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President U Thein Sein to pay goodwill visit to China

NAY PYI TAW, 2 April—U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar will be paying a goodwill visit to the People's Republic of China in the near future, and will be subsequently attending the Boao Forum for Asia Annual Conference 2013 to be held in Boao, Hainan Province of the People's Republic of China.—MNA

President U Thein Sein invites Singaporean investment

NAY PYI TAW, 1 April—President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein met a Singaporean delegation led by President of the Republic of Singapore Dr Tony Tan Keng Yam at Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace, here, at 4.15 pm today.

Together with the President at the call were Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Ministers at President Office U Thein Nyunt, U Soe Thane and U Tin Naing Thein, Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development Dr Kan Zaw, Union Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lwin, Union Minister for Hotels and

Tourism U Htay Aung, Myanmar Ambassador to Singapore U Tin Oo Lwin and departmental heads. The delegation led by the Singaporean President was accompanied by Singaporean Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Chua Hian Kong Robert.

President U Thein Sein said he was very glad to welcome the Singaporean President to Myanmar, adding that it would cement existing bilateral friendship and amity as there has been a government-to-government connectivity and people-to-people connectivity between the two countries.

The Singaporean President for his part said that he was very pleased to receive a warm welcome,



President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein holding talks with President of the Republic of Singapore Dr Tony Tan Keng Yam at Credentials Hall.

MNA

Singaporean goodwill delegation arrives in Nay Pyi Taw



President of the Republic of Singapore Dr Tony Tan Keng Yam and wife being welcomed by Union Ministers U Wunna Maung Lwin and U Htay Aung and party at the airport—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 1 April—A goodwill delegation led by President of the Republic of Singapore Dr Tony Tan Keng Yam and

wife arrived here by air at 11:45 am today. They were welcomed by Union Ministers U Wunna Maung Lwin, and U Htay Aung and

their wives, departmental heads and ambassadors of the two countries at Nay Pyi Taw International Airport. MNA

saying that the objective conditions in Nay Pyi

Taw reflected the ongoing progress of Myanmar. He expressed thanks for a green light to open a technical training school in Myanmar. He said that the opening of training school would be of great benefit to Myanmar youths who will be able to work in industrial and investment sectors in Myanmar.

President U Thein Sein explained reform processes for ensuring peace and stability and economic development of the nation. He said that the country was inviting foreign investments as it was in need of

capital, technology and human resources while implementing economic reform process for development. Foreign investment law had been enacted and the US and EU had eased sanctions against the country. Myanmar was a country with full of investment opportunities, he added. When investments poured in, requirements in capital and technology would

be fulfilled and human resources development would be carried out by the government. The President invited Singaporean entrepreneurs to invest in Myanmar. Next, the two Presidents exchanged views on Singaporean investment in Myanmar and matters related to education, construction of housing and human resources development.

MNA

Weather Forecast for April 2013

Bay of Bengal Condition

A Low Pressure Area may form over the South Bay of Bengal and further intensify into a depression. Weather will be partly cloudy to cloudy in the Andaman Sea and South Bay and Partly cloudy elsewhere in the Bay of

Bengal.

Rainy condition

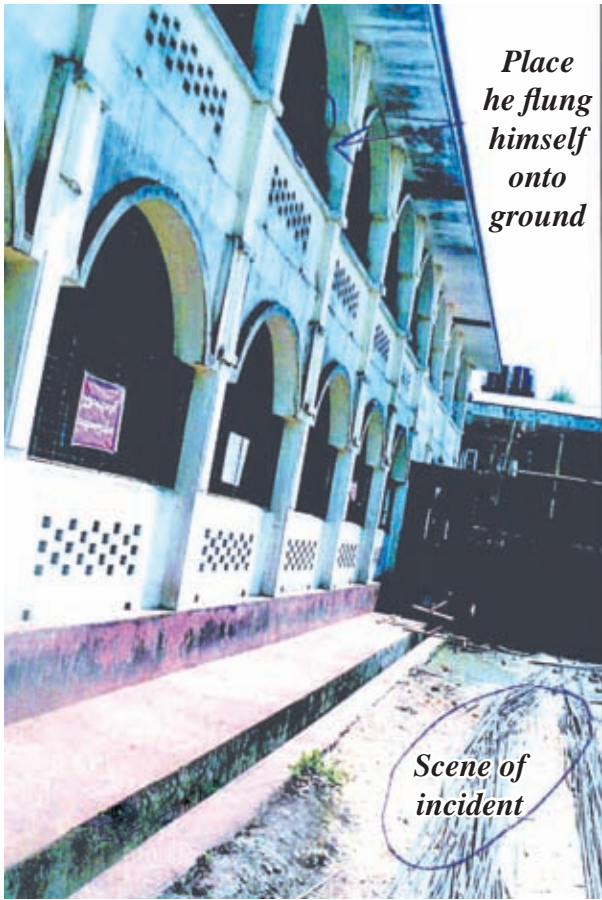
Rainy days are expected about 10 to 12 days in Taninthayi Region and Kachin State, 7 to 9 days in Upper Sagaing and Yagon Regions, Shan, Chin, Kayin and Mon States and 4 to 6 days in the remaining

Regions and States.

Day temperature

Day temperatures will be above April average temperatures in Lower Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway, Bago and Yangon Regions, Mon and Kayin States and about April average temperatures in the remaining Regions and States.—NLM

Man throws himself out upstairs corridor of hospital



Place he flung himself onto ground

Scene of incident

BAGO, 1 April — While he was hospitalized, a man who has been charged with a criminal offence died after flinging himself onto the ground out the upstairs corridor at Bago people's hospital at about 11.30 am on 20 March. U Than Lwin, 52, of Kalayarni ward in Bago

who was taking medical treatment at the hospital is believed to have killed himself by jumping off the upstairs corridor outside the operation theatre of Bago people's hospital. No (1) police station in Bago opened the case and investigation is ongoing. — *Kyemon*

Carcasses found afloat on Lake Naungton on Kengtung

KENGTUNG, 1 April — A large flock of dead fish found afloat on Lake Naungton, a scenically place in the middle of Kengtung, on 28 March.

On 28 March morning, the lake was first covered with small carcasses, and more dead fish in medium

size were found floating at about 3 pm. An eyewitness said dead fish were given away to those who are lacking knowledge and sold for K 1000 per viss.

A fish farm owner said death of fish in the still water lake may be due to water pollution triggered by waste

water pumped from various part of the town while water temperature in the lake has reached its peak in this season. Deaths of big fish were seen in the lake on 29 March morning. The smells from carcasses have filled in the neighborhood of the lake. — *Kyemon*

Traffic jam in front of Bogyoke Market

YANGON, 1 April — Being a commercial City of the country, Yangon is of interest to businessmen at home and abroad.

Among many places of interest in Yangon, Bogyoke market holds particular interest

for globetrotters thanks to its long standing status, and it is always crowded with foreign visitors.

With an increase in arrivals of tourists there, traffic congestion is frequent triggered by tourist coaches

parked on the busy road in front of the market.

So arrangements should be made for the tourist coaches to park at the parking lot of an open-air market in Pabedan Township.

— *Kyemon*



Traditional cane-ball demonstration event in Dalla Township

YANGON, 1 April — Honouring the 68th Anniversary Armed Forces Day, Bo Yan Pyay ward of Dalla Township in Yangon Region organized a traditional cane-ball demonstration event on 27 March.

The event was

conducted with the participation of traditional can-ball demonstration teams from other wards totaling 11.

The demonstration event was packed with Myanmar traditional cane-ball fans and ward dwellers.

— *Kyemon*



Crime of motorbike theft exposed after days-long interrogation

PAKOKKU, 1 April — A suspect was charged with the theft of two motorbikes after he was interrogated by the police from 13 to 25 March while he was taken into police custody for the crime of theft.

Htin Lin Htet (a) Ange Lay confessed after 13 days under interrogation that he had stolen two motorbikes from a house on the ring road and a monk hostel in ward-4 in Pakokku separately and the two motorbikes were being kept at the house of Maung Tun in Aungchantha ward of

Pauk.

According to his confession, police members together with the suspect and officials concerned went to Pauk and seized the stolen motorbikes from two persons who bought them from Maung Tun.

Pakokku police station filed a lawsuit against Htin Lin Htet (a) Ange Lay, 19, of ward-3 in Pakokku for the crime of motorbike theft. — *Kyemon*

Hledan bridge to be put into service soon

YANGON, 1 April — Hledan is a busy intersection where five motorways meet, almost invariably clogged with heavy traffic. The traffic congestion resulted in commuters suffering long delays and inconvenience every day.

Now construction of Hledan bridge is nearing completion. "I feel very, very depressed when I am stuck in the line of vehicles moving at a snail space. As bridge construction is nearing completion, our sufferings is about to end",

says a road user.

There is always a lot of traffic daily at Hledan as three main roads — Pyay road, Yangon-Insein road and University Avenue meet there. As finishing touches are put to construction of Hledan bridge, traffic congestion will be relieved soon.

The under-construction Hledan bridge is situated on Pyay Road. Upon completion, it will be over 2800 feet long and 54.8 feet wide. It is set to open the bridge in April. — *Kyemon*



Merrymakers in Thingyan water festival to be aware of higher UV radiation

YANGON, 1 April — Meteorologist U Tun Lwin has warned merrymakers who are going to celebrate Myanmar traditional Thingyan water festival in the sun in Yangon and other towns and cities to be aware of the danger of a high level of ultraviolet radiation.

He advised that merrymakers should be under sun protection while going outdoors and have to seek shady places to protect themselves from

much exposure of sunlight during the period from 11 am to 1 pm as the sun's UV rays are strongest at noon.

"If possible, don't let yourself be outside. It is required to stay indoors at noon. If you are about to go outside unavoidably, you have to be aware of UV radiation safety practices", says the meteorologist in an interview with him at a ceremony held at the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology, here,

recently.

Merrymakers should go outdoors before and after noon. If they are on the roads at noon, they should be under sun protection, taking cover under umbrellas and hats, wearing long sleeves shirts, long trousers and sunglasses.

Moreover, anti-sunburn lotion should be applied when they are to spend too much time in the sun.

— *Kyemon*

WORLD

NATO eyes missile shield progress with Russia after US move



Hillary Clinton (L) talks to NATO Deputy Secretary General Alexander Vershbow at the NATO Summit in Chicago, on 21 May, 2012.—REUTERS

Moscow, 1 April—NATO hopes a US change to global missile defences will dispel Russian concern and foster cooperation on an issue that has long strained relations, alliance Deputy Secretary General Alexander Vershbow said in an interview.

Russia has said US missile shield plans could erode its nuclear deterrent. It has softened criticism since Washington announced on 16 March that it would station 14 missile interceptors in Alaska in response to nuclear threats and at the same time forgo a new type of interceptor that would have been deployed in Europe.

However, Moscow

has said it wants a series of consultations on the new shield set-up and US and Russian defence officials are expected to hold talks on that in the coming weeks.

Moscow has long been at odds with the West over anti-missile defences it has begun to establish in Europe, which both the United States and NATO say are aimed at preventing any attack from Iran and pose no threat to old Cold War foe Russia.

“The change in the US plans ... just simply makes the situation much less ambiguous,” Vershbow told *Reuters*. “There is now no reason for concern that the system going

into Europe will have any effect whatever on Russia’s strategic deterrent.

“We think there is a real window of opportunity and we hope that the Russians seize it,” said Vershbow, who has held talks with senior officials from the Russian foreign and defence ministries as well as President Vladimir Putin’s Kremlin.

The skipped interceptors were meant to be able to target long-range missiles, sparking concern in Moscow that they could be used against its intercontinental ballistic missiles.

“On both the NATO-Russia and US-Russia tracks, we hope the dialogue will pick up speed so that we can get at least closer to some kind of a deal on missile defence cooperation,” said Vershbow, a former US ambassador to Russia.

“To the extent we are able to make some progress on missile defence, it might also facilitate renewed dialogue on nuclear arms reductions both at the strategic level and the non-strategic level.” He said broader NATO-Russia ties would get “a shot in the arm” if progress was made on missile shields.

Reuters

Yemeni president vows to use force to free western hostages

SANAA, 1 April—Yemeni President Abd-Rabbo Mansour Hadi vowed on Sunday to use force to release a Finnish couple kidnapped by al-Qaeda three months ago, the state-run *Saba* news agency reported.

During a meeting with visiting Finnish Foreign Minister Erkki Tuomioja, Hadi said “It is the responsibility of the Yemeni security to make all possible ways including the use of force to secure the release of the kidnapped Finnish couple.”

Tuomioja arrived in Sanaa on Sunday for talks

with the Yemeni officials on issues related to the kidnapped citizens.

The Finnish couple, who studied Arabic language in a school in the old city of the capital Sanaa, was kidnapped along with their Austrian friend, Dominik Neubauer, on 21 Dec, 2012 from a busy street in Sanaa.

Neubauer, 32, appeared in a video clip posted on the internet on 21 February, in which he appealed for more than a minute to the Austrian government and the European Union to fulfill the abductors’ demand.

Yemeni officials said al-Qaeda demanded a ransom of millions of euros during talks over the past month to release the three hostages.

On 27 February, a Swiss woman kidnapped by the al-Qaeda wing in Yemen for one year was released through mediation by the Qatari government.

Foreigners are frequently kidnapped in Yemen by al-Qaeda militants or tribesmen who asked for ransoms for the release of the jailed fellows. Most of the kidnapped have been freed unharmed.

Xinhua

One killed, three hurt in Arkansas nuclear plant accident

HOUSTON, 1 April—One person was killed and three others injured on Sunday in an accident at a nuclear plant in the US State of Arkansas, the company said. The company, Entergy, said in a news release that “a significant industrial accident” happened around 7:45 am at its Arkansas Nuclear One plant in Russellville, when a generator stator fell as it was being moved out of a turbine building.

“There has been one confirmed fatality and three additional injuries,” the company said, adding “We are deeply saddened by what has happened today,” Jeff Forbes, Entergy executive vice president and chief nuclear officer, said in the news release.

“Our greatest sympathy is with the family and friends of the employee who lost his life, and with those who sustained injuries,” it added.

The injured workers have been transported to a nearby hospital, said officials. Entergy and the Arkansas Department of Health said the accident did not affect the plant’s reactors. They also said radiation was not involved. Entergy, which celebrates its 100th birthday this year, is an integrated energy company engaged primarily in electric power production and retail distribution operations.

Arkansas One, operated by Entergy, opened its first unit in 1974. Unit 2 was opened six years later in 1980.—*Xinhua*



Rescuers work at the accident site in Maizhokunggar County of Lhasa, southwest China’s Tibet Autonomous Region, on 31 March, 2013. Thirteen bodies have been found until 6:30 pm on Sunday at the site of a mining area landslide. The disaster struck a workers’ camp of the Jiama Copper Polymetallic Mine at about 6 am on Friday, burying 83 workers. XINHUA

Ruling, opposition party execs to meet Wednesday on electoral reform

TOKYO, 1 April—Executives of Japan’s ruling and opposition parties will meet on Wednesday to discuss how to rectify disparities in the weight of votes, following recent court rulings that said some results in December’s lower house election were unconstitutional or invalid, a senior ruling party lawmaker said on Sunday.

The Liberal Democratic Party and its ruling coalition partner the New Komeito party will call for the opposition camp’s support for a bill to cut the number of single-seat constituencies to 295 from 300 in the House of Representatives during the meeting of party secretaries general, the lawmaker said.

However, the main opposition Democratic Party of Japan has objected to the ruling parties’ plan to reform the electoral system, describing it as “insufficient.”

During the meeting on Wednesday, the DPJ is likely to instead seek other parties’ support for its own electoral reform plan that would cut 30 single-seat constituencies and 50 proportional representation seats of the 480 seats in the more powerful lower chamber. The ruling coalition, which together controls more than two-thirds of the seats in the lower house, will seek to pass the bill to trim the number of single-seat districts by five even if it is rejected by the opposition-controlled House of Councillors. The LDP and New Komeito plan to first enact the legislation to reduce the number of single-seat constituencies by five in around mid-May and then seek to cut the number of proportional representation seats to 150 from 180, preferentially allocating 60 of the 150 seats to smaller parties.

Kyodo News

Italian president at centre of storm as deadlock continues

ROME, 1 April—Italy’s 87-year-old President Giorgio Napolitano will face the greatest test of his career during his final weeks in office as he tries to end the standoff preventing a new government being formed more than a month after elections. Following widespread reports he may resign to open the way for a new vote, Napolitano pledged to remain in office at the Quirinale palace until his term ends on 15 May, averting the immediate threat of further turmoil.



Italian President Giorgio Napolitano arrives for a media conference at the Quirinale palace in Rome, 30 March, 2013.—REUTERS

He named 10 “wise men” including European Affairs Minister Enzo Moavero and senior politicians from the main centre-left and centre-right blocs to propose a series of urgent measures that could be backed by all parties.

Details will be announced on Tuesday but are expected to include cutting the cost of the bloated political system and replacing the widely criticized electoral law to avoid a repeat of the deadlock in future elections.

“It would be a disaster to go back to an election without

have reformed the electoral law,” Valerio Onida, former head of the Constitutional court who is part of the advisory group, told *La Repubblica* newspaper. With financial markets already concerned about instability in the euro zone’s third-largest economy, the prospect of Napolitano leaving raised alarm and moves to escape the impasse received a cautious welcome from commentators on Sunday.

“It was the right decision, it will avoid sending a dangerous signal to the markets and will show Italian institutions are solid and functioning,” Enrico Letta, deputy head of the centre-left Democratic Party told *Reuters*. However, there were few illusions that summoning the “wise men”, in line with a long tradition in Italian politics, offered more than a slim hope of overcoming the deep divisions that have prevented the parties from coming to an agreement.—*Reuters*

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Solar-powered plane plans flight across US



Nokia VP for emerging markets D Shivakumar quits

MUMBAI, 1 April—Nokia's senior Vice-President for Emerging Markets, including India, D Shivakumar has quit the Finnish handset maker. The development comes against the backdrop of mobile maker receiving a demand notice of over Rs 2,000 crore from Indian tax authorities for alleged evasion of taxes in its business transactions in the country. "On behalf of Nokia, I thank Shiv for his contributions, and wish him all the best in the future. He will stay with us in a consultancy role until end-June," Nokia's Executive Vice-President for Global Sales And Marketing Chris

Weber said in a statement.

Shivakumar had joined Nokia in 2006 as Managing Director and Vice-President for Sales in India.

Shivakumar took over as head of Nokia in India amid rising competition from other low-cost phone makers, especially Chinese. Besides, the company faced intense competition in the smartphone segment from companies such as Samsung, Apple and BlackBerry.

In October 2011, he was elevated to the position of head of emerging markets comprising around 90 countries across the West Asia, the African region and India.—PTI

WASHINGTON, 1 April—A solar-powered plane that has wowed aviation fans in Europe is set to travel across the United States with stops in Phoenix, Dallas, Washington, DC, and New York, the plane's Swiss creators said. Solar Impulse, considered the world's most advanced solar-powered plane, is expected to be ready to leave from NASA Ames Research Centre in California on 1 May, although the actual departure will depend on the weather.

Solar Impulse plans to reach New York's Kennedy Airport in early July — without using a drop of fuel, its creators said. "We want to inspire the young generation to become pioneers, to help them find and develop their passion," said André Borschberg, Solar Impulse's co-founder, pilot and CEO. The Solar Impulse is powered by about 12,000 photovoltaic cells that cover massive wings and charge its batteries, allowing it to fly day and night without jet fuel. It has the wing span of a commercial airplane but the weight of the average family car, making it vulnerable to

bad weather.

Its creators say the Solar Impulse is designed to showcase the potential of solar power and will never replace fuel-powered commercial flights. The delicate, single-seat plane cruises around 40 miles per hour (64 kph) and can't fly through clouds. "The more you fly the more energy you

founder and chairman.

In 2010, the solar plane flew non-stop for 26 hours to demonstrate that the aircraft could soak up enough sunlight to keep it airborne through the night. A year later, it went on its first international flight to Belgium and France.

Last year, the Solar Impulse made its first

version of the plane in 2015. Piccard comes from a line of adventurers. His late father, Jacques, was an oceanographer and engineer who plunged deeper into the ocean than any other person. His grandfather Auguste, also an engineer, was the first man to take a balloon into the stratosphere.

Bertrand Piccard and



have stored in the batteries, so it's absolutely fabulous to imagine all the possibilities the people can have with these technologies in their daily lives," said Bertrand Piccard, Solar Impulse co-

transcontinental voyage, traveling 1,550 miles from Madrid to the Moroccan capital, Rabat, in 20 hours. Piccard and Borschberg are planning an around-the-world flight in an improved

Brian Jones made history in 1999 when they became the first people to circle the globe in a hot air balloon, flying 25,000 miles (40,230 kilometres) nonstop for 20 days.—PTI

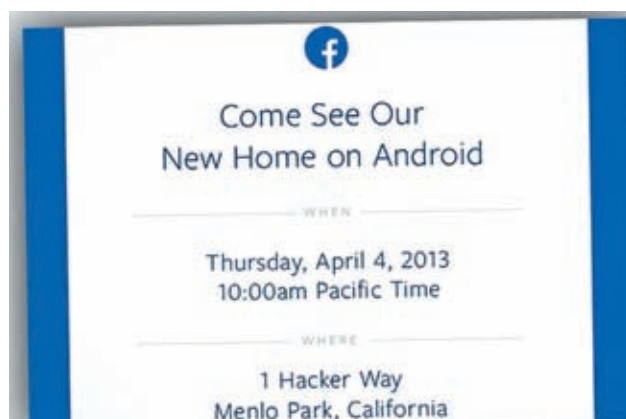
Facebook likely to reveal modified version of Android at 4 April event

NEW YORK, 1 April—Facebook has invited journalists to the unveiling of what it calls its "new home on Android." Next Thursday's event will take place at the company's Menlo Park, California, headquarters.

Facebook isn't providing further details. There has been speculation about a "Facebook phone" for a few years. Facebook has long said it would not make its own phone. Rather, such a phone would likely integrate Facebook deeper into the phone's software.

Citing unnamed sources, the tech blog TechCrunch says Facebook Inc will launch a modified version of Android that embeds Facebook deeply into the operating system, on a phone made by HTC Corp. A Facebook rival, Google Inc, makes the Android software that Facebook and HTC would be using under that scenario. Google makes the software available on an open-source basis, meaning others including rivals are free to adapt it for their needs. Amazon.com Inc. does just that in modifying Android to run its Kindle tablet computers.

More than half of



Facebook is likely to launch a modified version of Android that embeds Facebook deeply into the operating system, on a phone made by HTC.—PTI

Facebook's 1.06 billion monthly users access it on a mobile device. A deeper integration would help Facebook with its mobile aspirations.—PTI

Saudi orders telcos to ensure Skype, Whatsapp meet local laws

RIYADH, 1 April—Some Internet-based communication tools such as Skype and Whatsapp flout Saudi Arabia's telecom laws, the regulator said on Sunday, instructing telecom operators to quickly ensure these services comply. The announcement from the kingdom's Communications and Information Technology Commission (CITC) follows local newspaper reports last week that claimed the government had asked telecom companies to look at ways to monitor or block these services.

"It has become evident

that some communication applications through (the) Internet don't meet regulatory requirements," CITC said in a statement on its website. "The authority has informed licensed (telecom) providers of the need to work with the developers of these applications to quickly meet these requirements." The statement listed Voice over IP (VoIP) providers Skype and Viber as well as Internet-based instant messaging service Whatsapp.

But it did not state what laws these applications had flouted, how long they would be given to comply with the

regulations or what action would be taken if they failed to heed the instruction. The CITC said it was acting to "protect society from any negative aspects that could harm the public interest". Saudi's three mobile operators, Saudi Telecom Co, Etihad Etisalat (Mobily) and Zain Saudi, were not immediately available for comment. The kingdom appears to be making a greater push for greater control over cyberspace as Internet and smart phone usage soars, in part due to strict laws that limit opportunities for people to mix.—Reuters

Battlefield 4 gameplay trailer unveiled, pre-bookings now open

SAN FRANCISCO, 1 April—Battlefield 4 was fully unveiled at simultaneous EA launch events in Stockholm and San Francisco on Tuesday. The latest edition of the popular gaming franchise is powered by DICE's proprietary Frostbite 3 engine that promises a brand new experience in the epic battle to own land, sea and air. Battlefield series is one of the most popular multiplayer games, with over 65 million registered players.

EA claims Battlefield 4 incorporates more multiplayer game design elements into the single-player campaign, allowing single-gamers to experience huge environments, a playground of destruction, access to an arsenal of vehicles and the ability to direct squad mates.

"We are so humbled and proud to debut Battlefield 4 on a global stage with simultaneous events in San Francisco and Stockholm. To be this early in develop-

ment, and to already be so polished is a huge achievement for the DICE team and reflection of their passion and commitment to driving the franchise forward," said Patrick Soderlund, Executive Vice President, EA Games Label. EA also shared the first Battlefield 4 gameplay trailer that offers seventeen minutes of unadulterated action. The demo begins as the player—Recker—opens his eyes to discover that he is trapped in a rapidly sinking



car with three of his squad mates. Shooting the window is the only way out. Panic and fear are pushed aside as Recker makes a difficult decision—take the shot and

recover the intel but risk that not everyone will survive. The emotional demo features a cast of characters unrivaled in interactive entertainment.

PTI

BUSINESS & HEALTH

Heilongjiang plans heavy investment in Russia

HARBIN, 1 April—Northeast China's Heilongjiang Province is planning to increase investment in Russia by 1 billion US dollars by the year 2015, and 2 billion dollars by 2020, local authorities said on Sunday.

The province that borders Russia will also beef up its trade with the country, vowing to boost its trade volume to 26 billion dollars by 2015, and 52 billion dollars by 2020, sources with the provincial commercial department said.

Heilongjiang accounts for about a quarter of China's total trade with Russia. Trade between the province and Russia in 2012 rose 12.2 percent year on year to 21.3

billion dollars, according to a statistics communique released by the provincial government earlier this month. Chinese President Xi Jinping has just wrapped up a four-state tour that included Russia as his first stop.

During the visit, Xi and Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin vowed to make full use of various cooperation mechanisms, and invigorate collaboration on large joint projects of strategic significance.

The two leaders also pledged to improve the structure of bilateral trade and strive to advance toward the goal of bringing bilateral trade to 100 billion dollars by 2015. After Xi's visit,

the Heilongjiang commercial department has held seminars to look into deepening economic and trade relations with Russia. Department head Meng Xiangjun said Xi's visit to Russia would bring the economic and trade cooperation between the two countries to a new stage.

According to experts, Heilongjiang Province should push forward its cooperation with Russia in fields including energy, agriculture, forestry, infrastructure and logistics. In the meantime, they say, it should work out industrial cooperation plans to take the lead in broadening Sino-Russian cooperation.

Xinhua



Volunteers of Northeastern University shows blue ribbons to call for careness for children with autism in Shenyang, capital of northeast China's Liaoning Province, on 31 March, 2013. The activity was held to observe the upcoming World Autism Awareness Day, which falls on 2 April every year.—XINHUA

Monte Paschi says lost billions in deposits after February scandal

MILAN, 1 April—Customers' deposits at Italian bank Monte dei Paschi fell by "a few billion euros" after a scandal erupted in February over loss-making derivatives trades at the lender, the bank said in a document posted on its web site on Saturday.

Monte dei Paschi last week reported a higher-than-expected net loss for the whole of 2012 on the back of a rise in provisions for bad loans and 730 million euros in losses on the derivatives trades, which are at the centre of a fraud.

But it has yet to make clear what impact the scandal

itself had on its first quarter results.

"The illicit nature of the derivatives trades and their consequence on the bank's assets exposed the bank to reputational damage that

was immediately translated into...the withdrawal of a few billion euros in deposits," the bank said in a document for shareholders attending its 29 April meeting.

The bank's chief

financial officer said after the earnings were released on Thursday that it was "quick in recovering ground in March" on lost deposits in February.

"January started off well...we were somewhat impacted in February but we were quick in recovering ground in March," Bernardo Mingrone told analysts on a conference call.

But he declined to give a forecast on the level of deposits at the end of the first quarter of 2013 or to indicate the outlook for net interest income and loan loss provisions.

Reuters



The entrance of Monte Dei Paschi bank headquarters is pictured in Siena on 24 Jan, 2013.—REUTERS



Ten most healthy foods for teeth

1. Strawberry
2. Cauliflower
3. Watermelon
4. Orange
5. Apple
6. Dark vegetables
7. Dairy product
8. Bean
9. Grape
10. Water—Xinhua

Gold remains "insurance" against euro zone surprises

DUBAI, 1 April—Despite the setback in gold prices due to the euro zone's bailout of indebted Cyprus, the gold might see a comeback if unwelcome developments in the euro zone reoccur, said an expert on Saturday.



Gold prices fell over the last week by 12 US dollars or 0.74 percent to 1,597 dollars.

In his weekly e-mailed commentary on precious metals, Gerhard Schubert, head of precious metals at bank Emirates NBD, said "Cyprus is done and dusted, at least for the gold trading community."

The 17-member states comprising the currency

union agreed on 17 March to bail out Cyprus with 10 billion euros (12.88 billion dollars) on the condition that bank accounts with capital less than 100,000 euros (128,000 dollars) are fully guaranteed by commercial

banks. The Cypriot parliament permitted the plan on Tuesday. Schubert said the rhetoric concerning the Cypriot bail-out conditions might be a blueprint for further "rescues" which will not increase the confidence of the depositing euro zone population into leaving large amounts of cash within the euro banking system.

Xinhua

ECB's Draghi phoned Napolitano over resignation reports

ROME, 1 April—European Central Bank President Mario Draghi phoned Italian President Giorgio Napolitano after media reports that the 87-year-old head of state was planning to resign early to clear the way for new elections, newspapers reported on Sunday.

Napolitano pledged on Saturday that he would stay in office until the end of his term on 15 May following reports that he planned to step down to break the deadlock created by last month's election, which left no party able to form a government.

The move would be needed to allow Italy to return to the polls before the summer holiday period, because of constitutional provisions which prevent a president from dissolving parliament in the final months of his mandate.

The main newspapers on Sunday all reported that Draghi had called Napolitano to express concern that his

resignation would leave Italy without leadership at a time of mounting tension in financial markets, exacerbated by the bank crisis in Cyprus.

An ECB spokesman declined to comment. No comment was immediately available from Napolitano's office. Helped by the ECB's pledge to backstop countries by buying their bonds if necessary, financial markets have not shown the levels of panic seen during the crisis which brought down Silvio Berlusconi's last government

in 2011.

However a poorly received auction of mid and long-term debt last week underlined the danger of a renewed bout of turmoil that could destabilize Italy's 2-trillion-euro public debt if the impasse continues. Rumors have been circulating for days that Moody's is preparing to cut its rating on Italy's sovereign debt, which is already only two notches above "junk" grade, partly due to the uncertain political outlook.—Reuters



Mario Draghi, President of the European Central Bank (ECB), addresses the media during his monthly news conference in Frankfurt, on 7 March, 2013.—REUTERS

Qantas, Emirates start global alliance with tandem flight

DUBAI, 1 April—Two Airbus A380 carriers made a tandem flight on Sunday from Sydney to Dubai, marking a global alliance by Dubai's state-owned Emirates Airline and Australia's Qantas Airways.

The 2 super jumbos were seen in the morning above the Sydney Harbour bridge and the Sydney Opera House.

A spokesperson of Emirates Airline, the Middle East biggest and fastest growing airline, told Xinhua by phone that both planes are expected to touch down on Monday at the Dubai International Airport.

The 14-hour tandem flight marks a premiere in the civil aviation history as two carriers from different airline companies fly parallel to a transcontinental destination for the first time.—Xinhua

WORLD

South Africa says Mandela's condition has improved

JOHANNESBURG, 1 April—The condition of South Africa's former President Nelson Mandela has improved further, the government said on Sunday, as the 94-year-old anti-apartheid hero spent a fourth day in hospital receiving treatment for pneumonia.

"Nelson Mandela had a restful day," South Africa's presidency said in a statement, adding doctors treating him had reported "a further improvement in his condition".

"Government is satisfied that the doctors are providing the former president with the best medical care possible to enable his recovery and comfort," the statement said. In their first detailed report of his condition, doctors said on Saturday that Mandela had "developed a

pleural effusion which was tapped", meaning they had drained excess fluid from around his lungs.

It is his third visit to hospital in four months, raising new concerns about the health of the Nobel Peace Prize laureate.

Mandela, who became South Africa's first black president in 1994, is revered at home and abroad for leading the struggle against white minority rule, then promoting the cause of racial reconciliation when in power. He stepped down as president in 1999 and has not been politically active for around a decade.

President Jacob Zuma on Sunday thanked "the thousands of South Africans who prayed for Madiba at various Easter church services during the weekend."

Two people killed, 10 injured in Iraq bombings

BAGHDAD, 1 April—Two people were killed on Sunday and ten others wounded in several bombings in the Iraqi capital Baghdad and in eastern part of the country, the police said.

A suicide bomber blew up his explosive-laden car into an Iraqi army checkpoint in Abu Ghraib area, some 25 km west of Baghdad, leaving a soldier dead and eight others injured including five civilians, a local police source told

Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

In the meantime, a sticky bomb attached to a car detonated in Baghdad northern district of Kadhimiyah, leaving the driver dead, a well-placed source at Iraq's interior ministry source anonymously told *Xinhua*.

In a separate incident, a roadside bomb went off in Iraq's eastern Province of Diyala near a parking lot in the city of Maqdadiyah, some 100 km northeast of



Former South African president Nelson Mandela looks on as he celebrates his birthday at his house in Qunu, Eastern Cape 18 July, 2012.

REUTERS

Madiba is Mandela's clan name. "We also thank foreign governments for their messages of support," Zuma said. Global figures such as US President Barack Obama have sent get well messages.

In the Regina Mundi

Catholic Church in the sprawling black township of Soweto that Mandela once called home, worshippers attending Easter service prayed for the man seen by many as the father of their nation.

Reuters

840,000 new recruits in Japan mark 1st day at work

TOKYO, 1 April—An estimated 840,000 new recruits marked their first business day nationwide on Monday at the start of Japan's new fiscal year, after surviving a difficult job-hunting season amid severe economic conditions.

As of 1 February, 81.7 percent of college students had found jobs ahead of their March graduation, up for the second straight year, but the ratio remained below the level before the collapse of Lehman Brothers Holdings Inc in September 2008 that triggered a global financial crisis, according to the labour ministry.

An estimated 77,000 college students in Japan had not found work as of 1

February and many of them are believed to be without a job at present.

Among high school graduates in Iwate, Miyagi and Fukushima prefectures that were devastated by the March 2011 earthquake and tsunami, 94.3 percent in Iwate and 92.3 percent each in Miyagi and Fukushima had received job offers before graduation as of the end of January.

The percentage of high school students who were offered a job ahead of their graduation rose from a year earlier in all three prefectures, reflecting the restart of disaster-hit companies' recruitment to accelerate reconstruction work.

Kyodo News

At least 12 killed in Mexican bus crash

MEXICO CITY, 1 April—At least 12 people died when a bus and a car collided in a mountainous part of the eastern Mexican state of Veracruz on Saturday evening, local emergency services said.

The accident near the town of Naolinco sent the bus tumbling down a slope some 200-300 metres (650-1000 feet), and left at least 15 passengers injured, a local official said. Emergency services believe there were 27 people travelling on board the bus, the official added.

The crash occurred at a bend in the road in foggy conditions, and preliminary evidence suggested the driver of the car that hit the bus fled the scene,



People stand near the wreckage of a passenger bus after it collided with a car near the town of Naolinco, in the western Mexican state of Veracruz on 30 March, 2013.—REUTERS

he said.

Lethal traffic accidents are common on Mexican roads, claiming hundreds of lives a year.

Last April at least 43 people were killed when a cargo truck hit a bus in Veracruz state.

Reuters

Syria says rebels set fire to three eastern oil wells

BEIRUT, 1 April—Syrian rebels have set three oil wells in the east of the country ablaze, causing a daily loss of nearly 5,000 barrels of oil and 52,000 cubic metres of gas, state media quoted an oil ministry official as saying on Sunday.

SANA news agency said the damage to the oil wells in Deir al-Zor Province, much of which is in rebel hands, followed disputes among the fighters over "sharing out the stolen oil" from fields in areas they control.

It said Syria's Furat Petroleum Corporation was working to extinguish the three fires. A total of nine wells had been set on fire by the rebels, the agency added, without saying when the other six had been set ablaze.

Furat was not immedi-



Free Syrian Army fighters ride on a vehicle heading towards Al Fu'ah and Kefraya towns in northern Idlib on 31 March, 2013.

REUTERS

ately able to comment on the report. European Union sanctions imposed on Syria two years ago over President Bashar al-Assad's crackdown on protests — which have since developed into armed conflict — effectively halted Syria's modest oil exports.

Assad's government has also struggled to meet domestic energy require-

ments after losing control of large parts of the east of the country, where most of the oil wells are located.

But despite the fighting residents say oil production has continued in some fields, with rebels trading with local authorities and allowing oil to be shipped to government-controlled areas.

Reuters

Hamas accuses Abbas, Fatah of blocking reconciliation

GAZA, 1 April—Islamic Hamas movement on Sunday accused Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas's office and his Fatah party of blocking national reconciliation due to their reservation over Qatar's mini-summit proposal.

Fatah's reservation stems from the issue of Palestinian diplomatic representation after Qatar called for a mini-summit that would put Hamas in equal status with Fatah.

"The Presidency and Fatah's clinging to the issue of representation and legitimacy is untrue justification and it shows their responsibility for obstruct-

ing the reconciliation's efforts," said Sami Abu Zuhri, a Hamas spokesperson.

"Hamas won the parliamentary elections in 2006, so Fatah should respect Hamas' legitimacy instead of using it as a pretext to put obstacles on the way of reconciliation," Abu Zuhri told *Xinhua*.

On Saturday, an aide to Abbas said in a statement that there is "a solo legitimate representative for the Palestinian people in any Arab, regional or international summit."

Qatar's Emir Sheikh Hammad bin Khalifa Al Thani suggested the mini Arab meeting of Palestin-

ian reconciliation during the opening of the Arab League's annual summit in Doha on Tuesday. The call was welcomed by Hamas right away.

A year after winning the legislative elections, Hamas routed pro-Abbas forces, ousted Fatah and took over the Gaza Strip in 2007, leaving Abbas's rule confined to the West Bank.

Egypt and Qatar have brokered several deals between the two movements to reconcile, form transitional government, integrate security services and hold elections. However, the agreements could not be implemented.—*Xinhua*

LOCAL NEWS

Knowledge about bee-keeping to earn income imparted

TAUNGGYI, 1 April—Local people can earn incomes from cultivation in addition to bee-keeping as part of efforts to alleviate poverty.

With the assistance of Shan State (South) Cooperative Syndicate and Shan State Bee-keeping Department, the basic bee-keeping course was opened at Basic Education Primary School in Kyar-in Village

of Yaksawk Township in Taunggyi District on 19 March morning.

Altogether 32 trainees from Pann Cherry Agriculture Cooperative Society and Taw Taw Lin Agriculture Cooperative Society of Yaksawk Township attended the two-day course theoretically and practically.

Even least capital can be spent on bee-keeping

work. The breeder can cost K 30000-K 40000 for one beehive to produce 50 pounds to 100 pounds of honey. One viss of honey can be sold for K 1500 to K 2000. So the breeder can earn K 50000 to K 100,000 per year from bee-keeping works, explained Deputy Director U Aung Min of Shan State Bee-keeping Department.

Myanma Alinn

New Sasana Beikman opened in Sagaing

SAGAING, 1 April—Chief Minister of Sagaing Region U Tha Aye planned to build a Sasana Beikman that can accommodate over 700 members of the Sangha in the precinct of Maha Sikhongyi Pagoda in Sagaing.

The Sitagu Sayadaw and members of the Sangha, totalling 54 performed ground breaking ceremony.

The main building of the Beikman was completed on 23 June 2012.

It was opened by the Chief Minister of Sagaing Region, region ministers,



departmental officials and 18 ward administrators on 24 March.

Construction of the building cost K 576.94 million.—Myanma Alinn

Driving course on tractors, power-tillers introduced to farmers

INGAPU, 1 April—Tractors and power-tillers driving course was opened at 100-acre farmland in Htugyi-Wanettaw of Ingapu Township in Hinthada District of Ayeyawady Region on 18 March.

On the occasion, Township Administrator U Hlwan Moe Han made a speech.

It was also attended by the head of District Agriculture Mechanization



Department, township level departmental officials, village administrators and

75 trainees.

The training ran 10 days.—Myanma Alinn

Maintenance of roads, bridge inspected

SHWEGU, 1 April—Kachin State Minister for Transport U Kaman Du Naw together with Kachin State Superintending Engineer U Zaw Win Myint, Head of Kachin State Directorate of Road Administration U Lyan Ciint Mahn and Staff Officer U Aung Win of Kachin State Directorate of Telecommunications inspected maintenance

of Sithar village circular roads and Hsatkalar Bridge in Shwegu Township of Bhamo District on 3 March.

At the briefing hall of Public Works, the state minister met with Township Administrator U Nyi Nyi, Commander of Township Police Force Police Major Aye Maung,

ward administrators, staff of Township Myanma Posts and Telecommunications, responsible persons of watercrafts and vehicles, departmental officials and local people.

After the meeting, The state minister attended to the needs.

Myanma Alinn

Dental care given to local people in Minhla Township

MINHLA, 1 April—Dental Public Health Section of Myanmar Dental Association (Central) provided dental care to 154 people at Kanthaya Monastery in west of Sitkwin on 16 March and 98 people at the Dhammayon of Kanthaya Monastery on 17 March.

Kanthaya region administrator of Minhla

Township, doctor-in-charge of Sitkwin Station and party, Leader of the section Dr U Aung Than and party, Region Dental Association Dr U Kyaw Sein Win and party, Sayadaw U Kosalla and disciples, and wellwisher Daw Than Than Swe of SMILE Dentistry Company gave necessary assistance for the dental care works

Myanma Alinn

Ngwehsaung Beach for Luyechun youth camp in Pathein

PATHEIN, 1 April—A plan is underway to open Luyechun recreation camp at Ngwehsaung Beach in Pathein District of Ayeyawady Region.

Luyechun students were selected from eighth, ninth standards and matriculation in December 2012.

The eighth standard Luyechun students will be camped in Bagan Region, those of ninth standard in Inlay Lake Region and those of matriculation in Ngwehsaung Beach, according to Ayeyawady Region Education Office.

Luyechun recreation camp will be opened at Ngwehsaung Beach yearly. This year when the recreation centres are not to be built yet,

Pearl Ngwehsaung Hotel and Yuzana Hotel will be hired for the youths.

Pyinnya Linkar Band of Basic Education Department, the troops from basic education schools and Maha Thingyan Thangyat troops of Pathein students will perform entertainment to the youths.

A total of 170 Luyechun students from matriculation with supervisor teachers will take relaxation at the beach from 31 March to 5 April 2013. The students will visit plywood factory, fertilizer plant, Pathein Halawa, Pathein umbrella in Pathein, prawn breeding of Yuzana Company and fisheries industries in Thazin Village.—Myanma Alinn

Chinese temple fire in Meza Model Village of Indaw



INDAW, 1 April—A fire broke out at Chinese Buddhist temple in Ward 6 of Meza Model Village in Indaw Township of Katha District at 1.45 pm on 23 March.

The fire started from the over heat through short circuit at the two-storey temple. Loss and damage in the fire amounted to over K 1.8 million.

Fire fighters and local people put out the

fire with the use of two fire engines from Indaw and Bamauk townships, two water pumps from Meza auxiliary fire brigade, four from the local people, one water tanker of FCGC (IGE) Co Ltd, one vehicle from Myanmar Adipati Construction Company and one water tanker of Township Development Affairs Committee at 3.30 pm.—Myanma Alinn

Books donated to village libraries in Paung Township

PAUNG, 1 April—Paung Township Information and Public Relations Department handed over 250 copies of books donated by Myanmar Libraries Foundation to Shwe Alinyaung Library of The-ein Village and Tun Tun Taik Library in Nyaunggongyi Village of

Paung Township on 20 March morning.

The department organized the reading skill contest for students.

Head of Township IPRD Daw Cho Myat Myat Htwe and staff presented snacks and gifts to them.

Myanma Alinn

Artisan wells sunk beside farmlands along Monywa-YeU Road

YEU, 1 April—With the concerted efforts, farmers and paddy transplantors sank artisan wells beside the farmlands along Monywa-YeU road in YeU Township of Sagaing Region.

Thanks to the artisan wells, not only local people and farmers but also travellers have easy access to using potable water in the summer of dry region.

Myanma Alinn



PERSPECTIVES

Tuesday, 2 April, 2013

National security

National security, no matter how it is defined, means overall protection of a state. In so doing, each nation exercises self-interest based on own standpoint, concepts and values apart from military means.

All global nations adopted different policies suited to circumstances of global panorama for own national security. Changes in national leaders and political situations were also the causes of those changes.

In some views national security is the ability to preserve the nation's integrity and territory; to maintain its economic relations with other countries on equal terms; to preserve its nature, institution, and governance from outside disruption; and to control its borders.

Some described national security as a capacity to manage domestic and foreign conditions that the public opinion of a given community believes necessary to enjoy its own self-determination or autonomy, prosperity and well-being.

As in the case of national power, the military aspect of security is a very important sector, but not the sole component of national security. To be truly secure, a nation needs other forms of security. Apart from the military aspect of security, the aspects of diplomacy or politics, society, environment, energy and natural resources and economics are also on the agenda. Some countries have adopted its national security strategy based on political security, economic security, environmental security and energy and natural resources security.

The national interest of Myanmar is Our Three Main National Causes. As Myanmar is now in initial democratization process, its security and political stability should not be harmed. Therefore, national security strategies must be adopted based on national strength considering internal and external situations for Our Three Main National Causes, the interests of the nation and the entire nation needs to implement those strategies in unison.

New gravel road helps easy access in Ottwin

OTTWIN, 1 April— A K 9 million into the gravel road and opened the road on 22 March to mark the 68th anniversary Armed Forces Day. The new road linking Chingon and Ponnasu villages has helped the local residents have on easy access to other villages.—NLM



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker attends coord meeting to draft law protecting farmers



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann addresses the coordination meeting of legislation of laws safeguarding peasants.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 1 April—Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann called for drafting a legislation to help farmers acquire investments and technologies and fetch reasonable price for crops in his address to the coordination meeting

of legislation of laws safeguarding peasants at Zabuthiri Hall in Hluttaw Complex here this morning. It was also attended

Deputy Speaker U Nanda Kyaw Swa, Chairperson of Pyithu Hluttaw Rule of Law and Tranquility Committee Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, Chairman of Economic and Commerce Development Committee U Maung Maung Thein, Chairman of Agriculture, Livestock Breeding and Fishery Development Committee U Soe Naing, Public Management Committee U Maung Oo, the deputy minister for commerce, departmental heads, officials of Hluttaw offices and guests.

Those present participated in discussion and the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker made concluding remarks.—MNA

Singaporean President receives Chairperson of Pyithu Hluttaw Rule of Law and Tranquility Committee

NAY PYI TAW, 1 April—The visiting President of the Republic of Singapore Dr Tony Tan Keng Yam and wife received Chairperson of Pyithu Hluttaw Rule of Law and Tranquility Committee Daw Aung San Suu Kyi at Aureum Palace, here, at 6 pm today.

The goodwill delegation was accompanied by the

Singaporean ambassador to Myanmar.—MNA

Singaporean President Dr Tony Tan Keng Yam shaking hands with Chairperson of Pyithu Hluttaw Rule of Law and Tranquility Committee Daw Aung San Suu Kyi.—MNA



Myanmar-Netherlands discuss trade and economic cooperation

YANGON, 1 April—Vice-Presidents of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI) U Zaw Min Win and Dr Maung Maung Lay held talks with Mr. Johannes Andries BOER, Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to Myanmar at the UMFCCI headquarters Village of the township to Headmistress U Mya Hsaung of Natmauk BEHS (Branch).

The building of Kanpyo BEPS is 12 feet high, 60 feet long and 30 feet wide. It cost K 21.5 million. The construction company donated four-room toilet for Bayintnaung school building and the fencing of Kanpyo BEPS.

Myanma Alinn

on 28 March.

The talks focused on progress of reform process in Myanmar, economic and investment from the Netherlands, visit of Dutch delegation to Myanmar in June, commerce and economic cooperation between the entrepreneurs of the two countries, further economic cooperation with countries from Europe and America, necessary data on investment for entrepreneurs from the Netherlands, transfer of distribution horticultural techniques by Netherlands to Myanmar, water utilization management and pharmaceutical industry, relaxation of rules and regulations on trade and customs to be able to establish business firms.—MNA

Want to study in Japan?

NAY PYI TAW, 1 April—Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science, and Technology of Japan (MEXT) offers scholarships to international students who wish to study in Japanese universities, colleges of technology, and specialized training colleges under the Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarship Program for

2014.

The first screening will be conducted by Myanmar Association of Japan Alumni (MAJA). For further information, please contact MAJA, Room (707), Pearl Condominium, Building C, Kaba-Aye Pagoda Road, Yangon (Ph: 01-534348 and 09-8612151) and mail: maja.ygn@gmail.com.

MNA

New school buildings handed over

NATMAUK, 1 April—A ceremony to hand over new building named Bayintnaung was held at Basic Education High School in Natmauk of Magway Region on 23 March.

The building was constructed by No 2 Basic Education Department. The building with six classrooms is 12 feet high, 180 feet long and 30 feet wide.

Construction of the building started on 12 December in 2012 and it cost K 64.5 million.

Managing Director U Zaw Ko of Aung Padetha Construction Co handed over documents related to the new building to Headmistress Daw Myint Myint Maw. U Zaw Ko also handed over documents related to the new building for PEBS in Kanpyo

NATIONAL

President U Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win host dinner to Singaporean President Dr Tony Tan Keng Yam and wife

NAY PYI TAW, 1 April—President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win hosted a dinner to the goodwill delegation led by President of the Republic of Singapore Dr Tony Tan Keng Yam and wife Mrs.

Mary Tan at Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace, here, this evening.

It was also attended by Vice-Presidents Dr Sai Mauk Kham and U Nyan Tun, Union Ministers U Wunna Maung Lwin, U Thein Nyunt, U Soe Thane, U Tin Naing Thein, U Kyaw

Lwin, Dr Kan Zaw and U Htay Aung, Deputy Minister Daw Sanda Khin, Pyithu Hluttaw Representative Daw Mi Yin Chan, Amyotha Hluttaw Representative Daw Khin Waing Kyi, Myanmar Ambassador to Singapore U Tin Oo Lwin and departmental heads.

The visiting Singaporean goodwill delegation was accompanied by Singaporean Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Chua Hian Kong Robert.

Before the dinner, the State Band played the National Anthems of the two countries.

Before and during the dinner, artistes from Fine Arts Department under the Ministry of Culture presented entertainment.

Then, President U Thein Sein presented a photo album of tour to the Singaporean President.

After the dinner, the artistes from Fine Arts Department entertained

with songs and Myanmar traditional dance to the goodwill delegation.

President U Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win, the Singaporean President and wife presented the bouquet to the artistes and had a documentary photo taken together with them.

MNA

Myanmar, Singapore First Ladies meet



NAY PYI TAW, 1 April—Daw Khin Khin Win, wife of President U Thein Sein, received Mrs. Mary Tan, the First Lady of Singapore, and party at the Presidential Palace, here, at 4:15 pm today.

They exchanged views on tasks for caring of elderly, protection for women, giving maternal and child care, and promotion of education, health and social sectors in

the two countries.

It was attended by Daw Lin Lin Tin, wife of Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin, Daw Chaw, wife of Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Htay Aung, Daw May Myint Maung, wife of Singaporean Ambassador to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Tin Oo Lwin, and officials concerned.

MNA

Daw Khin Khin Win, wife of President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein, and party pose for documentary photo together with Mrs. Mary Tan, wife of President of the Republic of Singapore Dr Tony Tan Keng Yam.—MNA

Wushu referee course kicks off

NAY PYI TAW, 1 April—Chairman of Myanmar National Sports Committee Union Minister for Sports U Tint Hsan attended the opening of Wushu referee course at Gold Camp, here, this morning.

The Union minister presented gifts to Wushu coaches from Beijing University of China.

Altogether 34 trainees from ministries and Myanmar Wushu Federation are attending the course that will last up to 5 April.—MNA

Cooperation in philanthropic tasks discussed

NAY PYI TAW, 1 April—Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Daw Myat Myat Ohn Khin received a delegation led by Founder Chairman Mr Willment Leong of Thailand Culinary Academy at her office, here, at 10 am today.

They had a cordial discussion on on-job culinary training courses for women and youths and philanthropic tasks for children, aged and disabled

persons. Also present at the call were Deputy Minister Daw Su Su Hlaing, the directors-general and responsible persons.—MNA

Union SWRR Minister Dr Daw Myat Myat Ohn Khin receives a delegation led by Founder Chairman Mr Willment Leong of Thailand Culinary Academy.—MNA



Photo shows security members and local people patrolling at night in Yedashe Township of Bago Region recently. (Now peace and stability has been restored and local dwellers have resumed their daily activities peacefully, it is learnt.)

KYEMON

Pilots, co-pilots to have seven-year guarantee for job opportunities

YANGON, 1 April—Myanmar Aviation Academy recognized by Department of Civil Aviation grants job opportunities for its product pilots and co-pilots up to seven years, according to Chairman of the academy U Kyi Win at the scholarship programme clarification of Htoo Foundation at Sedona Hotel on 22 March.

Htoo Foundation will sponsor US\$ 600,000 for 10 scholar students for each intake of the academy and the sponsorship will last three years successively.

The academy will admit 24 trainees in line with the international rules. Four experienced Myanmar

trainers and three foreigner trainers will provide training to the trainees with the use of three Diamond Aircraft DA-40 NGs from 20 to 24 months.

Officials replied to media persons at the briefing.—Myanma Alinn

Donate Blood

Israel guarantees energy supply with new gas project

JERUSALEM, 1 April—Natural gas from the Tamar Field started flowing in what Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu called an important day for the Israeli economy.

The Tamar field, located under the Mediterranean, some 90 km outside the northern Israeli city of Haifa, will transport gas to the city of Ashdod where it will connect to already existing gas infrastructure built in Yam Tatis field.

There is an estimated 250 billion cubic metres of gas in Tamar, which is ex-

pected to make Israel energy independent until 2035. Until now, Israel has had to import coal and diesel to produce electricity, which is expensive and pollutive.

Sunday was indeed a great day for Israel and the country's economy, said Eytan Seshinski, professor at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and the author of the Seshinski report which formed the basis for the Israeli government's policy on gas revenue.

"Both the consumers and the government will benefit from the gas. The

government in particular will have additional revenue from the taxation of the gas which has been imposed the so called excess profits tax, the Seshinski tax. It will give the government perhaps up to 30-40 billion US dollars in the future," Seshinski told *Xinhua*.

He explained in accordance to a law, which the Israeli Knesset is set to pass, that the tax revenues from the gas will not be added directly to the government's coffers but will be transferred to a sovereign

wealth fund, the National Recourse Fund, which will be modeled on the fund established by Norway and Holland to handle their natural resource income by investing a certain low percentage of the funds wealth in the domestic economy, but the majority will be invested overseas to avoid inflation.

The day to day investments of the fund will be controlled by the Bank of Israel, but the objectives will be determined by a political board.

Xinhua



A Boeing 777-300ER flying from Beijing arrives at the John F. Kennedy International Airport in New York, on 31 March, 2013. Air China launched its second direct flight between Beijing and New York on Sunday, marking the company's biggest expansion in the US. There will be 11 flights plying between Beijing and New York each week and all of them are new Boeing 777-300ERs.—XINHUA

Chinese Antarctic team returns to N Hemisphere

ON BOARD XUELONG-SHIP, 1 April—*Xuelong*, the Chinese research vessel involved in an Antarctic expedition, crossed the equator and returned to the Northern Hemisphere on Sunday.

The *Xuelong*, or "Snow Dragon," has so far sailed over 26,000 nautical miles, and is scheduled to anchor at Shanghai port on 9 April.

The icebreaker embarked on its expedition on 5 November last year.

The journey is the country's 29th scientific expedition to Antarctica.—*Xinhua*



Rescuers work at the site where a landslide hit one section of Chongqing-Guiyang Railway in southwest China's Guizhou Province, on 31 March, 2013. The landslide caused 2 trains off-the-line and 5 trains rechannel.—XINHUA

Flash floods kill at least 10 people in Mauritius

PORT LOUIS, 1 April—At least 10 people have been killed in flash floods in Mauritius and more downpours could be on the way, officials and the Indian Ocean island's meteorological service said on Sunday.

The deaths occurred on Saturday and most of the victims were trapped in an underpass leading to the Caudan Waterfront, a commercial area in Port Louis.

Prime Minister Navinchandra Ramgoolam said

on Sunday that Port Louis had a torrential downpour with 152 mm falling in two hours.

"The speed of the torrents of water has led to tragic loss of life and heavy damage to property," he said, adding that he

was declaring on Monday a day of mourning.

The Mauritius meteorological service said showers were expected overnight and on Monday, with isolated thunderstorms that could cause further floods.—*Reuters*

S Korea taps close Park associate Lee Byung Kee as Japan ambassador

SEOUL, 1 April — South Korean President Park Geun Hye has nominated Lee Byung Kee, adviser to a ruling party think tank, as the country's new ambassador to Japan, the presidential office said on Sunday. Lee, 65, a former diplomat, is a close associate of Park in his capacity as adviser to the Yeouido Institute, a think tank for the Saenuri Party.

Lee also served as visiting professor at Japan's Keio University and has close ties with Japan.

He will succeed Shin Kak Soo, the top South Korean diplomat in Japan since May 2011.—*Kyodo News*

Three killed in 75-vehicle accident in Virginia

NEW YORK, 1 April—Three people were killed and 25 injured on Sunday in a 75-vehicle pile-up along a fog-shrouded stretch of Virginia highway, local media reports and the state's department of transportation said.

The accident occurred at about 1:15 pm in the Fancy Gap Mountain area of Virginia, shutting down Interstate 77 in both directions, the Virginia Department of Transportation said.

It said the accident backed up traffic for eight miles.

Police said heavy fog was to blame for the accident.

Reuters



Rescue workers look over the scene on I-77 where approximately 75 vehicles were involved in an accident in Carroll County, Virginia near the North Carolina state line in this 31 March, 2013 photo courtesy of WXII12-TV.

REUTERS

Nigerian troops impounds vessel for alleged oil theft

YENAGOA, (Nigeria), 1 April—Nigerian troops operating in oil rich Niger Delta has impounded a vessel with 12 crew members along the Akassa Water Ways in Bayelsa.

Spokesperson for the Joint Military Task Force (JTF) Lt-Col Onyema Nwachukwu disclosed this in a statement reaching *Xinhua* on Sunday, saying the vessel was seized during its anti-oil theft and pipeline vandalism operations.

Nwachukwu said the vessel *MV Buyus* with fake clearance documents was secured at the Nigerian Navy Dock Yard in Brass Local Government of Bayelsa. The suspects, according to the statement, have been handed over to the appropriate prosecuting agencies for further investigation and subsequent prosecution. He said the land patrol squads of the JTF had also intercepted four tanker

trucks conveying suspected stolen petroleum products along Enugu-Port Harcourt Express Road.

The drivers and tanker trucks were arrested when they failed to produce documents certifying them for lifting of the product.

The JTF, however, urged oil firms operating in the Niger Delta region to collaborate and evacuate the reservoirs used by the oil thieves to deter the oil thieves from returning to the illicit trade. The Shell Petroleum Development Company had threatened to shut its Nembe Trunk line because of rising incidents of oil theft through its pipeline network in Bayelsa.

Mutiu Sumonu, the Managing Director of SPDC, on 4 March, urged the JTF to step up its activities to reduce oil theft, currently standing at about 60,000 barrels daily.

Xinhua

REGIONAL

Japan manufacturers' sentiment rises for 1st time in 3 qtrs

TOKYO, 1 April—Business confidence among large Japanese manufacturers recovered in March from three months earlier, showing the first rise in three quarters, backed by a pickup in overseas economies and a weaker yen, but the improvement was not as great as many analysts had expected, the Bank of Japan's key survey showed on Monday.

The Tankan survey's headline index measuring sentiment among big manufacturers such as carmakers and high-tech firms stood at minus 8, up from December's minus 12. The latest figure was slightly lower than the average forecast of minus 7 in a *Kyodo News*

survey.

The quarterly survey said that sentiment among non-manufacturing companies such as those related to construction and services rose to plus 6, up from plus 4 in the previous quarter but lower than the average estimate of an increase to plus 8.

The diffusion index represents the percentage of companies reporting favourable business conditions minus that of firms describing unfavourable environments.

The central bank said large firms in all industries plan to reduce their capital spending by 2.0 percent in fiscal 2013 through next March from the previous

year, against the average forecast of a rise of 0.6 percent.

Looking ahead, nevertheless, both major manufacturers and non-manufacturers expect sentiment to improve in the next three months, with the index rising to minus 1 for manufacturers and plus 9 for non-manufacturers.

The BOJ surveyed 10,698 companies between 25 February and 29 March of which 98.9 percent responded. In the survey, big manufacturers anticipated that the US dollar will average 85.22 yen in fiscal 2013 through next March, compared with 80.56 yen estimated for the previous business year.—*Kyodo News*

537 killed in 54 bomb blasts across Pakistan during January-March



Pakistani Paramilitary soldiers inspect a damaged security forces vehicle at the bomb blast site in southwest Pakistan's Quetta on 31 March, 2013.

REUTERS

ISLAMABAD, 1 April—At least 537 people were killed and 1,103 others got injured in 54 bomb blasts including 11 attacks of suicide nature that ripped through different areas of Pakistan during the first quarter of the current year 2013, according to official figures.

Terrorist have conducted 11 suicide attacks during the first three months of the

current year, one in January, four in February and six in March, that killed 319 people besides injuring 466 others.

The Friday's suicide attack at the security forces was the latest one that killed at least 12 people and left 10 others injured in the country's north-western metropolitan city of Peshawar. According to police officials, the in-

cident took place when a suicide bomber exploded his explosives laden jacket near the convoy of Frontier Constabulary (FC) led by a commander, killing 12 people including two security personnel.

During the month of March, totally 27 attacks including six of suicide nature were conducted by the militants at different targets that killed 185 persons besides leaving 404 others wounded.

The month of February embraced 11 explosions that killed 153 and injured 319 others while in month of January, 16 blasts took place that caused 199 casualties and left 380 others hurt. During the period, two most horrible attacks occurred in the country's southwestern provincial capital of Quetta that targeted the areas dominated by Hazara community of

Mongolia's car-free day urges cycling instead

ULAN BATOR, 1 April—The Mongolian capital held a "Car-Free Day" on Sunday, calling on people to travel by bike in a bid to cut the city's severe winter air pollution.

Traffic congestion and environmental problems caused by vehicle emissions have become a thorny problem for the government. Sunday's campaign, co-sponsored by Ulan Bator city hall and the Bicycle Federation, included bicycle touring, cycling performances, parade square running, children's painting, health con-

sultation and other activities.

At the same time, organizers held a number of promotional activities to encourage people to travel by public transport, bicycle or walking.

The main goal was to encourage people to drive less, or switch to low-emission or environmentally friendly cars. Despite heavy snow and the usual low temperatures for this time of year, many people took part in the "Car Free Day" activities.

Ulan Bator has particularly long and cold winters,



People ride bicycles to participate in the "Car Free Day" event in Ulan Bator, capital of Mongolia, on 31 March, 2013.—XINHUA

which requires homes to be heated eight months of the year, while 60 percent of residents live in shanty towns and use various kinds of fuel for heating, which cause air



Yuya Tanaka (L) and Shiho Endo, newly hired employees at Toba Aquarium in Toba, Mie Prefecture, wave to visitors during an initiation ceremony in a tank at the aquarium on 31 March, 2013.

KYODO NEWS

Dollar trades in lower 94 yen range in early

Tokyo trading

TOKYO, 1 April—The US dollar traded in the lower 94 yen range early Monday in Tokyo, with market players reacting little to the just-released Bank of Ja-

pan's quarterly Tankan survey of corporate sentiment. At 9 am, the dollar fetched 94.28-32 yen compared with 94.20-30 yen in New York and 94.03-05 yen in Tokyo at 5 pm on Friday.

The euro was quoted at \$1.2804-2807 and 120.72-79 yen against \$1.2815-2825 and 120.67-77 yen in New York and \$1.2811-

2813 and 120.46-50 yen in Tokyo late Friday afternoon.

The central bank's closely watched report for March, released in the morning, said business confidence among large Japanese manufacturers improved for the first time in three quarters.

Kyodo News



Photo taken on 31 March, 2013, shows the entrance of an underground mall housing Ginza Cine Pathos, the only movie theater to screen old classic films in Tokyo's Ginza area. The cinema closed the same day, ending its more than 45-year history.—Kyodo News

Philippines to pursue claims after stuck US ship removed from reef

MANILA, 1 April—The Philippine government vowed on Sunday to press for claims on the damaged Tubbataha Reef off Sulu Sea after the grounded US Navy ship was finally removed from the area Saturday.

Presidential Communications Operations Office Secretary Herminio Coloma said that the government will ensure that similar incident would not happen again.

"We maintain that there must be accountability and we will enforce our existing laws. We will adopt needed measures to prevent repetition (of the incident)," he told reporters in a text message.

The last piece of the USS *Guardian* was lifted

from the UNESCO World Heritage site on Saturday.

The US minesweeper was cut into pieces in order to be extricated from the Tubbataha Reef to lessen the damage on the corals. It ran aground in the area on 17 Jan while on its way to its next port of call and since then it had been stuck there.

The US government vowed to pay for any damages that the ship had incurred on the reef.

Initial estimate by the Philippine government has shown that 4, 000 square metres of corals have been destroyed. Manila and Washington will conduct joint assessment after the debris from the vessel has been totally removed from the place.—Xinhua

ADVERTISEMENT & GENERAL

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**MV KOTA RATNA VOY NO (885)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA RATNA VOY NO (885) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 1.4.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S ADVANCE CONTAINER
LINES**

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**MV SINGAPORE BRIDGE VOY NO (036)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SINGAPORE BRIDGE VOY NO (036) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 1.4.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**MV ORA BHUM VOY NO (332)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ORA BHUM VOY NO (332) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 2.4.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S REGIONAL CONTAINER
LINES**

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**MV BANGKHONTHI VOY NO (167)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV BANGKHONTHI VOY NO (167) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 1.4.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of B.S.W (1) where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 256916/256919/256921

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**MV GENNADY TSYGANKOV VOY NO ()**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV GENNADY TSYGANKOV VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 1.4.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W (5) where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S SEA NET SHIPPING
CO LTD**

Phone No: 256916/256919/256921

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**MV VINALINES FREEDOM VOY NO ()**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV VINALINES FREEDOM VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 1.4.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 256916/256919/256921

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**MV GINTO VOY NO (1)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV GINTO VOY NO (1) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 2.4.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P.L where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: SEALS CO LTD**

Phone No: 256924/256914

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**MV IWAMI VOY NO (29)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV IWAMI VOY NO (29) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 1.4.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P.L where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: NYK LINE**

Phone No: 256924/256914

Ethiopian Airlines launches new flights to two African cities

ADDIS ABABA, 1 April—The Ethiopian Airlines on Sunday commenced flights to its new routes in two African cities—Ndola of Zambia, and Blantyre of Malawi.

The launch of the new routes has raised the number of Ethiopian's destinations to 46 on the African continent. Ndola, Zambia's third largest city, has become the second destination of the Ethiopian Airlines in Zambia next to Lusaka, and so is Blantyre of Malawi next to Lilongwe.

Speaking on the occasion, Esayas Woldemariam, Chief Commercial Officer of the Ethiopian Airlines, said, the addition of the new routes and increasing African destinations by Ethiopian Airlines shows the Ethiopian's commitment to linking the African continent to the rest of the world.

Esayas particularly told Xinhua that the Ethiopian Airlines is ever expanding its networks across the world. Reiterating that the Ethio-

pian has the largest network in Africa, the chief said its network expansion on the continent helps Africa better trade with itself and with outside the continent.

"We are launching a couple of destinations today in Africa which are Blantyre in Malawi as well as Ndola in Zambia although we have already Lusaka and Lilongwe in those countries. So, these are additions and it will make the total destination on African continent 46," said Esayas.

"This is the testament of the Ethiopian commitment to the whole continent to discharge and fulfill our civic duties linking Africa to the rest of the world," he noted.

Esayas also stated that with its large inter-Africa network the Ethiopian Airlines is trying to help Africa trade each other as well as foster relations and cooperation among African countries on cultures, economics, and activities of import and export—Xinhua

Abu Dhabi bourse best Arab stock in first Quarter of 2013

ABU DHABI, 1 April—The Abu Dhabi Securities Exchange General Index (ADXGI) has increased by 14.975 in the first quarter of this year, representing the highest increase among all Arab stock markets.

The ADXGI increased on Sunday by 0.25 percent, closing higher at 3,025.33 points. The index in Abu Dhabi is followed by the Ku-

wait Stock Exchange and the Dubai Financial Market.

"We expect from stocks in the emerging markets to perform better than their peers in the developed world this year, as the bond market reduced the return potential of fixed income," said Mark McFarland, the chief investment strategist at bank Emirates NBD in Dubai.

Xinhua



Members of the Shaker Heights High School Band perform at Taksim square in Istanbul, Turkey, on 31 March, 2013. The band, having 201 student players, has started a nine-day tour from 27 March, stopping in six cities including Istanbul, Troy and Ephesus.—XINHUA

ENTERTAINMENT

Britney Spears' new boyfriend was made to sign a confidentiality agreement

NEW DELHI, 1 April—Singer Britney Spears, who split from her fiancé Jason Trawick in January 2013, had her new love interest David Lucado undergo a background check and sign a non-disclosure contract before agreeing to go out with him despite being set up by her father and legal guardian Jamie Spears.

A source told gossip website RadarOnline.com: "Jamie has known David for a while, and always thought he was a thoughtful, and an all-around good guy. Britney needed someone to keep her company after she and Jason (Trawick) broke up. It had to be a male, because Britney just doesn't

respond as well to females. And remember, she is still under a conservatorship. Before David started spending time with Brit, he had to undergo a background check, and sign a confidentiality agreement, all arranged by Papa Spears. Jamie makes sure if things go south between Jamie and Britney, details about her life wouldn't be made public. David had absolutely no problem with it, and completely understood why it was being done."

The 31-year-old singer — who shares sons Sean Preston, seven, and Jayden James, six, with her ex-husband Kevin Federline — has been spotted on several romantic outings with David, who works at a prestigious law firm in Southern California, recently. And insider revealed: "(He) genuinely cares for Britney.—PTI



The singer has been spotted on several romantic outings with David, who works at a prestigious law firm in Southern California.

According to sources, SRK has been enquiring about Parineeti Chopra, prompting rumours that he might want to cast her in one of his upcoming projects.



in one of his upcoming projects.

A source said, "SRK is currently shooting in Wai and has been all praises for Parineeti. He has been asking about the kind of projects she has on hand right now.

He was also heard discussing about her recent achievements.

He seems to be taking a keen interest in her."

Another source said, "After she won the National Award, it is possible that SRK might want to do a film with her. Only that could explain his sudden interest in her."—PTI

Shah Rukh Khan's new interest in Parineeti Chopra: National Award effect?



MUMBAI, 1 April — After she won the National Award for her performance in her debut film Ishaqzaade, the bigwigs of Bollywood have started noticing Parineeti Chopra.

According to sources, Shah Rukh Khan has been asking around about Parineeti Chopra, prompting rumours that he might want to cast her

Daniel Craig charges USD 1 million for 7 minutes appearance

NEW YORK, 1 April— James Bond star Daniel Craig was paid a whopping USD 1 million for a brief appearance at a car show.

Craig, 45, who attended the Range Rover event in New York, angered fans by leaving the venue just after seven minutes, reported Sun online.

"He didn't even give a

speech," a guest said.

"I couldn't even tell if he was actually here!," another guest added.

During the event Craig appeared in a video driving the 2014 Range Rover Sport.

The footage shows the car being driven from the company's UK manufacturing plant into New York, crossing the Manhattan Bridge and ending up on the red carpet.—PTI

Daniel Craig attended the Range Rover event in New York and angered fans by leaving the venue just after seven minutes.



Justin Bieber's monkey quarantined in Germany following Customs incident

MUNICH, 1 April—Justin Bieber tried to monkey around in Germany, literally — but officials are having none of it. Landing in Munich on 28 March for a concert, the 19-year-old pop superstar was forced to leave a capuchin monkey in quarantine after he failed to produce the the necessary papers for the animal, authorities explained on Saturday.

The "Beauty and the Beat" singer attempted to go through customs with the animal, but had to leave it at the airport following a discussion with officials customs spokesman Thomas Meister said, according to the Associated Press.

"Munich was a good time. And loud. The bus is headed to Vienna now. U coming?" Bieber tweeted after the show, although he didn't mention the

monkey. Before leaving the US on Wednesday, he had a brief, one-hour reunion with ex-girlfriend Selena Gomez at her LA home. Earlier in the week, Bieber spoke with Us Weekly exclusively about the recent spate of negative press attention he's received.

"The biggest misconception about me is that I'm a bad person," confided Bieber.



Justin Bieber

PTI

SPORTS

Murray goes to number two with Miami tie-break win over Ferrer



Britain's Andy Murray hoists the champion's trophy after defeating Spain's David Ferrer in their men's singles final match at the Sony Open tennis tournament in Key Biscayne, Florida on 31 March, 2013.

MIAMI, 1 April—Britain's Andy Murray defeated Spain's David Ferrer 2-6, 6-4, 7-6 in a gruelling and enthralling Sony Open final on Sunday to move above Roger Federer to second in the world rankings.

Murray was far from at his best against a dogged Ferrer but won the tie-break 7-1 after surviving a scare when the Spaniard had match point at 6-5 up, with Murray serving, in the third.

REUTERS Murray's forehand landed close to the line and he faced a challenge from Ferrer, who called out rather than play the shot, but the ball was shown in, and the Scot won the next two points to force the tie-break.

"It was such a tough match, it could have gone either way, both of us were struggling physically at the end," said Murray whose victory was his second at Miami following his tri-

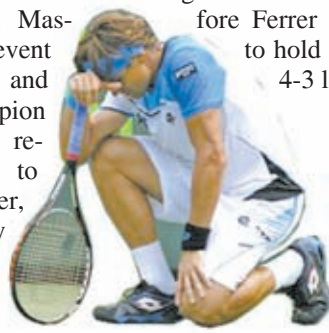
umph in 2009. "It's so tough against him. He has a great attitude, he's a great fighter. I am sure we will have more tough matches in the future."

The last time Murray, who is behind Novak Djokovic in the world rankings, was ranked second was back in 2009 when Federer was the top player.

The match was littered with errors, particularly in the third set when neither player could hold serve in the first six games.

But it was a gripping duel in the mid-day heat at Key Biscayne with neither player flinching as they scrapped to the end.

The victory was Murray's ninth in a Masters 1000 series event and the US Open and Olympic champion drew on all his reserves of energy to secure it. Ferrer, enjoying plenty of support from the many South Americans in the



Spain's David Ferrer

crowd, won the first set with solid tennis, making the most of the openings offered by Murray.

The Spaniard won all three of his break points, while Murray committed 19 unforced errors, including four in the final game and gave up his third double fault on set point.

The second turned in Murray's direction when he broke to go 2-1 up and then, serving at 3-2 up, he saved two break points. Ferrer broke back to level the set in the eighth game but Murray broke straight back and held to send the contest into a third set. The two exchanged six breaks to begin the deciding set before Ferrer managed to hold to grab a 4-3 lead.

Reuters

Liverpool increase Villa's relegation worries

LONDON, 1 April—Jordan Henderson and Steven Gerrard struck second-half goals for Liverpool who increased Aston Villa's Premier League relegation fears by recovering from going behind to secure a 2-1 away victory on Sunday.

Belgium striker Christian Benteke, with his 14th

league goal of the season, fired Villa into a first-half lead but the game changed in the first 15 minutes of the second half.

Henderson equalised on 47 minutes and Gerrard scored with a penalty on the hour to leave Villa stuck in the bottom three.

Reading prop up the

standings on 23 points from 31 games, with Queens Park Rangers, who play at Fulham on Monday, on 23 from 30. Villa have 30 from 31, with Wigan Athletic sitting just above the drop zone.

Just four points separate Southampton, in 12th place, and Villa in 18th and Villa coach Paul Lambert said

his side were playing well enough to escape the drop.

Villa are one of just seven clubs to have been ever-present in the top flight since the Premier League era began in 1992.

"We are certainly playing well enough to go and win games," Lambert told Sky Sports.

"Anybody who was here today would say the same—we're certainly playing well enough. We don't look like a team which is down there at the bottom. If we keep going the way we are going we'll win more games than not."

"We have to try and keep confidence—confidence is a big part of the game. That is something that is not lacking with us."

Reuters



Liverpool's Steven Gerrard (R) scores a penalty past Aston Villa's Brad Guzan during their English Premier League soccer match at Villa Park in Birmingham, England, on 31 March, 2013.

REUTERS

Usain Bolt coasts to 150m victory in Rio's Copacabana beach

RIO DE JANEIRO, 1 April—Jamaica's champion sprinter Usain Bolt cruised to victory in a 150-metres race held on Rio's Copacabana beach on Sunday, timing 14.42 seconds.

The 26-year-old Bolt—who won the 100m, 200m, and 4x100m relay in both the 2008 Beijing Olympics and the 2012 London Games, fell short of improving on his own 150m world record—14.35 seconds in Manchester, England, in 2009.

Antiguan sprinter Daniel Bailey came in second on Sunday at 14.88 seconds, followed by Brazilian Bruno Lins at 14.91 and Ecuadorian Alex Quinonez at 15.90.



Jamaica's champion sprinter Usain Bolt

Bolt said he was happy with the result, calling it a "good start" to the season and saying he looked forward to returning to Brazil for the 2016 Summer Olympics.

Some 3,000 spectators attended the event, at a track set up on a beach popular with tourists, eager to watch Bolt and the other sprinters compete in the rarely-raced distance.

After crossing the finish line, Bolt took off his shoes and hurled one of them into the stands. He later regretted the move when he felt how hot the track was and asked for a replacement.

PTI

Australia's Hend soars to three-shot victory in Thailand



Australia's Scott Hend charged from six-shots back to win the inaugural Chiangmai Golf Classic presented by PTT by three strokes after a stunning eight-under-par 64 in the final round on Sunday.—PTI

CHIANGMAI, 1 April—Big-hitting Australian Scott Hend capitalised on Prayad Marksaeng's spectacular final-round meltdown to lift the Chiangmai Golf Classic on Sunday.

Thailand's Prayad blew a five-shot lead and the chance to win his second tournament at home this month as Hend carded a sparkling eight-under-par 64 for a total of 20-under-par 268 to win his third Asian Tour title by three strokes. South Africa's Bryce Easton, playing his first Asian Tour event, also shot a 64 for a 17-under 271 to take second place while Prayad finished a shot further behind on third with a final-round two-over-par 74 at the Alpine Golf Resort-Chiangmai.

"To be honest, I didn't

think I had a chance to win," the 40-year-old Hend said after picking up his winner's cheque of \$135,000. "I played with Prayad the first two rounds and he was hitting the ball great and putting great."

Obviously he played great yesterday again and I thought he would continue with the way he was playing. I was just looking for a solid top-five finish. Obviously it all fell together and I played quite well.

"Unfortunately for the other guys, they didn't quite keep the pace going which was good for me."

Thailand's Thongchai Jaidee, who needed a win to have a chance of qualifying for the Masters, finished tied 10th after a 72 while South Africa's Ernie Els finished tied 14th.—Reuters

Cancellara makes up for crash with Flanders win

OUDENAARDE, (Belgium), 1 April—Fabian Cancellara wiped out last year's bad memories when he powered his way to his second victory in the Tour of Flanders cycle race on Sunday.

A year ago, on the same 256 kms of exhausting hills and cobbled sections, the Swiss former Olympic and world time-trial champion hit the tarmac as he rode over a bottle 60 kms from the finish line in Oudenaarde.

He fractured his collarbone, forcing him to miss the "Ronde" and the Paris-Roubaix the following weekend.

Twelve months later, Cancellara timed his move to perfection, striking 14 kms from the finish line to shake off his only rival on the day,

Slovakia's Peter Sagan, and snatch the laurels three years after his previous victory in the Belgian classic.

"It's just amazing. One year ago, I was on the ground and now I'm back and I won Flanders as a big favourite. It was not easy. I'm just happy, really happy," said the Swiss, now his country's best-ever one-day rider with two Ronde, two Paris-Roubaix and one Milan-San Remo wins under his belt.

Title holder Tom Boonen's season ended after the three-times Ronde winner hit a kerb after 19 kms and dropped out with groin and arm injuries.

Reuters



RadioShack team rider Fabian Cancellara of Switzerland celebrates winning the 97th Ronde van Vlaanderen (Tour of Flanders) Classic cycling race in Oudenaarde on 31 March, 2013.—REUTERS

GENERAL

12 killed, 14 injured in road accident in Mexico

MEXICO CITY, 1 April— At least 12 people died and 14 more were injured when a bus fell into a 100-metre deep ravine in Mexico's eastern state of Veracruz Saturday night, local authorities said on Sunday in a statement.

The government of Veracruz, a state located in Mexico's eastern coast, confirmed that so far 12 people have died and 14 more are injured. The cause

of the accident is still under investigation.

According to the statement, four women and eight men were killed. The bus had some 30 passengers when the accident occurred.

The injured were taken to local hospitals in Jalapa. Authorities said among those hospitalized, there are a 4-year-old boy and a 5-year-old girl.

The bus was travelling from Misantla municipality

to Jalapa, Veracruz's capital city, when a van suddenly switched to the bus's lane, causing it to fall in the ravine in Naolinco municipality, near its final destination.

Poor visibility caused by thick fog was blamed for the accident. Javier Duarte, governor of Veracruz, sent condolences and ordered immediate support for the families of the victims.

Xinhua

Giant panda artificially inseminated at US National Zoo

WASHINGTON, 1 April— Veterinarians at the National Zoo artificially inseminated the zoo's female giant panda, Mei Xiang, on Saturday after natural breeding failed to occur, zoo keepers said.

Mei Xiang was put under general anesthesia and inseminated with a combination of fresh semen and frozen semen collected from the zoo's male giant panda, Tian Tian.



Giant panda Mei Xiang enjoys her afternoon nap at the National Zoo in Washington in this on 23 Aug, 2007 file photo.—REUTERS

The Washington zoo said scientists performed a second and final insemination later on Saturday evening.

"It will be several months before we know if she is pregnant," the National Zoo said in a tweet.

Veterinarians detected a rise in hormone levels on Tuesday, indicating Mei Xiang was ready to breed but said "no competent breeding" between the panda pair had occurred.

"We are hopeful that our breeding efforts will be successful this year, and we're encouraged by all the behaviours and hormonal data we've seen so far,"

said Dave Wildt, head of the Centre for Species Survival at the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute.

Scientists will continue to monitor Mei Xiang's hormone levels in the coming months and conduct ultrasounds to determine whether she is pregnant. A pregnancy lasts between 95 and 160 days, they said.

Mei Xiang has given birth to two cubs. One died a week after its birth last year. The other, Tai Shan, was born in 2005 and is now at the China Conservation and Research Centre for the Giant Panda in Wolong.—Reuters

Three killed in building fire near Paris

PARIS, 1 April— Three people were killed and 13 were injured on Saturday night in a building fire in Aubervilliers, near Paris, French newspaper *Le Figaro* reported on Sunday.

Residents reported disputes in the apartment building in Aubervilliers, Seine-Saint-Denis. The fire broke out shortly after 22:00 local time (GMT 2100) on the third floor and spread to the fourth.

Four were critically injured among the 13 wounded. Twenty people were treated for smoke inhalation.

Approximately 200 firefighters were called to the scene and the flames were under control by 23:45 (GMT 2245). Sixty residents who survived the fire were installed in a bar nearby and a gym, *Le Figaro* said.

The cause of the accident was unknown in the middle of night.—Xinhua



Children collect Easter eggs in a park in Brussels, Belgium, on 31 March, 2013. 10 parks in Brussels held Easter egg hunt event on Sunday. XINHUA

Five killed in South African helicopter crash

JOHANNESBURG, 1 April — A South African Air Force (SAAF) helicopter crashed on Saturday night, leaving five people dead, the *South African Press Association* reported on Sunday.

The tragedy occurred as the A109 helicopter was on a routine patrol over the Kruger National Park in the northeastern province of Limpopo at around 7:00 pm local time on Saturday, the SAAF was quoted as saying.

"It was part of the anti-

poaching operation," the SAAF said.

The Kruger park is the largest reserve in South Africa, where live many endangered animals of rhino. However, some of the rhinos would be targeted and killed by poachers every month due to the rampant smuggling of horns.

Poachers mostly operate at or near moon, and the park has to request the air force to use helicopters to combat them.

"The A109 helicopter lost its control, killing five

people on board," added the SAAF.

The cause of the fatal air accident was not clear, and the SAAF was investigating it.

The twin-turbine helicopter, developed by Italy in the 1970s, is capable of carrying out multiple aerial missions with eight people on board.

South Africa's Department of Defence and Military Veterans and the SAAF expressed their heartfelt condolences to the families of the deceased.—Xinhua

Xavi and Alba back for Barca's PSG trip after injury

MADRID, 1 April—Barcelona's Xavi and Jordi Alba have both recovered from hamstring strains and were included in their squad on Sunday for the trip to play Paris St Germain in the Champions League quarter-finals.

The duo returned injured from international duty with Spain — Alba after the World Cup qualifying draw with Finland a week ago, and Xavi after helping the world champions to get a 1-0 win away to France.



Barcelona's Xavi Hernandez celebrates a goal against Espanyol during their Spanish First division soccer league match at Camp Nou stadium in Barcelona on 6 Jan, 2013.

REUTERS

Bayern crush Hamburg 9-2 to stride towards title

BERLIN, 1 April — League leaders Bayern Munich demolished Hamburg SV 9-2 with four goals from striker Claudio Pizarro and two from Arjen Robben on Saturday to put one hand on the Bundesliga trophy with seven games to play.

With a dazzling performance that will act as a warning to Italy's Juventus

ahead of their Champions League quarter-final next week, Bayern, resting several key players, could have celebrated their 23rd German league title were it not for Borussia Dortmund's Robert Lewandowski.

The Poland striker scored a late winner earlier on Saturday to give the champions a narrow 2-1 victory at VfB Stuttgart and put Bayern's title campaign on ice for at least another week.

Reuters



Bayern Munich's Arjen Robben celebrates a goal against HSV Hamburg during their German Bundesliga first division soccer match in Munich on 30 March, 2013.

REUTERS



New Kabuki Za theatre: Photo taken in Tokyo's Chuo Ward on 26 March, 2013, shows the reconstructed Kabuki Za theatre illuminated at night.

KYODO NEWS

President U Thein Sein welcomes Singaporean President Dr Tony Tan Keng Yam and wife



President U Thein Sein and President of the Republic of Singapore Dr Tony Tan Keng Yam inspect the Guard of Honour.

MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 1 April—A ceremony to welcome Singapore Dr Tony Tan Keng Yam and wife by President U Thein Sein took place on the

lawn of Presidential Palace, here, at 4 pm today.

On arrival at the

Presidential Palace to attend the welcoming ceremony, the Singaporean President

and wife received warm welcome by President U Thein Sein and wife.

Then, the two Presidents took position on the dais to take salute of the Guard of Honour. The State Band played the National Anthems of Myanmar and Singapore.

The two Presidents inspected the Guard of Honour.

The Singaporean President introduced the goodwill delegation members to the President.

The President also introduced Union Ministers U Wunna Maung Lwin, U Thein Nyunt, U Tin Naing Thein, Dr Kan Zaw, U Kyaw Lwin, U Htay Aung and Myanmar Ambassador to Singapore U Tin Oo Lwin to the Singaporean President.

At the welcoming ceremony, the two Presidents were honoured by scouts from Nay Pyi Taw No 5 Basic Education High School waving the state flags of the two countries.—MNA

China Arts and Entertainment Group supplies technical assistance for XXVII SEA Games

NAY PYI TAW, 1 April—Chairman of the Leading Committee for Preparation of XXVII South-East Asian Games Union Minister for Culture U Aye Myint Kyu held a cordial discussion with Mr Li Shizhong and party of China Arts and Entertainment Group, that will supply the leading committee with technical assistance for opening and closing ceremonies of the SEA Games, together with technicians at the

Ministry of Culture, here, this morning.

They coordinated matters on electrical equipment to be used in the opening and closing ceremonies of the upcoming SEA Games.

During their two-day visit in Myanmar, the Chinese guests will hold coordination meetings on technical assistance for opening and closing ceremonies of the XXVII SEA Games.

MNA

Kyaikmaraw Township gets inter-village street and free clinic

NAY PYI TAW, 1 April—With the aim of ensuring smooth transportation and rapid commodities flow in villages of Kyaikmaraw Township in Mon State, the opening of Mayangon-Khanaung-Yedwington inter-village street was held on 27 March, with an address by State Chief Minister U Ohn Myint.

State Development Affairs Minister Dr Toe Toe Aung (Kyaikmaraw Township in-charge), State

Hluttaw Representative U Hla Tun, the director of State Development Affairs Committee and an official from Tawin Myint Myat Thu Co formally opened the new inter-village street.

The chief minister and party strolled along the tarred street. Two miles and four furlongs long and twelve feet wide street was built by Tawin Myint Myat Thu Co and it will be beneficial for dwellers from Kyaikmaraw, Peinnegon, Khanaung and

Yedwington Village-Tracts.

The chief minister also attended the opening of free clinic in Kyaikmaraw Township.

The State chief minister together with clinic organizing committee chairman cut the ribbon to open the new clinic building.

The chief minister then made a speech and the state development affairs minister presented the certificates of honour to wellwishers.

MNA

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham receives Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar

NAY PYI TAW, 1 April—Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham received Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Myanmar Mr. Yang Houlan at Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace, here, this morning.

Present also at the call were Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Thant Kyaw and officials of the President Office.

They exchanged views on strengthening bilateral friendship between the two countries, promotion of friendship and amity based on same points of the two countries religiously

and culturally, stability of border region to get the full benefit in the regional and bilateral interest, settlement of national races affairs with Union spirit for ensuring initial peace agreement as a ceasefire has been reached in the northern part of Myanmar, sooner implementation of demining and rehabilitation works with the help of international aid and economic cooperation and bilateral trade.

MNA

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham shakes hands with Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Myanmar Mr. Yang Houlan.

MNA



NHK, AP open Yangon branches

NAY PYI TAW, 1 April—Since the President U Thein Sein-led government has taken office, the country has enjoyed more press freedom allowing foreign news agencies freedom of access to information in the

country freely.

For the convenience of foreign news agencies, Japan-based NHK and US-based AP news agencies have been allowed to open their branches in Yangon as of 1 April.

Likewise, the application form of Kyodo News Agency has been under scrutiny, and more applications will be scrutinized and allowed.

MNA