle at the Esplanade on Friday. XINHUA

18 arrests, 2.5 million fake invoices seized

BEIJING, 20 April — Chinese police have arrested 18 people suspected of forging and selling false invoices and confiscated more than 2.5 million such fakes, the Ministry of Public Security has said.

Police in southeast China’s Fujian Province began investigating a criminal gang suspected of making fake invoices and transferring them to the

provinces of Zhejiang, Hunan, Guizhou and Sichuan after receiving a tip-off earlier this year, said a statement from the ministry on Thursday.

Under a unified deployment by the ministry, police from those five provinces seized all the suspects engaged in the invoice fraud on 9 April, according to the statement. Police across the country have

uncovered 29,000 cases of fake invoice-related crimes and confiscated 1.3 billion fake invoices since 2008, said the ministry, adding that the amount of confiscated fake invoices has dropped sharply. The ministry has vowed to continue an iron-fisted crackdown on such crimes, while reminding people to report to police once fake invoices are found. —Xinhua

Radioactive water problems at Fukushima nuke plant force rethink

TOKYO, 20 April — The government and Tokyo Electric Power Co will present broad new thinking in May on ways to prevent radioactive water from increasing at the crippled Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant, industry minister Toshimitsu Motegi said on Friday. Motegi made the remarks during a meeting to discuss the de-commissioning process of

the plant’s stricken reactors, as TEPCO continues to grapple with water leaks found recently at several underground storage tanks at the site.

The Nuclear Regulation Authority released an estimate the same day that the leaks could lead to the density of radioactive strontium in groundwater exceeding the legal limit in about 10 years in the coastal

area of the plant. The leaked water will eventually reach the Pacific Ocean by mixing with groundwater, but the concentration level of radioactive substances will drop when diluted in the sea. The estimate looked into how the density of strontium and tritium will change at a location about 880 meters toward the sea from the No 2 underground tank that is believed to have



Carmen Bridge holds her two-year-old son Jaimeson outside the West Community Centre where victims of a fertilizer plant explosion were receiving assistance coping with their losses, in the town of West, near Waco, Texas on 19 April, 2013.—REUTERS

Texas firefighter’s kiss to son before deadly blast was last goodbye

WEST, (Texas), 20 April — When the call came on Wednesday evening about a blaze at the local fertilizer plant, volunteer firefighter Morris Bridges picked up his 2-year-old son, Jaimeson, said “Daddy loves you,” and kissed him goodbye. Bridges, 41, a father of three, has not been seen since. His family have not definitively been told that he is dead but they believe he has died.

He is among five local volunteer firefighters presumed dead in the explosion ignited by the fire at the plant in West, Texas. The dedication he showed to his community that night was typical of him, the family said. “As

soon as a call would go out, Morris would be the first one there,” said his wife, Carmen Bridges, who met Morris in middle school and married him about four years ago after reconnecting as they planned their 20th high school reunion. Carmen Bridges, wearing a pink T-shirt and her reddish hair piled on top of her head, was holding and cuddling Jaimeson as she softly spoke about her husband.

On Friday, the firefighter’s family remembered him as a devoted father and uncle who proudly stood on street corners holding a boot to collect donations for the town’s volunteer fire department of about 30 members.—Reuters

French family kidnapped in Cameroon released unharmed

PARIS, 20 April—A French family of seven, including four children, seized in Cameroon two months ago have been released, the presidency office the Elysee confirmed on Friday. “It is with great relief and delight that the President of the Republic (Francois Hollande) confirms the release of seven members of Moulin Fournier family... They are all in good health and have joined Yaounde,” the Elysee said.

French President Francois Hollande, meanwhile, also hailed efforts of Cameroonian and Nigerian authorities who worked closely with Paris to liberate the seven nationals. On 19 February, a French family including four children aged between 5 and 12 years, were kidnapped near the Waza national park and Lake Chad in the extreme north of Cameroon, from where they were later moved to Nigeria.

The Nigeria-based Islamist cell, Boko Haram, claimed the responsibility of the kidnap to force Nigerian and Cameroonian officials to free Islamist fighters.

Xinhua



South Korean actor Lee Min-ho poses for photos with his life-size wax figure during a ceremony to unveil his wax figure at the Madame Tussauds in Shanghai, east China, on 19 April, 2013.—XINHUA

Russia to pursue further military cooperation with Cuba

HAVANA, 20 April — Russia has good military cooperation with Cuba and will continue expanding their military ties, Cuban official Prensa Latina news agency quoted a Russian general as saying here on Friday.

The two countries have collaborated in various military fields such as

cadre training, operational combat training and technical cooperation, said Russia’s Chief of General Staff Valery Gerasimov, who arrived in Havana on Thursday for a four-day working visit.

He was welcomed by his Cuban counterpart General Alvaro Lopez Miera on Friday and laid a wreath to

Cuban pro-independence hero Antonio Maceo at the Cacahual Mausoleum outside Havana.

His agenda in Cuba covers touring important tank units and other military units, schools and institutions. Russia and Cuba were close economic and political allies during the Cold War.—Xinhua

The Sand Museum in the city of Tottori, western Japan, shows 19 sand sculptures featuring Southeast Asia to reporters on 19 April, 2013, before reopening on 20 April following a renewal. The sculptures, including ones of Angkor Wat in Cambodia and the Grand Palace in Thailand, were created to commemorate the 40th anniversary of friendship exchange and cooperation between Japan and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.—KYODO NEWS



ARTICLE

PERSPECTIVES

Sunday, 21 April, 2013

Care about our Mother Earth

Without placing plenty of attention on environmental sustainability, we will have a little hope of achieving our goals of breaking the cycle of poverty, ensuring food sufficiency and improving health standard. Only when an environmental awareness has developed among global citizens to protect flora and fauna and to clean up the earth on which we live, will our one and only planet be free from all forms of challenges which are threatening the existence of the earth.

Today's people are making great strides in pursuance of development and prosperity, using the earth's resources faster than it can be exploited. Their behavior represents a sign of giving invitation to the termination of their own existence. Now, our Mother Earth is facing environmental challenges—global warming, ozone depletion, deforestation, soil erosion, sea-level rising, droughts and floods, severe storms and harsh climate patterns. It is not entirely exaggerated that the consequences will be very grave if nothing is done. So, the protection and conservation of the environment is essential to the survival of human beings and plants and animals that are like-us living things.

Intelligent solutions are required to face the growing problems of environmental degradation brought about by humans. We must focus more on green energy for green development. Energy generation and consumption should be more efficient.

The rapid growth of population calling for meeting their basis needs, but excessive extraction of raw materials can lead us to a situation in which development will be a risk. With the constant increase in demand of raw materials and energy consumption triggered by rapid population growth, greenhouse gas emissions and destruction of carbon sinks will be more than doubled or tripled. If so, we would need two earths or more, but we only have one.

Our Mother Earth is suffering from a serious deterioration in environment, with the result that a lot of negative effects have emerged and we have to address numerous environmental issues. Where do we start to save our planet? The only answer is to set in motion within ourselves. The onus is on each and every person to take care of their environment and to do their part. Only if we give the respect and care to our Mother Earth she deserves can we save our one and only planet from destruction.

Motorcycle accident kills one dead, one injured in TadaU

MANDALAY, 20 April—A motorcycle driven by Zaw Khaing, 23 of Htanaungkaing Village of TadaU Township of Mandalay Region with Zaw Naing, 25 on the back seat hit Ma Zargyi Lin, 18 who was enjoying water festival at TadaU-Myotha Road near Yaykamoe Village of TadaU Township in Mandalay Region. Zaw Khaing died on the spot due to injuries. Ma Zargyi Lin is under treatment at TadaU Hospital. TadaU Police Station opened a file of lawsuit. MNA

The Seventh Meeting of the Sixth State Central Working Committee of the Sangha of All Orders of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar

The State Central Working Committee of the Sangha of All Orders of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar comprising 300 members of the Sangha represent over five hundred thousand members of the Sangha residing in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. According to the fundamental principles which were passed and adopted by the very First Successful Congregation of the Sangha of All Orders of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar in 1980, the State Central Working Committee of the Sangha of All Orders shall hold its annual meeting at least once a year.

We all Buddhists throughout the country know that altogether six Congregations of the Sangha of All Orders leading and contributing to the purification, perpetuation, propagation and promotion of the Buddha Sasana were successfully held by arrangements and supports of Buddhist people and the previous Governments in 1980, 1985, 1990, 1995, 2000 and 2005 respectively. In accordance with the objectives and guidelines laid down by these successful congregations of the Sangha of All Orders, the very first unity of the members of Sangha could be formed in Myanmar within one hundred years.

We all Buddhists all over the world know that altogether six great Buddhist Councils (Synods) leading and contributing to the purification, perpetuation, propagation and promotion of the Buddha Sasana were convened after the noble demise of the Omniscient Gotama Buddha over 2556 year ago.

The Fifth Great Buddhist Council was held in Myanmar in the

year 2415 of the Buddhist Era (1871CE) and attended by 2400 Mahatheras, and the Sixth Great Buddhist Council was also held in Myanmar in the year 2498 of the Buddhist Era (1954CE) and attended by 2500 Mahatheras from the Five Theravada Buddhist nations, Thailand, Cambodia, Laos, Sri Lanka and Myanmar. The Buddhist peoples from those Theravada Buddhist nations were greatly pleased and honoured for successfully holding

Ba Sein (Religious Affairs)

the Sixth Great Buddhist Council in the Buddhist world.

It was felt that without the unity of the Sangha, it was impossible to execute purification, perpetuation, propagation and promotion of the Buddha Sasana. As different schools and sects of the Sangha of All Orders appeared separately, they were not able to unitedly implement the noble task of purification, perpetuation, propagation and promotion of the Buddha Sasana. In reality, all members of the Sangha and devotees want the everlasting unity of the Sangha of All Orders. They firmly believe that it only can be possible to purify, perpetuate, propagate and promote the Sasana by the unity of the Sangha. The Buddha, Himself urged the members of the Sangha to unite in order to carry out His Teachings.

In fact, the main objectives of holding the First Great Buddhist Council (Synod) through the Sixth Great Buddhist Council (Synod) were to purify, perpetuate, propagate, promote and preserve the Buddha Sasana. Although altogether Six Buddhist Councils (Synods) were held, it was found that different schools and sects still appeared. They were

not united and they parted from each other. Because of different schools and sects, many unlawful views (Adhammavadas) which were contrary to and incompatible with the Pitakas of the Theravada Buddha Sasana appeared. In reality, these unlawful views endangered true Buddhism.

Therefore, all the Buddhists felt worried about the situation of true Buddhism. They really want to purify, perpetuate, propagate and promote the

Theravada Buddha Sasana. According to the history of Buddhism, it is learnt that schisms and split of schools and sects usually occurred among the Monastic Orders whenever some members of the Sangha of Orders were in trouble through dispute and mutual misunderstanding.

To rebuild the unity and mutual understanding between different schools and sects of the Sangha Orders is deeply needed for the welfare and interest of the nation as well as for the Buddha Sasana. Altogether Six Buddhist Councils (Synods) were held to establish the unity of the Sangha of All Orders so long as the Buddha Sasana exists.

All the Buddhists firmly believe that without the unity of the Sangha, it is impossible to promote the Buddha Sasana. An old saying goes, "Whenever religion is pure, the society prospers". The situation of the nation was well-developed and prosperous in those golden times when the members of the Sangha of All Orders unanimously practiced the Vinaya Law and fulfilled their religious duties.

The First, the Second, the Third, the Fourth, the Fifth and the Sixth Congregations of the Sangha of All Orders

of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar successfully have rebuilt the unity of Sangha of All Orders with the support of Buddhists and Government since 1980. A single Sangha Organization could be formed in the country for the first time in one hundred years.

In accordance with the prescribed terms of the Sangha Organizations, the Seventh Meeting of the Sixth State Central Working Committee of the Sangha of All Orders are fixed to be held at the Mahapasana Cave (great Cave) on Siri Mangala Kaba Aye Hillock, Yangon, from 19 to 21 March 2013. The meeting will be attended by 300 members of the State Central Working Committee of the Sangha of All Orders and 111 members of the State Sangha Ocadacariya (Patrons) representing all members of Sangha throughout the country.

The main objectives of the Seventh Meeting of the Sixth State Central Working Committee of the Sangha of All Orders are to strengthen more efforts for purification, perpetuation, propagation and promotion of Theravada Buddha Sasana throughout the world.

It is further learnt that all necessary arrangements and requirements for holding the Seventh Meeting of Sixth State Central Working Committee of the Sangha of All Orders of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar have already been made by the Ministry of Religious Affairs and authorities concerned.

We all Buddhists are heartily pleased and honoured in order to be able to pay profound respect to the members of the Sangha present at the Seventh Meeting of the Sixth State Central Working Committee of the Sangha of All Orders.

Respects paid to the aged, fish released into sea

KAWTHOUNG, 20 April—A ceremony to release fish was held at Myoma Jetty in Kawthoung on Myanmar

New Year Day. Col Thet Tun Oo of local station of Kawthoung and wife, Deputy Commissioner U Kyaw Swa

Tun of District General Administration Department, the township administrator and departmental officials,

members of social organizations released sea water fish, prawn and crabs into the sea. They also paid respects and presented gifts to the aged at Pyidawaye Sasana Beikman in the morning.—Myanma Alinn

LOCAL NEWS

RC bridge under construction in Meiktila

MEIKTILA, 20 April—A reinforced concrete bridge is under construction on a self-reliant basis across the creek on 3rd street linking north and south Pyithaya Wards in Meiktila of Mandalay Region.

“Both north and south

Pyithaya wards rely on the bridge on 3rd street. The wooden bridge with brick foundation was damaged recently.

The local people were in transport difficulties. The local people young and old held a meeting to build new

bridge,” said townselder U Kyaw Zeya.

In building the bridge, a retired SAE provided engineering assistance.

Likewise, local people contributed to construction of the bridge with might and main. Entrepreneurs donated

construction materials and cements.

The bridge will have 16 feet wide main way flanked by three feet wide pedestrian ways.

The facility will be 22 feet wide and 30 feet long.

Myanma Alinn

MPF launches emergency, complaint-handling phone lines

NAY PYI TAW, 20 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

Welding triggers off fire in Magway

MAGWAY, 20 April—A fire broke out at Amay Htwar groundnut oil mill between 1st and 2nd streets in Aungsaytana-B Ward of Magway in Magway Region at 3.10 pm on 17 April.

The fire started from welding at the warehouse.

A total of 40 members of Fire Services Department and 150 Auxiliary Fire Brigade members put out the fire with the use of four engines from Magway Township Fire Services Department, two from Minbu Township, one each from Myothit, Yenau and Htaukshabin



fire stations and 24 water bowers, totalling 33.

There was no casualties. But the fire

caused K 2.9 million loss.

Police Station No 2 of Magway Township opened a file of lawsuit against welder Ko Zaw Naing, 34, son of U Thein Shwe for outbreak of fire.

Myanma Alinn

Strong winds cause damages of lamp-posts, power lines in Bhamo

BHAMO, 20 April—Strong winds broke branches of an ironwood tree in the compound of Irrigation Department in Thasi Ward of Bhamo of Kachin State at 5 pm on 16 April.

Three concrete lamp-posts were broken and power lines damaged in the incident.

Personnel of Township

Electrical Engineer's Office maintained the power lines.

Workers of Township General Administration Department and Township Development Affairs Committee, and local people cleared debris and removed the broken tree

branches from the road.

On 17 April, skilled workers and electricians re-erected new three concrete lamp-posts and installed power lines as normal.

So, the local people now enjoy electricity regularly.—Myanma Alinn

Shortage of water in Myothit Township of Magway Region

MYOTHIT, 20 April—Hlaywun Village of Myothit Township faces water scarcity in summer.

Water tankers from Laydaingsin Village supply drinking water to the local people on 16 and 17 April, said U Thein Zaw of Hlaywun Village. The local people sank artisan wells with concerted efforts.

A tube-well was sunk in

Paungku Village, three miles from Hlaywun Village. The sinking of the tube-well cost K 20 million.

One wellwisher donated K 10 million and the local people, the remaining expenditure.

The local people reported on shortage of water to the office of Myothit Township Administrator.

MNA

Local people by bullock cart in a queue waiting for taking water from water bowers from Laydaingsin Village of Myothit Township in Magway Region that will donate drinking water to the local people.

MYANMA ALINN



A vehicle from Bayinnaung Bridge construction project overturned on Minye Kyawswa Railway Bridge in Tamway Township on 16 April.

MYANMA ALINN

Papun District Law Office opened

PAPUN, 20 April—A ceremony to open new building of Papun District Law Office of Kayin State was held at the combined office in Papun District on 9 April morning.

Kayin State Law Officer Daw Khin Mar Kyi, Head of Office of the State Law Office U Htay Aung, Deputy Commissioner U Saw Myat Htut Win of Papun District General Administration Department, departmental personnel and

townselders, members of social organizations and political party members, totalling about 150 attended the ceremony.

The State Law Officer made a speech, and the deputy commissioner spoke words of thanks.

Later, Kayin State Law Officer Daw Khin Mar Kyi, Deputy Commissioner U Saw Myat Htut Win of the district and District Law Officer U Win Yi cut the ribbon to open the new building of law office.

Myanma Alinn

Fools rush in where Angels fear to tread.

World's longest-lived man in Kyoto turns 116



Jiroemon Kimura of Kyotango in Kyoto Prefecture

KYOTO, 20 April—A Japanese man recognized by Guinness World Records as the world's longest-lived person turned 116 on Friday, receiving congratulations from Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and others. Jiroemon Kimura of Kyotango in Kyoto Prefecture received congratulatory messages via Facebook and e-mails from Mayor Yasushi Nakayama at his home. He also received a certificate as the world's oldest person from Guinness.

"Mr Kimura's good health is the confidence and pride of Japan. Please keep well," Prime Minister Abe said in a video message to him. Kimura, who now lives with his grandson's wife, 60, has been hospitalized twice since late last year but was dis-

charged most recently on 9 April, according to the municipal office. He benefits from a nursing service and short stay programme at a care facility, and enjoys three meals a day including porridge and mashed sweet potatoes and pumpkins, it said.

Born on 19 April, 1897, Kimura became the world's oldest living person on 17 December last year when the record-holding American woman died. He then set a new record for longevity on 28 December when he marked 115 years and 253 days of life, surpassing the previous Guinness record held by an American man. Kimura has 14 grandchildren, 25 great-grandchildren and 14 great-great-grandchildren, including the latest born in February this year.—Kyodo News

Chinese-invested Husab uranium mine kicks off construction in Namibia

SWAKOPMUND, (Namibia), 20 April—The construction of the Husab Uranium Mine, a joint venture between the Chinese and the Namibian governments, has started after the groundbreaking ceremony held on Thursday at the site situated about 60 km from the coastal city of Swakopmund.

The Chinese state-owned company Guangdong Nuclear Power Company (CGNPC) Uranium Resources Co Ltd and Epan-gelo Mining, a Namibian government-owned mining company, acquired the Husab Uranium Mine owned by Swakop Uranium from the Australian-listed company Extract Resources at a cost of 19 billion Namibian dollars (2.1 billion US dollars).

The groundbreaking ceremony was attended by Namibia's Minister of Mines and Energy Isak Katali and

Chairman of CGNPC He Yu, as well as the Chinese charge d'affaires, Li Yigang. The construction, estimated to cost 1.2 billion Namibian dollars (130 million US dollars), is expected to be done by next year with production targeted to start in late 2015.

Husab Uranium Mine is said to hold about 280 million tonnes of uranium ore that would take close to 20 years to mine. The mine construction will create 2,000 permanent and 6,000 temporary jobs when the mine goes into full production. In addition, the Husab mine is expected to boost the gross domestic product by 5 percent.

Minister Katali took the chance to urge foreign companies operating in Namibia to follow the southern African country's laws and regulations.

Xinhua

Kumamoto recognizes woman as Minamata disease victim

KUMAMOTO, 20 April—The Kumamoto prefectural government on Friday recognized a deceased woman as a victim of the Minamata mercury-poisoning disease in line with Tuesday's Supreme Court ruling.

The ruling upheld a high court decision that posthumously recognized Chie Mizoguchi, who died at age 77 in 1977, as a sufferer of the disease caused by industrial pollution.

Mizoguchi is the 2,976th recognized Minamata disease victim in Japan.

She is the first to be recognized by the Kumamoto prefectural government since July 2011 when a couple was recognized after a court dispute. The disease is named after Minamata city in Kumamoto where the pollution-caused disease was first identified in the 1950s.

Kyodo News

Farm foremen arrested over shooting of migrant workers in Greece

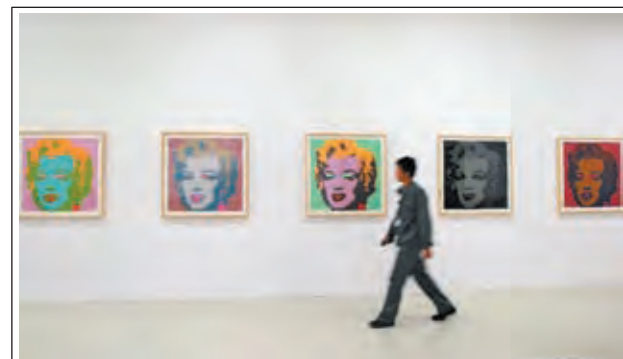
ATHENS, 20 April—Police on Friday arrested three foremen at a Greek strawberry farm on suspicion that they shot and wounded more than 20 migrant farmers who were protesting over unpaid wages. The incident on Wednesday was the latest attack on foreign workers in crisis-hit Greece and has prompted a public outcry.

The three men face charges of attempted murder for opening fire at a crowd of about 200 mostly Bangladeshi immigrants in the southwestern town of Manolada. None of the victims was seriously injured.

The suspects, all Greeks aged 21, 27 and 31, had been on the run since

the incident on Wednesday, a police official said. The farm owner was arrested on Thursday.

They will appear before a public prosecutor later on Friday. One of them has already been charged for attacking an immigrant in the past and his trial is pending, the official said. The shooting caused an outcry in Greece, which has seen repeated attacks on immigrants lately as the fiercely anti-immigrant, ultra-nationalist "Golden Dawn" party rises in prominence. Political parties expressed outrage at the incident and Public Order Minister Nikos Dendias rushed to Manolada on Friday to denounce the attack. "What



A staffer walks past iconic works of US artist Andy Warhol "Marilyn Monroe" at a preview of the "Andy Warhol: 15 Minutes Eternal" exhibition at the Power Station of Art in Shanghai, east China, on 19 April, 2013. The exhibition, featuring more than 400 works of Warhol and spanning from his career from 1940s to 1980s, will be opened on 29 April, 2013.—XINHUA

IMF, World Bank open spring meetings in Washington

WASHINGTON, 20 April—The spring meetings of the International Monetary Fund and its sister agency World Bank began on Friday. Finance ministers and central bankers from around the world gathered in Washington DC to assess global economic developments and ways to boost recovery.

The meetings will focus on growth and jobs, and provide a platform for discussions among policymakers and other stakeholders from the two agencies' 188 member countries to support global economic growth and job creation, Lin Jianhai, secretary of the IMF, told Xinhua in a recent interview.

The world is experiencing a three-speed recovery, and different countries should take "customized" measures to tackle their economic challenges and bolster a full-speed global economic recovery, IMF Managing Director Christine Lagarde told reporters on Thursday.—Xinhua

Staff members take pictures of a Jeep Grand Cherokee exhibited at the Shanghai New International Expo Centre in Shanghai, east China, on 19 April, 2013. The 15th Shanghai International Automobile Industry Exhibition will held here from 21 to 29 April.—XINHUA



Crown princess' visit to Netherlands formally decided

TOKYO, 20 April—The Cabinet on Friday endorsed a trip by Crown Prince Naruhito and Crown Princess Masako to the Netherlands from 28 April to 3 May to attend the coronation of a new Dutch king. It would be the first official overseas trip in 11 years for the crown princess, who continues to receive treatment for a stress-induced illness, since 2002 when she traveled to New Zealand and Australia. It is rare for the Cabinet to approve an overseas trip by the royal couple so soon before their departure, except

for urgent cases, such as travel to attend a funeral of other countries' royal family members.

The crown princess plans to attend the coronation and a reception. Her attendance in other events will be decided after counseling with doctors on whether she is physically fit to do so, as well as with the Netherlands side. Yutaka Ono, the head of the National Centre of Neurology and Psychiatry who is a doctor for the Crown Prince's Palace, will accompany the couple. The royal couple is scheduled to

leave Haneda airport in Tokyo by government aircraft on the afternoon of 28 April, according to the Imperial Household Agency.

A banquet organized by Dutch Queen Beatrix will be held in Amsterdam on 29 April, followed by the coronation ceremony for Prince Willem-Alexander on 30 April, a reception, a parade on water, and a reception held by the royal family. A breakfast is also arranged by the Dutch king and queen for the guests on 1 May. During the Japanese royal couple's stay, a meet-

ing with Japanese residents of the Netherlands is also under consideration.

The Japanese royal couple is expected to leave the Netherlands on 2 May and return home the following day. The Japanese royal family has maintained close relations with its Dutch counterparts. The crown prince and his family stayed at Dutch royal facilities for about two weeks in the summer of 2006 for a private vacation, which was also aimed at helping the princess recuperate from her illness.—Kyodo News

REGIONAL



Participants (in the background) celebrate after a 130.68-metre-long cake roll they made in an event was recognized by Guinness World Records as the world's longest cake roll in Tokyo's Shibuya Ward on 17 April, 2013. KYODO NEWS

Cambodia arrests two suspects for robbing and killing Japanese man

PHNOM PENH, 20 April — Cambodian police have arrested two men suspected of robbing and killing a Japanese man last month in Phnom Penh, a police official told *Kyodo News* on Friday. Maj Gen Chhay Sinarith, director of the internal security department at the Interior Ministry, said suspects In Sok Chheng, 21 and Pov Noch, 28, were arrested on Tuesday and taken to court on Friday.

They are charged with robbery leading to the death of the victim. If the suspects are found guilty they will be jailed from 15 to 30 years, court documents showed on Friday. Sinarith said the two men are also suspected in other criminal cases. Kosei Kitakura, 44, was robbed by two unidentified men on a motorbike and shot as he tried to fight them off 3 March in Phnom Penh.

He died on the way to a hospital. Police said the victim was attacked soon after he disembarked from a tuk-tuk taxi near the apartment building where he was staying. The tuk-tuk driver reportedly also sustained injuries while attempting to help the victim. Kitakura arrived in Cambodia on 27 February hoping to open a restaurant in Phnom Penh, Sinarith said.

Kyodo News



Former Philippine first lady Imelda Marcos, known for her flamboyance and wide collection of shoes, speaks to *Kyodo News* at her father's ancestral residence in Manila City on 31 Jan, 2013.—KYODO NEWS

Imelda Marcos speaks of respect for Japan and its people

MANILA, 20 April — “If there’s one country’s culture that I sincerely admire and will teach to other countries, it is Japan’s,” one-time Philippine first lady Imelda Marcos said in a weekend interview with *Kyodo News*.

“I’m a great believer of Japan. It’s just so sophisticated,” said Marcos over a sushi lunch on Saturday at her posh condominium in central Manila.

The 83-year-old lawmaker, who gained global fame for her flamboyance

and wide collection of shoes when her husband, the late Ferdinand Marcos, was at the country’s helm from 1965 up to 1986, said she marvels at Japan because of its rise to greatness despite its many limitations.

“Japan has so much to show in terms of leadership. Your national anthem says, ‘We are just a rock, we have nothing, only moss.’ So, (the Japanese people) have to eat from the sea. But look at Japan, (it is among) the first G-7 (mem-

bers),” Marcos said after singing a few lines of the Japanese national anthem which she learned during the Japanese occupation of the Philippines in the early 1940s.

“And then, that nuclear (disaster) after the tsunami. They have turned around. I salute them. The Japanese are something,” she added, referring to the 11 March, 2011, calamities. Marcos noted how Japan also has consistently been ahead in terms of technology while being deprived of natural resources.

Kyodo News

Japan carmakers vow to boost sales at Shanghai auto show

SHANGHAI, 20 April — Japanese automakers on Saturday unveiled new models and concept cars for the Chinese market at an international motor show in Shanghai in an effort to pick up sales in the world’s largest automotive market.

At the media preview of the 15th Shanghai International Automobile Industry Exhibition, or Auto Shanghai 2013, Japanese companies’ lineups also feature fuel-efficient and environmentally friendly models using hybrid and electric technology at a time when China is suffering from serious air pollution.



An international motor show opens in Shanghai on 20 April, 2013.—KYODO NEWS

tion.

Honda Motor Co. President Takanobu Ito unveiled a plan to manufacture an “Acura” luxury brand car

in China for the first time in three years, saying China is an “important market” for the company.

Kyodo News

Abe vows to promote exports of Japanese medical skills

TOKYO, 20 April — Prime Minister Shinzo Abe promised on Friday to make efforts to accelerate exports of high-quality Japanese medical technologies as one of the key steps to revitalize the nation’s economy.

In his opening statement at a press conference at the Japan National Press Club in Tokyo, Abe said, referring to his “growth strategies,” that the government plans to submit bills to promote the practical use of regenerative medical techniques, including utilization of induced pluripotent stem cells, or iPS cells.

Vowing to become the top salesperson of Japanese medical skills and tools, Abe said he will start “full-fledged” economic diplomacy when he visits Russia and the Middle East during Japan’s Golden Week holidays from late April to early May.

Abe said his adminis-

tration, which has promised to craft its economic growth strategies by June, will take the lead in creating a new scheme to strengthen cooperation between medical equipment makers and organizations, aiming to bolster their international competitiveness.

In order to activate the power of women and young people to shore up

Japan’s economy, Abe said the government is eager to expand their employment by increasing the number of nursery teachers and other measures. Growth strategies are among the key policies Abe calls the “three arrows” to conquer Japan’s long deflation, along with aggressive monetary easing and large-scale public works projects.—*Kyodo News*



Prime Minister Shinzo Abe

Thailand-Bahrain set up trade joint venture

BANGKOK, 20 April — Thailand and Bahrain have jointly set up a company for trade between the two countries and Thai Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Kittiratt Narong chaired the signing ceremony on Friday. Kittiratt said the move is to boost trade, in particular imports and exports in chicken as well as jewelry and accessories.

Trade between the two countries increased 40 percent with around 500 million US dollars in value after Thai Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra visited Bahrain in mid-2012,

he said. The finance minister said Bahrain has a food security policy to use Thailand as a centre for buying food supplies, and the purchasing power of the Bahrain people has increased, creating opportunities for the Thai private sector to expand business to the Middle East.

Thai Trade Representative Olarn Chairpravat said the collaboration will help boost bilateral trade on energy and food, for Bahrain is rich in oil reserves and a big market for oil trade, while Thailand is a producer of food and other agricultural products.—*Xinhua*

Fine food championships begin in Sydney

SYDNEY, 20 April — Fine food judges began the enviable task of sampling Australian delicacies at the Friday launch of the Summer Sydney Royal Fine Food Show. Coffee, breads, cakes, pies and pasta exhibits will form mouth-watering competition line-ups from 19 to 24 April at Sydney Olympic Park. Savoury and sweet-tooth favourites, including sourdough bread, gourmet pies, fresh pasta, chocolate mudcake, hot cross buns, Christmas pudding, eclairs and aromatic coffees will vie for gold, silver and bronze medals.

The winners will be able to advertise their

medals on the packaging of their goods, making it easier for consumers to find the best products at the supermarket. Among the panels of expert judges include representatives from food media, industry specialists, product retailers and chefs, invited to assess close to 800 entries this year across all classes.

“The Sydney Royal Fine Food Show has grown to become one of the most prestigious in the country, raising the benchmark in food produce quality,” said Glenn Dudley, President of the Royal Agricultural Society (RAS) of NSW.

“It is an exciting year

for the Fine Food Show, with the introduction of a new class for Macarons in the Bread, Cake and Pie Competition, as well as decaffeinated coffee, cannelloni and lasagne in the Coffee and Pasta Competitions respectively,” said Kim Currie, Chair of the RAS Fine Food Committee.

“Each year I am thrilled to see so many new exhibitors across the show,” Currie added. The Fine Food Competitions have been held in Sydney since 1995. Other divisions judged throughout the year include beer, aquaculture, beef, lamb and olive oil.

Xinhua

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
Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise
Ministry of Energy, The Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Tel: 95-67 411 055/ 411 056
Fax: 95-67 411 125
Email: mogedirplan@energy.gov.mm
- (3) Myanmar Embassies in respective Countries



People visit Beijing pavilion at China National Tourism Fair 2013 in Guiyang, capital of southwest China's Guizhou Province, on 19 April, 2013. The three-day fair kicked off on Friday here.
XINHUA

Education key to preventing food safety scandals

BEIJING, 20 April — The Chinese government on Tuesday vowed to overhaul food safety standards and crack down on illegal food additives in its latest move to improve food safety.

In a circular that sets major tasks for food safety in 2013, the State Council also pledged to improve supervision and crack down on the use of food additives and pesticide residue, as well as target other food-related violations.

Overlapping food safety standards and loose supervision have been blamed for China's multiple food scandals.

Some Chinese believe food safety standards in China are less strict than those in the United States,

Japan and Europe. Many also believe that government supervision has been circumvented by bureaucracy and corruption. From food production to consumption, at least five Chinese government departments and agencies are involved in supervision. The overlapping of power makes supervision efforts less centralized and allows authorities to pass the buck.

Although progress has been made through repeated government campaigns launched to eradicate food safety violations, the issue still remains problematic for many Chinese.

In recent scandals, farmers have fed pigs with clenbuterol to produce leaner pork, liquor makers have

used plasticizer to thicken their spirits and dairy manufacturers have used expired powder and changed their production dates.

To deter food safety violations, the top legislature passed an amendment to the Criminal Law so that those held responsible for serious food crimes can be subject to the death penalty. New efforts are being made to merge multiple food and drug safety agencies into one regulatory body in order to improve efficiency.

The government is also trying to encourage participation by local officials, who are motivated to cover up scandals in order to prevent disgrace resulting from social unrest.

Xinhua

ENTERTAINMENT

Selena Gomez hid under a table after meeting Brad Pitt

LOS ANGELES, 20 April—Selena Gomez hid under a table after she met Brad Pitt.

The Come and Get It singer recently became flustered while meeting the World War Z star's ex-wife Jennifer Aniston, and she found herself in another awkward predicament when she met the hunky actor backstage at the MTV Movie Awards on Sunday (14.04.13).

The singer performed her latest single at the awards bash, but later lost her cool when Brad — who has six children, Maddox, 12, Pax, nine, Zahara, eight, Shiloh, six, and four-year-old twins Vivienne and Knox, with Angelina Jolie — tried to get a picture with her because his children are big fans of her Disney show

The Wizards of

Waverly Place.

Speaking on talk show Ellen, she said: "I was in my dressing room and I had just finished performing. They knocked on my door and they said Brad Pitt would like to come in and I was like, 'He can come in.' I was trying to play cool and be really nice. As soon as he walked out I ran and I hid under the craft service table for like two minutes because I couldn't believe it was happening."

"He was like, 'Can I have a picture with you?' I was like, 'Can I have a picture with you?!' I was so nervous. Like that stresses me out, but it was fine. I actually had fun and I got to meet Brad Pitt, so..."

The 20-year-old actress-and-singer recently recalled running away from Jennifer, 44, and blamed her strange behaviour on being a huge fan of her iconic Friends character Rachel Green.

PTI



Selena Gomez was in awe of Brad Pitt

Robert Downey Jr will return for Iron Man 4

NEW DELHI, 20 April—Iron Man 3 stars Robert Downey Jr and Gwyneth Paltrow in the lead.

48-year-old actor Robert Downey Jr has thus far refused to confirm if he will make another movie in the successful franchise but director Shane Black is confident Robert will return for at least one more outing as Tony Stark/Iron Man.

Speaking at the Iron Man 3 UK premiere at Odeon Leicester Square in London on Thursday (18.04.13), Shane told BANG Showbiz: "I think he'll be back for another one. I'm sure of it."

Co-star Sir Ben

Kingsley heaped praise on Robert for his portrayal of the billionaire businessman turned superhero.

He said: "I think what the film examines, thanks to Robert Downey Jr's wonderful sense of performance is, you have the iron suit and the man inside it. Which is which? Which is the more powerful? Is it the guy inside the suit, or is it the suit itself?"

Meanwhile, Rebecca Hall, who plays Maya Hansen, couldn't hide her delight at joining the cast.

She said: "I'm really excited to be here. I'm really excited to be part of it. It's definitely a unique experience to join a franchise when you know so much of it already and you're already acquainted with

who the characters are and you've seen them in the cinema. It's an exciting thing to get on board that. It's very thrilling." Robert also attended the premiere along with Don Cheadle while stars including Demot O'Leary, Oritse Williams and JB Gill from JLS, Labrinth and Kimberly Wyatt walked the red carpet.

PTI



Robert Downey Jr

Jennifer Lawrence will receive the Down Syndrome of Louisville's Friendship Award

NEW DELHI, 20 April—Silver Linings Playbook actress Jennifer Lawrence will be

lauded for her friendship with Louisville local Andy Strunk, who has Down Syndrome — a genetic disorder caused by the presence of all or part of a third copy of chromosome 21 — who she has known since middle school.

A spokesperson told E! News: "Jennifer and Andy Strunk have been friends since their middle school days. Jennifer and Andy enjoy a loyal friendship of mutual encouragement and enjoy each other's company. They text and speak on the phone quite frequently. Their families stay in close contact and continue a friendship too."

"Our members and staff of Down Syndrome of Louisville are so very proud of Jennifer for staying true to her Louisville hometown roots while she achieves global recognition for her craft as an artist. We are thrilled that Andy will present the Friendship Award to her family."

Jennifer will be unable to attend the ceremony on 26 April at the Mint Jubilee Gala as she is currently filming in Hawaii but her brother Blaine and his fiancée will accept the award on her behalf.—PTI

Jennifer Lawrence, who won the Oscar for Best Actress this year for her role in the movie Silver Linings Playbook, will receive the award next week.



Gwyneth Paltrow

SPORTS

Nadal subdues inspired Dimitrov to set up Tsonga clash

MONTE CARLO, 20 April—Eight-times champion Rafael Nadal was taken to the brink by improving Bulgarian prospect Grigor Dimitrov before completing a 6-2, 2-6, 6-4 victory on Friday to reach the Monte Carlo Masters semi-finals.

Nadal, who made an unusual number of errors and looked uncomfortable throughout against his 21-year-old opponent, slowly ground him down and fired an ace to clinch his 45th successive victory at the first big claycourt event of the season.

The Spaniard now has a 47-1 win-loss record at the glamorous venue and will next face Frenchman Jo-Wilfried Tsonga, who beat Swiss Stanislas Wawrinka 2-6, 6-3, 6-4 on the picturesque Centre Court to reach the last four for the first time.

World number one Novak Djokovic was not bothered by his sprained ankle as he moved past Finland's Jarkko Nieminen 6-4, 6-3 to clinch a meeting with Fabio Fognini.

The 32nd-ranked Italian made his first significant breakthrough in a Masters



Jo-Wilfried Tsonga of France reacts after defeating Stanislas Wawrinka of Switzerland during the Monte Carlo Masters in Monaco on 19 April, 2013. —REUTERS

Series event by stunning seventh seed Richard Gasquet 7-6, 6-2.

The straight-laced crowd, for once reluctant to support Nadal with Dimitrov threatening to pull off a shock win, stood up to cheer the 34th-ranked Bulgarian as he left the court after a thrilling performance.

Nadal had his share of applause after keeping his bid for a ninth consecutive crown alive by the Mediterranean, where he is coming

back from a month-long break after winning three titles including the Indian Wells Masters following seven months out with injury. "I had a fantastic first set and that's important. That means my level is here," Nadal told a news conference.

"I am losing a bit of intensity at some moments. That's normal after a long time out of competition," added the Spaniard.

Tsonga had opened the chilly grey day, with the

sun hidden by the clouds and a cool breeze refreshing the sparse crowd, by winning a fierce battle against Wawrinka.

Both players started brightly, with a solid Wawrinka looking on course to repeat the superb third-round performance which knocked out world number two Andy Murray.

However, Tsonga's aggression paid off with the Swiss-based Frenchman making the most of his break chances to overcome his occasional training partner.

Tsonga, who had not reached the last four in a Masters series event since his 2011 home triumph at the Paris Open, saw himself as the underdog ahead of the semi-final with Nadal.

"It's a incredible challenge. If I win, I'll be a hero. If I lose, I'll just go back home like everybody else," he said. Italian Fognini, who lives just across the border and said he felt "at home" in Monaco, produced a fine performance with his dropshots and deep spinning forehands troubling France's Gasquet.

Reuters

US's Sunil Gulati elected to FIFA executive committee

PANAMA CITY, 20 April—United States Soccer Federation (USSF) president Sunil Gulati was elected to FIFA's executive committee by CONCACAF on Friday, defeating Mexico's Justino Compean by one vote.

Gulati replaces fellow American Chuck Blazer, whose term had ended and who opted not to stand again after allegations of financial mismanagement at the North and Central American and Caribbean confederation. Blazer denies any wrongdoing.

Compean, president of the Mexican Football Federation, received 17 of the 35 votes available from full FIFA members within CONCACAF at its congress.

Gulati will represent the North American part of CONCACAF within soccer's world governing body.

As expected, CONCACAF president Jeffrey Webb, a FIFA vice-president, was elected unopposed from the Caribbean region of CONCACAF.

Reuters



Gulati speaks at a news conference in New York, on 1 Aug, 2011.—REUTERS

McLaren question Hamilton's version of events

MANAMA, 20 April—McLaren questioned Lewis Hamilton's version of events on Friday after the 2008 Formula One champion told an interviewer he had been thrown out of his old team's garages in pre-season testing. Asked how much contact he still had with McLaren, Hamilton told the official formula1.com website he went to see his former team mates at the Australian season-opener in Melbourne last month.

"I also tried to see them in Jerez, at the test, and (sporting director) Sam Michael threw me out of the garage. That wasn't very positive and I don't feel very good about

that," the Mercedes driver said at the Bahrain Grand Prix. "(Team boss) Martin (Whitmarsh) has been great and I have to say I haven't had enough contact so I will give Martin a call." McLaren PR director Matt Bishop responded by saying: "Sam didn't throw Lewis out of our garage."

that," the Mercedes driver said at the Bahrain Grand Prix. "(Team boss) Martin (Whitmarsh) has been great and I have to say I haven't had enough contact so I will give Martin a call." McLaren PR director Matt Bishop responded by saying: "Sam didn't throw Lewis out of our garage."

Mercedes Formula One driver Lewis Hamilton of Britain reacts on the winners' podium during the victory ceremony after the Chinese F1 Grand Prix at the Shanghai International Circuit, on 14 April, 2013.—REUTERS

been great and I have to say I haven't had enough contact so I will give Martin a call." McLaren PR director Matt Bishop responded by saying: "Sam didn't throw Lewis out of our garage."

"Rather, he gently guided him out since our car was being worked on by our mechanics at the time, with a number of its dismantled components clearly visible, which no-one from a rival team should see."

"Lewis knew he shouldn't have been in our garage in the first place, just as all team personnel know they shouldn't enter rival teams' garages."

Bishop pointed out Hamilton had also spent time in their paddock hospitality "at a number of grands prix" so far this season and had always been "warmly welcomed". Hamilton moved to Mercedes at the end of last season, breaking a connection with McLaren that went back to his teenage days in go-karts.—Reuters

bourne last month. "I also tried to see them in Jerez, at the test, and (sporting director) Sam Michael threw me out of the garage. That wasn't very positive and I don't feel very good about

Balotelli misses Juve clash despite having ban reduced

ROME, 20 April—AC Milan striker Mario Balotelli will miss Sunday's top of the table clash at Juventus despite having his three-match suspension cut to two games.

"The Federal Court of Justice has partially upheld an appeal by Milan and reduces the matches Mario Balotelli is banned for by

three to two games, adding a fine of 20,000 euros (17,163 pounds) in exchange for the third match," the Italian Football Federation (FIGC) said on its website (www.figc.it) on Friday.

The Italian international was suspended after picking up his fourth booking of the season for aiming an insult at referee Paolo Tagliavento

in the 2-2 draw at Fiorentina two weeks ago.

Balotelli went to the FIGC's headquarters in Rome with a member of Milan's legal team and had hoped to be given the go-ahead to play against league leaders Juve.

He will now return for next week's home match against Catania.—Reuters

Puyol and Mascherano out of semi-final first leg at Bayern

BARCELONA, 20 April—Injured Barcelona centre backs Carles Puyol and Javier Mascherano will miss Tuesday's Champions League semi-final first leg at Bayern Munich, assistant coach Jordi Roura said on Friday.

Club captain Puyol had arthroscopic surgery on the cartilage in his right knee in March and Mascherano damaged ligaments in the same joint in Barca's 2-2 quarter-final first leg draw at Paris St Germain on 2 April.

"Puyol won't be available for the game in Munich and we don't know yet about the return leg (on 1 May), it will depend on how he recovers and the doctor's decision," Roura, standing in for coach Tito Vilanova while he recovers from cancer

treatment, told a news conference.

"Mascherano is coming along well but we still don't know whether he can play in the return leg," he added.

Barca, chasing a third European crown in five years, have several options to choose from to partner Gerard Pique in central defence, including full back

"It's normal that he is keen to play, just like his team mates."

"He has worked extremely hard and he is more ambitious all the time."

One player who appears certain to have recovered from injury before Tuesday is Barca's Argentina forward Lionel Messi.

The World Player of the



Carles Puyol speaks during a news conference at the San Siro Stadium in Milan on 19 Feb, 2013.

REUTERS



AC Milan's Mario Balotelli celebrates a goal scored by teammate Riccardo Montolivo during their Italian Serie A match.

Adriano, youth-team product Marc Bartra and midfielders Alex Song and Sergio Busquets. Eric Abidal, who returned to action this month after a liver transplant, is another possibility although he may need more time before he is back to full fitness.

"We have to take it step by step," Roura said Of the Frenchman.

Year rejoined the rest of the squad in training on Friday as he continues his recuperation from a hamstring strain sustained in the game at PSG.

"Messi is in good shape," Roura said. "He is back working with the group again and he has coped well with his recovery and is doing all he can to be fit."

Reuters

GENERAL

Blatter hints strongly may stay on for another term

PANAMA CITY, 20 April — Sepp Blatter gave his strongest hint yet that he may stay on for another four-year term as FIFA president beyond 2015, saying the scale of reform facing soccer's global governing body needed time.

Blatter, 77, has indicated in the past he would not stand for a fifth consecutive term in two years' time but he told Reuters on Friday that he would not "abandon this boat" before he was sure FIFA was in the right shape.

"We are not over with our reform because we have a first part, we have all the dangers that are in football like match-fixing and so on but we also have to have a look at the political organization of FIFA," he said after attending CONCACAF's congress.

CONCACAF is soccer's governing body in North and Central America, and the Caribbean region.

Blatter has increas-



FIFA President Joseph "Sepp" Blatter addresses the media during a news conference in Havana on 17 April, 2013. — REUTERS

ingly talked of the need to strengthen the 'global' character of FIFA and he said there was a need to address the issue of representation of the different confederations on the administration's executive committee.

"It means (asking) if the re-partition of the members in the Executive Committee is still according to nowadays (current) football," he said.

"Also—and this is the demand of all the confed-

erations—they would have a better access to the World Cup because—Europe and South America they have two-thirds of the seats," he said, referring to the make-up of the executive.

Asked directly if he wanted to be sure of global balances being in place before he would move on, Blatter said: "Absolutely, but it will take more time than just to go to the congress and say 'applaud'."

Reuters

Central China hailstorm leaves three dead

CHANGSHA, 20 April — Hailstorms have battered parts of central China's Hunan Province since Thursday, leaving three people dead, local authorities said on Friday.

According to Hunan's Provincial Department of Civil Affairs, the hailstorms

have affected 105,000 residents and forced the evacuation of more than 9,400 people.

Nearly 200 houses collapsed and 11,000 houses were damaged to varying degrees. The storms have also destroyed about 3,900 hectares of crops.

Hailstones were as large as 1.8 cm in diameter in the city of Jishou. Wind speeds hit 22.6 metres per second at Hengshan Mountain, a renowned scenic area. Weather forecasts said heavy rain and hail will continue to hit parts of Hunan next week.—Xinhua

Japanese UNICEF officer reflects on mission for children in Syria

DAMASCUS, 20 April — Iman Morooka, a UNICEF communications officer in Syria, did not hesitate to visit the strife-ridden country's battlegrounds during her recent two-month mission there, believing her task is to let the world know what is happening and that the lives of children there are in danger.

"I want people to understand their situation," Morooka said, explaining that many Syrian children

have been deprived of the opportunity to receive a decent education and are traumatized by the constant sound of gunfire and frequent terrorist attacks.

During her mission in the country which ended in mid-April, the 37-year-old stayed not only in the relatively safe capital of Damascus but chose to visit regions where the fighting has been more intense to examine the situation and interview more peo-

ple. Building health-care centres, providing drinking water and implementing educational programmes are among the numerous duties for UN Children's Fund officials working in Syria.

"Their need for assistance is too enormous and our support has been falling way behind," said Morooka, now back at UN headquarters in New York.

Battles between troops loyal to Syrian President Bashar Al-Assad and an-

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(21-4-13 09:30 am ~ 22-4-13 09:30 am) MST

- * News
- * Hope for Myanmar's Transport System
- * Seminar on Writers and Publishers Rights
- * News
- * Melodious Own Tune Songs of Diamore
- * News
- * Undisciplined People Who don't know the Value of Journals
- * Be dress in Politeness at the Holy Places
- * News
- * An Oasis Trip to Mt. Popa
- * News
- * The 9th Annual General Meeting of Geoscience Society
- * Time for the SMEs
- * News
- * Training Course on UMTS/LTE Principle Application
- * World Consumer Rights Day
- * News
- * Undisciplined People Who don't know the Value of Journals
- * Be dress in Politeness at the Holy Places
- * News
- * Myanmar Mega Factory (Episode-I)
- * Myanmar Movies "Baydar Path"

Myanmar TV

(21-4-2013, Sunday)

- | | |
|--|--|
| 6:00 am | 2:00 pm |
| 1. Paritta By Venerable Mingun Sayadaw | 18. News |
| 6:20 am | 3:15 pm |
| 2. Healthy Programme | 19. Documentary |
| 6:35 am | 3:25 pm |
| 3. Documentary | 20. TV Drama Series |
| 6:50 am | 4:00 pm |
| 4. Dance & Song of National Races | 21. News |
| 7:00 am | 4:25 pm |
| 5. News | 22. University Of Distance Education (TV Lectures) -Third Year (Physics) |
| 7:20 am | 4:40 pm |
| 6. Teleplay | 23. Sing & Enjoy |
| 8:00 am | 5:00 pm |
| 7. News | 24. News |
| 8:25 am | 5:15 pm |
| 8. Amazing World | 25. Sing & Enjoy |
| 9:00 am | 6:00 pm |
| 9. News | 26. News |
| 9:20 am | 6:20 pm |
| 10. How It's Works | 27. Cartoon Series |
| 9:50 am | 7:00 pm |
| 11. TV Drama Series | 28. News |
| 10:00 am | 7:15 pm |
| 12. News | 29. TV Drama Series |
| 11:00 am | 8:00 pm |
| 13. Gitadagale Phintbaohn | 30. News/International News |
| 12:00 pm | 8:35 pm |
| 14. News | 31. Pyi Thu Ni Ti |
| 12:25 pm | 9:00 pm |
| 15. Myanmar Video (Part-1) | 32. News |
| 1:00 pm | 33. Tamyetnar Takwetsar |
| 16. News | 34. TV Drama Series |
| 1:15 pm | 35. New Malody |
| 17. Myanmar Movie (Part-2) | |



A property salesperson (2nd R) introduces housing information to visitors at the Spring Housing Fair in Nanjing, capital of east China's Jiangsu Province, on 19 April, 2013. The fair offered about 60 housing projects, including 20,000 apartments.

XINHUA



Workers prepare for the coming 2013 World Landscape Art Exposition at the international paleoecology pavilion in Jinzhou City, northeast China's Liaoning Province, on 18 April, 2013. The expo, which will kick off on 10 May, 2013, is the result of the first cooperation by the International Association of Horticultural Producers and the International Federation of Landscape Architects. It is also the first world horticultural exposition to be held in the salt marshes after reconstruction and redevelopment.—XINHUA

Kyodo News

Four killed in Indonesia's West Java landslide

JAKARTA, 20 April — Four people from a family were killed on Friday afternoon when a landslide swept out their house located in Sempur village, Bogor, West Java province, a senior official at Indonesia's National Disaster Mitigation Agency said.

"The landslide took place at 16.00 pm western Indonesian time following

heavy downpour and strong wind that occurred around the landslide location.

The four victims who live in the house swept by the landslide were found lifeless," Sutopo Purwo Nugroho of the agency told Xinhua over the phone.

He said the bodies of the victims, including a five-year-old child, were already evacuated to Salak

hospital in Bogor.

Sutopo said that the village hit by the landslide was prone to such disaster as the increasing population in the area has forced the people to build their houses in slopes above the Ciliwung River. The house hit by the landslide was among those built in the landslide-prone area in the village, he added.—Xinhua

Cash and kind donated for victims at relief camps in Meiktila

MEIKTILA, 20 April—The wellwishers are constantly making donations for the victim families who are being sheltered at the relief camps in Meiktila. On 18 April, with the assistance of International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), Myanmar Red Cross Society donated 1366 blankets, 1336 mosquito nets, wellwisher Myo/Myokwitthit Real Estate Agent and Service from Mandalay K 1 million and relief items worth K 11,731,000, Youth Group from Pyawbwe 600 viss of onion and 150 viss of tomatoes.

Up to 18 April, a total of K 132,456,000 in cash and relief items worth K 462,790,790 have been donated by the wellwishers at the communication staff quarters.

Meiktila District IPRD



Official concerned accepts cash donation of a wellwisher. Meiktila IPRD

Yangon Mayor inspects development task in Aphyauk



Yangon Region Development Affairs Minister Yangon Mayor U Hla Myint inspects site for reclamation of new plots of the town in Aphyauk of Taikkyi Township.—MNA

YANGON, 20 April—Yangon Region Development Affairs Minister Yangon Mayor U Hla Myint yesterday morning inspected

site for new plots of the town in Aphyauk being implemented by Aphyauk Development Affairs Committee, preventive

measures against river bank erosion, systematic land survey in Taikkyi Township and met local people from Alekin Village.—MNA

Dreams Come True



- %% Usually one cannot remember the dream when you wake up. But it's real, seen and can visualize. Believe it or not. Amazing, surprising and marvellous.
 - %% Gigantic flying saucer – like Football Stadium. Thirty thousand seated complete with track and field.
 - %% Indoor Stadium, the Grand Arena. Three buildings attached. One for Comprehensive Sports such as Basket Ball, Volleyball and Martial Arts. The other for Table Tennis and Gymnastics. The third for Badminton and likewise stood nearby. You can play many, many games, every game you like. Playing under the cool mists created by giant Air Conditioners.
 - %% Here you go. At Aquatic Centre, Pools for Swimming, Diving and Training.
 - %% If you haven't seen the Wishing Pool (Natyeikan) before. Come, visit our Capital NayPyi Taw and have a look for yourself.
 - %% All these Projects approved favourably for the People by the Government. Realized by **Max Myanmar Construction Company** under the guidance of Ministries Concerned.
 - %% In the very near future, **XXVII SEA Games** will be held in December 2013. Now almost ready for hosting the participants. Let the world know. We, Myanmar are not weak and incapable. Yes, we can! We are able. We always are united indeed when in need.
 - %% Warmly welcome you, all. We are most pleased to see competing care-freely in the colossal Sports Complex. Well-done!
- (In Honour of 27th SEA Games to be held in December 2013)**

Hla Min
Chief Engineer (MMCC)

Fire at sleeper coach shed in Mandalay Railway Station

MANDALAY, 20 April—A fire occurred at a sleeper coach near the coach shed north of Mandalay Railway Station at around 10 pm yesterday. Fire engines, fire brigade members, railway staff and

officials rushed to the scene, and the fire was under control at about 10.20 pm. The fire destroyed two bed rooms at the coach. The case is under investigation.

Tin Maung (Sub-printing Mandalay)



Photo shows damaged sleeper coach due to fire near the coach shed north of Mandalay Railway Station.

Water level forecast for third 10 days of April 2013

NAY PYI TAW, 20 April—The water levels of Ayeyawady river are forecast to rise above the present water levels by 60 cm (about 2 feet) at Myitkyina, Bhamo and Katha, and 90 cm (about 3 feet) at Mandalay and Sagaing, and 75 cm (about 2.5 feet) at Pakokku, NyaungU, Chauk, Minbu,

Magway, Aunglan, Pyay, Seiktha, Hinthada and Zalun.

The water levels of Chindwin river are forecast to rise above the present water levels by 45 cm (about 1.5 feet) at Khamti and Homalin, and 30 cm (about 1 foot) at Mawlaik, Kalewa and Monywa.

NLM