

MR to implement comprehensive development for Yangon Central Railway Station Complex



Myanma Railways plans a massive transformation of its under-utilised lands near Yangon Central Railway Station into one of the city's most sparkling new projects. Already, the railway has asked for ideas, plans and expressions of interest from developers.—PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

By Aye Min Soe

Myanma Railways has invited Expression of

Interest (EOI) from local and international or joint venture developers/investors to undertake design-

and-build work for Yangon Central Railway Station area comprehensive development.

"Myanma Railways is committed to develop Yangon Central Railways Station as a Rail concerned business including high-rise buildings and hotels in accordance with international rules and regulations on 62.486 acres of Myanma Railways (land)," the invitation to submit Expression of Interest from developers says.

The project is to be the essential part of Greater Yangon city development, a Myanma Railways official said.

Myanma Railways has urged developers to submit the EOI in original and duplicate copies together with an electronic copy of its EOI on a CD ROM to the Deputy General Manager, Supply Department, Myanma Railways, at the corner of Theinbyu Street

and Merchant Street in Botataung Township not later than 6 May.

Yangon Central Railway Station is in downtown Yangon and is the largest railway station in Myanmar.



Yangon Central Railway Station in downtown Yangon.

PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

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Union Parliament Speaker urges finalising law amendments



Union Parliament Speaker and People's Parliament Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann discusses procedures for finalising law amendments.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 22 April— Union Parliament Speaker and People's Parliament Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann urged parliament on April 22 to finalise to existing laws during the first Union Parliament.

The coordination meeting of the Union Parliament was held at the parliament office.

The Speaker said: "The amendments of existing laws should be finalised during the first Union Parliament. The suggestions of legal experts are also invited for this task."

Thura U Shwe Mann said parliament has passed 98 laws during its term of more than three years, while the People's Parliament and National Parliament are now discussing 54 laws.

Upper and lower hous-

es of parliament in Myanmar were formed on 31 January 2011.

He said that the 134 laws have been sent to the government for approval, two laws to the Supreme Court of the Union and one to the Constitutional Tribunal of the Union. The parliament needs to amend and pass these pending laws by November 2015.

Deputy Speaker of the Union Parliament U Nanda Kyaw Swa and Deputy Speaker of the National Parliament U Mya Nyein explained the amendment processes. As a conclusion, Thura U Shwe Mann called on the contributions of government ministries in collaboration with parliaments in this law amendment task.

MNA

2014 Nationwide Census covers nearly 11 million households

YANGON, 22 April — The Ministry of Immigration and Population released a statement Tuesday about completion of the nationwide population and housing census conducted from 30 March to 10 April, 2014 in regions and states across the country.

According to the statement, the 12-day census-taking process covered 10,719,887 households—251,824 in Kachin

State, 57,866 in Kayah State, 304,251 in Kayin State, 83,621 in Chin State, 1,100,482 in Sagaing Region, 283,668 in Taninthayi Region, 631,703 in Bago Region (East), 506,213 in Bago Region (West), 921,982 in Magway Region, 1,327,244 in Mandalay Region, 414,661 in Mon State, 459,217 in Rakhine State, 1,591,878 in Yangon Region, 126,273 in Shan State (East), 514,809 in

Shan State (South), 398,422 in Shan State (North), 1,483,131 in Ayeyawady Region and 262,642 in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area— up to 6 pm on 10 April.

Of 231 villages where KIA members tried to interrupt the census-taking process, only 110 still remain to take the census as the census-taking process took place under the protection of military security in other villages between 2 April

and 10 April. Regarding some households that were left to be covered in remaining villages in Rakhine State, work is underway to make a technical delay to take a census of remaining households.

The Immigration and National Registration Department said a follow-up statement will be released when the exact population census is compiled.

MNA

Public remonstrations

1. **National Democratic Force** that had been allowed to set up as a political party under Section 9 of Political Parties Registration Law headquartered at No (47), first floor, West Horse Race Course road in Bahan Township, Yangon Region, submitted its seal to be used as mentioned hereunder.
2. It is hereby announced in accord with Political Parties Registration Rule 14 (d) that those who wish to remonstrate with the Union Election Commission about the seal of the party may do so with firm evidences within seven days from the date of this announcement.



Union Election Commission

UN agencies, INGOs getting back to work in Rakhine State

NAY PYI TAW, 22 April — Operations of UN agencies and INGOs in Rakhine State are returning to normalcy and the Myanmar Police Force is providing staff of those organizations with close protection, the Ministry of Home Affairs said.

According to the ministry, coordination is being made to facilitate trip schedules of all local and foreign staff, who have to submit them to the Rakhine State Emergency Coordination Centre.

Since early April 2014, organizations based in the Sittway Hotel and respective offices in Maungdaw have resumed their work. Up to date, 10 groups comprising 11 male and female personnel are operating in Sittway while four comprising

six male and five female personnel in Maungdaw.

Of 23 UN agencies and INGOs, 11 organizations comprising 33 foreign staff are getting back to work at present.

ICRC is operating fuel supplies to relief camps in three villages in Pauktaw Township and other aid groups are coordinating with the Rakhine State Government to resume regional development. Those aid organizations that signed MoUs with respective ministries are working on development undertakings related to the sectors of education, health, vocational training, emergency patient transport, social affairs, transportation and drinking water supply in Rakhine State.—MNA

Union Minister U Tint Hsan speaking at opening ceremony of training course for table tennis referees.—MNA



Union Sports Minister opens training course for table tennis referees

NAY PYI TAW, 22 April— The Union Minister for Sports on Tuesday attended the opening ceremony of a training course for table tennis referees held at the hall of Nay Pyi Taw Sports Training Camp.

"This training course will be helpful to educate talented table tennis referees who will work at the 28th South-East Asian Games and other local and foreign sports events in the future," Union Sports Minister U Tint Hsan said.

The opening ceremony was attended by officials from the Myanmar Olympic Committee and the Ministry of Sports, course conductor Ms. Rachel El Ramos from International

Referee and 24 trainees.

The International Table Tennis Referee Training Course (1/2014) was jointly launched by the Myanmar Table Tennis Federation and the Ministry of Sports.—MNA

LOCAL NEWS

Central Myanmar town organizes development committee



MEIKTILA, 22 April—A Township Development Affairs Committee was organized in Meiktila Township, Mandalay Region, on Tuesday.

The selected people were officially assigned

duties at the Township General Administration Department.

At the ceremony, U Myo Hlaing, chairman of the organizing committee, said: “The committee members are to avoid

corruption and to strive for the development of the township in accordance with laws, by-laws and regulations.”

The committee is comprised of the chairman, a secretary, representatives for socio-economic and education

programmes and local dignitaries.

The members of committee then took an oath of office.

The ceremony was attended by Region parliament representatives, the township police major, members of the township management committee and dignitaries.

Chan Tha (Meiktila)

Strong winds, hail hit Magway

MAGWAY, 22 April — High winds pummeled the downtown area of Magway with hail as large as plums, leading to reports of fallen trees and damage to some houses on 10 April, but no reports of casualties.

Strong winds uprooted a neem tree which is thought to be one-hundred-year old near the junction of Pagoda road and Strand Road in a downtown ward of Magway, bringing lamp posts down on some houses.

“Hailstones fell shortly after a strong gust of wind camp up without warning in the evening on that day. A part of my house was destroyed due to a fallen lamp post after strong winds brought the big tree down on power lines, said U Khin Maung Tint whose house was partially damaged during the strong winds.

Likewise, strong winds blew the Htidaw (umbrella) of PhaungdawU Pagoda down to the ground and knocked down trees along the road to Myathalun Pagoda.

Magway Hla Myint



Chin State focuses on local development

HAKA, 22 April—Chin State in western Myanmar is placing emphasis on local development, particularly in improving road transportation, hospitals and schools.

On 14 April, Chief Minister U Hong Ngai and state ministers made an inspection tour of development tasks in Matupi Township, focusing on Lailinpi police station, te station hospital and school buildings in Lailinpi Village in the Township.

On 15 April, they inspected progress of the Lailinpi-Paikte-Paletwa motor road and then the chief min-

ister met people in Paletwa the next day and inaugurated a new school building of the Basic Education High School (Branch).

On 17 April, the chief minister examined progress on the Paletwa-Hsimee motor road and urged local people and departmental personnel to join in development tasks with the state government.

On completion, the Lailinpi-Paikte-Paletwa and Paletwa-Hsimee roads will contribute to better transport for people in the area.—*Chin State IPRD*

Outstanding Chin State students to be awarded study stipends

TIDDIM, 22 April — Thirty outstanding students in Grade 5 through 9 in Chin State will be able to win study stipends for the 2014-2015 fiscal year, a teacher in Tiddim said.

Students in nine townships in the western Myanmar state have to sit for English and General Knowledge examinations to win the stipend support, he added.

A stipend of K 20,000 each will be provided by the Chin State Education Department to selected

students who are in primary school and K 30,000 to students in middle school. According to a list of basic education schools in Chin State for 2013, 1,223 students are pursuing their basic education at 30 high schools, 30 high schools (branch), 352 middle schools, 352 post-primary schools, 677 primary schools, eight primary schools (branch) and 38 affiliated primary schools.

Zo Hay Hsa (Chin Taung Chay)

Noviation ceremony in Mandalay celebrated with Pathein umbrellas

THAZI, 22 April—A ceremonial procession for Buddhist novices in Thazi Township in Mandalay was celebrated with traditional Pathein umbrellas on Tuesday, rather than the traditional betel offerings.

Culturally, most novi-

ation ceremonies in Myanmar are marked by ladies carrying betel offertories in the processions.

An onlooker at the Thazi ceremony said: “This is an amazing event. On many occasions, young Myanmar ladies use the

betel offertories in noviation processions, but now, they are holding colourful Pathein umbrellas. All the locals are surprised.”

Pathein umbrellas were originally manufactured in Pathein Township, capital of Ayeyawady in

the delta region, more than a hundred years ago.

The ornamental umbrellas were made of paper, but the makers are now manufacturing them with canopies of cotton, silk and satin with attractive floral designs.—*Tun Tun (Thazi)*



Daily teachers in eastern Shan State to get training

MONGPHYAT, 22 April—Teachers hired on a daily basis in Mongphyat Township in eastern Shan State will be offered a special training course from Tuesday for primary-school teachers.

At the course opening ceremony, representative of the People's Parliament U Sai Kyauk pledged assistance to the

education and regional development programmes.

Daw Thet Htar, district education officer, said: “The course is intended for the primary teachers hired on daily basis. So, these teachers are suggested to teach and take care of the children patiently and kindly in respective areas.”

Daw Khin Mya Than, headmistress of the township high school, explained rules and disciplines for the trainee teachers and curricula for the course.

The course will cover 13 subjects and last from 22 April to 22 May.

Sixty-eight teachers will join it.

Wai Yan Linn

Thailand big winner in Chinese tourism as Singapore and Malaysia drop

BEIJING, 22 April—Thailand remains a popular destination among Chinese visitors, while visitors have dropped sharply in Malaysia and Singapore after a Shanghai tourist was kidnapped and the disappearance of Malaysia Airlines flight MH370 with many Chinese tourists aboard, officials said today.

Last year, Thailand received 128,437 Chinese visitors for meeting, incentive, conference and exhibition (MICE) events, with total expenditures of 2.2 billion yuan (US\$353 million), said Nopparat Maythavekulchai, president of Thailand's Convention and Exhibition Bureau.

The number was

nearly double than that of 2012.

Apart from tourists, most of the visitors went to Thailand for conference meetings of Chinese companies, international conferences and exhibitions, according to the bureau.

The blockbuster Chinese movie "Lost in Thailand" helped boost the

number of Chinese travelers to the southeast Asian country starting last year.

Part of the comedy was filmed on location in Chiang Mai in northern Thailand. According to a local tourism official, Chinese tourists spend an average of 3,750 baht (US\$125) each in Chiang Mai per day.—Xinhua



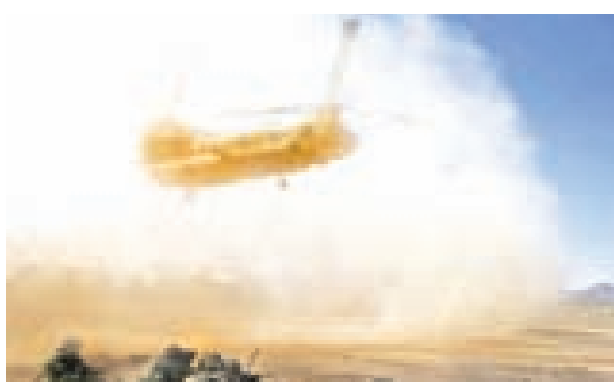
Chen Renyuan is seen at his library in Sanlian Village of Yangzizhou Township in Nanchang, capital of east China's Jiangxi Province, on 22 April, 2014. Chen Renyuan, 91, an ordinary retired worker, has kept collecting books since 1981. By now, the elder reader has collected more than 10,000 books. He has opened a library to lend his books to local villagers for free.

XINHUA

US force in Afghanistan may be cut to less than 10,000 troops

WASHINGTON, 22 April — The number of US troops in Afghanistan may drop well below 10,000 — the minimum demanded by the US military to train Afghan forces — as the longest war in American history winds down, Obama administration officials briefed on the matter say. Since Afghanistan's general election on 5 April, White House, State Department and Pentagon officials have resumed discussions on how many American troops should remain after the current US-led coalition ends its mission this year.

The decision to consider a small force, possibly less than 5,000 US troops, reflects a belief among White House officials that Afghan security forces have evolved into a robust enough force to contain



US Army soldiers with the 10th Mountain Division prepare to board a CH-47 Chinook troop transport helicopter after completing their mission at Forward Operating Base Muqar in this US Army picture taken on 14 March, 2014.—REUTERS

a still-potent Taliban-led insurgency. The small US force that would remain could focus on counter-terrorism or training operations.

That belief, the officials say, is based partly on Afghanistan's surprisingly smooth election, which has

won international praise for its high turnout, estimated at 60 percent of 12 million eligible voters, and the failure of Taliban militants to stage high-profile attacks that day. The Obama administration has been looking at options for a possible residual US force for months.

"The discussion is very much alive," said one US official who asked not to be identified. "They're looking for additional options under 10,000" troops.

There are now about 33,000 US troops in Afghanistan, down from 100,000 in 2011, when troop numbers peaked a decade into a conflict originally intended to deny al Qaeda sanctuary in Afghanistan after the 11 September, 2001, attacks.

With British and other foreign troops scheduled to depart in lock step with US soldiers, the size of any residual US force could add fuel to a debate in Washington over whether Taliban-led violence will intensify amid the vacuum left by Western forces, as some US military officials expect.

Reuters

UN says two kidnapped workers recovered in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, 22 April — The UN Children Fund (UNICEF) on Monday confirmed that two of its national staff members, who were abducted on Thursday evening, in the Pakistani port city of Karachi, have been recovered.

The two went missing on the evening of 17 April and the police had been alerted when no contact with the staff members was possible, UNICEF said in a statement issued in Islamabad. "They have now been recovered. They are safe and well," the statement said.

The police led the investigation, in close contact with UNICEF and the staff members' families.

"Our colleagues are safe and well, and are being supported by UNICEF's Karachi office, and hope to be afforded privacy as they recover from their ordeal. The whole UN family in Pakistan welcomes their safe return."

Police in Karachi said Monday they recovered the kidnapped UN workers from Pipri area in Karachi in a raid on a building where they had been held hostage.

The UN personnel, Farrukh Saleem and Sami Nawaz were kidnapped by armed men from Gulshan-e-Maimar area when they had gone to a public park.

Xinhua

China pledges to promote Venezuela partnership to new level

CARACAS, 22 April—Visiting Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi pledged here Monday to promote the strategic partnership of common development between the two countries to a new level. Wang made the remarks while meeting separately with Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro and Venezuelan Foreign Minister Elias Jaua during the second stop of his Latin America tour, following a visit to Cuba.

Hailing the sound development momentum of China-Venezuela relations in the past decades, Wang said the two sides had consolidated political trust in each other, and boosted practical cooperation. On the occasion of the 40th anniversary of establishing diplomatic ties, China was willing to

work with Venezuela to implement the consensus on deepening the bilateral relationship, reached between Chinese President Xi Jinping and Venezuelan President Maduro, and promote their strategic partnership of common development to a new level, Wang said. Wang also voiced China's support for Venezuela in exploring its own development path and seeking political dialogue to end differences among all parties.

Both sides were ready to carry on the traditional friendship and promote high-level exchanges between each other, Wang said, adding they agreed to enhance collaboration on education, infrastructure, energy, finance and people-to-people exchanges.

Wang also said the

China-Latin America forum would be launched this year, with the aim of enhancing cooperation with Latin American countries.

Maduro hailed the fruitful results of the strategic partnership, and expressed his willingness to promote the friendship endorsed by former Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez and Chinese leaders.

He said Venezuela would work with China to push forward the bilateral relationship and ties between China and Latin American countries. Jaua expressed his gratitude to China for supporting its safeguarding of peace and stability in the country and said Venezuela was willing to work with China to seek common interests for peoples in both countries.—Xinhua

Death toll in Washington state mudslide rises to 41

WASHINGTON, 22 April — The official death toll from a mudslide that devastated a neighbourhood in the Cascade foothills of Washington state last month rose to 41 on Monday, after search teams pulled two more bodies from the mud and rubble, county officials said.

A rain-soaked hillside collapsed above the north fork of the Stillaguamish River on 22 March, unleashing a torrent of mud that clogged the river, swallowed up a stretch of a state highway and crushed some three dozen homes on the outskirts of the tiny community of Oso, 55 miles (89 km) northeast of Seattle. Among the 41 confirmed dead, 39 have been positively identified, Snohomish County officials



Rescuers walk out of a debris pile left by a mudslide in Oso, Washington, on 4 April, 2014. —REUTERS

said in a statement. A handful of people remain listed as missing.

Of the dead who have been identified, 22 are male and 17 female. They range in age from 4-month-old Sanoah Huestis, who died with her grandmother, to 91-year-old Bonnie Gullikson, whose husband was

among those who escaped the disaster with injuries.

All the victims died of multiple blunt force injuries, according to the Snohomish County Medical Examiner's Office.

Rescue teams have found no signs of life in the mud pile since the day of the disaster.—Reuters

WORLD

“No response” as Korea ferry crew asked for orders to abandon ship

SEOUL/MOKPO, 22 April — The crew of a South Korean ferry that sank with hundreds of people on board repeatedly asked officers on the bridge whether or not to give the order to abandon ship, but there was no response, a crew member has said.

The *Sewol* ferry sank last Wednesday on a routine trip south from the port of Incheon to the sub-tropical holiday island of Jeju. The death toll stood at 104 on Tuesday, media reported. Of the 476 passengers and crew on board, 339 were children and teachers on a high school outing. Only 174 people have been rescued and the remainder are all presumed to have drowned.

The captain of the ship, Lee Joon-seok, 69, and other crew members have been arrested on negligence charges. Lee was also charged with undertaking an “excessive change of course without slowing down”.

Several crew members, including the captain, left the ferry as it was sinking before many of the passengers, witnesses have



Maritime police search for missing passengers in front of the South Korean ferry “Sewol” which sank at the sea off Jindo on 16 April, 2014.—REUTERS

said, after passengers were told to stay in their cabins. President Park Geun-hye said on Monday that instruction was tantamount to an “act of murder”.

Public broadcaster KBS, quoting transcripts of

the conversation between the crew and sea traffic control, the Jindo Vessel Traffic Services Centre, said the passengers were told repeatedly to stay put.

“Stay where you are. Don’t move. If you move,

it will be more dangerous,” the passengers were told.

For half an hour, the crew on the third deck kept asking the bridge by walkie-talkie whether or not they should make the order to abandon ship, KBS said.

No one answered.

“At the time, we could not confirm what the situation was on the bridge,” KBS quoted a crew member as saying.

“We kept trying to find out but ... since there

was no instruction coming from the bridge, the crew on the third floor followed the instructions on the manual and kept making ‘stay where you are’ announcements. At least three times.” Many of the children did not question their elders, as is customary in hierarchical Korean society. They paid for their obedience with their lives.

It was one of the children who first raised the alarm, a fire station officer told *Reuters*. That call was followed by about 20 others, all from children, and transferred to the coast-guard.

Lee was not on the bridge when the ship turned. Navigation was in the hands of a 26-year old third mate who was in charge for the first time on that part of the journey, according to crew members.

Lee, seen on television with his head lowered and covered, told reporters soon after the sinking he feared passengers would be swept away by the ferocious currents if they abandoned ship. He has not explained why he left the vessel.—*Reuters*

Japan finance minister expects stronger Japan-US alliance through summit

TOKYO, 22 April — Japanese Finance Minister Taro Aso said on Tuesday that he expects Japan and the United States will strengthen their alliance through this week’s summit meeting.

“I expect the most that the Japan-US alliance will be strengthened through the summit meeting in

order to further promote peace and prosperity in the Asia-Pacific region,” Aso told reporters after a cabinet meeting.

US President Barack Obama is scheduled to visit Tokyo from Wednesday through Friday to hold a summit meeting with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe.—*Reuters*



Japan’s Finance Minister Taro Aso arrives for the start of the G20 ministerial meetings, during the IMF/World Bank’s 2014 Spring Meetings in Washington on 11 April, 2014.—REUTERS



A ship carrying a cargo of high-level radioactive waste produced through reprocessing of spent Japanese nuclear fuel in Britain arrives at Mutsu Ogawara port in Rokkasho, Aomori Prefecture, northeastern Japan, for storage on 22 April, 2014. KYODO NEWS

Taleban negotiator released in UAE, returns to Kabul-peace body

KABUL, 22 April—A top Afghan peace negotiator held under house arrest in the United Arab Emirates has been released and returned to Kabul, an Afghan peace council official said on Monday, seemingly closing the door on a peace track favoured by President Hamid Karzai.

Agha Jan Mutassim, a finance minister during Taleban rule from 1996-2001, was confined to his home in the UAE after

arranging a meeting in Dubai between Afghan and Taleban officials in February. Afghan and Western officials had seen Mutassim as an influential figure, capable of luring senior members of the Taleban to the peace process.

Mohammad Ismail Qasimyar, a member of the state-backed High Peace Council meant to facilitate talks between the government and the Taleban, confirmed Mutassim’s release

but provided no further details. It was not immediately clear why he was put under house arrest, or who was behind his detention.

Once a close aide to the Taleban’s leader, Mullah Mohammad Omar, Mutassim had brought 16-high ranking former and current Taleban figures and Afghan peace negotiators together for talks in Dubai at the start of the year, Afghan officials told *Reuters*.

The Taleban central

leadership council, however, disavowed his peace overtures and said he did not represent the movement.

For years, the Taleban’s leadership, believed to be based in Pakistan, has refused to negotiate directly with the government of Karzai. The Taleban says he is an illegitimate leader installed by United States.

Karzai steps down as president this year after 12 years in power.—*Reuters*

Maldives makes pensions optional for 100,000 expats

COLOMBO, 22 April — Maldives parliament has passed legislation that makes it optional for employers to provide retirement funds for an estimated 100,000 expatriate workers, reports said on Tuesday.

The amendment was passed by a vote of 37 members, whilst seven members of parliament (MPs) had voted against it, local media reported.

There are an estimated 100,000 expatriates working in the Maldives.

According to the Pension Act, just like local employees, expatriate workers will be receiving 6 percent from their employers with another 6 percent retained from their salaries for the pension scheme.

The difference would be that unlike local employees, expatriates can withdraw their pension funds when they are leaving the country. Foreign workers have to register with the Maldives government if they wish to avail themselves of the pension scheme.—Xinhua

Xinjiang police seize 400 imitation guns, 230,000 bullets

URUMQI, 22 April — Police authorities in Urumqi, capital of northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, have seized more than 400 imitation guns and 230,000 bullets.

Tang Liang, a spokesman with the Sayibak district bureau of public security in Urumqi, on Tuesday revealed the seizure was made in a bust after a campaign against guns and explosives was launched on 10 April.

Police seized 46 replica guns and 230,000 bullets from a store at a wholesale market for toys and then seized more than 350 guns from the store's warehouse.

The store owner, surnamed Song, has been detained suspected of illegal trading in firearms.

The imitation guns, sold at prices ranging from 200 yuan to 3,000 yuan (480 US dollars), can be loaded with bullets and look like real guns, Tang said.—Xinhua



US President Barack Obama (C) participates in an egg roll race during the White House Easter Egg Roll on the South Lawn of the White House in Washington DC, capital of the United States, on 21 April, 2014. People attended the event Monday featuring live music, sports courts, cooking stations, storytelling and Easter egg rolling.—XINHUA

US says will act 'in days' if no Russian action in Ukraine

WASHINGTON, 22 April — The United States' government said on Monday it will decide "in days" on additional sanctions if Russia does not take steps to implement an agreement to ease tensions in Ukraine reached in Geneva last week.

The steps include publicly calling on pro-Russian separatists in eastern Ukraine to vacate occupied buildings and checkpoints, accept an amnesty and address their grievances politically, State Department spokeswoman Jen Psaki said.

"If they don't take steps in the coming days, there'll be consequences," she said at a Monday news briefing. "Obviously, we would have to make a decision in the matter of — in a matter of days — if there are going to be consequences for inaction."

Some US lawmakers have been clamouring for President Barack Obama's administration to impose stiff new sanctions on Russia's energy industry and major banks to encourage

President Vladimir Putin to withdraw troops from the Ukrainian border and discourage further Russian incursions into Ukrainian territory. "I think it's time to move on the next round of sanctions," Connecticut Senator Chris Murphy told Reuters on Monday, although he added that he backed giving Moscow two to three days to implement the Geneva agreement. "I think it is important to explore diplomatic solutions when they potentially become available," the Democratic chairman of the Senate's Europe subcommittee said in a telephone interview.

"The Russians were willing to sit down in Geneva for the first time across the table from their Ukrainian counterparts, I think that discussion was worthwhile. I don't think the jury is fully in on the Geneva agreement," he said. Some members of Congress have made it clear they do not believe sanctions already in place — such as travel restrictions on individuals announced by the

Obama administration — will stop Moscow. "I think we're going to lose eastern Ukraine if we continue as we are," US Senator Bob Corker, the top Republican on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, said on NBC television's "Meet the Press" on Sunday.

Washington and Moscow each put the onus on the other to ensure tensions are eased in the worst confrontation between Russia and the West since the Cold War.

"If there's not progress, we remain prepared, along with our European and G-7 partners, to impose additional costs. So there'll need to be decisions made in a matter of days," Psaki said.

In a telephone call on Monday, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov asked US Secretary of State John Kerry to "influence Kiev, not let hotheads there provoke a bloody conflict, and impel the current Ukrainian leadership to fulfil its obligations unflaggingly," Russia's Foreign Ministry said.—Reuters

Explosion kills six at China firework plant

JINAN, 22 April — An explosion at a firework plant in east China's Shandong Province left six people dead and two others seriously injured on Tuesday, the local government said.

The blast went off at around 8:50 am at Dongfang Firework Factory in Wendeng District of Weihai, the city government's press office said in a statement.

It did not identify the victims.

The cause of the explosion is under investigation.

Xinhua



The head and propellor of a crashed plane is seen in the woods near the Jamijarvi airport in southern Finland, 21 April, 2014. A small passenger plane carrying 10 parachuters crashed on Sunday in the Satakunta region, Southwest Finland, causing eight dead. The pilot and two parachuters survived by ejecting from the aircraft before it crashed, and eight others were found dead around the wreckage.

XINHUA

One killed, 24 injured in Afghan bomb attacks

KABUL, 22 April — One official was killed while 24 persons were wounded in two bomb attacks in Afghanistan on Tuesday, sources said.

In one attack, 18 civilians were wounded when a bomb went off in Charikar city, the provincial capital of eastern Parwan Province. The blast occurred at around 9:30 am local time Tuesday in the city 55 km north of Kabul, a provincial health official told Xinhua.

Four injured were in critical condition, the source added.

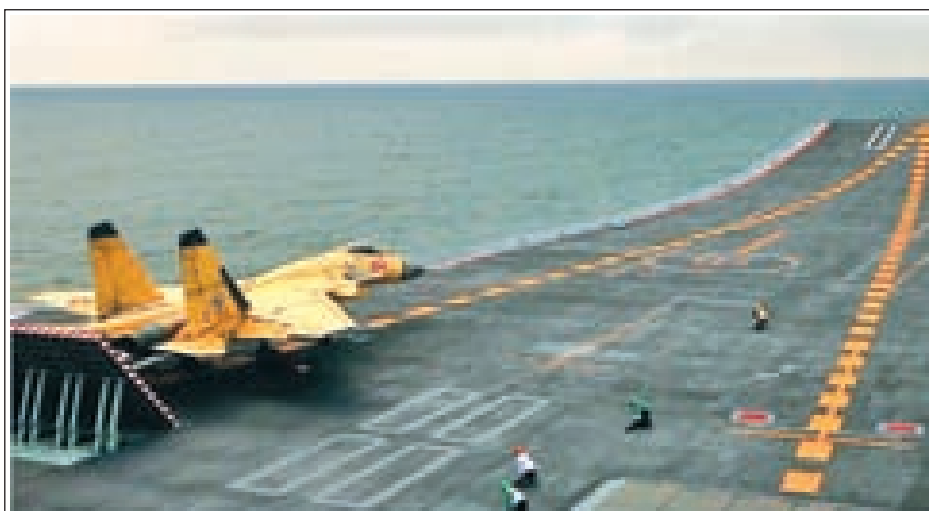
In a roadside bomb attack, a senior administrative official was killed and six civilians were wounded in eastern Nangarhar Province, the latest in a string of targeted killing. "The Administrative Rights director of Qarghahi district of eastern Laghman Province Mohmood Qurashi was killed in a bomb

attack while six civilians were wounded in the blast which took place in Sarrah Road district of neighboring Nangarhar Province on Tuesday morning," the Nangarhar provincial government spokesman told Xinhua.

The Taliban insurgent group fighting the government has intensified attacks in spring and summer known as the fighting season in the war-torn country.

The civilians perceived to be supporting government, civilian government employees, religious leaders, tribal elders and persons involved in peace and reconciliation efforts came under attack in targeted killings.

More than 2,900 civilians were killed and nearly 5,700 wounded in conflicts and Taliban-led attacks in the war-torn country last year, according to official figures.—Xinhua



China releases official training video of F15 fighter jets.—XINHUA

HEALTH & BUSINESS

Netflix plans price raise as streaming subscribers grow

LOS ANGELES, 22 April — Video streaming service Netflix Inc said it intends to raise its subscription price for new customers by \$1 or \$2 a month to help the company buy more movies and TV shows and improve service for its 48 million global subscribers.

Investors welcomed the announcement on Monday by Netflix, which had suffered from a consumer exodus and stock plunge after it announced an unpopular price increase in July 2011. The company's shares jumped 6.7 percent in after-hours trading to \$371.97,

after the company released plans for price hikes and posted a rise in first-quarter profit that beat Wall Street expectations.

Chief Executive Reed Hastings said Netflix had improved its selection of TV shows and movies and added original series like critically acclaimed Kevin Spacey thriller "House of Cards."

With added revenue from higher prices, "we will be able to license much more content and deliver it in very high quality video," Hastings said on a webcast.

The company, in a

quarterly letter to shareholders, said it plans to impose "a one or two dollar increase, depending on the country, later this quarter for new members only."

Subscription fees will rise in each of the 41 countries where Netflix operates, Hastings said in an interview. Existing customers will keep their current price for one to two years, he said.

Netflix has "room to raise prices," FBN Securities analyst Shebly Seyrafi said, because "they're still seeing a lot of demand" for the service. The company said in its earnings report it added

2.25 million customers to its US streaming business during the quarter that ended in March, in line with the company's earlier guidance, for a total of 35.7 million. In international markets, its customer base reached 12.7 million, a gain of 1.8 million during the quarter.

Net income for the quarter reached \$53 million, an increase from \$3 million a year earlier. Earnings-per-share came in at 86 cents, topping the average forecast of 83 cents, according to analysts surveyed by Thomson Reuters I/B/E/S.

During the quarter, it



The Netflix logo is shown on an iPad in Encinitas, California, on 19 April, 2013. — REUTERS

released the second season of critically acclaimed Kevin Spacey drama "House of Cards." Netflix is investing in original series, such as "House of Cards" and "Orange Is the New Black" to

attract and keep subscribers. It faces competition from online video players like Amazon.com Inc and Hulu, as well as on-demand content from cable operators.

Reuters



Researchers identify why alcoholism causes muscle weakness

WASHINGTON, 22 April — US researchers said on Monday that muscle weakness from long-term alcoholism may be due to an inability of mitochondria, the powerhouses of cells, to self-repair.

In research conducted with rats, the researchers found evidence that chronic heavy alcohol use affects a protein involved in mitochondrial repair and muscle regeneration.

"The finding gives insight into why chronic heavy drinking often saps muscle strength and it could also lead to new targets for medication development," George Koob, director of the US National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism that funded the

study, said in a statement.

Mitochondria are cellular structures that generate most of the energy needed by cells. When mitochondria become damaged, they can repair themselves through a process called mitochondrial fusion — joining with other mitochondria and exchanging material such as DNA.

While fusion is a well-known method for mitochondrial self-repair in many other tissues, most researchers assumed that the repair mechanism is unlikely to occur in skeletal muscle, which relies constantly on mitochondria for power. The reason is that mitochondria are squeezed so tightly in between the packed fibers of the skeletal muscle cells that they have little opportunity to interact.

To investigate whether mitochondria in the muscle could indeed fuse to regenerate, researchers from the Thomas Jefferson University created a system to tag the mitochondria in skeletal muscle of rats with two different colours and then watch if they mingled. The study showed for the first time that the mitochondrial fusion does occur in the skeletal muscle cells, the researchers said. They were also able to identify a key protein called mitofusin 1 (Mfn1) fusion proteins in the process and show that alcoholism interferes with the process.

Xinhua

False-positive mammograms have limited effect on anxiety

NEW YORK, 22 April — Women whose mammograms suggest possible breast cancer that is eventually ruled out experience slightly increased anxiety, but that doesn't necessarily affect their overall health, according to a new study.

What's more, the increased anxiety appears to dissipate within a year, write the researchers in *JAMA Internal Medicine*.

"We provide one more piece of evidence that women need to be well informed of the outcome of

screenings," Anna Tosteson told *Reuters Health*. "Especially women 40 to 49 (years old) need to think about how they would feel about having a false-positive mammogram."

Tosteson is the study's lead author from the Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth College in Lebanon, New Hampshire.

False-positives occur when the results of a mammogram suggest possible breast cancer, when in reality no cancer exists. Typically the initial positive test

is followed by additional screenings or a more invasive biopsy to look for cancer.

There is about a 61 percent chance that a woman who undergoes yearly mammograms over a decade will have a false-positive during that time, according to Dr. Kurt Kroenke, who wrote an editorial accompanying the new study.

Kroenke is from the Regenstrief Institute, Inc, a nonprofit healthcare research organization in Indianapolis. —Xinhua

Childhood bullying could lead to depression in adulthood

LONDON, 22 April — The negative effects of childhood bullying could last even longer than previously thought, with victims having higher risk in depression, ill-health and even joblessness in their middle age, according to a British research published on Friday.

A previous study covering around 1,400 participants revealed that, children bullying had a series of negative impacts on people's mental health, employment and social relationships, which could

last as long as 15 years.

However, in the new study, researchers from Kings College London concluded that the negative social, physical and mental health effects of childhood bullying are still evident up to 40 years later in their middle age.

Looking at data of nearly 7,771 British children born in 1958, researchers revealed that those who had suffered bullying when they were aged 7 and 11 were still more likely to suffer from a range of health and social

problems, even up to the age 50.

Those who were bullied in childhood usually have poorer mental health and cognitive functioning at 50, and those frequently bullied were nearly twice as likely to be suffering from depression and an increased risk of anxiety disorders and developing suicidal thoughts.

They were also more likely to have lower educational levels, and men who were bullied were more likely to be jobless and earn less. —Xinhua

Italy's UniCredit, Intesa to set up bad loans vehicle with KKR

MILAN, 22 April — Italy's two largest banks, UniCredit (CRDI.MI) and Intesa Sanpaolo (ISP.MI), are teaming up with US private equity firm Kohlberg Kravis Roberts KOHLB.UL to pool some of their bad loans into a vehicle that will

provide fresh capital for the struggling companies, the *Financial Times* reported.

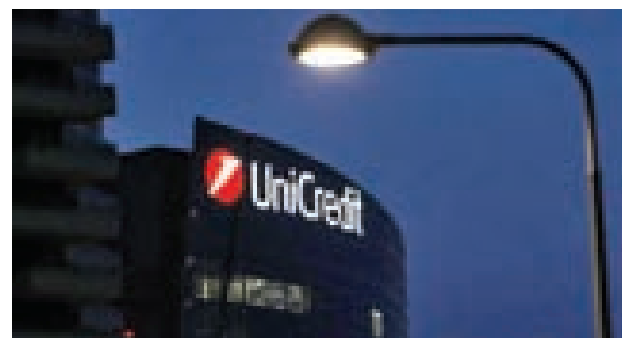
The preliminary agreement, which also involves restructuring adviser Alvarez & Marsal, will be announced on Tuesday, the paper said on its website on

Monday. The announcement is likely to say the four companies have signed a memorandum of understanding but are still working out many details, *FT* said.

The vehicle could house several billion euros of loans, the paper said.

The two Italian banks are considering how much *FT* reported. KKR declined to comment on the article.

UniCredit, Intesa, and Alvarez & Marsal could not immediately be reached for comment outside regular working hours. —Reuters



UniCredit Bank headquarters is pictured in Milan on 11 March, 2014. —REUTERS

PERSPECTIVES

Wednesday, 23 April, 2014

Income inequality impacts economic growth

By Aung Khin

Income inequality is a major issue in Myanmar, and according to an Oxfam report from January 2014, the 85 wealthiest individuals in the world have a combined wealth equal to that of the bottom 50% of the world's population, or about 3.5 billion people.

Whether or not an individual has access to education is the most crucial factor and will ultimately decide the future income of a person.

Income inequality leads to health and social problems and is counter productive for economic growth.

High and persistent unemployment is also a cause for the rise in inequality. It has a negative impact on subsequent long-run economic growth because it is a waste of human resources.

Evidence from a range of studies suggests that there is indeed a correlation between income inequality and health and social problems.

Income inequality creates a hierarchy that increases competition and causes stress, resulting in poor health and other problems.

Some research suggests that those in lower socio-economic groups in more equal countries do better than those in lower socio-economic groups in more unequal countries.

According to reports, the income gap between the poorest and richest 10% was 21-fold in

Thailand.

In India, the income gap between the prime minister and the people's average income is 2,000-fold. In the Philippines, it is 600-fold. In Thailand it is 9,000-fold.

Massive income inequality could lead to fertile ground for violent conflict when this inequality overlaps with differences in ethnicity, race, and class.

Therefore, the role of middle-income citizens is needed to promote for narrowing the gap of income inequality.

Write for us

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

Pegu, an urban and commercial centre in Mon-Myanmar Kingdoms Part-II

A fuller account of Pegu as a prosperous sprawling city with a mighty ruler with a liberal heart was given by Ludovico Varthema, a jeweler from Bologna, Italy who came to Pegu in 1503-4 in the reign of King Bin-Ya-Ran. He brought with him corals and emeralds to sell in Pegu Market where he expected to get goods price. He speaks of Pegu and the King thus:

"The city is on the mainland and is near to the sea on the left hand of this, that is towards the East, there is a very beautiful rivers by which many ships go and come. This city is walled and has good houses and palaces built of stones and lime." "The King is extremely powerful in men, both foot and horse and has with him more than a thousand Christians [Portuguese mercenaries?] And he gives to each for pay, six golden pardai per month and his expenses."

".... he (The King) is so humane and domestic that an infant might speak to him. And he wears more rubies on him than the value of a very large city, and he wears them on all his toes. And on his legs he wears certain great rings of gold, all full of the most beautiful rubies, also on arms, and his fingers are full. His ears hang down half a palm, through the great weight of the many jewels he wore there so that seeing the person of the King by a light at night, he shines so much that he appears to be a sun."

After the presentation of gifts Varthema brought for the king, the king ordered his men to bring in a large gold gem box. The king opened it to show different sizes and kinds of rubies in six separate divisions of the box, and told Varthema and party to take what they liked.

The visitors were so awestruck by such an unexpected liberal offer that they dared

not move. Where upon the King took a good handful of rubies from each of the divisions of the box and gave them to Varthema. "The value was estimated at 100,000 ducats" remarked Varthema. "Wherefore by this he may be considered to be the most liberal king in the world."

Pegu of Bin-Ya-Ran's Time was a prosperous commercial center. Varthema estimated that "every year the king has an income of about one million in gold ..." The major source of revenue came from local and oversea trade and export of mineral products such as rubies and other precious stones brought from Upper Myanmar, forecast products such as teak, lac, musk, ivory and medicinal herbs and manufactured goods like pots and glazed jars locally made and locally produced salt. Pegu salt was noted for its quality. Martaban lac, and Martaban jars, the two favourite merchandizes, much talked about and much sought often by the then oversea marchants were not the products of Martaban, but of Pegu. Forests covering the Pegu Yoma hill range produced lac a sealing wax naturally produced by certain kind of insects colonizing the branches of sweet fruit trees. Glazed jars and pots were made in town and villages around Pegu. There was a satellite town called La-gun-bye, a few miles south-west of Pegu which was the centre of pottery and glazed jar industry. You can still see some kilns there which were archaeologically excavated two decades ago. Because there two commodities lac and glazed jars were transported by natural water ways through creeks and rivers to Martaban Port from where they were loaded on board the foreign galleons, they came to bear the name

"Martaban", a sort of a brand name for European consumers. Lac was used for dyeing, sealing and blocking holes in the ships. And glazed jars of enormous size were used for storing wine, drinking water and foodstuff during long sea voyages. Some Galleons used them for human trafficking—pretty young girls were hidden in these big jars to smuggle out. Mon-Myanmar kings ordered their customs officers to check by opening up every Martaban jars on board before the galleon left to sail.

The 16th century was the century of Portuguese ascendancy in Asia. While adventure, piracy, and slave raid were the pastimes or occupation of the lawless "Feringhees" as the Portuguese were called in those days, trade, mercenary service, and propagation of Christianity were the reasons of the coming of civilized Portuguese to the kingdoms in Asia and South East Asia. Pegu and other seaports on the Myanmar coastline were well-known to them as centre of local trade and maritime commerce. Pegu which often played war game with its rival Innwa was a good market for Portuguese mercenaries to sell their fighting service. Martaban, a strategically located seaport town which like Singapore of today, Served as a distribution station for the commodities from Ayuthia [Thailand] Pegu, Malacca, Penang, Achin, Java, Borneo and China. All goods which were in great demand in European markets were available in Martaban. Therefore it was of vital interest to the Portuguese to gain a foothold in this seaport town. In 1511 A.D. Alfonso Albuquerque the Portuguese Viceroy of the East headquartered an embassy to Pegu. It was headed by Ruy Nunze d' Achunha. It was that same year that the

Portuguese besieged Malacca and in the ensuing battle between the Malacca people and the Portuguese invaders, 300 men from the retinues of Peguan merchants who were trading in Malacca took side with the Malaccas and gallantly fought to repulse the invaders. Myanmar history has a reference to this event. Though we do not know the purpose of this embassy, we may safely assume that to open diplomatic relation and to trade were the motives. In 1519 A.D. The Portuguese Governor of Malacca Diogo Lopes de Sequiera dispatched an embassy to Martaban. It was headed by Andrea Correa. He concluded a commercial treaty with the Lord of Martaban, who was a vassal of Peguan King. By this treaty the two parties agreed to open a Portuguese trading station in Martaban, to permit Portuguese ships to stop and anchors off the Martaban port and to all Portuguese to reside in Martaban.

The ceremony of signing the treaty took place with religious solemnity. Mon Buddhist monks and the Roman Catholic Priest were present on the occasion. Mon Buddhist monks sanctified the ceremony chanting Paritta [Protective Suttas of the Buddha]. To answer Buddhist solemnity, "Andrea Correa ordered the Catholic Priest to put on a surplice and bring his Breaviary which was so tattered and torn, that it was scandalous those Heathens should see how little respect was paid to our sacred books. Correa, observing this, ordered to be brought instead of it, a book of Church music which was more creditable, being bigger and better bound, and opening it the first verse he met was Vanity of Vanities. Thus passed among the people as if it had been the Gospel."

Maha Suddhamma Jotika dhaja
Sithu Dr. Khin Maung Nyunt

This Treaty remained in force till 1613 A.D. and the Portuguese trading station in Martaban flourished till its final close down in 1613 A.D.

Pegu of the first
Myanmar Kingdom in
Lower Myanmar

Pegu reached the height of its glory and greatness under King Bayint Naung, the founder of the second Myanmar Empire. He ruled for 30 years [1551-1581 A.D.] during which Pegu underwent changes in all aspects of a capital and commercial city. After successful unifying military campaigns he led throughout the country, and many battles he fought with gallantry and won resounding victories, Bayint Naung or [Bureng Naung or Branginoco or Phra Mintara as he was known to the Ayuthians, Linzinians, Portuguese and Italians of those days] consolidated the nation and extended his domains. Thirty years of his reign were full of activities—an outburst of human energy and resource—campaigns, wars, battles, constructions, renovations, administration, judicial reforms, promotion and patronisation of religion, art and architecture, town planning, road building, palace building, foreign relations, trade and commerce.

For this period of Pegu's history, we are fortunate because both Myanmar chronicles and Literature and foreign accounts have recorded quite extensively about Pegu or Hanthawaddy of his time. With the exception of minor discrepancies both sources agree in reporting the state of Pegu.

It is quite understandable why Baying Naung chose Pegu as his capital

rather than Taungoo which was the capital of his father-in-law King Min Kyi Nyo and his brother-in-law King Tabin Shwehti. Firstly Pegu had a large hinterland than Taungoo had and with more flat land for urbanization. Secondly Pegu being more closer to the sea, commanded a better commercially strategic position for oversea trade than Taungoo which was not a seaport town. Thirdly Pegu was the last stronghold of his arch enemy Smin Htaw Yama whom he defeated in a single combat on elephant. Pegu was Bayint Naung's "Zeya Bhami" [Auspicious ground of victory]. Fourthly, Bayint Naung was pursuing his predecessors' policy of assimilation of Mon and Myanmar cultures. Tabin Shwe Hti kept both Mon and Myanmar styles of hair knot, put on the Shwe Hmaw Daw Pagoda a double umbrellas of Mon and Myanmar. It was at this Pagoda that he held hair-knotting and ear-boring ceremonies. He held three coronations – at Taungoo, at Pegu and at Bagan. He adopted rituals and ceremonies of Mon Court. Bayint Naung not only made "Pegu his Capital but also rebuilt it and a new palace was built there.

To be continued.

Correction

Please read Notification No. 25/2014 instead of Notification No. 15/2014 in the first line of the news under the heading "Social Security Law 2012 comes into force on 1 April" in sixth column on page 8 of this daily issued on 2-4-2014.

NLM

LOCAL NEWS

Villagers of Magway Township to enjoy safe water in summer

MAGWAY, 22 April—A water tank is being constructed in Shazaungkan Village in Magway Township of Magway Region funded by Region Rural Development Department with the aim of enabling the locals to have access to potable water.

The 20 ft high tank is being constructed with the use of water-resistant hardwood. It is expected to cost more than K 1 million.

"The village faces a water problem in every

summer. In 2013, a social organization of Japan donated a 500 meter depth tube-well to solve the problem of the village, spending more than K 20 million on the construction. It produces fresh water," Village Administrator U Aung Than said.

"Skilled workers have already installed transformers and power grids to be able to supply water to households in the village in May," he added.

Magway Hla Myint

Kalay people pay respects to aged

KALAY, 22 April—As a meritorious deed in line with Myanmar traditions a respect-paying ceremony for the aged took place at the city hall in Kalay in northwest of Sagaing on Myanmar New Year Day.

U Maung Htoo, chairman of the Kalay District

Management Committee, explained the program paying respect to 170 elders.

Township officials presented cash and gifts to the elders and U Chit Hlaing gave words of thanks to the attendees on behalf of the elders.—*Ju Nine*



Rural people prepare to roof houses with 'In' leaves

THATON, 22 April—Villagers in Ananbin in Thaton Township in Mon State are using 'In' leaves from the village-owned forest to make new roofs and repair old ones on their homes and cattle sheds.

'In' trees are a species of hardwood.

Villagers also sell 'In' leaves to merchants for packaging of some goods as a polyethylene bag substitute and local people, who collect the leaves in village forests, can earn extra money from the activity, Daw Naw Phaw, a

Kayin national who lives in the village, said.

Low-income families often roof their houses with 'In' leaves, nipa palm and other forest products.

They can also sell the leaves at about K 9000 for 100 leaves, a slightly better price than the leaves garnered last year, according to one seller in Thaton.

Most of the villages in the states and regions have established village-owned forests as part of efforts for environmental conservation, as well as for extra income.—*Thet Oo (Thaton)*

Quality control keeps Myingyan slippers popular



MYINGYAN, 22 April—Slippers manufactured in Myingyan, one of the townships in the Mandalay Region, are famous in the market, mainly because the slipper-makers are taking care to ensure they produce only the best quality products, slipper-maker Ko Thet Khaing of Sunlun Ward in Myingyan said.

"In the time of our forefathers, slipper production has thrived in

Myingyan and now make the products with new designs and the best quality," he added. Slipper production in Myingyan emphasizes creation of various types of slippers for men, women and children to sell in major cities of the nation including Meiktila, Pyawbwe, Yamethin, Tatkon, Nay Pyi Taw, Kyaukse, Mandalay, Kyaukpadaung and Taunggyi.

Chan Tha (Meiktila)

Alaungdaw Kathapa Cave will be closed to pilgrimages for the rainy season

YINMABIN, 22 April—A venerable monk living on Powin Hill in Yinmabin Township in the Sagaing Region has said the pilgrimage period for the cave of Alaungdaw Kathapa will be closed as of 26 April to avoid accidents during the rainy season.

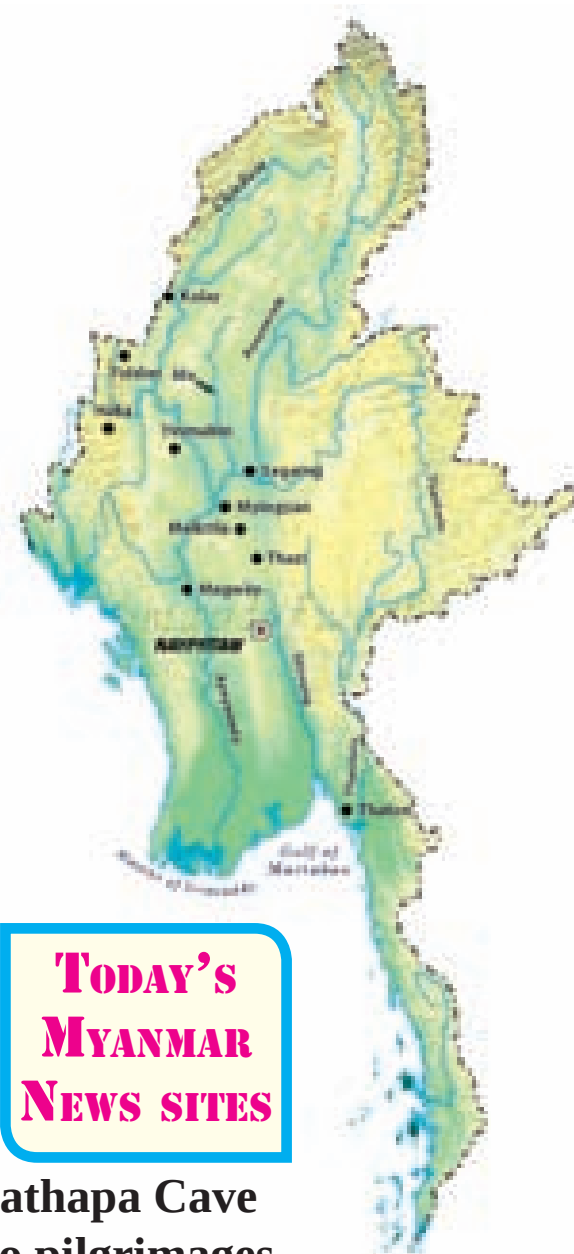
The authorities have also closed shops along the road to the cave popular with pilgrims since the Maha Thingyan Festival ended and rails along the road to the cave and the equipment in the cave have been uninstalled.

The monk said only after the equipment is replaced and the way to the cave again becomes safe should pilgrimages resume.

During the rainy season, the road in the forest leading to the cave becomes muddy and dangerous.

U Maung Maung Htay, secretary of the board of trustees for the cave, said, "We have asked the pilgrims not to visit to the cave in the rainy season and we have withdrawn security personnel from the cave and its road."

Myo Win Tun (Monywa)



**TODAY'S
MYANMAR
NEWS SITES**

Stipend recipients meet donors in Sagaing

SAGAING, 22 April—Shwe Zeyar, a Sagaing-based civil society organization offering stipends to students since 2000, organized a get-together for donors and stipend recipients at Htupayon Shwe Kyaung Dhammayon in Sagaing on Sunday.

U Zaw Win, secretary of the association, said stipend programs are set up with cash contributions of 25 or 50 kyats a day from each donor, with 31 students already graduated thanks to the scholarship.

The association admits 75 students for the stipend every three months, officials said.

A monthly stipend of K 40,000 is being given to each student attending the University of Medicine and Myanmar Maritime University. Those at other vocational universities and Sagaing University have been awarded stipends of K 30,000 and K 20,000 each.—*Nandar Min Lwin*

US says examining use of toxic chemical in Syria

WASHINGTON, 22 April — The United States has indications a toxic chemical, probably chlorine, was used in Syria this month and is examining whether the Syrian government was responsible, the US State Department said on Monday.

“We have indications of the use of a toxic industrial chemical” in the town of Kfar Zeita, State Department spokeswoman Jen Psaki said, referring to a rebel-held area.

“We are examining allegations that the government was responsible,” she told a regular news briefing. “Obviously there needs to be an investigation of what’s happened here.”

Syrian opposition activists reported that helicopters dropped chlorine gas on Kfar Zeita on 11 and 12 April. The US ambassador to the United Nations, Samantha Power, told ABC’s “This Week” on 13 April that the attack was



A woman, affected by what activists say was a gas attack, breathes through an oxygen mask inside a field hospital in Kfar Zeita village in the central province of Hama on 12 April, 2014.—REUTERS

“unsubstantiated.”

Psaki said chlorine was not one of the priority one or two chemicals Syria declared to the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons under a Russian-US agreement for

the destruction of Syria’s chemical weapons stockpile.

A UN inquiry found in December that sarin gas had likely been used in Jobar, on the outskirts of Damascus, in August and

in several other locations, including in the rebel-held Damascus suburb of Ghouta, where hundreds of people were killed.

The Ghouta attack caused global outrage and a US threat of military

strikes that was dropped after President Bashar al-Assad pledged to destroy his chemical weapons arsenal.

The Syrian government failed to meet a 5 February deadline to move all of its declared chemical substances and precursors, some 1,300 tonnes, out of the country. It has since agreed to remove the weapons by late April.

Rebel activists posted photographs and video they said showed an improvised chlorine bomb to back up their claims about Kfar Zeita. The government accused rebels of using the chemical. Last week, opposition activists accused Assad’s forces of a new poison gas attack in the Syrian capital and posted footage of four men being treated by medics.

They said this chemical attack, the fourth the opposition has reported this month, was in the Harasta neighbourhood of Damascus.—Reuters

Blast kills four in NW Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, 22 April — At least four people were killed and 33 others injured when a bomb exploded near a police vehicle in Pakistan’s northwest Charsadda District on Tuesday morning, local media reported. Urdu TV channel Abb Takk reported that the bomb targeting the police vehicle exploded at about 7:40 am (local time) at Nowshera road of Charsadda, a district located in the country’s northwest Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. Police said that the explosion happened in a market due to which many people got injured.

The bomb was triggered off by a remote controlled device and the explosives were fixed in a motorbike parked at the road side. The bomb was detonated when the police vehicle carrying some 13 personnel passed near the motorbike. The injured people have been shifted to a nearby hospital where several of them are said to be in critical condition. No group has claimed responsibility for the attack yet.—Xinhua

Iran admits nuclear agency reshuffle to pave way for 5+1 talks

DUBAI, 22 April — President Hassan Rouhani’s government confirmed rumours on Monday it had reshuffled the leadership of Iran’s atomic agency to sideline nuclear experts opposed to talks on its atomic programme with the West.

Rouhani and his negotiators have been under intense pressure from Islamic

hardliners opposed to the talks with the United States and five other powers seeking greater transparency in the programme in return for an end to sanctions against Iran.

As the talks move toward a possible deal by late July, the hardliners, many of them hold-outs from the administration of former President Mahmoud

Ahmadinejad, have stepped up their campaign, accusing Rouhani of capitulating to the West on a question of national pride and revolutionary identity.

Among rumours circulating for weeks was the alleged expulsion of several nuclear scientists from Iran’s Atomic Energy Organisation in connection with the 5+1 talks.

After long evading the sensitive issue, a spokesman for the agency finally offered an answer on Monday.

“Only a limited number of people were concerned and they were neither scientists nor were they fired,” said Behruz Kamalvandi, a liaison between the nuclear agency and national parliament. His comments, made to radical Islamic students in a Teheran University, was carried by the official news agency IRNA.

“If a boss doesn’t have the authority to shuffle around a few among his 15,000-strong personnel, he shouldn’t be called a boss,” he added, accusing hardliners of exploiting the nuclear issue for “political gains and to win seats in parliament.”

“Why do you politicize the issue? Let’s stop nagging and avoid destroying each other so we can reach our goals on the international arena,” said Kamalvandi, charging that “some people are taking the lead from the supreme leader,” Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, on the nuclear issue.

Reuters

Japan, US not to announce broad agreement on TPP at summit



Wendy Cutler (L), acting deputy US trade representative, and Hiroshi Oe, deputy chief Japanese negotiator for the Trans-Pacific Partnership deal, shake hands before holding bilateral working-level talks at the Foreign Ministry in Tokyo on 22 April, 2014.—KYODO NEWS

TOKYO, 22 April — Japan and the United States are not expected to announce a broad bilateral agreement for a Pacific trade pact when the leaders from the two countries meet on Thursday in Tokyo, as they remain considerably apart over the issue of market access for agricultural products and automobiles.

Japanese trade chief Akira Amari on Tuesday signaled that bridging Japan-US gaps over the

remaining problems in their bilateral talks related to a so-called Trans-Pacific Partnership trade initiative would be difficult, although some had anticipated a broad agreement would be announced at a meeting between US President Barack Obama and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe.

“There is still a considerable distance” between the two sides, Amari said at a Press conference.

Kyodo News



Reuters and other foreign media are subject to Iranian restrictions on leaving the office to report, film or take pictures in Teheran.

REUTERS

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Facebook's new service to share location with friends



BEIJING, 22 April—Nearby Friends, a new service to be launched by Facebook, will allow users to tell their locations to Facebook friends with smart-phone GPS system, according to Dailymail.com.

This service would only show that users are nearby within half a mile, rather than sharing the exact location.

Besides, this service must be turned on by the users, rather than broadcasting their location unknowingly.

Certainly, users can manually share a more precise location with a specific friend they would like to meet up with. "Nearby Friends won't be available to users under 18," said Andrea Vaccari, a product manager at Facebook.

Xinhua

Three-million-year-old landscape found beneath Greenland ice sheet

BEIJING, 22 April—A three-million-year-old forested landscape was discovered beneath Greenland ice sheet, according to the Economic Times.com.

The ice sheet, like a giant freezer, has preserved the antique landscape, said Paul R Bierman from University of Vermont.

Understanding the past of Greenland's ice sheet is vital to developing a scientific understanding of ice sheet's future development, commented researchers.

The discovery is based on an analysis of the chemical composition of silts from the bottom of the ice sheet.

Xinhua

AT&T looks to expand high-speed fiber network to 21 cities

NEW YORK, 22 April—AT&T Inc said on Monday it expects to expand its ultra-fast fiber network and TV services to up to 21 US cities, including Chicago and Atlanta.

AT&T, which is fighting rivals such as Google Inc as well as cable companies with its fiber-based product, is considering providing broadband Internet speeds of up to 1 gigabit per second

and its U-verse television service in cities, including Chicago, Los Angeles and Miami. Before the company can enter these markets, it must make agreements with local leaders in each city.

The services are currently available in Austin, Texas and some surrounding communities, and will be rolled out in parts of Dallas this summer, the company said.

AT&T also said it may consider expanding its reach to 100 cities eventually.

Earlier this month, AT&T announced it was in discussions with North Carolina Next Generation Network to bring U-verse with high-speed internet to North Carolina. U-verse launched in 2006 and currently has 10.7 million combined Internet and TV customers.—Reuters



An AT&T sign is shown on a building in downtown San Diego, California on 18 March, 2014.—REUTERS

US judge dismisses case against Twitter alleging pre-IPO fraud

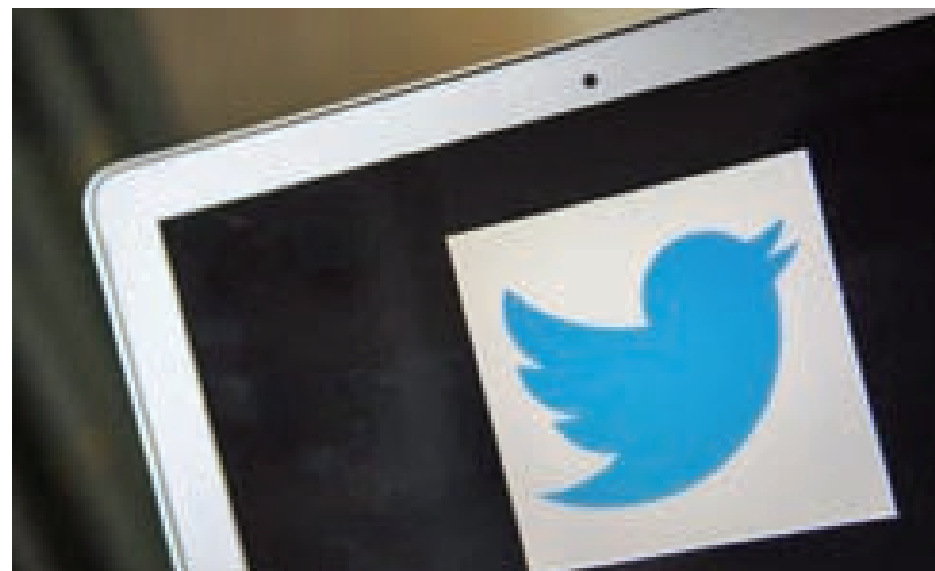
NEW YORK, 22 April—Twitter Inc has won the dismissal of an unusual lawsuit accusing the social media company of fraudulently arranging a private stock sale it never intended to complete, with a goal of stoking interest in its November 2013 initial public offering.

US District Judge Shira Scheindlin in Manhattan said Precedo Capital Group Inc and Continental Advisors SA failed to show that Twitter was responsible for the cancellation of a secondary market offering they had been arranging with another firm, GSV Asset Management Inc.

Filed one week before Twitter went public, the \$124 million lawsuit accused the company of using GSV as its agent to arrange the aborted offering as a means to raise more money in its eagerly awaited IPO and justify a \$10 billion market valuation.

Noting the plaintiffs dealt directly with GSV and never with Twitter, however, Scheindlin said the complaint "does not plausibly allege that Twitter granted GSV Asset express authority to act as its agent for any purpose."

"Moreover," she added,



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

"the complaint does not allege that Twitter secretly limited that authority contrary to the standard practice in the securities industry."

Scheindlin dismissed the case with prejudice, meaning it cannot be brought again. Joseph Baratta, a partner at Baratta, Baratta & Aidala representing the plaintiffs, did not immediately respond to requests for comment. Twitter did not immediately respond to similar requests. The San Francisco-based company has said the lawsuit lacked merit. The lawsuit claimed Twitter had been seeking to avoid repeating

problems that afflicted Facebook Inc's 2012 IPO, and sidestep the potential for an excess supply of its shares by controlling transactions in the private market.

Precedo, a broker dealer licensed in Arizona, and Continental, a Luxembourg financial adviser, claimed GSV offered to provide up to \$278 million of Twitter shares that they could market to other investors.

But they said that, after the marketing process began, Twitter caused GSV to cancel the offering on 5 October, 2013, upon learning that investors were willing to pay

\$19 per share, above the \$17 or less offered in other private transactions.

The firms said Twitter cost them fees and reputational damage and sought \$24.2 million of compensatory damages plus \$100 million of punitive damages. GSV was not a defendant. Twitter priced its IPO at \$26 per share on 6 November, 2013, then valuing the company at \$14.1 billion. Twitter shares were up \$1.10, or 2.4 percent, at \$46.11 in Monday afternoon trading on the New York Stock Exchange.

Reuters

Meteor lights up night sky in northern Russia

MOSCOW, 22 April—Russians with smartphones and dashboard cameras captured footage of a meteor that flashed across the night sky near the Arctic Circle over the weekend. There were no reports of damage but the ball of fire raised eyebrows after a meteorite crashed to Earth near the Russian city of Chelyabinsk in February 2013, shattering windows, damaging buildings and injuring more than 1,200 people.

Footage from a dashboard camera in a car on a snow-lined road in the Murmansk region, north of the Arctic Circle, showed a bright ball streaking diagonally toward Earth, pulsating twice and disappearing behind a building. The time was 2:14 a.m. on Sunday (2214 GMT on Saturday). Russia's TV Tsentr television said it was part of the annual Lyrid meteor shower and disintegrated before it could hit the ground.—Reuters



Local residents visit the Geological Museum of Nanjing, capital of east China's Jiangsu Province, on 20 April, 2014. The museum held a series of activities on Sunday to mark the upcoming 45th World Earth Day, which falls on 22 April.

XINHUA

Cyclone halts air search for Malaysian plane

PERTH, (Australia), 22 April — A tropical cyclone heading south over the Indian Ocean caused the air search for a missing Malaysian jetliner to be suspended on Tuesday, as a US submarine drone neared completion of its undersea search without any sign of wreckage.

The daily air and sea sorties have continued for a week since Australian authorities said they would end that component of the search for Malaysia Airlines Flight MH370, which disappeared on 8 March with 239 people on board.

But on Tuesday, hours after authorities said up to 10 military aircraft and 10 ships would join the day's search, they said the air search had been suspended because of poor weather as a result of Tropical Cyclone Jack. "It has been determined that the current weather conditions are resulting in heavy seas and poor visibility, and would make any air search activities ineffective and potentially hazardous," the Joint Agency Coordination Centre said in a statement.

The ships involved in the day's search about 1,600 kms (990 miles) northwest of the Australian city of Perth would continue with their planned activities, the centre added.

The setback occurred as the \$4 million US Navy submarine *Bluefin-21* was scheduled to complete its mission as soon as Wednesday with the search officials confirming the device is yet to find any sign of wreckage.

The authorities have turned up no conclusive evidence of the aircraft's ultimate location but believe sonar signals, or "pings", detected in the Indian Ocean search area several weeks ago may have emanated from the plane's "black box" recorder.

But after more than a week of daily sweeps of the largely unmapped stretch of ocean floor some 4.5 kms (2.8 miles) deep and 2,000 kms (1,200 miles) northwest of the Australian city of Perth, the drone is yet to produce any sign of wreckage, officials said on Tuesday.

On 18 April, the Perth-based Joint Agency



The Phoenix International Autonomous Underwater Vehicle (AUV) Artemis is craned over the side of Australian Defence Vessel Ocean Shield in the search for missing Malaysia Airlines Flight MH370 in the Southern Indian Ocean in his picture released by the Australian Defence Force on 20 April, 2014. — REUTERS

Coordination Centre told *Reuters* that the *Bluefin*'s search of the target area, a circle with a 10 km (6.2 mile) radius, would likely end in as little as five days.

As the remote controlled submarine was

expected to complete its ninth mission on Tuesday, four days after the coordination center gave the five-day timeframe, the center confirmed that it had covered about two thirds of its target search area and had

found "no contacts of interest".

The dawning prospect of the *Bluefin-21*, initially seen as the search's most promising aid, completing its mission without a trace of the missing aircraft has

authorities under pressure to determine which strategy to take next.

The daily search involving some two dozen nations is already shaping up to be the most expensive in aviation history.—*Reuters*

China provincial official expelled from CPC

BEIJING, 22 April — Guo Youming, former vice governor of central China's Hubei Province, has been expelled from the Communist Party of China (CPC) for "serious disciplinary violations." The decision was made by the CPC Central

Commission for Discipline Inspection (CCDI) and approved by the CPC Central Committee, the CCDI announced on Tuesday.

A CCDI investigation into Guo's suspected legal and disciplinary transgressions found that he took

advantage of his position to seek benefits for others, received "a huge amount" of money or gifts either by himself, his family members or other specific related persons, according to a CCDI statement. He is "morally corrupt,"

the statement said. Guo's suspected crime of taking bribes will be transferred to judicial authorities, it said.

Guo, a native of Hubei Province, was born in 1956. He was elected vice governor of the province in January 2013. — *Xinhua*

Wooden model for Taiho's statue



Photo shows sculptor Toshio Kamada unveiling a wooden model he has carved for a statue of the late sumo great Taiho (1940-2013), whose real name was Koki Naya, in the village of Ogata in Akita Prefecture, northeastern Japan, on 22 April, 2014. After being cast by Kamada, the bronze statue of Taiho, who held sumo's highest rank of yokozuna, is expected to be donated around August 2014 to Poronaysk on the Russian Far Eastern island of Sakhalin, Taiho's birthplace. — KYODO NEWS

2.24 mil take achievement exams at elementary, junior high schools

TOKYO, 22 April — About 2.24 million elementary school sixth graders and junior high school third graders in Japan sat for the national achievement examination on Tuesday.

When the results are known around August, the education ministry will allow them to be made available on a school-by-school and municipality-by-municipality basis for the first time since the national exams were resumed in 2007 after a 43-year suspension.

"We would like to explore what kind of method of publicizing (the results) will help boost academic capabilities," education minister Hakubun Shimomura said at a Press conference in Tokyo.—*Kyodo News*



Pupils take a national achievement examination at an elementary school in Tokyo on 22 April, 2014.

KYODO NEWS

S Korea activates task force to monitor possible N Korea nuke test

SEOUL, 22 April — South Korea has activated a special task force to monitor a possible fourth nuclear test by North Korea, after detecting signs it may take place "soon" at an underground test site, a Defence Ministry spokesman said on Tuesday.

"As of 9 am yesterday, joint chiefs of staff launched a task force on monitoring North Korea's nuclear test," Kim Min Seok told a Press briefing. "Our military has detected various signs at the Punggye-ri nuclear site in Kilju, North Hamgyong Province," Kim said.

Kyodo News

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

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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.

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Closing Date & Time - 23.5.2014(Friday)(12:30)Hour.

2. Tender documents are available at our office starting from 23.4.2014 during office hours and for further detail please contact: Deputy General Manager, Supply Department, Myanma Railways, Corner of Theinbya Street and Merchant Street, Botataung, Yangon. Phone:95-1-291985, 291994.

Philippine court orders arrest of PCG men involved in killing of Taiwanese fisherman

MANILA, 22 April — Philippine provincial court of Batanes has ordered the arrest of eight Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) personnel who face homicide charges for the fatal shooting of a Taiwanese fisherman in South China Sea in May last year. However, the court allowed the eight accused to each post 40,000 pesos (900 US dollars) bail for their liberty. "The undersigned presiding judge personally examined the records of the case and found the Certification of the Investigating Prosecutors finding probable

cause against the accused for the crime charged to have sufficient and factual legal basis," Judge Barona said in an order.

On 9 May, 2013, Philippine Coast Guard members shot dead 65-year-old Taiwanese fisherman Hung Shih-Cheng in a sea area some 180 nautical miles southeast of Erluanbi, the southernmost tip of China's Taiwan. After killing the fisherman, the Filipino ship continued to chase and fire in bursts at the Taiwanese vessel. After months of investigation, the Philippine

Department of Justice (DOJ) investigating panel found in a 79-page resolution last month probable cause to file charges in court against Commanding Officer Arnold Enriquez dela Cruz and seven others for the death of Hung Shih-cheng.

The DOJ dismissed the claim of the respondents that they were forced to fire at the Taiwanese fishing boat, and the claim of the respondents that they cannot be held criminally liable for the incident as they were merely performing their lawful duties.—Xinhua

UN mission condemns killings of civilians, foreigners in S Sudan

NAIROBI, 22 April — The UN mission in South Sudan on Monday condemned the targeted killings of civilians based on their ethnic origins and nationality in Bentiu. The UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) said the attacks took place in hospitals, mosques and churches, and a UN World Food Programme (WFP) compound.

Officer in Charge of UNMISS, Raisedon Zenenga said in a statement that

UNMISS Human Rights investigators have confirmed that when opposition forces captured Bentiu last week, they searched a number of places where hundreds of South Sudanese and foreign civilians had taken refuge and killed hundreds of the civilians after determining their ethnicity or nationality.

The attacks took place between 15 and 16 April when UNMISS extracted hundreds of civilians, some

injured, who had taken refuge in places throughout Bentiu and Rubkona.

The mission is currently protecting more than 12,000 civilians on its base, and some 60,000 others around the country.

Since the hostilities that erupted between the government and opposition forces last December, about 75,000 civilians have found refuge from violence in UN bases across the country.—Xinhua



People pose for photo during the annual Earth Day Parade in Vancouver, Canada, on 21 April, 2014. The Earth Day Parade was organized by a group of high school students who call themselves "Youth 4 Climate Justice Now" in order to bring government attention to the environmental issues and to do more to leave youth with a sustainable world to inherit.—XINHUA

Peruvian teenager killed, four missing in Amazon River boat accident

BOGOTA, 22 April — A Peruvian teenager died and four other tourists went missing on Monday after their boat capsized in the Amazon River, Colombia's *El Tiempo* newspaper reported. The Peruvian-flagged vessel carrying 20 people of various nationalities were travelling between the Peruvian cities of Iquitos and Santa Rosa. It capsized after bumping into a tree log along a Colombian stretch of the river.

The Colombian Navy rescued 15 tourists, who were from Russia, the United States, Chile, Peru, India and Colombia, and sent them to hospitals nearby, officials said. The Colombian and the Peruvian navies are jointly conducting a search and rescue operation to find the missing.—Xinhua

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Somali MP killed in Mogadishu, 2nd in 24 hours, says state media

MOGADISHU, 22 April — Unknown gunmen shot dead a Somali lawmaker on Tuesday in Mogadishu, capital of Somalia, who was the second Somali member of parliament (MP) killed in 24 hours, state media reported.

Lawmaker Abdelaziz

Isaq Mursal was shot dead by unknown gunmen near his home in Mogadishu, according to the report.

Mursal's death followed the killing of Isaq Mohamed Riino, member of the Somali federal parliament, in a bomb explosion on Monday.—Xinhua

HBO backs tech comedy 'Silicon Valley' for second season

LOS ANGELES, 22 April — HBO is renewing Mike Judge's send-up of the rarefied technology world "Silicon Valley" for a second season after three of the comedy's first eight episodes aired, the premium cable channel said on Monday.

The show, from the creator of MTV's "Beavis and Butt-head," about the travails of programmers launching a start-up has received praise from critics and Silicon Valley executives alike for its authentic portrayal of the quirky culture that few have dared to tackle for television.

The 30-minute show is in HBO's strong Sunday line-up along with medieval fantasy "Game of Thrones," which has been renewed for fifth and six seasons, and political satire "Veep" starring Emmy-winning Julia Louis-Dreyfus. HBO, owned by Time Warner Inc said on Monday it was also renewing "Veep" for a fourth season.

Season four of "Game of Thrones" kicked off on 6 April with an average of 6.6 million viewers, the largest HBO audience since the 2007 finale of mafia drama "The Sopranos." The debut of "Silicon Valley" on the same night drew an average of 2 million viewers and season three of "Veep" averaged 955,000. —Reuters



Britney Spears, David Lucado to marry in Hawaii

LOS ANGELES, 22 April — Singer Britney Spears and fiancé David Lucado have reportedly found their wedding destination. The couple recently enjoyed a vacation to Hawaii and sources say it was actually a recon mission for her planned June wedding, reports showbizspy.com.

"Britney took David and her two sons on a test run to Oahu to get everyone prepared for the wedding. They took a security team and scoped out the Aulani Disney Resort to see if it was private and posh enough for the ceremony," said a source. "She's planning something intimate and kid-friendly for late June," added the source. Recently, it was said that Lucado seems to dote on the star in public and disrespects the singer behind her back. Another source said: "David makes fun of Britney all the time. He says she's extremely boring and always crack jokes at her expense. Britney is head-over heels for David, but he's just using her for the high life."

PTI



Sources still suggest that David may just be using Britney to get a better life while she is madly in love with him.

Courtney Cox won't rush into marriage with boyfriend

LOS ANGELES, 22 April — Actress Courtney Cox and musician-boyfriend Johnny McDaid reportedly don't have plans to marry soon. The two, who were introduced by singer Ed Sheeran, recently moved in together in Malibu, California, reports contactmusic.com.

The former Friends star called off her 11 years of marriage to husband and actor David Arquette in 2010 but the divorce took place only last year.

Now the actress is quite serious about McDaid but isn't thinking about remarrying yet. "She is just being in love," said a source.

McDaid will be accompanying Cox to Tribeca Film Festival in New York, 24 April, where her debut film, Just Before I Go, which has been directed by her, will be screened for the first time. "His support means so much to her," said another source.

Asked if the pair will marry, their mutual friend and singer Sheeran said: "I wouldn't be surprised, but it's still early days. They certainly enjoy each other's company and feel very comfortable with each other."

PTI



Courtney

John made a terrible guffaw at the Oscars this year when he mispronounced singer Idina Menzel's name on stage—PTI



John Travolta to attend IIFA awards 2014

LOS ANGELES, 22 April — Hollywood star John Travolta, of Saturday Night Fever and Grease fame, will attend the 15th International Indian Film Academy (IIFA) weekend and awards in Tampa Bay, Florida starting on 23 April. He will also be honoured with the 'Most Popular All time International star in India' award.

The two-time Academy Award nominee and two-time Golden Globe winner's presence at IIFA is symbolic of the coming together of the two distinctive film industries — Hollywood and Bollywood, said a statement issued by the event's organizers on 21

April. Travolta will grace the extravaganza, which is making its US debut this year.

An iconic name in Hollywood, Travolta, 60, has seen stupendous success as an actor, singer and dancer. He has starred in hits like Pulp Fiction, Swordfish, Face Off, Broken Arrow and Ladder 49.

The green carpet for IIFA will roll out in Tampa Bay on 23 April and the culminating awards night will be held on 26 April. Actor Kevin Spacey will also attend the gala as part of a Master Class Panel, where he will share the stage with Bollywood star Vidya Balan.

PTI

Lindsay Lohan reveals miscarriage on finale of OWN series

LOS ANGELES, 22 April — Actress Lindsay Lohan has revealed she suffered a miscarriage during the filming of Oprah Winfrey's OWN network documentary series chronicling the former child star's life after rehab.

"No one knows this — and we can finish after this — but I had a miscarriage for those two weeks that I took off," the 27-year-old actress said in Sunday's finale of the "Lindsay" series, saying that was the explanation for her missing some of her filming commitments. "I couldn't move, I was sick. And mentally that messes with you," the red-haired actress said.

Lohan, once one of the most sought-after young actresses in Hollywood with roles including 1998's "The Parent Trap" and 2004's

"Mean Girls," has become better known for her legal troubles in recent years that included theft and reckless driving. She has been to rehab six times.

The "Lindsay" show is part of the actress' efforts to make a comeback, but it has sometimes cast Lohan in a negative light when she missed work commitments, even frustrating Winfrey, who confronted Lohan about rumors of her party lifestyle.

The premiere of the eight-part series delivered a ratings high for OWN with 693,000 viewers, and the show has nearly doubled the number of women watching in the 18-49 demographic that advertisers covet. OWN has yet to say if "Lindsay" will be renewed for a second season, but a spokesperson said "rumors that it was canceled are untrue." —Reuters



Actress Lindsay Lohan

GENERAL

U Maung Maung (Kalaw) @ Mohammad Omar (Age 72)

U Maung Maung (Kalaw) residing at No 246, Pansodan Street, Pinlon Tower, son of U San Tun & Daw Galia, husband of Ms Fawzia Khan, father of Yin Yin Naing, Thin Thin Naing (Kamar), Ne Win Naing (Yacoob) and Frahana, grandfather of two, passed away at Shwegonedaing Hospital at 8:30 pm on 13th April 2014 and buried at Yeway Muslim Cemetary on 14th April 2014. We would like to thank all the doctors, nurses and everyone who attended to him during his illness.

Bereaved family



Meb Keflezighi of the US runs to the finishing line during 2014 Boston marathon, in Boston, Massachusetts, the United States, on 21 April, 2014. Meb Keflezighi claimed the title of the men's division with 2 hours 8 minutes and 37 seconds.—XINHUA

Singapore, China's Guangdong enhance cooperation

SINGAPORE, 22 April—The trade and economic partnership between Singapore and China's Guangdong Province has been enhanced, as a representative office was set up here on Tuesday aimed at boosting cooperation in the Sino-Singapore Guangzhou Knowledge City project. Sino-Singapore Guangzhou Knowledge City, positioned as a model and catalyst of the economic upgrading and environmental enhancement of Guangdong Province in south China, is a huge joint venture project intended to set the trend for sustainable and knowledge-based cities.

It has a total site area of 123 square km. Half of them will be reserved as forest, while the remaining 60 square km of land is expected to be developed over the next 15 to 20 years. It aims at leading in creating innovations, new ventures and high-value products and services, and in building a sustainable, low-carbon city. The Sino-Singapore Guangzhou Knowledge City Investment and Development Co, Ltd, a 50-50 joint venture between Singapore and Guangdong, is the master developer of the Guangzhou Knowledge City.

The company unveiled here its first overseas

representative office on Tuesday. The office will focus on enhancing relations with collaboration partners, promoting investments into the Guangzhou Knowledge City, conducting research on relevant industries and exploring opportunities for collaboration, as well as coordinating event organization and official visits.

Chin Phei Chen, CEO of the joint venture, said the office is aimed at helping bring more international investors and partners into the Guangzhou Knowledge City. The Guangzhou Knowledge City "is ready to welcome its first batch of corporations by 2015," he added.—Xinhua

Pakistan test-fires short range nuclear-capable ballistic missile

ISLAMABAD, 22 April—Pakistan successfully test-fired a nuclear-capable ballistic missile on Tuesday, the military said.

Pakistan's Short Range Surface to Surface Ballistic Missile Hatf III (Ghaznavi) can carry nuclear and conventional warheads to a range of 290 km, an army statement said. "The successful launch concluded the Field Training Exercise of Strategic Missile Group of Army Strategic Forces Command," the statement from the Inter-Services Public Relations said.

The army said the successful test has been warmly appreciated by the president and prime minister of

Pakistan who congratulated the participating troops, scientists and engineers on their outstanding achievement. The missile can hit some areas in neighbouring India, which also routinely conducts nuclear-capable missile tests and some such missiles can reach any part in Pakistan.

Pakistan conducted tit-for-tat nuclear tests in 1998 after India carried out nuclear tests. Both also have different series of missiles. The two countries have fought three wars, two over the Kashmir dispute, since their independence in 1947.

The army said on Tuesday's missile test was witnessed by top

military officials including the chairman of Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee, General Rashad Mahmood.

Addressing the troops in the exercise area, the chairman of Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee commended the troops on achieving technical and operational excellence in operating the state of the art weapon system.

He expressed his satisfaction over the training goals achieved during the exercise and expected that the officers and soldiers entrusted with the task of deterring aggression would continue to maintain professional excellence.

Xinhua

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(23-4-14 07:00am~
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Familiar foe Guardiola blocking Real path to glory

MADRID, 22 April—The last thing Real Madrid wanted was another Champions League semi-final clash against Bayern Munich and on Wednesday they will need to get the better of a familiar foe who very much appears to have their number. Pep Guardiola, whose Bayern side play their last four, first leg at the Bernabeu, was appointed as coach of the German champions at the end of last season after taking a year out to recover from a trophy-laden but draining four years in charge of Real's arch-rivals Barcelona.

During his time as a Barca player and coach, Guardiola seldom tasted defeat against the Madrid club and his all-conquering team dispatched Real in the last four of Europe's elite club competition in 2010-11 before going on to win the final against Manchester United.

His coaching record against Real was an impressive nine wins, four draws and two defeats, while as a player in 14 La Liga meetings he won six, drew five and lost only three. Despite having the statistics firmly on his side, Guardiola is too wily to take Real lightly and he will know how desperate the Spaniards are to win the record-extending 10th European crown they have been chasing since their last continental triumph in 2002. They will also be itching to avenge their last-four reverse to Bayern in the 2011-12 season, when the German side went through on penalties after the tie ended 3-3 on aggregate but lost to Chelsea in the final. "Every time I have gone to the Bernabeu, as a player and as a coach, I have never in my head gone there as the favourite," Guardiola was quoted as saying in Spanish sports daily *Marca* on Saturday. "I have too much respect for them," added the 43-year-old, whose Bayern side have already wrapped up another Bundesliga title and are still in with a chance of repeating last season's treble of Champions League, Bundesliga and German Cup. "Madrid deserve a lot of respect for all their history.



Pep Guardiola

They are always a strong team whoever is the coach because they have a lot behind them: great players, fans and a great history."

Guardiola conceded that his players had gone off the boil in the Bundesliga since winning the title last month.

Real, fresh from beating Barca in Wednesday's King's Cup final and still in the fight for La Liga, may have something of an edge, he added. "Yes Madrid have a certain advantage in that respect," Guardiola, whose side have lost twice and drawn once in four outings since securing the Bundesliga, told *Marca*. "We won the league much earlier and that meant our rhythm dropped a little but we will try to get back to our level as soon as possible.

"But that's a normal thing because we were playing league games with nothing at stake. "Madrid's enthusiasm will be greater than ours right now after winning the Cup final but we will try to be competitive at the Bernabeu."

Guardiola's Real counterpart Carlo Ancelotti, in his first season in charge, is waiting on the fitness of top scorer Cristiano Ronaldo, who has missed the last four matches due to knee and muscle problems in his left leg. The Portugal captain, the leading marksman also in La Liga this term, has been training hard this week, suggesting he should be able to play a part on Wednesday.

"I always believe that the great players, however small the chance they have, will play on these occasions," Guardiola said. "What can I say about Cristiano? He has been at that level for many years, but not just him. He is very strong but without him Madrid are also a team." The return leg is in Munich next week and the winners of the tie will play Atletico Madrid or Chelsea in the final in Lisbon on 24 May.—Reuters

Moyes sacked by Man Utd after less than a season

LONDON, 22 April — David Moyes's troubled reign at Old Trafford came to an abrupt end on Tuesday when the Scot was sacked after a hugely disappointing 10-month spell as manager after replacing Alex Ferguson last July.

Announcing his departure in a terse, two line statement, United thanked Moyes for "the hard work, honesty and integrity he brought to the role".

Veteran midfielder Ryan Giggs, 40, was appointed to take interim charge of the team for the final four games of the season, with United mired in seventh place and out of the running for a Champions League.

Newspapers had earlier reported that Moyes would be sacked, trumpeting the 'End of an Error' after the American owners, the Glazer family, lost patience and decided the manager had to go in the wake of a tame 2-0 defeat at Moyes' former club Everton on Sunday.

Moyes, who turns 51 on Friday, was appointed on the recommendation of fellow-Scot Ferguson, who retired at the end of last season after 26 years in the job.

Speculation immediately turned to who might take over at Old Trafford, with Dutchman Louis van Gaal quickly installed as the bookmakers' favourite.

The former Barcelona, Ajax Amsterdam and Bayern Munich boss is coach of the Netherlands but has already said he will stand down after the World Cup in Brazil and has talked of a move to the Premier League.

Ferguson had steered United to the title last season for the 13th time and the club's 20th overall but the self-belief and confidence that had characterised his years in charge evaporated abruptly under Moyes.

Former United stalwart Gary Neville suggested Moyes should have been given more time to make his mark and said the fault was not his alone.

"The idea of giving people three and four and six year contracts and then getting



David Moyes.

rid of them after 10 months is something that is foreign to me," he told Sky television.

"However there is no disguising that the football this season has been poor, the results have been poor. As a fan, I've not enjoyed watching it. I'm sure David Moyes himself hasn't enjoyed watching it.

"I've played with a lot of those players, they love the club and are desperate to do well for the club but they've just completely lost confidence and belief. That's ultimately what's cost David Moyes"

Moyes's sudden departure evoked memories of the traumatic spell the Old Trafford club suffered between 1969 and 1971 when Matt Busby retired after 24 years as boss.

His hand-picked successor Wilf McGuinness only lasted 18 months before Busby took over the reins again.

It is highly improbable though Ferguson will swap his lucrative career as an after-dinner speaker and business consultant for a return to the dugout.

Moyes, who was previously in charge of Everton for 11 seasons without winning a trophy, was given a six-year contract by United, but they have lurched from one crisis to another.

A shockingly lame performance at Goodison Park on Sunday — which completed their first league double defeat to Everton in 44 years — was the final straw for the Glazers, with seventh-placed United failing to qualify for the Champions

League for the first time since 1995-96.

The knives had already been out before then, with disgruntled fans paying for a plane trailing a banner over Old Trafford reading 'Wrong One—Moyes Out' in a game against Aston Villa in March.

United won that match 4-1, and most of the fans inside the ground applauded the manager, but the writing was on the wall even if he was reluctant to read it.

Fans of rival sides started to chant 'David Moyes, we want you to stay' and stewards stood guard to keep home supporters away from the prominent banner inside Old Trafford declaring the manager to be 'The Chosen One'.

At Everton last weekend, Moyes was taunted by one pitch-side fan posing as the Grim Reaper, complete with inflatable scythe and death mask.

Reuters

Argentine trio keep Man City title dreams alive

MANCHESTER, (England), 22 April — Manchester City kept alive their flickering hopes of a second Premier League title in three seasons, and increased West Bromwich Albion's relegation worries, with a 3-1 victory on Monday. Goals in the first 10 minutes from Argentines Pablo Zabaleta and Sergio Aguero and a third before halftime from compatriot Martin Demichelis, following a Graham Dorrans strike for the visitors, helped close the gap on leaders Liverpool to six points.

Third-placed City also have a game in hand on the top two clubs. Liverpool, seeking a first English title since 1990, have 80 points from 35 games followed by Chelsea on 75 from 35 and City with 74 from 34. City, whose title challenge had stalled with a defeat at Liverpool and a home draw with struggling Sunderland, face remaining games at Crystal Palace and Everton and home matches with Aston Villa and West Ham United."

We talk with the players that if Liverpool win their (last) three games and win 14 games in a row then they will be the champions but our duty is to try to win our games and in that way Liverpool can feel pressure," City manager Manuel Pellegrini told Sky Sports.

City could face the prospect of being without influential Spanish midfielder David Silva after he was carried off on a stretcher with his right leg in a brace midway through the second half.

Pellegrini said Silva had an ankle injury but the extent of the problem would not be known until Tuesday." He has played the last three games with some pain in his ankle. Tomorrow we will have more news," said the Chilean. "We don't know if that pain has increased or if it is another problem."

City got just the start they needed in the third minute at a somewhat subdued Etihad Stadium when Aguero's strike was parried by keeper Ben Foster but the ball looped up and Zabaleta came flying in to head home.

Aguero doubled the advantage when he beat Foster from just outside the penalty area with a zipping shot that nestled in the bottom right corner.

The goals rocked Albion but they got one back on 16 minutes following a swift break that culminated with Dorrans showing fine skill and touch to control and then dink the ball past Gael Clichy on to his left foot before firing past keeper Joe Hart.

City, again missing midfielder Yaya Toure after he sustained a muscle injury in the Liverpool defeat on April 13, restored their two-goal lead 10 minutes before halftime when a corner was glanced on for an unmarked Demichelis to tap home at the far post. West Brom, who remain fifth from bottom on 33 points, three points above the drop zone, carried little threat after the break with Morgan Amalfitano producing their best effort which forced Hart into a smart save.

Reuters



Manchester City's Pablo Zabaleta celebrates after scoring a goal against West Bromwich Albion during their English Premier League soccer match at the Etihad stadium in Manchester, northern England on 21 April, 2014.—REUTERS

Yangon, Nay Pyi Taw sail into knockout level in AFC Cup

YANGON, 22 April—Yangon United FC lost to Vietnamese football club Vissai Ninh Binh 1-4 in the last match of Group (G) in the 2014 AFC Cup held Tuesday evening.

Both clubs poured out their efforts in the match as they were sure to sail into the knockout matches.

Yangon United let its star players Khin Maung Lwin, Emerson and Kyaw Ko Ko take a break.

In another group of AFC Cup held in Singapore, Nay Pyi Taw FC went to the next step by winning a 1-0 over Tampines Rovers (S-League Singapore).

Nyi Myat Thawda



Players of Yangon United FC and Vietnamese football club Vissai Ninh Binh trying to control the football in AFC Cup.—PHOTO: SOE NYUNT