The New Light of Myanmar
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Volume XXI, Number 359 | 11th Waxing of Tagu 1375 ME | Thursday, 10 April, 2014

President urges for aid, loans to be used effectively for development of economy

NAY PYI TAW, 9 April — President U Thein Sein has urged ministries to seek more development loans as most of the loans the country received are bridge and policy-based ones.

At the meeting of the central committee for managing foreign aids at the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw on Wednesday, he also stressed the need to effectively use the official development assistance-ODA loans and Aid for Trade and Commercial Loans for development of the country's economy as the amount of loans currently being spending is lower than the aids and loans offered by the foreign countries.

The President also called on ministries and departments concerned to step up their efforts to implement more projects in order to achieve the 2015 millennium development goals.

He has also urged the ministries concerned to set priorities in accordance with reform strategies and to closely coordinate with donors and organizations to be able to effectively use the aids and loans.

MNA

***President U Thein Sein delivers address at meeting for managing foreign aids.*—MNA**

Gov't to take action against riot ringleaders in Sittway

***Chairman of Investigation Commission Deputy Minister for Border Affairs Maj-Gen Maung Maung Ohn replies to queries raised by media persons.*—MNA**

YANGON, 9 April— The government said it will take action against the instigators of a series of attacks from March 26-27 on international aid organizations in Sittway, Rakhine State, with an investigation commission currently carrying out an inquiry.

Meanwhile, plans are being made for aid groups of the UN and international NGOs to be able to resume their work in Rakhine State, said Maj-Gen Maung Maung Ohn, the chairman of the commission, at a press conference in Yangon on Wednesday.

He also urged all international aid groups to take into consideration the feelings of ethnic Rakhine and to cooperate with them, calling for transparency in order to carry out their activities smoothly.

"Regarding humanitarian assistance, if aid groups see that Rakhine people are also human beings likes other communities in the state, things will be fair," the chairman of the commission said.

There is no restriction on movement of the aid groups, however, they need to cooperate with authorities when they go to locations where they might face obstacles, he added.

Offices of aid groups should also be in one area and not scattered, Maj-Gen Maung Maung Ohn said.

The investigation commission will travel to Sittway on Thursday to coordinate with local authorities and people to help the aid groups resume their activities.

During the riots, 14 offices of 18 aid groups, 16 homes, 15 warehouses, 14 vehicles, two watercraft, 29 motorcycles and office equipment, valued at K 430 million and USD 430,000 were damaged.

MNA

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi leaves for Europe

YANGON, 9 April— Chairperson of Pyithu Hluttaw Rule of Law and Tranquility Committee Daw Aung San Suu Kyi left Yangon for Berlin, the capital of Germany, on Wednesday.

She is to meet the President of Germany, Chencellor, foreign affairs minister of Germany and the Speaker of Parliament of Germany after accepting the Willy Brandt prize.

She is scheduled to visit France on 14 April and meet with senior officials including President of France François Hollande and the French Parliament Speaker. She will arrive back Yangon on 17 April.—*NLM*

People must provide proof if they lodge complaints on corruption: Anti-corruption Commission

NAY PYI TAW, 9 April —The Anti-corruption Commission has said people must provide proof to the commission when they make complaints about corruption.

In a press release on Wednesday, the commission warned that action will be taken by Anti-Corruption authorities against those who lodge complaints without providing concrete evidence and those who complain with the intention of defaming someone.

Officials said, however, that anyone can send their letters of complaint to the chairman of the commission if they have suffered "loss and grievances due to bribery and corruption."

The 15-member commission was formed on 25 February to crack down on corruption and commenced work on 10 March. President U Thein Sein signed the Anti-Corruption Law on 7 August, making it the 23rd law enacted by parliament.—*MNA*

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Global recovery stronger, broader, but remains uneven: WEO PAGE-8

Netherlands to provide monetary assistance for Myanmar's tourism development

NAY PYI TAW, 9 April—Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Htay Aung held a meeting with officials from Centre for the Promotion of Imports from Developing Countries (CBI) and The International Trade Centre (TIC) on Tuesday at his office in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the call, officials from CBI and TIC discussed promotion of tourism industry between Myanmar and the Netherlands, cooperation between economic supportive groups and locals in tourism industry, durable development of tourism and cash assistance of the Netherlands Trust Fund III to Myanmar in accord with the agreement of CBI and ITC for implementing the National Export Strategy for Myanmar's tourism development.

Union Minister U Htay Aung holds talks with officials of Centre for the Promotion of Imports from Developing Countries and The International Trade Centre of the Netherlands.—MNA

The Union Minister expressed his thanks for the Netherlands' attention to Myanmar's tourism sector to implement national export strategy plan.

MNA

MoU on education exchange signed

NAY PYI TAW, 9 April— A signing ceremony of MoU on education exchange between the Ministry of Education of Myanmar and the Ministry of Human Resources of Hungary for 2014, 2015 and 2016 academic years took place at Hotel Amara in Nay Pyi Taw on Wednesday.

At the event, Deputy Minister for Education Dr Zaw Min Aung and Hungarian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Denes Tomaj signed the MoU and exchanged the notes.

MNA

Deputy Education Minister Dr Zaw Min Aung and Hungarian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Denes Tomaj signs MoU on education exchange.—MNA

Census enumerators take data from regions with assistance of Defence Services

NAY PYI TAW, 9 April—As part of the nationwide census taking process, the census enumerators 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.

The census enumerators gathered data from 2403 people of the two states on Wednesday.

In Kachin State, altogether 1293 villagers—88 from four villages in Dowphonyen Sub-Township, 577 from four villages in Naungswan Township and 628 from five villages in Phakham Township of Bhamo District in Kachin State were enumerated the data.

In Northern Shan State, a total of 1110 villagers—641 from four villages in Monglon Township, 469 from two villages in Mauntung Township of Kyaukme District in Northern Shan State were also enumerated the data.

A total of 53321 villagers from the two regions have been taken the data since 3 April.

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

Myawady

People in northern part of Twantay canal to get electricity

YANGON, 9 April— Ministry of Electrict Power is making efforts for supplying power to the people in nothern part of Twantay Canal.

Plans are underway to supply electricity from Hlinethaya Main Power Station to the area to improve the livelihood of the local peopl, said Union Minister for Electric Power U Khin Maung Soe on Monday.

Over 35900 people are living in the northern part of the canal. There are1233 fish ponds owned by Fisheries Department, and 24000 acres of prawn and fish ponds in Shwemuyin, Pathi/Adhon and Pyatha areas in the area.

Chairman of Yangon City Electricity Supply Board U Aung Khaing clarified the programme on supplying electricity to the villages and fish ponds in the northern part of its canal.

Chairman of Twantay Township Fisheries Association U Win Kyaw expressed his thanks to the Union Minister when the electricity can be consumed for breeding sufficiently.

MNA

Strong squall hits Lashio

LASHIO, 9 April—A strong squall with thunder and lightning hit Lashio of Northern Shan State on 1 April evening and the squall at 30 miles per hour moved from northwest ward of the town.

The huts were destroyed and a building's roof in ward-9, region-5 near the town and some houses in Namhu Village was blown off in the squall.

But the squall did not attack the houses in the town due to the natural barriers of hills and forests. Nobody was injured in the disaster, according to the Administrative Department.

The township electrical engineer and staff cleared debris and damages and they are striving for resumption of electricity supply in regular.

Ma Ma (Lashio)

Real-time health care services for victims of Rakhine State

NAY PYI TAW, 9 April—Emergency response teams under the Ministry of Health in cooperation with NGOs and INGOs are providing real-time health care services to over 125,000 victims and locals from nearby villages at 60 relief camps in ten townships of Rakhine State.

The teams gave medical treatment to 3776 patients from the camps and referred 11 emergency patients to Sittway, Minbya and Myaungbwe hospitals from 9 March to 8 April.

The Ministry made necessary arrangements to solve the emergency health problem of the victims such as opening of the emergency public health management unit, providing five ambulances to the State Health Department and readiness of three motor boards. Moreover, the Ministry manages storage of anti-retroviral therapy (ART) for HIV-positive patients, appointment of health staff in vacancies, assistance of medicines and other necessities for the victims.—*MNA*

Emergency response team providing real-time health care services to people in Rakhine State.—MNA

ASEAN, China relations to enhance social and cultural exchange among youths

Vice-President U Nyan Tun addresses at event launching ceremony of ASEAN-China Cultural Exchange Year in Beijing.—MNA

Nay Pyi Taw, 9 April — Vice-President U Nyan Tun met with his Chinese counterpart Mr Li Yuanchao at the Diaoyutai State Guesthouse in Beijing on Tuesday evening to exchange views on further strengthening bilateral relations and cooperation, holding ceremonies to mark the 60th anniversary of the five principles of peaceful co-existence, and responsibility and accountability of investments for sustainable development without harming the ASEAN-China Comprehensive Strategic Partnerships.

As part of the itinerary, the Vice-President attended a dinner hosted by the Chinese Vice-President. At Linquan Temple, he paid homage to the sacred Buddha tooth relic.

On Monday, the Vice-President met families of the Myanmar embassy and scholarship students at the Myanmar Embassy in Beijing.

At the hall of Tsinghua University, he held talks with Vice Premier Madame Liu Yandong of the State Council of China about further cementing bilateral relations, and the leading role of Myanmar as ASEAN Chairman in culture exchanges of ASEAN and China. At the ASEAN-China culture exchange commemorative ceremony, the Vice-President said that strategic relations have been enhanced between Myanmar and China based on mutual trust and good neighbouring relations. Such relations are aimed at enhancing social and cultural exchange among the youths of ASEAN and China. The Chinese government's scholarship awards to be given in the coming five years would promote friendly ties and mutual trust among new generations, they said.

He reiterated that Myanmar as the ASEAN chair will make utmost efforts for the development of strategic partnership relations and cultural exchange programmes between ASEAN member countries and China. He urged to bring about close relations between ASEAN and China, as well as peace and stability and development inside and outside the region.

The Vice-President left Beijing Wednesday morning and arrived in Yangon in the afternoon.—*MNA*

Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw arrives in Beijing

Nay Pyi Taw, 9 April—At the invitation of National People's Congress Chairman of the People's Republic of China Mr. Zhang Dejiang, Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw (Union Parliament) and Pyithu Hluttaw (People's Parliament) Thura U Shwe Mann and party arrived at Beijing Capital International Airport on Tuesday at 9:45 pm local time.

They were welcomed by Vice-Chairman of National People's Congress International Relations Committee of China, Deputy Secretary-General of National's People's Congress Mr. Cao Weizhou and officials, and Charge d' affaires ai of Myanmar Embassy to China U Soe Han and officials.—*MNA*

Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw (Union Parliament) Thura U Shwe Mann receives National People's Congress Chairman of the People's Republic of China Mr. Zhang Dejiang.—MNA

Singapore offers ASEAN Scholarships to Myanmar

Nay Pyi Taw, 9 April—The Government of Singapore offered ASEAN Scholarships to Myanmar for 2015 Academic Year.

The ASEAN Scholarships are awarded to outstanding students in education. The scholars will take four years studies in Singapore Government schools from Secondary Three to Pre-University Two level.

Applicants must be Myanmar citizens who were born between 1998 and 2000. They must be completed Grade 9 in the year of application, must be consistently well in school examinations and must be proficient in English. The test will be held in Yangon in June 2014 and interview in September 2014 for nominated candidates. The result of scholarship awards will be announced in October 2014.

The applications should be submitted to Mr William Chik, Deputy Chief of Mission & Counsellor of the Embassy of Singapore, No 238 on Dhammazedi Road, Bahan Township, Yangon by 30 May 2014.—*MNA*

Active participation of Ethnic Tradition and Cultural groups

Nay Pyi Taw, 9 April—The participation of the people in the census has been remarkable. Many ethnic organizations, welfare associations, traditional and cultural organizations have been shown their support. The trained enumerators have built very good relations with most of the local communities.

In Nanyun Township, enumerators have been travelling door to door to take household data. Under question number eight regarding ethnicity, code number 431 is for Naga ethnic group. Local people in Nanyun, asked the enumerators to write the ethnic name "Naga" in beside the code, and the enumerators complied with their request.

In a statement issued by the Naga Ethnic Traditional and Cultural Committee, they mentioned they would cooperate and assist in the census exercise. The members of the NTCC and their partner organizations, have been assisting the enumeration team with translators, as there are some language barriers.

International an local observers have been visiting census enumeration in action and have reported success. In areas where transportation is difficult, completed census questionnaires will be sent directly to Nay Pyi Taw from respective towns. UNFPA has been sending observation missions to different parts of the country to witness the census enumeration. The local authorities and census committees have been assisting the UNFPA observation teams to access enumeration areas in different States and Regions.

MNA

Media registration for 24th ASEAN Summit

Nay Pyi Taw, 9 April—The 24th ASEAN Summit will be held at the Myanmar International Convention Centre in Nay Pyi Taw on 10 and 11 May.

The local and foreign correspondents who wish to cover the news of ASEAN Summit are to click the registration link for the 24th ASEAN Summit of Upcoming Events at the Home Page of www.asean2014.gov.mm to fill up the Media Registration Form. The registration must be taken not later than 30 April. The media accreditation cards will be issued at MICC on 9 May.

The foreign correspondents are to apply visa at respective Myanmar embassies to cover the news of Summit. Please dial 067-412227 and 412057 of ASEAN Affairs Department for further information about the summit and 067-412125 and 412126 of News and Periodicals Enterprise about news coverage of local-based foreign news agencies and local media.—*MNA*

Monastic schools in Rakhine get cash assistance from Union government

SITTWAY, 9 April—Officials from Education and Training Department under the Border Affairs Ministry provided over K 42.5 million for costs of rice and foods to seven monastic education schools in Rakhine State for the first half of 2014-2015 FY on Tuesday.

It is aimed at ensuring durability of seven monastic schools namely Khayma Madaing in Sittway Township, Gandayi in Buthitaung Township, Nanthataung, Alodawpyae and Zawtikayone in Maungtaw Township, Apoukwa in Kyauktaw Township and Hilly Missionary Philanthropic Monasteries in Palatwa Township.

A large number of students at every level are attending these schools.

State IPRD

Three busts unveiled in commemoration of "Owai U Nyo Mya" centennial celebration

CHAUNGU, 9 April—In commemoration of centennial celebration of "Owai U Nyo Mya" who is the founder of Owai Newspaper, three busts of prominent persons were erected in front of the library of Amyint Village in ChaungU Township, Sagaing Region, on Tuesday.

Sagaing Region Social Affairs Minister Dr Myint Thein and donor U Zaw Hein formally opened the ceremony.

U Zaw Hein donated busts of Thakin Lay Maung, Owai U Nyo Mya and Ayeedaung U Kyaw Thein.

To mark the centennial ceremony, Sepak Takraw event, religious verses recitation contest, traditional dance troupes' entertainment and literacy talks are being held on a grand scale from 4 to 10 April.

"Owai U Nyo Mya", journalist, editor, historian and translator, was born in Amyint Village of ChaungU Township in Monywa District, Sagaing Region.—*Township IPRD*

MR focuses on maintenance of railroads for smooth transport

YANGON, 9 April—Myanma Railways adopted a plan to ensure smooth transportation of trains along railroads in 11 divisions of the MR.

Officials of the MR maintain the rail tracks with gravels on time.

Engineers and skilled workers of Engineering Department stockpile gravels along the railroad section from Okposu station and Yangon East University station in Dvision 7 of Myanma Railways for undertaking maintenance of rail tracks.

MMAL-012

Parliament development fund for rural development

NATMAUK, 9 April—With the contributions of Union parliament development fund, rural development tasks were carried out in Natmauk Township of Magway Region.

The fund was spent on undertaking 81 development tasks including repairs of wells and school buildings, reconstructions of roads, bridges and lakes in 80 villages in the township.

Road works and construction of small bridges and wall of the school are also progress of development tasks.

Pyithu Hluttaw Representative U Aung Kyaw Soe and Amyotha Hluttaw Representative U Hla Thein inspected progress of the rural development tasks in the township on Wednesday.

Thanks to progress of development tasks, locals are enjoying fruitful results in all aspects.—*Zin Wai Yan Linn*

First condo to emerge in Pyinmana

PYINMANA, 9 April—A condominium is being built under mutual interest of land owner U Khin Maung Lay (Shwe Yoma Gold Shop) and Three Friend Co Ltd at the corner of 8th Street and Maung Khin Street in Shwechi Ward of Pyinmana, Nay Pyi Taw Council Area.

The condo comprises six storeys, said land owner U Khin Maung Lay.

The building will be installed the lift. Each room will have 21 feet wide and 55 feet long. The room will be sold at K 60 million on the top floor.

The building is being constructed meeting standard prescribed by Township Development Affairs Committee. The condo is the first of its kind in Pyinmana.—*Nay Hlaing Htet (Nay Pyi Taw)*

Wildlife sanctuaries conservation carried out in northern Shan State

MOMEIK, 9 April—The Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry is frequently providing educative talks to locals in every region and state to actively participate in the tasks for maintaining biodiversity in Myanmar.

An official and staff from "ShweUDaung" wildlife sanctuary also gave an educative talk on the conservation of environment and ecosystem to over 50 locals form Aungmye Village in Thit Saint Kon Village-tract in Momeik Township of Northern Shan State on 16 March.

At the talks, the officials shared their knowledge to the locals under the title of "deteriorated natural resources cannot be substituted" and urged them to take part in the protection of remaining forests.

Myanmar is one of the richest countries in bio-diversities in Asia. There are 11800 species of trees, 96 species of bamboos, 37 species of rattans, 258 species of mammals, 1056 species of birds and 775 species of fish.

Up to now, Myanmar has established 38 wildlife sanctuaries and national parks and promulgated laws related to protection of wildlife sanctuaries.

Forest Department

WORLD

US warns on Iran 'breakout' capability as nuclear talks start

VIENNA, 9 April— The United States said on Tuesday Iran has the ability to produce fissile material for a nuclear bomb in two months, if it so decided, as Teheran and six world powers swung into a new round of talks in Vienna on resolving their atomic dispute.

Secretary of State John Kerry's comments in Washington highlighted Western concerns about Iran's nuclear intentions and the wide divisions between the two sides that could still foil a deal. Iran says its nuclear programme is entirely peaceful.

The overarching goal of the powers — Britain, France, China, Russia, Germany and the United States — in the talks is to persuade Iran to scale back its programme to the point that it would take it much longer, perhaps as long as a year, to produce fuel for a bomb if it chose to do so.

"I think it's public knowledge today that we're operating with a time period for a so-called 'breakout' of about two months. That's been in the public domain," Kerry testified at a Senate hearing.

Iran's "breakout" time is defined as how long it would take it to produce fissile material for one nuclear weapon, if it decided to build such weapons of mass destruction.

European Union foreign policy chief Catherine Ashton (L) and Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif smile at the start of talks in Vienna on 8 April, 2014.—REUTERS

To lengthen this potential timeline, the powers want Iran to cut back the number of centrifuges it operates to refine uranium and the overall amount of enriched uranium it produces, as well as to limit its research into new technologies and to submit to invasive inspections by the UN nuclear watchdog.

The Islamic Republic says its nuclear fuel-making activity is only for peaceful purposes such as electricity generation, and it wants crippling economic sanctions imposed by the West and the United Nations lifted as part of any final accord.

Iran's senior negotiator, Deputy Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi, said "general discussions" had been completed.

"The (heavy-water nuclear) reactor of Arak will remain as the heavy-water reactor ... but there are technical ways to decrease concerns over its activities ... Also Iran will not stop or suspend its uranium enrichment work under any circumstances," Araqchi said. "But the level of enrichment can be discussed."

Refined uranium can be used to fuel nuclear power plants, Iran's stated purpose, but can also provide material for a bomb, which the West suspects may be Teheran's ultimate aim. —*Reuters*

Ukraine says separatists hold hostages; activists deny charge

LUHANSK, 9 April— More than 50 people left a state security service building overnight that had been seized by pro-Russia activists in eastern Ukraine, following negotiations between protesters and officials, Ukraine's state security service (SBU) said early on Wednesday.

The SBU said on Tuesday that the protesters who seized the local headquarters of state security in Luhansk on Sunday had wired it with explosives and were holding 60 people hostage, though this was denied by the protesters themselves.

After negotiations overnight, 51 people left the building without weapons, the SBU in the Ukrainian capital Kiev said. It was unclear if they were protesters or hostages.

Interfax Ukraine news agency later put this number at 56 and said negotiations were continuing between the protesters and local officials to end the occupation.

The activists denied on Tuesday they had any explosives or were holding hostages. But they conceded they had seized an armoury full of automatic rifles.

"We do not need hostages to get what we want," said Anton, who declined to give his second name.

The Luhansk building was one of several seized by protesters in the east of the country demanding regional referendums on independence from Kiev.

Protesters in Donetsk, to the south, remain in control of the main regional authority building, but authorities ended the occupation in the city of Kharkiv.

The Ukrainian government says the occupations are part of a Russian-led plan to dismember the country.

U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry accused Russian agents and special forces on Tuesday of stirring separatist unrest and said Moscow could be trying to prepare for military action as it had in Crimea, annexed by Russia last month.

Reuters

Potential drought to strain food security in Syria

GENEVA, 9 April—The potential drought would strain the fragile food security situation in Syria, said a special report released by World Food Programme (WFP) on Tuesday.

The report, titled Special Focus Syria, said that since last September there had been less than half the long-term average rainfall in the war-torn country, which would have a major impact on the next cereal harvest.

According to current rainfall data, the worst-affected governorates accounted for close to 50 per cent of Syrian wheat production.

"With three-quarters of the rainfall season gone, and only one month left, it was unlikely that there would be a significant recovery in this current agricultural season," WFP spokeswoman Elisabeth Byrs told a Press conference.

She noted in March WFP provided assistance to a record of 4 million people in Syria, but the UN agency feared that a possible drought, if rainfall did not improve, could put the lives of millions more at risk.

The spokeswoman highlighted Syria suffered from five years of drought right before the conflict broke out and vulnerable communities in affected areas hardly had time to recover before they were hit by the conflict.

Byrs said WFP was extremely concerned that up to 6.5 million people inside Syria may become food-insecure and would require external food assistance to survive, and the impact of the looming drought would add another factor into the already very difficult conflict situation.—*Xinhua*

Toronto ranked world's most resilient city

VANCOUVER, 9 April —A survey report released on Tuesday ranked Toronto as the world's most resilient city.

Vancouver was the second most resilient city, to be followed by Calgary, also a Canadian city, Chicago and Pittsburgh, according to the Grosvenor Group "Resilient Cities" report which studied the ability of 50 major cities in the world to deal with issues such as climate change and population growth.

The five least resilient cities were Dhaka, Jakarta, Cairo, Manila and Mumbai.

"Cities are like society and people," said Richard Barkham, Grosvenor Group research director. "Some of them have a better ability to adapt and plan and organize themselves as a community."

The report said Canadian cities fared well because they are generally well governed, well planned and have good access to resources, including water and energy.

An overall resiliency ranking was set after determining the cities' vulnerability to negative events and their ability to adapt to change and cope with adverse issues.—*Xinhua*

Britain tightens rules to deter welfare-seeking foreign migrants

LONDON, 9 April—Britain said on Tuesday it was stepping up restrictions on foreign job seekers' access to welfare payments as Prime Minister David Cameron strives to cut immigration ahead of a national election next year.

Polls show voters are concerned about immigration levels, a trend reflected in the rising popularity of the anti-EU UK Independence Party (UKIP) which opposes "open door immigration" and has drawn support away from Cameron's Conservatives.

UKIP is expected to come first or second in elections for the European Parliament next month, pushing the Conservatives into third place.

In response, Cameron has sought to appear tough on the issue by tightening visa rules for migrants from outside the European Union and by restricting access to welfare benefits for EU nationals.

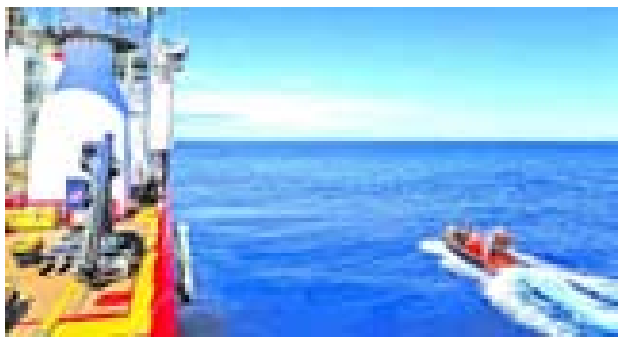
Under rules announced on Tuesday, migrants from all countries who arrive in Britain to find work will have to wait for three months before being able to claim welfare payments for their children. The announcement builds on a similar three-month waiting period for unemployment benefits, which was introduced earlier this year amid concerns that the lifting of restrictions on Romanian and Bulgarian workers' right to come to Britain could prompt a surge in immigration.

New welfare claimants will also no longer have automatic access to translation services, and those who do not speak English will face unspecified sanctions unless they improve their language skills. "These changes send a strong message that our welfare system is not open to abuse and will deter those who think that they can move to the UK primarily to claim benefits," said Nicky Morgan, a junior minister in Britain's finance ministry.

Reuters

Romanians carry their luggage for a flight to Heathrow Airport in Britain, at Otopeni international airport near Bucharest on 1 Jan, 2014.—REUTERS

New ping signals spark confidence in Malaysia Airlines search



Crew members are seen aboard a fast response craft (R) from the Australian Defence Vessel Ocean Shield (L) as they continue to search for debris of the missing Malaysian Airlines flight MH370 in the southern Indian Ocean, in this picture released by the Australian Defence Force on 8 April, 2014. — Reuters

Sydney / Perth, (Australia) 9 April — Australian officials said on Wednesday that two new "ping" signals had been detected in the search for Malaysia Airlines Flight MH370, boosting confidence after more than a month of fruitless searching for the missing jetliner.

The signals, which could be from the plane's black box recorders, bring to four the number of overall "pings" detected in recent days within the search area by a US Navy "Towed Pinger Locator"(TPL).

Angus Houston, head of the Australian agency coordinating the search, struck an optimistic tone when announcing the information, but urged caution as the task of searching the remote Indian Ocean region remained enormous.

"I believe we are searching in the right area but we need to visually identify aircraft wreckage before we can confirm with certainty that this is the final resting place of MH370," Houston told reporters in Perth.

"I'm now optimistic that we will find the aircraft, or what is left of the aircraft, in the not too distant future."

The black boxes record cockpit data and may provide answers about what happened to the plane, which was carrying 227 passengers and 12 crew when it vanished on 8 March and flew thousands of kilometres off its Kuala Lumpur-to-Beijing route.

But the batteries in the beacons have already reached the end of their 30-day expected life, making efforts to swiftly locate them all the more critical.

Authorities say evidence suggests the plane was deliberately diverted by someone familiar with the aircraft, but have not ruled out mechanical problems.

Reuters

Hillary Clinton says she's 'thinking' about 2016 White House run

Washington, 9 April — Asked again the question on the mind of everyone who follows US politics, Hillary Clinton said on Tuesday she was "thinking" about running for president in 2016.

Appearing at a marketing conference in San Francisco, Clinton, widely considered the Democratic front-runner if she enters the race, was asked by an interviewer: "What's your plan? Are you going to do it? You can announce it here if you'd like."

"I'm actually here trying to get some marketing advice," Clinton quipped, before adding: "I am obviously flattered and deeply honoured to have people ask me and people encourage me.

"And I am thinking about it, but I am going to continue to think about it for a while," she said to cheers from the audience.

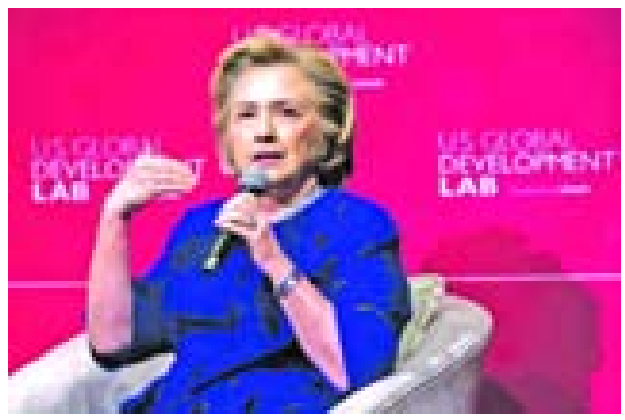
"Part of it is because the hard questions are not: "Do you want to be president? Can you win? The hard questions are why. Why would you want to do this and what can you offer that could make a difference?", Clinton said in a video of the exchange posted on the Internet

The former first lady and US senator, who was defeated by President Barack Obama in the race for the 2008 Democratic presidential nomination, said the United States was experiencing a period of political dysfunction.

"I saw it from afar when I was secretary and it was disheartening and even embarrassing to see people arguing about letting us default on our debt, really, and things that were just so beyond the pale," said Clinton, who served as secretary of state in Obama's first term.

"You had to ask yourself what kind of country do they really want. .. What is their plan? What is their vision? So if you're going to compete in this arena, you have to be able to put forth your purpose and vision."

Reuters



Former US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton speaks during the US Agency for International Development (USAID) announcement of the formation of the US Global Development Lab to help end extreme poverty by 2030, in New York on 3 April, 2014.
Reuters

US plans balanced cuts to nuclear launchers under treaty with Russia

Washington, 9 April — The United States will scale back its land, sea and air nuclear missile launchers under the New START treaty with Russia, but it will not retire a ballistic missile squadron as some lawmakers had expected, US officials told *Reuters*.

The US military will disable four missile launch tubes on each of its 14 nuclear submarines, convert 30 *B-52* nuclear bombers to conventional use and empty 50 intercontinental ballistic missile silos, senior administration officials said on condition of anonymity.

The plan is expected to be formally announced on Tuesday. One official said the government wanted to maintain flexibility across its land, sea and air weapons systems. "It provides us a bit of a hedge," the official said.

The New START treaty, which was agreed in 2010 and went into force on 5 February, 2011, called for the United States and Russia to cut their deployed nuclear weapons to 1,550 apiece by 2018, down from the previous ceiling of 2,200.

The US total nuclear stockpile, including deployed and non-deployed, tactical and strategic nuclear weapons was 5,113, the government said in 2010.

Some lawmakers had voiced concerns that an entire ballistic missile squadron would be eliminated under the treaty.

"Because they (cuts) will be spread across the three different bases, we won't close a squadron," another official said, also on condition of anonymity.

The New START treaty also calls for each side to reduce its total number of nuclear delivery systems to no more than 800.

US weapons makers are keeping a close eye on the US government's plans to modernize its nuclear weapons and the platforms that carry them, an effort estimated by analysts to cost $355 billion in coming decades. Boeing Co has teamed with Lockheed Martin Corp to compete against Northrop Grumman Corp to build a new bomber to carry nuclear weapons. General Dynamics Corp is leading early design work on a new submarine to replace the Ohio-class submarines that carry nuclear weapons.—*Reuters*

Explosion in Islamabad fruit market kills 23

Police officials and rescue workers gather at the site of a bomb blast in a vegetable and fruit market in Islamabad on 9 April, 2014. —Reuters

Islamabad, 9 April — At least 23 people were killed and dozens injured in an explosion on Wednesday in a fruit market in the Pakistani capital, doctors at the city's main hospital said. Islamabad police said the explosion took place as fruit was being auctioned in the market that was thronged with buyers.

They said they believe an explosive device weighing some 5 kilograms was hidden in a fruit box and triggered remotely.

Jawed Akram, head of Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences, said the death toll could rise as nine injured victims were in serious condition.

Kyodo News

Russian paratroopers land at North Pole for first time

Moscow, 9 April — A group of Russian paratroopers of the Airborne Forces landed on Tuesday for the first time on a drifting floe near the North Pole, a military spokesman said. "More than 50 servicemen were airdropped from an Ilyushin Il-76 military transport aircraft not far from Russia's drifting ice base Barneo (at 89 degrees North) with the use of the Arbalet-2 special-purpose parachute system," the airborne troops spokesman Yevgeny Meshkov told reporters.

That parachute system is designed for jumps with a cargo container of up to 50 kg from transport jets moving at a speed of up to 400 km per hour.

Meshkov said the landing went as planned with no injuries or loss of equipment, adding that the participants did not carry any armaments "due to the nature of the mission."

"They will collaborate with specialists from the Expedition Centre of the Russian Geographic Society in building a camp and practicing rescue of a polar expedition in distress under extreme conditions," he was quoted by Interfax news agency as saying.

The servicemen, he added, have been given knives and hunting guns at the polar station to protect themselves from wild animals.

The Barneo Research Station has been set up annually since 2002 by the Russian Geographical Society on an ice floe at a latitude of around 89 degrees north, approximately 110 km from the North Pole. Normally, it opens in early April and operates for about a month.

Xinhua

WORLD

EU proposes tough standards on civil drones operations

Brussels, 9 April — The European Commission on Tuesday proposed to set tough new standards to regulate the operations of civil drones, or remotely piloted aircraft systems (RPAS), in the European Union (EU).

The aim is to allow European industry to become a global leader in the market for this emerging technology, while at the same time ensuring that all the necessary safeguards are in place, according to an official statement.

The new standards will cover safety, security, privacy, data protection, insurance and liability.

Civil drones are increasingly being used in Europe, in countries such as Sweden and France, in different sectors. Basic national safety rules apply, but the rules differ across the EU and a number of key safeguards are not addressed in a coherent way.

Siim Kallas, the European Commissioner for mobility and transport, said, "Civil drones can check for damage on road and rail bridges, monitor natural disasters. But many people, including myself, have concerns about the safety, security and privacy issues relating to these devices."

Xinhua

Japan, United States face off in crucial trade negotiations

Tokyo, 9 April — Japan and the United States on Wednesday began a round of crucial talks aimed at concluding a trade pact seen as critical to the success of regional negotiations, although officials warned that bridging differences would be difficult.

Tokyo and Washington are seeking a two-way trade deal, regarded as a key part of the US-led Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) that is the centrepiece of Washington's push to increase its Asian presence, before US President Barack Obama travels to Japan for a 24-25 April state visit.

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has touted the multilateral framework as a key part of his growth strategy but the outlook for a Japan-US deal is cloudy as both sides accuse each other of inflexibility.

Japan's Economics Minister Akira Amari (L) shares a light-hearted response with a journalist, next to US Trade Representative Michael Froman, during a news conference at the end of a four-day Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) Ministerial meeting in Singapore on 25 Feb, 2014 file photo.—Reuters

"I think if there is good will on both sides we can make progress on bridging our differences," US Trade Representative Michael Froman told reporters before talks with officials including Economy Minister Akira Amari.

Working level discussions on Monday and Tuesday made little substantial progress in narrowing gaps, a Japanese government source said, and Froman's talks with Amari were likely to continue on Thursday.

"The president's visit is one important juncture, but it is not a deadline," Japanese Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary Hiroshige Seko told a news conference. "What is important is to achieve our country's national interests."

Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott and Abe confirmed a basic trade agreement on Monday, overcoming sticking points on beef and autos that had threatened to stymie a deal, and agreed to work towards signing it as soon as possible.

"Clearly we are looking for a level of ambition in TPP that is significantly higher than that," Froman told reporters on Tuesday upon arriving in Japan.

Reuters

India sells its first aircraft carrier for 10 ml US dollars

New Delhi, 9 April — India has sold its first aircraft carrier, *INS Vikrant*, to a ship breaker for 10 million US dollars, following an auction, sources said on Wednesday.

INS Vikrant, purchased as HMS Hercules from Britain in 1957, had played a key role in enforcing the naval blockade on East Pakistan (now Bangladesh) during the Indo-Pakistan War of 1971.

"The Indian Navy vessel was sold to a company named IB Commercial Pvt Ltd. The company has 30 days to pay the money and tow the ship away," the sources said.

The ship was commissioned as the first aircraft carrier of the Indian Navy in 1961. After a distinguished service, it was decommissioned in January 1997 and preserved as a museum ship in Cuffe Parade in Mumbai, until it was closed in 2012 due to safety concerns.

Xinhua

A US Air Force F-15 fighter is seen as it escorts a Lithuania's Air Force C-27J plane during a joint NATO military exercise in Siauliai on 1 April, 2014.
Reuters

France says Assad survival would be 'total impasse' for Syria

Paris, 9 April — France said on Tuesday Syrian President Bashar al Assad had a policy to "wipe out" his people in his bid to stamp out a three-year uprising, but this would leave Syria at a total impasse.

Assad has forecast that much of the fighting in the Syrian civil war will be over by the end of the year, a former Russian prime minister was quoted on Monday as saying.

Responding to those remarks, French Foreign Ministry spokesman Romain Nadal appeared to acknowledge that the international community may have to accept the new status quo. "A military victory against his own people? The only objective of Bashar al Assad is to wipe out his own people," Nadal said. "Maybe he will remain the sole survivor of this policy of mass crimes, but it is a total impasse for Syria."

France, one of Assad's fiercest critics, was the first Western power to provide non-lethal military aid to rebels who have fought to overthrow him. Though rebels have suffered serious reverses on the battlefield this year, some analysts forecast a longer-term violent fragmentation of Syria.

Reuters

A rebel fighter runs for cover after firing towards a regime's post where forces loyal to Syria's President Bashar al-Assad are located, in Idlib countryside on 7 April, 2014.—Reuters

NATO to triple Baltic air patrol from next month

Brussels, 9 April — NATO will triple its usual number of fighter jets patrolling over the Baltics next month to beef up its eastern European defences due to tension with Russia over Ukraine, a NATO military official said on Tuesday.

Four NATO fighters are usually based in the Baltics but the United States, which currently has responsibility for patrolling the skies there, increased that to 10 *F-15s* to reassure those states following Russia's occupation of Ukraine's Crimea region.

The number of fighters assigned to the Baltic "air policing" mission is now set to increase further to 12, three times the normal complement, when the next four-month period starts in May, the NATO military official said.

The strengthening of air patrols over the Baltics is part of a plan of air, land and sea reinforcements for central and eastern European allies that NATO's top military commander, US Air Force General Philip Breedlove, is drawing up by 15 April.

Since the three ex-Soviet republics in the Baltics joined NATO in 2004, other NATO members have taken turns sending fighter aircraft to protect their airspace since Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania lack fighters of their own.

The jets are on call to respond to any violations of Baltic airspace. Lithuania said last week the number of Russian jets flying close enough to Baltic airspace this year to prompt NATO jets being scrambled has increased to around one a week.

Poland takes over responsibility for providing Baltic air policing from 1 May, offering four *MiG 29s*.—*Reuters*

PERSPECTIVES

Thursday, 10 April, 2014

Myanmar migrant workers in the AEC

By Aung Khin

The ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) is scheduled to be initialized by 2015. The ASEAN Economic Blueprint was adopted at the 13th ASEAN Summit on 20 November 2007 in Singapore.

As one of the member countries of the bloc, Myanmar is in a state of preparedness for this economic integration, including the financial sector. Meanwhile, Myanmar is now encountering the liberalization and deregulation of labour mobility.

A Myanmar expert pointed out that the AEC can bring considerable problems to its low-income members such as Myanmar. It can also result in economic polarization, where the most talented people will migrate to neighbouring countries for better job opportunities and higher income. The key question related to labour migration of Myanmar to neighbouring countries will be whether migrant workers — both skilled and unskilled — will settle in their host countries or return home.

They left Myanmar to get higher incomes in more developed countries. It is estimated that there are nearly three million migrant workers in Thailand alone. Obviously, their decision to return will depend on many reasons, including political stability, democratic practices and economic opportunities.

Not many Myanmar migrant workers are likely to come back because they are well paid in Thailand and the living cost in Myanmar is getting more expensive. They will choose the life that makes them feel secure about their future.

Despite employments being created in the country, work conditions, wages, will be the decisive factors whether or not people decide to return home. As many migrant workers are ethnic minorities and people from underdeveloped areas, income distribution must be adjusted in states and regions. Only then they would not leave the country for higher income abroad.

Economic opportunities are, however, still limited in the country. Another danger is that some illegal migrants have become victims of criminal gangs involved in human trafficking and dishonest law enforcement officials and employers.

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Global recovery stronger, broader, but remains uneven: WEO

By *Ye Myint*

Chief of WEO Division Thomas Helbling who sits right to Mr Olivier Blanchard, IMF Economic Consellor, taking question of journalist at World Economic Outlook press conference at IMF HQ-2 in Washington D.C.

Washington DC, 9 April—"The world has been seeing a substantial improvement in growth and it is expected to reach 3.6 per cent in 2014, up from 3.3 per cent in 2013, and 3.9 per cent in 2015. The global recovery is becoming stronger and broader, but it remains uneven as brakes limiting growth are loosened at different paces in different countries," said Oliver Blanchard, IMF Economic Counsellor and Director of Research Department, at IMF's World Economic Outlook press briefing on Wednesday.

He said that growth in emerging and developing economies which are contributing more than two-thirds of global growth will continue, particularly with a growth forecast for China of 7.5 per cent and for India of 5.4 per cent.

In his welcoming remarks at the press conference, Mr. Blanchard stressed the need of sustaining growth and maintaining fiscal sustainability for ensuring the avoidance of emerging market risks which remain,while there have been decreases in acute risks. He also warned of the possibility of another trend, namely rising inequality which has been economically and socially perceived as a central issue, incomplete financial reform and system that remains at risk and geopolitical uncertainties that appear to have had possible global macroeconomic effects.

During the Q and A session, Mr. Blanchard responded to a question about Ukraine and Russia, saying that the Fund is in the process of finalizing a program which is believed to be quite substantial and would help produce good results and pave the way to be able to pay its debt. Turning to Russia, there will be lower growth in Russia due to an investment climate which appears to have led to capital outflows that could make Russia to increase the interest rate, he said.

Responding to a question about the IMF's prediction of China's economic growth of 7.5 per cent, Mr. Thomas Helblin, Chief of the World Economic Studies Division, Research Department of IMF, stressed the need of rebalancing the economy, bringing it to a state of more sustainable, less investment, less credit growth, ensuring financial sector and interest rate liberalizations and some opening up of state-owned enterprises to more competition. The IMF April 2014 World Economic Outlook predictions were released on Tuesday and the next round of the WEO forecasts will be produced in October 2014 at the time of the World Bank-IMF Annual Meetings.

According to Chapter 2 of IMF Spring World Economic Outlook, GDP growth for Myanmar is forecast to look up, with more than 6 per cent estimated for 2014. According to the IMF, the decrease in growth for Myanmar due to the effects of a plausible downside scenario is moderate between 0.40 and 0.60.—*NLM*

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.

Union FM meets Asia Region Director of IUCN

Nay Pyi Taw, 9 April—Ms. Aban Marker Kabraji, Asia Region Director of International Union for Conservation of Nature-IUCN called upon U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs at the ministry, here, on Wednesday.

At the call, they discussed possible activities of cooperation between Myanmar and IUCN including its support for designating World Heritage Sites in Myanmar.—*MNA*

Agreement signed for Kan Thar Yar Consortium Tower project

Yangon, 9 April—The signing ceremony of joint venture agreement in implementing Kan Thar Yar Consortium Tower project took place at Chatrium Hotel in Yangon on Wednesday evening.

The project will be implemented by Yangon City Development Committee and Asia Myanmar Consortium Development at the corner of Kanthaya Street and U Aung Myat Street in Mingala Taungnyunt Township, Yangon.

The 23-storey tower project will comprise modern housings, international standard hotel, offices, supermarket, swimming pool, playgrounds and parks. Necessary data will be revealed for the project soon, said a director of the project.

Pho Thant (NLM)

Enumerators collect data from over 10 million households

Nay Pyi Taw, 9 April—The enumerators have collected data from 10,078,855 households of the country from 30 March to 8 April.

Data from 231,333 households in Kachin State, 51,147 in Kayah State, 284,029 in Kayin State, 75,515 in Chin State, 1,043,660 in Sagaing Region, 266,498 in Taninthayi Region, 607,958 in Bago Region (East), 479,309 in Bago Region (West), 859,006 in Magway Region, 1,238,524 in Mandalay Region, 398,242 in Mon State, 439,359 in Rakhine State, 1,536,176 in Yangon Region, 110,276 in Shan State (East), 472,018 in Shan State (South), 361,800 in Shan State (North), 1,375,891 in Ayeyawady Region and 248,114 in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area have been collected so far.

The census enumerators collected data of 46 villages under the security of Armed Forces and they will continue to collect data of remaining eight villages in Shan State (North) according to Ministry of Immigration and Population.—*MNA*

Cash, books donated to library in Kawkareik Tsp

KAWKAREIK, 9 April— The books and cash donation to Thuta San Ein library took place in Laungkaing Village of Kawkareik Township, Kayin State, on 6 April afternoon.

Wellwishers donated books, cash and library equipment to the librarian.

Myanmar Libraries Foundation provided K 4.0 million tables and chairs, two shelves to the library.

The library building was constructed at a cost of K 4.5 million from rural development fund and contributions of local people in 2012-2013 fiscal year. It is 30 feet long, 20 feet wide and 14 feet high.

Staff Officer Daw Khin Lay New of District Information and Public Relations Department and local authorities formally opened the library.

District IPRD

Farmers compensated for confiscated lands

LAYMYETHNA, 9 April — A ceremony to present compensation for the farmlands confiscated for construction of the embankment at Ngawun River was held at the hall of Township General Administration Department in Laymyethna, Ayeyawady Region, on 4 April.

Staff Officer U Kyi Thein of Hinthada Township Irrigation Department and Head of Township Settlement and Land Records Department explained presentation of confiscated farmlands.

Officials presented K 2.4 million for 3.05 acres of confiscated farmlands to five farmers.

It was attended by departmental officials, township supportive committee members and local farmers.

Tin Shwe (IPRD)

Boosting production of crops uplift livelihood of farmers

MEIKTILA, 9 April—A total of 180 tube-wells are being sunk in dry areas of Meiktila Township, Mandalay Region.

Water Resources Utilization Department sinks the tube-wells to irrigate farmlands in 2013-14 fiscal year.

There are over 22000 acres of farmlands and about 100,000 acres of croplands. Water from Mondaing, Shamange, Chaunggauk, Myindawgan, Nyaunggan, Letkhokpin, Lunngin and Meiktila lakes cannot supply water to the farmlands sufficiently. Local farmers sank tube-wells and the President paid its costs and contributed special fund to sinking 32 tube-wells.

"Kantha Village-tract where 34 tube-wells were sunk mainly grows sesame and pigeon pea in monsoon and irrigates onion farm with the use of underground water. Despite growing about 200 pits for onions before sinking tube-wells, the farmers can now cultivate over 3000 pits for onions. Now, they produce 4000-5000 viss per acre of onion. Due to fetching profits from cultivation of onion, the farmers will have more capital to be put in extended cultivation," said farmer U Soe Ngwe of Kantha Village.

Thein Myint Kyaw (Meiktila)

Officials view pouring out of underground water in Meiktila Township.

Moral course conducted in Pyinmana

NAY PYI TAW, 9 April — The morale course for youths was conducted from 21 March to 4 April at the monastery in Pankhin Ward 3 in Ywagauk Village-tract in Pyinmana Township, according to course in-charge Daw Than Than Win.

A total of 300 youths from Paunglaung Ward, Irrigation Department, military command headquarters and Pankhin Ward 3 attended the course.

Staff Officer U Khin Maung Aye and family donated stationery and cost to the course and served the trainees with meals daily.

Nay Hlaing Htet (Nay Pyi Taw)

Mobile medical team gives health care to rural people

HPA-AN, 9 April—Organized by Kayin State Maternal and Child Supervisory Committee, a medical team comprising doctors and health staff gave medical treatment to over 100 people from villages of Kyain-Seikkyi Township of Kahin State for seven days.

Secretary of Kayin State government U Myo Aung Htay, Chairperson of Kayin State MCWSC Daw Aye Aye Myint and party viewed round medical treatment.

Officials of State MCWSC donated cash to the older persons from Kawkama Village of Thabayan Village-tract in Kawkareik Township.

Nay Myo Lwin (IPRD)

Doctors and health staff providing free health care to local people in Kawkareik Township.

Inter-village road to improve transport of local people

KHINU, 9 April— The seven miles and one furlong long and 50 feet wide Htanaunggainglay-Htanaunggainggyi road has been completed in KhinU Township of Shwebo District in Sagaing Region.

The earthen work was funded K 83.125 million by Rural Development Department in 2013-14 fiscal year.

On completion, the local people from nine villages of Ngahlyin region will have easy access to KhinU, Shwebo, Kanbalu and Mandalay and enjoy fruits of education, health and social development.

KhinU Soe Wai

Desperate for taxes, Puerto Rico tries to get grip on underground economy

LARES, (Puerto Rico), 9 April — Mattress maker Angel Lopez is both a problem and an opportunity for the Puerto Rican government.

His one-man business works off the books as part of a vast underground economy, which doesn't directly pay into the treasury's coffers and is a major headache for an impoverished island that is $70 billion in debt.

But Lopez has dreams the island's leadership is eager to foster. He wants to open a small factory, hire a few people and register with the town of Lares — as long as the taxes and fees from going above board don't choke off his business.

Mattress repairman and fruit vendor Angelo Lopez holds a coconut and a sugar-apple in the shed which he calls his factory in Lares, western Puerto Rico on 7 April, 2014. — REUTERS

The Lopez dilemma is playing out across Puerto Rico, which is a US territory in the Caribbean. From the western mountain town of Lares to the capital San Juan, officials are wrestling with how to bring the underground economy out of the shadows and onto the tax rolls without creating such an onerous financial burden that thousands of small and medium businesses can't survive.

More than a quarter of the island's economy is informal, some studies say, from large companies evading taxes to individuals selling items for cash at roadside stands. But estimates vary widely because the activity can be so hard to track.

While not new, the problem has become urgent of late. The government desperately needs to find new revenue to bolster a budget full of holes and turn around an economy now eight years in recession. It is scrambling to avoid a painful debt restructuring some view as almost inevitable.

Last month's $3.5 billion bond sale bought the island some time, but precious little else, with fundamental worries about its shrinking economy still unsolved.

"The government here, they want you to pay here, pay City Hall, pay the Hacienda," said Lopez, referring to the local name for the island's Treasury department.

The divisions between the government and its people leave policymakers in a damned-if-you-do, damned-if-you-don't position. "This is the conundrum for the island," said Emily Raimes, lead analyst on Puerto Rico for Moody's Investors Service. "Actions that they can take to help their finances may very well be actions that hurt the economy."

The Puerto Rico Department of the Treasury knows it needs to jumpstart both growth and revenue, said Melba Acosta, the island's treasury secretary. But how to do both is a balancing act for policymakers.—*Reuters*

BRAC becomes Bangladesh's road safety development partner

DHAKA, 9 April — A leading international development organization founded in Bangladesh has discovered that most of the road accident cases in the country are ultimately caused by reasons related to human errors. No matter how safe the vehicles and driving environment, roads safety can't be achieved without a driver's capability to drive safely, said BRAC known as the Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee which has substantial operations in a growing number of Asian and African countries.

"Over 95 percent of all road accidents in the country are caused by human errors and most of them are preventable. An average driver makes one mistake in every two miles of driving and in every 500 miles one of these mistakes leads to a near collision. Once every 61,000 miles, one of these mistakes lead to crash. In other words, drivers' mistakes are endemic."

The reasons of road accidents have been cited by BRAC which has become active in promoting traffic safety in Bangladesh, one of the countries with the worst road death rates in the world.

According to latest study of Accident Research Institute of Bangladesh University of Engineering Technology, some 2,000 to 3, 000 people are killed in road accidents in Bangladesh every year, of which about 75 percent fatalities occur in rural areas.—*Xinhua*

Venezuela opposition to join exploratory talks with government

CARACAS, 9 April — Venezuela's opposition said it agreed to attend exploratory talks on Tuesday with President Nicolas Maduro's government in a bid to end the country's worst political unrest for a decade.

Clashes between security forces and pro-government militants on one side and hooded opposition demonstrators blocking streets on the other have killed at least 39 people since mid-February.

Foreign ministers from the regional Union of South American Nations (Unasur) are in the capital Caracas, shuttling between meetings with the administration and opposition and seeking to persuade both sides to talk. Ramon Guillermo Aveledo, a top opposition official, said the Unasur ministers told them the government was open to opposition demands, including the presence of a "good faith" mediator at any substantive discussions.

"We accept the foreign ministers' proposal to hold an exploratory, preparatory meeting to agree the conditions, date and time for public dialogue," Aveledo told reporters.

Venezuela's national police fire tear gas as an anti-government protester kneels holding a rock during riots in Caracas on 6 April, 2014. — REUTERS

As a condition for talks, the opposition has demanded they be broadcast live. It also wants freedom for what it calls "political prisoners" arrested since the start of the unrest, and the disbanding of armed pro-government militant groups.

Maduro said late on Monday he was ready to meet opposition leaders and that he had been suggesting talks in public or in private for weeks. But he said his foes rejected the offers.—*Reuters*

US Marine guard shoots fellow soldier to death at NC base

WASHINGTON, 9 April — A US Marine standing guard shot to death a fellow soldier on Tuesday at the main gate of the Camp Lejeune in the state of North Carolina, local media reported.

The suspect used a M4 rifle to kill the other guard in the shooting which occurred at around 5:30 pm (0830 GMT), base spokesman Nat Fahy was quoted as saying. There were other sentries at the gate at the time of shooting, Fahy said, without disclosing further details.

The identities of the two guards were being withheld until their families were notified. The cause of the shooting remained unknown pending the investigation by the Naval Criminal Investigative Service.

This was the second shooting in the past week at US military camps after the 2 April incident at the US Army base of Fort Hood in Texas, in which a soldier committed suicide after shooting to death three fellow soldiers and wounding 16 others.—*Xinhua*

Gunmen kill five soldiers at Yemen checkpoint

ADEN / SANAA, 9 April — Suspected militants killed five soldiers guarding a checkpoint in southeastern Yemen on Tuesday, local officials said, and a leader of a Shi'ite Muslim party was wounded in a drive-by shooting in the capital Sanaa in which two guards died.

The incidents underscored the volatility in Yemen more than two years after long-serving President Ali Abdullah Saleh stepped down following months of protests by Yemenis demanding democratic reforms.

Saleh's successor, Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi, has been struggling to restore stability to the impoverished US-allied country of 25 million amid multiple challenges that include a rebellion by Shi'ite Muslim rebels in the north, a secessionist movement in the south and al-Qaeda-linked insurgents.

A security source said gunmen in two vehicles stormed the Buroum checkpoint on the border between Shabwa and Hadramout provinces with automatic fire and grenades, killing the five soldiers.

Reuters

People gather around the car of the Shi'ite politician Ismail al-Wazir after an assassination attempt in Sanaa on 8 April, 2014. —REUTERS

US Navy mulls options to help drones avoid other planes

WASHINGTON, 9 April—The US Navy said on Tuesday it continued to examine options for a system to help Northrop Grumman Corp's new MQ-4 Triton high-altitude unmanned spy plane detect and avoid other aircraft, and expected to decide on a new approach in less than a year.

The Navy last year halted work on a complex "sense and avoid" radar being developed by Exelis Inc after the company ran into technical challenges in trying to develop a system small enough to fit on the nose of the drone.

Sean Burke, deputy programme manager for the Triton programme, told reporters at an annual Navy League conference that the Triton was making good progress in flight testing and development, but it had proven technically challenging to scale down the complex, 360-degree radar needed for the new sensor.

"We're taking a very hard look at what the right way forward is, and whether we continue with ours or whether we take a step in another direction," Burke said. He said a decision was expected within a year but declined to be more specific.

Exelis confirmed that work had been halted on the radar last year but had no additional comment.

Burke said there was no other sensors on the market now that met the Navy's requirements, and that officials were also looking at other technology options besides radar.

The Navy needs the new sensor to help avoid other aircraft since operational plans for the Triton call for it to shift from its normal flight altitude of over 60,000 feet to as low as 5,000 feet to photograph and record areas of interest.

Commercial aircraft do not fly at the higher altitudes where Triton will generally fly, but the sensor will give it "eyes in the cockpit" and allow it to move to lower altitudes safely.

The plane will also need such sensors to get certified by the US Federal Aviation Administration for broader integration into US airspace, Burke said.

The Navy plans to have two Triton aircraft operating in 2017, and four by 2018. The planes will carry out persistent wide area surveillance, but their capabilities will be expanded over time to help them listen for sonar buoys and other signals, and to relay airborne communications.

Burke said if development had been completed, Triton would have been ideally suited to help hunt for the Malaysia Airlines plane that has been missing in the Indian Ocean for a month.

He said the plane was in flight testing now, but could not be used in the global search since its cameras and other sensors would not be integrated and flight tested until September.

An earlier demonstration plane built by Northrop could not be used because it relied on commercial satellites whose reach did not extend to the remote ocean area where the plane is believed to have crashed, Burke said.

Reuters

*Two Northrop Grumman MQ-4C Triton unmanned aerial vehicles are seen on the tarmac at a Northrop Grumman test facility in Palmdale, California on 22 May, 2013 in this handout photo provided by the US Navy on 22 May, 2013.—*REUTERS

Twitter freshens up its user profile pages

SAN FRANCISCO, 9 April — Twitter Inc (TWTR.N) unveiled a redesign of its user profile pages on Tuesday, the latest in a series of steps promised by the company to bring new users to the seven-year-old service.

In response to an all-time low in user growth figures during the recent quarter, Twitter Chief Executive Dick Costolo told worried Wall Street analysts that the company would make a number of changes to freshen up the service.

Tuesday's redesign, while mostly cosmetic, hinted at what Costolo described in February as a willingness to experiment with new ways to organize content. Users can now "pin" a tweet to stay at the top of their feed, a rare instance of Twitter departing from the continuously rolling format that has defined the service.

Tweets that have received more retweets or replies will also appear slightly larger to spur more user engagement.

The new layout, which will be available to a small group of users initially, will be widely deployed to Twitter's 241 million users in the coming weeks, the company said.

Twitter reported higher-than-expected fourth-quarter revenue on 6 February, but investors focused on user growth of just 3.8 percent, the lowest rate of quarter-on-quarter growth since Twitter began disclosing user figures. The San Francisco-based company went public in November.

In recent weeks, Twitter has also reportedly been testing a number of new advertising units, such as ads that include download links for mobile apps.

As part of Tuesday's refresh, Twitter said users will also be allowed to select a large banner picture to display across the top of their profile page, as well as a much larger profile picture, two features that resemble another social network familiar to most of the world's Internet users: Facebook.

Reuters

*A portrait of the Twitter logo in Ventura, California on 21 Dec, 2013.—*REUTERS

Japanese researcher stresses validity of STAP cells

Haruko Obokata, a researcher at the Riken Centre for Developmental Biology, one of the research units of the government-funded Riken institute, holds a press conference in Osaka on 9 April, 2014. Obokata, the lead author of the stem cell research papers published earlier in the year in the journal Nature, accused by the institute of falsifying and fabricating parts of her purportedly trailblazing papers, stressed the validity of her findings.
KYODO NEWS

OSAKA, 9 April—The Japanese researcher accused by the government-funded Riken institute of falsifying and fabricating parts of her purportedly trailblazing stem cell research papers stressed the validity Wednesday of her findings.

"Symptoms of STAP cells were confirmed many times," Haruko Obokata, the lead author of the papers published earlier this year in the journal *Nature*, said at a much-hyped press conference in Osaka, referring to stimulus-triggered acquisition of pluripotency cells. "We have succeeded in the production of STAP cells over 200 times," she said.—*Kyodo News*

Microsoft ends Windows XP support, hackers may be lurking

BOSTON, 9 April — Microsoft Corp released its final security updates for Windows XP and Office 2003 on Tuesday as security experts warned users that they could soon be prime targets for cyber attacks if they do not abandon the products.

Security experts advise consumers and businesses to either replace computers running Windows XP or upgrade to modern versions of Microsoft's software within the next month because they will no longer be protected from newly discovered threats after the middle of May.

Microsoft automatically rolls out new security updates on the second Tuesday of each month, which is known as "Patch Tuesday," a day when they also publish technical details on the security bugs they are fixing. The next Patch Tuesday is 13 May.

Security experts say they believe hackers will study that data and "reverse engineer" the May Patch Tuesday software updates to identify ways to attack computers running Windows XP, along with Office 2003, which will no longer receive patches from Microsoft.

"Attackers will use this as an accelerator. It's an easier way to get at machines," said Wolfgang Kandek, chief technology officer with cybersecurity firm Qualys Inc.

Microsoft wants users to move to more modern versions of the operating system partly because it has incorporated new security features into the software over the past decade that make it far more effective in thwarting cyber attacks.

The world's largest software maker first warned that it was planning to end support for Windows XP in 2007, but security firms estimate that 15 to 25 percent of the world's PCs still run on the version of the operating system that was released in October 2001.—*Reuters*

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

First 24-hr Beijing bookstore opens

BEIJING, 9 April—The first 24-hour bookstore in Beijing opened but did not close its doors on Tuesday, to the applause of a bookish public.

The Sanlian Taofen Bookstore, owned by China Publishing Group Corp., announced on Tuesday that 10-day trial of the 24-hour bookstore from Tuesday until 18 April, and if the trial goes smoothly the store may never close again.

Manager Zhang Zuozhen said 3 million yuan (480,000 US dollars) has been invested in the operation. The news was met with a warm welcome from netizens. "Yi Ren DU" said "the bookstore has guts... in an era when people read less than four books a year."—*Xinhua*

Electronic card spending flat in New Zealand

WELLINGTON, 9 April—Credit and debit card spending by New Zealand shoppers leveled out last month, the government statistics agency announced on Wednesday.

Total retail spending was unchanged in March, following a 0.8- percent increase in February, according to Statistics New Zealand.

"Spending rose in three retail industries during March and fell in three," business indicators manager Neil Kelly said in a statement.

"Fuel had a large fall for the second consecutive month, while consumables had the largest increase."

Xinhua

Rescuers work at the building collapse site in eastern Pakistan's Lahore on 8 April, 2014. At least two people were killed and three others were injured as a three story residential building collapsed in Lahore on Tuesday, local media reported.—XINHUA

Indonesians vote for new parliament, stage set for presidential poll

JAKARTA, 9 April—Indonesians voted for a new parliament on Wednesday in a poll expected to be dominated by the opposition Indonesian Democratic Party-Struggle (PDI-P), boosting the chances of its popular candidate in a presidential election three months from now.

Already, the star of the election is Jakarta governor Joko Widodo, widely known as Jokowi, whom opinion polls suggest will almost certainly be the next president of Southeast Asia's biggest economy.

One early exit poll, issued by CSIS-Cyrus two hours before voting had closed and based on 6,000 voters, showed PDI-P well ahead with 19.85 percent, already close to the threshold which would allow it to nominate its presidential candidate.

"I'm very confident. My party will do very well," Jokowi said in English after voting with his wife in central Jakarta, according to local news website, Detik.com.

Former president and head of the PDI-P Megawati Sukarnoputri appeared to set aside her own ambition last month when she gave the green light to Jokowi to run for president, recognizing that his popularity could lead her party back to power.

Indonesia's embrace of democracy since the downfall of former authoritarian leader Suharto 16 years ago has seen four different presidents and repeated change of the leading party.

Predictions of a Jokowi presidency and strong showing by his party have helped lift shares prices and the rupiah, Asia's best performing currency this year, on expectations that it would bring more decisive government. Analysts say if PDI-P does do well, markets will likely rise further.

The stock market, up 15 percent this year, was closed as Wednesday was declared a public holiday for the vote.

Campaigning has been notable for its lack of policy initiatives to give the economy a boost. Growth is still expected to be a little over 5 percent this year, but has weakened partly on the fall in prices for commodities that still form a backbone for the resource-rich economy.

Reuters

Jakarta governor and presidential candidate from the Indonesian Democratic Party-Struggle (PDI-P) party, Joko Widodo, and his wife Iriana (both in white) arrive to vote in the parliamentary elections, at a polling station in Jakarta on 9 April, 2014.—REUTERS

As Japan weighs energy options, costs mount for idled reactors

TOKYO, 9 April—Since March 2011, Japan's government has focused on the cost of cleaning up after Fukushima, the worst nuclear accident since Chernobyl. Now, the bill is coming due for another unbudgeted consequence of that disaster — shutting down the nation's 48 remaining nuclear reactors for costly safety reviews that could see many of them mothballed.

While their reactors have been idled, Japan's nuclear plant operators have had to spend around $87 billion to burn replacement fossil fuels. This, in part, explains the utilities' estimated combined losses of around $47 billion as of March, and the $60 billion wiped off the companies' market value.

That pain is beginning to tell. Last week, Kyushu Electric Power Co was confirmed to be seeking a near $1 billion bailout in the form of equity financing from the government-affiliated Development Bank of Japan because of the cost of idling its reactors, joining Hokkaido Electric Power Co which has also asked the bank for financial backing.

Even as Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's government hammers out the final terms of a delayed energy policy, the bill for a reduced role for nuclear power in the world's third-largest economy is becoming clearer. One way or another, Japan's taxpayers are going to be saddled with the cost of throttling back on nuclear power through taxes and higher electricity bills, analysts say, just as the government has had to provide funding for those who lost their homes and livelihoods after the Fukushima disaster.

Reuters

2nd phase of India's general elections starts

NEW DELHI, 9 April—The second phase of India's mammoth nine-phase general elections kicked off Wednesday, with polling beginning in six constituencies across four northeastern states.

The voting began at 7 am local time in the four northeastern states, including Nagaland, Meghalaya and Manipur and would continue up to 5 pm local time.

The general elections in the northeastern state of Mizoram has been deferred to 11 April in the wake of a strike by students' unions and local non-government organizations.

Some 814 million Indians are eligible to cast their ballots in the general elections, 100 million more than in 2009. The polls began on 7 April and will end on 12 May, with results to be announced on 16 May.—*Xinhua*

China, Laos ready to launch negotiations on railway cooperation deal

SANYA, 9 April—China and Laos announced they were willing to launch negotiations on a railway cooperation agreement on Tuesday in the southern Chinese city of Sanya during talks between the two prime ministers.

Chinese Premier Li Keqiang held talks with Prime Minister of Laos Thongsing Thammavong, who is on a visit to China and will attend the annual conference of the Boao Forum for Asia (BFA) later this week.

Railway cooperation constitutes an important part in bilateral cooperation on major projects, Li said, adding that China will seek an early signing of the deal in order to lay the foundation for next-step cooperation.

Both China and Laos stand at a critical moment of deepening reform, which will bring opportunities for developing bilateral ties, Li said. Li noted that China will take continuous measures to stabilize economic growth, restructure the economy and benefit the country's people, and added that Laos is also accelerating efforts to advance the economy and living standards.

Thongsing thanked China for its assistance and hailed the development of bilateral ties in recent years that have brought substantial benefit to the two peoples.

He said Laos is committed to reform and opening-up and is ready to grasp the opportunity brought by China's development. He also called on the two countries to strengthen their exchanges on national governance and experience sharing, expand cooperation in all areas, promote railway cooperation to achieve early progress, and jointly maintain regional peace, stability and development.

Thongsing hailed China's efforts in searching for missing flight MH370 and expressed sympathy to relatives of the Chinese passengers. Li appreciated the message of condolences sent by Thongsing after the event, saying China will keep close contact and cooperation with all relevant parties.

Reuters

ADVERTISEMENT

CONGRATULATIONS

We would like to express our heartiest congratulations to **"Kanbawza Bank Ltd.,"** being awarded the **"First Prize"** for the Highest Income Tax Payer in Myanmar once again for the Assessment Year of 2012-2013, at the Award Ceremony for the Higher Income Tax Payers held by Internal Revenue Department, the Ministry of Finance, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Yangon on 7.4.2014. We hope that you esteemed bank continue to be the highest tax payer in the upcoming years and continue to contribute toward the betterment of society and development of the country.

Chairman and Working Committee

The Myanmar Banks Association

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST
Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development
(Department of Rural Development)
National Community Driven Development Project
IDA Grant H814-MM
Assignment Title: International Consultant for Gender Mainstreaming

Reference No. C-5.2/ 2014

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar has received financing from the World Bank towards the cost of its National Community Driven Development Project, which is being implemented by the Department of Rural Development (DRD) of the Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development.

In order to ensure that the project enhances gender equality and empowers women, aspects of gender will be mainstreamed throughout the project structure, processes, capacity building, and knowledge sharing, DRD intends to apply part of the proceeds for the hiring of I**nternational Consultant** for **Gender Mainstreaming** (one position). To this end, the Department of Rural Development, in cooperation with the Department of Social Welfare (DSW), will set up a CDD Gender Network.

The consulting services ("the Services") include:

- Work with the gender working group and M&E specialist to review the project's results framework, identify gender related indicators, and set up a reporting system with regard to gender aspects.
- Assist the gender working group in the preparation of a progress report on the status of gender mainstreaming in the project, key issues and recommendations for further support.
- Assist DRD and DSW on the knowledge management topics and design that would bring about evidence-based lessons learned from cases and experience of the project.

The Consultant will be located at the NCDD Project office in Nay Pyi Taw. The assignment period will be for **sixty (60) days over a period** of one year and expected to **commence from June 2014.**

Expressions of Interest must be submitted in a written form to the address below (in person, or by mail, or by email) by **May 9, 2014.**

The successful consultant will be selected in accordance with the provisions, under the World Bank's "Guidelines: Selection and Employment of Consultants under IBRD Loans, IDA Credits and Grants by World Bank Borrowers dated January 2011".

Further information and a copy of the detailed Terms of Reference (TOR) may be obtained from the NCDD Project webpage: *http// www.edd.drdmyanmar.org.* or the address below during office hours from 0900 to 1600, Monday through Friday, except public holidays.

Attn. U **Myint Oo** (Deputy Director General)
NCDD Project Secretariat Office
Department of Rural Development
Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development
Office No. 14, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar
Tel. & Fax: 067- 409413
Email address: drdmyanmar@gmail.com

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV SHIBA VOY NO (0037W)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SHIBA VOY NO (0037W) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 10.4.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.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 LAND AND SEA SHIPPING LINE
Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV BLUE WHALE VOY NO (140306)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV BLUE WHALE NO (140306) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 10.4.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.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 VARAMAR LTD
Phone No: 256916/256919/256921

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV PACIFIC EMBOLDEN VOY NO (1402)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV PACIFIC EMBOLDEN VOY NO (1402) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 10.4.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.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 BRIGHT SAIL TRANSPORTATION SERVICES CO LTD
Phone No: 256916/256919/256921

Bank Holiday

All Banks will be closed on 12th April (Saturday) to 21st April (Monday) 2014, Myanmar New Year Holidays, under the Negotiable Instruments Act.

Central Bank of Myanmar

ABBA fetes 40 years since 'Waterloo': near Waterloo

A man walks past the lit logo of the legendary Swedish pop group ABBA at the new "ABBA - The Museum'' in Stockholm on 6 May, 2013.—Reuters

London, 9 April — Within strolling distance of the rail station bearing the name of their first international hit, Swedish band ABBA celebrated 40 years of breathtaking success with a party at London's Tate Modern museum to mark their groundbreaking song "Waterloo".

Two of the four members of the band that made spangled jumpsuits and big boots a trademark attended the bash at the trendy London museum on Monday night, marking four decades since the catchy tune won the Eurovision song contest in April 1974 and launched them into international stardom.

Bjorn Ulvaeus, who wrote many of the group's songs with ABBA co-founder Benny Andersson, said he was stunned by the rise and rise of ABBA even after it effectively disbanded in 1983.

The band not only lives on through its disco-friendly back catalogue, but also in the long-running hit show "Mamma Mia", the film based on the musical, and in the latest offering, a new "ABBA: The Official Photo Book" launched last month. "It happened over quite a long period of time," Ulvaeus told Reuters at the London event, noting that success had not come easily.

"I mean, we didn't have a hit after hit after hit, we had a hit and then we wrote another song, recorded it, released it and it was like that. It seems today like it was all happening at the same time but it wasn't."

He was joined at the party by Anni-Frid "Frida" Lyngstad, one of the band's two lead singers, who attributed ABBA's success to the right people getting together at the right time.

"We knew a bit about the business and the mix of the talents was probably a wonderful thing and also being couples, being together and exploring that world, it was a new kind of thing for all of us," she said. The partygoers sang "Happy Birthday" to the two band members, to which Lyngstad responded:

"We really feel privileged, you have to know that. We feel privileged to be able to survive for 40 years and to stand here today and celebrate it with you. It's pure happiness. Thank you so much."

The evening included a disco of ABBA songs, with various cardboard cut-outs of ABBA members for fans to pose with.

The food served consisted mostly of hotdogs and beer, a tradition among ABBA fans, and the evening ended with a group called the ABBA Choir singing some of the group's greatest hits - including "Waterloo".

Reuters

Alia Bhatt likely to be Shahid Kapoor's heroine in Shaandar

Alia is currently shooting for Humpty Sharma Ki Dulhania alongside Varun Dhawan

Mumbai, 9 April — Director Vikas Bahl has expressed his desire to cast Alia Bhatt opposite Shahid Kapoor for his next film titled Shaandar, which is slated to go on the floor in August this year.

"We have finalised Shahid. I would like to have Alia in the film, but we are still working on the script. So it's too early to talk about it (the heroine)," Vikas said, though he chose not to confirm if Alia has been approached for the film.

Even Alia chose not to confirm nor deny anything. "I prefer not to talk about anything right now. Whenever it has to come out it will," Alia said.

PTI

GENERAL

Rory McIlroy confident of better showing at Masters

Northern Ireland's Rory McIlroy hits from the sand onto the second green during a practice round ahead of the Masters golf tournament at the Augusta National Golf Club in Augusta, Georgia on 8 April, 2014.
REUTERS

AUGUSTA, (Georgia), 9 April — Rory McIlroy is living proof that time has a way of healing almost everything.

Three years ago, McIlroy was reduced to tears when he blew his chance of winning the Masters after a spectacular final-round collapse. Leading by four shots at the start of the last day, McIlroy closed with an 80 that included a triple-bogey on the 10th hole that sent him tumbling out of contention.

The following day he burst into tears when he spoke to his mother on the telephone.

"That's probably the only time I've cried over golf," he recounted at a news conference on Tuesday. "Blowing a lead in the final round of the Masters, because you never know if you're going to get that opportunity again.

"It makes it easier these days when you have two majors in the bag. Not that you don't care as much, but it's not the end of the world. You know that you will have more opportunities, and you've taken a couple of opportunities already."

It was a humbling experience for the Northern Irishman that shattered his confidence and raised doubts about his ability to handle the suffocating pressure of Augusta National.

In five appearances at the Masters, McIlroy has yet to finish in the top 10 but the 24-year-old is starting to regain his faith, believing that his meltdown three years ago could ultimately help him win that elusive green jacket.

"I have no ill feelings towards 2011. I thought it was a very important day in my career. It was a big learning curve for me," he said.

"I don't know if I had not had that day, would I be the person and the player that I am sitting here, because I learned so much from it. "I learned exactly not what to do under pressure and contention, and I definitely learned from that day how to handle my emotions better on the course."

McIlroy instantly healed some of his wounds when he won the 2011 US Open then the 2012 PGA Championship but the Masters has proved elusive.

He finished 40th at Augusta National in 2012 and 25th last year. But returning for his sixth attempt, he now believes it is only a matter of time before he wins the tournament.

"There's a lot of guys that once they drive up Magnolia Lane here, something sort of lights up inside them," he said.

"I feel comfortable on the course. I'm disappointed that my best finish was only 15th.

"I feel like I've played better than that and haven't quite got the results. Hopefully I can change that this week."

After what happened in 2011, McIlroy has learned not to expect too much of himself at Augusta National. He said he has learned to respect the course more and be more prudent with his shot selection.

And if he doesn't win this year, he thinks he will still get plenty of other chances.

Reuters

S Africa launches Mandela International Day campaign

JOHANNESBURG, 9 April — The Nelson Mandela International Day Campaign 2014 was officially launched here on Tuesday, with the aim of contributing to the global movement for good by effecting positive change within communities.

Celebrated across the globe in honour of the late Mandela's birthday on 18 July, Mandela Day was formally recognized by the UN General Assembly in 2009.

Speaking at the launch, Deputy President Motlanthe said this year's Mandela Day was unique because Mandela, an anti-apartheid hero who was South Africa's first black president from 1994 to 1999, had passed away last year.

"This is all the more reason we have to up the ante, ensuring that this day is imbued with durable meaning that reverberates across time and space," Motlanthe said.

Xinhua

Greek media workers walk off job ahead of general strike

ATHENS, 9 April — Journalists, producers and technical staff at Greece's newspapers, radio stations and TV channels walked off the job on Tuesday ahead of a fresh general strike called by umbrella unions for Wednesday to protest against massive layoffs and austerity measures.

Protesters gathered in central Athens outside the Athens Daily Newspaper Journalists' Union (ESIEA) headquarters and marched to the parliament, as media remained shut down for 24 hours leaving Greece in a news blackout.

Strikers demand the signing of new collective labour agreements and an increase to the unemployment allowance among other requests.

The ongoing debt crisis which started in 2009 in Greece has hit hard Greek media as most sectors of Greece's economy.

The two main trade unions of private and public sector workers General Confederation of Greek Workers GSEE and the Civil Servants' Confederation ADEDY have called for a new nationwide general strike on 9 April, which is expected to disrupt public services and transport.

Xinhua

Participants of "Running in suits" run by way of The Place in Beijing, capital of China, on 7 April, 2014. An activity themed on "Running in suits" calling for office workers to do exercises was held in Sanlitun on Monday.
XINHUA

MYANMAR TV

(10-4-2014, Thursday)

6:00 am
1. Paritta By Hilly Region Missonary Sayadaw
6:30 am
2. Physical Exercise
7:00 am
3. News
7:20 am
4. People Talks
8:30 am
5. India Drama Series
9:00 am
6. News/International News
9:30 am
7. Shwe Yin Chone Than
10:15 am
8. TV Drama Series
11:10 am
9. Sing & Enjoy
12:00 pm
10. News/International News/Weather Report
12:30 pm
11. Teleplay
2:15 pm
12. Fine Arts- Bosom of Dramatic Performance
3:40 pm
13. Documentary
4:00 pm
14. News
4:30 pm
15. University Of Distance Education (TV Lectures) Third Year (Chemistry)
5:00 pm
16. News
5:15 pm
17. Dance Of Thingyan Festival
7:00 pm
19. News
7:20 pm
20. TV Drama Series
8:00 pm
21. News/International News/Weather Report
8:35 pm
22. Current Affairs
9:00 pm
23. News
24. Clever
25. Myanmar Video

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(10-4-14 07:00am~ 11-4-14 07:00am) MST

* Local News
* Travelling To Shan Plateau (Pindaya Myo Ma Market)
* World News
* Myanmar Master class: 3D
* Local News
* How to Extract Timber Using Elephants
* World News
* Myanmar Master class: Conceptual Art
* Local News
* Crab Business (Part-1) Mud Crab
* World News
* Tea Leaves
* Local News
* Image Of The Monks
* World News
* The Storytellers
* Local News
* Short Trip With Steve (Taungyi Trip)
* World News
* The Photographer: Kyaw Kyaw Winn
* Local News
* Anthropoid Origins in Myanmar (Ep-2)
* World News
* Myanmar Master class: Cubism
* Local News Sagaing: Youth Leader
* World News
* Distinguished Myanmar Ladies "Tin Moe Lwin"
* Local News
* The Richly Blessed Gem Land
* World News
* Moving Meditation: Aikido

Serie A Standing Table

Pos	Team Name	P	W	D	L	Pts
1	Juventus	32	27	3	2	84
2	Roma	32	23	7	2	76
3	SC Napoli	32	19	7	6	64
4	Fiorentina	32	16	7	9	55
5	Inter	32	12	14	6	50
6	Parma	32	13	11	8	50
7	Lazio	32	13	9	10	48
8	Atalanta	32	14	4	14	46
9	Hellas Verona	32	14	4	14	46
10	Torino	32	12	9	11	45
11	AC Milan	32	12	9	11	45
12	Sampdoria	32	11	8	13	41
13	Genoa	32	10	9	13	39
14	Udinese	32	11	5	16	38
15	Cagliari	32	7	11	14	32
16	ChievoVerona	32	7	6	19	27
17	Bologna	32	5	12	15	27
18	Livorno	32	6	7	19	25
19	Sassuolo	32	6	6	20	24
20	Catania	32	4	8	20	20

The New Light of Myanmar

Chelsea snatch late triumph, Madrid hold off Dortmund

LONDON, 9 April— Chelsea reached the Champions League semi-finals with a late Demba Ba goal that secured a dramatic away-goals win over Paris St Germain on Tuesday, while Real Madrid held off a spirited Borussia Dortmund fightback.

Chelsea substitute Ba bundled the ball home in the 87th minute to secure a 2-0 win in the quarter-final, second leg at Stamford [illegible] sent the [illegible] through afte[illegible] gate draw.

Madrid [illegible] turn leg in [illegible] but went th[illegible] aggregate ag[illegible] son's runne[illegible] dominated [illegible] clash last w[illegible]

The 20[illegible] champion[illegible] Chelsea [illegible] were trail[illegible] ing 3-1 af[illegible] ter their first leg in Paris but clawed their way back into the tie with a first half-goal from substitute Andre Schuerrle, before hitting the cross-bar twice in two minutes shortly after the restart.

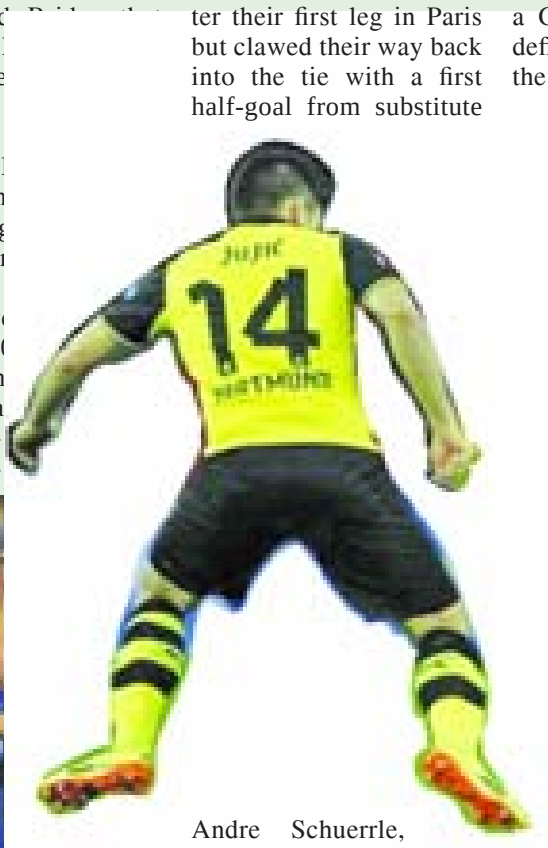
The visitors were clinging on bravely, but were undone in the dying stages when Ba scrambled the ball home after a Cesar Azpilicueta shot deflected into his path in the area.

Dortmund ran a below-par Madrid close, with Marco Reus scoring twice in the first-half to give the German side hope of completing an astonishing comeback.

Real's Angel Di Maria missed a penalty before Reus pounced on a defensive mistake in the 24th minute to slot home Dortmund's opener before doubling the lead on the night in the 37th from close range after Robert Lewandowski hit the post.

Dortmund missed a great chance to level the tie in the second half when Armenian Henrikh Mkhitaryan rounded Madrid keeper Iker Casillas but only managed to hit the post.—*Reuters*

Chelsea players celebrate at the end of their Champions League quarter-final second leg soccer match against Paris St Germain at Stamford Bridge in London, on 8 April, 2014.—REUTERS



Japan U-19 beats Kanbawza FC 4-0

NAY PYI TAW, 9 April—Japan U-19 football team trounced Kanbawza FC 4-0 at the football tune-up match at Youth Training Centre in Thuwunna in Yangon on Wednesday.

The Japan U-19, one of the top teams of Asia, could beat Kanbawza FC in the match as the Japanese players used their all-out efforts well to score goals in the tune-up match.

Kanbawza FC missed the chance to show off their excellent skills on the pitch in the match.

Nyi Myat Thawda

Japanese goalkeeper protecting attacks of Naing Soe Wai from Kanbawza FC. —PHOTO:SOE NYUNT

Australia Olympic champion Rice retires

SYDNEY, 9 April — Australia's triple Olympic gold medallist Stephanie Rice announced her retirement from competitive swimming at the age of 25 on Wednesday.

Rice had a stunning Olympic debut at Beijing's Water Cube in 2008, winning the 200 and 400 metres individual medley titles as well as gold in the 4x200m freestyle relay, all in world record times.

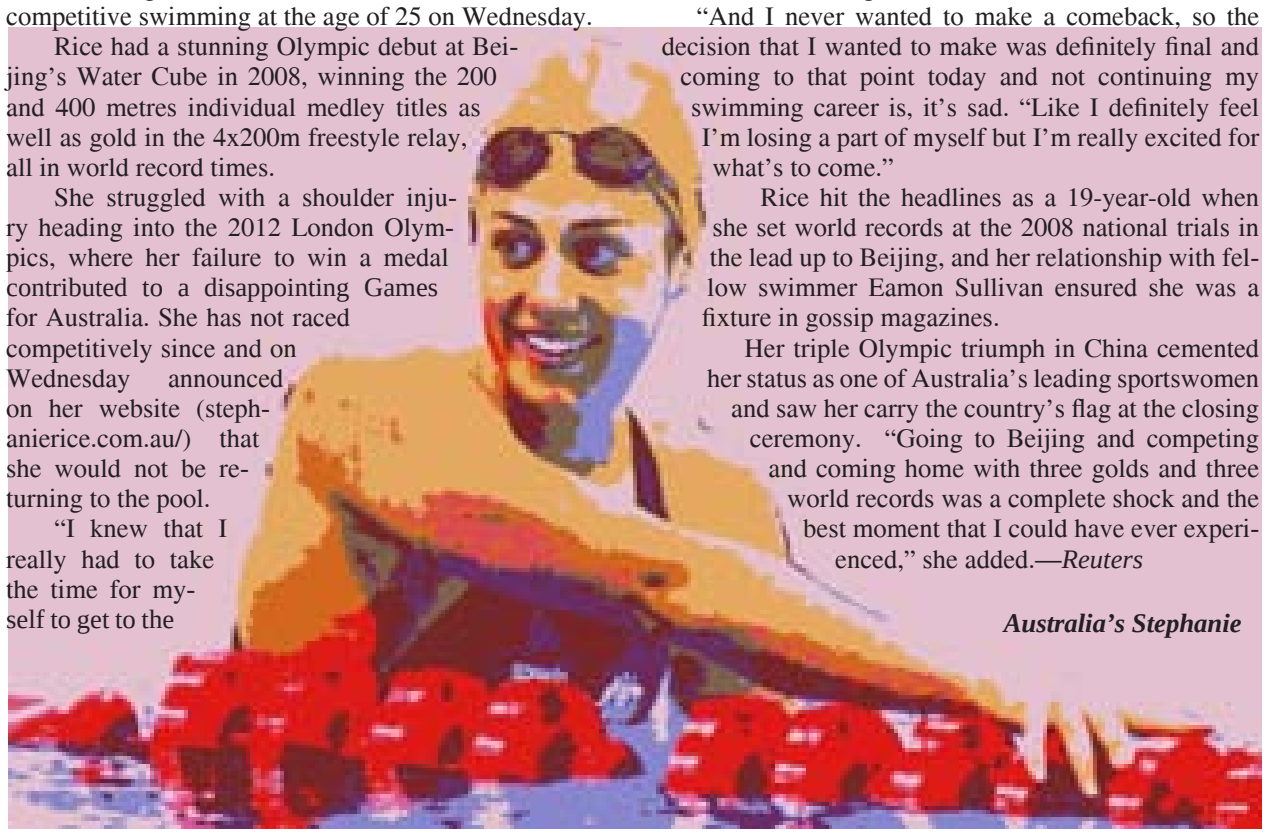
She struggled with a shoulder injury heading into the 2012 London Olympics, where her failure to win a medal contributed to a disappointing Games for Australia. She has not raced competitively since and on Wednesday announced on her website (stephanierice.com.au/) that she would not be returning to the pool.

"I knew that I really had to take the time for myself to get to the point where I knew 100 percent what I wanted to do," Rice said in a video posted on the website.

"And I never wanted to make a comeback, so the decision that I wanted to make was definitely final and coming to that point today and not continuing my swimming career is, it's sad. "Like I definitely feel I'm losing a part of myself but I'm really excited for what's to come."

Rice hit the headlines as a 19-year-old when she set world records at the 2008 national trials in the lead up to Beijing, and her relationship with fellow swimmer Eamon Sullivan ensured she was a fixture in gossip magazines.

Her triple Olympic triumph in China cemented her status as one of Australia's leading sportswomen and saw her carry the country's flag at the closing ceremony. "Going to Beijing and competing and coming home with three golds and three world records was a complete shock and the best moment that I could have ever experienced," she added.—*Reuters*



Australia's Stephanie

Adriano's first goal for two years can't save Paranaense

BUENOS AIRES, 9 April — Adriano's first goal for two years could not keep Atletico Paranaense in the Libertadores Cup on Tuesday as the Brazilian side went down 2-1 to The Strongest in the rarefied air of La Paz.

The former Inter Milan and Brazil striker, trying to revive his career at the Curitiba club, equalised in first half stoppage time after team mate Manoel's own goal had put the Bolivians ahead in the 38th minute.

A draw would have been enough to see Paranaense through to the last 16 but The Strongest settled the Group One match with midfielder Nelvin Soliz's 55th-minute winner to go through in second place behind Argentina's Velez Sarsfield.

"It's obvious we felt the difference playing at (high) altitude.

I myself didn't feel it much but other players did and it was key for the result," the 32-year-old Adriano told reporters at the Hernando Siles stadium.

"I'm sad for not having gone through but happy because the team did everything to (try) to qualify ... Now to try and have a good Brazilian championship," added the striker, who was nicknamed 'The Emperor'.

Velez, who had secured their berth with a match to spare, made it five wins out of six matches with a 1-0 home victory over bottom team Universitario of Peru in Buenos Aires.

A penalty save five minutes from time by goalkeeper Agustin Marchesin secured Argentina's Lanus a 0-0 draw at O'Higgins in Chile in Group Three and a place in the last 16. Lanus finished second to Cerro Porteno of Paraguay, who won the group with a 3-2 home victory over Colombia's Deportivo Cali.

Reuters

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www.facebook.com/thenewlightofmyanmar
The New Light of Myanmar
R/489 Printed and published by the New Light of Myanmar press in Nay Pyi Taw, the News and Periodicals Enterprise, Ministry of Information.