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Union Transport Minister inspects development of Yangon jetty

YANGON, 21 April—Union Minister for Transport U Nyan Tun Aung looked into development of Yangon jetty on board Nan Thida jetty yesterday evening.

Managing Director U Cho Than Maung of Myanma Port Authority reported to the Minister on arrivals of oversea ships, freight handlings and conceptual plan for upgrading of Yangon jetty.

The minister said that Yangon Jetty can hold 18 ships, and plans are under way to build 14 more jetties that can double freight handlings.

He called for meeting international standard of freight handlings, balanced ratio of jetty extension and import/export volume, building of remaining seven jetties through joint venture and foreign aids.

He also said that Myanmar jetty would become a crucial one in the South East Asia after Dawei Deep Sea port and Kyaukbyu Deep Sea Port come into operation. Yangon Jetty handles 85 percent of export and import of the whole country. Construction ratio of jetties between the State and private is 25:75.

After that, the Union minister inspected situation of water course along Yangon River, dredging work and water ways for ships.

MNA

***Photo shows an ocean liner anchoring at Yangon Port.*—MNA**

Union Minister inspects Yeywa Hydropower Plant

***Photo shows Yeywa Dam about 31 miles Southeast of Mandalay.*—MNA**

NAY PYI TAW, 21 April—Union Minister for Electric Power U Khin Maung Soe visited Yeywa Hydropower Plant about 31 miles Southeast of Mandalay this evening.

The Union Minister viewed control of generators, power generation of 5.3 million KWH from generators and serving of staff in power control room there. The Union minister called for constant training to improve their proficiency, maintenance of generators at full capacity and worksite safety.

Then he inspected storage of over 1,180,000 acre-feet of water in the dam, water inflow into the dam and condition for running power generators till monsoon according to present water storage.

Yeywa Hydropower Plant is generating electricity to the people with the storage of water till May and before rainy season. It is installed with 197.5 megawatt each of four generators totaling 790 megawatt.

MNA

Development tasks in Yangon City inspected

YANGON, 21 April—Yangon Region Development Affairs Minister Yangon Mayor U Hla Myint this morning inspected expansion of Inya Road and dredging of Tadar Pyu creek on Pyay Road in Kamayut Township, expansion of lower Mingaladon Road in Insein Township, dredging of Daninyoe creek on Thuddhamma Road between North Okkalapa and Mingaladon Townships, laying of concrete on Waizayanta Road and second phase of Ngamoeyeik water supply project in South Okkalapa and Thingangyun Townships, sanitation works for Aung Mingala Creek in Tamway Township, paving of Shukhintha Street in Thakayta Township, expansion of Strand Road and dredging of Kwinkyaung Creek between Ahlon and Kyimyindaing Townships being carried out by Yangon City Development Committee.

MNA

High time to make changes in service of private hire cars (taxis)

By *Khin Hsaing*

As it is likely to see flocks of tourists when Myanmar hosts SEA Games-2013 and ASEAN Summit-2014, downtown transport service should be upgraded to enhance the image of the nation, especially taxi service. Passengers call for changes in service of private hire cars (taxis).

Although taxi meters worth K 200,000 each were installed at every cab to help passengers to ensure that they are treated fairly by knowing an accurate fare for their taxi ride, it is not working up to date and culture of bargaining still prevails. Passengers want to be provided with comfortable, time-saving and hassle-free travel at a very reasonable cost while getting on a hire car. But passengers at bus terminals, airports, jetties and railway stations are experiencing the selfish behaviour of unscrupulous taxi drivers who are willing to carry passengers with different destinations at the same time. Yangon dwellers who returned from the countryside during Thingyan days said that the taxi drivers were taking advantage of Myanmar people's feeling of embarrassment and tolerance.

They look for the passengers of the same path, but with different destinations and put them together in their cabs before the engine starts. If they did not find such kind of more passengers, the former passengers are forced to move to another taxi. That's why, passengers are to have a feeling of anger or annoyance.

Taxi fares are used to be announced by authorities concerned, but there was no adherence to the announcement. Now, irresponsible hire cars and taxis are seen more and more. So it is high time to take punitive actions against profit-seeking taxi drivers at bus terminals, jetties, railway stations and airports.

In public transport sector, special buses and taxis are to be placed under close supervisions of authorities concerned whether they can be proved their special characteristics.

Myanma Alinn: (21-4-13)

***Trs:* YM**

LOCAL NEWS

Driver who escaped from traffic accident arrested

MYITKYINA, 21 April—One person died of traffic accident at the entrance to Chinese grave yard of Shweset Ward in Myitkyina at 9.30 pm on 7 April.

According to the information, policemen inspected the incident. The dead person was U Ngwa Daw Phu, 64, of Ward Administrator. On his way back home, he drove the motorcycle along Myitkyina-Sumprabum Road and bumped against a vehicle on the opposite way.

Due to serious injuries, the ward administrator died on the spot. The driver of the vehicle escaped from the scene.

After jointly conducting investigation, No. 1 traffic police station and Special Criminal Combating Squad of District Police Force exposed the driver who broke traffic rules and arrested him.

Myitkyina Police Station No. 1 opened a file of lawsuit against driver Kyaw Tint Tun (a) Nga Kywet, 22 of Thidaaye region of Sitapu Ward of Myitkyina under the law.

Myanma Alinn

Umbrella of ordination hall at Maha Muni Buddha Image repaired

KYAUKTAW, 21 April—The strong winds hit Kyauktaw of Rakhine State on 16 April. In the event, the umbrella of the ordination hall of Maha Muni Pagoda was tilted against other side.

"Due to strong winds, the umbrella of the ordination hall was tilted against other side. The engineers from Rakhine State arrived here to inspect the damage. Now, the umbrella has been repaired as original style," said the head of Kyauktaw Police Station on 17 April.

Myanma Alinn

Umbrella has been hoisted atop ordination hall of Maha Muni Buddha Image in Kyauktaw.

Water pots for public kept for 120 years in Pakokku

PAKOKKU, 21 April—A pots of cool drinking water for the public are kept near Thihoshin Pagoda and Sasana Welponlayama Taik on Bogyoke Street in Ward 15 of Pakokku.

"The pots were donated by U Po Yon, U Po Lon and friends U Hmin and U Nyunt in the past. The pots of cool drinking water for the public are now 120 years old. Eleven pots are for the public, five for members of the Sangha and two for the Buddha image," said member of the Thihoshin Pagoda Board of Trustees U Hla Aung.

The pots were kept in the public rest house in the past, but it was damaged in 1995 due to various reasons. However, the pots are being maintained by the local people of Ward 15.

Youths from Ward 15 pledged to maintain the pots forever.—*Myanma Alinn*

Respects paid to the aged in Kyaukse

KYAUKSE, 21 April—Kyaukse District and Township Women's Affairs Organizations and Maternal and Child Welfare Associations helped shampoo and manicure 25 older persons of Shwezedi Home for the Aged and presented gifts to them at the respect paying ceremony on New Year Day.

Members of social organizations carried out sanitation inside and outside the Home.—*Myanma Alinn*

Strong winds hit Hsenwi Township

HSENWI, 21 April—Strong winds hit Hsenwi from 9.45 pm to 10.30 pm on 15 April.

In the event, 70 corrugated iron sheets that covered over newly-built reinforced concrete roof of the treasury of Myanma Economic Bank, losing about K 300,000.

In addition, the CI sheets of the town hall in Ward 1 of Hsenwi were blown off from the roof.

Likewise, the roof of CI sheets were blown off from Padauk Hall of Basic Education High School in Hsenwi.

Myanma Alinn

100,000 fingerlings released into Chindwin River

MONYWA, 21 April—A ceremony to release fish into the water was held at Monywa-Nyaungtbingyi jetty in Monywa of Sagaing Region on 17 April morning.

Speaker of Sagaing Region Hluttaw U Thin Hlaing, region ministers, district and township level officials and guests attended the ceremony.

The region Hluttaw speaker and party released 100,000 fish into Chindwin River.—*Myanma Alinn*

Cargo boat fire at Bawgagyi Jetty in Mandalay

HSENWI, 21 April—A fire broke out at the cargo boat under the name of Aung that anchored at Bawgagyi Jetty in West Daewun Ward in Chanayethazan Township of Mandalay at 5.25 pm on 16 April.

The fire started from welding at the engine room of boat owned by U Thein Oo, 45 of No. 320 block in West Daewun Ward in Chanayethazan Township of Mandalay.

Local workers from the jetty and members of Auxiliary Fire Brigade collectively put out the fire. Due to their concerted efforts, the fire destroyed the property worth about K 15000 only.

Officials concerned opened a file of lawsuit over the outbreak of fire.

Myanma Alinn

WORLD

IMF to call for progress in voting power reforms

WASHINGTON, 21 April —The policy-setting body of the International Monetary Fund is likely to call for progress in governance reforms to give emerging members more power within the multilateral lender at its meeting on Saturday in Washington.

The International Monetary and Financial Committee is also expected to discuss the current state and prospects for the global economy following the financial crisis in Cyprus, as well as call on advanced economies to achieve fiscal sustainability, conference sources said.

The IMFC, made up of representatives from 24 of the 188 members of the IMF, is expected to express its intention to continue pressing for reforms expeditiously and monitor progress transparently, they said. Under the governance reforms agreed in 2010, its members are to reflect the increasing power of emerging countries such as China, Brazil and India over the global economy.

But the Washington-based organization has yet to secure more than 85 percent of the total voting rights among 188 member economies that is required to fully implement the governance reforms, mainly because the US government has not completed its domestic procedures to accept the reforms.—*Kyodo News*

Chinese Premier visits epicentre after deadly quake

YA'AN, (Sichuan), 21 April—Chinese Premier Li Keqiang on Saturday afternoon visited the area torn by a 7.0-magnitude earthquake in China's Sichuan Province, calling for wasting no time to save lives. In the epicentre, Lushan County of Ya'an City, Li visited temporary settlements, hospitals, tents and climbing on a heap of ruin to see the disaster situation, expressed condolences to the victims and the survivors, and guided the rescue and relief work on site.

The earthquake hit Lushan County at 8:02 am Beijing time on Saturday. Authorities said at least 160 people have been killed and more than 6,700 injured as of 0:40 am Sunday Beijing Time. As the electricity supply had not yet been resumed, Li had to hold a meeting late Saturday night with flashlights in a tent in the epicentre Lushan County after seeing the disaster situation on the afternoon. After listening to the reports from officials of Sichuan Province, the armed forces, armed police force and relevant government departments, Li endorsed the current rescue and disaster relief work, saying that the priority work of Sichuan province under current situation is the rescue and disaster relief, with saving lives as the chief mission.

Chinese Premier Li Keqiang (L, front), also a member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, visits quake-affected people at a relocation site in a middle school of the quake-hit Lushan County, southwest China's Sichuan Province, on 20 April, 2013. Li Keqiang arrived in Sichuan Saturday afternoon to deploy quake relief work.—XINHUA

Li urged local officials to check every house and make the utmost effort to save lives so long as there is one gleam of hope, deploy capable medical personnel to treat and cure the injured, and transfer seriously injured people outside in time so as to lower the mortality rate and disability rate.

Transportation must be unimpeded, said Li, adding that the railway and transportation departments should make every effort to facilitate the entry of tents, quilts and other materials into the quake-hit area. Vehicles in the area should give way to rescue units and medical teams so that they can reach the places that need them.

Li decided to allocate 20,000 more tents and 800 sets of mobile houses to the disaster area, and asked the railway and transportation departments to deliver them as soon as possible.

Xinhua

Napolitano elected for second term as Italy president

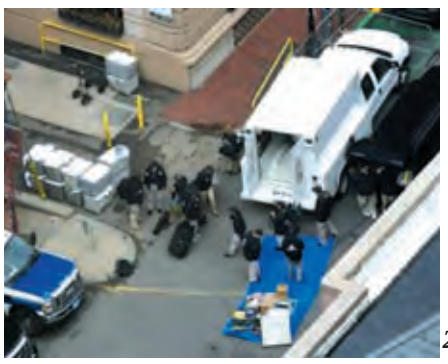
ROME, 21 April—The Italian parliament on Saturday re-elected 87-year-old President Giorgio Napolitano to serve a second term in an attempt to resolve the political stalemate left by February's inconclusive election. As most of parliament cheered his re-election, demonstrators protested outside. By evening the crowd had swelled as thousands of people vented anger at an outcome that was widely seen as perpetuating the grip on the country of a discredited political class and favouring centre-right leader Silvio Berlusconi.

The leader of the anti-establishment 5-Star Movement Beppe Grillo called on "millions" of Italians to protest against Napolitano's re-election which he called a "coup d'etat." Napolitano was elected with the votes of 738 of the 1,007 parliamentarians and regional representatives in a sixth round of voting after they had failed to find a mutually acceptable candidate in the previous attempts. He is expected to try to push for the formation of a broad coalition government in a round of consultations with party chiefs starting next week.

In brief televised comments from his presidential palace, he said the coming weeks would be crucial for the country and called on all sides to "fulfill their duties." In almost two months, Napolitano, one of the world's oldest heads of state, has failed to broker a solution to the gridlock that emerged from the February election which left no group with enough seats in parliament to form a government. A broad coalition has so far been rejected by the centre-left, which won most seats and refused to join forces with Berlusconi's centre-right. However Napolitano now has the power to dissolve parliament, which he did not have in the final months of his current term. Most on the centre-left, which has been torn apart by internal divisions since the February vote, fear new elections and so may be more willing to come to terms with Berlusconi. The 76 year-old media magnate, who was forced from office at the height of a debt crisis in 2011 and was still being written off until shortly before the election, now leads in the polls.—*Reuters*

An overhead view during the second day of the presidential election in the lower house of the parliament in Rome on 19 April, 2013.
REUTERS

Boston Marathon bombing investigation turns to motive



Law enforcement officials investigate the scene of the Boston Marathon bombings in Boston, Massachusetts, on 20 April, 2013.—REUTERS

BOSTON, 21 April—The surviving suspect in the Boston Marathon bombings lay seriously wounded and unable to speak in a hospital on Saturday as investigators worked to determine a motive and whether the two ethnic Chechen brothers accused of the attack acted alone. Dzhokhar Tsarnaev, 19, was captured late on Friday after a gunfight with police that ended a daylong manhunt and sent waves of relief and jubilation throughout Boston. His brother, Tamerlan, 26, died on early Friday after a shootout with police.

Dzhokhar had been hiding in a boat parked in the backyard of a house in the suburb of Watertown and was captured after a resident spotted blood on the boat and called police. He was being treated at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Centre in Boston. Investigators are trying to establish whether the pair had assistance leading up to the detonation of bombs made in pressure cookers and packed with ball bearings and nails at the crowded finish line of Monday's marathon, killing three people and injuring 176.

Tamerlan, 26, traveled to Moscow in January 2012 and spent six months in the region, a law enforcement source said, but it was unclear what he did while he was there and if he could have had contact with militant Islamist groups in southern Russia's restive Caucasus region. —*Reuters*

1.5 million people affected by China quake

BEIJING, 21 April—More than 1.5 million people in southwest China's Sichuan Province have been affected by Saturday's strong earthquake, said the Ministry of Civil Affairs here on Sunday.

The quake has affected 69 counties in the province, said the statement from the ministry. "A large number of buildings collapsed and were damaged in the quake-hit area. The authorities are still checking the details since the communication and transport are not fully available," the statement said. The quake also affected neighbouring Chongqing Municipality and Yunnan Province, it said.

About 400 buildings were damaged and eight collapsed in Chongqing and around 900 buildings were damaged in Yunnan, it said. A total of 180 people have been confirmed dead in the 7.0-magnitude earthquake, which hit Sichuan on Saturday morning, according to the provincial government.

More than 2,300 firemen have been engaged in rescue work, according to the Ministry of Public Security.

Rescuers have covered all area of Lushan County, the epicentre of the quake, and several rescue teams struggled into neighbouring Baoxing County, which has been isolated since the quake happened.

Xinhua

Workers of Sichuan Road and Bridge (Group) and China Railway Group rush to repair the only road heading to Lingguan Township of Baoxing County, which was badly hit by the earthquake, in Lushan County of Ya'an City, southwest China's Sichuan Province, at the midnight of 21 April, 2013. —XINHUA

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Students take part in annual Earth Day Parade and march through the streets of Vancouver, Canada, on 20 April, 2013. This year's Earth Day Parade is organized by a group of high school students who call themselves "Youth 4 Climate Justice Now" in order to bring government attention to the environmental issues and to do more to leave youth with a sustainable world to inherit. — XINHUA

CBS News says some of its Twitter accounts were hacked

NEW YORK, 21 April — Social media accounts maintained by CBS News programmes, "60 Minutes" and "48 Hours," were compromised on Saturday, the two programmes' official Twitter accounts said.

A post on the "60 Minutes" Twitter microblog account, @60Minutes, said, "PLEASE NOTE: Our Twitter account was compromised earlier today. We are working with Twitter to resolve." Another post read, "A message that was posted earlier to this account was not written or sent by @60Minutes or its staff."

The Twitter account for @48Hours showed a similar message, and several blogs said a third account, @CBSDenver, also had been hacked. Tech bloggers posted screenshots of fake posts that appeared under the CBS accounts, including one from @48Hours that read, "General Dempsey calls for #Obama's arrest under new anti-terror laws #48hours."

On its own official account, @CBSNews, the news organization said it had "experienced problems" on the other two accounts, and added, "Twitter is resolving issues." The rogue posts appeared to have been removed from Twitter.com later on Saturday.

Reuters

Captive particles and Dr Who show physicists are human too

GENEVA, 21 April — Physicists are deadly serious people, right? Clad in long white coats, they spend their days smashing particles together in the hunt for exotic creatures like quarks and squarks, leptons and sleptons — and the Higgs Boson.

At night their dreams are all about finding them. When discoveries show up amid the colourful displays on their monitor screens — as the Higgs Boson did last summer — they may share a glass or two of champagne, but then get down to writing learned papers for the heavy science journals.

True? Well, not quite. They do have a sense of humor too. At the start of this month, a blog from the Great Temple of the particle hunting profession at CERN, near Geneva, offered a captive boson of the Higgs genus to each of the first 10 readers to e-mail in a request.

Simultaneously, across the Atlantic the US Fermilab announced a months-long search for a new director was over with the appointment of "the obvious candidate," the Time Lord. It WAS April Fools' Day, and no one was misled, right? Wrong, they were, according to both august institutions.

At CERN, scientist-blogger Pauline Gagnon now reports that over 1,500 eager respondents entered her boson lottery. "Most of them wrote very enthusiastic notes, explaining why they wanted a Higgs,"—so far no more than a ripple on a graph she told *Reuters*.

"Even some physics students fell for it.... One told me it would help to win his girlfriend's heart as he was about to propose." Nearly half the entries came from Belarus or Russia. Gagnon suspects that a serious report on the "lottery" by a regional news agency may have had something to do with that response.

Other applications for an original of the ephemeral Higgs came from Australia, China, Canada and Finland—which have strong physics communities. One came from Rwanda, which doesn't.

"Many applicants were not completely fooled but happily played along," says Gagnon. Ten of them, finally selected at random, will get a cuddly toy boson in reward.

Over at Fermilab, which for years competed with CERN in the Higgs chase but lost its particle collider in a US government economy drive, spokesperson Andre Salles reported a "tremendous response" to their 1 April announcement.

Reuters

Technicians look at computer screens during the preparation of the beam in the Control Room of the Large Hadron Collider (LHC) at the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN) near Geneva on 5 April, 2012.
REUTERS

Amazon posts 14 TV pilots on Internet to gather viewer feedback

SAN FRANCISCO, 21 April — Amazon.com Inc's experiment with original video production took a big step forward on Friday as the company posted 14 pilot TV shows on the Internet for free viewing.

Amazon, the world's largest Internet retailer, has been filming pilots in recent months for comedy and kids TV shows such as Alpha House, Betas and Teeny Tiny Dogs.

The company posted them all on the Amazon Instant Video section of its website to get feedback on which shows viewers like best. The pilots can also be watched on Amazon Instant Video apps through other web-connected devices like Roku, Microsoft's Xbox and Nintendo's Wii.

Based on viewers' reactions and reviews, the Amazon Studios production company will decide which projects to make into full TV series to be shown on Prime Instant Video, Amazon's subscription-based online video service.

Reuters

US Air Force cadets win cyber war game with NSA hackers

HANOVER, (Maryland), 21 April — A US Air Force Academy team on Friday beat out rivals from other elite military colleges after a three-day simulated cyber "war" against hackers from the National Security Agency that is meant to teach future officers the importance of cybersecurity.

Nearly 60 government experts—sitting under a black skull and crossbones flag—worked around the clock this week to break into computer networks built by students at the Air Force, Army, Navy, Coast Guard and Merchant Marine academies. Two military graduate schools also participated.

The annual Cyber Defenc.e Exercise (CDX), now in its 13th year, gives students real world practice in fighting off a increasing barrage of cyber attacks aimed at US computer networks by China, Russia and Iran, among others. It also allows the NSA's top cyber experts and others from military reserves, National Guard units and other agencies hone their offensive skills at a time when the Pentagon is trying to pump up its arsenal of cyber weapons.

While the students sleep or catch up on other work, some of the NSA's "Red cell" attackers use viruses, so-called "Trojan horses" and other malicious software to corrupt student-built networks or steal data —in this case, long sets of numbers dreamt up by the officials coordinating the exercise.

But the job gets tougher every year, says Raphael Mudge, an Air Force reservist who develops software and training to protect private computer networks. "It's challenging. The students are hungry to win," said Mudge. "It forces all of us to get better."

Reuters

SAP's cloud computing push stalls in Asia

FRANKFURT, 21 April — SAP AG's Asian business stumbled at the start of 2013 when top sales managers left the business software company, giving rivals an edge just as customers were switching from hardware to cloud computing. The German company vowed to get its Asia Pacific business back on track after the problems pushed its first-quarter earnings and revenue below analyst forecasts. Its shares fell 2.8 percent on Friday.

SAP and rivals such as IBM and Oracle are dashing to meet surging demand for cloud computing, which allows clients to reduce costs by ditching bulky and costly servers for network-based software and storage in remote data centres. With the cloud services market forecast to grow 18.5 percent this year to $131 billion worldwide, according to research firm Gartner, competition is fierce and software firms face a challenge to adapt. "We had some leadership changes in the region. That is why we saw some misses in the quarter," said SAP's co-Chief Executive Jim Hagemann Snabe.

He promised the Asia Pacific region would be back on track in the second quarter as the sales pipeline looked good and important sales positions were now taken care of. SAP shares were down 2.8 percent at 57.95 euros by 0932 GMT, while a broader index of European technology companies was down 0.7 percent. The biggest disappointment in SAP's quarterly results was SAP's performance in the Asia Pacific Japan region (APJ), said Stacy Pollard, an analyst at JP Morgan.

Its software and cloud subscription revenue there declined 7 percent, lagging the Americas, where revenue jumped 49 percent, and Europe, the Middle East and Africa, where it grew 13 percent.

"While weakness from other software and IT services names over the last month had already pushed down expectations (and the SAP share price), we would still expect another 3 to 4 percent correction to shares today," Pollard said.

Reuters

GM's Opel returns to Shanghai auto show with limited ambitions

FRANKFURT, 21 April—General Motors' (GM.N) troubled Opel division is returning to China's main auto show after a five-year absence, with three new cars at the centre of a long-promised push into the world's largest market. In Germany, where Opel employs around 20,000 workers, the move may please unions and politicians anxious to preserve jobs in an election year. But analysts say it falls far short of earlier hopes for an overseas sales revival for the European brand.

Opel badly needs to expand beyond Europe, where it is losing money at an alarming rate — $1.8 billion last year — as it struggles to cover the fixed costs of factories operating far below capacity. The continent's auto market is at its smallest in nearly 20 years and still shrinking. But an already unambitious China strategy is likely to be undermined by a tiny dealer body, painful import tariffs and fierce competition from other GM brands.Opel's new CEO, Karl-Thomas Neumann, appeared to emphasize China's potential soon after taking office in March but the former head of Volkswagen in China has since been conspicuously quiet about his brand's goals in the market. GM has distanced itself even from a modest 30,000-vehicle sales target advanced by Neumann's predecessor last year.

"We do not provide details on volume targets," an Opel spokesman said. GM's plans to develop Opel in China now amount to little more than "lip service" to the brand's potential, said Edmunds.com analyst Michelle Krebs. "One of Opel's problems is that it isn't sold globally, so the brand is dependent on shrinking European demand," she said. "But they're only dipping their toes in the Chinese market." Neumann himself appears to have scaled back his China ambition.—*Reuters*

Global finance officials endorse World Bank target to end poverty

WASHINGTON, 21 April—Global finance officials on Saturday endorsed a new World Bank goal to end extreme global poverty by 2030 and emphasized that its focus should be on ensuring that the poorest benefit from strong growth and rising prosperity in developing nations.

"For the first time in history we have committed to setting a target to end poverty," World Bank President Jim Yong Kim said on Saturday following a meeting of the World Bank's Development Committee. "We are no longer dreaming of a world free of poverty; we have set an expiration date for extreme poverty," he added.

The goal aimed to reduce extreme poverty to 3 percent globally and targets the bottom 40 percent of people living in each country in the developing world. Developing economies are growing on average about 6 percent annually, lifting millions of people out of poverty and creating a new global middle class, which has also given rise to growing inequality.

"We recognize that sustained economic growth needs a reduction in inequality. Investments that create opportunities for all citizens and promote gender equality are an important end in their own right, as well we being integral to creating prosperity," the Development Committee said. The new World Bank target aim to guide the work of the institution, and coincides with efforts by the United Nations to draw up a post-2015 poverty strategy to replace existing goals.

New figures released by the World Bank this week show that extreme poverty globally has plunged to 21 percent in 2010, from 43 percent in 1990, with most of the world's poor now concentrated most heavily in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia, as China has successfully slashed extreme poverty.—*Reuters*

***World Bank President Jim Yong Kim (L) speaks next to International Monetary Fund (IMF) Managing Director Christine Lagarde at a news conference during the Spring Meeting of the IMF and World Bank in Washington, on 20 April, 2013.—*REUTERS**

Astellas, GSK vie to make "high altitude" anemia pill

LONDON, 21 April—Japan's Astellas Pharma and Britain's GlaxoSmithKline are competing to develop a new kind of medicine that boosts production of red blood cells by making the body think it is at high altitude. Their experimental drugs — both given as pills — could create a major new market in treating anemia and other serious conditions, including circulatory problems and wound damage. They may also attract unscrupulous athletes seeking a handy oral alternative to injections of EPO, or erythropoietin, the blood enhancer that has become a byword for doping in cases involving cyclist Lance Armstrong and others.

So far, the rival pills are not generally on investors' radar, but they could become significant challengers in an anemia therapy market that is currently dominated by EPO products with combined sales of close to $8 billion a year. GSK Chief Executive Andrew Witty recently highlighted his company's pill, dubbed GSK 1278863, as one of the two most exciting and innovative products in the development pipeline alongside a promising cancer vaccine called MAGE-A3. "It is a tablet which makes the body think it is at 5,000 feet. When you go and exercise at altitude you produce a lot of red blood cells, so it has all sorts of potential applications in terms of helping people with blood disorders," he told a National Health Service meeting last month.

GSK is testing its drug in Phase II clinical trials. That puts it behind Astellas and its partner FibroGen, which launched final-stage Phase III tests in December of their drug, known as FG-4592 or ASP1517, as an anemia treatment in patients with chronic kidney disease. Mike Allen, head of urology and nephrology at Astellas, said the new drug marked a major advance compared to EPO, since it did not raise blood pressure — a concern with EPO. And since it can be given orally at home, it should be particularly suitable for kidney patients who are not on hospital dialysis.

Reuters

Extra fiber tied to lower risk of stroke

NEW YORK, 21 April—People who get more fiber in their diet are less likely to have a stroke than those who skimp on the nutrient, according to a new review of existing research. "A few people in the past have looked at the relationship between fiber and cardiovascular disease, which includes coronary heart disease and stroke," senior author Victoria Burley told *Reuters Health*.

But this is the first time all the available results from long-term studies have been pulled together into one analysis, said Burley, a senior lecturer in nutritional epidemiology at the University of Leeds in the UK. Burley and her coauthors pooled the results of eight studies conducted since 1990 that included close to 500,000 participants.—*Reuters*

Mexico bank reform eases legal hurdles to boost credit

MEXICO CITY, 21 April—Mexico's government aims to boost lending by making it easier for banks to collect on guarantees for bad loans and by giving new powers to regulators to punish firms that do not lend enough, according to a draft of a new banking reform.

The proposal, a copy of which was seen by *Reuters*, is due to be presented next week, and is part of a raft of measures aimed at ramping up growth in Latin America's second biggest economy.

Mexican President Enrique Pena Nieto speaks at the opening ceremony of the annual Boao Forum in Boao, in southern China's Hainan province, on 7 April, 2013.
REUTERS

Thrashed out within a pact made between President Enrique Pena Nieto and the leaders of the main opposition parties, the banking reform targets Mexico's conservative banks, which boast high capital levels but lend much less than their foreign peers.

"Granting more loans, under more favourable conditions in terms of interest rates, duration and amounts, is a crucial element to efficiently allocating financial resources to boost national economic growth," the draft says.

Reuters

Large study finds no vaccine link to nerve disorder

NEW YORK, 21 April—In a review of data covering 13 years and millions of patients, researchers found no evidence of a link between being vaccinated against tetanus, hepatitis, pneumonia or flu, and developing the nerve-degenerating disorder Guillain-Barré.

"The take home message is vaccines are not causing Guillain-Barré Syndrome at a rate, if at all, that would possibly make the benefits of vaccination not worthwhile," wrote Dr Daniel Salmon, of the Institute for Vaccine Safety at Johns Hopkins University, who was not part of the study, in an email to *Reuters Health*. Guillain-Barré syndrome (GBS) is a rare condition that affects one person out of every 100,000 and can lead to paralysis, which is usually temporary.

GBS is considered an autoimmune response, in which a person's own immune cells attack the protective coating on nerve fibers. Most cases follow a bacterial or viral infection, and develop over the course of days or weeks. In 1976, a vaccine created to protect against an epidemic of swine flu that never materialized was linked to an increased risk of GBS in people who got the shot. Ever since, researchers have been looking at whether flu vaccines or any other vaccines might be associated with heightened risk.

"There's definitely a connection in people's minds that vaccines cause this syndrome. But if you look at the (medical) literature, that doesn't bear out," said Dr Roger Baxter, the new study's lead author and co-director of the Vaccine Study Centre at Kaiser Permanente in Oakland, California.

Reuters

WORLD

Saudi king removes deputy defence minister in royal reshuffle

RIYADH, 21 April— Saudi Arabia's King Abdullah has removed veteran deputy defence minister Prince Khaled bin Sultan from his post, state media reported on Saturday, the latest move in a reshuffle among princes holding government jobs in the US-allied kingdom. Switches of important posts between princes are closely watched because they indicate possible changes in the line of succession in the monarchy, the dominant power among Gulf Arab states and the world's biggest oil exporter.

Prince Khaled was head of the Saudi armed forces during the 1991 Gulf War but was passed over for the job of Defence Minister in 2011 after the death of his father, Crown Prince Sultan, who had held the position for five decades. He has been replaced as deputy defence minister by Prince Fahd bin Abdullah bin Mohammed bin Abdulrahman, *Saudi Press Agency (SPA)* reported, citing a royal decree. Prince Fahd is a former head of the Saudi navy. SPA did not give a reason for the switch.

The Defence Minister is Crown Prince Salman, King Abdullah's named successor. He oversees multi-billion-dollar arms purchases that cement Saudi Arabia's alliances with Western nations. Unlike in European monarchies, the Saudi ruling family succession does not move from father to eldest son but along a line of brothers born to the kingdom's founder, and is based on seniority, experience, temperament and position in the family.

Reuters

Saudi's Prince Khaled bin Sultan bin Abdul-Aziz, the assistant minister for defence and aviation, attends the graduation ceremony of Saudi Air Force cadets at King Faisal military college in Riyadh on 4 Jan, 2011. **REUTERS**

Texas fertilizer company didn't heed disclosure rules before blast

NEW YORK, 21 April — The fertilizer plant that exploded on Wednesday, obliterating part of a small Texas town and killing at least 14 people, had last year been storing 1,350 times the amount of ammonium nitrate that would normally trigger safety oversight by the US Department of Homeland Security (DHS). Yet a person familiar with DHS operations said the company that owns the plant, West Fertilizer, did not tell the agency about the potentially explosive fertilizer as it is required to do, leaving one of the principal regulators of ammonium nitrate — which can also be used in bomb making — unaware of any danger there.

Fertilizer plants and depots must report to the DHS when they hold 400 lb (180 kg) or more of the substance. Filings this year with the Texas Department of State Health Services, which weren't shared with DHS, show the plant had 270 tons of it on hand last year. A US congressman and several safety experts called into question on Friday whether incomplete disclosure or regulatory gridlock may have contributed to the disaster.

"It seems this manufacturer was willfully off the grid," Rep. Bennie Thompson, (D-MS), ranking member of the House Committee on Homeland Security, said in a statement. "This facility was known to have chemicals well above the threshold amount to be regulated under the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards Act (CFATS), yet we understand that DHS did not even know the plant existed until it blew up."

Company officials did not return repeated calls seeking comment on its handling of chemicals and reporting practices. Late on Friday, plant owner Donald Adair released a general statement expressing sorrow over the incident but saying West Fertilizer would have little further comment while it cooperated with investigators to try to determine what happened.—*Reuters*

Investigators stand amid the aftermath of a massive explosion at a fertilizer plant in the town of West, near Waco, Texas on 18 April , 2013. **—REUTERS**

Bombs, mortars fail to stop first Iraq vote since US exit

Employees of the Independent High Electoral Commission (IHEC) count ballots at a polling station in Baghdad on 20 April, 2013.**—REUTERS**

BAGHDAD, 21 April — Bomb attacks and mortar fire failed to prevent Iraqis voting on Saturday in the first nationwide elections since the last US troops left more than a year ago. The provincial elections will measure political parties' strength before a parliamentary election in 2014 to chose a new government in a country deeply divided along sectarian lines. A dozen small bombs exploded and mortar rounds landed near polling centres in cities north and south of the capital. Three voters and a policeman were injured by mortars in Latifiya, south of Baghdad, police said.

The violence was relatively low key for a country where a local al-Qaeda wing and other Sunni Islamists have stepped up their efforts to undermine the Shi'ite Muslim-led government and stoke confrontation along religious and ethnic divides. Preliminary results were not due for several days, but election authorities said 50 percent of eligible voters — more than 6.4 million — took part in Saturday's poll, a similar rate to the last vote for provincial councils in 2009.

After polls closed, a local official in Baquba, 65 km (40 miles) northeast of Baghdad, said disgruntled voters who were unable to find their names on the electoral lists burned four boxes of ballots at one polling station.—*Reuters*

Japanese firms boost exports of coal-fired thermal power systems

TOKYO, 21 April — Japanese manufacturers have boosted their exports of coal-fired thermal power equipment and systems, and received orders for building facilities with a combined generating capacity of 20 million kilowatts, equivalent to the output of 20 nuclear power plants, in the aftermath of the 2011 Fukushima nuclear crisis, trade ministry data showed on Saturday. Japanese companies make efficient coal-fire thermal power generation, which is in strong demand in Asian emerging economies where more power is needed, as well as in East Europe where facilities need upgrading. An increase of coal-fired thermal power facilities with a combined generation capacity of 270 million kilowatts is expected in locations such as Asia and East Europe. Japanese manufacturers have an edge over foreign rivals because of technology, such as their supercritical pressure technology. The Japanese government is supporting the export of coal-fired thermal power equipment and systems, and plans to incorporate the policy of promoting such power in the country's growth strategy plan. About 40 percent of the world's electricity is generated from coal-fired thermal power because of its low cost, which is about one-third that of liquefied natural gas.

Kyodo News

Air Arabia lands passenger record in first quarter

DUBAI, 21 April — The number of passengers Air Arabia carried in the first three months broke the record of its quarterly figure since 2005. The Middle East's biggest low-cost airliner said on Saturday that it had 1,445,783 passengers on board in the first quarter of this year, representing a 17.5 percent growth year on year.

Air Arabia, which is also the oldest low-budget airliner in the region, flies to 85 destinations, mostly in the Middle East, from its 3 hubs in Sharjah (near Dubai), Alexandria (Egypt) and Casablanca (Morocco). Recently, Air Arabia, whose shares are listed on the Dubai stock market DFM, started flights to Pakistan's Sialkot, Iraq's Baghdad and Mattala in Sri Lanka.

In the first quarter, Air Arabia also took delivery of two new *Airbus A320* aircraft.

Xinhua

14 anti-government militants lay down arms in N Afghanistan

PUL-E-KHUMRI, (Afghanistan), 21 April — More than a dozen armed militants laid down arms and resumed normal life in Baghlan Province 160 km north of Kabul on Saturday.

"Today we are welcoming 14 armed militants who have given fighting and resumed normal life within their community in Baghlan- e-Markazi district," provincial police chief Assadullah Shirzad said, while welcoming the former militants in a ceremony here. The former fighters also handed over their weapons to police. The group commander Mohammad Reza in his short speech called on government to accelerate reconstruction process and create job oppurtunities.

These people, he said had linked with the radical Islamic party the Hekmatyar-led Hizb-e-Islami and were active against government in Charshanba Tapa area, adding with joining these people the security will be further stabilized in the province. Hizb-e-Islami, a smaller gorup than Taleban, which has been fighting against government and NATO-led force in Afghanistan has yet to make comment. — *Xinhua*

14 anti-government militants attend a surrender ceremony in Baghlan Province of northern Afghanistan, on 20 April, 2013. More than a dozen armed militants laid down arms and resumed normal life in Baghlan Province 160 km north of Kabul on Saturday.**—XINHUA**

Egypt's Mursi plans cabinet reshuffle

CAIRO, 21 April—Egyptian President Mohamed Mursi said on Saturday he planned to reshuffle his cabinet in a move that could help build political consensus around a $4.8 billion loan Cairo is seeking from the International Monetary Fund.

Mursi's opponents have been demanding the formation of a new government to oversee parliamentary elections expected to begin later this year. The United States, a major donor to Cairo, has grown more critical of Mursi of late, listing a lack of political inclusivity as one of its concerns.The IMF has stressed the need for broad support for a loan agreement seen as vital to easing Egypt's economic crisis but which is also likely to bring with it politically-sensitive austerity measures such as tax increases and subsidy cuts.

An IMF technical mission held 12 days of talks on the loan agreement but left earlier this week without an agreement. While in Cairo, the mission met an array of Egyptian opposition parties in an effort to broaden support for any deal. In an interview with al-Jazeera television aired late on Saturday, Mursi said: "We are keen on the IMF, the World Bank, international institutions, and on dealing with them ... but what will serve the interests of the Egyptian citizen? That is what we will do."

"The programmes that serve (this) interest are not in accordance with what the IMF wants. I do not yield to conditions, internal or external. The only condition is realizing the interests of the Egyptian citizen." Asked why had Egypt had "failed" so far to secure the loan, Mursi said: "This is not failure. The IMF has its way, its tools, its means, its programs, and in Egypt we have our tools, our means and our programmes"

Reuters

Egyptian President Mohamed Mursi.

Police agents pick up packets of cocaine hydrochloride seized during an operation in the township of Turbo, Antioquia department, Colombia, on 20 April, 2013. XINHUA

Hundreds of Jordanians demand deporting Syrian refugees

AMMAN, 21 April—Hundreds of Jordanians held a sit- in on Saturday, calling for the deportation of Syrian refugees taking shelter in their country. The demonstrators blocked roads leading to the Zaatari camp, home to more than 150,000 Syrian refugees, witnesses said.

The protest came one day after violent riots broke out at the camp between Syrian refugees and police, which left 18 policemen injured. Syrian refugees threw rocks at the police guarding the camp, according to witnesses.

Jordanian Interior Minister Hussein Majali urged the authorities to bring those involved in the riots to justice, state- run Petra news agency reported. Up to 500,000 Syrian refugees have taken shelter in Jordan since early 2011, when Syria's political unrest erupted.—*Xinhua*

Iran plans to invest 30 b USD in oil industry

TEHERAN, 21 April—Iran's oil minister said on Saturday that his country plans to invest 30 billion US dollars in the oil industry in the current Iranian calendar year which began on 21 March, Press TV reported.

Rostam Qasemi made the remarks on the sidelines of an energy exhibition in Teheran, noting that the ambition marks a 20-percent increase from the 25 billion US dollars invested in the field last year.

Commenting on the Western sanctions against Iran's energy sector, Qasemi said his country has made significant achievements under the sanctions and has been able to produce many items related to the petroleum industry domestically.

Domestic production of equipment would eliminate the country's need for foreign goods in the near future, he added.—*Xinhua*

Fire kills six in Istanbul

ISTANBUL, 21 April—Five children and an adult were killed here on Saturday night in a fire at a four-storey building.

Among the dead were a 7-month-old baby and a 5-year-old girl, according to local media. The fire has been extinguished by firefighters, and an investigation is under way.

Local media reported that the fire presumably broke out after an electric heater set aflame a pullout couch, and that the victims were unable to escape as the flames spread quickly and blocked the exit.—*Xinhua*

Peacekeeper shot dead in Sudan's Darfur region

KHARTOUM, 21 April—An international peacekeeper was shot dead by unknown gunmen in an eastern part of Sudan's Darfur region, the joint African Union-United Nations peacekeeping mission (UNAMID) said. The killing brings the total number of peacekeepers killed in Darfur since 2007 to 44, a UNAMID spokesman said.

War broke out in Darfur in 2003 when rebels took up arms against the central government, accusing Khartoum of neglecting the remote region and marginalizing its ethnic minorities. Despite the presence of the world's largest peacekeeping mission, fighting between Sudan's army and rebels has continued since then, alongside banditry and tribal clashes.

UNAMID said one of its peacekeepers was shot dead in the early morning on Friday near Muhajeria in East Darfur state. Two other peacekeepers were wounded, it said in a statement. It did not give the nationalities of the victims. UNAMID said it was investigating the incident in coordination with the Sudanese government. In December, an international peacekeeper killed three other peacekeepers before killing himself in Darfur.

Reuters

Rich political novice the favourite to win Paraguayan presidency

ASUNCION, 21 April—Paraguayans go to the polls on Sunday in a presidential election that could return the center-right Colorado Party to power less than a year after the nation's leftist leader was impeached.

Millionaire businessman Horacio Cartes, 56, is the Colorado Party candidate and front-runner in the race, most polls show. A political novice, he vows to reform his party, which was tainted by corruption during its 60-year reign through 2008.

His main rival is Efrain Alegre, a 50-year-old lawyer and career politician in the ruling centre-right Liberal Party, which took over the presidency after withdrawing support for President Fernando Lugo and clearing the way for his impeachment in June.

Congress ousted Lugo, a leftist and former Roman Catholic bishop, after finding him guilty of mishandling a botched land eviction that killed 17 police officers and peasant farmers. Some of Paraguay's neighbours saw the two-day trial as tantamount to a coup and imposed diplomatic sanctions on the South American nation.

Reuters

A man handles a campaign billboard of Paraguay's presidential candidate Efrain Alegre of the ruling Liberal Party in Asuncion, on 20 April, 2013. Paraguayans will vote for a new president on Sunday.—REUTERS

Security personnel work at the Mall, the finishing line of the London Marathon, in London, capital of Britain, on 20 April, 2013. London's Metropolitan Police have reinforced security for the competition scheduled for 21 April, in the wake of the Boston Marathon bombings.—XINHUA

One killed in Libyan raid on drug trafficking site

TRIPOLI, 21 April—A raid by Libya's interior ministry on a drug trafficking site in Tripoli left one killed and another injured on Saturday, a source at the ministry told *Xinhua*.

Both the casualties were members of the interior ministry's anti-crime body, and the injured were taken to an emergency hospital in the capital, the source said, requesting anonymity.

The incident took place early on Saturday in the centre part of Tripoli, where some alleged outlaws clashed with the security members, the source added.

The Libyan security authorities have recently launched a large-scale crackdown on illegal drugs and alcoholic beverages that are prohibited in the country.

Xinhua

PERSPECTIVES

Monday, 22 April, 2013

Impact of high temperature on children

Now is in deep summer, and the temperature is going up all the more. High temperature begets adverse effects on the health of human beings one way or another. In particular, high temperature is harmful to the health of children. So, all the parents should be every serious about their kids in the summer.

When it gets warmer, people sweat heavily and lose much of water from their bodies and dehydration followed. As a result of excessive loss of sweat, they can be feeble, dizzy and get cramp, and even become unconscious. Based on the gravity of sufferings stemming from high temperature rehydration salt is highly recommended for the patient in question.

In the hot season, children often suffer from diarrhea and vomiting accompanied by gastroenteritis. In such a situation, they could lose much of water from their bodies. If so, they need urgent medical attention.

If a fan is switched on in a room without ventilation when it is hot, children can be at the mercy of high temperature. When a child falls sick, his body temperature may get higher. So, he should be sponged before he is sent to a hospital or clinic. When a child has a bad attack of diarrhea and vomiting or is taken ill suddenly with high temperature, he should be sent to the nearest hospital or clinic as soon as possible.

As good health is more precious than gold, we should always try and keep good health with children high on the agenda in the midst of summer, taking seriously the bad effects of high temperature and the importance of good health.

ARTICLE

PSM and PSB for the sake of all national races

Dr. Thida Tin

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar is a multi-ethnic country. The Section 22 of Chapter (1) Basic Principles of the Union of the Constitution states that the Union shall assist: (a) to develop language, literature, fine arts and culture of the national races; (b) to promote solidarity, mutual amity and respect and mutual assistance among the national races; (c) to promote socio-economic development including education, health, economy, transport and communication, so forth, of less-developed national races.

In accord with the Constitution, the government is making strenuous efforts for socio-economic development of all national races, development of their language, literature and culture and national unity in all aspects. A news appeared in recent day newspapers that the State-owned Kyemon daily and Myanmar Alinn daily will be transformed into Public Service Media (PSM) and Myanma Radio and Television, into Public Service Broadcasting (PSB). PSM and PSB will be giving more priority to national races affairs.

PSM/PSB means that it includes a wide variety of programmes as well as programme for the minority audience including the vulnerable groups and culture and education programme. It is a non-profit-making service, just only for general public's cultural promotion and knowledge dissemination.

PSM draft law is being drawn so as to offer media service to the people in line with the democracy system. Its objective is to serve political, economic and social interests of the general public and to encourage the emergence of free and independent PSM.

Some fundamental principles of PSM are as follows; (a) shall practice the freedom of reporting; (b) shall present infotainment programme taking into consideration different races, culture and religions; (c) shall present some programme that private media cannot coverage, fulfill the needs and interests of the people and highlight and represent people's different views.

Among the tasks regarding the national races, it includes broadcasting programme for all national races and ethnic minorities in their own languages that highlight national characters and cultural pluralism of all national races.

Since 2011, the Ministry of Information has been formulating the public service media draft law with the aim of ensuring the emergence of public service media that could pave the way for higher cultural standard and widening the scope of knowledge of the people, thereby contributing towards good governance and the Rule of Law being implemented by the government as its one of reforms. Promoting culture and imparting knowledge to the public is not a profitable one like businesses that make money within a short period of time, but it can accumulate a great amount of intangible social benefit in the long-term.

When the draft law emerges, regional newspapers mainly coverage of regional news will appear. Moreover, Broadcast law which is being formulated with the assistance of UNESCO and international organizations like International Media Support (IMS), Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES) will include establishment of community radio stations that have been given a license by authorities concerned for national races and minorities. It is also under discussion.

Apart from airing national race program in 14 national race languages from 6 am to 12 noon and from 2 pm to 10 pm on Myanma Athan, MRTV will launch a new TV channel, Pyidaungsu channel, starting from September in order to more provide the public with media service. The new program will be broadcast in eight major languages—Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, two Chin languages, Mon, Rakhine, Shan and national race. While airing in Chin language, the programme will be broadcast in Chin (Falam) and Chin (Mindat). The programme with extensive coverage of songs of above-mentioned national races, their traditions and customs, talks on their traditions and customs, regional news, news reports of the government and news aired on MRTV will be broadcast from 6 am to 10 pm.

In preparation for the launch of the Pyidaungsu TV Channel, a coordination meeting with State governments concerned was held at the Ministry of Information in March this year.

Furthermore, media censorship was totally lifted in August 2012 and more journals were allowed to publish in accord with the democratic system the country is practicing. Permission is being given through online in a few minutes. So two journals published in Mon language, one journal in Mon–Myanmar languages, one journal in Shan–Myanmar language and religious periodicals in Po Kayin-Myanmar, Sakaw Kayin-Myanmar and Tiddim Chin-Myanmar have been in circulation so far. Now, dailies in national race languages were allowed to publish. So there will be national race dailies soon. Two state-owned newspapers are being translated into PSM, presenting more news on national races. When PSM comes into full operation, the two newspapers will present a broader coverage of the songs of national races, their views and opinions, feelings, traditions and customs, languages and regional knowledge and national races cuisines. I would like to encourage writers and publishers to do more than before.

Since the assumption of responsibility by the new government, systematic reform process are underway in order to present national race programmes more and more, placing a plenty of attention on national races affairs in accord with the Constitution. Because of these efforts, Public Service Media draft law will emerge soon for the sake of all national races.

Trs: **MT+YM**

Stake driven for Myitkyina Gems Entrepreneurs Association

MYITKYINA, 21 April—A ceremony to drive stake for construction of Gems Entrepreneurs Association (Myitkyina) was held in Myitkyina of Kachin State on 3 April morning.

Chief Minister of Kachin State U La John Ngan Hsai, Speaker of State Hluttaw U Ra Wam Jone, Commander of Northern Command Maj-Gen Tun Tun Naung, Chairman of Myanmar Gems Entrepreneurs Association U Teza, Patron of Gems Entrepreneurs Association (Myitkyina) U Yup Zaw Khong drove stakes at the designated places.

The Chief Minister and party made speeches on the occasion.

Chairman of the association (Myitkyina) U Rit Nant Zay Lwam spoke words of thanks.

Myanma Alinn

Chief Minister of Kachin State U La John Ngan Hsai drives stake for construction of Gems Entrepreneurs Association (Myitkyina).

Early Childhood Development Centres organize conclusion of courses

KENGTUNG, 21 April—The course conclusion of Early Childhood Development Centres organized by World Vision Kengtung (Myanmar) was held at Taingli Hall in Ward 3 of Kengtung on 5 April.

It was atended by In-charge of World Vision Kengtung (Myanmar) Daw Naw Rit Phaw and officials, parents and school children, totalling 361.

The students extended greetings and presented various dances, songs and poems. Officials gave prizes to them.

After that, officials presented certificates to 167 students from 19 Early Childhood Development Centres from wards and villages of Kengtung Township.—*Myanma Alinn*

Yangon Region observes World TB Day 2013

YANGON, 21 April—A ceremony to mark the World TB Day 2013 was held at Myanmar Medical Association on Theinbyu Street in Mingala Taungnyunt Township on 4 April, with an address by Chairman of the Association (Central) U Kyaw Myint Naing.

Head of Yangon Region Health Department Dr U Aye Ko read the message sent by Union Minister for Health Dr Pe Thet Khin to the occasion of the World TB Day 2013.

Dr Erwin Correman of World Health Organization and Chairman of GP Society of MMA Dr U Tin Aye explained the control of world TB with the use of power point.

It was also attended by executives of MMA (Central), general practitioners of eight townships from Yangon Region, responsible persons of WHO (Myanmar) and National TB Control Project, Aung San TB Hospital and social organizations.

Myanma Alinn

Cash donated to religious, social tasks

NAY PYI TAW, 21 April—Member of Nay Pyi Taw Council in-charge of Zabuthiri Township U Myo Nyunt met those participating in the religious and social tasks in Wunnatheikdi and Danatheikdi wards in Zabuthiri Township on 15 April.

Member of Nay Pyi Taw Council U Myo Nyunt and officials gave words of encouragement to devotees and members of the board of trustees at the temporary Dhammayon of Wunnatheikdi Ward and donated cash to the fund for feeding meals to 160 persons who kept Sabbath.

Myanma Alinn

Motorcycle hits walker on Meiktila-Myingyan road

MEIKTILA, 21 April—A motorcycle driven by Hla Min, 31 and Ma Khin Nwe Win, 20 on the back seat hit vendor Ma Ni Ni Mar, 30 of Ohngebok Village in Meiktila near mile post 0/6 on Meiktila-Myingyan Road in Wunzin Ward of Meiktila at 10.20 am on 14 April.

Motorcyclist Hla Min died of serious injuries on the spot. Ma Khin Win Nwe of back seat was also injured seriously and undergone treatment at Meiktila General Hospital.

Ma Ni Ni Mar also suffered from injuries. So, she is under medical treatment at Meiktila General Hospital. No 2 Police Station of Meiktila opened a file of lawsuit for the traffic accident.

Myanma Alinn

Myanmar stands 8th position on table of world weightlifting

YANGON, 21 April—Myanmar Women's Weightlifting Team moved to 8th position in the 4th World Youth Weightlifting Championship from 6 to 13 April held in Tashkent of Uzbekistan.

In seven classes, Myanmar women's team participated in five classes. Khaing Khaing of Myanmar won three silver medals in the 44-kilo class. Moe Zin Pwint Phyu secured one silver medal in the 48-kilo class. Ei Thanda Myint and May Phyo Moe stood fourth in the 53-kilo class whereas Win Win Aye and Thuza stood 8th position in the 63-kilo class. A total of 446 lifters from 52 countries took part in the championship. Of them, 15 qualified teams have the opportunities to take part in the World Olympic Games to be held in Nanjing of China in 2014.

Victorious Myanmar team arrived back here by air at 10 pm on 13 April.

They were welcomed back here by President of Myanmar Weightlifting Federation U Thet Lin and Vice-Presidents U Aung Chit and U Kyaw Aung Soe.

Myanma Alinn

Main canal dredged for prevention of floods at farmlands

THANBYUZAYAT, 21 April—Under the supervision of Mon State government, a 6600 feet long main canal was dredged in Wakhayu Model Village in Thanbyuzayat Township with the use of two heavy machinery as of 15 March.

It was aimed at preventing floods at farmlands and ensuring developing the rural regions.

Thanks to the main canal, over 400 acres of farmlands from Wakhayu Village in Thanbyuzayat Township and farmlands from Lwamhlar Village in Mudon Township can stand against floods in coming cultivation season.

Myanma Alinn

Over 50,000 fish released into lake in Meiktila

MEIKTILA, 21 April—On Myanmar New Year Day 17 April, a ceremony to release fingerlings into the water was held at the southern lake of Basic Education High School No 1 in Meiktila at 5 pm.

The Mandalay Region Minister for Security and Border Affairs, the Commander of No 4 Operations Control Command, the deputy commissioner of District General Administration Department, the commander of District Police Force, Hluttaw representatives, district and township level officials, members of Women's Affairs Organization and Maternal and Child Welfare Association and local people released over 50000 fingerlings into the lake. Moreover, the local people received Parittas recited by members of the Sangha in wards.—*Myanma Alinn*

Mobile Team seizes jade stones in Nawngkhio

NAWNGKHIO, 21 April—A combined team comprising personnel of Mobile Team under the Ministry of Commerce and Myanmar Police Force members discharge duties checking express buses, passenger buses and trucks and lorries near Asia World Toll Gate, east of Nawngkhio of Shan State (North).

On 15 April, the authorities of the mobile team searched a Mart II car driven by Sai Tun Win from Mandalay to Muse.

The personnel seized 564 viss of jade stones from the vehicle.

Nawngkhio Police Station opened a file of lawsuit against the driver.

Myanma Alinn

Over one viss of gold donated for construction of medical ward

MANDALAY, 21 April—National Development Gold Mining Company of Moehti-Moemi region in Yamethin Township donated over one viss of gold to the fund for construction of new six-storey medical ward of Mandalay General Hospital of Ministry of Helath on 17 April afternoon. Medical Superintendent Dr U Win accepted the donation and presented a certificate of honour to the wellwisher.

Construction of the six-storey building is expected to cost K 2450 million. Those wishing to make donations may dial 02-39007.—*Myanma Alinn*

Donate Blood

WORLD

Residents return for look at Texas homes after blast

WEST, (Texas), 21 April—Officials began allowing some residents to return to their homes on Saturday for their first look at the damage three days after a deadly blast at a Texas fertilizer plant flattened sections of a small town.

JoAnn Nors, 70, worried about her cat, Princess, who had gone unfed since Nors and her husband, 77-year-old Ernest, fled after the explosion on Wednesday night in West, about 80 miles south of Dallas.

"I left a pot of stew on the stove," she said as she waited in a line of cars for 1-1/2 hours to get inside the evacuated area.

"I'm sure it smells bad now." Authorities set a 7 pm CDT curfew for anyone who chose to stay overnight. They warned of broken nails and glass as potential hazards and a limited access to water and electricity.

The announcement came on a day when officials released few new details about the explosion that left a devastated landscape in West, known locally for its Czech heritage and kolache pastries.

Authorities said the death toll remained at 14 in a community of some 2,700 people, with 200 people injured. We do not know where the fire started (or) how the fire started, (and) we're looking at time lines to see when the fire started," said Assistant State Fire Marshal Kelly Kistner.

The blaze and ensuing explosion at West Fertilizer Co, a privately owned retail facility, gutted a 50-unit apartment complex, demolished about 50 houses and battered a nursing home and several schools. Dozens more homes were reported to have been damaged.

Most of the confirmed dead were emergency personnel who responded to the fire and likely were killed by the blast, which was so powerful it registered as a magnitude 2.1 earthquake. Officials cautioned it would take time to restore normality. "This is going to be a marathon, not a sprint," West Mayor Tommy Muska told several hundred people gathered for a town hall meeting.

Reuters

Residents line-up in their vehicles to gain clearance from police officers to return to their homes, three days after a fertilizer plant explosion, in the town of West, near Waco, Texas on 20 April , 2013.— REUTERS

Security, black ribbons for Boston at London Marathon

LONDON, 21 April—Runners wearing black ribbons held a 30-second silence to honour the victims of the Boston bombings before setting off on the London Marathon on Sunday, under the watchful eyes of hundreds of extra police.

Around 36,000 runners were taking part in the London race, the first in the World Marathon Majors series since two explosions near the finish line of the Boston Marathon on Monday killed three people and wounded 176.

London's Metropolitan Police Service almost doubled the number of officers sent out to secure the event, saying this was to reassure the public and not a response to a specific threat.

The packed ranks of competitors bowed their heads and stood silently at the starting line, then clapped and cheered when a whistle marked the end of the tribute. Seconds later, the world's elite runners led off the race. Behind them came thousands of competitors chasing personal goals or raising money for charity, many running in fancy dress including challenging two-person camel and horse costumes.

"Wishing all involved in London Marathon a great day out, good luck if you're raising money and Boston Marathon our thoughts are with you today," said Boris Johnson, the mayor of London, on Twitter.

After an unusually long and harsh winter, the weather came through for the marathon which began under bright sunshine and a cloudless sky, a bonus for the competitors and for the hundreds of thousands of spectators expected to cheer them on.

The 26-mile course starts in leafy Greenwich, crosses Tower Bridge, snakes through the Canary Wharf business district before going through the heart of London, past Big Ben to Buckingham Palace.

Police with sniffer dogs were out in force and bins had been removed from the length of the course as part of enhanced security.

"The enhancement to policing, which will see several hundred additional officers on the streets, is intended to provide visible reassurance to the participants and spectators alike," the Metropolitan Police said on its website.

Reuters

A Dutch takes photos of a float during the 66th flower parade with the theme "Bon Appetit" this year in Nordwijk, the Netherlands, on 20 April, 2012. The very famous event with 20 floats opulently decorated with spring flowers started from Nordwijk and ended in Haarlem following a 40-km route.
XINHUA

Armed attack wounds 3 in Istanbul

ANKARA, 21 April — Unidentified gangsters opened fire in a car rental company in Turkey's Istanbul on Saturday, leaving three wounded, local media reported.

According to witnesses, the incident took place early in the morning on Barbaros Boulevard in Besiktas District when four people rushed into the company and shot with handguns.

The three wounded were sent to a nearby hospital, one of whom was in critical condition. The local police were on the scene and launched an investigation to capture the assailants. The cause of the incident is still unclear. —*Xinhua*

Participants fly kites at the 30th Weifang International Kite Festival in Weifang, east China's Shandong Province, on 20 April, 2013. Kite-making in Weifang, known as "Kite Capital," can be traced back to the late 16th century and the early 17th century. — XINHUA

A woman dressed as her favourite character poses at the 2013 Fan Expo in Vancouver, Canada, on 20 April, 2013. This year's event has about 130 exhibitors for comic books, anime, science fictions and video games.
XINHUA

US gov't steps up surveillance of citizens

BEIJING, 21 April —The US government continues to step up surveillance of ordinary Americans, seriously violating the freedom of citizens, says a report on the US human rights record released on Sunday.

The US congress approved a bill in 2012 that authorizes warrantless wiretapping and electronic communications monitoring by the government, a move that violates people's rights to privacy, the report says.

Documents released by the American Civil Liberties Union in September 2012, reveal that federal law enforcement agencies are increasingly monitoring American's electronic communications.Between 2009 and 2011, the US Justice Department's combined number of original orders for "pen registers" and "trap and trace devices" used to spy on phones increased by 60 percent, from 23,535 in 2009 to 37,616 in 2011, the report says.

The National Security Agency collects purely domestic communications of Americans in a "significant and systematic" way, intercepting and storing 1.7 billion emails, phone calls and other types of communications, it adds.

The Human Rights Record of the United States in 2012 was released by China's State Council Information Office in response to the Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2012 issued by the US State Department.— *Xinhua*

All 11 TPP countries agree to Japan joining free trade talks

Japanese Economy, Trade and Industry Minister Toshimitsu Motegi (front, 3rd from R) attends a photo session in Surabaya, Indonesia, on 20 April, 2013, with ministers of 11 countries involved in the Trans-Pacific Partnership free trade negotiations. All 11 countries already involved in the TPP talks officially announced they have agreed to Japan's joining the rule-making process. — Kyodo News

Surabaya, (Indonesia), 21 April — All 11 countries involved in the Trans-Pacific Partnership free trade negotiations officially announced on Saturday they have given the green light to Japan's participation in the rule-making process.

The consent of all 11 TPP members sets Japan on track to join from late July the negotiations on creating a high-level trade liberalization framework.

"Today, ministers agreed by consensus to finalize with Japan the process for entry in a manner that allows the negotiations to continue expeditiously toward conclusion," a joint statement read out by Acting US Trade Representative Demetrios Marantis, who spoke on behalf of all the members gathered in Surabaya, Indonesia, said. The statement said Japan can join the TPP negotiations "upon completion of current members' respective domestic processes."

The United States, for its part, needs to give a 90-day notice to Congress in order to start TPP negotiations with Japan. "Japan's entry (to TPP talks) was effectively approved," said Japanese Economy, Trade and Industry Minister Toshimitsu Motegi after attending a ministerial meeting of TPP members, held on the sidelines of a weekend meeting of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum. "From this moment, we are taking a new step" in the negotiations, said Motegi, adding Japan is starting talks on which its national interest depends.

Motegi also said he is meeting with Marantis on Sunday and will urge the US administration to proceed with the congressional notice as soon as possible.

Earlier Saturday Canada, which had been the last remaining TPP member to have not given the backing to Japan, concluded bilateral consultations. Japan received Ottawa's official go-ahead after Canada withheld its consent during a ministerial meeting with Japan's economic revitalization minister Akira Amari on Friday, when Australia, New Zealand and Peru gave their approval. — *Kyodo News*

Three feared dead in fresh West Java landslide

Jakarta, 21 April — Three women working in a state- run plantation were feared dead after being buried alive in a landslide in Garut regency, West Java on Saturday, according to Indonesia's National Disaster Mitigation Agency (BNPB).

The landslide occurred at 7:30 am local time, and rescuers were hardly able to retrieve bodies of those women who were trapped under 7 to 10 metres of robble and dirt, BNPB spokesperson Sutopo Purwo Nugroho said.

"As of now rescuers that consisted of troops, police, volunteers and regional BNPB officials have not yet retrieved bodies of the victims.

The efforts to dig the dirt and rubble had to be conducted manually as the landslide location cannot be accessed by excavators," Sutopo told *Xinhua* by phone.

He added that the search was stopped at 5:30 pm and would be resumed in the morning as rain started to pour down at the site. He said that the downpour a day before and the steep slope were to blame for the landslide.

On Friday a landslide hit a house killing four members of a family in Bogor, West Java. The latest three victims have brought the death toll of landslide in the country this year to 131, Sutopo said.

Xinhua

A mother (R) views her newly-born baby in the quake-hit Ya'an City, southwest China's Sichuan Province, on 20 April, 2013. The baby was born in an ambulance in Ya'an, almost two hours after a 7.0-magnitude earthquake hit Lushan county of Ya'an City on Saturday. — Xinhua

Taipei says rescue teams ready to help Mainland

Residents rest in a makeshift tent after a 7.0-magnitude earthquake occurred in Longmen Township, Lushan County, Ya'an City of southwest China's Sichuan Province, on 20 April , 2013. — Xinhua

Taipei, (China) 21 April — Taipei's Red Cross Society said on Saturday that medical and rescue teams are on stand-by to assist the mainland's efforts in earthquake-stricken Sichuan Province. Two rescue teams in Taipei and Kaohsiung are standing by with rescue equipment and will be dispatched once requested by the mainland, Spencer Chen, an official with the society told *Xinhua*.

Chen said disaster relief materials such as blankets, tents and sleeping bags have been packed for delivery, and rescue gear such as life detectors and excavating equipment will be included if necessary. Meanwhile, rescue teams arranged by the island's fire agency are also ready to help with rescue work.

A 7.0-magnitude earthquake hit Lushan county of Ya'an City in the mainland's Sichuan Province at 8:02 am Saturday Beijing time.

Ma Shaw-chang, spokesman of Taipei-based Straits Exchange Foundation, said more than 360 Taiwanese tourists were in the province when the earthquake hit. They are all safe. — *Xinhua*

Japan to mull relaxing visa requirements for visitors from S E Asia

Tokyo, 21 April — The Japanese government will consider relaxing visa requirements to encourage more visitors from emerging nations in Southeast Asia, government sources said on Saturday. The move comes as the government has determined it is necessary to lure more tourists from fast-growing economies to attain its goal of increasing the annual number of foreign visitors to 25 million by 2020, according to the sources.

The government is expected to consider waiving visas for visitors from Thailand and Malaysia as well as offer multiple-entry visas to those from the Philippines and Vietnam, the sources said. In 2012, Japan had 260,000 visitors from Thailand, 130,000 from Malaysia, 90,000 from the Philippines and 60,000 from Vietnam.

As there are concerns that relaxing visa requirements could result in an increase in the number of foreigners working illegally in Japan, related government offices such as the Japan Tourism Agency, the Justice Ministry and the Foreign Ministry will discuss the matter until around summer, they said.

In addition to the Southeast Asian countries, Japan will also consider expanding the issuance of multiple-entry visas for Chinese nationals that had been limited to those staying in Iwate, Miyagi, Fukushima and Okinawa prefectures, to visitors staying elsewhere in Japan in a bid to attract more visitors from the country, they said. The number of visitors from China has declined due to soured relations between Beijing and Tokyo due to a territorial dispute. According to the tourism agency, Japan had 8.37 million foreign visitors in 2012.—*Kyodo News*

A rescue boat puts out a fire on a passenger ship near Tianxingzhou Bridge across the Yangtze River in Wuhan, capital of central China's Hubei Province, on 20 April, 2013. The fire started around 11:00 am on Saturday Beijing Time. All 415 people aboard have been transferred safely.—Xinhua

Four killed, five injured in blast in NW Pakistan

Islamabad, 21 April — At least five people were killed and four others injured on Saturday afternoon when a female suicide bomber blew herself up outside a hospital in Pakistan's northwestern tribal region of Bajaur Agency, local media reported. According to the reports, the incident took place at 2:30 pm (local time) when a female suicide bomber exploded her explosive- laden jacket at the main entrance of the District Hospital in Khaar area, a main town of the Bajaur Agency region bordering Afghanistan.

Earlier, reports said that the blast took place in the Khyber Agency but later on officials said it took place in the Bajaur Agency. The blast killed five people on the spot and injured four others besides damaging many vehicles and spreading panic among the locals. Eyewitnesses told media that the woman wearing a veil tried to enter the hospital but security personnel asked her for checking and she blew herself up at the main gate.

The security forces and rescue teams rushed to the site and shifted the bodies and the injured to the emergency department of the hospital.

Security officials said that the female attacker wanted to reach inside the hospital for attack but failed due to tight checking at the entrance."

We had secret information about the presence of a suicide bomber in the area so we had already taken measures by beefing up security at all the government institutions," the official told media. Security forces condoned off the area and launched a search operation in the adjacent areas.No militant group or organization claimed responsibility for the attack yet.— *Xinhua*

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 Myanma 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 Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(1) Director General
Energy Planning Department
Ministry of Energy, The Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Tel: 95-67 411 099/ 411 057
Fax: 95-67 411 113
Email: myanmoe@mptmail.net.mm

(2) Managing Director
Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise
Ministry of Energy, The Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Tel: 95-67 411 055/ 411 056
Fax: 95-67 411 125
Email: mogedirplan@energy.gov.mm

(3) Myanmar Embassies in respective Countries

New students of Takarazuka Music School line up for photos before an entrance ceremony at the school in Takarazuka, Hyogo Prefecture, on 20 April , 2013.
KYODO NEWS

Iran security head visits Syria, "friends of Syria" meet in Turkey

DAMASCUS, 21 April — Iranian national security head visited Syria on Saturday as the country's opposition called for a no-fly zone over Syria and "surgical" bombing against Syrian army's ballistic missile launchers. Alaeddin Boroujerdi, head of Iran's National Security and Foreign Policy Commission, is expected to meet President Bashar al-Assad and Foreign Minister Walid al-Moallem, among others, during his three-day visit, local officials said.

Iran has emerged as a main regional ally of the Syrian government, whose officials have repeatedly stressed support for a political solution to the Syrian crisis. Meanwhile, in the "Friends of Syria" meeting in Turkey's Istanbul on Saturday, the oppositional National Coalition said they want a no-fly zone over Syria to protect the northern and southern borders to secure the safe return of Syrian refugees.

They also wanted the UN Security Council to condemn the use of rockets by the government troops "against civilians" and adopt measures to stop the Syrian from using such weapons. The group also demanded "capable countries" undertake immediate measures to disable the government troops' ability to use "chemical weapons and ballistic rockets" through carrying out "surgical airstrikes" by drones.

Xinhua

Shanghai reports another H7N9 case

SHANGHAI, 21 April —A new case of H7N9 bird flu was confirmed on Saturday in Shanghai, bringing the municipality's total number of infections to 33, according to local authorities.

The patient, a 75-year-old woman surnamed Li, tested positive for H7N9 on Friday night at Shanghai Municipal Centre for Disease Control and Prevention, according to a statement issued by the Shanghai Municipal Health and Family Planning Commission.

Li exhibited flu symptoms last Saturday, and was hospitalized at Shanghai 6th People's Hospital on Thursday.

Fifteen people who had close contact with the patient have exhibited no abnormal symptoms so far.

Eleven of the 33 cases reported in the city have resulted in death, while five have been discharged from hospital after making a full recovery.—*Xinhua*

Jennifer Lawrence is a "little jealous" of Bradley Cooper's new girlfriend

Bradley Cooper

New Delhi, 21 April—22-year-old Oscar-winning actress Jennifer Lawrence—who is currently filming her third movie alongside the 38-year-old actor Bradley Cooper —is not happy he is spending all his free time with his new love interest Suki Waterhouse and seems to be a little jealous.

A source told gossip website RadarOnline.com: "When Bradley and Jennifer made Silver Linings Playbook and Serena together they were inseparable."

"But now, Bradley has been spending his free time with Suki, and she feels like she's lost her partner in crime."

"They haven't been hanging around each other as often as they used to. Bradley flew Suki over from London to Boston and he took her on a tour of the city. Then, he flew to Paris to see her the moment he had a break in filming.

"Because he's spending all his free time with Suki, Jennifer's only really seen Bradley on set and she's grown a little jealous about it."

Bradley and Jennifer were forced to deny rumours they were dating earlier this year.

The Hangover 3 star claimed that she was too young for him despite going on to date 20-year-old British model Suki.—*PTI*

Jennifer Lawrence

Leonardo DiCaprio blames career for failed relationships

Los Angeles, 21 April—Leonardo DiCaprio believes his career is the reason he has been unlucky in love.

The 38-year-old actor—who has dated a string of top models including Gisele Bundchen, Bar Refaeli and Erin Heatherton—admits shooting movies all over the world has made it difficult for him to hold down a relationship. The Great Gatsby star told the May issue of *Esquire* magazine: "Six months of being on location or being off in Morocco or someplace like that is not the best thing for a relationship."

Leonardo, who has most recently been linked to former Miss Universe Kosovo Aferdita Dreshaj and his 'Wolf of Wall Street' co-star Margot Robbie, also revealed that he always felt like an "underdog" in Hollywood despite being nominated for three Oscars and struggled to cope with fame until recently.

He said: "I didn't have nice enough clothes or maybe my hair didn't look good. And so you have to understand—getting your foot in the door is like winning the lottery. It's literally like winning the lottery if you get to have a career. "And I've always felt, Okay, now I've gotten this shot, and I'm lucky to have gotten this shot, and if I don't do this to the best of my ability —if I don't work my a** off and make a life of it—I've squandered this incredibly golden opportunity. And that's always been what has propelled me.

"I really didn't understand what fame was and I didn't understand what being in a giant hit was and I didn't understand what a giant hit 'Titanic' was compared to other giant hits."

PTI

A man holds a sign honouring Sunday Times journalist Marie Colvin after a memorial service, outside St Martin in the Field in London on 16 May, 2012.

Leonardo DiCaprio

Late war reporter Marie Colvin listed for top UK writing prize

London, 21 April—Veteran American war correspondent Marie Colvin who was killed in Syria last year was nominated on Thursday for the Orwell Prize, a British literary award for political writing.

Colvin, a US reporter for *Britain's Sunday Times* newspaper, was killed alongside French photographer Remi Ochlik as Syrian government forces attacked the town of Homs in February last year and rockets hit the house where they were staying.

"On the Front Line: The Collected Journalism of Marie Colvin" was published in April last year. The book ends with her final written dispatch from Homs.

Colvin's book was one of seven shortlisted from 210 nominations for the Orwell book prize that was set up 10 years ago to award work "that comes closest to George Orwell's ambition to make political writing into an art".

Prize director Jean Seaton said the judges started from Orwell's injunction: "My starting point is always a feeling of partisanship, a sense of injustice". "That is what the judges hunted for and found, writing that was measured and calm not simply angry," Seaton said in a statement.—*Reuters*

Gwyneth Paltrow thinks she has better abs than Madonna

New Delhi, 21 April—Actress Gwyneth Paltrow says that she has better abs than singer Madonna. But the Iron Man star joked she would never call her former best pal up to gloat because she doesn't feel the need to rub it in.

Asked if she would call Madonna up to boast that her washboard stomach is "far superior", the 40-year-old blonde actress laughed and told ITN.co.uk: "No, I don't think I would. Why rub it in? Let's face it.

"I'll Polaroid my abs and text them to her." The mother-of-two, who released her new cookbook last week called 'It's All Good', also insisted she isn't as healthy as people think she is and loves to indulge in naughty treats.

She said: "I think people think I have a healthier image than I actually have. I'm very about balance in both things. Always do a little of the bad stuff while you're trying to be good."

Gwyneth previously hinted that she and the Girl Gone Wild singer, 54, had fallen out in 2010 when she posted a message on her lifestyle website Goop.com asking fans for help on what to do "when you don't like a friend any more".

PTI

Gwyneth Paltrow will next be seen in Iron Man 3 opposite Robert Downey Jr.

SPORTS

Nadal, Djokovic seal third final in Monte Carlo

Monte Carlo, 21 April—Eight-times champion Rafael Nadal will lock horns with world number one Novak Djokovic for third time in the Monte Carlo Masters final after both sailed through their semi-finals with relative ease on Saturday. Nadal was given a fight by Frenchman Jo-Wilfried Tsonga before the Spaniard won 6-3, 7-6 but Djokovic was dominant in a 6-2, 6-1 thrashing of Italian showman Fabio Fognini.

Former world number one Nadal, looking for his fourth title of the year in only his fifth event since returning from a long-standing knee injury, clinched a 46th consecutive victory at the traditional claycourt event alongside the Mediterranean.

The final against Djokovic will give a further measure of Nadal's physical condition as he eyes the French Open, especially as the Serb is showing no sign of being worried by the ankle he twisted while on Davis Cup duty two weeks ago.

"It's fantastic to be in a fifth final in a row after seven months out," Nadal told reporters. "Novak always pushes you to the limits." Djokovic, who has branded Nadal "the ultimate challenge on clay", will hope to improve on his previous Monte Carlo finals against Nadal. He was beaten 6-3, 6-1 in the final last year and in three sets in 2009. "I will have to be at the top of my game. I'm ready for it. I know what I need to do," said Djokovic, who was pleased to have spent only 52 minutes on the court.

"I had enough tests already this week so I'm happy I can be fresh," said the Serb who was pushed to three sets in his first two matches.

Reuters

Rafael Nadal of Spain reacts after defeating Grigor Dimitrov of Bulgaria during the Monte Carlo Masters in Monaco on 19 April, 2013.—Reuters

O'Sullivan eases past Campbell in World Championship opener

London, 21 April—Four-time champion Ronnie O'Sullivan breezed past Marcus Campbell 10-4 in the opening match of the World Championship in Sheffield on Saturday. It was his first televised match since beating Ali Carter in last year's final. He then took a one-year sabbatical from snooker citing "personal reasons."

O'Sullivan, who has dropped to the 28th in world rankings but still seeded first, built a 7-2 lead in the first session with top breaks of 82, 62, 71, 85, 85 and 58. He extended the lead to 9-2 in the night session with breaks of 102 and 90. Campbell fought back and took the next two frames to make it 9-4 but O'Sullivan got the better of frame 14 to seal the win. O'Sullivan will take on Ali Carter or Ben Woollaston in the second round to be held next Saturday, Sunday and Monday.

"It was nice to be back," said O'Sullivan. "The journey has been exciting ever since I announced that I was coming back and playing. It gave me something to do. I have spent the last five weeks preparing so the journey has been enjoyable. "In general my play was not as slick and sharp as what I would have liked. That is all to have been expected when you have not played for a year. You lose that tightness, you need to get in there and compete. I need to get through matches but ultimately it is just a bit of fun for me."

Campbell said: "I thought I was a little bit unlucky. Ronnie scores very heavily and I did not make too many mistakes earlier on in the day. I thought the early score was unjustified really, but I was happy with how I had been playing and the way I conducted myself. —*Xinhua*

Four-time champion Ronnie O'Sullivan

Italy on verge of Fed Cup final as Czechs falter

London, 21 April — The Czech Republic's hopes of a third consecutive Fed Cup title were receding fast on Saturday as Italy surged 2-0 ahead in their semi-final in Palermo. World number seven Sara Errani got the Italians off to a great start with a 6-4, 6-2 defeat of Lucie Safarova before Roberta Vinci was a surprisingly easy 6-4, 6-1 winner against former Wimbledon champion Petra Kvitova.

Kvitova, who had won 13 of her last 14 singles rubbers in the competition, was no match for Vinci with her superior power unable to make any impact on the slow Palermo clay. In the other semi-final in Moscow, Dominika Cibulkova came from a set down to give Slovakia a good start by beating Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova 5-7, 6-1, 6-4 in the opening singles.

The world number 15 secured a key break in the seventh game of the deciding set for a 4-3 lead before sealing victory after two-and-a-half hours when Pavlyuchenkova hit wide. "It was a very, very tough match especially playing in a foreign country," Cibulkova told reporters.

"I was very nervous at the beginning, was making a lot of errors, double faults, but gradually I got back into the match. I was telling myself not to give up, to keep fighting. This inner strength has helped me win this match." Maria Kirilenko will try to haul Russia level when she takes on Daniela Hantuchova in the second singles at the Krylatskoye Arena later.

Reuters

Lakers guard Nash optimistic about playoff return

Los Angeles, 21 April—Steve Nash gave the Los Angeles Lakers a welcome boost on Friday when he said he was "very optimistic" he would play in Saturday's Game One of their first-round playoff series against the Spurs in San Antonio. The 39-year-old point guard missed the last eight games of the regular season because of back and hip problems but pronounced himself happy after going through a series of five-on-five sessions in team practice on Friday.

"Mentally, I'm chomping at the bit and physically, I'm getting there," Nash told reporters. "I'm very optimistic that I'll play on Sunday. I just don't want to over-promise and get ahead of myself." Nash, who has not played for the Lakers in almost three weeks, had an epidural injection three days ago. Though not yet pain-free, he said he felt less inhibited in his movement. "I was able to play halfcourt today, and there were a couple of situations where it was pretty close to a sprint so it's coming," he said. "In some ways, I want to give myself as much time as possible but at the same time you can't wait forever. I'm just hoping to be able to play, get out there and contribute. "That's the bottom line. I'm just really hopeful and working hard — pretty much twice a day the last few weeks — to get back. Hopefully the time has come."—*Reuters*

Los Angeles Lakers guard Steve Nash (10) of Canada shoots the basketball over Indiana Pacers centre Ian Mahinmi of France during the first half of an NBA basketball game in Indianapolis, Indiana on 15 March, 2013.—Reuters

Ferrari's Alonso edges Red Bull in final practice session in Bahrain

Manama, 21 April—Ferrari's Fernando Alonso headed into the qualifying on a high after topping the final practice session of the 2013 Formula 1 Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix, Sakhir on Saturday morning.

The Spaniard survived a mid-session spin to set the fastest time (1m 33.247seconds) ahead of the Red Bull pair of Sebastian Vettel (1m 33.348s) and Mark Webber (1m 33.380s).

The main race will be held on Sunday at the Bahrain International Circuit, Sakhir.

Xinhua

Momentary truce in NY-Boston rivalry before Game One

New York, 21 April — The bitter New York-Boston sports rivalry, dating back nearly 100 years, observed a momentary truce before the start of Saturday's NBA playoffs opener between the New York Knicks and the visiting Boston Celtics.

The teams came together in solidarity over the Boston Marathon bombing attacks and their aftermath as players addressed the Madison Square Garden crowd before tip-off. "On behalf of the New York Knicks organization, we just want to let Boston know that we send our prayers to them throughout this unfortunate tragedy," the Knicks' Carmelo Anthony said. "We, as New Yorkers, understand what you guys are going through..."

Some fans of the second seed Knicks were still moved to jeer the sight of the seventh-seeded Celtics on the Broadway hardcourt, before thousands of fans shushed them into silence. Wearing a T-shirt that read "boston stands as one", the Celtics' Paul Pierce expressed gratitude for the show of support and vowed, "Boston will rise and run again."—*Reuters*

New York Knicks forward Carmelo Anthony and Boston Celtics forward Paul Pierce (R) speak to the crowd about the Boston Marathon bombings before Game 1 of their NBA Eastern Conference Quarterfinals basketball playoff series in New York, on 20 April, 2013.—Reuters

GENERAL

Palestinian beekeepers inspect hives at the honey-bee farm in Gaza city, on 20 April, 2013. The apiary's 450 bees produce about 4,000 kilos of honey every year, which is sold only in the Gaza Strip. XINHUA

Injera returns for Kenya Sevens tour of Glasgow and London

NAIROBI, 21 April — Kenya's top try scorer Collins Injera made his return to the Sevens team ahead of the final International Rugby Board (IRB) series in Glasgow and London next month.

Injera made the 12-member team announced by head coach Mike on Friday, Saturday in Nairobi together with veteran Sydney Ashioya and Dennis Ombachi dropped from the team.

"Injera is a good player that boosts our team. It was not fair to drop him but the circumstances forced us to do so. Injera was caught in the sideshows that would have almost retrogressed his career.

"He has since realized it and made great progress to correct the same. Injera will add value to our team. He has been fantastic in training this week and has shown great attitude and total dedication.

I am happy for his return," said on Friday, Saturday in Nairobi. Injera will also play the big brother role and will assist Captain Andrew Amonde in leading squad in the Glasgow on 4-5 May and London on 11-12 May .

Kenya is yet to lift the Main Cup in any of the previous seven legs of the series, though it came close losing in the finals in New Zealand and Hong Kong. Kenya is tied with France on fifth spot in the ranking with 77 points.

New Zealand leads the log with 132 points ahead of South Africa on 100 while Fiji (98) and Samoa 94 are third and fourth.

Amonde is alive to the challenge Kenya face in Glasgow and London as they rally to meet Coach Mike Friday's target of reaching the 100 points for the nine leg series.

"We are aware of the challenge. But this is Kenya team and we have confidence in our ability and will power. We will take each match different from the other and give it our best.

Hopefully the results will go our way and help us move to the next stage," said Amonde. In Glasgow, Kenya is in Pool A alongside Samoa, South Africa and Canada. Kenya will depart to Glasgow on 29 April.

Xinhua

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(22-4-13 09:30 am ~ 23-4-13 09:30 am) MST

* News
* To overwhelm the World by Myanmar Sports
* Ayeyawady Bridge (Sinkhan) in Kachin State
* News
* Instrumental Music of Myanmar Orchestra
* News
* Chewing Betel Quid: Good or Bad?
* Be a Lover to Nature
* News
* Moe Ne' Keeps its Tradition Alive
* News
* Myanmar Democratization within Two Years
* News
* Kid's Talent (Royal Dancer)
* News
* Chewing Betel Quid: Good or Bad?
* Be a Lover to Nature
* News
* Reinforcing Skills for Local Photojournalist in 5th Yangon Photo Festival
* Planetary Posts! What do they serve?
* Myanmar Movies "Life is Struggling"

Myanmar TV

(22-4-2013, Monday)

6:00 am
1. Paritta By Venerable Mingun Sayadaw

6:30 am
2. To Be Healthy Exercise

6:40 am
3. Documentary

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

7:00 am
5. News

7:20 am
6. Teleplay

8:00 am
7. News/ International News

8:25 am
8. Road to 27th SEA Games (Yachting-1)

9:00 am
9. News/ International News

9:20 am
10. Cartoon Series

9:45 am
11. Beautiful ASEAN

9:50 am
12. TV Drama Series

10:00 am
13. News

11:00 pm
14. New Melody

11:50 pm
15. Documentary

12:00 pm
16. News

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

1:00 pm
18. News

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

2:00 pm
20. News

3:00 pm
21. News

3:15 pm
22. Documentary

3:30 pm
23. TV Drama Series

4:00 pm
24. News

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

4:50 pm
26. Road to 27th SEA Games (Wushu)

5:00 pm
27. News

5:15 pm
28. Song Programme

5:30 pm
29. Documentary

6:00 pm
30. News

6:20 pm
31. SEA Games (Teleplay)

7:00 pm
32. News

8:00 pm
33. News / International News / Weather Report

9:00 pm
34. News
35. Early TV Melodies
36. Cartoon Series

Abuse of suspects, jail inmates common in US

BEIJING, 21 April — Abuse of suspects and jail inmates is common occurrence in the United States, says a report on the US human rights record released on Sunday.

A litany of lawsuits was brought against the New York City Police Department, with police officers charged with violating civil rights in law enforcement, the report says.

Citing a May 2012 report by CNN, the document adds that some 9.6 percent of the prisoners in American state prisons are sexually victimized during confinement, more than double the rate cited in a report on the subject in 2008.

Xinhua

American Hoffman surges two ahead at Harbour Town

NEW YORK, 21 April — American Charley Hoffman, wielding a red-hot putter, moved a step closer to his third PGA Tour victory as he forged two shots clear in Saturday's third round of the RBC Heritage at Hilton Head Island, South Carolina.

Hoffman, who has not won on the US circuit in almost three years, barely missed a putt on the way to a flawless five-under-par 66 on a mainly overcast day at the picturesque Harbour Town Golf Links. Wearing sunglasses, the long-haired Californian totaled only 21 putts as he posted an 11-under total of 202, ending the round two ahead of compatriot and US Open champion Webb Simpson, who fired a best-of-the-day 65.

Another American, Kevin Streelman, carded a 69 to sit alone in third at eight under, a stroke better than Zimbabwe's Brendon de Jonge (67) and Northern Irishman Graeme McDowell (68). Hoffman, however, was the story of the day as he sank putt after putt on greens softened by overnight rain in his bid to win a first PGA Tour title since the 2010 Deutsche Bank Championship.

Reuters

China's top TV producer expanding UAE market

DUBAI, 21 April — Changhong, one of the China's top consumer electronics producers, said here on Saturday it has appointed Al-Futtaim Electronics as the exclusive distributor for the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

Based out of Mianyang, Sichuan Province, Changhong is ranked globally among the top 10 TV brands and it is one of the world's top 500 brands. Dubai-based Al-Futtaim Group, founded in the 1930s, is a multi-industry conglomerate, which runs some of the biggest shopping malls in the UAE.

Steven Pan, the managing director of Changhong Electric Middle East said that Changhong will take advantage of Al-Futtaim's sophisticated retail and distribution network and further consolidate and strengthen the company's share of the UAE television market. Dawood Bin Ozair, senior managing director electronics at Al Futtaim Group, said the Al-Futtaim group prides itself in bringing some of the finest and leading electronics brands in the world to the Gulf Arab region. Changhong has by now expanded its overseas markets 110 countries and regions, which entered UAE market in 2005.—*Xinhua*

Twin polar bear cubs play with their mother "Rara" (R) in a pool at Sapporo Maruyama Zoo in Sapporo, Hokkaido, on 20 April , 2013. It was the first experience of the pool for the cubs that were born in December 2012.—KYODO NEWS

6.7-magnitude quake hits off Torishima, Japan

TOKYO, 21 April — A 6.7-magnitude earthquake hits off Torishima, Japan, said the Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA).

The epicenter was initially determined at 29.9 degree north latitude, 139.6 degree east longitude, with a depth of 450 km, said the JMA. Tremor was felt in Tokyo and the quake was registered 2 on the Japanese seismic intensity scale of 7 in parts of northeast prefectures. No Tsunami warnings were issued, according to JMA.—*Xinhua*

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The New Light of Myanmar

Monday, 22 April, 2013

Hotels and Tourism Development discussed

NAY PYI TAW, 21 April—Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Htay Aung met staff at Nan Myaing Hotel and visited the Thiri Myaing and Gandamar Hotels in PyinOoLwin Township on 18 April.

In the evening, he met executive board of Mandalay Hoteliers Association at AyeyawadyRiverViewHotel and then held discussions with foreign shooting crew on National-Branding of Myanmar's advertising promotion programme.

The following day, the Union Minister held discussions with the Shan State Chief Minister on tourism development of Inlay Region and environmental conservation at the office of Shan State Government in Taunggyi. Then, he also met members of hoteliers association at Villa Inlay Hotel in Inlay and inspected land reclamation for hotel zone.

Yesterday morning, the Union minister inspected the renovation of Pindaya Hotel and Kalaw Hotel and met local hoteliers. In the evening, he held discussions with officials from at Ayeya Hotel in Bagan-NyaungU Region on tourism industry development.

MNA

Kangyidaunt BEPS No 140 gets new building

Chief Minister of Ayeyawady Region U Thein Aung inspects digging of drains in Kyatkon and Yaylesu villages in Kangyidaunt Township.—MNA

NAYPYITAW, 21 April—The opening ceremony of new school building was held in front of Basic Education Primary School No 140 in Kyatkon Village of Myinkaseik Village-tract in Kangyidaunt Township yesterday morning.

Ayeyawady Region Minister for Transport U Than Tun, Kangyidaunt Township Pyithu Hluttaw Representative U Kyaw Win, Deputy Director of Ayeyawady Region Education Department U Kyi Aung, Pathein District Deputy Commissioner U Aye Maung Kyi and Kangyidaunt Township Administrator U Thein Aung formally opened the new school building.

Chief Minister of Ayeyawady Region U Thein Aung visited the new school building and then made a speech.

Managing Director U Zaw Tun of Shwe Hsu Pan Co handed over documents related to the building and K 300,000 to Township Education Officer Daw Hla Yi and Headmistress Daw Swe Zin Thet.

The new building is 60 feet long and 30 feet wide RC structure, built at a cost of K 21.6 million contributed by Shwe Hsu Pan Co.

Later, the Chief Minister inspected digging of drains in Kyatkon and Yaylesu villages and left necessary instructions.—*MNA*

Pyithu Hluttaw delegation to observe British Parliament

Secretary U Maung Toe of Pyithu Hluttaw Public Accounts Committee being seen off by Pyithu Hluttaw International Relations Committee Chairman U Hla Myint Oo at Yangon International Airport.—MNA

YANGON, 21 April—At the invitation of Westminster Foundation for Democracy of Britain, a Myanmar delegation led by Secretary U Maung Toe of Pyithu Hluttaw Public Accounts Committee left here by air this morning to pay a visit to the British Parliament.

They were seen off at the Yangon International Airport by Pyithu Hluttaw International Relations Committee Chairman U Hla Myint Oo and officials of the Hluttaw office.

Secretary U Maung Toe was accompanied by Pyithu Hluttaw Public Accounts Committee members U Min Swe and U Nyi Nyi Myint, and Director Daw May San Thein of the Office of Auditor-General of the Union.

MNA

Buddha Pujaniya of Shwemawdaw Pagoda opened

NAY PYI TAW, 21 April—The opening of 2595 Anniversary Buddha Pujaniya of Shwemawdaw Pagoda was held at Kyaukpadaung Dhammayon on the platform of the pagoda in Bago yesterday evening.

Chief Minister of Bago Region U Nyan Win and wife Daw Myint Myint Soe and the congregation received the Five Precepts from Bago Myoma Ovadaçariya Sayadaw. Members of the Sangha recited Parittas.

Chairman of the organizing committee Deputy Commissioner U Wai Zin Tun of Bago District General Administration Department supplicated on the purpose of holding the Buddha Pujaniya.

Nuns and Yogis recited religious verses. The Chief Minister and wife, the Speaker of Bago Region Hluttaw and wife, the Deputy Speaker of the region Hluttaw and region ministers offered alms to members of the Sangha.

Later, the Region Chief Minister switched on the lighting of the pagoda and opened the Buddha Pujaniya.—*MNA*

Noteworthy amount of rainfall (21-4-2013)

Loikaw	1.18 inches
Mawlaik	0.47 inch
Paletwa	0.43 inch
Mindat	0.35 inch

Tarpein (1) Hydropower Plant supplies 24 hr electricity to Bhamo District

BHAMO, 21 April—Twenty-four hour electricity with full voltage is being supplied to townships in Bhamo District of Kachin State by Tarpein (1) Hydropower plant.

As peace and stability prevails in Kachin State, the government is carrying out regional development tasks in the state. Bhamo-Myitkyina bus line was put into service on 18 March.

Bhamo District Deputy Commisioner U Tayzar Aung, President of DUHD and Myanmar Resident Representative Mr. Wang Zheng Lin, Deputy Chief Engineer U Saw Win Maung, Superintending Engineer U Ohn Zaw and party inspected power lines, transformers and electrical equipment being installed at 66/11 KV sub-power station in Hante Ward in Bhamo on 18 April for supplying electricity from Tarpein (1) Hydropower plant and launched supply of electricity to Bhamo, Momauk and Mansi at 5.05 pm. Arrangements are being made to supply power to Shwegu in the near future. Works are being carried out to supply power to Myothit and Momauk Sub-Townships. One 66/11 KV 40 MVA transformer and ACSR (795) MCM arrived there. Local people appreciated the government efforts for supply of 24 hour electricity in the region.

Myanma Alinn

Officials inspect power lines at Tarpein (1) Hydropower Plant in Bhamo District in Kachin State.