

Hailstorm-hit farmers unable to repay loans

By Aye Min Soe

Grape farmers who have suffered heavy harvest losses due to a recent hailstorm are hopeless to pay off debts to the government and pesticide companies this year.

The hailstorm on April 6 destroyed the vineyards of farmers of the village of Okpo in Yadan Village-tract, Yamethin Township, about 50 miles north of Nay Pyi Taw at a time when they were ready to harvest the grapes with great expectation of a high prices for their produce, as the Myanmar New Year festivities are about to commence.

The hailstones fell along with untimely heavy rain for about 30 minutes, flattening some vineyards and damaging vine trees and grapes. According to the farmers, some hailstones had the size of plums and some were as big as chicken eggs.

"I've have never seen such hailstones in my lifetime," said U Win Tin, 50, who saw his two-acre vineyard with over 2,000 vine trees destroyed.

Each farmer now has debts averaging around K 4 million to K 5 million due to the disaster.



Farmer in despair over harvest losses as he now has to deal with huge debts.—PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

Around 400 families, out of about 500 in Okpo Village, are affected.

Every year, the gov-

ernment hands out K 250,000 to farmers as an agricultural loan, with farmers also having to buy

pesticides and nutrients from companies for their plants on credit.

"We all managed to

pay off our debts every year after the harvest, but this year, it is hard for us not only to pay off our debts to the government and companies but also to make ends meet," said Soe Min, 38, who has a debt of K 8 million after the 30-minute hailstorm destroyed grapes on 4,000 vine trees.

The disaster has left most people severely shocked and depressed, with many not even able to eat.

"I'm afraid to show our vine yard to my wife because she will lose her mind," Soe Min said, adding that they have to find solutions to the urgent problem of repaying the loans.

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Hailstones destroyed grapes and severely damaged vine trees.—PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

World Bank Chief speaks out on eradication of global extreme poverty by 2030

By Ye Myint in Washington DC

WASHINGTON, DC, 9 April—Al Jazeera's Ali Velshi sat down with World Bank Group President Mr. Jim Yong Kim in a live-streamed conversation focusing on the Group's campaign to eradicate extreme poverty by 2030 at Preston Auditorium, World

Bank Group Main Complex in Washington, DC on Wednesday.

The interview covered a wide range of issues in which the Group is getting involved and the WB Chief defined conflict as a huge driving force of poverty during the conversation.

The interview highlighted the End Poverty Campaign and the role of the Group.

Mr. Kim elaborated on the focus of his organization on helping 50 million people a year to lift

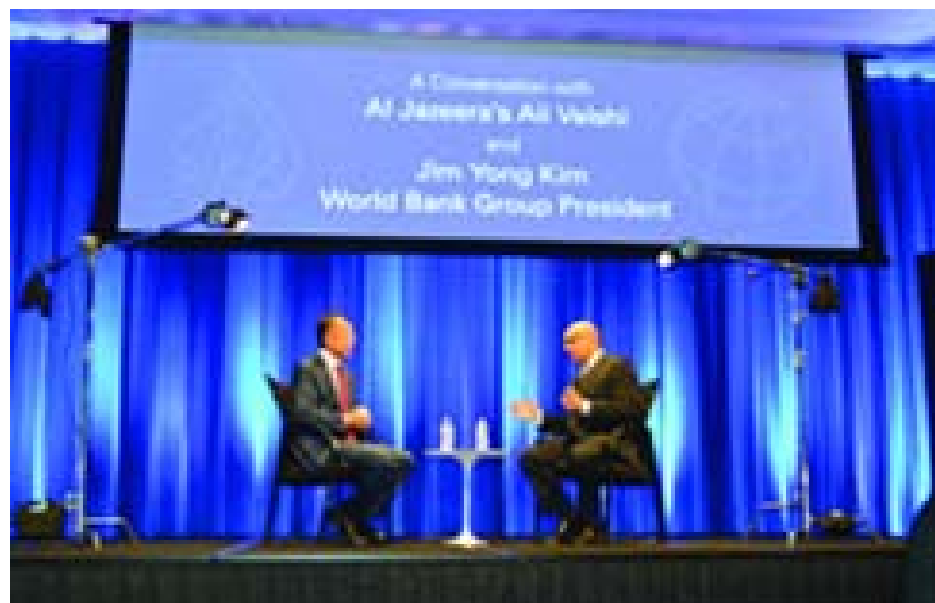
themselves out of poverty in cooperation with 188 global governments. He highlighted the importance of prosperity shared by everyone and the need to fight inequality which has a negative impact on eco-

nomie growth, saying that the Group is tracking the income growth of the bottom 40 percent.

He stressed the importance of having a healthier population for economic growth, calling for investing in its own people so people have access to health care and education.

Without investing in people, it is impossible to see growth in the medium and long term, or even in the short term, he claimed.

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World Bank Group President Mr. Jim Yong Kim meets Al Jazeera's Ali Velshi in a live-streamed conversation.

PHOTO: YE MYINT

NLM moving to Yangon, no publication from April 15-21

The New Light of Myanmar is moving to Yangon, with the last issue before the move to be published on April 14. The first issue after the break will be published on April 22.

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Myanmar, Bangladesh discuss peace and stability in border areas



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing poses for documentary photo with Principal Staff Officer Lt-Gen Abu Belal Muhammad Shafiul Huq, nds, psc from Bangladeshi Armed Forces Division.—MYAWADY

NAY PYI TAW, 10 April—Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing received Principal Staff Officer Lt-Gen Abu Belal Muhammad Shafiul Huq, nds, psc from Bangladeshi Armed Forces Division and party at Zeyathiri Beikman in Nay

Pyi Taw on Thursday noon.

Both sides discussed matters related to further promotion of friendship and amity between the two countries, ensuring reciprocal visits between the two armed forces, strengthening cooperation in all fields including training, elimination of armed groups in bor-

der areas that can be harmful to peace and stability of the countries, and measures of peace and stability in border areas of the two countries.

Also present at the call were Chief of the General Staff (Army, Navy and Air)

General Hla Htay Win and the senior military officers from the commander-in-chief office. The Bangladeshi was accompanied by the Bangladeshi defence attaché to Myanmar and officials.—Myawady

Education Ministry plans to air education programme

YANGON, 10 April—A work coordination meeting on broadcasting education channel took place on Thursday at Diamond Jubilee Hall on Pyay Road in Yangon with an address by Union Education Minister Dr Daw Khin San Yi.

Deputy Minister for Information U Ye Htut and officials from Higher

Education Department (Lower Myanmar), No 3 Department of Basic Education, Department of Myanmar Education Research Bureau, Department of Myanmar Board of Examinations and Myanma Radio and Television participated in the discussion.

MNA



Work coordination meeting on broadcasting education programme in progress at Diamond Jubilee Hall in Yangon.—MNA

Union FM meets U.S. Assistant Secretary for East Asian and Pacific Affairs of State Department

NAY PYI TAW, 10 April—U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs, received Mr. Daniel R. Russel, Assistant Secretary for East Asian and Pacific Affairs of the State Department of the United States of America at the Ministry in Nay

Pyi Taw on Thursday morning.

At the meeting, they cordially discussed promotion of bilateral relations and cooperation between Myanmar and the U.S. as well as ASEAN Summit and its related meetings.

MNA

President's Office discusses scrutiny for 'Excellent Award'

NAY PYI TAW, 10 April—Ministry of President's Office organized a meeting on Thursday afternoon to present awards for outstanding efforts of citizens for the interests of the State, which will be conferred by the President.

Union Minister U Tin Naing Thein, chairman of Scrutinizing Committee for the President's Excellent Award, said at the meeting that public and the award winners are being interest-

ed in the reasons of this award; that the background reasons to present this award should be clarified precisely and accurately to avoid any controversy.

He also explained that presenting this award is aimed to encourage the young generations for the welfare of State through acknowledgement of the award winners. The award will cover the excellent efforts in rural and urban development programmes, agricultural and livestock farming sectors, social and economic activities. The persons concerned presented their preparations for award scrutinizing processes at the meeting.

The deputy ministers, department heads and responsible persons from related ministries attended the meeting.—MNA

World Bank Chief speaks out on ...

(from page 1)

During the interview which was attended by nearly 200 journalists and guests, Mr. Kim talked about the drivers of inequality and poverty. He said conflict is the most devastating driver of poverty. Lack of investment in infrastructure and human beings were the other main factors, he said. He pointed out the importance of investments that could lead to a more inclusive growth rather than the growth of particular industries or in-

dividuals, explaining how inclusive growth could happen sooner and faster and what kinds of investments will lead to it.

Regarding the elimination of extreme poverty with people living on less than \$ 1.25 a day, the Group Chief said there was willingness to lift those people out of this condition, and bring the number of extremely poor people of the global population to a level below 3 percent. But he said the challenge was enormous as "there are al-

ways going to be disasters and the 3 percent seem to be going in and out of the poverty cycle. The target is set to get to about 7-7.5 percent."

Talking about extreme poverty alleviation by 2030, the Group Chief said if distribution of wealth changes and more is invested in the bottom 40 percent, that target will be reached.

While expressing his view on a tweet "No man can end poverty unless we kill politics," Mr. Velshi said many more politicians are very much aware that they cannot ignore the poor.

Likewise, the poorest of the world are not going to tolerate their situation. Now is the time to think about the positive ways for moving towards growth, at the same time, increase participation of all in this process, he stressed.

Nearly 2 billion people across the globe lack access to energy and an estimated two-and-half billion of them basic financial services. All 7 billion people could be subjected to disasters. Today's world is encountering these fundamental problems that affect billions, not just millions of

world citizens. So, acting with effective plans equal with the challenges and making extraordinary efforts to ensure growth, job creation and investments in people's health and education are musts, he said.

Mr. Jim Yong Kim is the 12th President of the World Bank Group. He is also a Chairman of the Banks Board of Executive Directors and President of a group of five interrelated organizations: International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), International Development Association (IDA), Inter-

national Finance Corporation (IFC), Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA) and International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID). Mr. Ali Velshi is a Canadian television journalist and host of Real Money with Ali Velshi on Al Jazeera America. He worked for CNN as Chief Business Correspondent, Anchor of CNN's Your Money and co-host of CNN Intentional Weekday Business show World Business Today. He Joined Al Jazeera America in 2013.—NLM

NATIONAL



President, US Assistant Secretary for East Asian and Pacific Affairs discuss resuming activities of int'l aid groups in Rakhine State

NAY PYI TAW, 10 April—President U Thein Sein and Mr. Daniel R. Russel, Assistant Secretary for East Asian and Pacific Affairs of the State De-

partment of the U.S. held talks providing health care services and resuming activities of international aid groups in Rakhine State.

The meeting at the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw also focused on providing full security to the humanitarian aid groups of the UN and IN-

GOs.

The U.S. Assistant Secretary said that the US is closely watching the developments in Myanmar. He also reiterated the support of the US President and the government to Myanmar's ASEAN chairmanship and democratic reforms.—MNA

President U Thein Sein shakes hands with Mr. Daniel R. Russel, Assistant Secretary for East Asian and Pacific Affairs of the State Department of the U.S.—MNA

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham addresses the meeting of the central committee for taking ASEAN chairmanship and establishing ASEAN Community.—MNA



Census enumerators take data in some areas with assistance of Defence Services

NAY PYI TAW, 10 April—The census enumerators are taking census with the help of the Defence Services in some areas in Kachin and Northern Shan States where they faced difficulties in enumeration of households and census.

The census enumerators gathered data from 6683 people of the two states on Thursday.

In Kachin State, altogether 6151 people from the villages in Dawphonyan Sub-Township, Mansi, Naungswan, Pankham and Moemeik townships of Bhamo District in Kachin State and 532 people from Mantung Township of Kyaukme District in Northern Shan State were enumerated the data.

Up to now, squads of enumerators collected census data from 60004 villagers of these two states with the assistance of Defence Services since 3 April.

Myawady

Preparations for hosting 24th ASEAN Summit to be finalized in first week of May

NAY PYI TAW, 10 April — Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham on Thursday evening called for finalizing preparations for hosting the 24th ASEAN Summit in the first week of May.

At the meeting of the central committee for taking ASEAN chairmanship and establishing ASEAN Community, the vice-president urged responsible bodies for preparing the 24th ASEAN Summit to make the best use of experiences gained during the previous ASEAN meeting and BIMSTEC meetings to

be able to host the summit successfully.

The 24th ASEAN Summit is the first of its kind in Myanmar within 17 years of its ASEAN member and it will be held at Myanmar International Convention Centre in Nay Pyi Taw on 10 and 11 May.

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham has also called on ministries concerned with ASEAN's three pillars to coordinate each other regarding establishment of ASEAN community.

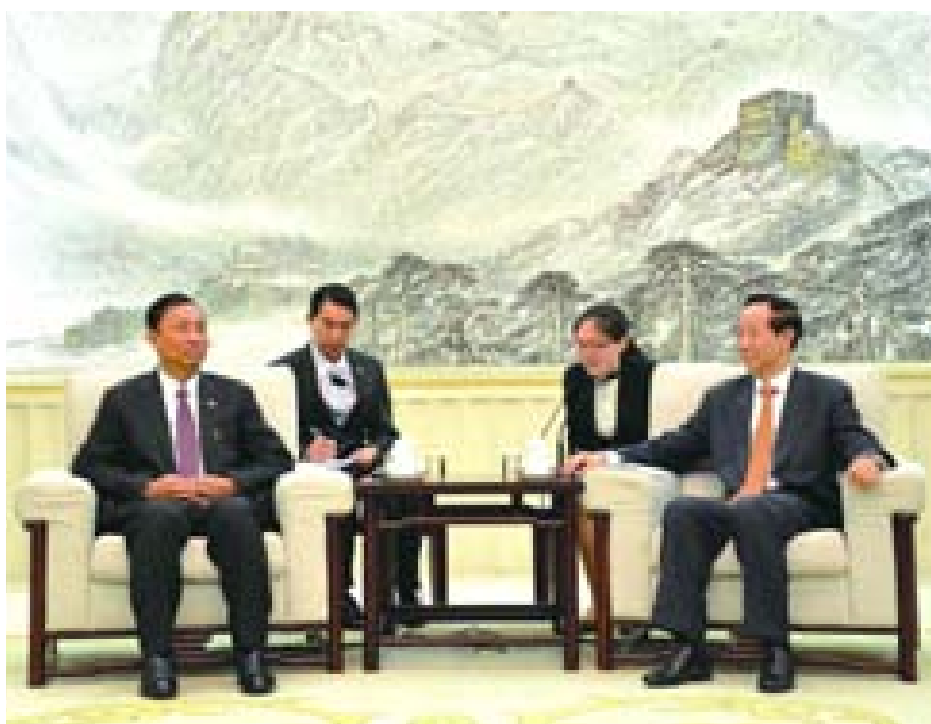
He also urged the committee to discuss the

implementation of the resolutions of the previous ASEAN meetings and to finalize the plans to be implemented.

The Vice-President also held talks Lt-Gen Abu Belal Muhammad Shafiul Huq ndc psc, Principal Staff Office of the Bangladesh Army over strengthening friendship between the two governments and the two peoples, promotion of bilateral trade and cooperation between the two armed forces in the afternoon.

MNA

Union Parliament Speaker discusses bilateral cooperation with Vice-Chairman of Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference



NAY PYI TAW, 10 April—Speaker of Union Parliament and People's Parliament Thura U Shwe Mann exchanged views on cooperation for strengthening bilateral friendship and amity with Mr. Wang Jiarui, Vice-Chairman of the 12th National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Con-

ference and Director of the International Department of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China at the office of the International Department of Chinese Communist Party in Beijing, China on 9 April.

The Speaker and party then visited China National Petroleum Corporation where President of CNPC Mr. Liao Yongyuan conducted them round and hosted a luncheon to Myanmar delegation.

In the evening, they also visited Ling Guang Si Temple and donated offerings to the monks and paid homage to the sacred Buddha tooth relic.—MNA

Speaker of Union Parliament Thura U Shwe Mann holding talks with Mr. Wang Jiarui, Vice-Chairman of the 12th National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference.—MNA

Kamawet Village upgraded to town



MUDON, 10 April—Kamawet, Theingon, Sein-taung, Htaungkae and Gonnyindan Villages in Mudon Township, Mawlamyine District in Mon State were combined to designate as new Kamawet Town recently. A ceremony to open new Kamawet town was held in the town on 7 April.

After reciting three times of Namo Tassa by the monks, State Ovadacariya Sayadaw Bhaddanta Palita from Dattaw Monastery

gave words of Ovada and Mon State Chief Minister U Ohn Myint delivered an address.

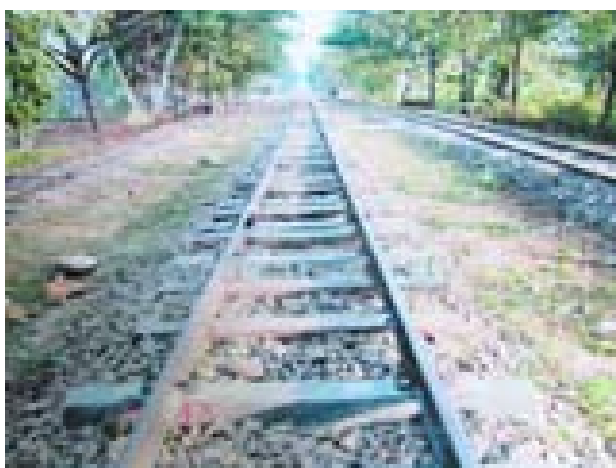
Then, Mon State Minister Dr Min Nwe Soe, representative of People's Parliament Dr Mya Thein and Chairman of Zayar Pagoda Board of Trustees U Aung Ba formally opened the ceremony and the chief minister and monks sprinkled scented water.

Similarly, Theinseik, Kyaikkaw and Taungkya

Villages in Thaton Township, Thaton District were combined to set up Thuwunnawati Town and Zinkyaik, Khalaukinn, Phalup and Hsaphosu Villages in Paung Township in Thaton District as Zinkyaik Town by the General Administration Department under the Ministry of Home Affairs. So, there are ten townships, two sub-townships and four towns in Mon State at present.

U Maung Maung

Gangaw-Kalay Railroad Section being upgraded



GANGAW, 10 April—ChaungU-Pakokku-Gangaw-Kalay railroad section

was constructed over 20 years ago and a maiden trip on Gangaw-Kalay railroad

section was launched in 1995.

It is learnt that Myanma Railways has been upgrading Gangaw-Kalay railroad section by replacing wooden sleepers with concrete ones and 5000 concrete sleepers have already been substituted up to 2014.

Land reclamation for adjusting slopes on railroad section in the township was finished and renovation and decoration of Gangaw station are being carried out.—*Kyaw Than Swe*

Fiber cables laid in Singaing Tsp for better connection of Internet

SINGAING, 10 April—As part of effort for better Internet connection and phone line in Myanmar, a 250-member team comprising staff and technicians from three companies are conducting fiber cable network between southern part of Dokhtawady River and milepost No. 408/0 on

Yangon-Mandalay Highway in Singaing Township of Mandalay Region.

It is expected to complete the works at the end of April. The team tries to link 70 miles long cable line along Shwebo-Kanbalu road and 26 miles along Hopin-Mohnyin Road.

About 70 teams of

technicians are assigned duties to lay fiber cables across the country and they are carrying out their works under supervision of three companies. "If the project completes, people will see improvement of Internet and phone line networks," the team's leader said.

Aung Min (Singaing)



Uniforms presented to scouts in Shwebo Tsp



SHWEDO, 10 April—Uniforms presentation

ceremony for scout youths took place at the hall of Ba-

sic Education High School No.3 in Shwebo in Shwebo District, Sagaing Region on Thursday.

District Education Officer U Myint Swe, on behalf of the Sagaing Region Chief Minister, presented uniforms to 100 Grade-7 scout students of the school.

He urged the scouts to take the physical education and sports, preserve Myanmar traditional culture, carry out social welfare tasks with philanthropic spirit and provide first-aid to necessary ones whenever natural disasters fall.

District IPRD

Chorus dancers taking exercises for dancing entertainment

SITTWAY, 10 April—A traditional dance troupe of Rakhine State are under training to perform dances in Myanmar Thingyan festival 2014 under the arrangement of Rakhine State Government.

Rakhine damsels and singers will entertain the

visitors with choral dances and songs at Sittway Central Pandal in front of U Ottama Park in Sittway from 14 to 16 April.

Anyone may enjoy Maha Thingyan festival at Rakhine traditional water throwing pandal.

Sittway District IPRD

Film stars and Academy Khant Si Thu of Myitta Thingaha Group donated K 6 million to Yangon General Hospital on Thursday. They had donated K 110.2 million to social and health associations from 2013 to 2014.—KYAW MYINT THAN (LANMADW)



Paralyzed patients regain movement after spinal implant

NEW YORK, 10 April—Four men who had each been paralyzed from the chest down for more than two years and been told their situation was hopeless regained the ability to voluntarily move their legs and feet — though not to walk — after an electrical device was implanted in their spines, researchers reported on Tuesday.

The success, albeit in a small number of patients, offers hope that a fundamentally new treatment can help many of the 6 million paralyzed Americans, including the 1.3 million with spinal cord injuries. Even those whose cases are deemed so hopeless they are not offered further rehabilitation might benefit, scientists say.

The results also cast doubt on a key assumption about spinal cord injury: that treatment requires damaged neurons to regrow or be replaced with, for instance, stem cells. Both approaches have proved fiendishly difficult and, in the case of stem cells, controversial.

“The big message here is that people with spinal cord injury of the type these men had no longer need to think they have a lifelong sentence of paralysis,” Dr Roderic Pettigrew, director of the National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering, part of the National Institutes of Health, said in an interview. “They can achieve some level of voluntary function,” which he called “a milestone” in spinal cord injury research. His institute partly funded the study, which was published in the journal *Brain*.

The partial recovery achieved by “hopeless”



Kent Stephenson lies down during voluntary training while Katelyn Gurley tracks his level of muscle activity and force at the Human Locomotion Research Centre laboratory, Frazier Rehab Institute, as part of the University of Louisville's Kentucky Spinal Cord Injury Research Center, in Louisville Kentucky, as pictured in this handout photo courtesy of University of Louisville. —REUTERS

patients suggests that physicians and rehabilitation therapists may be giving up on millions of paralyzed people. That's because physical therapy can mimic some aspects of the electrical stimulation that the device provided, said Susan Harkema, a specialist in neurological rehab at the University of Louisville's Kentucky Spinal Cord Injury Research Centre (KSCIRC), who led the new study.

“One of the things this research shows is that there is more potential for spinal cord injury patients to recover even without this electrical stimulation,” she said in an interview. “Today, patients are not given rehab because they are not considered ‘good investments.’ We should rethink what they're offered, because rehabilitation can drive recovery for many more than are receiving it.”

The research built on the case of a single para-

lyzed patient that Harkema's team reported in 2011. College baseball star Rob Summers had been injured in a hit-and-run accident in 2006, paralyzing him below the neck.

In late 2009, Summers received the epidural implant just below the damaged area. The 2.5-ounce (72-gram) device began emitting electrical current at varying frequencies and intensities, stimulating dense bundles of neurons in the spinal cord. Three days later he stood on his own. In 2010 he took his first tentative steps.

His partial recovery became a media sensation, but even the Louisville team thought that epidural stimulation could benefit only spinal cord patients who had some sensation in their paralyzed limbs, as Summers did. “We assumed that the surviving sensory pathways were crucial for this recovery,” Harkema said.

She and her team had

little hope for two of their next patients. Neither had sensation in their paralyzed legs.

One was Kent Stephenson, who had been paralyzed in a 2009 motocross crash when he was 21. After months of rehab in Colorado, “they said I would never move my legs again, and there was no hope,” he said.

Eleven days after he began receiving the deck-of-cards-size RestoreAdvanced stimulator, which is made by Medtronic and used for pain control, Stephenson moved his “paralyzed” left leg while lying on his back.

“My mom, who was in the room when they turned the stimulator on and told me, ‘Pull your left leg up,’ cried when I did it,” Stephenson said. “I got a little watery-eyed, too. I'd been told I'd never move voluntarily again.”

The researchers didn't expect him to, either, said Claudia Angeli of the Frazier

Rehab Institute and KSCIRC, who co-led the study: “So when Kent moved, we thought, huh, this might actually be working.”

Andrew Meas, whose head-on collision with a car while he was riding home on his motorcycle in 2006 left him paralyzed from the chest down, made even more progress. He can move even when the stimulator is not emitting electrical signals.

The first time he was able to move his legs “it made me feel like a normal person again,” he said. After months of rehab post-implant, “I can pick up both my legs without the stimulator on, and can also stand without it. My record is 27 minutes, and I'm still progressing.”

At first, Meas could move his legs only when the implant's 16 electrodes were zapping their spinal neurons at full power. Over 28 weeks of daily physical therapy, he gradually became able to move his toes, feet, ankles, knees, legs and hips with less electrical stimulation.

Meas's experience offers clues to how epidural stimulation works in patients with spinal cord injury.

Just as continuous exposure to an allergen can eventually make people so sensitized that they sneeze and wheeze at a single grain of pollen, so the electrical barrage “resets the level of excitability of spinal cord neurons,” said NIH's Pettigrew. As a result, “even input from exercise could be enough to trigger a motor response.”

In addition to regaining voluntary movement, the patients put on muscle mass and felt less tired and

generally happier. Summers is coaching baseball. Stephenson goes whitewater rafting and motocrossing in a sidecar.

Even researchers who have pioneered competing approaches, using cells, praised the new work. “It's not a cure,” said Dr Barth Green, a neurosurgeon at the University of Miami, whose Miami Project to Cure Paralysis is trying to treat spinal cord patients with cell transplants. “But it could be part of a combined biological and bioengineering strategy to help patients not just walk again but also gain control of their bowel and bladder,” which many paralyzed patients identify as even more important to their quality of life.

The Louisville researchers suspect that with better stimulator technology, spinal cord patients will be able to “work toward stepping,” as they carefully phrase it to avoid the hype associated with “walking again.” The electrodes in the current device must either be all on or all off, for instance; alternately stimulating the left and right sides might be more effective.

The bioengineering institute at NIH is funding research to develop noninvasive stimulators.

That way, the electrical pulses can be delivered through the skin rather than requiring surgery to implant a device, Pettigrew said.

Even in patients with severe spinal cord injuries, and even after experts have pronounced them incapable of recovery, “we believe there is still a capacity for recovery,” Harkema said. “It's not necessarily the case that you will never move again.”

Reuters

Netanyahu orders cutback in contacts with Palestinian Authority



Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu sits next to Cabinet Secretary Avichai Mandelblit (R) and Intelligence Minister Yuval Steinitz (L) during a weekly cabinet meeting at his office in Jerusalem on 30 March, 2014. —REUTERS

JERUSALEM, 10 April — Israel announced on Wednesday a partial freeze in high-level contacts with the Palestinians and also threatened economic steps after they signed international conventions, deepening a crisis menacing US-brokered peace talks. Israeli government officials said Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu had ordered cabinet members, directors-general of government ministries and other senior officials not to meet their counterparts in the Palestinian Authority (PA).

A spokesman for the

PA, which exercises limited self-rule in the Israeli-occupied West Bank, said Israeli-Palestinian ministerial meetings were rare but voiced concern about the possibility of Israeli economic sanctions.

The order does not apply to Justice Minister Tzipi Livni, Israel's chief peace negotiator, or to defense and security officials, Israeli officials said. A US mediator has held a series of meetings over the past week to try to push the troubled talks past an original 29 April deadline for a deal. —Reuters

US sends one more Navy destroyer to Black Sea amid the Ukraine crisis

WASHINGTON, 10 April — The US Navy destroyer *USS Donald Cook*, the second American military ship to be deployed in the Black Sea amid the Ukraine crisis, is scheduled to arrive in the designated waters Thursday, said a Pentagon spokesman Wednesday. “The *Donald Cook*'s mission is to reassure NATO allies and Black Sea partners of America's commitment to strengthen and improve interoperability while working towards mutual goals in the region,” Steve Warren, the

spokesman, told reporters. The destroyer will also take part in exercises and operations to improve interoperability, readiness and enhance relationships, according to Warren. The vessel left Norfolk, Virginia, on 31 January as the first of US Navy's four Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyers to be stationed in Rota, Spain.

Prior to the arrival of *USS Donald Cook*, the *USS Truxtun*, another guided-missile destroyer, had carried out rounds of drills in the Black Sea. —Xinhua

G7 ministers to meet Thursday on economy, Ukraine

WASHINGTON, 10 April — Finance ministers from the Group of Seven industrialized nations will meet on Thursday in Washington to discuss the global economy and the situation in Ukraine, sources said.

The meeting comes ahead of a gathering of top finance officials from the larger Group of 20 nations on Friday and weekend meetings of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank. “I think the G7 will be mostly about the global economic outlook in general, and Ukraine/Russia in particular,” one source said. The G7 comprises the United States, Japan, Germany, France, Britain, Italy and Canada.—Reuters

Russia, EU, Ukraine, US to meet in Geneva next week for talks



Pro-Russian protesters set a barbed wire on a barricade outside the SBU state security service in Luhansk, in eastern Ukraine on 10 April, 2014.

REUTERS

BRUSSELS, 10 April — Russia, the United States, Ukraine and the European Union will hold talks next Thursday in Geneva to try to negotiate an end to the crisis in Ukraine, EU diplomats said.

Moscow has said it wants to know more about the agenda for such a meeting, and while no more details were immediately available, EU diplomats said it will now go ahead.

The EU’s foreign affairs chief Catherine Ashton will brief most of the bloc’s foreign ministers on the talks on Monday, said the three diplomats, who declined to be named.

“We need to keep the channel for dialogue open, even as we consider further sanctions,” one diplomat

said. “The solution to the crisis is through negotiation.”

Russia, which made Ukraine and the West furious by annexing Crimea last month, does not want to be forced into talks with the interim government in Kiev because of that administration’s role in ousting Moscow-allied President Viktor Yanukovich in what Moscow called an armed, Western-encouraged coup.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov told US Secretary of State John Kerry by telephone this week that four-way talks must focus on fostering dialogue among Ukrainians and not on bilateral relations among the participants.—Reuters

Iran, six powers seek to narrow ‘significant gaps’ in nuclear talks

VIENNA, 10 April — Iran will never slow down its nuclear research programme, its supreme leader said on Wednesday as negotiators from Tehran and six world powers struggled to narrow “significant gaps” that the United States warned might be insurmountable.

The stakes in a deal are high on both sides. Western powers, along with Russia and China, want to prevent chronic tensions in the Middle East from boiling over into a wider war or triggering a regional nuclear arms race. Iran, for its part, is keen to be rid of international sanctions hobbling its oil-based economy.

Clerical supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said that the Islamic Re-

public’s negotiating team in Vienna should not yield to issues “forced upon them”.

“These negotiations should continue,” he told nuclear scientists in Tehran, the official IRNA news agency reported. “But all should know that negotiations will not stop or slow down any of Iran’s activities in nuclear research and development.” Tehran denies suspicions that it has used its declared civilian atomic energy programme as a front for covertly developing the means to make nuclear weapons, maintaining that it seeks only electricity from its enrichment of uranium. Negotiators from Iran and the so-called P5-plus-one — the United States, Russia, China, Britain, France and Germany—plan

after their two days of talks in Vienna to start drafting a long-term agreement on settling their decade-old nuclear dispute by a self-imposed deadline of 20 July.

They will begin their next round of talks in the Austrian capital on 13 May, European Union foreign policy chief Catherine Ashton, coordinating the talks for the powers, told reporters while standing next to Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Zarif.

“A lot of intensive work will be required to overcome the differences,” she said after the 8-9 April meeting ended. “We will aim to bridge the gaps in all the key areas.”

A senior US administration official, speaking on condition of anonymity,



European Union foreign policy chief Catherine Ashton (L) and Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif arrive for a news conference after talks in Vienna on 9 April, 2014.

REUTERS

told reporters: “Now we are set to start drafting. At this point we don’t know if we’ll be successful in bridging those gaps.”

Russia’s chief negotiator, however, suggested progress had been achieved on how to resolve concerns

about Iran’s planned Arak research reactor. Tehran says is a facility designed to produce radio-isotopes for medical treatments; the West suspects it will be geared to yielding plutonium for atomic bombs. “The possibility of a compromise

on this issue has grown,” *Interfax* news agency quoted Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov as saying. “Centimetre by centimetre, drop by drop, we are moving forward. In general there is a positive dynamic.”

Reuters

As riot-hit Indian region votes, religious divide favours Hindu leader

MUZAFFARNAGAR, 10 April — Manoj Balyan wants Narendra Modi to become India’s next prime minister when results of a general election are released next month, and not because of the pro-business opposition leader’s record as a credible economic manager.

Instead, the property broker and village chieftain is drawn to the Hindu nationalist side of Modi, 63, who he believes will strip privileges from India’s minority Muslim population.

“With Modi taking office, Muslims will automatically feel the pressure. They will not dare to raise their voice,” said Balyan,

42, to nods of approval from a group of friends.

Such views are common in settlements around the sugarcane belt of Muzaffarnagar in the northern state of Uttar Pradesh state,

which was hit by deadly religious strife last year.

The election is spread out over five weeks, with voting ending on 12 May. It was the turn of voters in Delhi, the capital, on

Thursday and many parts of Uttar Pradesh, including Muzaffarnagar, where Modi’s popularity is running high and Muslims are worried about their future.

For many of the 815 million registered to vote, Modi and his Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) represent a promise of better governance, industrial growth and job creation.

But accusations that other parties help Muslims at the expense of the Hindu majority have become an increasingly prominent part of the BJP’s campaign in recent weeks — notably where in areas where religious tensions run high.

Reuters



Hindu nationalist Narendra Modi, prime ministerial candidate for the main opposition Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), gestures as he addresses a rally in Gurgaon on the outskirts of New Delhi on 3 April, 2014.—REUTERS

Move to oust Thai PM more than just a walk in the park for protesters

BANGKOK, 10 April — Two months ago, Piyavadee Boonmak was living comfortably at home. But she quit her job as a civil servant and now works as a volunteer cleaning toilets at Lumpini Park, the new focal point of anti-government protests in the Thai capital.

Piyavadee now lives in a khaki tent in the central Bangkok park, once a haven for joggers but now a temporary home for more than 10,000 supporters of a movement that has been trying for five months to oust Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra. Their aim is also

to rid Thailand of the influence of her billionaire brother, ousted former premier Thaksin Shinawatra.

“Everyone has to do their part,” said Piyavadee, 50, who spends her days cleaning the park’s portable toilets. “We’re like one big family. We’re all here for the same reason: to get rid of that lying, cheating bastard, Thaksin.”

The protesters took over Lumpini Park last month after moving blockades that had clogged Bangkok intersections, a tactical retreat they said was to “give Bangkok back”.—Reuters

WORLD

Frontrunner in Afghan vote rules out coalition government

KABUL, 10 April — A frontrunner to succeed Hamid Karzai as Afghanistan's president voiced the possibility of teaming up with a rival on Wednesday but ruled out forming a coalition government in order to avoid a second-round runoff.

Afghanistan voted in a landmark presidential election last weekend which, if successful, will usher in the first democratic handover of power in the country's history as Karzai prepares to step down after more than 12 years in office.

Preliminary tallies put

former foreign minister Abdullah Abdullah in the lead in parts of the capital Kabul. But it could be weeks before a country-wide winner emerges from the field of eight candidates because Afghanistan's rugged terrain and weak infrastructure make tallying all the ballots so difficult.

Speaking to *Reuters* at his home on Wednesday, Abdullah said he met his rival, another ex-foreign minister Zalmi Rassoul, shortly after the 5 April election to discuss possibilities.

"I had asked for that meeting. We had a good discussion. I will not go into the details of it but you can imagine that at this stage we are not talking about the weather or leisure," he said.

"We have been in the same government in the old days, we have been friends for many years. So that is the personal part of it. The rest of it depends on the common understanding of certain subjects and certain policies."

Abdullah has been noticeably more critical of the other frontrunner, ex-finance minister Ashraf Ghani. Asked if he could work with Ghani, he said with a tinge of sarcasm: "Mr Ghani has declared himself the winner. So let him absorb the victory."

If none of the candidates gets more than 50 percent, a runoff will have to be held, at the earliest in late May, considerably prolonging the wait for a winner to be declared.

Reuters

United States upgrades Philippine civil aviation rating

MANILA, 10 April — The US aviation regulator has upgraded the civil aviation status of the Philippines to let its airlines operate new direct flights to the United States, Manila's transport minister said on Thursday.

The upgrade to category 1 status by the US Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) follows a downgrade to category 2 in 2008 because the Philippines lacked oversight laws for air carriers and fell short of international safety standards.

"This upgrade cements a landmark era in the Philippine aviation sector," Philippine Transportation Secretary Joseph Abaya said in a statement.

The Philippines created an independent regulatory body in March 2008, soon after the FAA downgrade, and pulled its standards in line with international norms set by a UN body, the International Civil Aviation Organization. Abaya said the upgrade would have a significant impact on the Philippines' economy by allowing its airlines to add direct flights with the United States, boosting tourism

and trade.

All Philippine carriers may now apply for flights to the United States, said Capt John Andrews of the Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines.

"There are no more restrictions," he said in a television interview. "We are now world-class as far as the aviation industry is concerned."

For example, national carrier Philippine Airlines will be able to launch more routes, and step up its flight frequency in the United States, particularly on the East Coast.

PAL has 28 flights every week to four destinations in the United States — San Francisco, Los Angeles, Honolulu and Guam, carrying 27,000 passengers. There are plans to open new gateways to the US East Coast using Boeing 777-300s.

Shares of Philippine Airlines rose as much as 2.9 percent, while low-cost operator Cebu Air Inc climbed as much as 4.3 percent in early trade after the FAA announcement.

Tony Fernandes, chief executive of low-cost carrier Air Asia, welcomed the FAA upgrade. — *Reuters*



A Philippine Airlines (PAL) plane, the country's flag carrier, waits at the tarmac of the international airport in Manila on 10 April, 2012. — *Reuters*

Megawati party to win vote, but no presidential candidate without partner

JAKARTA, 10 April — An Indonesian party led by former President Megawati Sukarnoputri is likely to win the country's parliamentary elections on Wednesday, a national quick-count survey said. But it may need a coalition with other parties to nominate its popular presidential candidate Joko "Jokowi" Widodo in the July presidential election.

Her party is unlikely to get the number of votes required to nominate Jokowi on its own, although there is still a chance it may end up with enough parliamentary seats to nominate without help. The quick count, using random samples from 2,000 polling



Megawati Sukarnoputri (C), former Indonesian president and head of the Indonesian Democratic Party of Struggle, and Joko "Jokowi" Widodo (R), the party's presidential candidate, smile after casting their ballots in the parliamentary elections at a polling station in Jakarta on 9 April, 2014. — *Kyodo News*

stations in the country's 33 provinces which was the political vehicle of the late strongman Suharto before

he was deposed, was next with 14.58 percent. It was followed by the Greater Indonesia Movement Party,

Gerindra, championed by Prabowo Subianto, a former notorious army general with an abysmal human rights record, with 11.78 percent.

Prabowo was head of the army's special force command KOPASSUS, which allegedly kidnapped and tortured political and student activists in 1998 during the last days of Suharto's rule. To protest his innocence, he recruited activists he had kidnapped to be members of his party.

"It proves that the so-called 'Jokowi effect' has no significant impact (on the votes for PDI-Perjuangan)," political observer Yudhi Latif said.

Kyodo News

Car bomb explodes outside Greek central bank, no injuries reported

ATHENS, 10 April — A car bomb exploded outside the the Greek Central Bank in central Athens early on Thursday, police said. No injuries have been reported.

The blast, which took place shortly before dawn, caused damage to nearby offices, stores and cars.

A warning telephone call had been made to a local daily and news website and police had immediately cordoned off the area. The police had yet to verify

the phone call, in which the unidentified caller said the bomb contained 75 kilos of explosives.

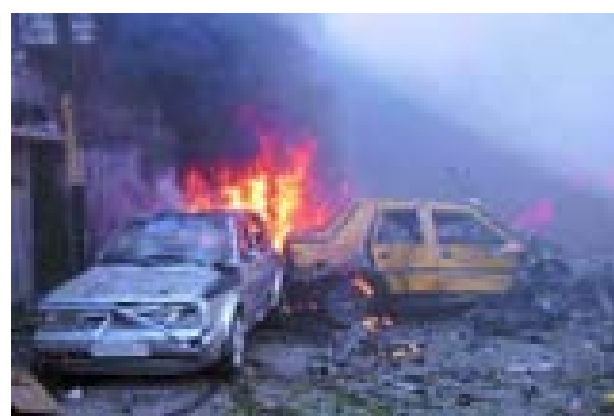
No organization or group has yet claimed responsibility for the bomb attack.

The incident came at a time when Greece was set to make its return later Thursday to international bond markets for the first time since the beginning of the crisis in 2010 by offering five-year bonds to investors. — *Xinhua*

Twin car bombs in Syria's Homs kill at least 21 people

BEIRUT, 10 April — At least 21 people including women and children were

killed by twin car bombs in the central Syrian city of Homs on Wednesday, a



Cars burn after two car bombs at Karm al-Louz neighbourhood in Homs city, on 9 April, 2014, in this hand-out released by Syria's national news agency SANA. — *Reuters*

monitoring group and state media said. The explosions went off in the Karam al-Loz area of Homs, the British-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said, and the death toll was expected to rise because over 100 people were wounded, some seriously.

Syrian state news agency SANA put the death toll at 25, saying it included women and children. It said 107 people were wounded, including one of the agency's photographers.

Quoting an unnamed local source, SANA said the first bomb went off near a sweets store on a busy

street, followed by a second one in the same district about half an hour later.

The explosions "caused heavy damage to citizens' property, homes, stores and cars in the neighbourhood," it said.

The Observatory, an anti-Assad group that monitors violence on both sides through a network of sources in Syria, said the area was inhabited largely by Alawites, the Shi'ite Islam-derived sect of President Bashar al-Assad. It put the death toll at 21. The rebels fighting to overthrow Assad are overwhelmingly Sunni. — *Reuters*

PERSPECTIVES

Friday, 11 April, 2014

Thingyan and the Importance of Road Traffic Rules

By Aung Khin

The start of the Myanmar traditional Maha Thingyan (Water Festival) is getting close. This water splashing festival is an occasion in which anybody from every religion and nationality can take part. Thingyan is the first and the most joyous seasonal event out of twelve monthly Myanmar traditional festivals. Any age group can enjoy it merrily and cheerfully.

But breaking road traffic rules is the disfigurement of this auspicious New Year occasion. Although enjoyment is acceptable, breaking traffic rules is unacceptable. While some people are disobeying traffic rules unintentionally, some are defying them intentionally. The latter

is more offensive. Breaking traffic rules during the Thingyan Festival is more dangerous than during any other time.

Some ridiculously say “We drive the vehicles as we extremely enjoy the event... We cannot control our happiness during this festival... No need to regard traffic rules because this is an annual occasion.” Despite the Thingyan Festival being the most cheerful event for Myanmar people, the repercussions of breaking traffic rules will cost lives. The consequences of breaking traffic rules are more serious than any punishment by authorities. The increasing number of automobiles and motorbikes this year is a potential threat that can lead to more traffic accidents.

These accidents could lead to the loss of lives. As road accidents cause injuries and deaths as more people break traffic rules during the water festival every year, it is wise to keep vigilant in the merry-making event to be able to avoid such miserable experiences.

Especially, drunk driving during water festival is the most dangerous action. The official prohibitions for this occasion include driving

recklessly by taking over other vehicles, removing exhaust pipes and number plates, driving without driver and automobile licenses, taking off side doors or back doors and driving old and fragile vehicles with terminated licenses, as well as unregistered vehicles. However, the problem of breaking traffic rules is ongoing.

The authorities have announced the drivers will be seriously checked on if they are under the influence of alcohol, and if found guilty, action will be taken. Breaking traffic rules or drinking alcohol will also be punished.

Everybody should enjoy the water festival in a decent manner. It is also suggested to observe disciplinary measures by driving vehicles. This is an auspicious occasion for Myanmar people to showcase the cultural values by celebrating the traditional Maha Thingyan Festival virtuously.

Write for us

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

Promotion of cooperation between parliaments of Myanmar, PRC



National Parliament Speaker U Khin Aung Myint holds talks with Mr. Pan Yunhe, Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference of China.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 10 April—Amyotha Hluttaw (National Parliament) Speaker U Khin Aung Myint held a meeting with a delegation headed by Mr. Pan Yunhe, Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Com-

mittee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) of the People's Republic of China at his office in Nay Pyi Taw on Thursday.

During the meeting, both sides discussed further

strengthening relations between the peoples of both countries, promotion of cooperation between the two parliaments and mutual cooperation between the two countries.—MNA

Myanmar's oldest English daily newspaper is hiring now!

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

GOLD PRICE, FE RATE (10-4-2014)

Yangon Gold Price

Buying K 672,000 per tical: Selling 673,000

Mandalay Gold Price

Buying K 671,500 per tical: Selling K 672,500

FE RATE

USD Buying	K 961	-	Selling	K 965
SGD Buying	K 765	-	Selling	K 775
Euro Buying	K 1320	-	Selling	K 1340

Hailstorm-hit farmers unable to repay ...

(from page 1)

In an attempt to postpone the repayment of their debts to next year, the farmers phoned the companies from which they have bought pesti-

cides and nutrients for their plants, but received the answer that “it is impossible to postpone the payments”.

Meanwhile, the Agriculture Department of the government has announced

that those who took out loans from the department are to repay the loans after the New Year holidays.

“We can repay the debts to the government and companies only if we harvest grapes. We are worried that they will take us to court,” said Soe Min.



Farmer in despair over grapes damaged by hailstones at his vine yard.

PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

New township court opens in Thayetchaung Township

DAWEI, 10 April—A ceremony to open a new

township court took place in Thayetchaung Township in Dawei District, Taninthayi Region on 9 April.

First, Region Chief Minister U Myat Ko and Chief Justice of Region High Court U Myint Win cut the ribbon to open the new building and Chief Justice of the Union U Tun Tun Oo unveiled the signboard of the building.

The 110 ft long, 36 ft wide and 23 ft high RC

type two-storey building and one-storey house for the head of township court were constructed at a cost of K 196 million by Toe Htet Kaung Engineering Group Co Ltd and another one-storey RC building, K 77.5 million by Asia Hlwan Co.

The Chief Justice of the Union visited Dawei Prison in Dawei on 10 April where he met with the inmates.

Taninthayi Region IPRD

LOCAL NEWS

Golden umbrella hoisted atop Chin Pagoda at Mann Shwesettaw



MINBU, 10 April—A ceremony to hoist golden umbrella atop Kaba Aye Pagoda (Chin Pagoda) was held at the pagoda, west of Mann Shwesettaw (sacred Buddha footprint) in Minbu Township of

Magway Region on 7 April.

Venerable monks hoisted golden umbrella, pennant-shaped vane and diamond orb atop the pagoda. The ceremony was assisted by Magway

Region Minister for Chin National Affairs Salai Hla Tun and departmental officials together with Chin nationals.

The pagoda was built in the Second World War.

Zwe Htet Shin

People ready to answer questions of enumerators



NYAUNGLEBIN, 10 April—Nyaunglebin Township is involved in the 2014 nation-wide census taking process as of 30 March.

In interview, enumerators said that they collected census data in smooth process. The local people could reply to 41 points questions easily due to reading publications

in advance. Thanks to ward administrator, the enumerators gathered data from 1600 households in Myoma Ward 2 of Nyaunglebin. They expected to complete enumeration on schedule.

The local people cooperate with the enumerators in work process dutifully.

Nay Lin (Nyaunglebin)

Natmauk Township sees development momentum

NATMAUK, 10 April—People's Parliament MP U Aung Kyaw Soe and National Parliament MP U Hla Thein of Natmauk Township on Wednesday inspected development tasks funded by Union Parliament Fund.

They made a field trip to grassroots level to inspect the progress of tasks.

In the township, four retaining walls, gravel road, small bridges and fencing of school were undertaken as development of the region in 2013-14 fiscal year.

Thanks to the development fund, renovation and construction of wells, schools, clinic, roads and bridges and lakes have been undertaken in 80 villages.—*U Nay*

Electrification achieved in rural area of Thazi Township

THAZI, 10 April—Chairman of Township Management Committee U Nyunt Ngwe coordinated with local authorities for electrification on a self-reliant basis.

On Wednesday, the ceremony to mark

successful electrification took place in Hinkhwet-aing Village in Thazi Township.

The village formed with 320 houses have enjoyed electricity thanks to installation of one 315 KVA transformer built at a

cost of K 110 million.

In implementing the more project, Kokkopauk, Zeebinpauk, Nato and Ingon villages in Thazi Township are trying hard to carry out electrification on a self-reliant basis this year.—*Kyemon*

Rural development tasks undertaken in Nyaunglebin Tsp

NYAUNGLEBIN, 10 April—Rural Development Department under Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development allotted funds to Nyaunglebin Township in 2013-14 fiscal year.

Udanthit Company is taking responsible for construction of Taw-wi-Kaukmethu-Chonin-Inpuwa-Shwekhesu-Inkyaik-Popeiksan inter-village road.

Township authorities and officials inspected



timely completion of the road recently.

On completion, the local people will enjoy fruits

of better transport, health, economic and education sectors.

Nay Lin (Nyaunglebin)

DVB 2 set top boxes distributed free of charge

THAZI, 10 April—DVB 2 set top boxes were distributed to wards and villages in Thazi Township, Mandalay Region, to enable local people to enjoy programmes of Myanmar Radio and Television.

At the office of Thazi Township Management Committee on Wednesday, Chairman U Nyunt Ngwe said that Mandalay Region government managed distribution of set top boxes to the people for widening their scope through programmes of MRTV.

The Township Committee Chairman shard 52 boxes to Education



Department, 27 to Health Department, 110 to rural

villages, 15 to social organizations, 17 to public

places, one to township Information and Public Relations Department, 1978 to low-income people, totalling 2200 through officials.

Kyemon

Farmlands returned to owners in Phaungpyin Township

PHAUNGPYIN, 10 April—A ceremony to return farmlands confiscated for construction of regiments and units under the Ministry of Defence in Phaungpyin Township was held at the hall of Township General Administration Department in Phaungpyin of Sagaing Region on Wednesday.

Chairman of District Management Committee Chairman of District Land Utilization Management Committee Deputy Commissioner U Khin Maung Kyaw handed over temporary farming rights certificates to local farmers through departmental officials and authorities.

Thaukkyia Shwengar



Hezbollah confident in Assad, West resigned to Syria stalemate

BEIRUT, 10 April — Bashar al-Assad's Lebanese ally Hezbollah said his Western foes must now accept he will go on ruling Syria after fighting rebels to a standstill — a "reality" to which his foreign enemies seem increasingly resigned.

Echoing recent bullish talk coming out of Damascus, Sheikh Naim Qassem, deputy leader of the Iranian-backed Shi'ite militia which is supporting Assad in combat, told *Reuters* that the president retained popular support among many of Syria's diverse religious communities and would shortly be re-elected.

"There is a practical Syrian reality that the West should deal with — not with its wishes and dreams, which proved to be false," Qassem said during a meeting with *Reuters* journalists at a Hezbollah office in the group's southern Beirut stronghold.

He said the United States and its Western allies were in disarray and lacked a coherent policy on Syria — reflecting the quandary that Western officials acknowledge they face since the pro-democracy protests



A man and a rebel fighter run as they avoid snipers loyal to Syria's President Bashar al-Assad stationed at Aleppo's al-Ramoussa highway on 9 April, 2014.

REUTERS

they supported in 2011 became a war that has drawn al-Qaeda and other militants to the rebel cause.

Syria's fractious opposition — made up of guerrillas inside the country and a largely impotent political coalition in exile — had, he said, proved incapable of providing an alternative to four decades of rule by Assad and his late father before him.

"This is why the

option is clear. Either to have an understanding with Assad, to reach a result, or to keep the crisis open with President Assad having the upper hand in running the country," said the bearded and turbaned cleric.

Qassem's comments follow an account from another Assad ally, Russian former prime minister Sergei Stepashin, who said after meeting him last week that the Syrian leader felt

secure and expected heavy fighting to end this year.

Officials said this week that preparations would begin this month for the presidential election — a move that seems to reflect a degree of optimism in the capital and which may well end with Assad claiming a popular mandate that he would use to resist UN-backed efforts to negotiate a transition of power.

Reuters

Two French soldiers wounded in Central African Republic before UN vote

BANGUI, 10 April — Two French soldiers were wounded in the Central African Republic capital, an army spokesman said on Wednesday, a day before the United Nations Security Council was due to vote on a new peacekeeping force.

Killings have continued between the majority Christian population and increasingly isolated Muslim communities in the landlocked former French colony despite the presence of 2,000 French peacekeepers as well as 6,000 African Union forces.

In a sign of the ongoing difficulty in restoring order, two French soldiers were wounded in the legs when a man threw a grenade at them after he had been asked to disarm, said French Army Captain Sebastien Isern in Bangui.

On the same day, a top US diplomat visited the violence-racked country to pledge support for the interim government and urged outside governments to do more to honour \$500 million in pledges.

US Ambassador to the United Nations Samantha

Power, who met with its interim leader Catherine Samba-Panza, said only 29 percent of the funding had been forthcoming.

"We need to do more and we need to do it now," she said in Bangui on Wednesday via a translator.

The UN Security Council is expected to vote unanimously on a resolution to create a nearly 12,000-strong UN peacekeeping force, due to assume authority from the African troops from mid-September.

But there are concerns about a security vacuum in the coming months following Chad's decision last week to withdraw its 850 troops amid controversy over a series of violent incidents involving its peacekeepers.

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said in a visit to the country at the weekend that peacekeepers were "overwhelmed," and that the international community was at risk of repeating the mistakes of the 1994 Rwanda genocide, where some 800,000 people were butchered.

Reuters

Cuba says US hunger striker's treatment in prison 'dignified'

HAVANA, 10 April — A US contractor who has launched a hunger strike while serving a long prison term in Cuba is receiving "dignified and decent treatment" in a hospital ward where he is in stable health, a Cuban official said on Wednesday.

Cuba's communist government said it was concerned by a statement from Alan Gross's lawyer on Tuesday that said his client had begun a hunger strike last week to protest his treatment by both the Cuban and US governments.

Gross, 64, is serving a 15-year prison term for trying to start an illegal Internet service for Cuban Jews while working as a subcontractor for the US Agency for International Development (USAID). Cuba has called it a "subversive programme financed by the government of the United States" that used illegal, undercover and noncommercial technology.

"Mr Gross has received dignified and decent treatment," Josefina Vidal, Cuba's chief Foreign Ministry official for US affairs, said in a statement. "Since

his detention, he has been held in a hospital, not because his health requires it, but because there he can be guaranteed specialized attention by highly qualified medical and health staff." However, Gross' attorney, Scott Gilbert said that Gross was confined to a small, constantly-lit cell with two other prisoners for 23 hours a day, and that he had lost 10 pounds (4.5 kg) since beginning his hunger strike on 3 April, in addition to the 110 pounds he had lost over the previous four years in prison.

Reuters

South Africa sees increase in unemployment

JOHANNESBURG, 10 April — Unemployment in South Africa increased from 4.2 million to 4.9 million between 2008 and 2013, according to official data released on Wednesday.

According to Labour Market Dynamics Report released by the Statistics South Africa, the country's unemployment rate

increased from 22.5 percent in 2008 to 24.7 percent in 2013.

Youths are among the most affected by unemployment. The unemployment rate among the youth rose from 32 percent in 2008 to a high of 35.8 percent in 2012 before declining slightly to 35.4 percent in 2013.

Unemployment in

South Africa is not uniformly distributed according to the demographics of the country. Since 2009, although fewer women than men were unemployed, the incidence of long-term unemployment is higher among women. It is also highest among the black African population group and lowest among the white group. —Xinhua

Knife-wielding student wounds 22 in Pennsylvania school

MURRYSVILLE (PENNSYLVANIA), 10 April — A 16-year-old student wielding two knives went on a stabbing rampage in the hallways of a Pittsburgh-area high school on Wednesday, wounding 22 people before he was tackled by an assistant principal, officials said. The attacker moved furtively through the halls of Franklin Regional High School in Murrysville, stabbing his victims in the torso and slashing their arms and faces, students

and officials said. Some of the injured taken to nearby hospitals were listed in critical condition.

Alex Hribal, a 16-year-old sophomore, was taken into custody, said Captain Rob Liermann of the Murrysville Police Department.

Charged as an adult, Hribal faces four counts of attempted homicide and 21 counts of aggravated assault, Liermann said, and was ordered to face a preliminary hearing in seven to 10 days.

Students described a scene of panic, with the school hastily evacuated after a fire alarm was pulled.

"He did it so stealthily that at first no one knew what was happening," freshman Josh Frank said. "We heard a girl scream bloody murder. Then two seniors were running down the hall and we followed them out of the school."

The attacker, described by a classmate as a quiet boy who kept to himself, began the stabbings at around 7:13 am EDT (12.13 pm British Time), walking along the hallways to several classrooms at the school in Murrysville, 20 miles (32 km) east of Pittsburgh, officials said.

Assistant Principal Sam King tackled the boy, who was armed with two straight knives about 8 to 10 inches (20 to 25 cm) long, and an armed security officer handcuffed him with help from King, said Murrysville Police Chief Thomas Seefeld.

Reuters



A still image from video footage courtesy WPXI-TV shows stabbing suspect Alex Hribal dressed in a hospital gown after his arraignment with Sheriff's deputies in Export, Pennsylvania on 9 April, 2014. —REUTERS

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Israel space project gets \$16 million boost from casino mogul Adelson



Las Vegas Sands Corp Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Sheldon Adelson rides his wheelchair after a news conference in Tokyo on 24 Feb, 2014.

REUTERS

TEL AVIV, 10 April — SpaceIL, a nonprofit organization aiming to land the first Israeli spacecraft on the moon, said on Wednesday it has received a \$16.4 million grant from the foundation of US casino magnate Sheldon Adelson.

With a budget estimated at \$36 million, the Israeli scientists and engineers building the shuttle — temporarily named “Sparrow” — believe it will land on the moon by the end of 2015, a feat only the United States, Russia and China have managed so far.

SpaceIL, which is backed mainly by philanthropists, was founded to compete for Google’s LunarX Prize, unveiled in 2007. The \$20 million prize will go to the first team to land a spacecraft

on the moon, make it jump 500 metres and transmit images and video back to earth.

Thirty-three teams started out in the running and they are now down to 18, including competitors from the United States, Italy, Japan, Germany, Brazil, Canada, India and Chile.

SpaceIL said it aims to show that space exploration is no longer limited to global superpowers with vast space programmes. It also hopes its technological breakthroughs spur a new wave of commercial space-related industries in Israel. “As an entrepreneur, nothing is as thrilling as supporting a group of people who have been told that their dreams cannot be realized,” Adelson said.

Reuters

Fujitsu, Sony to sell Internet provider subsidiaries

TOKYO, 10 April — Fujitsu Ltd and Sony Corp are both considering withdrawing from the Internet service provider market to concentrate on their respective core businesses, industry sources said on Thursday.

The two electronics manufacturers are believed to have been approached by Japan Industrial Partners Inc, a Tokyo-based investment fund which has acquired NEC Corp.’s ISP business. Both Sony and Fujitsu are seeking to withdraw from the business focused on individual customers in Japan, a sector identified as having limited prospects amid the decline in the population and intensified competition, the sources said.—Kyodo News

Little Internet users can do to thwart ‘Heartbleed’ bug

BOSTON, 10 April — Security experts warn there is little Internet users can do to protect themselves from the recently uncovered “Heartbleed” bug that exposes data to hackers, at least not until vulnerable websites upgrade their software.

Researchers have observed sophisticated hacking groups conducting automated scans of the Internet in search of Web

Lab, said his firm uncovered evidence on Monday that a few hacking groups believed to be involved in state-sponsored cyber espionage were running such scans shortly after news of the bug first surfaced the same day.

By Tuesday, Kaspersky had identified such scans coming from “tens” of actors, and the number increased on Wednesday after security software

“There is nothing users can do to fix their computers,” said Mikko Hypponen, chief research officer with security software maker F-Secure.

Representatives for Facebook Inc, Google and Yahoo Inc told Reuters they have taken steps to mitigate the impact on users.

Google spokeswoman Dorothy Chou told Reuters: “We fixed this bug early and Google users do not need to change their passwords.”

Ty Rogers, a spokesman for Amazon.com Inc, said “Amazon.com is not affected.”

In a blogpost dated Tuesday, the company said some of its Web cloud services, which provide the underlying infrastructure for apps such as online movie-streaming service Netflix and social network Pinterest, had been vulnerable. While it said the problems had been fixed, the company urged users of those services, which are popular in particular among the tech startup community, to take extra steps such as updating software.

Kaspersky Lab’s Baumgartner noted that devices besides servers could be at risk because they run software programs with vulnerable OpenSSL code built into them.

Reuters



The word ‘password’ is pictured on a computer screen in this picture illustration taken in Berlin on 21 May, 2013.—REUTERS

servers running a widely used Web encryption program known as OpenSSL that makes them vulnerable to the theft of data, including passwords, confidential communications and credit card numbers.

OpenSSL is used on about two-thirds of all Web servers, but the issue has gone undetected for about two years.

Kurt Baumgartner, a researcher with security software maker Kaspersky

company Rapid7 released a free tool for conducting such scans.

“The problem is insidious,” Baumgartner said. “Now it is amateur hour. Everybody is doing it.”

OpenSSL software is used on servers that host websites but not PCs or mobile devices, so even though the bug exposes passwords and other data entered on those devices to hackers, it must be fixed by website operators.

Photo News

Microsoft ends support for Windows XP, urges shift to newer softw



Shunichi Kajisa (R), chief technology officer of Microsoft Japan Co, briefs reporters on the end of support for Windows XP at a press conference in Tokyo on 9 April, 2014. He said preventing cyberattacks with the aging Windows XP would be difficult and it is important users change their operating systems as soon as possible.—KYODO NEWS

Motorola Mobility names Rick Osterloh as COO ahead of Lenovo buy

NEW YORK, 10 April — Motorola Mobility has named Rick Osterloh as its chief operating officer, reporting to the Motorola Operating Board at Google Inc until its acquisition by Lenovo Group Ltd is completed.

The appointment was made public on Wednesday on Motorola’s official blog by Jonathan Rosenberg, who will continue in his role as Google liaison and adviser to Motorola through the transition period.

Lenovo agreed to buy Google’s Motorola handset division for \$2.91 billion in January, in what was

China’s largest-ever tech deal. “We’re confident in his (Osterloh’s) ability to not only manage a smooth transition at Motorola from Google to Lenovo but, also to lead the business forward for continued growth,” said Liu Jun, EVP, Mobile

Business Group, Lenovo.

Osterloh, who was responsible for the delivery of software and operation of the Android platform at Motorola, joined the company seven years ago and left for a 2-year stint in between at Skype.—Reuters

Rick Osterloh, senior vice president of product management for Motorola Mobility, describes the size of Motorola’s new Moto X phone at a launch event for the phone in New York, on 1 Aug, 2013.—REUTERS



Japan, N Korea had informal talks in China in early April

Tokyo, 10 April — Japan and North Korea held informal talks earlier this month in China to discuss ways to advance the issue of Pyongyang's abductions of Japanese nationals in the 1970s and 1980s, sources familiar with bilateral relations said on Thursday.

In the meeting involving Foreign Ministry officials from the two countries, Japan is believed to have urged North Korea to reinvestigate the cases of abductees in exchange for lifting unilateral sanctions on Pyongyang in stages.

North Korea appears to have expressed readiness to reinvestigate the fate of the abductees on condition that Japan eases sanctions and allow Pyongyang to continue using its de facto embassy in Tokyo, according to the sources. The Tokyo District Court on 24 March authorized the sale of the headquarters site and building of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan, which had been put up for auction due to financial problems, to a property dealer.—*Kyodo News*

Cambodia, India discuss ways to promote bilateral ties

PHNOM PENH, 10 April — Cambodian and Indian senior diplomats on Wednesday discussed ways to strengthen and expand bilateral relations and co-operation for mutual benefits of the two countries and peoples.

The talk was made between Cambodian deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Hor Namhong and Indian Ministry of External Affairs Secretary (East) Anil Wadhwa.

Hor Namhong said Wadhwa's visit to Cambodia would further deepen bilateral relations and co-operation between the two countries. He said the two countries still have plenty of opportunities for co-operation in trade, investment and tourism and called for Indian investors to consider investing in Cambodian agriculture and tourism.

Xinhua



People rescue garment workers trapped under rubble at the Rana Plaza building after it collapsed, in Savar, 30 km (19 miles) outside Dhaka on 24 April, 2013.—REUTERS

More funds sought for Bangladesh factory collapse victims

BERLIN, 10 April — Campaigners launched a new effort on Thursday to push Western brands to pay into a compensation fund for victims of the collapse of a Bangladeshi factory almost a year ago that killed more than 1,100 people.

Global trade unions IndustriALL and UNI and labor rights network Clean

Clothes Campaign said in a joint statement that a fund set up for the over 2,000 people injured and the families of the dead had raised only a third of its target of \$40 million to date.

They said only half of the 29 brands that sourced goods from factories in the Rana Plaza complex have contributed to the fund run

by the International Labour Organization (ILO), and want the rest to pay by the first anniversary of the 24 April disaster.

"The workers who survived this catastrophe and the families of those who did not are in desperate need. The last year has seen medical expenses, lack of income and the horrors of that day

relieved," said Jyrki Raina of IndustriALL.

Some of the brands supplied from the Rana Plaza complex say they will not contribute as their production was outsourced to the factory without their knowledge, or ended some time ago, while others prefer to pursue their own compensation plans.

Reuters

Beijing eyes smog controls ahead of APEC meeting

BEIJING, 10 April — China may revive 2008 Beijing Olympics-style air pollution controls when it holds a meeting of Asia-Pacific leaders in the often smog-shrouded capital in November, state media said on Thursday.

Officials are mulling traffic curbs based on license plate numbers to cut emissions and the closure of plants and construction sites during the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Economic Leaders' Meeting, which draws many heads of state from the group's 21 member economies. The plan is reminiscent of emergency measures implemented with mixed results to tame Beijing's chronic pollution when the city was on the world stage ahead of the 2008 Summer Olympics. During the APEC meeting, officials would work with the local governments in the nearby city of Tianjin and surrounding Hebei Province to combat smog. Zhuang Zhidong, deputy head of the Beijing Environmental Protection Bureau, was cited by the English-language *China Daily* newspaper as saying.

Reuters

Low-tech takes centre stage in Malaysia Airlines search

PERTH, 10 April — The search for missing Malaysia Airlines Flight MH370 may be using some of the world's most sophisticated tools, but some decidedly low-tech gear still has a major role in cracking one of modern aviation's great mysteries.

While the US Navy's P-8 Poseidon surveillance plane scours the Indian Ocean below with top-secret cameras and sensors, older technologies, such as sonobuoys, as well as divers and human eyesight, are emerging as crucial to the operation.

"With all the technology we have, nothing is as important as looking at things with your eyes," US Navy Lieutenant Ken Savage told *Reuters* during a recent search flight on one of two Poseidons helping with the multi-national effort.

The Malaysia Airlines (MASM.KL) Boeing (BA.N) 777 jetliner vanished on 8 March en route from Kuala Lumpur to

Beijing, carrying 227 passengers and 12 crew. In the most expensive search operation in aviation history, neither satellite nor sensor has yet found any wreckage.

That's where the human factor comes in, says David Mearns, a deep sea search and recovery expert who was involved in the search for Air France Flight 447, which crashed in the Atlantic Ocean in 2009.

"Even though it may look simple and rudimentary compared to the under-sea work, it's still very important," he said, referring to the visual searches that are key to the mission. "At the end of the day, it's left to eyes on water and men and women to be able to pluck wreckage out of the sea. Those methods are still extremely valid."

A sophisticated US Navy "Towed Pinger Locator" (TPL) has recently picked up four "pings" consistent with black box locator beacons, helping to

narrow the search area and inspiring fresh confidence in the search.

But the deep ocean is a very noisy place, prompting Australia this week to deploy a World War II-era technology, the sonobuoy, to help the TPL search for the black box recorders. All 84 sonobuoys are equipped

with a hydrophone listening device, which is dangled some 1,000 feet (305 metres) below the surface and can transmit data to search aircraft via radio signals. Crucially, the sonobuoys are quiet where higher-tech search planes and ships might interfere with the delicate task.

"That does provide a lot of sensors in the vicinity of the Ocean Shield without having a ship there to produce the background noise," said Commodore Peter Leavy, the operational head of the Australian search, referring to an Australian Naval vessel helping in the search.—*Reuters*



The Bluefin 21, the Artemis autonomous underwater vehicle (AUV), is hoisted back on board the Australian Defence Vessel Ocean Shield after a successful buoyancy test in the southern Indian Ocean as part of the continuing search for the missing Malaysian Airlines flight MH370 in this picture released by the US Navy on 4 April, 2014.—REUTERS

ADVERTISEMENT & GENERAL

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV KOTA RAJIN VOY NO (851)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA RAJIN VOY NO (851) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 11.4.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV KOTA RESTU VOY NO (379)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA RESTU VOY NO (379) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 15.4.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV SINGAPORE BRIDGE VOY NO (066)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SINGAPORE BRIDGE VOY NO (066) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 18.4.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV PANJA BHUM VOY NO (013)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV PANJA BHUM VOY NO (013) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 13.4.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S WAN HAI LINES PTE LTD**

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MVMALTE RAMBOW VOY NO (1414)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MALTE RAMBOW VOY NO (1414) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 14.4.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV YANGON STAR VOY NO (7J004R)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV YANGON STAR VOY NO (7J004R) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 14.4.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S CMA CGM LINE**

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV WEST SCENT VOY NO (041)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV WEST SCENT VOY NO (041) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 16.4.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV HELSINKI VOY NO (001)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV HELSINKI VOY NO (001) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 12.4.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV ESM CREMONA VOY NO (095)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ESM CREMONA VOY NO (095) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 11.4.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

Singapore, Malaysia conduct joint chemical spill exercise

SINGAPORE, 10 April — The maritime authorities of Singapore and Malaysia on Wednesday conducted the first ever joint chemical spill exercise at sea along the Straits of Johor.

The exercise aims to enhance the preparedness of emergency response agencies from both countries in tackling potential chemical accidents that involve "seaborne transportation of hazardous chemi-

cals in the Straits of Johor", the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA) and the National Environment Agency (NEA) said in a statement.

"Regional cooperation is important as incidents at sea resulting in chemical and oil spills are often transboundary in nature," said Andrew Tan, MPA's Chief Executive, adding that such exercise allows both sides to test regional

and multi-agency response capabilities to any maritime accidents.

To address chemical spill at sea, Singapore's MPA has put in place the Chemical Contingency Plan (Marine), which covers the roles and responsibilities of responding agencies for cleanup operations.

In the event of an incident, MPA will monitor and coordinate cleanup operations at sea, while

NEA will monitor the air and water quality and coordinate the cleanup efforts in affected shore areas, the agencies said.

The Straits Times said the exercise comes on the back of Malaysia's state oil and gas company Petronas confirming last week that it would build a refining and petrochemicals project at Pengerang in Johor, at the eastern end of the Johor Straits.—*Xinhua*

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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**MV E.R. TURKU VOY NO (041)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV E.R. TURKU VOY NO (041) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 11.4.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY**

AGENT FOR: M/S HANJIN SHIPPING LINES
Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**MV KUO HSIUNG VOY NO (1014)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KUO HSIUNG VOY NO (1014) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 14.4.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY**

AGENT FOR: M/S CHINA SHIPPING LINES
Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**MVBAO XIANG LING VOY NO (1404)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV BAO XIANG LING VOY NO (1404) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 14.4.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY**

AGENT FOR: M/S BRIGHT SAIL TRANSPORTATION SERVICES CO LTD
Phone No: 256916/256919/256921

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**MV AN NING JIANG VOY NO (204)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV AN NING JIANG VOY NO (204) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 17.4.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY**

AGENT FOR: M/S COSCO SHIPPING CO LTD.
Phone No: 256916/256919/256921

Imagine Dragons, Lorde lead Billboard Music Award finalists



Singer Lorde accepts the International Female Solo Artist award at the BRIT Awards, celebrating British pop music, at the O2 Arena in London on 19 Feb, 2014.
REUTERS

not far behind with nods in eight categories, and will vie with Imagine Dragons, Florida Georgia Line, One Direction and OneRepublic for the top duo/group prize.

R&B singer Jason Derulo announced the finalists in five of the 40 finalist categories - top artist, top male artist, top female artist, top R&B artist and top country artist - on ABC's early news show "Good Morning America."

The awards will be broadcast live from the MGM Grand Garden Arena in Las Vegas on ABC on 18 May.

Imagine Dragons, whose album "Night Visions" is up for top rock album, will be competing for its first Billboard Music Award, including the top artist prize. Other artists nominated in the category include Perry, Timberlake,

pop star Miley Cyrus and singer Bruno Mars.

Lorde, whose hit single "Royals" and debut album "Pure Heroine" propelled her into the finals, will compete against Beyonce, Cyrus, Perry and Rihanna for top female artist.

Timberlake, Mars, rapper Eminem, pop country singer Luke Bryan and rapper Drake will battle it out for the top male artist prize.

Billboard, a magazine that covers the music industry, said the finalists were based on fan interactions with music, including album and digital sales, touring, radio airplay, streaming and social interactions on websites such as Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, VEVO, Spotify and other online sites for music.

ABC is a unit of the Walt Disney Co.

Reuters

Victoria and David Beckham's daughter Harper named the most stylish celeb child



LONDON, 10 April — Fashion designer Victoria Beckham and former footballer David Beckham's daughter Harper has been voted as the most stylish celebrity child.

Harper is only two years old, and has a wardrobe full of designer labels. She is always dressed well by her uber stylish parents. There is even a blog devoted entirely to her style, reports dailymail.co.uk.

PTI

Harper is just two years old but her wardrobe is full of designer labels

NEW YORK, 10 April — American alternative rock group Imagine Dragons and New Zealand singer Lorde were named Billboard Music Award finalists in 12 categories each, followed by singer Justin Timberlake with 11 and pop star Katy Perry with 10, organizers said on Wednesday.

Rapper duo Macklemore & Ryan Lewis was

Actress Katherine Heigl sues Duane Reade for unauthorized photo use

NEW YORK, 10 April — Actress Katherine Heigl has filed a \$6 million civil lawsuit against New York pharmacy Duane Reade for using her name and an unauthorized paparazzi photograph of her in its commercial advertising.

Heigl, the star of the films "The Ugly Truth" and "Life as We Know It" and a best supporting actress Emmy winner for "Grey's Anatomy," filed the lawsuit on Wednesday in New York federal court. The complaint said she was photographed in

March near a Duane Reade store in New York while filming a new television series. Duane Reade posted the photo on its Twitter and Facebook account with captions advertising the store without her approval, the complaint said, Duane Reade did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

"We expect Duane Reade to pay for its willful misuse of Katherine Heigl's name and likeness," said her lawyer Peter Havig, adding that any money recovered would go to a charity she has supported

for many years.

The complaint said Heigl intends to donate all proceeds from the lawsuit to The Jason Debus Heigl Foundation, which was established in 2008 after her brother was killed in a car accident. The 15-page lawsuit cited a tweet that Heigl claimed Duane Reade posted last month. "Love a quick #DuaneReade run? Even @KatieHeigl can't resist shopping #NYC's favourite drugstore," it said.

The lawsuit said the tweet featured a paparazzi photograph of Heigl which

was also posted on Facebook. It included a logo in the lower right corner that said, "Just Jared," referring to a celebrity news website specializing in paparazzi photographs. It added that the actress "is highly selective and well compensated" when she chooses to endorse a product or service. But she did not authorize the store to use her name, picture or image.

"Duane Reade is liable for not less than \$6 million in compensatory and punitive or treble damages," according to the lawsuit.

Reuters



Actress Katherine Heigl poses at Variety's 4th Annual Power of Women event in Beverly Hills, California on 5 Oct, 2012.—REUTERS

GENERAL

FA Cup holders Wigan not ready to hand trophy back yet

LONDON, 10 April — FA Cup holders Wigan Athletic will aim to cause another seismic upset after last season's triumph over Manchester City when they face Arsenal in the first of two intriguing semi-finals at Wembley on Saturday (1607 GMT).

Hull City, who have never reached the final and whose only semi-final appearance came 85 years ago, take on once-powerful Sheffield United in the second match on Sunday (1507).

United, FA Cup winners four times between 1899 and 1925, are bidding to become the first club from the third tier to reach the final.

While their Premier League status means Arsenal, the 10-times FA Cup winners, and Hull start as favourites, neither Wigan or United are likely to be easy fodder.

Wigan are challenging for promotion after last season's unwanted double when they became the first club to win the FA Cup and suffer relegation from the top-flight in the same season, while United's form has improved after a slow start.

The Sheffield club beat Premier League Fulham and Aston Villa and second-tier Nottingham Forest and Charlton Athletic on their way to the semi-final.

Both matches will



Wigan Athletic's Stephen Crainey (L) and James McLean celebrate after their English FA Cup quarter final match victory against Manchester City at the Etihad stadium in Manchester, northern England on 9 March, 2014.
REUTERS

mark the 25th anniversary of the Hillsborough disaster, when 96 fans were killed at the 1989 semi-final between Liverpool and Nottingham Forest at Sheffield Wednesday's ground.

That match was abandoned after six minutes and the weekend games will start at seven minutes past the hour following a minute's silence before the kickoffs.

If Wigan and Sheffield United progress, the FA Cup final would be the first since the introduction of the Football League's second division 122 years ago not to feature a top tier club.

The romance of the occasion was not lost on Hull manager Steve Bruce, an FA Cup winner with Manchester United in 1990 and 1994, who told Talksport

Radio on Wednesday that form counts for nothing at this stage of the competition.

"Sheffield United have had a remarkable run. They have beaten two Premier League teams along the way," he said.

"A semi-final is something to look forward to but you have to perform on the day and form goes out of the window."

"But a little bit of the glamour has come back to the FA Cup with teams like Hull, Sheffield United, Wigan and the mighty Arsenal still there."

"The FA Cup has been flailing over the last few years but these semi-finals bring the romance back to the whole thing."

Hull lost their previous semi-final appearance in 1930 to eventual-winners

Arsenal after a replay.

Arsenal's last trophy was the 2005 FA Cup and manager Arsene Wenger, a four-time winner, will be desperate to end that drought and rebuild the fragile confidence of his side.

The Gunners have won only twice in their last nine league matches, dropping to fourth after having led for much of the season, and they are even in danger of missing out on the Champions League next season for the first time under Wenger.

The Frenchman will hope fit-again Welsh midfielder Aaron Ramsey, who was on top form earlier in the season, can provide the spark they lacked in a 3-0 mauling at Everton on Sunday.

Reuters

Facebook users top 100 million in India

MUMBAI, 10 April — The number of Facebook users in India hit 100 million at the end of March, meaning that the US social networking service has reached nearly one in ten people in the country and built its second largest user pool after the United States, the *Economic Times* reported on Wednesday.

Users accessing Facebook via mobile devices are estimated to be around 84 million in the country of roughly 125 million, according to the business newspaper.—Kyodo News

MYANMAR TV

(11-4-2014, Friday)

- 6:00 am
- 1. Paritta By Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw
- 6:30 am
- 2. Physical Exercise
- 7:00 am
- 3. News/Weather Report
- 7:20 am
- 4. Hyper Sports
- 8:30 am
- 5. India Drama Series
- 9:00 am
- 6. News/International News
- 9:30 am
- 7. Dances Of Thingyan Festival
- 10:15 am
- 8. TV Drama Series
- 11:00 am
- 9. Clever
- 12:00 pm
- 10. News/International News/Weather Report
- 12:25 pm
- 11. Myanmar Movies
- 3:00 pm
- 12. News
- 3:15 pm
- 13. Song Variety
- 4:00 pm
- 14. News
- 4:15 pm
- 15. University Of Distance Education (TV Lectures) First Year (Maths)
- 5:00 pm
- 16. News
- 5:15 pm
- 17. Dances Of Thingyan Festival
- 7:00 pm
- 19. News
- 7:20 pm
- 20. TV Drama Series
- 8:00 pm
- 21. News/International News/Weather Report
- 8:50 pm
- 22. Hit Songs of Stars
- 9:00 pm
- 23. News
- 24. Hyper Sports
- 25. Teleplay

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(11-4-14 07:00am~12-4-14 07:00am) MST

- * Local News
- * Enchanting Rakhine Land
- * World News
- * Kyaikhteeyoe: My Father The Porter
- * Local News
- * A Dream A Destination (Hpa An)
- * World News
- * Inspiration
- * Local News
- * Myanma Traditional Wedding Dressing Style
- * World News
- * Thingyan Dance-Summer Beauty and Festivity
- * Local News
- * The Eldest Woman on Earth?
- * World News
- * Distinguished Myanmar Lady "Kyin Po"
- * Local News
- * Travelling To Shan Plateau (Pindaya Myoe Ma Market)
- * World News
- * Myanmar Masterclass: 3D
- * Local News
- * How to Extract Timber Using Elephants
- * World News
- * Myanmar Masterclass: Conceptual Art
- * Local News
- * Crab Business (Part-1) Mud Crab
- * World News
- * Tea Leaves
- * Local News
- * Image Of The Monks
- * World News
- * The Storytellers



Police officers work at the site of a traffic accident on a highway near Konya city in central Turkey, on 9 April, 2014. At least nine people were killed and several others injured on Wednesday in a multi-vehicle crash on the highway of Konya city in central Turkey, local Dogan News Agency reported.

XINHUA

Ligue 1 Standing Table

Pos	Clubs	P	W	D	L	Point
1	Paris Saint Germain	32	24	7	1	79
2	Monaco	32	19	9	4	66
3	Lille	32	17	9	6	60
4	Saint-Etienne	32	16	7	9	55
5	Lyon	32	14	9	9	51
6	Marseille	32	13	9	10	48
7	Bordeaux	32	11	11	10	44
8	Toulouse	32	11	11	10	44
9	Reims	32	11	11	10	44
10	Bastia *	32	10	8	13	41
11	Nice	32	11	6	15	39
12	Rennes	32	9	11	12	38
13	Montpellier	32	7	17	8	38
14	Lorient	32	10	8	14	38
15	Nantes	32	10	7	14	37
16	Guingamp	32	9	8	15	35
17	Evian Thonon Gaillard	32	8	11	13	35
18	Valenciennes	32	7	8	17	29
19	Sochaux	32	6	9	17	27
20	Ajaccio	32	3	10	19	19

* Bastia deducted -3 points

Myanmar U-19 defeat Japanese counterpart 1-0 in warm-up match



YANGON, 10 April—Myanmar U-19 football team who are preparing for AFC U-19 Championship to be held in October 2014 in Myanmar played a tune-up match against Japan U-19 team at Youth Training Centre in Thuwunna in Yangon on 10 April, beating the rival 1-0.

Myanmar U-19's first tune-up match started with a victory and beat Asia's

top football team. Myanmar U-19 team's starting line-ups include main players and midfielder Maung Maung Soe scored the only winning goal at 21st minute in the first half.

During the match, Japanese youth players could not show their brilliant talents due to the heat and pass defence zone of Myanmar U-19 team.

Byline: Nyi Myat Thawda
Photo: Soe Nyunt

FA rejects Hull City bid to change name to Tigers

LONDON, 10 April — English Premier League club Hull City's controversial bid to change their name to Hull Tigers has been rejected by the FA, the governing body said in a statement on Wednesday.

"The FA Council, which is made up of representatives from across football, fully considered the recommendation and the subsequent responses received from Hull City in reaching its decision," the FA said on its website.

The governing body said the decision had been carried with 63.5 percent support of its members.

Egyptian-born businessman Assem Allam bought Hull in December 2010 and announced plans

late last year to change the club's name in a bid to raise its profile overseas.

A statement on Hull's official website on Wednesday said the club would not be making any comment on the FA's decision.

It added: "Our focus is on supporting (manager) Steve Bruce and the team ahead of Sunday's FA Cup semi-final (against Sheffield United), our first in over 80 years."

Fans' group City Till We Die was formed to oppose the proposed name-change, while the club said a ballot of season-ticket holders came out narrowly in favour of the move, although less than half of the 15,033 season card holders voted.—Reuters



Hull City's David Meyler (L) challenges Brighton Hove Albion's Leonardo Ulloa during their FA Cup fifth round replay soccer match at the KC Stadium in Hull, northern England, on 24 Feb, 2014.—REUTERS

Woods missing but not forgotten at the Masters

AUGUSTA, (Georgia), 10 April — Tiger Woods is missing the Masters for the first time in 20 years, but the 38-year-old American still commands attention at Augusta National, site of the year's first major championship. The four-time Masters winner, stuck on 14 majors for the last six years in his quest to surpass the record 18 won by Jack Nicklaus, is sidelined after undergoing surgery for a pinched nerve in his back.

"We miss Tiger, as does the entire golf world," Augusta National chairman Billy Payne said in his State of the Masters news conference on Wednesday. "He is always a threat to make a run and do well and win here at Augusta National."

Woods, number two on the all-time majors list, had played in every Masters since his first appearance as US Amateur champion as a 19-year-old in 1995. Reigning champion Adam Scott of Australia said Woods would be sorely missed at the 78th edition of the stately event conceived by the legendary Bobby Jones. "It's a big loss for the tournament any

time a world number one is not going to play. It's a huge loss," said Scott, who became the first Australian to win the Masters after a thrilling sudden-death playoff duel against Argentina's Angel Cabrera.

"But, as every year here, this event produces something special no matter what. It just has a way of doing it. It's not going to involve Tiger this year, but it will involve someone else and it will be a memorable event anyway."

Woods's longtime rival Phil Mickelson said it would feel strange not having Tiger to gun for.

"It's a weird feeling not having him here, isn't it?" said three-time Masters winner Mickelson, who last year notched his fifth major title by winning the British Open. "He's been such a mainstay in professional golf and in the majors. It's awkward to not have him here. I hope he gets back soon."

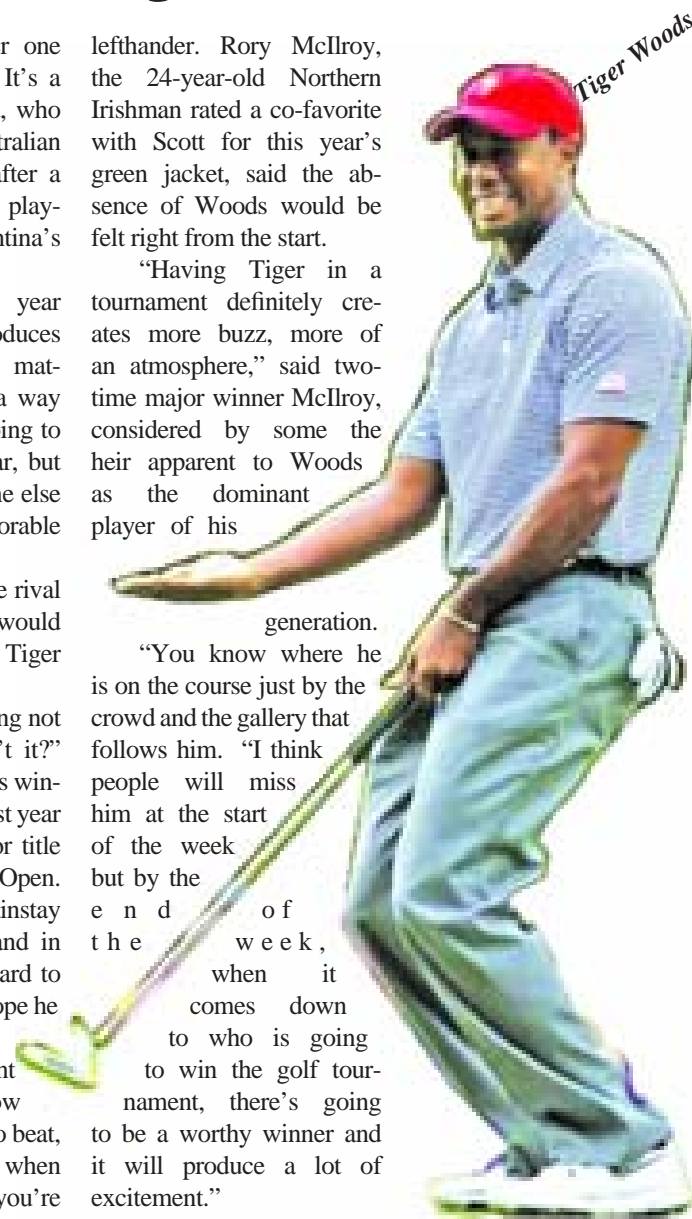
"As much as I want to win and I know how great he is and tough to beat, it also makes it special when he's in the field and you're able to win," added the big

lefthander. Rory McIlroy, the 24-year-old Northern Irishman rated a co-favorite with Scott for this year's green jacket, said the absence of Woods would be felt right from the start.

"Having Tiger in a tournament definitely creates more buzz, more of an atmosphere," said two-time major winner McIlroy, considered by some the heir apparent to Woods as the dominant player of his

generation. "You know where he is on the course just by the crowd and the gallery that follows him. 'I think people will miss him at the start of the week but by the end of the week, when it comes down to who is going to win the golf tournament, there's going to be a worthy winner and it will produce a lot of excitement.'"

Reuters



Bayern too strong for United. Atletico stun Barca



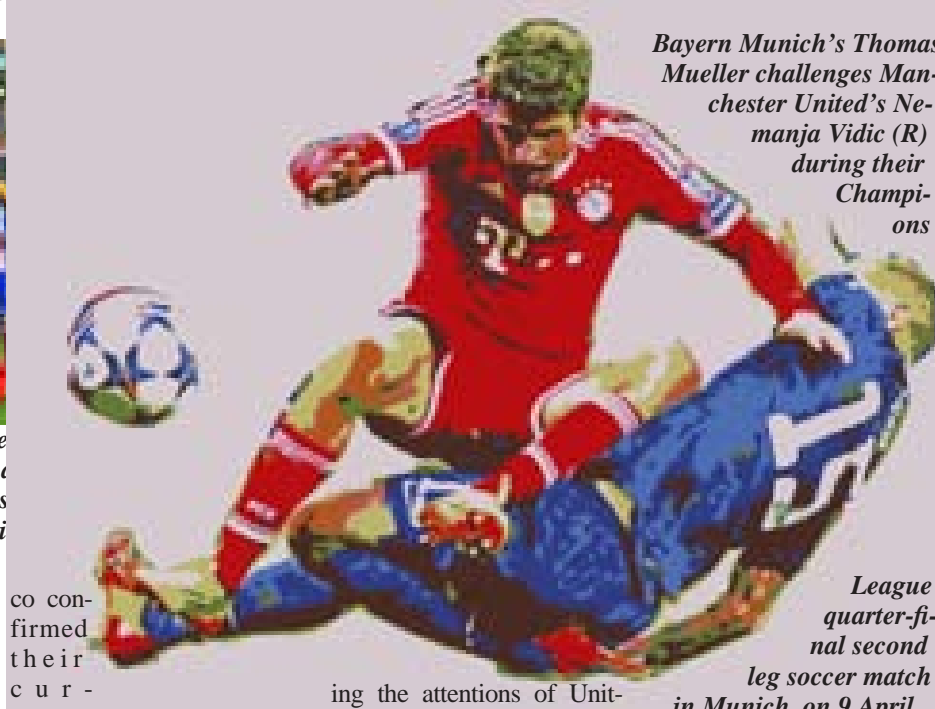
Atletico Madrid's players celebrate their first goal against Barcelona during their Champions League quarter-final second leg soccer match in Madrid, on 9 April.

REUTERS

LONDON, 10 April—Bayern Munich kept alive their Champions League title defence by suppressing a resilient Manchester United to reach the semi-finals on Wednesday, while the power shift continued in Spain as Atletico Madrid edged past La Liga rivals Barcelona.

United gave the Germans a scare when Patrice Evra's thunderbolt finish put them ahead in their quarter-final second leg, but goals from Mario Mandzukic, Thomas Mueller and Arjen Robben saw them safely through with a 3-1 win on the night and a 4-2 aggregate success.

La Liga leaders Atleti-



Bayern Munich's Thomas Mueller challenges Manchester United's Nemanja Vidic (R) during their Champions League quarter-final second leg soccer match in Munich, on 9 April, 2014.—REUTERS

co-confirmed their current status as the top club in Spain by ousting Barcelona after Koke's early goal proved enough to secure a 1-0 win and 2-1 victory over the two legs.

After a cagey first half in Munich, United's Evra stunned the home crowd with a powerful drive in the 57th minute that left Bayern keeper Manuel Neuer rooted to the spot on its way into the top corner.

The visitors' celebrations had barely died down, however, when Bayern drew level with Mandzukic evad-

ing the attentions of United's centre backs to glance a header past David De Gea.

Mueller sidefooted in from close range to put them ahead in the tie and Robben ended a mazy run across the penalty area by finishing low into the bottom corner via a deflection off United defender Nemanja Vidic.

In Madrid, it was one-way traffic in the early stages as Atletico tore into Barcelona, scoring after five minutes when Koke side-footed into an empty net at the far post moments after Adrian Lopez had hit the post.

It could have turned into a rout as David Villa hit the woodwork twice more in the first half, but their failure to add to their lead ensured a nervous finish.

Bayern and Atletico will be joined in Friday's semi-final draw by Chelsea, who knocked out Paris St Germain on away goals after a 3-3 aggregate draw on Tuesday and Real Madrid, who beat Borussia Dortmund 3-2 over two legs.

Reuters