

Blueprint beyond 2015 and Financial Integration main topics at 18th ASEAN Finance Ministers' Meeting



By Kerstin Winter

Myanmar's Minister of Finance U Win Shein and his ASEAN counterparts after the meeting at Hotel Royal Ace in Nay Pyi Taw.—PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

The regional and global economic outlook, a post-2015 vision for the ASEAN Economic Community and banking sector reforms were among the main issues discussed at the 18th ASEAN Foreign Ministers' retreat meeting

in Nay Pyi Taw on Friday, with the Roadmap for Monetary and Financial Integration expected to top the agenda on Saturday, officials said.

Following the talks, Myanmar's Finance Minister U Win Shein told the

New Light of Myanmar that, "we discussed financial inclusion of our unbanked people as a second main topic after talks on the economic outlook. The outcome is looking good, as we had a very frank and open discussion, and received

detailed information about the developments in each ASEAN member country."

Discussions on a blueprint beyond 2015, and progress of initiatives under the ASEAN central bank governors' forum are among the main goals of the ministers.

Minister of Finance II of Malaysia H.E. Dato Seri Ahmad Husni Hanadzlah, after the meeting said that new initiatives will be required "as the financial development of each country is different, with some ASEAN countries still not having a stock market."

Regarding Monetary and Financial Integration and ASEAN financial cooperation, Finance Minister of Vietnam Dinh Tien Dung told NLM before the meeting that "I think ASEAN member countries are making big efforts for integration—on a bilateral as well as multilateral level. And we will see more efforts made in terms of

economic development and economic reforms to join hands, to join the ASEAN Economic Community 2015."

With the Vietnamese finance minister visiting Myanmar for the first time, he said he remained positive about the country's reform process and development.

"From what I have seen here, development of infrastructure and efforts to create political stability are progressing, so I am confident we will see rapid economic growth in the very near future. In fact, big efforts are being undertaken to develop and modernize the infrastructure, and this is a signal that Myanmar will be an industrialized nation in the future," he said.

Equally optimistic on the outlook for Myanmar was the Malaysian Finance Minister II, saying the country once had a strong economy and will play a major role in the

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region again.

"Myanmar used to be one of the largest economies in SE Asia in the 1960s, and now it is opening up again. I just traveled from Yangon to Nay Pyi Taw by car and I could see vast areas of land that are not being used and there is a big opportunity for investment here and the economic growth of the people. There is a plan to develop highways linking Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos and Myanmar. Once the plans for the deep sea port here in the south materialize, import and export will become easy. I could see Myanmar stand up again and I believe it will be a very important economic center in the future. Not only for the ASEAN region, but for the people here," H.E. Dato Seri Ahmad Husni Hanadzlah said in an interview with NLM.

As the government has been emphasizing the democratization and reforms of all sectors, investors' confidence is improving, but several major challenges remain.

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Vietnamese Finance Minister Dinh Tien Dung and U Win Shein discussed further cooperation.—PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

Development of tourism industry depends on cooperation between government and private sector: Vice-President U Nyan Tun



First meeting of the Central Committee for Development of National Tourism Industry at the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism in Nay Pyi Taw in progress.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 4 April—Vice-President U Nyan Tun attended first meeting of the Central Committee for Development of National Tourism

Industry at the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism in Nay Pyi Taw on Friday.

Speaking at the meeting, the Vice-President said that tourism industry can

create various economic opportunities, enable regional economy and help reduce poverty, adding it has potential to be a driving force for economic growth

of the country.

He continued that the Hotels and Tourism Law was enacted in Myanmar in 1993 in order to operate in tourism industry by private

sector. Due to regional economic crisis and economic sanctions imposed by western countries against Myanmar, development of tourism industry has been resulted. Since taking office by civilian government in 2011, tourist arrival in Myanmar remarkably reached 1.06 million in 2012 and 2.04 million in 2013, he said.

“Policy on inclusiveness of social organizations in tourism industry” that is participated by all nationals and social organizations across the country was laid down to create prosperity for local people. Sustainable tourism is to consider economic, social and environmental impacts in tourism industry and fulfill necessities of local communities, he added. He highlighted that development of tourism industry

depends on cooperation between the government and private sector and Myanmar has all necessary infrastructures to boost tourism boom.

Myanmar Tourism Master Plan (2013-2020) was drawn with the assistance of international organizations under the leadership of Ministry of Hotels and Tourism, he said, stressing the importance of preservation of cultural heritage regions. He called for participation of ministries concerned, region governments and social organizations to join hands in implementing aforesaid tasks, saying provision of international organizations are required.

Secretary of the committee Union Minister U Htay Aung reported on matters to be followed in carrying out regional tourism industry, future plans and prospects for development of tourism boom.

MNA

New production road opened in Nay Pyi Taw

NAY PYI TAW, 4 April—Union Minister at the President Office Nay Pyi Taw Mayor U Thein Nyunt formally opened the production road near Ywathit Village in Dekkhinathiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw Council Area on Friday.

The 5 miles 3 furlongs

long connective asphalt road is 160 ft wide which is part of the Yangon-Mandalay Expressway. It was constructed along the road of Lewe, Dekkhinathiri, Ottarathiri and Tatkon townships funded by the government and there are many contourites in the road.—MNA

Myanmar parliamentary delegation leaves for ROK

YANGON, 4 April—With the arrangement of The Asia Foundation, a Myanmar parliamentary delegation led by Representative of People's Parliament U Kyi Myint left

Yangon International Airport by air for Republic of Korea to pay an excursion there on Friday evening.

The officials from respective parliament saw off them at the airport.—MNA

EU trains Myanmar Police officers on community policing and giving bicycles

10 EU-funded police bicycles were also handed over.

The EU Ambassador to Myanmar, Mr Roland Kobia was present at the graduation ceremony where another today's graduation ceremony marks a further step along the road of reform in Myanmar.

The training courses conducted over the past 4 weeks.

As part of the

EU-funded program, EU Ambassador Kobia handed over 10 police bicycles to the MPF in Sangyoung Township. More bicycles will be delivered over the coming weeks.

More training will follow for police officers in Yangon, and there is also a plan to train a further number of Myanmar police trainers so the Community Policing concept can be taken to other areas under the watchful eyes of EU

trainers and mentors.

Implementation of the EU-funded Community Policing program started with the training of 18 police officers from Mingala Taungnyunt Township earlier this year. Based on the program's success and strong support from the MPF and the local population, the program was extended to include Sangyoung Township in February this year.

NLM



Component Leader for Community Policing, EU Ambassador to Myanmar and Yangon Police Commissioner attach their hands at police bicycles handing over ceremony.—NLM

Press Release of Ministry of Health

Medicins Sans Frontiers-Holland (MSF-Holland) is an organization that operates to fight against AIDS, TB and Malaria and has been allowed to register in Myanmar since 9-7-2012.

Although MSF-Holland's aim and work procedures are beneficial to people, unwanted problems have been occurred with local people in Rakhine State due to weakness of MSF-Holland's some staff. So, MSF-Holland's operations are temporarily

suspended in Rakhine State.

During temporary suspension period, the Ministry of Health will cooperate with other INGOs with regard to MSF-Holland's functions in Rakhine State and is striving for providing health care services to locals.

The Ministry of Health is cooperating in public health care service in joining hands with UN agencies and social organizations at home and abroad.

MSF-Holland's functions are temporarily suspended according to peace and stability in Rakhine State. The government is coordinating with MSF-Holland to cooperate in health care service and MSF-Holland's activities will be allowed to operate in Rakhine State at an opportune time.

The Ministry of Health expressed thanks for cooperating in infectious diseases control of The Global Fund.

Ministry of Health

NATIONAL

President U Thein Sein receives ASEAN's Central Bank Governors, ASEAN's Deputy Finance Ministers, IMF's Deputy MD, ADB President, ministers of ASEAN countries, Deputy ASEAN S-G



President U Thein Sein poses for documentary photo with Deputy Finance Ministers of ASEAN Countries.
MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 4 April—President U Thein Sein met with Central Bank

Governors of ASEAN at the Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace in Nay

Pyi Taw at 8:30 am on Friday.

The President expressed his belief that ASEAN Central Bank Governors' Meeting (ACGM) will give more benefits to ASEAN community as well as ASEAN member countries and discussed establishment of financial capital market in Myanmar.

The President met with the Finance Ministers from the ASEAN countries and the Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN at 9:30 am.

Both sides discussed necessary preparations for the ASEAN Finance Ministers' Meeting-AFMM, further cooperation in monetary stability, strengthening of central banks from ASEAN and cooperation in ASEAN financial commu-

nities.

President U Thein Sein held talks with Mr. Naoyuki Shinohara, Deputy Managing Director of International Monetary Fund (IMF), at the same venue at 11 am.

At the call, the President thanked the IMF's assistance for restoring financial stability in the country. They concentrated on providing technical assistance and capacity building of civil servants in addition to financial sector development of the country.

President U Thein Sein received Mr. Takehiko Nakao, President of Asian Development Bank, and party at 2:30 pm on Friday.

They discussed ADB's assistance for loan

disbursement in better plans to stretch National grids to rural areas with the contribution of ADB, and providing technical assistance of ADB on promotion of financial services, education, health care services and capacity building of civil servants.

They also focused on coordination on implementation of future plans and rural development plans including transport and rural electrification, and small- and medium-scale enterprises (SME) development, matters related to human resources development,

infrastructure and private sector development.

The President also received ministers of ASEAN countries and the Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN at 3:45 pm.

They discussed much contribution of ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) Council' Meeting to ASEAN Community that will take effect in 2015, discussion with constructive attitude for implementation of priorities in 2014 and post-2015 plans and prospects for undertaking people-centered ASEAN Community.—MNA



President U Thein Sein shakes hands with Mr. Naoyuki Shinohara, Deputy Managing Director of International Monetary Fund (IMF).—MNA



President U Thein Sein shaking hands with Mr. Takehiko Nakao, President of Asian Development Bank.—MNA

ASEAN negotiating agreement on protection, promotion of migrant workers

NAY PYI TAW, 4 April—ASEAN's Socio-Cultural Community pillar is discussing regional migrant workers issues, focusing

on protection and promotion of migrant workers in the region.

Under the title of Migrant Workers Protection

and Promotion of Migrant workers, ASCC is drafting a 10-chapter agreement which will guarantee basic rights to migrant workers

and clarify role of countries which send and accept migrant workers.

"We (ASEAN) have agreed that accepting

countries are to give work permit to legal migrant workers within one month, but in reality, some Myanmar migrant workers were detained and responsible employment agencies and factories have delayed responding to the issue," said U Myo Aung, Director-General of Department of Labour, at the sideline of the 11th ASCC Meeting in Nay Pyi Taw.

Myanmar's Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security will carry out 23 tasks for mi-

grant workers issues under the ASCC.

The government of Myanmar has called on its youth workforce for going abroad legally, pledging that it can fully assist in settling issues related to its legal migrant workers.

However, it is difficult for the ministry to solve issues related to illegal Myanmar migrant workers in a foreign country, U Myo Aung said.

Since the country opened up about three years ago, the government could create job opportunities at home by establishing more industrial zones in the country and has opened many ways for its youth workforce to be able to work legally in foreign countries.

Officials from ASEAN countries pose for documentary photo at 11th ASEAN's Socio-Cultural Community.
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Speaker of Union Parliament Thura U Shwe Mann meets local people in Pyu Township



Speaker of Union Parliament Thura U Shwe Mann meets officials from township Land Utilization Management Committee, township development supportive committee and townsmen in Pyu Township, Bago Region.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 4 April—Speaker of Union Parliament and People's Parliament Thura U Shwe Mann held a meeting on regional development task with officials from township Land Utilization Management Committee, township development supportive committee and townsmen in Pyu Township, Bago Region on Friday.

Speaking at the meeting held at township General Administration Department, the Speaker said that Land Utilization Management Committee branch offices were opened in respective townships across the country to address land utilization management issues. Members of township management committee are required to settle submissions of the

locals in coordination with ward/village development supportive committee, he added.

Speaker of Region Parliament U Win Tin and Region Minister for Forestry U Kyaw Htay discussed matters related to confiscated farmlands.

The Speaker then visited free funeral service being kept open at Sasanahita Myoma Dhammayon in

Pyu and cordially greeted the townsmen.—MNA

Census completed for over four million households across the nation up to 2 April

NAY PYI TAW, 4 April—Nation-wide census taking process is being carried out as of March 30 and census has been taken at 4682096 households till 2 April.

A total of 105,648 households in Kachin State, 22,002 in Kayah State, 131,673 in Kayah State, 34,099 in Chin State, 504,162 in Sagaing Region, 130,680 in Tanintharyi Region, 301,905 in Bago Region (East),

236,968 in Bago Region (West), 385,299 in Magway Region, 570,851 in Mandalay Region, 185,421 in Mon State, 187,478 in Rakhine State, 712,749 in Yangon Region, 50,926 in Shan State (East), 220,971 in Shan State (South), 159,356 in Shan State (North), 632,650 in Ayeyawady Region and 109,259 in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area have already been taken census.

Census enumerators

collect data from 10 households to 12 per day and it takes 20 minutes.

National Census 2014 has been finished in Mongla Special Region and "Wa" Special Region is still under the census. Members of KNU Brigade-2 and Brigade-5 were trained to collect data in census taking process in their region, according to the Ministry of Immigration and Population.

MNA

Blueprint beyond 2015 ...

(from page 1)

"There are two major challenges. It requires huge investment in the country's infrastructure. That is number one. Secondly I believe we have to develop the people, human resources," according to the Malaysian Finance Minister II.

"They need to learn new skills to be able to work in a technological world. Myanmar will be embracing a new economic model, the old economic model will soon be a thing of the past. That means the

educational system must be raised to a level that people can achieve the level of skill required to deal with a technological environment in the future," he stressed, adding that many Myanmar people are now working or studying in Malaysia.

"We have always supported business-to-business and people-to-people development. Malaysia as an old supporter is excited to see the developments in Myanmar. We're one of the few countries that always stood by Myanmar when there were problems. Re-

garding ASEAN membership, many countries said Myanmar should not be included because of the political issues here, but we said everybody needs to be engaged and involved—and see now! Democracy has changed things radically."

The Finance Ministers' meeting will conclude on Saturday, after several plenary sessions attended by high-ranking officials from the International Monetary Fund, World Bank, and the Central Bank Governors Troika, amongst others, to discuss a wide range of issues, including progress of ASEAN Plus Three,

18th ASEAN Finance Ministers' Meeting focus on regional financial cooperation

NAY PYI TAW, 4 April—Union Minister for Finance U Win Shein exchanged views on cooperation in financial sector among the ASEAN countries, promotion of investment, provision of technical assistance in Myanmar and ongoing ASEAN financial procedures with the finance ministers

from Vietnam, Singapore, and Indonesia and Deputy Managing Director of IMF on Friday at his Ministry in Nay Pyi Taw.

Then, the Union Minister hosted a dinner to ASEAN Finance Ministers at Thingaha Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw.

The meetings go on 5 April.—MNA

Union Minister for Finance U Win Shein holding talks with ASEAN Finance Ministers at his office in Nay Pyi Taw—MNA



Printing and Publishing Rules (draft) introduced

NAY PYI TAW, 4 April—Deputy Minister for Information U Ye Htut and officials introduced the Printing and Publishing Rules (draft) under the Printing and Publishing Law that was verified by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

(Union Parliament) at his office in Nay Pyi Taw on Friday.

The Ministry sent suggestions sought from media to the Myanmar Press Council (Interim).

The Deputy Minister replied to the queries raised

by the officials from Myanmar Printers and Publishers Association, Myanmar Writers Association, Myanmar Journalist Congress and Journalist Network after his clarification on the draft.

MNA

People actively participate in census

NAY PYI TAW, 4 April—The Ministry of Immigration and Population is proud to announce that after Day 4 of the census exercise nearly 50% of households have been enumerated nationwide.

Implementation of the program has been very well organized. People are participating and are generally well informed of the census. They have been ex-

cited and responsive to the enumerators. The publicity campaign has been effective through posters, billboards, newspapers, radio and television.

Interviews are taking on average up to 20 minutes each and enumerators have been visiting 10-12 houses per day. They are well prepared and are increasing enumeration rates each day as they become more skilled and experienced.

If you have not been enumerated or still have questions regarding the

census please call the hotline: 1048.

Myanmar's last census was conducted in 1983. The 2014 census, under the supervision of the Department of Population within the Ministry of Immigration and Population, is being conducted in line with international standards with technical support from the UNFPA, the United Nations Population Fund.

Myanmar is conducting its first Population and Housing Census in 30 years from 29 March to 10 April 2014.—MNA

LOCAL NEWS

Underground fibre cables laid along Mandalay-Nay Pyi Taw-Yangon-Pathein-Ngwehsaung route



KYAUKDAGA, 4 April—Communication Network laying of fibre cables along Myanmar Fiber Optic Company is carrying out towns and villages of Man-

dalay-Nay Pyi Taw-Yangon-Pathein-Ngwehsaung fibre link for Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications of the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology.

On Friday, the fibre cable laying works were undertaken at about 500 yards distance from mile post 114 on Yangon-Mandalay Highway in Kyaukdaga. Kyaukdaga Township Administrator U Htet Aung Phyo met with local authorities in discussions to assist in laying fibre cables, protect loss of farmlands in the fibre line areas.—*Khin Ko (Kyaukdaga)*

Basic Summer Golf Course concludes

YANGON, 4 April—The Basic Summer Golf Course kicked off at Golf Training Course in Kyaukyedwin in Yangon from 25 March to 4 April.

Trainers from Han Golf Academy gave training to 19 trainees from basic education schools.

At the awarding ceremony on Friday, Principal of Han Golf Academy U Ko Ko Lay delivered an address and Vice-President of MGF U Aung Kyi presented awards and gifts to the trainees.

Coaches of Myanmar Golf Federation U Myat Khaing, Dr Myint Oo and U

Htay Aung gave lecture to a total of 57 trainees at the Introductory Rules School, Level 1 Golf Course No. 2 held at Shweman Taung Golf Course in Mandalay on 21-21 March.

The course was jointly organized by Myanmar Golf Federation and R&A Rules Limited (St. Andrews) and supervised by Mandalay Golf Association.

The course No. 1 was taken by 41 trainees at Myanmar Golf Club on Pyay Road, 9th-Mile, Mayangon Township, Yangon, on 5-7 December in 2011.

NLM

Myanmar people return home to join Myanmar Maha Thingyan Festival



MYAWADY, 4 April—Myanmar Traditional Maha Thingyan festival is getting nearer and nearer. All of Myanmar people

are excited to celebrate the water festival on a grand scale. Myanmar citizens who are away from their mother land for various sit-

uations come back home to take part in the festival with their family members or friends. Almost 1000 Myanmar people who worked in Thailand have come back home passing through Myawady friendship bridge before the water festival, said an official. "I've missed Thingyan festival for about four years. So I'm eager to enjoy the festival in my native town," said Ko Maung Kyaw of Hpa-an Township of Kayin State.

Myanmar Maha Thingyan festival will begin on 13 April this year. All Myanmar people happily celebrate the festival which lasts for only four days. On Myanmar New Year Day, they pay respects to older persons, release fingerlings and serve free meal to people without discrimination.

Htein Lin Aung (IPRD)

Summer sports training course concludes in Singu



SINGU, 4 April—The summer sports training course concluded at the township sports ground in Singu of Mandalay Region on Wednesday. At the ceremony, Township Adminis-

trator U Aung Kyaw Than made a speech and gave sports suits to trainees.

Next, trainees demonstrated skills in playing cane-ball and football events.

MMAL-432

Earthen type inter-village road put into service in Kalewa

KALEWA, 4 April—The 21 miles long earthen type Hsegyi-Gazet-Yuzale Inter-Village Road was put into service in Kalewa Township, Kalay District in Sagaing Region recently. The road contributes to smooth transportation for the locals of 48 villages from 14 village-tracts. The

road was constructed at a cost of K 175 million of Rural Development Department in 2013-14 fiscal year by Pan Mon Co.

The head of Kalay District Rural Development Department together with officials from Pan Mon Co looked round the completed road.—*Ju Nine*

Two RC bridges under construction in Kalewa



KALEWA, 4 April—The 240 ft long, 14 ft wide Hsegyi RC Bridge and 70 ft long, 14 ft wide Hsesongon RC Bridge are being constructed by spending K 260 million contribution of Progress of Border Area and National Races Department in 2013-14 fiscal

year by Royal Great Co in Kalewa Township, Kalay District in Sagaing Region.

Construction works of the bridges started on 17 December 2013 and Chairman of Kalay District Management Committee U Maung Htoo is closely supervising the task for time-

ly completion of the bridges meeting set standard.

Upon completion, the bridges will facilitate road transportation, trade, health, education and rural development for over 22000 residents from fifty villages of fourteen village-tracts.—*Ju Nine*

Independent Observer views round collection of census data



LAUNGLON, 4 April—South African Ms Judith Donang together with interpreter Daw Khin Ma Ma Swe of Independent Observer made a trip to Pyinhtein Village of Launglon Township, Dawei District, Taninthayi Region, on Thursday morning.

On arrival at Pyinhtein Village, they observed collection of census data in collecting areas. They also observed collection of census data in Thabya Village.

The foreigner observer was accompanied by Staff Officer U Maung Maung of Township Immigration and National Registration Department and staff.

Launglon Township IPRD

Abe, Obama to hold summit 24 April in Tokyo

TOKYO, 4 April — Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and US President Barack Obama plan to hold a meeting on 24 April in Tokyo where they are expected to reaffirm the robust Japan-US alliance, Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga said Friday.

Japan will invite Obama on 24 and 25 April as a state guest, though the exact date of his arrival is not immediately known, Suga

said at a news conference, indicating Obama may arrive in Japan on 23 April.

Obama will be the first US president to visit Japan as a state guest since Bill Clinton in April 1996. The trip is part of a four-nation Asian tour by Obama that will also take him to South Korea, Malaysia and the Philippines. The two governments, however, are not considering issuing a joint statement or

declaration after the summit, due partly to insufficient progress in bilateral consultations toward advancing the Trans-Pacific Partnership free trade negotiations, according to sources familiar with bilateral relations. Instead, the two governments are planning to release a “fact sheet” outlining areas of bilateral cooperation such as cybersecurity and space cooperation, the sources said.

Speaking to reporters after a Cabinet meeting, Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida said Abe and Obama “will stress the role of the Japan-US alliance as a contributor to peace and prosperity in the Asia-Pacific region.” Kishida said the two leaders “will affirm the strong Japan-US alliance,” and that he hopes they will announce further areas of specific cooperation.—Kyodo News

Ukraine PM says will stick to austerity despite Moscow pressure



Ukrainian Prime Minister Arseniy Yatseniuk gestures during an interview with Reuters in Kiev on 3 April, 2014.—REUTERS

KIEV, 4 April — The Kiev government will stick to unpopular austerity measures “as the price of independence” as Russia steps up pressure on Ukraine to destabilise it, including by raising the price of gas, Prime Minister Arseniy Yatseniuk told Reuters.

Yatseniuk, 39, who stepped in as interim prime minister last month after Viktor Yanukovich and his ministers fled the “Euromaidan” protests, conceded that it would be very difficult “under the current Russian presence” to undo what he described as Russia’s “international crime” in seizing Crimea.

But he said Ukraine would never recognise the Russian takeover in exchange for re-establishing good relations.

“I want to be perfectly clear. We will never recognise the annexation of Crimea ... The time will come when Ukraine will take over control of Crimea,” he said, speaking in English, seated in

his cavernous, Soviet-built government headquarters beneath the blue and yellow Ukrainian flag.

He has called himself the leader of a “kamikaze” government, doomed by unpopular austerity measures it must take, but he said Ukraine would stick to the measures, which include doubling gas prices for domestic consumers from May 1 and holding down state pensions and salaries against a background of a 3 percent contraction of the economy and double-digit inflation.

IMF support - a \$14-18 billion financial lifeline in return for tough economic reforms - would be a “tremendous step forward”, he said.

“We will regain trust and credibility from foreign investors. This is the roadmap for Ukraine,” he added.

The Kiev government has said that without the IMF-mandated austerity measures, the economy could shrink by up to 10 percent this year.—Reuters

Anti-Assad allies rebuff Syrian presidential election plan



A tank belonging to forces loyal to Syrian President Bashar al-Assad is seen at one of the sites in Latakia mountains, after they took control of it from rebel fighters, on 3 April, 2014, in this handout released by Syria’s national news agency SANA.

REUTERS

PARIS, 4 April — International powers who support the Syrian opposition have firmly rebuffed any idea of a presidential election organized by the Syrian government in the midst of a civil war, describing the plans as a “parody of democracy” that would kill peace talks.

The Friends of Syria, an alliance of mainly

Western and Gulf Arab countries, issued a statement on Thursday in light of recent developments in Syria, where there appears to be no end in sight after more than three years of conflict sparked by protests against President Bashar al-Assad’s rule.

The government has made incremental gains in recent months, regaining

the initiative in the conflict. Emboldened by failed peace talks in Geneva, and with the support of his allies Iran and Russia, Assad is looking increasingly likely to stand for a third term in July.

“Elections organized by the Assad regime would be a parody of democracy, would reveal the regime’s rejection of the basis of the

South Korea extending ballistic missile range to counter North’s threat

SEOUL, 4 April — South Korea has test-fired a new ballistic missile with a range of 500 km (310 miles) and will try to extend the range to 800 km so it can strike any site in North Korea, its defence ministry said on Friday, days after Pyongyang fired a mid-range missile.

The new missiles are intended to counter the threat from North Korea’s missile and nuclear programs, ministry spokesman Kim Min-seok said, but the move is likely to rattle the North, hit with UN sanctions for its own

missile tests. South Korea adopted a voluntary ban on developing ballistic missiles with a range of more than 300 km, under an agreement with the United States, but the allies agreed in 2012 to allow the South to develop 800 km-range missiles.

“We test-fired it, and we succeeded,” Kim told a briefing, when asked if the military had recently conducted a 500-km missile test. “And we’re going to make 800-km missiles.”

The new missiles will be used to strike the North’s weapons and

military installations in the furthest part of the country from anywhere in the South if needed, he added.

The two Koreas are technically still at war, since the 1950-53 Korean War ended in a truce, rather than an armistice.

North Korea last week fired a mid-range ballistic Rodong missile that fell into the sea off its east coast after flying about 650 km and short of its maximum range, thought to be about 1,300 km, and enough to hit much of Japan.

Reuters



A visitor poses for a photo next to a display of mock South Korean US-made Hawk surface-to-air missiles and a mock North Korean Russian-made Scud-B ballistic missile (C, in gray), at the Korean War Memorial Museum in Seoul on 20 May, 2013.—REUTERS

WORLD

India's main opposition party to release manifesto on 1st voting day

NEW DELHI, 4 April — Though India's main opposition Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is predicted to win the most seats in the general elections, it will not release its manifesto until 7 April, the first day of voting, party spokesperson Nirmala Sitharaman told the media late Thursday night.

Sources say this is unprecedented in Indian politics, but this is due to internal differences within the party between veteran leaders and leaders close to 64-year-old Narendra Modi, the BJP's prime ministerial candidate, who want the already drafted manifesto by the former to be tweaked.

"A manifesto has already been drafted by veteran leader M.M. Joshi, but the Modi camp wants it to be changed. This is going to delay the release of the manifesto till the first day

of polling, which could be a violation of model code of election conduct," the sources said.

According to India's independent Election Commission sources, no party or any political leaders can release a poll manifesto 48 hours before polling starts, and violation carries a penalty of two years in jail.

Meanwhile, the ruling Congress party has ridiculed the BJP deferring the release of its manifesto.

"A party and leader which claims great administrative and managerial competence is unable to release its manifesto in time. Why is BJP unable to produce even a manifesto on time," Congress spokesperson Priyanka Chaturvedi tweeted. India goes to polls on 7 April, and the nine-phase voting ends on 12 May, with results due on 16 May.—Xinhua

Cargo ship sinks off South Korea, 11 North Korean crew missing



A doctor exams a North Korean crew member from a Mongolian-flagged cargo ship that sank in the sea off Yeosu, at a hospital on Jeju island on 4 April, 2014.

REUTERS

SEOUL, 4 April — A Mongolian-flagged cargo ship has sunk off the southern coast of South Korea, with most of the 16 North Korean crew members on board missing, South Korean coast guard officials said on Friday. Two crew members were found dead and three were rescued, while a search was under way for the other 11 crew still missing, the officials said.

The *Grand Fortune 1* was sailing from the

Chongjin region on North Korea's east coast for a Chinese port carrying iron ore, said one official, who requested anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to the media.

The vessel sails regularly between North Korea and China, according to Reuters' ship tracking system. The rescued crew members were taken to a South Korean hospital for treatment, according to the coast guard.—Reuters



A member of the National Bolivarian Police (PNB, for its acronym in Spanish), shoots during a protest near the Central University of Venezuela (UCV, for its acronym in Spanish), in Caracas, Venezuela, on 3 April, 2014. XINHUA

Japan lower house OKs nuclear pacts with Turkey, UAE

TOKYO, 4 April — Japan's House of Representatives on Friday passed two nuclear pacts with Turkey and the United Arab Emirates that would pave the way for Japan to export nuclear power infrastructure to the two countries.

The agreements, both concluded last year, would come into force by early May under the Constitution, which stipulates that lower house decisions on state budgets and bilateral treaties prevail in the Diet.

Members of the governing Liberal Democratic party, its junior coalition partner, New Komeito party, and the main opposition Democratic Party of Japan voted for the pacts.

The approval came at a time when anti-nuclear power sentiment still

persists among the public as the nuclear disaster at the Fukushima Daiichi power plant has yet to be resolved.

Those nuclear pacts set a legal framework for the peaceful use and transfer of atomic-power technologies and equipment.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe signed the pacts when he visited the two countries in May 2013.

The Japanese government sought parliamentary approval of the pact during the extraordinary Diet session last fall. But the Diet failed to come to a decision at that time and carried the deliberations to the current 150-day regular session which started 24 January.

The opposition DPJ has decided to vote for the treaties as it promoted the export of nuclear power

infrastructure when it was in power between August 2009 and December 2012.

As for Turkey, Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Ltd is a member of a consortium of business corporations which has won an order to build an atomic power plant in the country.

The United Arab Emirates started to construct a nuclear power plant in 2012 and is currently planning to build more reactors, government officials said.

Japan concluded bilateral nuclear accords with 11 countries, including Australia, China, France, Russia and the United States — and the European Atomic Energy Community, and is currently promoting talks with India and Brazil to conclude similar treaties.—Kyodo News



US Defence Secretary Chuck Hagel (C) poses with his ASEAN counterparts as they gather for a meeting in Honolulu, Hawaii, on 3 April, 2014.—KYODO NEWS

City starts emergency response to Malaysian kidnapping

SHANGHAI, 4 April — Shanghai tourism authorities started emergency procedures on Thursday following the kidnap of female tourist in Malaysia.

A statement published at about 2 pm on Shanghai's microblog asks all travel agencies to warn outbound tourists of safety concerns. A woman named Xu went to Shanghai police at about 12 am on Thursday, claiming she lost contact with her daughter, now believed to have been kidnapped when travelling in the Malaysian state of Sabah.

The girl Gao, 29, has been granted admittance to a British university and recently quit her job with a Japanese company. She was travelling independently in Malaysia. Her uncle confirmed she was travelling with a friend: "She travelled a lot recently and booked her flight before Spring Festival. She left Shanghai on Tuesday afternoon and phoned her mom to report her safe arrival on Wednesday evening."

A staff member at the Malaysian consulate general in Shanghai told Xinhua that they heard the news this morning, but did not receive any details. He said Sabah was a hot tourist destination, but "a few dangerous things" had happened there before.—Xinhua

Brazil's inflation under control

BRASILIA, 4 April — Brazil's President Dilma Rousseff on Thursday defended her administration's economic policy, saying it has kept inflation within the target range over the past 12 years. In an address to the National Forum of Confederations of Business and Trade Associations, Rousseff said, inflation has been kept within the limits set by the National Monetary Council over the past 12 years.

The Central Bank raised the basic annual interest rate for the ninth consecutive time Wednesday, from 10.75 percent to 11 percent, in a bid to control the inflationary tendency. Brazil has set a target annual inflation rate of 4.5 percent, with a two-point margin, for 2014 and 2015. The bank predicted an inflation rate of 6.1 percent in 2014, within target limit, said Rousseff.

She also said "Public debt in relation to gross domestic product (GDP), which gauges the country's capacity to pay its domestic debts, has systematically decreased. In 2002, it stood at 62 percent of GDP. Today it only stands at 33.7 percent."—Xinhua

PERSPECTIVES

Saturday, 5 April, 2014

Civil servants Vs commodity prices

Civil servants will enjoy a K-20000 pay increase beginning this month which is the start of 2014-15 FY. This will be a pay increase for them for two consecutive years. On the surface, it seems to be welcome news to civil servants, but how is it in reality?

Myanmar has a long tradition that commodity prices hikes follow the announced pay rise for civil servants. Normally, pay increase is announced in March and effective in April which is the beginning of a new fiscal year in Myanmar.

Again, commodity prices go up before Water Festival (Thingyan in Myanmar) perhaps to mark

the Myanmar New Year which usually starts in the third week of April, but never go down again after the festival. So, it is fair to say that Myanmar always welcomes the New Year with commodity price hikes though not always with pay rise for civil servants.

In Myanmar, the time has long shifted from the era of the father being the primary and single breadwinner of the family to the era of the whole family working to meet their wants or sometimes just to make ends meet.

Except for some government departments that are privileged to receive kickbacks, many civil servants find themselves caught in the uphill battle against commodity prices and no way to conquer it. Many a civil servant has retired without a house of their own. Save and save the money, but the extra cash is always swallowed up by ever-increasing commodity prices plus utility bills and the dream of a house never comes true to most of them.

Work is the meaning of life, it is often said, but it would be the best be a means of livelihood for

the poor who work and work and still cannot get out of the downward spiral of indebtedness.

The problems of soaring commodity prices and high unemployment rate have been a hot issue for every government around the world. While new jobs are being created as a result of open-door policy in Myanmar, employees still do not earn decent salaries; instead the country has seen street protests against low wages. Uneven income distribution has contributed to further widening the gap between rich and poor. Income growth has been significant after the liberalization process, but unfortunately it belongs to monopolies and certain elites.

Is it a one horse race or the white flag is the only option for civil servants?

Write for us

We appreciate your feedback and contributions. If you have any comments or would like to submit editorials, analyses or reports please email wallace.tun@gmail.com with your name and title.

The word 'Rohingya' poses problem to national security and national affairs



A census enumerator collects data from a local household.

The word (Rohingya) cannot be considered as an ordinary problem as it poses the problem for the national security and national affairs. Such kind of problem should not be approached from the "freedom of speech" point of view and it should be handled in accordance with the basic principles of the constitution, said Information Deputy Minister U Ye Htut.

The national census launched on 30 March, and so far, data on 4,682,096 households, completing 45 percent of the national census, according to the Ministry of Immigration and Population. However, there

are some hindrances to the census in Rakhine State due to the word "Rohingya".

While some Bengalis has insisted that they should be considered as Rohingya in the census while some international organizations, holding human rights point of view, have voiced that the word "Rohingya" should be mentioned in the census. As the word "Rohingya" is used in politics, about 200 people were killed, 265 were injured, 8614 houses were destroyed, leaving over 100,000 people homeless so far as from November, 2012. The government is cooperating with international organizations to reha-

bilitate those victims.

"Not using the word 'Rohingya' in the census cannot harm the essence of the census. The peoples of the country do not object not using the word 'Rohingya' in the census. Today is the time to rationalize the accusation of losing the freedom of speaking due to the word 'Rohingya' and to compare find out whether the accusation is correct or not with realities happening there, said Daw Khaing Khaing Soe, a director of the Population Department. According to records, the Bengalis in Rakhine State mentioned that they are Bengalis in the 1931 census taken during British colonial period, in the 1973 and 1983 national census in Myanmar. When household data were taken in Rakhine State in May, 2012, they said that they are Bengalis. Only after the conflicts between indigenous Rakhine people and Bengalis, Bengalis have insisted that they are 'Rohingya'. Besides, they also attacked volunteers who take census in Rakhine State, said U

Ye Htut, Deputy Minister for Information.

According to the history of Myanmar, the word "Rohingya" were used during the Mujahidin separatist movements in Rakhine State from 1946 to 1950.

"We can assume that they have obvious-

ly voiced loudly the word 'Rohingya' these days because they are taking the advantage of the national census," said the deputy minister.



A census enumerator gather data from local people.

ly voiced loudly the word "Rohingya" these days because they are taking the advantage of the national census," said the deputy minister.

All the national people of the country are actively participating in the national census, considering that it is their national duty to achieve success of the census. However, there are some hindrances to the national census due to some persons.

"Rohingya is not accepted by the State as a nationality nor in conformity with the existing laws. That's why, we don't allow to fill the word Rohingya in the form of the national cen-

sus. When they say Bengalis which is legally accepted, we take the census. It's okay if they cannot say the correct name now, we just skip the word and collect other data. It's totally wrong that we stop the taking census

hingya.

"The word 'Rohingya' is not directly related to the outcomes of the census. We don't want to see any violence due to that word. That's why, the reason why we exclude

once they say Rohingya," said Daw Khaing Khaing Soe, a director of the Population Department.

"What is happening today is that we can't ask any questions. Some answer that their name is Rohingya. Their father's name is Rohingya, their mother's name is Rohingya and their nationality is Rohingya. There is no discrimination nor threats to them when we take census in Rakhine State. We envision only bringing benefits to human society," she added.

UNFPA's statement said that UNFPA is concerned about Decision not to allow census respondents to self-identify as Ro-

that word 'Rohingya' is the fair decision to be considered by international organizations including the UN as the far-sighted decision for the sake of the country or human society.

Haji U Aye Lwin of the Interfaith Group said that their first priority should be to peaceful co-existence and peace of the country today for the development of the country and for the sake of the people. It does not mean they should not abandon what rights they should. When the country is at peace, they should try to gain the rights they should get in accordance with the law, he added.

Trs: AMS

Myanmar's oldest English daily newspaper is hiring now!

The Global New Light of Myanmar will relocate to Yangon in mid-April and is now looking for foreign editors and local reporters. Journalists who prefer to work as freelancers or on a part-time basis are also welcome to submit their applications. For further details, please send an email with your resume and samples of your work to the chief editor wallace.tun@gmail.com.

NATIONAL

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing attends Graduation Parade of No. 117 Intake of Defence Services (Army) OTS



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing presents silver sword to best cadet award winning cadet at graduation parade of No. 117 Intake of Defence Services (Army) Officers' Training School.
MYAWADY

NAY PYI TAW, 4 April— The Graduation Parade of No. 117 Intake of Defence Services (Army) Officers' Training School was held at the parade ground of the training school in Fort Ba Htoo on Friday.

Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Thayay Sithu Min

Aung Hlaing urged the cadets to safeguard 12 fine traditions of the Defence Services in his address at the graduation parade.

The defence services should be formed with various national races as Myanmar is home to national races, he added.

He called for upholding our three main national causes; Non-disintegration of the Union, Non-disintegration of national solidarity and Perpetuation of sovereignty.

The Senior General took salutes of the cadets.

Together with the senior military officers and the Commander of Eastern Command, he met with the best cadets heir parents.

Then, he enjoyed the graduation dinner in the evening.—Myawady

Census takers collect data from regions with assistance of Tatmadaw on 3-4 April

NAY PYI TAW, 4 April—As part of the nationwide census taking process, the census collectors are carrying out their tasks with the help of the Armed Forces in some regions that face some difficulties in Kachin and Northern Shan States.

On 3 and 4 April, the census takers gathered data from 10232 people from 41 villages in the townships of the two states.

In Kachin State, altogether 8159 villagers—3535 from 16 villages in Mansi Township, 1426 from 4 villages in

Lwejel Township and 3198 from 14 villages in Dawphonyan Township of Bhamo District in Kachin State were taken the data.

In Northern Shan State, a total of 2073 villagers—1271 from 2 villages in Manton Township, 367 from a village in Nanmatu Township and 435 from Momeik Township of Kyaukme District in Northern Shan State were also taken the data.

The census taking groups will gather the data from remaining households of those regions.

Myawady

All member states need to make collective efforts to tackle social problems such as human trafficking, poverty and violence against children women: Thai Minister of Social Development and Human Security

The 11th meeting of the ASEAN Social-Cultural Community Council continued its final day at the Hotel Grand Amara here this morning. After the meeting, our news team from the Myanmar News Agency of the Ministry of Information conducted an interview with Pavena Hongsakula, Minister of Social Development and Human Security of Thailand

Q: Could you please elaborate on the significance of this meeting which is held for the first time in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar?

A: Good afternoon. I am Pavena Hongsakul, the Minister of Ministry of Social Development and Human Security, today I am a ASCC Leader of Thailand. I am very pleased and honored to attend the 11th ASCC Meeting for the first time in Nay Pyi Taw. The city is beautiful and peaceful just like the theme that Myanmar as ASEAN Chair has chosen for this year meeting.

Myanmar is our neighbor country so your country is like my sister or brother so are the people of Myanmar.

In Thailand, we are

eagerly to be ASEAN Community and very excited about it.

Today I come not only to meet all ASCC and SOCA colleagues in order to strengthen our efforts but also to encourage the member states to work even harder to overcome many challenges lie ahead.

Q: To what extent this meeting could have impact on your social and cultural sector?

A: This meeting serves as a venue for ASCC Ministers to meet, share, and discuss what we have done in our countries and what we want to see or want to achieve in this region.

In this meeting, Thailand encourages all pillars to work together in order to solve social problems such as poverty production, promotion of gender equality, elimination of violence against children and women. All these problems if not solved will prevent us to become a prosperous and peaceful ASEAN Community. We all need to join hand and take action now.

In this meeting, Thailand shared its view on how to solve poverty problem in a sustainable way. All ASEAN countries should promote cultural tourism and promote local products. All

these activities will generate more income and lift poor people out of the poverty. So, problem of human trafficking can be resolved.

Thailand affirms its intension to work closely with all stakeholders and all member states. And I do believe that this meeting will promote our collaboration and this will contribute to the betterment of Thailand and ASEAN as a whole.

Q: I would like to know what you are focusing on this meeting.

A: I would like all member states to strengthen our collaboration and coordination in order to tackle the social problems such as human trafficking, poverty and violence against children women together.

In ASEAN, we have beautiful culture which is unique and cannot find anywhere else in the world. Foreigners would like to come and visit ASEAN. Therefore, it's importation that we join hand to promote ASEAN culture by offering cultural tour package which will bring more income to their peoples of this region. This will result in the poverty alleviation.

Afterwards, we continued to conduct an interview with Madame Pham Thi-

Hai Chuyen, Minister of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs of Vietnam

Q: Could this meeting contribute much to our country's social and cultural sector?

A: At the ASCC meeting, we have reviewed the status of ASCC Blueprint implementation including



Madame Pham ThiHai Chuyen
(Minister of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs of Vietnam)

ing the social and culture sector. The result of this meeting will contribute actively to different sectors of our community as well as the socio-cultural sector of each country in the following aspects: Identifying and sharing challenges in implementing the priorities at national and regional level; formulating national priorities towards regional trend, linking the national activities related to so-

Interviewer: Dr Tha Sein
Photos: Shwe Ko Ko Lay

cio-cultural sectors with the activities of the ASCC, mobilizing resources and integrating these priorities into national programs, and enhancing public awareness on regional activities to create national consensus and efforts.

Q: Let me know your comment and opinion on this meeting?

A: This is the 11th ASCC Meeting, which continues to link with the achievements from previous meeting and contribute to make active changes in the socio-cultural community. At this meeting, ASCC Council Ministers have highly appreciated the result of the Mid-term review of the ASCC Blueprint, which serve as good reference for further follow-up activities and post 2015 vision. For Vietnam, we have carried out many communication activities on the socio-cultural community and integrate the recommendations of the regional MTR report of the Implementation of ASCC Blue-print into national action plans.

I highly commend the chairmanship and coordi-



Pavena Hongsakula
(Minister of Social Development and Human Security of Thailand)

nation role of Myanmar as well as the priorities proposed by Myanmar for 2014.

Q: What are the differences between our cultural and yours?

A: We all share the tradition of agriculture and many common cultural values in ASEAN related to a caring, sharing and people-centered community. Our Governments promote social welfare for people. In addition, I am very impressed by the culture and friendly people of Myanmar as well as your beautiful country. I wish Myanmar a successful chairmanship year!

SIM cards allotted to vendors, workers



NAY PYI TAW, 4 April—Under the instructions of Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman, low-priced SIM cards were allotted to freight handling workers and vendors in Zabuthiri and Pobbathiri townships

and Pyinmana Station on Thursday morning.

The allotment of SIM cards were supervised by Nay Pyi Taw Council member U Myo Nyunt and officials, the township administrator and the head of

the township development affairs committee. The SIM cards were handed over to the vendors and workers. A total of 40 SIM cards were given to vendors and 30 to workers.

Shwe Kokko



Officials of Tamu District and Township Rural Development Departments inspect progress of six rural housings funded by Rural Development Department in Shwe-minthamee Village of Khampak Sub-Township in Tamu District.—JOE NET

Dagon North continues census taking process

YANGON, 4 April—The census taking process continued at wards in Dagon Myothit (North) Township of Yangon Region on Friday.

Staff U Kyaw Zeyar Thaung of Township Im-

migration and National Registration Department and census collectors participated in census data taking in areas of Ward 41 in the township.

On Thursday, they collected census data from

11253 people from 2704 households of 17 collecting areas.

With the assistance of Township Census Committee, they will conduct the process during the designated period.—U Naing Oo

Villages linked through gravel road in Tamu District

TAMU, 4 April—Kanan-Teinkaya earthen road is being upgraded to gravel road in Khampak Sub-Township in Tamu District of Sagaing Region.

The facility is four miles and three furlongs long that will contribute much to transport of agricultural produce to Khampak, Tamu and other regions from Kanan and Teinkaya villages.

Rural Development Department spent K 128.16 million on construction of the road in 2013-14 fiscal

year. United Kabaw Co is taking responsibility for construction of the road. Officials of Kalay District Rural Development Department and Tamu District RRD inspected progress of construction tasks.

Joe Net

Departmental officials look round progress of upgrading earthen road to gravel one in Khampak Sub-Township of Tamu District in Sagaing Region.



New rate of electricity bill explained

NAY PYI TAW, 4 April—A ceremony to clarify change of electric bill rate was held at the hall of Township General Administration Department in Zeyathiri Township in Nay

Pyi Taw Council Area, on Thursday morning.

Ottara District Electrical Engineer U Myo Thant Tun explained the new rate of electricity bill and replied to queries raised by

local people.

Local authorities of villages and electrification committee officials attended the clarification ceremony.

Shwe Kokko



Census taking process in progress at 143 villages and seven wards of Pyinmana Township as of 30 April.—SHWE KOKKO

Myinmu BEHS gets two new school buildings

MYINMU, 4 April—Chief Minister U Tha Aye of Sagaing Region and officials attended the upgrading of Basic Education Middle School and handing over of Pyinna Myintmo School building in Wunpyae Village in Myinmu Township in Sagaing Region on Wednesday.

The Chief Minister and officials pressed the button to open the new building of the school. Pyinnya Myintmo building, 120 feet long, 30 feet wide and 22 feet high and Mya Aye building, 170 feet long, 30 feet



wide and 29 feet building were constructed by Mann Myint Mo Hein Co with the fund of Ministry of Education. The BEMS was upgraded to the BEHS.

School construction committee U Win Kyaw presented school equipment and exercise books to the school.—Ko Ko Naing (Myinmu)

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Google pays \$1.4 million fine in Italy over StreetView concerns

MILAN, 4 April — Google has paid a 1 million euro (\$1.4 million) fine imposed by Italy's data protection watchdog over complaints that cars it used to record images on Italian streets in 2010 were not clearly recognizable, the regulator said on Thursday.

"Cars belonging to the giant of Mountain View roamed Italy's streets without being entirely recognizable as such, therefore not allowing the people present in those places to decide whether to be photographed or not," it said in a statement, referring to Google's base at Mountain View in California.

Google has faced numerous privacy lawsuits in the United States and Europe, relating to services including Street View, which gives a panoramic perspective on streets around the world. "The fine from the DPA relates to an old case that dates back to 2010. We complied with everything the (regulator) required of us at the time," a Google spokeswoman said.

The fine announced on Thursday relates only to vehicles not being labeled clearly enough. The watchdog has also reported to Italy's judicial authorities that Google accidentally captured fragments of electronic communications as part of its mapping research in the country.

Reuters

Int'l space station conducts debris avoidance maneuver

WASHINGTON, 4 April — US space agency NASA said Thursday that the International Space Station (ISS) orbit was raised half a mile (about 0.8 kilometres) to avoid a possible collision with a fragment from an old European Ariane 5 rocket.

The maneuver was performed with a three-minute, 40-second firing of the ISS thrusters at 4:42 pm EDT (2042 GMT) that provided a reboost for the orbital laboratory.

"NASA and Russian flight controllers tracked the Sylda Adapter for the past few days before jointly deciding to perform the maneuver," the



Chinese student Wu Xingyun (L) presents his invention during the opening day of the 42nd International Exhibition of Inventions of Geneva, in Geneva, Switzerland, on 2 April, 2014. The 42nd International Exhibition of Inventions of Geneva kicked off here on Wednesday. —XINHUA

Birds of a feather: hummingbird family tree unveiled

WASHINGTON, 4 April — For such small creatures, hummingbirds certainly have racked up an outsized list of unique claims to fame. They are the smallest birds and the smallest warm-blooded animals on Earth. They have the fastest heart and the fastest metabolism of any vertebrate. They are the only birds that can fly backward. And scientists reported on Thursday that they also have a complicated evolutionary history.

Researchers constructed the family tree of these nectar-eating birds using genetic information from most of the world's 338 hummingbird species and

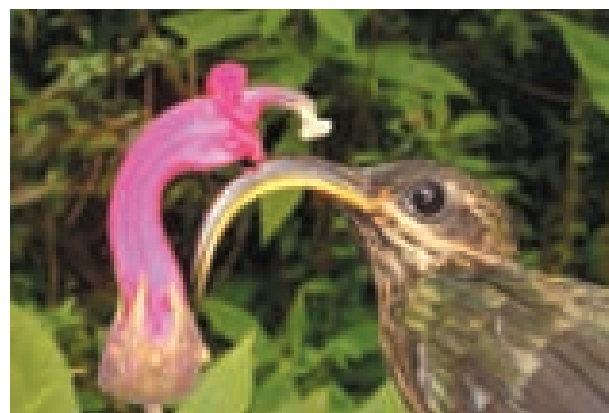
their closest relatives. They said hummingbirds can be divided into nine groups, with differences in size, habitat, feeding strategy and body shape.

The common ancestor to all species in existence today lived about 22 million years ago in South America, several million years after hummingbirds were known to be flourishing in Europe, they said. Today's hummingbirds are found only in the Americas.

They boast a unique set of capabilities, said University of New Mexico ornithologist Christopher Witt, one of the scientists in the study published in the journal Current

Biology. "They can hover stationarily or move in any direction with precision, even in a strong wind. They

also have the highest rate of energy consumption per gram of any animal," Witt said.—Reuters



The Buff-tailed Sicklebill (*Eutoxeres condamini*), a Hermit hummingbird with a magnificently recurved bill, along with one of the flowers to which they are specialized, is shown in this image released on 3 April, 2014. — REUTERS

Satellites and sensors to halt crumbling of Italy's Pompeii

ROME, 4 April — The ruins of ancient Pompeii will be monitored by satellites and sensors under an agreement with Italian defence and technology group Finmeccanica to try to stop the UNESCO world heritage site from crumbling.

The state-controlled group will help train staff and donate its technology for free for three years in an investment worth up to 2 million euros (\$2.75 million), after which the equipment will be left to the restoration project.

Regular collapses of walls and houses in the treasured Roman town that was covered by ash in a volcanic eruption in 79 AD have caused an international outcry and

increased pressure for an end to delays dogging a 105-million-euro restoration project part-funded by the European Union and launched last year.

Finmeccanica will train staff to use high-tech monitoring tools that should flag shifts in terrain in the 1,500 buildings of Pompeii, so that archaeologists can quickly intervene

to prevent collapses. Soil movements, a major risk to the ruins especially during bad weather, will be monitored through high resolution images captured by the COSMO-SkyMed group of satellites, controlled by the Italian Space Agency, Finmeccanica said.

Technicians will build up a digital archive of the most important sites in

Pompeii through hyperspectral imaging, which can capture the composition of different materials by measuring their electromagnetic radiation.

Site security will be able to access the information through a smartphone app, and vandalism or damage to the ruins will set off alarms.

Reuters

A restorer works in the ancient Roman city Pompeii, which was buried in AD 79 by an eruption of the Vesuvius volcano, on 6 Feb, 2013. REUTERS



Obama's NSA overhaul may require phone carriers to store more data

WASHINGTON, 4 April — President Barack Obama's plan for overhauling the National Security Agency's phone surveillance programme could force carriers to collect and store customer data that they are not now legally obliged to keep, according to US officials. One complication arises from the popularity of flat-rate or unlimited calling plans, which are used by the vast majority of Americans.

While the Federal Communications Commission requires phone companies to retain for 18 months records on "toll" or long-distance calls, the rule's application is vague for subscribers of unlimited phone plans because they do not get billed for individual calls.

That could change if the Obama administration pushes through with a proposal to require carriers — instead of the NSA — to collect and store phone metadata, which includes dialed numbers and call lengths but not the content of conversations. Under the administration's proposal, the phone companies would be required to turn over the data to the NSA in response to a court-approved government request.

US officials said the carriers might be forced to create new mechanisms to ensure that metadata from flat-rate subscribers could be monitored. They said these issues will require further discussion between the White House, Congress and industry.—Reuters

Thai PM's supporters head for huge Bangkok rally, rule out violence

BANGKOK, 4 April — Hundreds of thousands of Thai government supporters are expected to descend on Bangkok this weekend in a symbolic show of force after months of sometimes violent protests aimed at bringing down Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra.

The speed at which political opponents are bringing court cases against Yingluck appears to have prompted her supporters into action, raising fears of a confrontation between the two sides. Tens of thousands of Yingluck's "red shirt" supporters rallied at a Bangkok stadium in November to counter growing anti-government sentiment but abruptly disbanded the following month after violent clashes with anti-government protesters left five people dead and scores wounded.

Authorities said they were not expecting violence this time.

8 Philippine coast guard members formally charged with homicide

MANILA, 4 April — The Department of Justice (DOJ) said on Thursday that it has formally filed criminal charges against eight Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) officials and personnel for their involvement in the fatal shooting of a Taiwanese fisherman off Balintang Channel in northern Philippines last year.

Prosecutor General Claro Arellano, head of the DOJ's prosecutorial arm, said charges of homicide and obstruction of justice have been filed against the eight PCG personnel on 27 March before the regional trial courts of Batanes and Cagayan Valley Provinces.

Xinhua



Thailand's Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra (C) leaves the Government Complex after a meeting with the Election Commission in Bangkok on 20 Dec, 2013.

REUTERS

"Anti-government protesters will be in inner city Bangkok whereas the red shirts will be outside," Paradorn Pattanathabutr, a security adviser to the prime minister, told Reuters. "A confrontation looks unlikely but we're on the lookout for provocateurs."

Red shirt leaders said they were not looking for a fight.

"Our rally will show, loud and clear, that Thailand will only accept a

democratically elected prime minister and nothing else," Nattawut Saikua, a red shirt leader, told Reuters.

"We won't use force. We're not after a confrontation."—Reuters

Cambodia to call for moratorium on Laos' dam during MRC summit

PHNOM PENH, 4 April — Cambodia will probably call for a moratorium on the Laos' 260-megawatt Don Sahong dam development project on the lower Mekong River during the second Summit of the Mekong River Commission (MRC), to be held on 4 and 5 April in Ho Chi Minh City of Vietnam, a senior official said on Friday.

"I may raise this issue at the summit because the summit will focus on water, energy and food security in the context of climate change for the Mekong Basin," Water Resources Minister Lim Kean Hor, chairman of Cambodia National Mekong Committee, told reporters at Phnom Penh

International Airport before accompanying Prime Minister Hun Sen to attend the summit.

"Not only Cambodia, but also Vietnam and Thailand, have made official requests to Laos to suspend that dam project and we have also asked Laos to provide the Environment Impact Assessment to all parties to consider and make decision," he said.

The minister said all MRC countries must comply with the Mekong Agreement 1995, which requires that any proposed mainstream hydropower dams in the Lower Mekong Basin must be discussed extensively among all four countries prior to any decision being taken.

Around 90 Cam-

bodian conservationists from various NGOs and government agencies last month jointly expressed their concerns over the Laos' Don Sahong dam development project, saying the proposed dam would pose a serious threat to the existence of biodiversity on the Mekong River such as rarely dolphin species and fishery resources vital to millions of people in Cambodia and Vietnam.

The World Wildlife Fund (WWF) has urged Prime Minister Hun Sen to call for a moratorium on the dam during the second MRC Summit, saying the dam could threaten the existence of critically endangered Irrawaddy dolphins in downstream Cambodia.

Xinhua

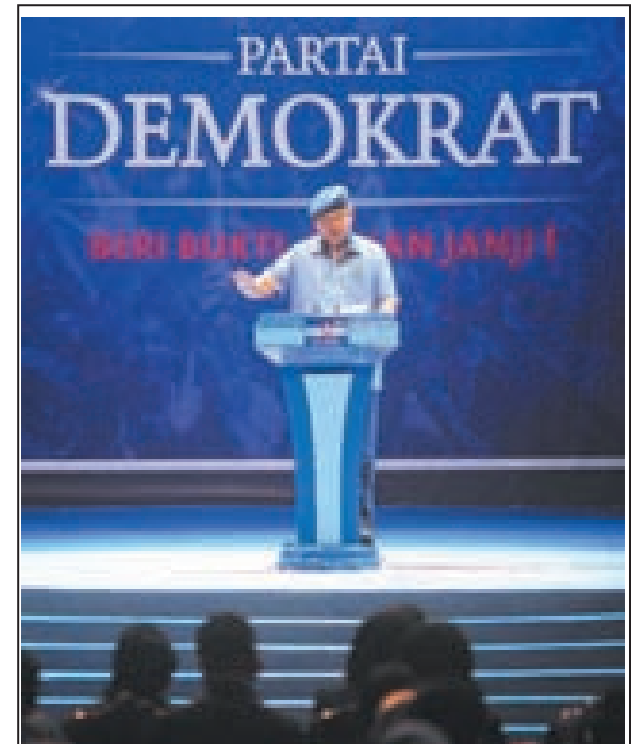
Poverty, income inequality persist despite high growth in Asia

MANILA, 4 April — Despite the robust economic growth of Asia in the last two decades, poverty remains widespread and income inequality continues to widen, according to a study released by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) on Friday. The study, titled "ADB's Support for Inclusive Growth" released by the Manila-based lender's Independent Evaluation Department, said nearly 750 million people in the region still survive on less than 1.25 US dollars a day. Income inequality has also risen more than 20 percent in the last 20 years.

"These levels hinder further economic advancement and even threaten the sustainability of an otherwise sharp reduction in poverty," the ADB study noted. It added that overall growth has failed to translate into improvements in average living standards.

ADB said one of the indications that growth is not reaching a broad segment of the population is relatively weak household consumption.

"Household consumption grew 5.7 percent annually in the 1990s in the region and 5.5 percent in the 2000s, well below gross domestic product growth of 9 percent and 8.2 percent in the last two decades," the study read. The study said development organizations such as the ADB can step up efforts to integrate "inclusive growth" into their development strategies. ADB, which adopted inclusive growth as a strategic agenda in 2008, is calibrating its operations to achieve inclusiveness. It also called for better coordination among development organizations to tailor inclusive approaches to specific contexts and needs of countries. —Xinhua



Indonesia's incumbent President and chairman of the ruling Democratic Party Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono delivers a speech to the supporters during an election campaign rally in Jakarta, Indonesia, on 3 April, 2014. Indonesia is scheduled to hold legislative and presidential elections on 9 April and 9 July respectively.—XINHUA



Workers work at the construction site of Changsha South Railway Station in Changsha, capital of central China's Hunan Province, on 3 April, 2014. The station is expected to be completed on 30 April, 2014, by when it will be the intersection of Wuhan-Guangzhou express railway and Shanghai-Kunming express railway. And Changsha will be the regional junction in high-speed railway transportation. —XINHUA

Nepal needs to double its investment on infrastructure

KATHMANDU, 4 April — Concluding that Nepal has one of the poorest infrastructure services in South Asia, a new report released by World Bank (WB) on Thursday said the country needs to double its expenditure to enhance infrastructure for meeting South Asian Development Goals (SADGs).

A report entitled Reducing Poverty by

Closing South Asia's Infrastructure Gap revealed that the poor Himalayan country needs to invest 13-18 billion US dollars from 2011-2020 so as to bridge the investment gap in infrastructure sector and thereby to reduce poverty. As per the report, Nepal needs to invest from 6.6 percent to 9.9 percent of its total gross domestic product

(GDP) in transportation, energy, telecommunication, irrigation, sanitation and drinking water, among others, every year from 2011-2020.

The Nepal government has allotted a total of 904 million US dollars for developing infrastructures for the current fiscal year, just 5 percent of its total GDP.

Xinhua

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MV KOTA RAKAN VOY NO (365)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA RAKAN VOY NO (365) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 5.4.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S ADVANCE CONTAINER
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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

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Consignees of cargo carried on MV HAN HONG VOY NO (1416E) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 5.4.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of B.S.W(2) where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 256916/256919/256921

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV BANGSRIMUANG VOY NO (121)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV BANGSRIMUANG VOY NO (121) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 6.4.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S WONGSAMUT OCEAN
SHIPPING CO LTD**

Phone No: 256916/256919/256921

The Republic of The Union of Myanmar

Ministry of Energy

Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise

Request for Expression of Interest

Title: Joint Venture Project of LPG Production, Storage, Distribution and Marketing for Liquefied Petroleum Gas Plant (Nyaung Don)

The Republic of The Union of Myanmar, Ministry of Energy, Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise intends to implement joint venture between Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise and interested foreign investors who have the ability in terms of worldwide experiences in LPG Production, Storage, Distribution, Marketing and services, financial capacity, reliability for long term cooperation with respect to business expansion and enhancing the existing facilities/capacities for production, storage, distribution and marketing to operate the Liquefied Petroleum Gas Plant (Nyaung Don). Further information can be obtained at the address below during

office hours starting on 7.4.2014. No telephone enquiries shall be allowed.

Planning Department

Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise

Fax: 067 411124

E-mail: MPEHO@mptmail.net.mm, mpeict@gmail.com

Building No(44)

Nay Pyi Taw

Letter of Expression of Interest must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person, or by e-mail, by fax, by mail) by 15.5.2014 during office hours.

Managing Director

Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise

Building No(44)

Nay Pyi Taw

Fax: 067 411126

E-mail: MPEHO@mptmail.net.mm, mpeict@gmail.com

The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar

ASEAN Summit and related Summits Committee

Sub-Committee on Logistics and Administration

INVITATION FOR BIDS

ON SPONSORSHIP MANAGEMENT OPERATOR

1. The Republic of the Union of Myanmar has assumed the Chairmanship of ASEAN in 2014 and will hold 24th ASEAN Summit and 25th ASEAN Summit and Related Summits in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar. It will be first time that Myanmar takes ASEAN Chairmanship since it joined ASEAN in 1997.

2. Myanmar has drawn great attention from the international community due to its significant reforms, abundant natural resources and historic and scenic beauties. Hosting of ASEAN Summits and related Summits will be a golden opportunity for the local and foreign companies to promote business and to further expand investment in Myanmar and to the Southeast Asia Region.

3. In view of the above opportunities, bids are invited by the Sub-Committee on Logistics and Administration (the Committee) for the selection of Sponsorship Management Operator whose sole responsibility is to find sponsors and to collect sponsorship fees for the duration of the Myanmar Chairmanship which will come to the end on 31 December 2014.

4. The company who will be selected as "Sponsorship Management Operator" (the winning bidder) will have the exclusive rights to dispense the following rights on behalf of the Committee:-

(1) Television Advertising Right

(2) Billboard Advertising Right

(3) Merchandize Advertising Right

5. All the operation costs inclusive of various costs for advertising shall be borne by the Sponsorship Management Operator and/or Sponsor.

6. The winning bidder shall enter the contract with the Committee.

7. The Committee will take exclusive intellectual property right for logo, motto etc., pertaining to the Myanmar ASEAN Chairmanship 2014.

8. The bidders shall attach the following information with their application among others—

(1) Certificate of incorporation and the company profile;

(2) Estimated amount of earning (in USD) from sponsorship;

(3) Minimum guaranteed amount (in case of failure the winning bidder is responsible for that amount);

(4) Commission rate (inclusive of expenses) for the bidder;

(5) Amount of deposit (in USD);

(6) Past record of performance, in any.

9. No territorial limit of marketing sponsorship.

10. Deposit shall be refunded within 14 banking days after the year end.

11. Bids shall be only on the Official Bidding Form and to be delivered into the Tender Box located at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Office No.9, Nay Pyi Taw no later than (16:00) hours on 10 April 2014.

12. Bids shall be opened at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Office No.9, Nay Pyi Taw on 11 April 2014.

13. Announcement on the successful bidder will be made as earliest as possible.

14. Official Bidding Form shall be available at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Office No.9 Nay Pyi Taw during the office hour from (31-3-2014) to (10-4-2014) in payment of Kyat 10,000 (Kyat ten thousands).

15. The Committee has made this tender invitation without prejudice to its right.

16. The selection will be made based on criteria and point system.

17. Inquiry can be made at the following contact phone number, 067-412509.

Secretary

Sub-Committee on Logistics
and Administration

ASEAN Summit and Related
Summits Committee

Lithuania's euro membership decision due this summer at earliest: Barroso

VILNIUS, 4 April — The final decision regarding Lithuania's membership for the eurozone would be taken by European Union institutions this summer at the earliest, European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso said in Brussels on Thursday.

Barroso hailed Lithuania's progress toward meeting the conditions of joining the euro zone in Brussels where he met with Lithuanian Prime Minister Algirdas Butkevicius on Thursday.

Butkevicius stressed Lithuania's goal of joining the euro area in 2015, the government's Press service said.

"In our aspiration, we put our best efforts to firmly adhere to the Maastricht criteria and strict fiscal discipline, lest there be any doubt on the suitability of Lithuania to become a member of the euro club," Butkevicius was quoted in the press release.

According to Lithuanian Statistics Office data published on Thursday, the country's fiscal deficit stood at 2.2 percent of the domestic gross product (GDP) in 2013, which was far below 3 percent of GDP required as the minimum in the EU.

Lithuania's total government debt amounted to 39.4 percent of GDP in 2013, which was the fifth lowest ratio in the EU.

A country that wishes to adopt the euro must have a total government debt not exceeding 60 percent of GDP, and its budget deficit cannot exceed 3 percent of GDP. Lithuania strives to become the 19th member of the euro zone in early 2015 as the last of the three Baltic States to join the European single currency bloc. —Xinhua

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Weather outlook for subsequent two days

Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers in the Lower Myanmar areas.

Bradley Cooper still in love with Suki Waterhouse

LOS ANGELES, 4 April — Actor Bradley Cooper is still madly in love with model-girlfriend Suki Waterhouse and the two are “very much” together.

The American Hustle star recently sparked rumours that he had split from Suki after more than a year of dating, amid reports he had reconnected with his

The American Hustle star recently sparked rumours that he had split from Suki.

ex-girlfriend Renee Zellweger, but friends close to the couple insist they are still very happy together. “Bradley and Suki are very much a couple,” contactmusic.com quoted a source as saying. The duo haven’t been seen together since attending a post-Oscars bash in Los Angeles in early March.—PTI



British Indian actress Archie Panjabi to star in Hollywood disaster film

LONDON, 4 April — British actress of Indian-origin Archie Panjabi has been signed up for a major disaster movie in Hollywood.

Panjabi, who is a familiar face of US television with the hit show The Good Wife, will be playing a reporter in the film titled San Andreas.

The action thriller is being directed by Brad Peyton and stars Dwayne Johnson as a rescue worker trying to save his former wife and daughter during the largest earthquake in Californian history. It is scheduled for release in June 2015.

Panjabi, who is known

in the UK for her role as Pinky Bhamra in Gurinder Chadha’s Bend It Like Beckham, won an Emmy Award for her role as Kalinda Sharma in The Good Wife.

Her other credits include The Widower and The Fall and she next appears in Fox Searchlight’s I Origins. Panjabi was born in north London in 1972 and got her break playing Meenah Khan in 1999’s East Is East.—PTI

Archie Panjabi in a still from The Good Wife



Justin Bieber gives Selena Gomez a ring prompting engagement rumours

LOS ANGELES, 4 April — Troubled pop star Justin Bieber has reportedly gifted a ring to his on-off girlfriend Selena Gomez, which she has been wearing for quite some time.

Justin, 20, and Selena, 21, had sparked rumours that they had rekindled their romance earlier this month after the duo were seen together on several occasions, reported Hollywood Life.

“The ring was a gift from Justin, it’s not an engagement ring, but they are back on and very serious. Her family is extremely worried that she’ll do something crazy. Like, elope with him,” a source said.

“Selena is totally wrapped back up in Justin, it’s the same pattern happening all over again,” the source added.

Some weeks ago, the pair apparently had a two-hour private dance lesson in Texas after enjoying a romantic breakfast and shopping spree.

Recently Justin had posted a picture of Gomez on Instagram which was captioned as “The most elegant princess in the world.”—PTI



A source says the couple are back together and that Selena’s family worry she’ll elope with him

Adele in no rush to deliver next album

LOS ANGELES, 4 April — Award winning singer Adele will deliver her next album “at her own pace” and won’t rush the follow-up to 21, says OneRepublic band member Ryan Tedder, with whom she has worked.

The Skyfall singer, who is recording the follow-up to her charttopper album 21, claims she is not rushing the release.

“I haven’t heard everything she’s done,

but I’ve heard everything we’ve done and I’m as proud of it, or prouder of anything we did on the first album, and she is sounding even better than ever,” contactmusic.com quoted Ryan as saying.

“She will deliver the album on her own timetable, at her own pace, and the only person that will ever declare it finished will be her, when she decides it’s finished,” she added.

The 25-year-old singer had to cancel tour dates in 2011 to undergo throat surgery and then took a break after giving birth to her son Angelo in 2012, with boyfriend Simon Konecki.

PTI



Adele

I am proud of Matthew McConaughey

LOS ANGELES, 4 April — Singer-actress Jennifer Lopez says she is proud of the accomplishments of the Oscar-winning actor Matthew McConaughey.

Jennifer Lopez, 44, had shared

complished over the last few years and I have fond memories of him on set,” Jennifer Lopez said.

The singer, who has worked in hit films like Out of Sight, Shall We Dance? and Maid in Manhattan among others, said her 1997 movie Selena was a life changing experience as she had completely immersed herself in portraying the late Latin artist.

“I got to immerse myself in her life, got to know her family, her home, her culture. Every part of her story. It

was a special time in my life both professionally and personally,” she said.

“Playing her not only opened doors for me in the film world, but it inspired me to start my own music career. In a lot of ways, I wouldn’t be where I am today if I hadn’t had that experience,” she added.

PTI



Jennifer and Matthew

the screen space with McConaughey thirteen years ago in 2001 hit rom-com The Wedding Planner.

“It was great working with Matthew. (I’m) so proud of what he’s ac-

GENERAL

Expect the unexpected at next week's Masters



Tiger Woods walks to the 5th tee during the final round of the WGC - Cadillac Championship golf tournament at TPC Blue Monster at Trump National Doral.

REUTERS

LOS ANGELES, 4 April — As the first of the season's four major championships, the Masters has always been the most keenly anticipated, a veritable golfing 'rite of spring' that brings together the game's leading players in Augusta, Georgia.

This year, that sense of expectation is especially heightened with the list of likely winners deeper than ever and multiple champion Tiger Woods a notable absentee for the first time in his career after having surgery to repair a pinched nerve in his back.

Fellow American Phil Mickelson, another perennial contender at Augusta National, is also facing injury concerns of his own, leaving golf fans to expect even more of the unexpected as the 10-13 April tournament fast approaches.

Woods, who has claimed the coveted Green Jacket four times, has struggled with back pain since last August and he withdrew from last month's Arnold Palmer Invitational, his final tune-up event, to get ready for the Masters before that bid was aborted.

"This is frustrating, but it's something my doctors advised me to do for my immediate and long-term health," said Woods.

Mickelson has won three times at Augusta National, most recently in 2010, but his preparations for the year's opening major were rocked when he pulled out of last week's Texas Open during the third round with a pulled abdominal muscle.

"My back's feeling great, my body's been feeling great. I felt as good as

I have all year," said the left-hander, whose decision to withdraw seemed purely precautionary. "My speed is back, I was hitting the ball hard, driving it great.

"I pulled a muscle on my downswing trying to hit the ball hard ... it just killed and it wouldn't subside for 10 or 12 seconds ... there's really not much you can do for a pulled muscle. I hope I'll be OK."

Whether or not Mickelson is a significant factor next week, the possibilities are seemingly endless when it comes to likely winners after Sunday's final round.

The last seven editions have produced seven different champions and golf's extraordinary depth of talent has been showcased on the 2013-14 PGA Tour where there have been 17 different winners

from the 20 tournaments so far completed.

"Everybody that tees it up here is a great player," said American Matt Kuchar, who was tied for the lead with nine holes remaining at the Texas Open on Sunday before finishing two strokes behind the triumphant Steven Bowditch.

Australian Bowditch came into the event ranked 339th in the world but survived a windswept final round with a four-over-par 76 at the TPC San Antonio to clinch his first victory on the US circuit.

"It's not as if there's (former tennis world number one) Roger Federer going up against somebody you haven't heard of," said Kuchar. "It's a lot different in golf.

"The guys that play really good quality golf from top to bottom are the kind of guys that enter the tournament (any PGA Tour event), so it's tough. You know that you got to play great to win out here."

Short game wizardry and the ability to minimise three-putts are musts for any would-be Masters champion at an iconic venue renowned for its lightning-fast, heavily contoured greens.

The list of potential champions next week is a long one, as demonstrated by the 'unlikely' Masters victories of Canada's Mike Weir in 2003, American Zach Johnson in 2007 and South African Trevor Immelman in 2008.

Reuters

MYANMAR TV

(5-4-2014, Saturday)

- 6:00 am
- 1. Paritta By Venerable Min Gun Sayadaw
- 6:25 am
- 2. Physical Exercise
- 6:30 am
- 3. Nice & Sweet Song
- 7:00 am
- 4. News/Weather Report
- 7:20 am
- 5. Business News
- 8:30 am
- 6. India Drama Series
- 9:00 am
- 7. News/International News
- 9:30 am
- 8. Documentary
- 11:00 am
- 9. Dance Of Thingyan Festival
- 12:00 pm
- 10. News/International News/Weather Report
- 12:25 pm
- 11. Round Up of The Week's TV Local News
- 1:15 pm
- 12. Teleplay
- 2:20 pm
- 13. Business News
- 4:00 pm
- 14. News
- 4:15 pm
- 15. University Of Distance Education TV Lectures First Year (Zoology)
- 5:00 pm
- 16. News
- 5:15 pm
- 17. Documentary
- 6:00 pm
- 18. News / Weather Report
- 6:20 pm
- 19. MRTV's Youth Programme
- 7:00 pm
- 20. News
- 8:50 pm
- 21. Hit Songs of Stars
- 9:00 pm
- 22. News
- 23. Myanmar Series

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(5-4-14 07:00am~
6-4-14 07:00am) MST

- * Local News
- * Great Shwedagon-Nine Wonders Around The Platform of Shwedagon Pagoda
- * World News
- * In the Studio: Pyi Soe (or) Hay Thin
- * Local News
- * Rakhine's Incense Grinding Ceremony
- * World News
- * Myanmar Railways City Circular Train
- * Local News
- * Adventurous Journey to Bontalar Waterfall
- * World News
- * In the Studio: Sunee
- * Local News
- * Pagoda Forest in Pa-O Land
- * World News
- * I'm In Love With Diamond
- * Local News
- * Rakhine The Land of Sublime Pagodas
- * World News
- * Trishaw Man
- * Local News
- * Hiker's Journey (Yangon City)(Ep-8)
- * World News
- * Myanmar Masterclass Fantastic Art
- * Local News
- * Wa Traditions & An Engagement Ceremony
- * World News
- * A Person with Faith
- * Local News
- * The World's Largest Book
- * World News
- * In the Studio "Na Di Htike"

More mass fainting occur at Cambodian garment factories

PHNOM PENH, 4 April — At least 102 workers fainted at two garment factories in Cambodia Friday morning, a day after about 118 workers fell sick in two other factories, a local police chief said.

Yim Saran, police chief of Phnom Penh City's Por Senchey district, where the incidents happened, said some 52 workers fainted at New Wide factory and other 50 fell ill at IC factory.

"They have been sent to hospitals soon after the incidents," he told *Xinhua*. "No one died. Some

have recovered after receiving medical treatment and returned home."

He said insecticide was blamed for the mass fainting at New Wide factory, which has occurred three straight days since Wednesday, while the fainting at IC factory was probably caused by poor environment workplace in combination with hot weather.

On Thursday, a total of 118 workers at two factories also fainted due to tainted food and poor working places in combination with hot weather.

Garment industry, the kingdom's largest foreign exchange earner, earned revenues of 5.5 billion US dollars last year. The sector comprises some 900 factories with roughly 600,000 workers.

Mass fainting have often happened in Cambodian garment factories. Last year, 823 workers fell sick in 15 factories due to overwork, poor health, exposure to chemical substances, and hysteria, according to the report of the Ministry of Labour.

Xinhua

A gardener resows green plants at a botanical garden of the World Horticultural Exposition in Qingdao, east China's Shandong Province, on 3 April, 2014. The trial run of 2014 Qingdao World Horticultural Exposition will begin at the Qingming Festival which falls on Saturday.

XINHUA



Two foreign journalists shot in Afghanistan, one dead

KHOST, (Afghanistan), 4 April — A man dressed as a policeman shot two foreign journalists in eastern Afghanistan on Friday, killing one and critically wounding the other, police, a doctor and a local official said. The attack took place on the eve of a presidential

election that Taleban insurgents have pledged to disrupt through a campaign of bombings and assassinations.

The two journalists were in a remote small town on Afghanistan's border with Pakistan when the incident took place.

A spokesman for the

governor of Khost province suggested that the assailant was actually a policeman.

"Naqibullah, a policeman in Tani District of Khost, opened fire on two foreign journalists. One was killed and one was wounded," Mobariz Zadrani told *Reuters*.

Reuters

China's Feng leads at Kraft Nabisco as Wie starts well

NEW YORK, 4 April—Shanshan Feng picked the brain of a wily veteran en route to grabbing the first round lead at the Kraft Nabisco Championship, the first major of the women's golf season, on Thursday.

Feng, China's first winner on the LPGA Tour, carded a six-under-par 66 to head American Michelle

Wie and South Korean Pak Se-ri by one stroke.

Teenage amateur Angel Yin and South Korean Amy Yang are two strokes behind after a day of low

scoring in ideal conditions at Mission Hills Country Club in Rancho Mirage, California.

Feng played her opening round with three-time Kraft Nabisco Championship winner Amy Alcott and was not afraid to ask the 58-year-old for advice on how to navigate the course.

"After my first drive, I was asking her the secrets about winning here," said the 24-year-old from Guangzhou. "Before this year, I never did well here, so she was telling me the secrets (but) don't ask me what the secrets are, because they are secrets."

"I will tell you maybe after we finish on Sunday but I did learn a lot from her. I was really focusing on my game but at the same time watching how she deals with the tough shots." Feng has three LPGA Tour victories, including a major title — the 2012 LPGA Championship.

Wie picked up five strokes in four holes around the turn, including an eagle

at the par-five 11th. Her only blemish was a bogey at the penultimate hole, where she missed a short putt.

The 24-year-old from Hawaii is making her 12th appearance in the event, which she nearly won in 2006 when she finished a stroke behind winner Karrie Webb. Wie has not yet lived up to the hype she generated as a teenager who played in several men's events, but the two-time LPGA winner is starting to adapt to full-time golf after graduating from university two years ago.

"I definitely struggled a bit between the transition period between school and playing full time, but I'm getting into the groove of it," she said. Yin, a 15-year-old Californian playing on an invitation after making the cut last year, said good putting had been the key to her low score. "I was staying

calm and making my stroke. I really like the greens here, so my putting is better than any other course I play," she said.

Yin, however, joked that she would not be so calm if she had a chance to meet Wie. "If she said 'hi' to me, I'd probably run."

Defending champion

Michelle Wie tees off on the seventeenth hole in the first round of the Kraft Nabisco Championship golf tournament at Mission Hills Country Club.

Shanshan Feng on the ninth hole in the first round of the Kraft Nabisco Championship golf tournament at Mission Hills Country Club.

Hamilton defends new-look F1 from Ferrari critics

MANAMA, 4 April—Lewis Hamilton defended Formula One against accusations of being boring on Thursday, suggesting that those raising their voices now Mercedes were on top had kept quiet when their teams were winning everything. Mercedes have won the first two races of the new-look V6 turbo era with Nico Rosberg and Hamilton looking dominant while champions Red Bull and glamour team Ferrari are having to play catch-up.

Ferrari president Luca di Montezemolo has been a prominent critic of the 2014 technical changes, with quieter cars and an emphasis on fuel-saving, that he says have taken away the excitement and turned F1 racers into taxi drivers. Montezemolo is expected to attend this weekend's Bahrain Grand Prix and discuss the situation with commercial supremo

Bernie Ecclestone, who has also been critical of the new engine sound, and the head of the sport's governing FIA Jean Todt. Hamilton, the 2008 world champion with McLaren, would not be drawn on the politics of the sport but clearly disagreed with the Ferrari boss.

"Di Montezemolo didn't say a thing when Michael (Schumacher) won those five world championships (in a row)," smiled the winner of last weekend's race in Malaysia who will be chasing a third successive pole position on Saturday.

"It's the same when McLaren won all their championships that they didn't say anything, and the same with Red Bull when they won, they weren't saying anything," he continued.

"Someone else gets in the lead and they'll say something. It's the nature of the game."—Reuters



Mercedes Formula One driver Lewis Hamilton of Britain (C) celebrates on the podium as he stands beside second-placed Mercedes Formula One driver Nico Rosberg of Germany (L) and third-placed Red Bull Formula One driver Sebastian Vettel of Germany after winning the Malaysian F1 Grand Prix at Sepang International Circuit outside Kuala Lumpur, on 30 March, 2014.—REUTERS

Bonucci is a Europa League Lyon tamer for Juve

LONDON, 4 April — Juventus left it late before putting a foot in the Europa League semi-finals on Thursday, edging a stubborn Olympique Lyon 1-0 with a goal from Leonardo Bonucci as Basel, Porto and Benfica also grabbed first-leg wins. Swiss side Basel took a huge step towards a second successive last-four appearance as Matias Delgado scored twice and Valentin Stocker netted a third in injury time in a 3-0 win over Valencia played behind closed doors.

Porto and Benfica made it a good night for the Portuguese with 1-0 wins over Sevilla and AZ Alkmaar respectively ahead of next week's return legs.

Eliakim Mangala scored with a header in the 31st minute for Porto, who finished with 10 men, at home to Spanish side Sevilla while Eduardo Salvio volleyed home three minutes after halftime to give Benfica victory in the Netherlands.

Lyon coach Remi Garde said ahead of the quarter-final tie that his injury-hit side had a mountain to climb if they wanted to get past Serie A champions and triple winners Juventus.

For 85 minutes, however, the two teams went toe-to-toe in an edgy encounter where chances were at a premium and the fear of defeat seemed to trump any desire to cast off the shackles. The best chance of a cagey first half fell to Serie A top scorer Carlos Tevez after six minutes but he headed wide to extend a European goal drought that stretches back to April 2009.

Lyon's best two opportunities arrived in the first half when Malbranque forced a good save from Gianluigi Buffon and Jimmy Briand lifted a good chance over from close range. Juventus, eight points clear at the top of Serie A, showed their quality in restricting the hosts to minimal sights of goal and then snatching a late victory that puts them in the box seat ahead of the return leg in Turin.

The French side failed to clear a cross from the left and the ball landed at the feet of Bonucci who was left with a simple finish. "In the first half we struggled to find enough spaces to play our football while after the break we didn't risk anything other than on set pieces," Bonucci told Mediaset. "Lyon ran very hard in the first half but in the second we were able to bring home a very important victory."

Basel's clash with Valencia was played behind closed doors after fan trouble in the Swiss team's last-16 tie in Salzburg but the muted atmosphere did little to hamper the hosts who took the lead after 34 minutes, Delgado finding the net



Olympique Lyon's Maxime Gonalons (L) challenges Juventus' Carlos Tevez during the first leg of their Europa League quarter-final soccer match at the Gerland stadium in Lyon on 3 April, 2014. REUTERS

with a precise finish from the edge of the area. That was the first goal Valencia had conceded in 400 minutes of Europa League action but their back line was breached for a second time four minutes later when the same player finished from close range. Stocker gave Basel a comfortable lead to defend in the tie when he lifted the ball over Valencia keeper Vicente Guaita in stoppage time. Porto went into the game against Sevilla having won their last three matches at home including a 1-0 victory over Napoli in the last 16. They took the lead after 31 minutes when Mangala headed home emphatically from Ricardo Quaresma's superb cross from the left.

Sevilla came back into the match in the second half and Carlos Bacca tested the Porto keeper with a low strike while substitute Kevin Gameiro should have put the rebound in but skewed his shot wide.—Reuters