

The New Light of Myanmar

THE MOST RELIABLE NEWSPAPER AROUND YOU

Volume XXI, Number 4

10th Waxing of Tagu 1375 ME

Saturday, 20 April, 2013

Indonesian President and wife to pay state visit to Myanmar

NAY PYI TAW, 20 April—At the invitation of His Excellency U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and wife Daw Khin Khin Win, His Excellency Dr. Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, President of the Republic of Indonesia and wife Mrs. Hajjah Ani Bambang Yudhoyono will pay a state visit to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar in the near future.—MNA

Farmland reclamation, construction of agricultural infrastructure gaining momentum in Ottarathiri Township

NAY PYI TAW, 19 April — Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing looked into progress of farmland reclamation and construction of main drain and feeder canal and production routes, land preparation and construction of lake at 900-acre mechanized farmland near Thabyegon village in Ottarathiri Township, here, this morning.

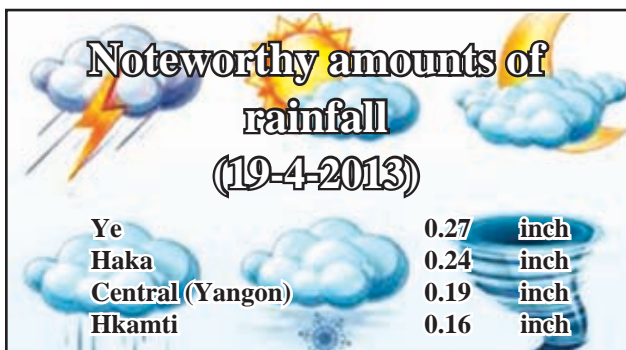
On his arrival at the worksite of Set Set Yo diversion weir, the Union minister oversaw construction works and chosen site for construction of a main drain.

Then he called on officials to place land preparation for reclamation of farmlands and construction of irrigation structures and production routes under the step-by-step supervision and to help and educate farmers for cultivation of 100-day-old Palethwal hybrid paddy strain.

MNA

Photo shows land preparation for 900-acre mechanized farmland in Thabyegon Village in Ottarathiri Township.

MNA



Seven step pond with wonderful natural sceneries in Dimawhso

Plans are underway to establish a recreation centre at idyllic seven step pond in Kayah State for visitors at home and abroad by Kayah State Government.

On his inspection tour of the seven step pond together with some state ministers, Kayah State Chief Minister U Khin Maung Oo (a) U Bu Rel gave necessary instructions

Kyee Myint Naing (Loikaw)

on construction of a road that will link with Htee Pwint Pond and preliminary measures for establishment of a recreation centre that will offer fantastic selection of facility and activities for visitors. “There will be a shuttle bus service if people picnic at the seven step pond once a month as a gesture of putting the road into service,” says a state minister.

The wonderful naturally-formed seven step pond surrounded by mountain ranges is located in Dimawhso Township and it is 14 miles far from Loikaw. According to the records, the seven step pond is formed with fourteen ponds namely Htoe liawphu, Htoe boe-kalar, Htoe Tawku, Payal Mosole, Htoe Nawku, Kayaw Mibel,

Boebyar Htoe-aw, Htoe Dooku, Kayal Htoe-aw, Htoe The-aw, Htoe Beetaw and Htoe Li-aw.

The seven step pond provides a scenically attractive place to have fun for everyone. Although Kayah State was unsafe for holiday-makers in the past due to security reason, peace and stability returned to Kayah State since a ceasefire agreement between Karenni National Progressive Party (KNPP) and Kayah State Government came into effect on 7 March 2012. So visitors will be able to come the seven step pond on vacation freely and happily.

Myanma Alinn:
19-4-2013
Trs: YM



Drinking water supplied to rural people in Padaung Township



PADAUNG, 19 April— As this summer causes overhear, Taungbogyi, Myewahgon, Yedwinhla, Tegon, Paybin, Thabyegon and Thebyu villages of

Padaung Township in Pyay District of Bago Region face shortage of water at wells and lakes.

As of 4 April, a total of 12 members led by Head of Padaung Township Fire Services Department U Soe Min supplied 3400 gallons of water to the local people with the use of fire engine.

Moreover, Executive Officer U Soe Myint and staff of Township Development Affairs Committee together with sellers and wellwishers of Okshitpin Market donated 1600 gallons of water to the local people with the use of water tanker.

Myanma Alinn

CSC issued to people through one stop service in Patheingyi

PATHEINGYI, 19 April— The One Stop Service of Moe Pwint-5 Plan being implemented by Patheingyi Township Immigration and National Registration Department was carried out at Aungmingala Dham-

mayon of Kanaung Mingala Monastery in Kalargyichan Village of Ngwetaung Village-tract on 5 April.

It was supervised by Mandalay Region Minister for Finance and Revenue U Phone Zaw Han, Pyithu

Hluttaw Representatives U Aung Thant and U Ko Gyi, Amyotha Hluttaw Representative Dr Soe Tun, Region Hluttaw Representatives U Swe Than and U Ko Ko Lwin, and Township Administrator U Kyaw Soe.

They presented citizenship scrutiny cards to the eligible persons.

Deputy Head of

Mandalay Region Immigration and National Registration Department U Win Ye Tun and Head of Township INRD U Kyaw Ngwe reported on process of issuance of the cards to the people. On that day, the department issued cards to 79 people from Ngwetaung, Kalargyichan and Myodaw villages.—Myanma Alinn

Sanitation carried out at Chaungtha Beach

YANGON, 19 April—To mark the second anniversary of AIRKBZ Ltd, responsible persons of AIR KBZ Ltd and staff, departmental personnel from Chaungtha Beach totalling about 200 participated in sanitation tasks at Chaungtha Beach on 4 and 5 April.

They also placed garbage bins at the beach and posted signboards bearing environmental conservation.

Myanma Alinn



Plum industries in Pakokku see Chinese market

PAKOKKU, 19 April— Local workers in plum production industry earn increased incomes in Pakokku as of Tabaung.

About 30 entrepreneurs run plum production industries in Kanma, Myaing and Pakokku regions.

“This year, plum fruits production went down due to lesser rainfalls. However, plum production rose in Yaw

region depending on heavy rainfall. I think Pakokku region this year can produce about 500,000 baskets of plum fruits,” said a plum entrepreneur.

In March, one viss of plum net is sold for K 12000, one viss of plum seeds for K 1000, one basket of goat-fed plum for K 7000 and one basket of plum powder for K 500 in Pakokku. The plum

production market relies on its customer China.

“At present, one basket of dried plum fruits is purchased at K 2000. If one basket of dried plum fruit is crushed, it will produce 25 ticals of plum nuts, four baskets of plum seeds and powder. China does not buy nets of sweet plum, so we all sell seeds of sour plum only,” said a merchant.

This year, one basket of plum is sold at over K 2000 in the market.

About 15 workers are running a plum production industry. One worker can earn K 2500 to K 3000 a day, and a female worker K 2000. Depending on large or small plum production industries, workers are working

production 10 months a year, and the industries regularly stop their production in November and December.

Myanma Alinn

Dawei packed with Thingyan revelers

DAWEI, 19 April—Chief Minister of Taninthayi Region U Myat Ko and party enjoyed the entertainment presented at the stage show and choral dances at Padauk

Shwewah Pandal in Dawei of Taninthayi Region on 14 April.

The Chief Minister presented cash awards to choral dancers.

In the evening, the singers and dancers presented songs and dances to the local people at the stage.

Myanma Alinn



Kachin State celebrates Myanmar traditional Thingyan festival peacefully

MYITKYINA, 19 April— Myanmar Traditional Thingyan Festival was celebrated in Kachin State on a grand scale.

Revellers and people happily enjoyed water festival at pandals in Myitkyina District, Township, sub-townships and villages. Chief Minister of Kachin State U La John Ngan Hsai and wife Daw Kan Hsi Hsaing Lon visited Myitphya Ayeya Padauk Shwewah, Kha

Nway Oo, Manaw Myay, Nyeinchan Khanway, Palm Spring, Manaw Ekri water pandals of departments and companies in Myitkyina on 14 and 15 April and presented cash awards to singers and dancers.

In the evening, a total of 21 choral dancing troupes competed in the dancing, singing and performances at Maha Thingyan Pandal of Development Affairs Ministry of State.

Myanma Alinn

Shwewah Pandal in Dawei of Taninthayi Region on 14 April.

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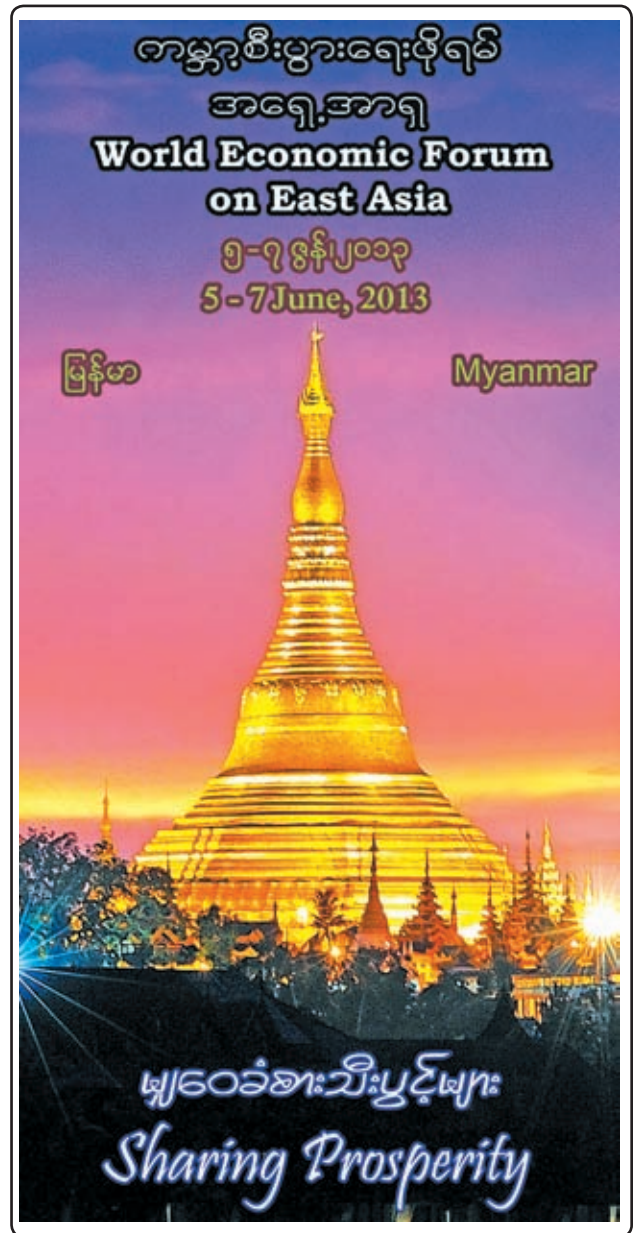
Myanma Alinn

Action taken against rule-breaker vehicles

MYITKYINA, 19 April— Members of Traffic Police Corps give talks on traffic rules and take action against traffic rule broker motorcycles on Thakin Net Pe Road in Myitkyina of

Kachin State. Road users and vehicle users are to abide by prescribed rules and regulations in building a modern, developed nation.

Myanma Alinn



မျှဝေခံစားသိပ္ပံမျှား
Sharing Prosperity

WORLD

Abe announces Tokyo's support for Myanmar

TOKYO, 19 April — Prime Minister Shinzo Abe extended Tokyo's active support for democratization and economic development in Myanmar at a meeting on Thursday with the Southeast Asian country's opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi. "Japan will support Myanmar's efforts aimed for the future," Abe said at the outset of the meeting with the 67-year-old head of the National League for Democracy, who is visiting Japan for the first time in 27 years.

Abe said his government and the Japanese pri-

ivate sector will work as one to assist Myanmar through infrastructure building funded by the official development assistance and private-sector investments, according to a government official who attended the meeting. The two shared the importance of enhancing Myanmar's educational system and the topic took up most of the 35-minute meeting, according to the official. Abe explained the system of night schools and correspondence education in Japan as ways allowing people to study

while working, the official said. After Myanmar's transition to a democratic government in March 2011, Tokyo has stepped up efforts to help the fast-reforming country, resuming yen loans after suspension for 26 years. Japanese businesses are vying to invest in resource-rich Myanmar, which has a relatively cheap, diligent and abundant labour force. Abe said he hopes that Japanese firms' investments will create jobs in Myanmar, according to the official.—*Kyodo News*

Fire at Exxon's Beaumont, Texas, refinery injures 12 workers

HOUSTON, 19 April — Twelve contract workers were hurt on Wednesday morning when a fire broke out at a unit undergoing repairs at Exxon Mobil Corp's 344,500 barrel per day (bpd) Beaumont, Texas, refinery, a company spokeswoman said.

The fire was at a shut hydrotreater heat exchanger, according to sources familiar with operations at the refinery. Exxon did not identify the unit but confirmed the fire broke out at 10:30 am CDT (11.30 am EDT) on a shut unit undergoing planned maintenance work at the refinery.

The blaze was quickly brought under control and extinguished, said compa-



ny spokeswoman Rachael Moore.

Six of the 12 workers were taken to regional hospitals "for further medical evaluation and treatment," Moore said. The sources said the workers were thought to have been welding on a section of the heat exchanger when the fire broke out. All other employees and contractors

working at the Beaumont refinery have been accounted for, Moore said.

The hydrotreater is part of the refinery's system for removing harmful substances from feedstock so the motor fuels produced will comply with federal environmental regulations. It uses hydrogen under high pressure in the process.

—*Reuters*

Gunshots heard on Massachusetts Institute of Technology campus



A building at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology is lit up in red, white and blue as a tribute to those who were killed or injured in the explosions at the Boston Marathon in Cambridge, Massachusetts on 16 April, 2013. —*REUTERS*

CAMBRIDGE, 19 April — Gunshots were heard near a building on the campus of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Cambridge, the school said

on its website on Thursday.

The shots "were reported near Building 32 ... which is currently surrounded by responding agencies," according to a

statement on the MIT website for emergency information. Representatives for local police agencies could not immediately be reached for comment.—*Reuters*

One Boston Marathon bombings suspect killed in firefight with police



The suspect on the left was captured and dead early Friday, while the other one is still on the run.

(XINHUA / REUTERS)

BOSTON, 19 April — Local police said on Friday that one suspect in the Boston Marathon bombings was killed in a firefight with the police, while another one remains at large.

Both suspects are

men but their nationalities are unknown. One of the suspects was reportedly shot dead in the firefight with police in the Watertown area west of Boston.

The Associated Press reported that one of the suspects was from the

Russian region near Chechnya and lived in the United States for at least a year. The suspect at large was identified as 19-year-old Dzhokhar Tsarnaev of Cambridge, Massachusetts, the AP said.—*Kyodo News*

Russia says US must do more to address missile shield concerns

MOSCOW, 19 April — Russian officials said on Thursday the United States had not done enough to address their concerns about an anti-missile shield it is deploying in Europe, indicating US moves to scale down its plans will bring

no quick breakthrough.

Their remarks suggested missile defence will remain a bone of contention in relations, increasingly strained since Vladimir Putin returned to the Russian presidency last May.

They indicated there

had been no major progress during a visit on Monday by President Barack Obama's national security adviser Tom Donilon, who met Putin in the highest-level contact since Obama began a new term in January.

—*Reuters*

Italian parliament fails to elect state president

ROME, 19 April — Italy's parliament failed to elect a new state president in its first vote on Thursday, with deep splits in the centre left torpedoing a quick victory for its official candidate Franco Marini.

Marini, a former Senate speaker, won 521 votes, well below the required two-thirds majority of 672 of the 1,007 electors, comprising members of both houses of parliament and regional representatives.

A second ballot will be held later on Thursday and two votes a day will continue through the weekend if necessary.

Marini's clear failure, in a vote which is key to filling a government vacuum since the deadlocked general election in February, was a slap in the face for centre-left leader Pier Luigi Bersani. He badly split his party by nominating Marini in a deal with centre-right boss Silvio Berlusconi. Many rebellious centre-left parliamentarians voted in the secret ballot for academic Stefano Rodota, candidate of the populist 5-Star Movement of former com-

ic Beppe Grillo. Rodota won more than 240 votes and there were also more than 100 blank or spoiled ballots. Nichi Vendola, head of Bersani's leftist ally SEL, said nominating Marini "was a mistake. The result was worrying. Marini was a candidate who united the centre right, not the center left."

He said unless things changed, his 46 representatives would keep voting for Rodota. Roberto Fico, from Grillo's movement, said: "The Berlusconi-Bersani marriage did not work, so the consensus behind Rodota is growing."

After three rounds of voting, only an absolute majority is required but the chances for Marini, 80, may decline as time passes, wrecking Bersani's deal with Berlusconi which is aimed at helping him form a minority government. Bersani has repeatedly refused to agree to Berlusconi's demands that they form a broad coalition government together. But it is widely believed he wants to parley an agreement on the presidency with centre-right willingness to support a minority centre-left government.—*Reuters*



Lower house President Laura Boldrini (L) reads the ballots during the presidential election in the lower house of the parliament in Rome on 18 April, 2013.

REUTERS

Space telescope spots distant planets well placed for life

CAPE CANAVERAL, 19 April—Scientists using NASA's Kepler space telescope have found the best candidates yet for habitable worlds beyond the solar system, including a pair of potentially life-friendly planets orbiting the same star, officials said on Thursday.

The planets join a list of about 700 confirmed extra-solar planets discovered since 1995.

The new additions include a pair of planets orbiting a star called Kepler-62, located about 1,200 light years away in the constellation Lyra.

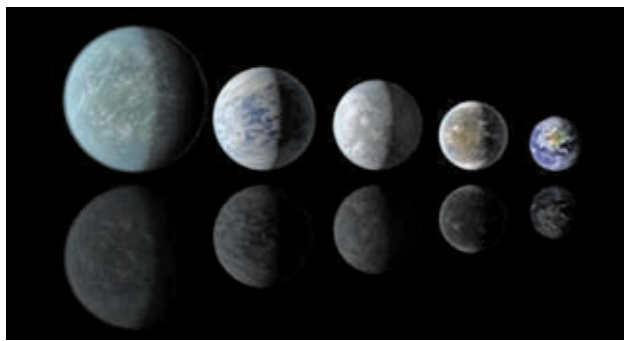
Kepler-62's two outermost planets, both about 1.5 times the size of Earth, are located the right distance from their parent star for water — if any exists — to be liquid on the surface. Water is believed to be necessary for life.

"These two planets are our best candidates for planets that might be habitable, not just in the habitable zone," Kepler lead scientist William Borucki, with NASA's Ames Research Centre in Moffett Field, California, told reporters on a conference call.

Computer models indicate the two planets, designated Kepler-62e and 62f, likely are solid bodies comprised of rock, ice or a mix of rock and ice.

The pair have three sister planets that also circle Kepler-62, but those are too close their parent star and likely too hot for surface water.

The Kepler telescope measures slight dips in the amount of light coming from target stars that may be caused by planets passing by, or transiting, relative to the telescope's line of sight.—Reuters



Relative sizes of Kepler habitable zone planets discovered as of 18 April, 2013 in this artist's rendition provided by NASA.—REUTERS

Google Fiber gigabit Internet headed to Provo, Utah

NEW DELHI, 19 April—Google said on Wednesday that its experimental high-speed Internet service is setting its sights on the Utah city of Provo.

Provo is slated to be the third US city to get Google Fiber service that promises to move data at a blazing gigabyte-per-second, according to a blog post by Google Fiber general manager Kevin Lo.

Last week, Google released word that its Internet service will spread to Austin, the Texas home of a South By Southwest festival beloved by technology trendsetters, after a successful pilot program in Kansas City.

Google Fiber should start connecting its so-called

gigabit Internet to homes in Austin, the Texas state capital and a hotbed for Internet entrepreneurs, by the middle of next year, said vice president of access services Milo Medin.

As part of a plan to install Google Fiber in Utah, the California-based Internet giant inked a deal to buy an iProvo fiber-optic network that the city of Provo began building in 2004 but has not completed, according to Lo.

The agreement with Provo must be approved by the city council to proceed, and a vote is slated for 23 April, Google said.

"We're committed to keeping their vision alive," Lo said of the plan to build iProvo into a Google Fiber



network in that city.

If the deal is approved, Google would provide free Internet lower-speed service along the existing Provo network for at least seven years, with each home required to pay a \$30 activation fee.

Google would charge monthly subscription rates for high-speed Internet connections along with optional services such as television

programming.

Google's 'Gigabit Internet' would be free to public institutions such as schools, hospitals and libraries.

Google Fiber debuted in Kansas City and in November began providing users there with Internet service that moves data at about 100 times faster than the speed provided by typical broadband connections.—PTI

SanDisk's quarterly results beat expectations

NEW DELHI, 19 April—US memory chipmaker SanDisk on Wednesday posted quarterly results above expectations, helped by growing sales of solid-state drives.

But the company's shares fell after the report due in part to concerns about future chip pricing.

Following an industry slump in memory chip prices last year, prices for

DRAM and NAND memory chips have been strengthening.

Pacific Crest analyst Monika Garg said the stock's selloff after the report was likely caused partly by concerns among some investors that chipmakers could add new capacity, putting downward pressure on NAND prices.

"I think NAND pricing remains healthy this year. For at least the next four or five months, nobody is going to add any new capacity," Garg said.

SanDisk's revenue rose 11 percent year-over-year to \$1.34 billion in the



Twitter launches music app to deepen multimedia offering

SAN FRANCISCO, 19 April — Twitter Inc launched a stand-alone music-streaming app on Wednesday, opening another front in the micromessaging service's ambitious expansion into multimedia content.

The iPhone app, called #music, will recommend and stream songs based on who users follow on Twitter and artists' recommendations. The songs will be streamed via Rdio and Spotify, the subscription-based music services, and iTunes, Apple Inc's music store.

Twitter said in its blog-post announcement that #music will be available in the US, Canada, the UK, Ireland, Australia and New Zealand beginning on Thursday.

A release date for the Android app has not yet been announced.

In a blog post, Twit-



An illustration picture shows the logo of the Website Twitter on an Ipad, in Bordeaux, Southwestern France, on 30 Jan, 2013.—REUTERS

ter's engineers said the new service "uses Twitter activity, including Tweets and engagement, to detect and surface the most popular tracks and emerging artists."

"It also brings artists' music-related Twitter activity front and centre: go to their profiles to see which music artists they follow

and listen to songs by those artists."

The new app, launched four months after Twitter unveiled Vine, a stand-alone video-sharing app, is meant to reinforce Twitter's position as a fully functional multimedia hub, particularly in the eyes of teens and young adults.

Reuters

Dish makes national security argument for Sprint offer

WASHINGTON, 19 April —Dish Network Corp is asking regulators to suspend the review of the proposed acquisition of Sprint Nextel Corp to Japan's SoftBank Corp, saying its own counter-bid would be preferable for national security reasons.

Dish in the past has asked the Federal Communications Commission for such a suspension, but in a filing posted online on Thursday, the satellite TV provider reinforced the request with arguments promoting its own, unsolicited \$25.5 billion bid made for Sprint on Monday.

Sprint spokesman John Taylor declined comment. Sprint's board, which previously agreed to the SoftBank offer, is now studying the Dish offer.

In the filing, Dish touted the premium its bid would offer Sprint share-

holders and also pointed to SoftBank's foreign origin, saying that the Japanese company lacked the "existing in-market infrastructure," among other things.

"DISH's merger proposal is better for American consumers, better for Sprint shareholders, and better for national security than the SoftBank proposal," the filing says.

Dish asked the FCC to withhold its ruling on the merger until Sprint's board responds to its own offer.

The FCC declined to comment on the matter.

Federal regulators put extra scrutiny on merger deals involving foreign-owned entities to ensure independence and protection of the US networks, though these matters tend to be led by the Committee on Foreign Investment in the US (CFIUS) rather than the FCC.—Reuters



The Dish Network logo on the side of installers truck is seen in Denver on 2 March, 2009.—REUTERS

BUSINESS & HEALTH

AMD results beat expectations in declining PC market

SAN FRANCISCO, 19 April—Advanced Micro Devices Inc forecast current-quarter revenue above Wall Street's expectations as it rushes to find new markets to offset its declining core business of PC chips.

Like larger rival Intel Corp, AMD is trying to refocus its business as sales of laptops languish and consumers increasingly depend on smartphones and tablets.

Its shares fell nearly 6 percent after the report, erasing sudden gains in the last few minutes of the trading session.

AMD on Thursday reported revenue of \$1.09 billion, down from \$1.59 billion in the year-ago quarter.

It said June-quarter revenue would rise 2 percent, plus or minus 3 percent, compared with the March quarter.

Analysts on average expected first-quarter revenue of \$1.046 billion and June-quarter revenue of \$1.071 billion, according to Thomson Reuters I/B/E/S.

"In a world of low expectations this is a decent report — a solid beat off of low expectations," said Sanford Bernstein analyst Stacy Rasgon.

When Intel posted its quarterly earnings on Tuesday, it also gave a revenue forecast above expectations, betting on a recovery in PC sales in the second half of the year.

While Intel has deep



Visitors look at motherboards being displayed at the AMD booth during the 2012 Computex exhibition at the TWTC Nangang exhibition hall in Chinese Taipei on 6 June, 2012.—REUTERS

pockets to fund research on new processors to catch up in tablets and smartphones, AMD faces declining cash flows and a more modest balance sheet.

It is reducing operating

expenses and refocusing its chip technology on new markets like communications, microservers, game consoles, digital signs and stripped-down "thin client" computers.—Reuters

IBM mulling up to 1,400 job cuts in France

PARIS, 19 April—Technology company IBM is mulling up to 1,400 job cuts in France over the next two years, three trade-union representatives told Reuters on Thursday.

IBM, a bellwether for the IT industry, is in the midst of a drive to boost profits by 2015 against an uncertain global economic backdrop.

Local management has yet to officially outline whether there will be a formal job-cuts plan approved by US headquarters, the union representatives said, but said the numbers had already been communicated.

"Management is set to present a plan to cut

between 1,200 and 1,400 staff over the next two years," said Pierry Poquet, secretary general of the UNSA union, who said a meeting was planned for 25 April.

"For now it is only a target...we've heard such announcements before but they don't always come to pass." The CFE-CGC union's representative, Evelyn Heurtaux, confirmed the figures. "We've been told a figure of around 1,300 jobs cut over two years," she said.

IBM currently employs around 8,000 people in France, Heurtaux said.

An IBM spokeswoman could not be reached for comment.—Reuters



A view of IBM headquarters at la Defense in Paris, on 6 May, 2005.—REUTERS

IMF chief urges policy action to boost full-speed recovery

WASHINGTON, 19 April — The International Monetary Fund (IMF) chief on Thursday called on different countries to take "customized" measures to tackle their economic challenges and bolster a full-speed global economic recovery.

Finance ministers and central bankers around the world are gathering in Washington at a "critical moment" to assess the global economic developments and risks, IMF Managing Director Christine Lagarde said at a Press conference prior to the Spring Meetings of the IMF and World Bank scheduled to kick off on Friday.



The International Monetary Fund (IMF) chief.

Global economy does not look "quite as dangerous as it did," but the world

is experiencing a three-speed recovery with emerging markets leading the economic growth, she told reporters.

The pickup in financial markets "is clearly not translating into a sustained pickup in growth and jobs," she cautioned.

"What we need is a full-speed global economy," stressed Lagarde, adding that the three-speed recovery is not the healthiest recovery.

Policymakers in different countries should endeavor to support a solid, balanced and inclusive recovery, which requires tailored policy action in emerging markets, the

United States, Japan, eurozone and among others.

While addressing new risks, policymakers should also cope with old risks and complete their tasks including the financial sector reform, managing shadow banking, global economy rebalancing and boosting job creation.

Xinhua

Nokia sales tumble overshadows Lumia pick-up

HELSINKI, 19 April—A sharp fall in sales of Nokia's basic phones overshadowed a stronger performance from its Lumia smartphones in the first quarter, rekindling fears over its future and sending its shares tumbling to year lows.

The results renewed pressure on Chief Executive Stephen Elop, who was hired in 2010 to turn the Finnish mobile phone

would take two years, a period that's now over. Analysts said he was running out of time.

"Basically, he has only the second quarter," said Mikko Ervasti at Finnish investment banking and wealth management group Evli.

Nokia said it sold 5.6 million units of Lumia handsets in the first quarter, up from 4.4 million in the previous quarter, and

sales fell 20 percent to 5.9 billion euros from a year earlier, far short of the 6.5 billion euros forecast by analysts in a Reuters poll.

Nokia's future is seen depending on higher-margin smartphones as a growing number of global consumers want access to apps such as Twitter from their handsets.

But it still sells more regular mobile phones than smartphones, and needs to protect its position in the basic handset market so buyers of its cheaper handsets don't defect to other brands when they eventually upgrade to smartphones. In markets such as China, Nokia faces strong competition not only from rivals such as Samsung but also from emerging, cut-price competitors.

"The fall in numbers for the low-end devices is quite alarming," said Nordea analyst Sami Sarkamies. "Even with Lumia doing better, we still care about those. Nokia is still a second-tier player in smartphones, and it's only because of its position in mobile phones that it's still relevant."

Reuters

Irish firm at centre of horsemeat scandal quits burger market

DUBLIN, 19 April—The Irish company at the centre of a scandal in Europe over horsemeat in beef products, said on Thursday it is leaving the frozen burger market after selling the factory where burgers containing horse DNA were first discovered.

The scandal, which has damaged confidence in parts of the industry and hit

sales of processed ready-meals, erupted in January when inspectors found beef burgers produced by Irish company ABP Foods on the shelves of Tesco contained 29 percent horse meat.

ABP Foods, which lost contracts with Burger King, Aldi and Tesco as a result, blamed suppliers it said appeared to have delivered mislabeled beef from Po-

land, an accusation backed by the Irish government.

However, Europe's largest beef exporter said on Thursday that it had sold the Silvercrest factory where it had produced the burgers to fellow Irish food producer, Kepak Group.

"Our decision to sell the facility allows the Group to move forward positively with our core chilled beef business and other developing businesses," ABP Foods Chief Executive Paul Finnerty said in a statement.

Ireland returned no positive results for horsemeat this week in official DNA tests ordered across Europe in the wake of the controversy that showed more cases of illegal horsemeat in beef products in France than any other European Union country.

Reuters



The ABP foods Dalepak Hambleton factory at Leeming Bar industrial estate, is seen in Northallerton, northern England on 16 Jan, 2013.—REUTERS

The new Nokia Lumia 720, featuring the same camera lens as the higher end Lumia 920, is pictured during the Mobile World Congress in Barcelona on 25 Feb, 2013. REUTERS



maker around after it fell behind rivals Samsung and Apple in the smartphone race.

He made the controversial decision to switch to Microsoft's untried Windows Phone software in early 2011 and had said the transition

forecast stronger growth in the current quarter.

But shipments of mobile phones slumped 21 percent to 55.8 units, a far steeper decline than the 8 percent fall that markets expected, with unit sales down in every region.

As a result, overall net

Baig gets death for German Bakery blast

PUNE, 19 April — Mirza Himayat Baig, the lone convicted accused in the German Bakery blast case, was today sentenced to death by a Pune Sessions Court.

Additional Sessions Judge N P Dhote handed down capital punishment to Baig for murder and criminal conspiracy, besides under provisions of Unlawful Activities Prevention Act and Explosive Substances Act. —PTI



Media rapped for wrong reporting on Boston blasts

BOSTON, 19 April—The FBI has reprimanded news media outlets for jumping the gun on Boston Marathon twin bombings investigation, saying that “inaccurate” reporting will have “unintended

consequences.”

Leading news outlets like CNN and Fox News falsely reported that federal authorities had identified and arrested a suspect in the bombings.

PTI



SolarWorld aims for deal with creditors in two-three weeks

FRANKFURT, 19 April —SolarWorld (SWVG.DE) and its creditors are aiming to strike a deal on the restructuring of the ailing Germany-based maker of solar panels within the next 2-3 weeks, two sources familiar with the talks said on Thursday. “We are looking at a reasonable, sustainable solution that would not require SolarWorld to file for insolvency,” one of the people said. Creditors would cancel some debt and swap some loans for equity, the sources said.

Shareholders will likely be left with significantly less than 10 percent of the equity, one of the sources said. A third person familiar with the situation said that a debt-equity swap was one of the possible options. SolarWorld declined to comment.

Houlihan Lokey, which is advising SolarWorld, and Macquarie, advisor to the company’s creditors, both declined to comment as well.

SolarWorld, laden with 900 million euros (\$1.2 billion) in liabilities, is struggling with weak demand, industry overcapacity and falling government subsidies.

The company, once

Germany’s biggest solar group, said on Wednesday that its estimated 2012 loss amounted to half of its nominal share capital and its equity capital was negative at about 20 million to 50 million euros. Plunging solar module prices and asset writedowns led to a 2012 loss of 520 million to 550 million euros, it said, adding an ongoing audit of its books may

“significantly modify” this estimate, SolarWorld said on Wednesday. Shares in the group were down more than 24 percent by 1122 GMT.

SolarWorld’s struggles follow debt restructurings at former German solar heavyweights Conergy (CGYGK.DE) and Q-Cells QCEG.UL, the latter of which filed for insolvency last year.

SolarWorld has long campaigned for steps against alleged price dumping in the solar industry and led European solar panel manufacturers to take respective steps in the United States and Europe, blaming Chinese peers of receiving state subsidies to flood the EU with panels sold below cost and putting Europeans out of business to corner the market.

Reuters



India, China share similar concerns in Afghanistan

NEW DELHI, 19 April—In the wake of the planned withdrawal of NATO troops in Afghanistan, India and China share similar concerns of minimizing violence in Afghanistan to protect their investments in the war-torn country, said a local daily on Thursday. The India-China dialogue on Afghanistan is scheduled to be held in Beijing on Thursday for the first time, which is widely reported by Indian newspapers.

The *Hindu*, a leading Indian daily highlighted two points of commonality between India and China while discussing Afghanistan their mutual interest in investing in the country and their respective influence on Afghanistan from a strategic point

of view. The *Hindu* said that while India has more political influence in Kabul, China “scores over India in its ability to influence the behaviour of violence prone groups through its close ally Pakistan.”

From Indian side the talks will be led by Y K Sinha, Additional Secretary, Pakistan Afghanistan Iran, (PAI) of the external affairs ministry, and his counterparts in the Chinese foreign ministry, as per official sources. The meeting is taking place in the backdrop of talks between the National Security Advisors of India, China and Russia held in Moscow recently to discuss the situation in Afghanistan.

Xinhua

Rockets strike Israel from Gaza

JERUSALEM, 19 April — Two rockets fired from the Gaza Strip struck inside Israel after nightfall on Thursday, causing no damage or injury, Israeli media reports said. The *Ynet* and *Haaretz* news websites said the rockets fell in open areas. The Israeli military was checking the reports. There were no immediate claims of responsibility issued from Gaza.

Islamist militants in Hamas-ruled Gaza have fired intermittently at Israel in the past month despite a ceasefire reached after an eight day conflict in November. Israel has vowed to prevent these shootings and often retaliates for rocket fire by bombing militant targets in Gaza.

The attack came a day after rockets fired from Egypt’s Sinai Peninsula

struck the southern port city of Eilat causing no injury.

Islamist militants claimed responsibility for Wednesday’s shooting, which highlighted concerns about rising friction along that border since Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak’s downfall in 2011.

Tensions have been on high since Israeli troops shot dead a Palestinian youth in the occupied West Bank two weeks ago in confrontations with protesters angered by the death in prison from cancer of 64-year-old Maysara Abu Hamdeya.

Palestinian officials said Abu Hamdeya, jailed by Israel on charges of involvement in a thwarted suicide bomb attack, had been denied timely medical care. Israel denied any negligence.—Reuters



A worker of the textile machine company prepares the knitting machine during the 11th Indonesia International Textile and Garment Machinery & Accessories Exhibition (INDO INTER TEX 2013) in Jakarta, Indonesia, on 18 April, 2013. The exhibition is held at Jakarta International Expo and will last until 21 April.

XINHUA

Baghdad suicide bomb blast at Internet cafe kills 27

BAGHDAD, 19 April —A suicide bomber blew himself inside a Baghdad cafe popular with young people using the Internet, killing a least 27 and wounding dozens more in one of the worst single attacks in the Iraqi capital this year.

The late evening blast in west Baghdad came just two days before provincial elections that will be a major test of Iraq’s political stability more than a year after the last American troops left the country.

Police and witnesses said emergency workers struggled to extricate victims trapped when the blast collapsed part of the building that also housed a shopping centre below the Dubai cafe which was on the third floor. “It was a huge blast,” a police official at the scene said. “Part of the building fell in and debris hit people shopping in the mall below.” Ten years after the US-led invasion, Sunni Islamists linked to al-Qaeda carry out at least

one major attack a month, but insurgents have stepped up suicide attacks since the start of the year as part of a campaign to provoke confrontation between the country’s Shi’ite and Sunni Muslims.

More than 30 people were killed in a series of bombings across Iraq on Monday and more than a dozen election candidates have been killed in the run-up to the vote. Security officials have been expecting more attacks before Saturday’s ballot for provincial councils that will be a measure of Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki’s political muscle before the parliamentary vote in 2014.

A surge in violence in Iraq has accompanied the political crisis in the Shi’ite premier’s government, where Shi’ite, Sunni and ethnic Kurds share posts in a fragile power-sharing deal that has been mostly paralyzed since US troops left in December 2011.—Reuters

LOCAL NEWS

Thai wellwishers donate cash to fund for renovation of pagoda

MEIKTILA, 19 April— Wellwishers from Thailand donated cash to the fund for all-round renovation of Kwantaung Pagoda in the precinct of ancient Zaykon Khunnahsu Monastery was held in East Zay Ward of Meiktila on 14 April

morning. Venerable Bhaddanta Sobhita and disciples of Mae Sai of Thailand and Su San Li and disciples donated K 1.5 million for all-round renovation of the pagoda. On behalf of Chairman of Township Sangha Nayaka

Committee Koenawin Monastery Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Sumana, Zaykon Khunnahsu Monastery Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kelasa and Bhaddanta Tejobhasa, Chairman of the Zaykon Khunnahsu Monastery Board of Trustees U Soe accepted the cash donation and presented certificates of honour to the wellwishers.

Outter Hsutaungpyae, Gyopyay Nanpyay, Milatt Cave, Minge Cave and Mogaung pagodas have been renovated in the precinct of Zaykon Khunnahsu Monastery. It is necessary to renovate Kwantaung Pagoda there.—Myanma Alinn



SWRR Ministry organizes Paritta recitation



NAY PYI TAW, 19 April—Parittas recitation ceremony was held at the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement on

17 April afternoon. Union Minister Dr Daw Myat Myat Ohn Khin, Deputy Minister Daw Su Su Hlaing and officials

donated offertories to the Sayadaws. They then heard Parittas recited by the Sayadaws. MNA

Minbu Township Forest Department distributes saplings to local people

MINBU, 19 April— Minbu (Sagu) Township Forest Department under the Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry distributed saplings from its nursery to the local people for cultivation of one acre plantation per village and for availability of firewood for the local people.

Senior Ranger U Mya Thein said that they distributed three teak saplings and 20 hardwood saplings to each household for establishment of rural forest plantations. They emphasized cultivation eucalyptus plants for availability of firewood. In previous year, they

distributed saplings to over 30 village-tracts. If the trees plant, the people can enjoy shade and better weather, he said.

One feet or two feet high saplings are being distributed to the villages through administrators free of charge.

Myanma Alinn

Marijuana possessors arrested in Maubin

MAUBIN, 19 April— According to the information given by a dutiful person, IP Aye Tun of Pathein Anti-Drug Special Squad of Ayeyawady Region, IP Thein Win of Myoma Police Station, investigator

SIP Soe Nyunt Htay and leader of SIP Thein Lin of surveillance squad, together with ward administrators searched the motorcycle driven by Min Naing Myint (a) Poe Zar, 30, on 3rd Myothit Street at 1.45 pm on 9 April.

They seized two grams of marijuana worth K 20,000 from his pocket. The authorities seized one

motorcycle.

The policemen searched the house of Ma Phyu Phyu Thant, 36, at No 17 B on 3rd Myothit street and seized 2.5 grams of marijuana worth K 33,500.

Maubin Myoma Police Station opened files of lawsuit against Min Naing Myint (a) Poe Zar and Ma Phyu Phyu Thant under the law.—Myanma Alinn

Income tax handed over to DAC fund in Pyay

PYAY, 19 April—Pyay Township Internal Revenue Department under the Ministry of Finance and Revenue handed over five per cent of income tax for fourth quarter in 2012-2013 fiscal year, at the hall of the Township Development Affairs Committee in Pyay on 28 March morning.

Assistant Director U Soe Hla Myint of Township Internal Revenue Department presented K 6,123,994 of income tax to Deputy Director U Myat Soe of Pyay Township Development Affairs Department.

Myanma Alinn

Express bus overturns on Pathein-Chaungtha Road, leaving four dead

PATHEIN, 19 April—An express bus overturned in early morning of Thingyan Atet Day near Kyaukchaunggyi Bridge of mile post No 9 on Chaungtha-Pathein Road in Pathein Township, leaving four passengers dead.

At 1 pm on 16 April,



SIP Yan Naing Soe of Traffic Police Force and surveillance members of Dockyard Police Station, according to information given by Kyaukchaunggyi Village-tract administrator U Tin Chit, inspected the overturned Kaba Kyaw Express Bus driven by Tha

Day Toe, 35, son of U Toe Maung of Changyoung in Aunglan carrying staff of Pale Sarpay Store of Taungdwingyi totalling 63.

On arrival at Kyaukchaunggyi bridge near Setkon Village, the driver hardly see the way due to huts and other buildings and the bus plunged into the drain on the right side of the road.

Due to the accident, Ma Ku Ma, 35, daughter of U Myint, Ma Thida Oo, 28, daughter of U Hla Win, and Ma Thiri, 37, daughter of U Khin Maung Myint of Taungdwingyi died on the spot. Ma Thuza Myint, 32, daughter of U Khin Maung



Myint died on the way to Pathein Hospital. A total of 26 passengers including driver Tha Day Toe were in serious injuries. Members of Karuna Social Association and Manaw Phyu Social Association from Pathein immediately performed rescue works for the injured. Dockyard Police

Station opened a file of lawsuit relating to the traffic accident.

The remaining passengers are being served basic needs by Taikkyi Pariyatti Monastery in Ward 3 of Pathein and Manaw Phyu Social Association.

Myanma Alinn

Respects paid to the aged in Sittway



NAY PYI TAW, 19 April— The 49th Rakhine traditional respect-paying ceremony was held at U Uttama Hall of Sittway Township on 17 April morning.

Rakhine State Chief Minister U Hla Maung

Tin and wife Daw Nu Nu Zan, state ministers and their wives, departmental personnel and wellwishers paid respects to the aged and presented gifts.

In the evening, the closing of Maha Thingyan

Festival was held along with prizes presentation at the central pandal in front of U Uttama Park.

The officials presented prizes to winners in fragrance grinding contest.

MNA

PERSPECTIVES

Saturday, 20 April, 2013

An independent translation association

The Burma Translation Society-BTS was set up on 26 August 1947 with the aim of translating books and papers on science and arts in English into Myanmar for public knowledge improvement in global literature and technical knowhow, particularly, for compiling the Popular Science Series into the Myanmar version of Public Science Treatise, and the Myanmar Encyclopedia.

In the post-independence period, Burma Translation Society-BTS was organized and registered as a non-profit organization, with the assigned tasks of translating publications in English or others in foreign languages into Myanmar for public knowledge enhancement, providing assistance in translating excellent literary compilations in Myanmar or in any ethnic languages into foreign languages, and promoting or helping develop Myanmar literature and Myanmar art for national education improvement.

After 1972, BTS was absorbed into Printing and Publishing Enterprise of the Ministry of Information under government administrative transformation project.

The incumbent government is facing some challenges in its democratic reforms, national integration and developing the economy, and they include weakness of public political knowledge, especially in the democratic ideology and practices and public morals, lack of vocation-educational opportunities among the rural people and minorities, and shortage of books on the latest developments on politics as well as on other fields including health, education, economy and agriculture.

So there is a plan to transform Sarpay Beikman into a semi-government organization formed with experts from the government sector and private sector for translating books in various foreign languages that are beneficial to all masses and classes of our country into Myanmar and ethnic languages and publishing them at reasonable prices.

It will have the powers to independently select suitable books for translation, and translate and publish them, cooperate with domestic and foreign organizations for translation work and receive no-strings-attached assistance from domestic and foreign organizations.

So, this kind of independent translation association can be helpful for democratization process through wider dissemination of global knowledge.

Cash donated for construction X-ray room

MINHLA, 19 April— Officials of Sein Dagon Oil Exploration donated K 15 million for construction of X-ray room at Yenanna station hospital in Ahtet Minhla Township of Magway Region on 10 April morning. Magway Region Chief Minister U Phone Maw Shwe accepted cash donation and presented a certificate of honour to the wellwisher. It was attended by township level officials.

Myanma Alinn

Eco and cultural touristic attraction Sacred Keylatha Taung Hill Range

In Bilin township of Thaton District, Mon State, situated at Winka Village near Town Zun town is a sacred hill range commonly called Keylatha Taung. But in old Mon language the range is known as “Do Kha Lun” hill. Many Mon nationalities live around this hill range. “Do” in Mon means “hill” and “Kha Lun” means “streams”. So Do Kha Lun means the hill with many streams. Easily discernable and reachable from the Yangon-Hpa-an or Yangon-Mawlamyine tarred motor roads, Keylatha hill range is one of most venerated sacred pagoda hills of Myanmar. Ranges of high and low hills and mountains run parallel to motor roads and railways between Yangon Region, Mon State and Kayin State, serving as natural barrier walls, with backgrounding fields and farms on flatlands and seafronts, where human settlements had thrived since the earliest time of history. Archaeologists have discovered traces of ancient villages, towns, cities and kingdoms in the large expanse of land on the east bank of the Sittoung River to the Gulf of Mottama [Martaban].

Only spade works were carried out by early diggers like Dr. E. Forchammer, Mr. Taw Sein Kho and Mr. Charles Douroiselle, Superintendents of Burma [Myanmar] Epigraphic offices, in the British colonial days.

Earlier diggers and researchers had left favourable reports of their preliminary efforts and potentials of the sites they had explored and surveyed. In the Gazetteers of Thaton, Hpa-an, and Syriam [Than Hlyin] compiled by settlement officers, there were separate chapters on geology, geography, archaeology and history of places, hill and mountain ranges of the areas. Because most of ancient monuments of both secular and religious, ruins and remains were found built of laterite stone of the locality, scholars have named the entire terrain as “the country of laterite civilization, which in ancient time reached out to old seaports of Dawei, Myeik,

Than Hlyin, Dalla, Twantay and Pathein laterite is one of Myanmar native stones of Mon and Kayin States. It has iron ore components. Myanmar people call it “gawun kyauk” [perhaps named after Ashin Gavampati who first used this stone for building pagodas]. Hard type laterites with more iron ore content are hewn into brick

Maha Saddhamma Jotika dhaja Sithu Dr. Khin Maung Nyunt

for construction. Soft type laterites have less iron ore content and they are mostly used in road making. Old laterite brick buildings have no cement plaster. Laterite bricks to be used were hewn fitting to the design of the building, with exact angles. There hewn laterite bricks are just laid by interlocking with their key angles. They can be dismantled and reassembled easily. But due to cementing and plastering for gilding by devotees, laterite bricks were concealed. Photographs and drawings of laterite bricks structures are kept in the archive branch of the Archaeology Department. It is safe to assume that Keylatha pagoda on the summit was built of laterite bricks as in the case of other edifices dotting that areas.

The legends of Keylatha hill range and the pagoda on it are closely associated with those of Zwegabin and Kyaik Hti Yoe Hills. There are some differences with regard to names of places and kings and other personnel, living Gotama Buddha, saint monks, hermits, kings, queens, princes, princesses, knights playing major roles and devas, weikza magician alchemists, naga serpents, nat spirits etc playing supporting roles, while Mon and Kayin folks dominate the stories.

Fifty years before Gotama Buddha revealed there ruled King Tisa Raja and his chief queen Sri Kapa Devi in Subeinna Capital. They had a daughter and a son. Because of her striking beauty the daughter was named Subanna Devi, and the son was named Vijaya Kumara, because when he was born, all dangers and rebellions were overcome and defeated when grown up, Suvana Devi set up a town at Saga

Kyun [Today Dalla] and she ruled there. Vijaya Kumara, in his wanderings on the hills met a weikza magician alchemist who could fly into the air, hide underground and disappear. Vijaya Kumara admired the Weikza and begged him to teach him his magic art. Weikza promised on condition that the Prince never told about it to his

parents. The two went into the Himalayan Forests. Vijaya Kumara was seen no more. Royal parents were very sad, as their children were not with them. They had no one to inherit the throne. They decided to adopt the two sons of their knight who bore the same name as the king “Tisa”. The two adopted sons were given royal names—Tisa Kuma for the older son as he had qualifications to succeed to the throne and Siha Kuma for the younger son because he had signs of lion on his soles.

The two brothers on reaching the ages 23 and 21 respectively, held a private parley between them. The revealed to each other their strong desire to renounce mundane life and become hermit to practice Samatha [concentration of mind to attain tranquility]. They told their foster parents about their wish, and consent was willingly granted. So the brothers went up Gisa Giri Hill [To-day Zingyaik Hill] and built a hermitage in which they lived to meditate. Due to their relentless efforts and regular religious practice, they attained Zen [Jhana] [Supernatural power through intense concentration of mind].

Next they turned to Vipassana [meditation to gain insight], which is the essence of Buddhism, which they believed could be practiced in isolation. Therefore the two Hermit brothers agreed to separate. Hermit Tisa remained on Gisa Giri Hill, while his younger brother moved to Bandava Giri Hill [To-day Zwegabin Hill]. They promised each other to communicate by lighting signal fire in case of emergency.

There was an island in

the shallow sea near Gisa Giri Hill. A female naga serpent, assuming human form used to haunt on this island.

One day she met a weikza magician alchemist. They fell in love. She laid two eggs on the island and returned to her naga serpent land. During his fruit gathering tour Hermit Tisa came to the island. He found the two eggs which he took to his hermitage. When his younger brother visited him, he gave him one egg. Baby boys were hatched out of the two eggs. Because of their good sila [moral precepts] and saga [charity] the forefingers of the Hermits produced milk to feed the babies. Hermit Tisa named his baby boy Suriya Kumara and Hermit Siha named his son Sanda Kumara. Upon reaching the age of 10 years, Sanda Kumara died of small pox, to be reborn boy to the daughter of a wealthy man of Mithila in Majimadesa. This reborn boy as a novice monk became arahat saint after he heard the dhamma teachings of the Buddha. He became well-known as Ashin Gavampati.

Knight Tisa in his ripe age decided to leave secular life for religious meditation. He went up to the summit of Maniyeitha Hill [To-day Kyaik Hti Yoe] and became Hermit. Because of moral precepts he faithfully observed and constant efforts in meditation he gained “Zen”. He became well-known as Hermit Buddha Nyanna. A widower naga serpent from Bawgawaddy Kingdom was wandering about on Maniyeitha Hill in quest of a new lover. There was a weikza magician alchemist who occasionally visited Hermit Buddha Nyanna. Widower naga serpent and Weikza magician alchemist fell into love. Widower naga serpent laid one egg in a cave near the hermitage and she returned to her domain. Hermit Buddha Nyanna found the egg which he took to his hermitage. A girl child was hatched out of it. Hermit fed the child with milk produced from his forefinger. She was named Naga Thuzar.

(See page 9)

NATIONAL

Union Culture Minister inspects maintenance of pagodas in Bagan

NAY PYI TAW, 19 April— Union Minister for Culture U Aye Myint Kyu inspected maintenance of pagodas in Bagan Ancient Culture Region and tourist arrival this morning.

After that, he also looked into Bagan Archaeological

Museum, excavation and maintenance of Palaces of King Anawrahta and King Kyansit, preparation for opening of site museum and Thiri Zeyabumi Bagan Golden Palace of King Anawrahta.

The Union Minister held

discussions with Chairman of Myanmar Hoteliers Association (Bagan Zone) and officials at Aureum Palace Hotel on duty assignment of collecting zone entrance fee from tourists who visit Bagan Zone to a Myanmar tourism team.—MNA

Thirty-two people dead and 190 injured during Thingyan festival

NAY PYI TAW, 19 April—Myanmar New Year Maha Thingyan festivals were held across the country from 13 to 16 April on a grand scale.

This year festival saw less crime compared with previous years due

to precautions from TV and newspapers and close supervision of officials concerned.

All national races throughout the country celebrated the festival in accord with Myanmar's traditions and customs.

There occurred 177 cases including murder cases, car accidents, fights, pick-pocket/theft, arson and other cases.

A total of 32 people were dead and 190 injured in the cases.

MNA

Eco and cultural touristic ...

(from page 8)

She grew up into a pretty lady. As it was not proper for monks and hermits to keep a female with them, Hermit gave her for adoption to a Kayin married couple who had no child.

King Tisa Raja died of old age. The court invited the Hermit brothers to succeed their father's throne. They refused as they had already renounced the mundane life. Instead Hermit Tisa offered his adopted son Suriya Kumara to take the throne. As all agreed a new town was founded at a place which produced gold. The town was named Thudhamma-waddy and the place was named Suvannabhumi [the gold producing land]. Suriya Kumara was enthroned with the regal title Tisadhamma Siha Raja.

The new king went to visit Hermit Buddha Nyana on Maniyeitha Hill [Kyaik Hti Yoe]. During his journey to the Hill, the king met Naga Thuzar, the adopted daughter of the Kayin married couple of the local village. He fell in love with her at first sight. The King asked for her hand from the foster parents, who consented on condition that their adopted daughter be raised to chief queen and royal marriage should take place at their village. Accordingly a new town "Mingala Bhumi" was founded at Do Kusinagara [Today it is near Bilin] and royal matrimonial ceremony was held. Naga

Thuzar was raised to chief queen with the regal title "Agga Maheythi Maha Subada. Then they returned to the Capital.

Saint Ashin Gavampati, now a full fledged monk Maha Thera visited King Tisadhamma Siha Raja who was his elder brother in his previous life. Ashin Gavampati explained the story of their past lives and advised the king to hear the teachings of Gotama Buddha. Through Ashin Gavampati, the king invited Lord Buddha for his teachings. The king, his court and people built a big monastery for the Buddha and his saint disciples to reside. Sakka Deva helped them in building.

In the Maha Sakarit year 111 [Buddha's ordained age 8th year] Buddha and 500 of his saint disciples including Ashin Gavampati arrived and stayed in the big monastery where Lord Buddha preached his dhamma for seven days. After hearing and understanding the teachings many became arahats [saint monks] and the entire kingdom embraced Buddha dhamma. The Hermits who were among the dhamma audiences requested Lord Buddha to give them his representation to venerate. Whereupon Lord Buddha offered them each, one strand of hair from his head to six hermits brothers. Hermit of Gisa Giri Hill [Zingyaik Hill] Hermit of Bandava Giri Hill [Zwegabin Hill] Hermit of Do Kha Lun Giri Hill [Keylatha Hill] Hermit of

Keylathapha Hill, Hermit of Kusinavana Hill and Hermit of Maniyeitha Hill [Kyaik Hti Yoe].

All four Hermits enshrined their shares of sacred relics in the pagodas they built on the summits of their respective hill abodes except the two Hermits of Keylasya and Maniyeitha Hills. When Hermit Tila of Keylasya grew old, he handed over his hair relic to Hermit Buddha Nyanna of Maniyeitha Hill and he passed away. When Hermit Buddha Nyanna grew old he enshrined with the help of Sukka Deva and King Thapaw of Taik Kala Town, Tila's hair relic in a stone on the summit of Keylasya Hill and a zedi was built on it in Maha Sakarit year 118, in the 15th ordained year of Gotama Buddha. As to his share of the hair relic, Hermit Buddha Nyanna enshrined it on a rocking boulder on cliff of his hill abode and a zedi was built on it. Sukka Deva helped build it. It is to-day a world renowned rocking Kyaik Hti Yoe Pagoda.

Keylasya Pagoda Hill is one of the most attractive places for pilgrims, visitors, as well as virgin field for archaeologists and historical researchers. There are flights of steps made of laterite stones to reach the pagoda on the summit. The hill is high and steep, and not many visitors go up every day. Only during festivals in March and April, locals and outsider pilgrims in group make ascent to worship the sacred hair relic pagoda on the summit.



Union Minister for Culture U Aye Myint Kyu views ancient building in Bagan.—MNA

MGEA members visit China

NAY PYI TAW, 19 April—A group led by Vice-Chairman (1) U Yone Mu of Myanmar Gems

Entrepreneurs Association left here by air for Tuin, Guangzhou and Hong Kong Autonomous Regions of

China yesterday morning to observe finished jade market.

They were seen off at Yangon International Airport by officials.

MNA

The Hill is quite verdant. Falls cascade from the Hill especially in monsoon, forming brooks, rivulets, and lakes down below, supplying fresh rain water to paddy fields and other crops and vegetable farms. To the west side of the Hill a big waterfall comes down from a steep height crossing Winka Village to branch out into streams and small rivers before escaping into the sea. To the south side is another waterfall to create "Da non" stream wandering about Da non chaung village and Taunggyi village and finally ends its journey into the sea. To the north side is yet another fall which cascades into a very deep ravine where all kinds of wild life-flora and fauna thrive. This fall continues as a brook, snaking its way around Kyi Pin Village at the foot of the Hill.

Successive Mon and Myanmar Kings, Sayadaw monks and people maintained, repaired and renovated Keylasya Pagoda and added more religious edifices on the Hill. The Pagoda to-day is 113 feet and 9 inches high. A new hti [crown] was hoisted atop to replace the old hti. Two stylized lion statues guard the flight of steps welcoming pilgrims and visitors to the summit. At a halfway of ascent there is a rest station "Yey Kyi Taw Sakkhan" [clean water rest station] with a brick water tank built in 1960 by U Tun and Daw Ngwe Chon of Kin Ywa Village, as the letters on the board say. A small zedi was

built on a big boulder nearby.

Near the night side of the covered cause way at the South West corner of lower terrace of Keylasya Pagoda is an old stone inscription in Mon letters set up by King Dhammazedhi [Ramadipati] of Hanthawaddy [1472-1492 A.D]. In 1958, on the 15th waxing moon of Kasone Myanmar Era 1320, the Abbot of Han Gain monastery in Ye Township, Sayadaw U Visudha translated the inscription into Myanmar. The summery of it is as follows-

"When Gotama Buddha attained Buddhahood after enlightenment he came from Majimadesa to Suvanna bhumi Thaton Kingdom for his dhamma duta mission. He arrived on the summit of Keylasya Hill. Hermit Tila residing on the Hill welcomed and paid respect to Lord Buddha who preached dhamma to the Hermit. The Hermit asked for the Buddha's representation to worship. The Buddha offered him 6 strands of hair from his head. Happily Hermit Tila informed King Ayasana of Suvanna Bhumi Kingdom of the receipt of sacred hair relic from Lord Buddha. The King, his court and the Hermit built 6 gold gilt zedis to enshrine in each, one hair relic on the summit of the Hill."

"Next, 230 years after the demise of Lord Buddha, in the reign of Sri Dhamma Saka [Emperor Asoka of Pataliputa Kingdom], the two monk disciples of Maha Thera Mogalliputatisa,

Mahatheras Sonna and Uttara were sent to Suvanna Bhumi for the propagation of Buddha Dhamma. When arrived on the summit of Keylasya Hill they found six hair relic pagodas in ruin. They advised King Siri Mar [Siha Tisa Kumara of Suvanna Bhumi Kingdom] to repair and renovate the pagodas. The King, his court and his people came up to Keylasya Hill. The six hair relic pagodas were combined and interred in a larger Pagoda."

According to this inscription Keylasya hair relic pagoda was 2270 years old!

To-day the maintenance of the pagoda and the management of religious functions and festivals at the monuments on it are run by Auvadacariya Sayadaw monks and Pagoda Trustee Board composed of local village elders. Monk Sayadaw U Vepulla of Yey Tagun monastery in Kin Village compiled in 1961 "Thamaing of Keylasya Zedi" based upon inscription and palm leaf records and published for dhamma merit.

[Due to development programmes carried out by state Governments and the public a good motor road now winds up to the summit right to Keylasya Pagoda. There are few inns and motels around the hill where you can put up for the night for your rest and comfort.

Around the hill are many archaeological sites to excavate for ancient laterite civilization.

Ukraine welcomes amended visa facilitation agreement with EU

KIEV, 19 April — Foreign Minister Leonid Kozhara said on Thursday that Ukraine welcomes the European Parliament's decision to approve the amended visa facilitation agreement between his country and the EU. "We believe that the current agreement is another step towards the abolition of the visa regime with the EU," Kozhara told reporters.

Kozhara spoke after the European Parliament approved the visa agreement on earlier Thursday. Ukrainian international

relations expert Marianna Kuzio echoed Kozhara, saying that Ukraine is pleased with the amended agreement as it will provide procedural facilitations for a wider category of applicants.

"The decision of the European Parliament is very important for us as more Ukrainians will take advantage of facilitated visa regime with the EU. We hope that the deal will come into force in May," Kuzio, coordinator of the "Europe Without Barriers" project, told *Xinhua* in a telephone

interview. The agreement will become valid after it is approved by the foreign ministers of the EU states.

The deal is expected to make it easier for Ukrainian truck drivers, journalists, cultural and civil society figures and relatives of EU citizens to obtain short-term entrance visas. The measures will include decreasing visa fees and reducing the number of documents required. EU citizens have been exempted from visa requirements when travelling to Ukraine since 2005.

Xinhua

Chopper carrying Omar makes emergency landing, no one hurt

JAMMU, 19 April — A chopper carrying Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah yesterday made an emergency landing in Kishtwar District shortly after take off due to a technical problem, but no

one was injured.

"The chopper carrying Omar Abdullah landed shortly after taking off from Kishtwar for Srinagar today. It had developed some technical problem," a senior police officer told *PTI*. — *PTI*



Registered owner of bike used in B'lore blast traced

CHENNAI, 19 April — In a swift action, the city police have traced the registered owner of the motorbike which was used for bomb blast in Bangalore, in which 16 people were injured.

The number plate of the bike has been traced to a retired telecom employee here, who said that he had sold the bike about four years ago, a police source said. — *PTI*



ICBC Leasing orders 8 Airbus A320s from Hungary's Wizz Air

BEIJING, 19 April — ICBC Leasing said it signed a deal with Hungary's Wizz Air on Thursday to buy eight Airbus A320 passenger planes.

The financial leasing arm of the Industrial and Commercial Bank of

China, the country's largest lender, said the deal is one of the biggest financial co-operation projects in terms of trading value between China and Hungary, as well as its first business programme in east Europe.

The planes will be de-

livered before the end of 2014. ICBC Leasing has 94 planes and assets of at least 130 billion yuan (20.8 billion US dollars). Wizz Air is Hungary's biggest airliner, running 40 Airbus 320s on 270 routes.

Xinhua

China's Internet speed averages 3.14 MBps

BEIJING, 19 April — The average Internet connection speed in China stood at 3.14 megabytes per second (MBps) during the first quarter of this year, according to survey results released on Thursday.

Shanghai topped the list with an average connection speed of 4.7 MBps, followed by Jiangsu, Beijing, Fujian and Tianjin, according to a report compiled by Qihoo 360 Technology Co, an Internet security service provider.

Based on data provided by ChinaCache International Holdings Ltd, a Nasdaq-listed Internet service provider, the average connection speed in China, a country that is home to 564 million Internet users, reached about 2.59 MBps



Trees in blossom cluster around the local section of the Great Wall, which dates back to the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644), at Huairou District in Beijing, capital of China, on 18 April, 2013. — *XINHUA*

in the fourth quarter of 2012. Meanwhile, speeds varied by region. Connection speeds in 20 of the country's 34 provinces and municipalities, including regions in the northwest, southwest and northeast, were slower than the national average, according to the Qihoo 360 report.

Connection speeds in nearly 60 percent of provincial capital cities were faster than that of other areas in the provinces. The fastest average connection speeds occurred between 4 am and 6 am, while the slowest speeds were recorded between 8 pm. and 9 pm.

Connection speeds

were fastest on Tuesdays and slowest on Saturdays, on average.

According to the most recent Akamai State of the Internet report, a quarterly international Internet traffic report, the global average broadband speed dropped 6.8 percent to 2.8 MBps during the third quarter of 2012.

At the national level, the Republic of Korea had the highest speed, at 14.7 MBps. At 54.1 MBps, Hong Kong recorded the highest average peak connection speed.

To narrow the "digital gap," the Chinese government has pledged to up-

grade infrastructure to allow more areas — notably, impoverished rural regions — access to faster Internet services.

The Ministry of Industry and Information Technology (MIIT) said in its annual plan that it will build 180,000 base stations this year to provide 3G mobile Internet service to 100 million users.

Broadband Internet services will reach an additional 25 million people, and 70 percent of broadband subscribers will have access to connection speeds of 4MBps or faster, according to the MIIT's plan.

Xinhua

Israel dismantles fence of major West Bank settlement

JERUSALEM, 19 April — The Israeli military tore down the fence of a settlement in the West Bank, following a Supreme Court ruling that it was built on privately-owned Palestinian land, local daily *Ma'ariv* reported on Thursday.

The order, issued last year, came after the court granted a petition filed in September 2010 by the Palestinian residents of the village of Ein Yabrud, northeast of Ramallah, which said the barrier was illegal-

ly erected on their land and denies them access to their farming plots.

On Wednesday, civilian logistics personnel hired by the Israel Defence Ministry removed the fence, sparking an angry response from its Jewish residents who criticized the military for failing to provide them with alternative protection measures, such as guard dogs and cameras, according to the *Ma'ariv* report.

"Someone suddenly remembered that there's

a High Court order issued months ago to dismantle the fence," Avi Roeh, head of the Binyamin Regional Council, told the newspaper. He termed the removal of the fence before new measures were put in place a grave mistake. In a statement, the military dismissed the criticisms, saying that it placed security cameras and beefed up patrols, and plans have been drawn up to implement additional measures to protect the community. — *Xinhua*

Local people gather at the train accident site in Dhaka, Bangladesh, on 18 April, 2013. Two wagons of a goods train derailed and fell on some tiny houses for slum dwellers adjacent to the rail tracks in Dhaka's Banani area on Thursday afternoon, leaving one dead and five injured, police said. — *XINHUA*



REGIONAL

Iran marks national Army Day



Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad (C) speaks during the Army Day parade in Teheran, Iran, on 18 April, 2013. XINHUA

TEHERAN, 19 April — Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad on Thursday hailed the “might” and achievements of the army in the past few years as the country celebrated the national Army Day.

Addressing a ceremony

to mark the event, Ahmadinejad said the Iranians will maintain security of the Persian Gulf through a collective work of regional states.

Different units of Iranian Army staged parades in the ceremony to show the latest Iranian military achievements, especially those in missile technology.

Ahmadinejad blamed foreign forces for the cause of insecurity in the region. “Since the foreigners entered the region, insecurity emerged; and basically the presence of foreigners has been the cause of insecurity in the region.”

He said the Iranian Army is capable of defending the nation’s interests and sovereignty, adding “a nation which enjoys the possession of such an army will never suffer abjection.”

Xinhua

Trans-Pacific free trade to be in focus as APEC meets in Indonesia

TOKYO/SURABAYA, (Indonesia), 19 April—As APEC trade ministers meet in Indonesia later this week to discuss ways to strengthen regional trade links, Japan will enter another critical phase for joining negotiations on a trans-Pacific free trade framework involving half of the APEC economies.

During the two-day meeting starting on Saturday in Surabaya, the ministers of the 21-member Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum, accounting for nearly half of the world’s economic output, are scheduled to discuss the free trade scheme to further integrate the region’s economies and ways to attain sustainable growth and eliminate protectionism.

But as the meeting provides an occasion for ministers of countries also involved in the US-led Trans-Pacific Partnership free trade negotiations to gather in one place, much of Japan’s atten-

tion will be directed at what the TPP members will discuss at a time when Japan is aiming to gain their nods in joining the Pacific Rim talks as early as July.

“The meeting in Surabaya will be an important checkpoint to review progress and discuss with my counterparts how we can reach a successful conclusion,” New Zealand Trade Minister Tim Groser said. “I expect ministers will also want to discuss Japan’s recently announced interest in joining the (TPP) negotiation,” Groser said.

Akira Amari, a Japanese minister in charge of the TPP talks, will visit Indonesia in an effort to obtain approval for Japan’s participation from a few pending countries including New Zealand.

“I will seek their understanding toward Japan’s early entry into the talks, which will benefit the TPP as a whole,” Amari told report-

17 girl students mysteriously poisoned in northern Afghan

TALUQAN, (Afghanistan), 19 April — Over a dozen students of a girl school were mysteriously poisoned in Takhar Province 245 km north of Kabul on Thursday, a local official said.

“Seventeen students of Bibi Hajira Girl School in Taluqan city the capital of Takhar Province were mysteriously poisoned and have been taken to hospital

Xinhua

Blast rocks Afghan southern town, wounding two

KANDAHAR, (Afghanistan), 19 April —A powerful blast shocked Spinboldak town in Taleban former strong Kandahar Province 450 km south of Kabul on Thursday, injuring two people, a local official said.

“It was a bomb blast that happened in the front of a market in Spinboldak town at 04:10 pm local time

today,” Gul Agha Nazari, deputy to Education Department of Takhar Province told Xinhua.

He also said that investigation has been initiated to find the fact behind the incident. Spokesman for Takhar provincial administration, Suliman Sarwari also confirmed the incident, saying investigation is underway to know the fact.

wounding two people, both civilians,” local official Faqirullah told Xinhua.

However, he did not provide more information, saying authorized officials would brief the media after investigation. Meantime, a doctor in Spinboldak town confirmed that two injured men had been taken to hospital. Jawed Faisal, the spokesman for Kandahar provincial administration, confirmed the blast, saying details will be made public after investigation.—Xinhua



Amateur photographers take pictures of cherry blossoms in full bloom in the village of Oshino, Yamanashi Prefecture, at the foot of Mt Fuji on 18 April, 2013.—KYODO NEWS

Vietnam, Denmark foster scientific research cooperation

HANOI, 19 April — Denmark is expanding cooperation with Vietnam in science and technology, focusing on green growth and new energy, in which Denmark has many experiences that it is willing to share with Vietnam.

The statement was made by John Nielsen, Danish Ambassador to Vi-

etnam at the annual meeting of the Vietnam-Denmark pilot Research Cooperation Programme in Vietnam’s capital Hanoi on Thursday.

During the three-year period, from 2009-2011, the two countries have launched five projects, covering the creation of new flood-resistant and salt-tolerant rice varieties for coastal plain areas, measures to help aquaculture adapt to climate change in the northern region, new technologies to treat and recycle water, multi-lateral communication systems to reduce the northern central region’s disaster vulnerability, and sustainable development of aquaculture in the central region in the context of climate change.

Deputy Minister of Science and Technology Tran Viet Thanh, for his part, said that the programme has attracted the interest of Vietnam’s science and technology community for its efficiency in tackling important issues that Vietnam is facing, including the urgent matter of climate change.

Xinhua



Lao Deputy Prime Minister Somsavat Lengsavad (R) attends the new website opening celebration of Lao’s Ministry of Science and Technology held in Laos’ capital city of Vientiane, on 18 April, 2013.—XINHUA

ASEAN, Denmark reaffirm good relations

JAKARTA, 19 April — ASEAN and Denmark reaffirmed good bilateral relations, especially in such sectors as green technology, agriculture, education, social welfare and peaceful settlement of disputes, according to a statement by ASEAN Secretariat to Xinhua on Thursday.

ASEAN secretary General Le Luong Minh met Denmark Foreign Affairs Minister Villy Soevndal on Wednesday.

During the occasion, the Denmark minister said

that he follows the developments in the region with keen interest.

He added that Denmark has been seeking ways and means to develop good relations with the countries in the region as well as with ASEAN.

He was encouraged by the achievements that ASEAN has made, particularly in political cooperation, economic development and the promotion and protection of human rights through the establishment of ASEAN Intergov-

ernmental Commission on Human Rights.

Meanwhile, in his statement to welcome the Denmark foreign affairs minister, Le Luong Minh explained the recent developments in ASEAN and expressed appreciation to the support rendered by Denmark to ASEAN bilaterally as well as through the ASEAN-EU cooperation framework, particularly at a time when ASEAN is pressing ahead with its Community building efforts.

Xinhua

Students attend a calligraphy class at Beijing No. 94 Middle School Airport Campus in Beijing, capital of China, on 18 April, 2013. The Chinese Ministry of Education has published a guideline on calligraphy education for the country’s primary and middle schools in February, setting specific calligraphy course requirements for each period of study and calls for including the courses in evaluations of the schools’ performance. In China, calligraphy has been revered as an art form since it was first used in the fifth century BC.—XINHUA



ADVERTISEMENT & GENERAL

**THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC
OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF ENERGY**

Dated: 11th April, 2013

**INVITATION FOR BIDS TO CONDUCT PETROLEUM
OPERATIONS IN MYANMAR OFFSHORE AREAS (2013)**

1. The Ministry of Energy of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar hereby announces Invitation of Sealed Bids for Petroleum Operations to be conducted in Myanmar Offshore Areas (Shallow Water and Deep Water Blocks) on production sharing basis.

2. The following Offshore blocks are available for bidding in this bidding round:-
Offshore Shallow Water Blocks

No.	Block	Area	Type of Contract
(1)	A-4	(Rakhine Offshore Area)	PSC
(2)	A-5	(Rakhine Offshore Area)	PSC
(3)	A-7	(Rakhine Offshore Area)	PSC
(4)	M-4	(Moattama Offshore Area)	PSC
(5)	M-7	(Moattama Offshore Area)	PSC
(6)	M-8	(Moattama Offshore Area)	PSC
(7)	M-15	(Tanintharyi Offshore Area)	PSC
(8)	M-16	(Tanintharyi Offshore Area)	PSC
(9)	M-17	(Tanintharyi Offshore Area)	PSC
(10)	M-18	(Tanintharyi Offshore Area)	PSC
(11)	YEB	(Tanintharyi Offshore Area)	PSC

Offshore Deep Water Blocks

No.	Block	Area	Type of Contract
(1)	AD-2	(Rakhine Offshore Area)	PSC
(2)	AD-3	(Rakhine Offshore Area)	PSC
(3)	AD-4	(Rakhine Offshore Area)	PSC
(4)	AD-5	(Rakhine Offshore Area)	PSC
(5)	AD-9	(Rakhine Offshore Area)	PSC
(6)	AD-10	(Rakhine Offshore Area)	PSC
(7)	AD-11	(Rakhine Offshore Area)	PSC
(8)	AD-12	(Rakhine Offshore Area)	PSC
(9)	AD-13	(Rakhine Offshore Area)	PSC
(10)	AD-14	(Rakhine Offshore Area)	PSC
(11)	AD-15	(Rakhine Offshore Area)	PSC
(12)	AD-16	(Rakhine Offshore Area)	PSC
(13)	MD-1	(Moattama Offshore Area)	PSC
(14)	MD-2	(Moattama Offshore Area)	PSC
(15)	MD-3	(Moattama Offshore Area)	PSC
(16)	MD-4	(Tanintharyi Offshore Area)	PSC
(17)	MD-5	(Tanintharyi Offshore Area)	PSC
(18)	MD-6	(Tanintharyi Offshore Area)	PSC
(19)	YWB	(Tanintharyi Offshore Area)	PSC

3. All interested parties are cordially invited to submit **“the Letter of Expression of Interest”, together with Company’s Article of Association (AOA), Memorandum of Association (MOA), Certificate of Incorporation, latest Annual Report and latest Financial Statement (or) Financial Report and Detailed Track Record, which are to be endorsed for authenticity by the respective Embassy of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar** at the place of Company’s registration (or) establishment or nearest, in sealed envelopes superscripted **“Confidential” “Myanmar Offshore Blocks First Bidding Round-2013”**, to the following address and **the closing date and time for receiving the submissions will be 14th June 2013 at 16:30 hours.**

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

4. The “Letter of Expression of Interest” must be submitted together with all the documents mentioned in above paragraph 3. If the “Letter of Expression of Interest” is not accompanied by all the documents mentioned in above paragraph 3, it will be not considered. Also if the submission is not received at the Ministry of Energy within the stated closing date and date of 14th June 2013 at 16:30 hours, the late arrivals will not be considered.

5. The petroleum operation shall be conducted on production sharing basis and the party(s), who desire to enter into the Production Sharing Contract (PSC) with the Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise (MOGE) must have technical competency, financial capability, experience, expertise and technical Know-how to conduct petroleum exploration and development works in Offshore areas and must have good track record with respect to offshore petroleum operations.

6. The potential bidders will be pre-qualified and selected. Then the potential bidders who passed pre-qualification will be presented with General Overview of each Block consisting of representative data and information, free of charge, by Geological/Geophysical Team of Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Director General

Energy Planning Department

Ministry of Energy

Building No.6, Nay Pyi Taw

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar

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

(1) Director General

Energy Planning Department

Ministry of Energy, The Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Tel: 95-67 411 099/ 411 057

Fax: 95-67 411 113

Email: myanmoe@mptmail.net.mm

(2) Managing Director

Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise

Ministry of Energy, The Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Tel: 95-67 411 055/ 411 056

Fax: 95-67 411 125

Email: mogedirplan@energy.gov.mm

(3) Myanmar Embassies in respective Countries



Electricity transmission towers are pictured near the Ningde Nuclear Power Plant in Ningde, southeast China’s Fujian Province, on 18 April, 2013. The nuclear power plant made its generator No 1 begin operating on Thursday, making it the first of its kind in the province. Ningde nuclear power plant, with four generators in the first phase of construction, is co-funded and jointly run by Guangdong Nuclear Power Group, Datang International Power Generation Co. Ltd., and Fujian Energy Group Co. Ltd.

XINHUA

Indian written heritage displayed at Egypt exhibition

CAIRO, 19 April — A unique exhibition showcasing the rich cultural heritage of Indian scripts by combining the art of calligraphy and design is being organised here.

The Embassy of India in collaboration with Team-work productions is organizing the week-long exhibition of visual arts ‘Akshara’ at the Hanager Arts Centre. The exhibition show-

cases India’s great written heritage by focusing on of calligraphy through craft forms in multi-faceted ways by linking the art of calligraphy and design.

PTI

ENTERTAINMENT

Kristen Stewart to star in Snow White and the Huntsman sequel

LOS ANGELES, 19 April—Kristen Stewart is officially starring in the sequel of Snow White and the Huntsman.

Universal Pictures chairman Adam Fogelson confirmed the 23-year-old actress — who had a brief fling with the first film’s director Rupert Sanders that resulted in the end of his marriage to model Liberty Ross last year — is taking on the lead role again in the second installment of the film, which will be released in 2015.

According to gossip website Just-Jared.com, the studio executive confirmed Kristen has signed on to the star in the film at the CinemaCon presentation in Las Vegas on Tuesday (16.04.13) but did not clarify whether Chris Hemsworth or Charlize Theron will reprise their roles as the huntsman and the evil queen.

Kristen, who has mended her relationship with her boyfriend Robert Pattinson following her affair, revealed she was excited about the sequel and predicted it would be “amazing”.

She said in December: “It’s gonna be f**king amazing. No, I’m so excited about it, it’s crazy. The other day I said that there was a strong possibility that we’re going to make a sequel, and that’s very true, but everyone was like, ‘Whoa, stop talking about it.’ So no, I’m totally not allowed to talk about it.”

It was previously reported that Rupert will not direct the sequel, despite the huge success of the first film.—Reuters



Freida Pinto part of global campaign to empower girls

WASHINGTON, 19 April —Slumdog Millionaire star Freida Pinto has joined the UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon and the World Bank President Jim Yong Kim for ‘Call to Action — Girl Rising’ campaign.

The World Bank said Pinto, 28, would join the world leaders in Washington at the screening of documentary film ‘Girl Rising’, made by Academy-Award-nominee Richard Robbins. The film showcases the power of education in transforming girls’ lives around the globe.

The film is the centrepiece of 10x10 — a global campaign to educate and empower girls, the bank said in a statement. Featuring voice narrations from Pinto, Cate Blanchett, Anne Hathaway, Kerry Washington and other celebrated actresses ‘Girl Rising’ tells the stories of extraordinary girls from Haiti, India, Sierra Leone, Afghanistan, Peru, Cambodia, Egypt,

Ethiopia and Nepal who fought against all odds for their right to receive an education.

Produced by award-winning former ABC News journalists of The Documentary Group and Paul G Allen’s Vulcan Productions, ‘Girl Rising’

is powered by strategic partner, Intel Corporation, and global television distribution partner, CNN Films.

“The film is about the strength of the human spirit and the power of education to change the world,” the World Bank said.

PTI



Paramore, Paisley end Timberlake’s reign atop Billboard chart

LOS ANGELES, 19 April—Rock band Paramore knocked Justin Timberlake off his three-week reign at the top of the Billboard 200 album chart on Wednesday to score its first No 1 album, while country singer Brad Paisley took the No 2 spot.

“Paramore,” the band’s fourth studio album, sold 106,000 copies in its first week according to figures on Wednesday from Nielsen SoundScan.

Paramore’s last album, 2009’s “Brand New Eyes,” scored higher sales of 175,000 in its first week but that wasn’t enough to top the chart at the time, debuting at No 2.

Paisley, who performed with John Mayer at the Academy of Country Music awards earlier this month, notched the No 2 slot with his latest album “Wheelhouse,” which sold 100,000 copies.

The country singer has yet to score a No 1 album on the Billboard 200 charts, but “Wheelhouse” did land at the top spot of the Billboard Country Albums chart.

Timberlake’s “The 20/20 Experience,” which was released on 15 March, slipped to No 3 after three weeks at No 1. Eric Church, who won Album of the Year for 2011’s “Chief” at the Academy of Country Music awards, landed



Jeremy Davis (L), Hayley Williams and Taylor York, of the band Paramore, arrive at the 2013 MTV Movie Awards in Culver City, California on 14 April, 2013.

REUTERS

at No 5 this week with new album “Caught in the Act.”

Other debuts in the top 10 of the Billboard 200 include rapper Tyga at No 7 with his third album “Hotel California” and Danish metal-rockers Volbeat at No 9 with “Outlaw Gentlemen & Shady Ladies.”

Iowa-based alt-metal band Stone Sour rounded out the top ten with “House of Gold & Bones Part 2.”—Reuters

Britney Spears goes “Ooh La La” for “Smurfs 2”

LOS ANGELES, 19 April—Britney Spears is going “Ooh La La” for the Smurfs with a song for upcoming summer movie “The Smurfs 2,” movie studio Sony Pictures said on Wednesday.

“I have always loved the Smurfs as a kid and now my boys are the biggest Smurfs fans EVER. I wanted to surprise them with a song in the movie,” the pop singer and mother of two said in a statement.

Her recording “Ooh La La” will play at the end credits for “The Smurfs 2,” a part animated, part live

family comedy due for release on 31 July.

Spears, 31, is working on a new studio album following her “Femme Fatale” release in 2011, and is in talks for a long-term contract to perform in Las Vegas.

She released her latest single “Scream & Shout” in November last year in collaboration with rapper Will.i.am and quit her job as a judge on “The X Factor” earlier this year after failing to boost the audience for the TV talent show.

Reuters



REUTERS

SPORTS

Murray loses in Monte Carlo as Djokovic, Nadal win

MONTE CARLO, 19 April—A string of errors put world number two Andy Murray out of the Monte Carlo Masters on Thursday when he lost 6-1, 6-2 to Swiss Stanislas Wawrinka in the third round.

Fourth seed Tomas Berdych and Argentine Juan Martin Del Potro, seeded five, were also beaten at the first big clay-court event of the season, while Rafael Nadal calmly continued his bid for a ninth consecutive crown

with a 6-2, 6-4 victory over Philipp Kohlschreiber of Germany.

Top seed Novak Djokovic, who made a late call to participate after recovering from a sprained ankle, overcame a second opening set scare of the week to move past Juan Monaco of Argentina 4-6, 6-2, 6-2.

Briton Murray, who has repeatedly said he needs time to find his feet on the red clay, looked frustrated on court and picked up only eight points on serve in the



Andy Murray of Britain returns the ball to Stanislas Wawrinka of Switzerland during the Monte Carlo Masters in Monaco on 18 April, 2013.—REUTERS

Liverpool return is trip down memory lane for Benitez

LONDON, 19 April—Chelsea's interim manager Rafael Benitez is looking forward to making a sentimental visit to his old stomping ground on Sunday when the European champions take on his former club Liverpool in the Premier League.

Benitez was in charge at Anfield from 2004-10. He twice reached the final of the Champions League and won

Europe's elite club competition in unforgettable style in 2005 when his team came back from 3-0 down to draw 3-3 with AC Milan and triumph on penalties.

"I will be going back home because Liverpool is where my family live now," the Spaniard told reporters after Chelsea's 3-0 league victory at west London neighbours Fulham on



Rafael Nadal of Spain

first set.

"I made a lot of mistakes — 24 unforced errors is far too many ... that's where half the points went," Murray told a news conference.

"I started hitting the ball shorter, then he was able to dictate the play," added Murray, who made the last eight last year and is now set to slip to third behind Roger Federer in the ATP rankings.

Defending champion Nadal notched up his 44th win in a row in the principality and set up a quarter-

final encounter with Grigor Dimitrov of Bulgaria. German Kolschreiber did not pose a big threat to Nadal, who has already won three titles this year following his return from a seven-month knee injury layoff.

The Spaniard pleased the cheering crowd with a solid display on the sun-baked Centre Court that has been his stage since 2005.

"The match started with a lot of intensity for both of us and I was able to have the break. After that, I was comfortable with my serve," Nadal said.—Reuters



Rafael Benitez watches the warm-up before the English Premier League match against Fulham at Craven Cottage stadium in west London on 17 April, 2013. REUTERS

Wednesday. "I was there for six years, I have very good memories so I cannot hide that I will be really pleased to go back to see a lot of friends."

Benitez, however, said his attention would not be diverted from third-placed Chelsea's need to consolidate their Champions League qualifying position for next season.—Reuters

Arsenal wait on Rosicky fitness

LONDON, 19 April—Arsenal midfielder Tomas Rosicky is a doubt for Saturday's Premier League game at Fulham as he battles a hamstring injury, manager Arsene Wenger said on Thursday.

The Czech Republic captain's season has been badly disrupted by injury but his fortunes improved when he scored twice in a 2-1 win at West Bromwich Albion on 6 April.

However, he missed last weekend's 3-1 win over Norwich City and was an unused substitute in Tuesday's 0-0 draw with Everton because of his latest knock.

"We have to test Rosicky who was not ready to start on Tuesday," Wenger told a news conference. "There are a number of uncertainties about our squad but I

will sort that out on Friday morning.

"At the back everyone should be available. In midfield we have a few people to check like (Santi) Cazorla, (Jack) Wilshere and (Alex) Oxlade-



Chamberlain. They will all have tests but I hope they should be all right."

Goalkeeper Lukas Fabianski remains sidelined with a rib injury.

Arsenal, chasing a top-four finish for a Champions League berth, are fourth in the table with 60 points from 33 games. Fifth-placed north London rivals Tottenham Hotspur are two points behind them with a game in hand.

With the standings so tight, Wenger said there was no room for error in their final five matches of the season.

"The only way we can deal with this situation is to win all our games," the Frenchman, whose side have lost only one of their last 11 league games, said.

"I believe we just want

Czech Republic's Tomas Rosicky

Chilean Aguilar leads three-way tie for Spanish Open lead

LONDON, 19 April—Chilean Felipe Aguilar, bidding to win his second European Tour title after a five-year wait, moved into a three-way tie for the lead after the Spanish Open first round in Valencia on Thursday. The 38-year-old returned six birdies and two bogeys in a four-under 68 to set the pace along with Challenge (second tier) Tour graduates Morten Madsen of Denmark and Frenchman Gary Stal.

Former Ryder Cup stalwart Miguel Angel Jimenez, competing for the first time since breaking his leg in a skiing accident in December, plunged to a four-over 76 while fellow Spaniard Sergio Garcia had to be content with a 72.

Aguilar made a good start to the season with three top-10 finishes but he

decided to take a break from golf after his form nosedived.

"I took a couple of weeks off," the 2008 Indonesian Open champion told reporters. "I realized I needed some time off to relax".

"This course is playing very nicely especially in the morning with very little wind. It's a very difficult course if you miss the fairways off the tee so I'm quite happy with my 68."

Dane Madsen, from the same Silkeborg club as Players Committee chairman Thomas Bjorn, had five birdies and a solitary bogey at the El Saler course.

Stal was the only member of the leading trio not to drop a stroke to par. One stroke off the pace on 69 were British trio Craig Lee, Matthew Southgate and Daniel Brooks, Swedes Joakim Lagergren and Joel Sjoeholm, Ireland's David Higgins, Dutchman Robert-Jan Derksen and Spain's Gonzalo-Fernandez Castano.

Reuters



Felipe Aguilar of Chile lines up his shot on the second green during the fourth and final round of the Dubai Desert Classic at the Emirates Golf Club on 3 Feb, 2013.—REUTERS

Webber and Alonso provide food for thought

MANAMA, 19 April—Mark Webber left the big question unanswered at the Bahrain Grand Prix on Thursday: Who paid for his dinner with Fernando Alonso?

Ferrari's Alonso, the race winner in China last Sunday, set the ball rolling earlier in the week when he posted a picture on Twitter of himself and Webber dining together in Dubai. Alonso then deleted the image but Webber had copied and 'retweeted' it.



Red Bull Formula One driver Mark Webber of Australia attends a news conference at the Chinese F1 Grand Prix at the Shanghai International Circuit on 11 April, 2013. REUTERS

Formula One's conspiracy theorists had a field day, with some seeing a deliberate taunt to Webber's Red Bull team mate Sebastian Vettel after the triple world champion ignored orders in Malaysia and passed the furious Australian to win the race.

The two Red Bull drivers have been barely on speaking terms since then and Webber dining with Vettel's main rival from last year set tongues wagging. Asked by a German television reporter whether it was "a provocation", and whether Red Bull's billionaire Austrian owner Dietrich Mateschitz was upset, Webber evidently thought the world had taken leave of its senses.

Never mind political upheaval, and the civil unrest and protests that have been the focus of much of the run-up to the most controversial race of the season, the media were making a meal out of a meal.—Reuters

GENERAL

Earthquake jolts islands off northern Japan, no tsunami warning

TOKYO, 19 April—An earthquake with a preliminary magnitude of 7.0 struck islands off northern Japan on Friday but no tsunami warning was issued, the Japan Meteorological Agency said.

Buildings in Tokyo also shook from the quake.

On Wednesday, a series of earthquakes, including one with a preliminary magnitude of 6.2, hit Japan's Miyake island, about 180 km (111 miles) south of Tokyo.—Reuters



Cute baby and his little bulldogs.—XINHUA

Man kills wife before committing suicide

CHANDIGARH, 19 April —A man allegedly bludgeoned to death his wife before hanging himself to death at their residence in the Bhikhi town of Mansa District, police said yesterday. Prima facie it appeared the couple had an argu-

ment yesterday over some issue following which the accused hit his wife with a wooden grinder found near the spot, they said.

The victim died on the spot due to excessive bleeding. Later, the man hanged himself to death.—PTI

Silk Road experience inspires dance like the wind

BEIJING, 19 April — Nai-Ni Chen went to China's Silk Road and got caught in a whirlwind. The mosaic of cultures and nature she observed on a summer of travel inspired her to choreograph a contemporary dance embodying the spirit of this ancient trade route.

"Whirlwind is the cultures, art, energies and people coming from different parts of the world and somehow meeting here on the Silk Road and intertwined," the Taiwan native choreographer and artistic director of Nai-Ni Chen Dance Company says. "I refer back to the whirlwind -

this natural phenomenon in the desert — and use that as a starting point to move the language and set the structure for the dance."

Whirlwind is the product of two years of planning and collaboration. The two-part, hour long dance incorporates eight men and women dancers from the United States, Italy, Russia and South Korea, as well as original music by percussionist Glen Velez and visual art by Jayanthi Moorthy of India.

During the New York premiere at Salvatore Capozio Theatre at Peridance, with two performances over the weekend, partially

unclad dancers in silk earth-toned costumes glistened with sweat from the fluctuating, and sometimes acrobatic, movements.

"I try to explore contrasts in terms of rhythm and dynamics," Chen says. "Like when you listen to music with one instrument on top of another or if you look at the many components in nature that overlap, you'll see layers of movement that overlap with the dancers."

The dance employs trance, rhythmic breathing and spiral motions to emulate the shape and energy of a desert whirlwind. It also adopts from traditional characters like Mongolian horsemen and flying eagles as well as the celebratory movements of the Uygur people.—Xinhua



Drug addict father kills daughter

CHANDIGARH, 19 April —While saving her mother from being beaten up by her father, an 18-year-old girl lost her life at the hands of her drug addict father at Bathinda in Punjab.

Manpreet Kaur, a class 12th student, was beaten to death by her father with a

hammer when she stopped him from assaulting her mother yesterday, police said.

The accused father, Rashpal, was beating his wife when she rebuked him for being unemployed. He has been arrested.

PTI

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(20-4-13 09:30 am ~ 21-4-13 09:30 am) MST

- * News
- * 12 Sign of Ascendants in April, 2013
- * News
- * Evergreen Classical Music (Part-15)
- * News
- * Summer Heat & Public Awareness
- * Tun Foundation Literary Award Presenting Ceremony
- * News
- * Zoo-per Happy Day
- * Culture Stage
- * Building a Smart and Connected Myanmar
- * Cisco
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- * Press Meeting by Special Envoy of Japanese Government of National Reconciliation in Myanmar
- * Coconuts & Banana Market Bargayar Whole Sale Centre
- * Myanmar Movies "Whom do you love most"

Myanmar TV

(20-4-2013, Saturday)

- | | | | |
|-----------------|--|----------------|--|
| 6:00 am | 1. Paritta By Venerable Mingun Sayadaw | 3:15 pm | 19. Celebrity and Dinner |
| 6:25 am | 2. To Be Healthy Exercise | 3:50 pm | 20. Traditional Game |
| 6:35 am | 3. Documentary | 4:00 pm | 21. News |
| 6:50 am | 4. Dance & Song of National Races | 4:15 pm | 22. Dance & Song of National Races |
| 7:00 am | 5. News | 4:25 pm | 23. University of Distance Education (TV Lectures)—Second Year (Zoology) |
| 7:20 am | 6. Teleplay | 4:45 pm | 24. Documentary |
| 8:00 am | 7. News | 5:00 pm | 25. News |
| 8:25 am | 8. India Drama Series | 5:15 pm | 26. Game for Children |
| 9:00 am | 9. News | 6:00 pm | 27. News |
| 9:20 am | 10. How It's Works | 6:20 pm | 28. Teleplay |
| 9:50 am | 11. TV Drama Series | 6:45 pm | 29. TV Drama Series |
| 10:45 am | 12. Game for Children | 7:00 pm | 30. News |
| 11:30 am | 13. Myanmar Movie | 7:15 pm | 31. TV Drama Series |
| 12:00 pm | 14. News | 8:00 pm | 32. News |
| 12:25 pm | 15. Round Up Of The Week's TV Local News | 8:35 pm | 33. Documentary |
| 1:00 pm | 16. News | 9:00 pm | 34. News |
| 1:15 pm | 17. Myanmar Movie | 9:00 pm | 35. TV Drama Series |
| 2:00 pm | 18. News | 9:00 pm | 36. Gitadagale Phwintbaohn |



Robot "NAO" plays the traditional Chinese Tachi fist during the 7th China Hangzhou Electronics & Information Fair in Hangzhou, capital of east China's Zhejiang Province, on 18 April, 2013. The fair, which kicked off on 18 April, will last until 21 April. XINHUA

Barca president Rosell aims to continue beyond 2016

MADRID, 19 April—Barcelona president Sandro Rosell, who has negotiated the most lucrative sponsorship deal in the club's history while focusing on reducing debt, plans to stand for re-election when his six-year mandate ends in 2016.

"My intention is to run for re-election and ask members to continue vesting their confidence in me so I can finish the jobs we have started," he told a club meeting on Thursday.

"We want to continue to be the club that is a reference point for its play, its management, its values,

because it is concerned about its country (Catalonia) and because it wants to help children and young people," said Rosell who replaced Joan Laporta in 2010.

Under Rosell's stewardship and as part of a deal with Qatar Sports Investments (QSI) worth 30 million euros (\$39.25 million) per season, Barca scrapped their policy of not displaying the name of a shirt sponsor and relegated the logo of long-term collaborator Unicef to the back of their jerseys.

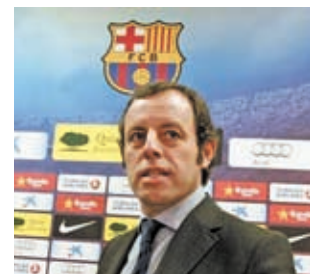
Players including

World Footballer of the Year Lionel Messi have Qatar Foundation on the front of their shirts and from next season will display the name of Qatar Airways.

Barca were second behind Real Madrid for the fourth straight year on Deloitte's latest Football Money League ranking of the richest clubs by income, with revenue for the 2011-12 season of 483 million euros.

"This year we are on the right track but our goal remains to reduce debt," the 49-year-old Rosell said.

Reuters



Barcelona's president Sandro Rosell arrives at a news conference, after the club announced coach Tito Vilanova's saliva glandular cancer had reappeared, at Ciutat Esportiva in Sant Joan Despi near Barcelona on 19 Dec, 2012. REUTERS

Parliamentary delegation leaves for Canada

YANGON, 19 April — At the invitation of President and CEO Jean-Paul Ruszkowski of Parliamentary Centre of Canada, a Myanmar delegation led by Chairman of Pyithu Hluttaw Public Accounts Committee U Thurein Zaw left here by air to pay a goodwill visit to Canada this morning. The delegation was seen off at Yangon International Airport by Chairman of Pyithu Hluttaw

International Relations Committee U Hla Myint Oo and Secretary of Pyithu Hluttaw Public Accounts Committee U Maung Toe and officials of Hluttaw Office.

The Myanmar delegation led by the chairman of Pyithu Hluttaw Public Accounts Committee comprises Secretary of Pyithu Hluttaw International Relations Committee U Ko Ko Tun, seven parliamentarians

from Pyithu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw and officials of the Hluttaw Office.—MNA

Chairman of Pyithu Hluttaw Public Accounts Committee U Thurein Zaw being seen off at Yangon International Airport before departure for Canada.

MNA



Kayin State Maha Thingyan festival concludes

NAY PYI TAW, 19 April— Prize-awarding ceremony of Kayin State Maha Thingyan festival was held at Pandal in Hpa-an of Kayin State on 16 April. State Chief Minister U Zaw Min and the

State Hluttaw Speaker and officials awarded the winners in the competitions.

The following day, the Chief Minister and party attended respect-paying ceremony and donated cash

and kind to the aged at Zwegabin Hall of Hpa-an.

A ceremony to release fishes and put fingerlings into Kanthaya Lake was held at Kanthaya of Hpa-an.

MNA

YCDC Cup Summer Golf Championship 25-27 April

YANGON, 19 April— With the aim of enhancing Myanmar golf standard and turning out new generation golfers, Yangon City Development Committee will organize “YCDC Cup

Summer Golf Championship 2013” sponsored by Dagon Beverages with the supervision of Myanmar Golf Federation at City Golf Course and Ngwe Thawdar Golf Course from 25 to 27 April. The championship includes professional and amateur levels.

U Yan Naing, Han Golf Masters, KM Golf Center,

CEO Group, 21 AD Media and Hinthar Media are co-sponsors for the event.

Eligible golfers may register at reception counter of City Golf Course not later than 23 April together with admission fee and nomination. For further information anyone may dial Ph 09-421119932.

NLM

Zayetseik Bridge inaugurated in Pathein Township



A ceremony to open Zayetseik Bridge in Zayetseik Village of Pathein Township of Ayeyawady Region in progress.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 19 April—A ceremony to put Zayetseik Bridge into

service was held in Zayetseik Village of Pathein Township in Ayeyawady Region yesterday morning.

Chief Minister of Ayeyawady Region U Thein Aung sprinkled scented water on the stone inscriptions of the bridge.

The bridge was built at a cost of K 4.6 million contributed by the State and K 5.6 million by the local people.

The Region Chief Minister looked into progress of new building at Aungmyezeyon Monastery and visited village lake and Dana Theikdi rice mill.

MNA

Weather forecast for third dekad of 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 7 to 8 days in Taninthayi Region and Kachin State, 5 to 6 days

in Upper Sagaing Region, Rakhine, Kayin and Mon States and 2 to 4 days in the remaining Regions and States.

Day temperature

Day temperatures will be above April average temperatures in Sagaing, Bago, Yangon and Ayeyawady Regions, Kachin State and about April average temperatures in the remaining Regions and States.—NLM

Pakokku, one of tourist destination in dry region

After Ayeyawady Bridge (Pakokku) was commissioned into service on 31 December 2011, not only travellers from various regions across the nation but also flocks of globetrotters visit Pakokku via ancient region Bagan.

Tourists are interested in Pakokku that still maintains production of domestic products and handicrafts up to now and preserves traditional lifestyle of local people, said an experienced tourist

guide.

Pakokku is 15 miles distant from ancient city Bagan, so tourists can save time for their travelling. Moreover, Pakokku can give accommodation service to the guests at Shwe Sisein Lodge, Thabyaynyo Lodge, and Tawwin Nann Motel. That is why tourists visit there several times as of January 2013.

Tourism agencies in Bagan-Nyaung U make arrangements of one-day package tour for the

travellers to Pakokku region. Globetrotters make trips to Pakhangyi ancient city from Pakokku.

In 2011-2012, over 100,000 tourists visited in Bagan region. In 2006-2007, number of globetrotters who visited Bagan hit about 100,000. In early 2013, some of tourists were directed to hotels in Pakokku for their accommodation due to larger number in Bagan, said a tourist guide.

Myanma Alinn: 17-4-2013
Trs: TTA

Nay Oo Maung (Pakokku)

