

## Voice of youth performers of national people

Youths of national people are performing their traditional dances at the Yangon Mayor's water throwing pandal on Sunday at a ceremony to kick off the Myanmar traditional new year festival.

Following is the voice of the ethnic performers at the ceremony.

**Ma Pan Ei San (Kachin)**

"This is first time for me to perform at Yangon Mayor's water throwing pandal. Our performing troupe is formed with 18 youths and we will perform a traditional dance of Kachin. We're very happy in the new year festival because we have got opportunities not only to throw water each other in Yangon but also to perform our traditional dance."

**Ma Nyan San Kyein (Zomi)**

"We will entertain the audience with our traditional Zomi ethnic dance and song. The theme of the song is the living in unity can help us overcome every obstacle. I'm sure our Zomi people will be happy to see our Zomi ethnic youths are performing



*Youth performers of national people presenting entertainment to audiences at Yangon Mayor's water throwing pandal in Yangon.—MNA*

**By Khin Yadanar**

**Photos: Tin Soe (Myanma Alin)**

at Yangon Mayor's water throwing pandal. Please enjoy our performance. Our troupe is composed with 10 women and 10 men."

**U Htwe (Kayin)**

"I'm from Hlinebwe Township. Our troupe is composed with 24 performers. We will entertain the audience with our traditional Kayin 'Don Dance'

in honour of our Myanmar Traditional Thingyan Festival. I'm an oboe player. We will perform at Yangon Region Government's water throwing pandal and Yangon Mayor's water throwing pandal. All members of our Kayin performing troupe are very happy

now because this is the first time for us to see the Thingyan festival in Yangon."

**Mg Thant Kyaw Soe (Day Care Nursery-2)**

I'm four year old. We had rehearsal. So, we can dance too much. I and our  
(See page 2)

### INSIED

**New Year water festival kicks off in Lashio**

PAGE-3

**Union Parliament Speaker visits Mongolia tourist attractions**

PAGE-3

**Nay Pyi Taw Maha Thingyan Central Pandal opens**

PAGE-2

**Yangon Region Government's Maha Thingyan Pandal opens**

PAGE-3

**Union Foreign Affairs Minister, diplomats enjoy water festival**

PAGE-2

## Myanmar gas export to China hits over 1 Bcm: reports

**NAY PYI TAW, 13 April**—The natural gas export of Myanmar to China through pipeline has reached 1.076 billion cubic meters as of April 8, according to the reports of *Xinhua* news agency on April 12 citing the release by China National Petroleum Corporation (CNPC).

CNPC expects that the 2,520-km pipeline could supply 12 billion cubic meters of natural gas each year for Myanmar and southwest China.

The preliminary conveyance of natural gas through this pipeline started on May 30 last year, and it fully operated in October.

CNPC is holding the share of 50.9 percent in the project, and the two South Korean firms, Daewoo and Korean Gas Corporation, own 25.04 percent and 4.17 percent respectively.

The two Indian firms – Gas Authority of India Limited and Oil and Natural Gas Corporation – hold  
(See page 2)



*Members of medical team providing health care services to people in Rakhine State recently. (News reported) — MNA*

## 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.

## Shwe natural gas project creates job opportunities for locals

NAY PYI TAW, 13 April—Union Minister for Energy U Zeyar Aung together with Deputy Minister U Myint Zaw, officials of the ministry and responsible persons of the Daewoo International Corporation visited Shwe natural gas distribution station in Kyaukpyu Township in Rakhine State on Thursday.

Senior Vice President Mr Si Bo Joo of Daewoo International Corporation explained the exploration

of natural gas at Shwe natural gas production platform and they looked around it.

Then, the Union Minister and party viewed oil jetty and oil tanks constructed in Madae Island.

Shwe Natural Gas project has been implemented through joint venture agreement between Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise and Daewoo International Corporation since 2000 and it could create job opportunities for 319 locals.

MNA

## Myanmar gas export ...

(from page 1)

4.17pc and 8.35pc respectively, the reports said.

Myanmar-Sino natural gas pipeline runs from Kyaukpyu of Rakhine State to Guizhou and Guangxi provinces of Southwest and Southern China

through Mandalay, Lashio and Muse of Myanmar and Ruili and Kunming of China alongside Myanmar-Sino crude oil pipeline which runs from Kyaukpyu to Kunming in Yunnan Province, Southwest China.

NLM

## Voice of youth performers ...

(from page 1)

friends will entertain the audience with the song entitled 'Thingyan with dances of golden princes'. I love throwing water in the New Year festival. I will enjoy the festival to others after our performance."

Ma Yadana (Mon)

We are going to perform our traditional dance and Thingyan song in Mon language. Our performing troupe is composed with 18. The theme of the song is that Mon women and men asked permission from each other to pour water on each other. We were a little worried for our performance because we took a few time to rehearse. It is no difficulties for us to dance our traditional

dance. We are very happy now because we all national people have to dance, singing "Mann Taung Yeik Kho" song to kick off the festival.—Trs:AMS



Mg Thant Kyaw Soe (Day Care Nursery-2)

## Union Foreign Affairs Minister, diplomats enjoy water festival

YANGON, 13 April—

The Traditional Water Festival of Myanmar is being celebrated across the country from 13 to 16 April. All of people are actively enjoying in the festival at pandals.

Myanmar Institute of Strategic and International Studies-Myanmar ISIS and Diplomatic Skills Trainees Organization-D.S.T.O organized the first water throwing festival on Akyo Day at the lawns of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Thantaman Street in Dagon Township, Yangon on Sunday afternoon.

Union Foreign Affairs Minister U Wunna Maung Lwin and wife Daw Lin Lin Tin and the Dean of Diplomatic Corps Singapore Ambassador, diplomats from foreign coun-



Union Minister U Wunna Maung Lwin dousing a foreign diplomat with water.—MNA

tries to Myanmar and their families, chairmen and members of Myanmar ISIS and D.S.T.O and invited guests took also part in the

festival happily.

At there, they enjoyed traditional songs and dances presented by performers.

Members of Myanmar

ISIS and D.S.T.O celebrated the festival again at Yangon Region Government Pandal.

MNA

## Nay Pyi Taw Maha Thingyan Central Pandal opens



Damsels performing dance at opening of Nay Pyi Taw Maha Thingyan Central Pandal at City Hall in Nay Pyi Taw.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 13 April—Opening of Nay Pyi Taw Maha Thingyan at City Hall in Nay Pyi Taw Central Pandal took place on Sunday evening.

First, Nay Pyi Taw Mayor Union Minister U Thein Nyunt extended greetings and cut the ribbon to open the pandal.

Then, the damsels from 29 chorus dancing troupes of the ministries, hotels and companies entertained the audiences with dance and song.

Movie stars and vocalists happily welcomed Myanmar traditional Maha Thingyan festival with song and dance in joining with Pianist Kun Zaw Music Band at the pandal.

The opening ceremony was attended by the Union ministers and their wives, deputy ministers, chorus dancing troupes, movie stars and Thingyan revelers.—MNA



Members of medical teams providing health care services to local people in Rakhine State recently. (New reported)

MNA





## NATIONAL

## New Year water festival kicks off in Lashio

LASHIO, 13 April—Myanmar Thingyan water festival kicks off in Lashio on Sunday in the presence of Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham and wife Daw Nan Shwe Hmon.

The traditional new year water festival was formally opened by U Sao Aung Myat, Chief Minister of Shan State, U Sai Myint Aye, Pyithu Hluttaw rep-

resentative, U Sein Oak, Deputy Commissioner of Shan State and ethnic leaders U Sai Mon and U Lwe Maung.

Performing troupes entertained the audience with dances and songs at the ceremony held at the water throwing pandal outside the town hall.

*Shan State  
IPRD*

## Yangon Region Government's Maha Thingyan Pandal opens

YANGON, 13 April—Yangon Region Government's Maha Thingyan Pandal was opened at the venue in front of the region government office in Yangon on Sunday morning.

Composer & vocalist Daw Mu Mu Swe from the National University of Arts and Culture (Yangon) sang a song "New Year Wish" in honour of the Yangon Region Myanmar Traditional Maha Thingyan Festival.

Speaking at the ceremony, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe said that all national people are responsible to preserve Myanmar traditional heritages.

Then, the Maha Thingyan Pandal was formally opened and 23 chorus

dancing troupes performed the audiences with song and dance. The region chief minister, wife and region parliament speaker presented cash award to the dance troupes.

Yangon Region Government's Maha Thingyan Pandal will be kept open till 16 April (Thingyan Atet Day) for merry-makers and artistes, and chorus dancing troupes will present entertainment to the Thingyan revelers daily.—MNA

*People and revellers  
enjoying water throw-  
ing festival on eve  
of Maha Thingyan  
Festival.*

MNA



## Union Parliament Speaker visits Mongolia tourist attractions

NAY PYI TAW, 13 April—The Union Parliament Speaker and People's Parliament Speaker visited popular tourist attractions of Mongolia on Saturday.

At the invitation of Mr. Enkhbold Z., the Speaker of the Mongolian parliament, Thura U Shwe Mann and Myanmar delegation made an official visit to Mongolia after People's Republic of China.

Thura U Shwe Mann and Myanmar delegation, including the chairpersons, secretaries and members of Parliamentary Affairs committees landed Ulan Baator, the capital and the largest city of Mongolia, at 10: 50 a.m local time.

Visiting Myanmar delegation is welcomed by Mrs. Ts. Oyungerel, chairperson of Mongolia-Myanmar Inter-Parliamentary Friendship Group and Minister for Culture, Sports and Tourism at the Chinggis Khaan International Airport.



*Union Parliament and People's Parliament Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann meets Mrs. Ts. Oyungerel, chairperson of Mongolia-Myanmar Inter-Parliamentary Friendship Group Minister for Culture, Sports and Tourism of Mongolia at the airport.—MNA*

Parliament Speaker and members arrived at Khotula tour camp and explored traditional ger tents, which are included tourist attractions of the landlocked country in Central Asia. In the morning of April 13, they visited Chinggis Khan's gi-

ant statue museum and live museum "Town from 13 century", located in the 13<sup>th</sup> Century National Park.

They then looked around the compound of the

Gandantegchinlen Monastery in the capital, and met Venerable Da Lama Kh. Byambajav from the Centre of Mongolian Buddhist.

MNA

## Strong winds leave three dead, three injured on Yangon-Pyay Highway

SHWEDAUNG, 13 April — Strong winds fell down trees on either side of Yangon-Pyay highway on the vehicles between mile post Nos 168/2 and 168/5 near Kyogon Village, Shwedaung Township in Pyay District on 13 April, leaving three dead and three injured.

In the incident, two passengers on the light truck heading for Yangon from Pyay identified as U Bo Tin Mya, 59, of Wethalay Village in Minhla Township and U Zaw Win Tun, 31, of Pathein died on the spot.

Another one passenger on board identified as U Kyaw Nyein, 49, of Yonpinkwin Village, Letpadan Township died on the way to Pyay People's

Hospital.

Moreover, other three passengers namely Maung Nyi Nyi Soe, 14, and driver U Win Naing Soe, 45, of Wethalay Village in Minhla Township and Ko Naing Lin Khaing, 22, Yonpinkwin Village, Letpadan Township on board got injured.

Similarly, the Padauk trees fell down on JJ passenger bus and Harira car heading to Yangon from Pyay. There were no damages or injured in the accidents. Local authorities, members of Myanmar Police Force, ward administrators and townsellers rushed to the scene and cleared the fallen trees and provided necessary assistance.

MNA

*Myanmar people  
celebrate the eve of  
water festival called  
"Thingyan" in Nay  
Pyi Taw on 13 April,  
2014*

*PHOTO BY  
YOSHITO NITOE*

*A vehicle damaged  
in strong winds in  
Shwedaung  
Township of Bago  
Region.*

MNA



## YeU rural dwellers start to consume electricity

YE U, 13 April—A ceremony to launch electrification on a self-reliant basis was held in Ngyokton Village of YeU Township, Sagaing Region, on 11 April morning.

Sagaing Region Parliament MPs U Nyo Win and U Soe Tint Aung and township level officials launched the electrification.

Chairman of Township Management Committee U Myo Chit in his speech said that all-round development plans are being implemented in YeU Township. Rural electrification plays a key role in rural development, including supply of water, rural roads and bridges. The power consumers have to abide to instructions of Township Electricity Supply Enterprise.

Local people have been striving for supply of electricity on a self-reliant basis, and now they are pleased for their success.

*Than Htaik (YeU)*

## Self-reliant bridge inaugurated in Phaungpyin Tsp

PHAUNGPYIN, 13 April—Residents from Phaungpyin Township commissioned a bridge into service that is ready to be used for the transportation.

A self-reliant wooden bridge namely “Mya Nan Khwin”, 322 ft long, 10 ft wide and 10 ft high, was built at a cost of over K 20 million.

The bridge lies across the “Nanmakhwin Creek” between Chaungkwa and

YANGON, 13 April—Globetrotters are enjoying Satuditha at a shop in Maha Bandoola Park in Kyauktada Township in Yangon on 13 April (Thingyan Akyo Day).

*Soe Win (SP)*

Manli villages in Phaungpyin Township, Mawlaik District of Sagaing Region.

At the bridge opening ceremony on Saturday, an official of Village-tract development Supportive Committee presented certificates of honour to the people who contributed cash and labour contributions to construction of the bridge.

*Thaw Kyar Shwe Nga*



## Sky Net receivers provided to two villages in Pinlebu

PINLEBU, 13 April—The Sagaing Region Government provided two Sky Net Receivers to Mawlin and Taungshayin Villages in Pinlebu Township under the rural development and poverty alleviation scheme, local authorities said.

The Sagaing region government's contribution is aimed at broadening horizons of the rural people. Mawlin and Taungshayin

Villages where Gadu National reside are over 30 miles from Pinlebu and have difficult to access. It will contribute to improve education and health sectors of local people, said U Yin Min Aung, the Deputy Head of township Information and Public Relations Department.

The region government presented one Sky Net Receiver to Ywathaya

Village as first time recently.

“I am happy with the installation of Sky Net Receiver at my village. Now, we will be able to know local and international news in real time. I express thanks to the Sagaing Region government for its contribution,” said U Pho Htee, a townselder from Mawlin Village.

*Pinlebu IPRD*

## Children served with rice and chicken curry in Ngazun

NGAZUN, 13 April—To celebrate 58<sup>th</sup> birthday, Chief Editor of Smart Journal U Khin Maung Nyo (Economics) and wife Dr Moe Moe Khaing and fam-

ily donated rice and curry to the children at Ponnya Parami Rice Offering Association in Ngazun Township in Mandalay Region on 11 April.

It is learnt that the donors invited the children from four corners of the township via loudspeaker and the kids were served with rice and chicken curry.—*MMAL-436*

## Sanitation tasks carried out in Phaungpyin

PHAUNGPYIN, 13 April—Departmental staff together with members of social organizations car-

ried out sanitation tasks at Phaungpyin Jetty in Mawlaik District of Sagaing Region on Friday.

Moreover, Township Development Affairs Department sends a rubbish van to collect rubbishes in the township every Wednesday.

*Thaw Kyar Shwe Nga*

## Maukmai residents to get potable water soon



MAUKMAI, 13 April—As part of efforts for undertaking rural development, a tank is being constructed in Naungkham Village, Sinwin Village-tract, Maukmai

Township, Langkho District of Shan State.

The works began on 11 April. It is expected to complete the water tank at the end of May and to cost K 22.5 million funded by

the Rural Development Department.

On completion, locals from fifty-four households in the village will enjoy to get a potable water.

*MMAL-142*

## Kyaukpadaung dwellers enjoy safe and adequate drinking water

KYAUKPADAUNG, 13 April — As some villages in Mandalay Region faced shortage of drinking water in last summer due to climate change, repairing for the lakes and sinking tube-wells have been carried out with the arrangement of the State, region government, NGOs and donors. The locals in Talaikan Village in Kyaukpadaung Township collected rainwater adequately in the lakes in last

rainy season.

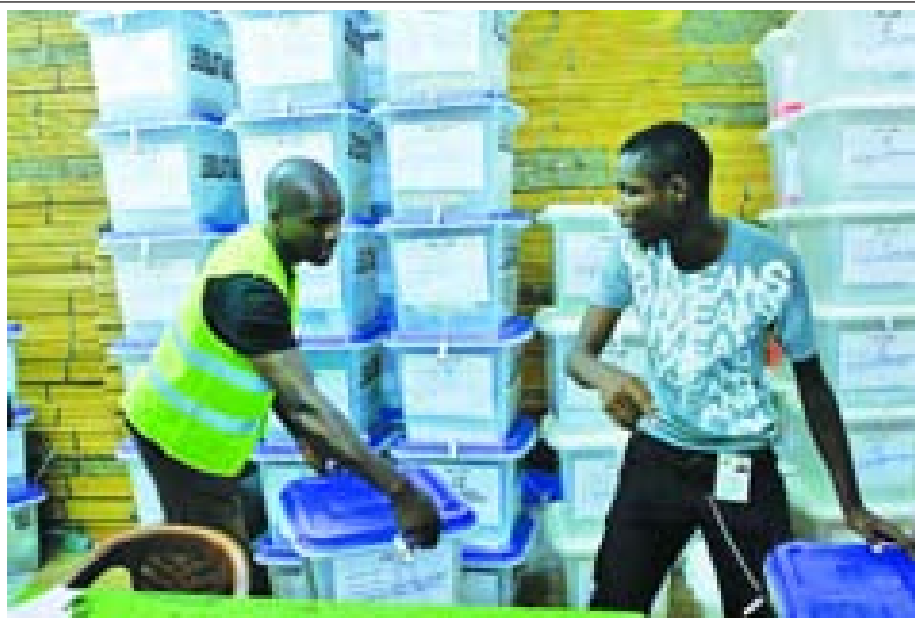
As a tube-well has been successfully dug in Talaikan Village in September 2013 with the arrangement of the region government and rainwater have been collected in the lakes sufficiently, over 2000 residents from Talaikan, Ngathayauk and Kyaungsu Villages are not worried about safe and adequate drinking water.

*Nay Aung (IPRD)*





## WORLD



Staff members of the electoral commission make the final preparations in Bissau, capital of Guinea Bissau, on 12 April, 2014. The presidential and legislative elections will start on Sunday. — XINHUA

## Swedish passports found traded on black market

STOCKHOLM, 13 April — Swedish passports are becoming “hard currency” on the black market, and over the last two years 177,000 valid Swedish passports in total were reported missing, local media reported on Saturday.

Each Swedish passport can be prized up to 80,000 Swedish kronor (about 12,200 US dollars) on the black market. It is believed that the number of the actual missing Swedish passports is higher than what has been reported, said the Swedish daily *Dagens Nyheter* (Dn).

Statistics from the National Police Board of Sweden show that 861 people have reported at least three passports missing over the last two years while two persons reported that they had lost 12 passports during the period.

It is reported that Swedish passports are common to be used in illegal activities such as human trafficking.

“We are convinced that the documents are also used in other organized crimes such as fraud and terrorism offence,” Kerstin Hogback, police inspector

with the Swedish National Bureau of Investigation, was quoted as saying by Dn. Despite that, there is nothing much that can be done by the Swedish police so far, said Dn.

Swedish passports are considered as one of the passports that are most difficult to copy in the world after being modernized in 2012, but Sweden has poor control over the lost and stolen passports, which leads to that a Swedish passport could be used by people who have a similar look with the original owner, said Dn. — Xinhua

## Morocco dismantles Syria-related terrorist cell

RABAT, 13 April — Moroccan police announced on Saturday it has recently dismantled a terrorist cell that recruits Moroccan combatants for Syria, local media reported.

The cell members are sent to Syria in coordination with terrorist organizations affiliated with Al-Qaeda, such as “Cham al-Islam movement,” “Al-Nusra Front” and “the Islamic state of Iraq and the Levant,” the report said.

“The cell members used to collect donations to finance the travel of volunteer combatants to Syria,

after enrolling and teaching them about various precautions,” the police said.

“These Moroccan volunteers undergo specialized training in weapons and explosives as well as suicide-attacks, so that they can, upon return to Morocco, conduct terrorist operations to jeopardize the security and stability of the country,” the police added.

Terrorists have been rampant in Syria where the three-year-old crisis has provided a hideout for domestic and abroad terrorist organizations.

Xinhua

## Turkey denies Russia’s criticism of violating Montreux Convention

ANKARA, 13 April — Turkey on Saturday rejected Russia’s allegation that Turkey violated the Montreux Convention by permitting US warships stay overdue in the Black Sea.

The Turkish Foreign Ministry said on Saturday that the US warship *USS Taylor* mentioned by Russia extended her stay in the Black Sea due to “propeller damage” which made it incapable of moving in Turkey’s port of Samsun.

Another US warship had already left the Black Sea within the 21-day limit provided by the convention.

Turkey also warned that discussing technical provisions of the Montreux Convention on media will not benefit anyone,

especially for the Black Sea littoral countries.

Russia has recently claimed that Turkey permitted US warships to extend their stay in the Black Sea, which is a clear violation of the provisions of the Montreux Convention.

According to the 1936 convention, military ships of non-littoral states to pass through the Bosphorus Strait are not allowed to stay over 21 days in the Black Sea. The convention also put some limits on the weight of the warships.

Turkish has given the green light for several US warships to pass through the Bosphorus Strait since March amid a growing tension between Russia and Western countries over Crimea. — Xinhua

## Ally says Algeria’s Bouteflika recovering, will make reforms

ALGIERS, 13 April — Algerian President Abdelaziz Bouteflika is recovering steadily from a stroke last year, talks with his team every day, and is healthy enough to govern after the election on 17 April, his chief ally said on Saturday.

Bouteflika, a 77-year-old veteran of Algeria’s independence war, has no serious rivals for re-election in Thursday’s ballot, but he has not campaigned himself and has only rarely spoken in public since his illness.

Questions about Bouteflika’s health and Alge-

ria’s stability are key for Western governments, who see the North African state as a partner in the campaign against Islamist militancy in the Maghreb, and a stable supplier of gas for Europe.

Abdelmalek Sellal, who resigned as prime minister to campaign for Bouteflika, said the president planned constitutional reforms to strengthen democracy, with term limits for the president and wider powers for opposition parties if he wins. “He has all the health he needs to carry out his responsibilities. I speak with him every day



Abdelmalek Sellal, campaign director of Algerian Abdelaziz Bouteflika, speaks during an interview with Reuters in Algiers on 12 April, 2014. — REUTERS

by telephone. He follows the campaign daily,” Sellal said in an interview in

Algiers after campaigning in the eastern city of Annaba.—Reuters

## Colombian navy rescues six Ecuadorians from boat accident

BOGOTA, 13 April — The Colombian navy said on Saturday it had rescued six Ecuadorians whose boat suffered a mechanical failure in southern Colombia.

The rescue was conducted in a jungle area near the Colombian municipality of Puerto Leguizamo, in the southern department of Putumayo, after the boat collided with a tree log, Colombia’s *El Universo* daily network reported, citing a navy statement. Five people with the Ecuadorian ministry of public health were on the boat when the incident occurred in the Putumayo River, a natural frontier separating Ecuador from Colombia. “Among the rescued personnel, there were three doctors, a dentist and a nurse assistant, who were saved by officers of the 30th Marine Battalion, that towed the boat to a safe harbour,” said the report.

Xinhua



People enjoy traditional food (Kabab) at a local restaurant in Samangan Province, northern Afghanistan, on 10 April, 2014. — XINHUA

## Butterfly-themed stamps released in Brunei

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, 13 April — Brunei’s Postal Services Department issued on Sunday butterfly-themed stamps to raise awareness on the types of butterflies found in the country.

State broadcaster Radio Television Brunei (RTB) reported that the butterfly thematic stamps is on sale in all post offices on Sunday, which will cost

1.20 Brunei cents about 0.97 US cents), and 10 Brunei cents (8.06 US cents) while a full set will be sold at 1.30 Brunei dollars (about 1.04 US dollars).

The official cover with stamps cost 4.80 Brunei dollars (about 3.87 US dollars), while the official cover alone costs 1.95 Brunei dollars (about 1.57 US dollars), and the stamp booklet is valued at 1.30

Brunei dollars (about 1.04 US dollars).

According to a survey conducted in 1996, a total of 342 species were recorded in forest in Brunei, NW Borneo, and from the species accumulation curve the total number of species present in the area was estimated to be 464, or nearly half the total Bornean fauna.

Xinhua

## Australia says progress towards G20 growth target “unacceptable”

PERTH, (Australia), 13 April — Slow progress towards meeting economic growth targets set by the Group of 20 bloc of advanced and developing nations this year is “unacceptable”, Australian Treasurer Joe Hockey said on Sunday.

G20 finance ministers had pledged to have “real and effective plans to lift the global economy by a further 2 percent” before they meet in Australia in September but were only one-tenth of the way there, he said.

“The proposals put forward by nations so far have been unacceptable and they only meet 10 percent of our goal,” Hockey told Australian Broadcasting Corp. TV after talks in Washington.

Hockey coordinated the talks, with Australia holding the G20 presidency.

The agreement by the

G20 nations at a meeting in Sydney in February to lift their collective GDP by more than 2 percent above what current economic policies would achieve over the next five years was reiterated in a statement on Friday.

The statement acknowledged the political difficulties in making changes to reach that goal.

“There was a very frank discussion about the fact that they need to be real and new commitments,” Hockey said.

“It’s not good enough for some countries just to reheat previous announcements. You need to actually really do the heavy lifting,” he said.

G20 members represent around 85 per cent of global gross domestic product, more than over 75 percent of global trade, and two-thirds of the world’s population.

Reuters



**Financial leaders (front row, seated L-R) Mexico’s Finance Minister Luis Videgaray, Nigeria’s Finance Minister Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, Brazil’s Finance Minister Guido Mantega, South Korea’s Finance Minister Hyun Oh-seok, Turkey’s Deputy Prime Minister for the Economy Ali Babacan, Australia’s Treasurer and this year’s chairman of the G20 Joe Hockey, IMF Managing Director Christine Lagarde, Singapore’s Finance Minister Tharman Shanmugaratnam, US Federal Reserve chair Janet Yellen, Germany’s Finance Minister Wolfgang Schauble, Japan’s Finance Minister Taro Aso, Gabon’s Economy Minister Christophe Akagha-Mba and Saudi Arabia’s Finance Minister Ibrahim Al-Assaf join other International Monetary and Financial Committee (IMFC) finance ministers, bank governors and other ministers from around the world for a family photo during the IMF and World Bank’s 2014 Annual Spring Meetings in Washington, on 12 April, 2014.—REUTERS**

## Japan, Germany agree to cooperate to defuse Ukraine crisis

HIROSHIMA, 13 April — Japanese Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida on Saturday agreed with his German counterpart Frank-Walter Steinmeier to cooperate in de-escalating the Ukrainian crisis in a peaceful manner.

Meeting in Hiroshima on the sidelines of ministerial talks on nuclear disarmament, the two concurred that while “Russia’s annexation of Crimea is in violation of international law,” lowering tensions in the region is the priority, Kishida told reporters after the meeting. Kishida also said he was invited by Steinmeier to visit Germany, to which he replied that

he would look for an opportunity to do so.

Kishida later met with Dutch Foreign Minister Frans Timmermans, who is

also in Hiroshima for the disarmament talks, and agreed to strengthen bilateral cooperation in security and agriculture.—Kyodo News



**German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier (L) and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe are pictured before talks in Tokyo on 11 April, 2014.—KYODO NEWS**

## Malaysia discusses with experts on custody of missing plane’s black box

KUALA LUMPUR, 13 April—Malaysia was discussing with relevant authorities and experts on the custody of the black box of the missing MH370 flight, Malaysian acting Transport Minister Hishammuddin Hussein said here Sunday.

Hishammuddin said Attorney-General Abdul Gani Patail was now in Britain to discuss the issue with parties, which included international agencies like the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO).

“The attorney general is in the UK discussing with relevant authorities such as ICAO and experts involved, based on international and domestic laws, who actually does have custody of the black box,” he said at a press conference after visiting the Defence Services Asia exhibition site here. However, the focus was always on locating the plane first, he added.

He also denied that there was a phone call made by the missing plane’s co-pilot when the plane was flying low on the way, which was reported by local newspaper. However, he said the issue would be in the realm of the police and other relevant international agencies and would be revealed when the time came.

Reuters

Xinhua



**Photo taken on 13 April, 2014 shows the accident site where a passenger train derailed in Hailun County of Suihua City, northeast China’s Heilongjiang Province. Fifteen people have been sent to hospital after the passenger train derailed. The Harbin Railways Bureau confirmed that the K7034 train en route from Heihe to the provincial capital of Harbin, derailed at the section in Hailun County of Suihua City in early morning of 13 April. The injured passengers are still under examination and treatment in hospital. No death has been reported.—XINHUA**

## Ukraine sends forces to confront armed pro-Russian rebels

SLAVIANSK, 13 April—Ukraine’s government said on Sunday it was sending security forces into the eastern city of Slaviansk where pro-Russian militants have seized control in what Kiev describes as an act of aggression by the Kremlin.

Any operation to dislodge the armed militants risks tipping the stand-off into a new, dangerous phase because Moscow has warned it will act to protect eastern Ukraine’s Russian-speakers if they come under attack.

Interior Minister Arsen Avakov said security units from across the



**Pro-Russian armed men stand guard while pro-Russian protesters gather near the police headquarters in Slaviansk April 13, 2014.—REUTERS**

country had been brought in to launch an “anti-terrorist operation” to reassert Kiev’s control in Sla-

viansk.

A Reuters reporter in the city, about 150 km (90 miles) from the

Ukraine-Russia border, said two military helicopters were flying over the town’s police headquarters where militants were holed up.

“Pass this on to all civilians: they should leave the center of town, not come out of their apartments, and not go near the windows,” Avakov wrote on his Facebook page.

In the nearby town of Kramatorsk, militants exchanged gunfire with police late on Saturday, though there was no confirmation any one had been hurt.

Novosti Donbass, a local Internet news site, said that government forces had

taken down two rebel barricades at entry points into Slaviansk, but there was no independent confirmation of this.

Residents in the town did not appear to have heeded the appeal by Avakov and families were out on the streets on their normal Sunday business.

Relations between Russia and the West are at their most fraught since the end of the Cold War, the result of a row over Ukraine that began when the Moscow-backed president was pushed out, and Moscow annexed Ukraine’s Crimean peninsula.



## HEALTH &amp; BUSINESS

## In Assad's coastal heartland, Syria's war creeps closer

LATAKIA, (Syria), 13 April — For three years, residents of Syria's Mediterranean provinces have watched from their coastal sanctuary as civil war raging further inland tore the country apart, killing tens of thousands of people and devastating historic cities.

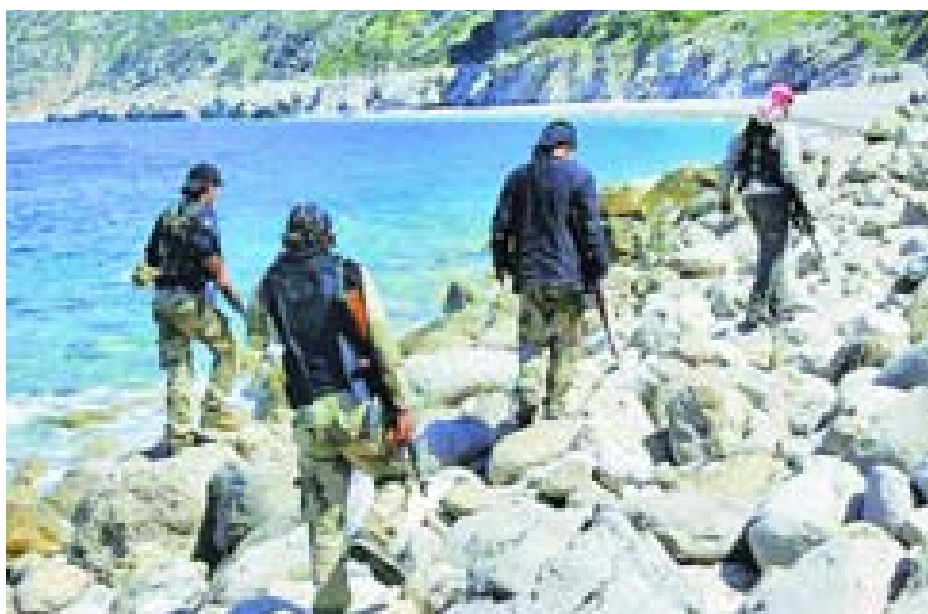
But a three-week-old offensive by rebel fighters in the north of Latakia Province, a bastion of President Bashar al-Assad's Alawite minority, has brought the battle ever closer and shattered that sense of relative security.

Rebels are now fighting in the hills overlooking the sea, bringing the country's main port of Latakia within their range — rocket-fire killed eight people in one barrage on the city a month ago — and Syria's coast feels under real

threat. "They can erase us, even those of us who support them," said a young Alawite woman as she drank coffee with her fiancé in a Latakia cafe, 50 km (30 miles) south of where rebels seized their first foothold on Syria's coast, by the Turkish border.

While many Alawites, roughly 10 percent of Syria's 23 million people, have actively supported Assad, others sympathized with the popular revolt against him in 2011 but now fear reprisals from his mainly Sunni Muslim enemies.

Memories of a rebel offensive in August, when scores of Alawite villagers near Latakia were killed by radical Sunni Islamists and foreign jihadists, heightened tensions in the bustling streets of the city of 400,000.



Rebel fighters walk with their weapons at the beach in Latakia province near the town of Kasab on 5 April, 2014.

REUTERS

Even as Assad, 300 km to the south in Damascus, sounds ever more confident of holding on

the chaotic ebb and flow of civil war has intruded even into this most sheltered part of the state, while the hunt

for spies and traitors and losses suffered by Assad loyalists continue to sour daily life.—Reuters

## Cabinet approval up to 59.8%: Kyodo poll

TOKYO, 12 April — A Kyodo News survey showed Saturday that the approval rate for the Cabinet of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe stands at 59.8 percent, up 2.9 percentage points from the previous survey last month.

In the nationwide telephone survey conducted on Friday and Saturday, 63.7 percent of respondents said they are not refraining from spending after the April 1 hike in the consumption tax rate to 8 percent from 5 percent, while 34.8 percent said they are refraining from spending.

Kyodo News

## Strong quake hits near Solomon Islands; tsunami warning cancelled

SOLOMON ISLANDS, 13 April — A powerful magnitude 7.6 earthquake struck near the Solomon Islands on Sunday morning, triggering a tsunami warning that was later cancelled, according to US government agencies, and there were no immediate reports of damage.

The quake was centered 100 km (60 miles) south of Kira Kira on the island of Makira at a depth of 29 km (18 miles), according to the US Geological Survey. "So far we have received no reports of damage," said Constable Taylor Fugo from Kira Kira police. "The people

responded very well to the (tsunami) warning. They all went up the hills and have been watching and waiting for advice."

A tsunami warning for the Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea and Vanuatu was cancelled after only very small tsunami wave activity, just a couple of centimetres, had been measured at two reading stations near the epicentre, the Pacific Tsunami Warning Centre said. An earlier tsunami watch for Fiji, Australia, Indonesia and nearby areas was cancelled after the earthquake was revised down from its original magnitude of 8.3.—Reuters

## French foreign minister meets Raul Castro on historic visit to Cuba



France's Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius reads a document before a news conference in Havana on 12 April, 2014. —REUTERS

HAVANA, 13 April — France's foreign minister met with Cuban President Raul Castro on Saturday during the first visit to the island by such a high-ranking French official in 31 years and a sign of the quickening

pace of improving ties between the European Union and Havana.

Laurent Fabius said he discussed politics, human rights, market-oriented reforms in Cuba and bilateral relations in what he charac-

terized as "a long conversation" with Castro.

"We want to push forward our relations in the areas of culture, education, economics and politics," Fabius, a former prime minister, told reporters at the end of a one-day visit to the communist-run Caribbean country.

"Of course, we have different points of view on certain issues, which doesn't stop us from exchanging perspectives and moving forward," he said.

Earlier in the day, Fabius met with his Cuban counterpart, Bruno Rodriguez, various Cabinet ministers, Cardinal Jaime Ortega and French businessmen.

Since Fabius took office in 2012, he has tried to shift more of France's

diplomatic focus toward winning contracts in markets where French firms are traditionally weak, as Paris looks to find growth opportunities overseas.

France is looking to expand its business ties with Latin America and sees Cuba as an important player in the region, given that it hosted a regional summit this year and both Brazil and Mexico are increasing their presence in the country. "There are many French firms already here, but it's necessary that this presence is strengthened and our Cuban friends agree," Fabius said.

Fabius was scheduled to return to France on Saturday evening, having previously visited Mexico.

Reuters

## Mafia-style gang trial calls key witness to court

XIANNING, (Hubei), 13 April — Trials of 36 members of an alleged mafia-style gang, led by former mining tycoon Liu Han, continued on Saturday in central China's Hubei Province with a key witness being called to court.

In the Liu Han trial, Sun Xiaodong, a key witness who is suspected to have implemented Liu Han's instructions in the gang and who is being dealt with in a separate case, appeared in court for questioning and cross-examination.

The prosecutor questioned Sun on whether Liu instigated him to murder

Wang Yongcheng, another gang boss, and Shi Junquan, one of Liu's business competitors.

Sun was also questioned on whether Liu was the organizer and leader of a group made up of dozens of people and whether Liu used money and promotion to develop the group into an organized criminal syndicate.

The trials continued for other members of the mafia-style gang, including Liu's brother Liu Wei, who denied all charges against him though the prosecutor presented relevant proof.

Prosecutors said the Liu brothers and other gang members should be

held criminally liable for crimes including organizing and leading the gang, intentional homicide and assault, illegal detention, illegal holding and trading of guns, collusion in bidding, running illegal businesses, racketeering, intentional destruction of property, obstructing officials in their line of duty, organizing gambling, harboring criminals, and loan fraud.

According to the court, Liu Han, Liu Wei and 34 other defendants are being simultaneously prosecuted in seven cases to make clear facts and protect the legal interests of the accused.

Xinhua



A cook from a Michelin starred restaurant prepares seafood during the Lisbon Fish and Flavours Festival in Lisbon, Portugal, on 12 April, 2014. The festival is held from 3 April to 13 April. —XINHUA

## PERSPECTIVES

Monday, 14 April, 2014

### Beware of thunderstrikes

Normally April and May are the hottest months in Myanmar and there can be thunderstrikes during the period, may be because of the high temperatures. Anyhow, we need to know the dangers of thunderstrikes and means to keep ourselves safe from their dangers.

First, if we are in the open air when thunder starts rolling in the sky, we must immediately go into

a building. Metallic objects in contact with the skin may invite dangers during the times, and we must stay away from lamp-posts, trees or materials made of minerals as they are conductors of lightning to the ground. We can become an easy target if we are in the plains, or watercourses or lakes or on high ground alone. We must choose the lower ground.

We must be inside a house within 30 seconds after seeing a flash as thunderstrike follows within these seconds after the flash. And even if we are indoors, we must be at the centre of the building. We must not use any wired appliance or device such as phones or switch on the radio or TV when there are thunderstrikes as they too are conductors of lightning to the ground. Every high building or highest building in a place should have a lightning conductor. We must not

stand on a basement floor or patio slab, or anywhere where standing water or excessive moisture is present. These areas are 'ground current' danger zones.

The focus on protecting ourselves from thunderstrikes shouldn't be on what type of objects we are wearing, but rather on avoiding the locations where lightning can strike, which, essentially, is anywhere outdoors or in unprotected structures.

#### 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.

## The Game of Business

Kyi Mun

The name of the game is long term profit.

#### Prerequisites for playing the Game are:

- \* Readiness to Play
- \* Right Mental Attitude
- \* Relevant Skills
- \* Knowledge
- \* Staying Power

#### Meaning of the Game

- **G = Glad** ..... Just to be glad to have the opportunity to play the game
- **A = Active** ..... To be active in playing the game
- **M = Morale** ..... To have a high, strong and unshakeable morale in playing the game
- **E = Endeavour** ..... To endeavor relentlessly for the attainment of the goals

#### Meaning of Business

- **B = Benefits** ..... To provide benefits on a win-win relationship
- **U = Unique** ..... To produce products/services that are quite different from the competitors' products/services
- **S = Strategy** ..... To deploy a very effective strategy to achieve desired results
- **I = Innovation** ..... To be innovative is to be creative and dynamic in introducing new ideas and go ahead in providing the market with new products, new processes and new services. Innovation must be able to increase productivity on the one hand, and to create new and better attributes and features of the products/services. Innovation must serve Customer Value as well as the stakeholders' value.
- **N = Niching** ..... To specialize in one or two things in which leadership position must be attained. Niching, in essence, is to excel in Quality, Differentiation and Value. Real niching should be peerless in Brand-image.
- **E = Excellence** ..... To be the best in doing the right things, i.e. effectiveness, and in doing the things right, i.e. in efficiency. Excellence must be in hands-on leadership in something like cost.
- **S = Skills** ..... To have distinctive capabilities

which ensure competitive advantage.

- **S = Systems** ..... To be able to adopt not only the systems that work, but also the systems that have a cutting edge.

#### The Four Forces of Competition

- The Quality and Capability of the Leader
- The Quality and Capability of the Followers
- Morale
- Resources

#### A Winning Business Concept QUIVERS

Mac Donald's business motto is: QSCV. I have coined a similar success formula as: QUIVERS, based on that very successful Motto: QSCV.

QUIVERS can be adopted and practised and reap a big-time prize for money and fame by creative, diligent and innovative business.

But, before adopting and practicing QUIVERS, a sincere and purposeful business should avoid the following eight factors of failure and adopt and practise the eight principles of success:

#### The Eight Factors of Failure To Be Avoided

- |                  |              |
|------------------|--------------|
| 1. Arrogance     | 5. Myopia    |
| 2. Greed         | 6. Apathy    |
| 3. Complacency   | 7. Inertia   |
| 4. Inconsistency | 8. Ignorance |

#### The Eight Principles of Success To Be Cultivated

##### The Principle of:

- |                                     |                     |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. A Definite, Achievable Objective | 5. Economy of Force |
| 2. Concentration or Focus           | 6. Surprise         |
| 3. Offensive                        | 7. Security         |
| 4. Cooperation                      | 8. Mobility         |

#### Now, the basic meaning of Quivers:

- |                           |
|---------------------------|
| <b>Q</b> for Quality      |
| <b>U</b> for Uniqueness   |
| <b>I</b> for Innovation   |
| <b>V</b> for Value        |
| <b>E</b> for Excellence   |
| <b>R</b> for Relationship |
| <b>S</b> for Service      |

#### Some Concepts of Quality are:

- Design Quality
- Conformance Quality
- Performance Quality
- Must-Be Quality
- More-Is-Better Quality
- Surprising Quality

- \* WoW and WoWoW Factor : Excellence
- \* Kaizen : Continuous Quality Improvement (Everybody can improve anything at anytime)
- \* Dantotsu : You can Better the Best
- \* Six Sigma : Error-free, Zero-defect.

#### The Four Qualities Customers Cherish:

1. A Steak is A Steak Is A Steak (Basic Quality)
2. A Tender Steak (Expected Q)
3. A Warm, Tender Steak (Desired Q)
4. An Sizzling Steak (Unanticipated Q)

#### The Meaning of Quality

- |              |                            |
|--------------|----------------------------|
| <b>Q</b> for | Caliber or Standard        |
| <b>U</b> for | Usefulness/Utility         |
| <b>A</b> for | Attributes & Features      |
| <b>L</b> for | Life/Longevity             |
| <b>I</b> for | Innovativeness             |
| <b>T</b> for | Toughness & Strength       |
| <b>Y</b> for | Yield of Excellent Results |

#### Some Rules of the Game of Business

- To Be Proactive
- To Begin with the End in Mind
- To Put First Things First
- To Think Win-Win
- To Seek first to Understand ... then to be Understood
- To Create Synergy
- To Drive, Strive, Thrive, Arrive, Revive with Self-renewal

#### The Stakeholders of a Business and Their Expectations

- \* **Owners / Shareholders**  
Their Expectations are :  
Profit, Prosperity, Popularity and Perpetuity
- \* **Managers**  
Their Expectations are :  
Position, Power, Pay and Parks
- \* **Employees**  
Their Expectations are :  
Pay, Participation, Promotion and Performance Aids
- \* **Customers**  
Their Expectations are :  
Value for Money, Availability, Partnership, Advice

#### Objectives of firms

##### Profit and other objectives

No firm can exist in the long run in the private sector unless it earns a profit. Earning profits may involve a number of different strategies.

Small business may simply be aiming to survive and to earn sufficient profit to live on. In larger scale enterprises, the direction a firm takes will inevitably be a compromise between the aims and objectives of the separate groups affected by the firm. We have already seen that in large companies, the owners (shareholders), the managers and the workers may form three largely distinct groups. Additionally, all firms have to take notice of the interests of their customers.

Owners	Managers
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Share of profits through dividend payments</li> <li>Rising value of their shareholding</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Job security through keeping confidence of shareholders</li> <li>Diversifying to spread risks</li> <li>Job satisfaction through company growth</li> </ul>
Workers	Customers
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Job security</li> <li>Good pay</li> <li>Control over their conditions of work</li> <li>Job satisfaction through involvement in decision making</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Value-for-money products</li> <li>Regular availability of products</li> <li>Goods and services that satisfy their demand</li> </ul>

U Kyi Mun residing in Yangon is a consultant of NAING GROUP Capital CO., LTD.

Some aims of 'interest groups' involved with large companies.  
Ref : 1). *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People* by Stephen Covey  
2). *Examining Economics* by Andrew Tibbitt

## 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.



## LOCAL NEWS

## Sons of servicemen novitiated at local battalion in Kawthoung

KAWTHOUNG, 13 April—Under the aegis of Coastal Region Command Commander Maj-Gen Khin Maung Htay and Daw Win Win Myint, the communal novitiation ceremony of No 262 Infantry Regiment in Kawthoung Station on 11 April.

At Thukha Bonsan Monastery, members of the Sangha initiated eight boys into novices and 16 men into monks. It was attended by officers and other ranks of No 262 Infantry Regiment, township level officials and families.

*Kyaw Soe (Kawthoung)*



*Families  
of local  
regiment  
offer  
alms to  
members  
of the  
Sangha.*

## 108 boys initiated into novice

MAGWAY, 13 April—Dr U Soe Tun and wife Daw Khin Myo Nwe of Magway Community Health University sponsored novitiation of 108 boys for initiating them into Buddhist order as novices in Htonpauktaw Village of Magway Region.

“Some people cannot effort to initiate their sons to be novice. Last three years, Minister U Zaw Min made donations for novitiation for the boys. We all thanked the donors for their sponsorships of initiating the boys into Buddhist order and shared merits gained,” an older person of the village.

*Magway Chit Pauk*

## Thaphanseik River Water Pumping Station benefits cultivation of crops in Magway

MAGWAY, 13 April—After harvesting monsoon paddy, the local farmers from Thaphanseik, Madeegon and Thamandaw villages are growing summer paddy in the irrigated area of Thaphanseik river

water pumping area in Magway of Magway Region.

“I am farmer from Padeegon Village. In the past, we missed chance to grow crops. After river water pumping station

has been established, we cultivate summer paddy in addition to monsoon one. We can produce 150-170 baskets of paddy,” said a local of Padeegon Village.

*Magway Chit Pauk*



## Strong winds hit Myingyan Township

MYINGYAN, 13 April—Strong winds hit Hsimeekhon Village and its nearby villages in Myingyan Township of Mandalay Region on 10 April evening.

In the incident, umbrella of Shwezigon Pagoda was tilted; one public rest-hall of monastery collapsed; Kyaukphaya Pagoda broken down in Kalar Village; prayer hall collapsed and 26 houses were destroyed and roofs of 175 houses were blown off. In addition, 34 lamp-posts linking part 1 and part 2 of Hsimeekhon

river water pumping station broken in the incident.

Mandalay Region Minister for Planning and Economics U Aung Zan, local authorities and officials comforted strong wind victims and donated K 150,000 to the fund for repairing of pagoda. Township General Administration Department provided rice and instant noodle packets worth K 619,200 and social organizations, bags of rice worth K 215,000.

*Zaw Min Naing  
(Myingyan)*

*Photo shows summer paddy plantation in irrigated area.*



## Low-income dwellers get set top boxes in Chanmyathazi Township

MANDALAY, 13 April—A ceremony to distribute 1000 pieces of set top boxes to the low-income households was held for the third time in Chanmyathazi Township of Mandalay on 10 April.

Deputy Minister for Information U Pike Htway had handed over 21129 set top boxes to Mandalay Region Minister for Finance Dr Myint Kyu. The minis-

ter presented the boxes to 26 townships.

Thanks to distribution of set top boxes, the local people can enjoy programmes of TV through 15-16 channels.

After the boxes had been distributed for the first time, the local people could enjoy competitions of athletes in the 27<sup>th</sup> SEA Games.

*Wai Phyo Aung*

## Youths pay respects to the aged

PATHEINGYI, 13 April—Members of Youth Meals Officering Association from Aungmingala Ward 1 in Patheingyi paid respects to 55 older persons as of 9 April.

The association presented cash assistance and gifts to the older persons

but they did not spend their fund. Their fund is only spent on offering meals to members of the Sangha.

Wellwisher U Ye Tun-Daw Moe Moe Oo donated K 50000 and gifts to oldest grandma Aphwa Chein.—MMAL

## Preventive measures against Sittoung River bank taken in Toungoo

TOUNGGOO, 13 April—Bago Region Directorate of Marine Administration is taking prevention against landslides in Ywadanshe Village in Toungoo Township, that faced dangerous situations at highest level water of Sittoung River in last late-monsoon.

Due to erosion of the river, the embankment of the West Hsin Village gradually falls into landslides. During the two-year period, a total of 34 houses were moved to the safe places.

Local people and authorities made concerted efforts for construction of retaining walls to deflect the water way from the village to other direction.

“The local people missed the chance to do their own works but they are energetically building the retaining walls with genuine goodwill. Because, the water level will rise at the time when there rains in the Thingyan festival,” said an official.

Irrigation Department also carries out maintenance of 78590 feet long embankment along Sittoung River.

*Ko Lwin (Swa)*

## Japan intends to resume whaling in 2015

LOS ANGELES, 13 April — Japan's Institute of Cetacean Research on Friday filed briefs in the US District Court in Seattle stating its intent to resume whale hunting in the Southern Ocean as early as fiscal 2015.

The move immediately faced strong opposition from conservation group Sea Shepherd as it came less than two weeks after the International Court of Justice ordered Japan on 31 March to stop its so-called research whaling in the ocean.

The Japanese government plans to resume whale hunting as soon as the fiscal year starting April 2015 by changing its research program, such as reducing the number of whales to be taken.

The ICR has said that the new programme will not run counter to the ICJ ruling. The ICR and Sea Shepherd have been locked in a legal dispute in the United States, with the institute seeking an end to the antiwhaling group's interference in its hunt.

"The statement that Japan issued that they would comply with the ICJ ruling was I believe insincere," said Sea Shepherd founder Paul Watson.

*Kyodo News*



*A girl poses for photo in front of azalea blossoms during the Jinggangshan Azalea Festival in Jinggangshan, east China's Jiangxi Province, on 12 April, 2014. More than 30 species of azalea from Jinggangshan and some rare species from the United States, Belgium, Japan and Germany were on display during the festival, which kicked off here on Saturday. —XINHUA*

## Boston ramps up security ahead of first marathon since bombing

BOSTON, 13 April — Boston officials vowed on Saturday to balance tight security with a feeling of fun at the coming Boston Marathon, the first running of the world-renown race since the bomb attack last year killed three people and injured 264.

Officials advised residents and visitors to expect a large police presence through the week leading up to the April 21 race, starting with a memorial service attended by Vice President Joe Biden on Tuesday, the one-year anniversary of the attack.

"It will be the Boston Marathon as it has always been," Mayor Martin Walsh said during a press conference in front of city

hall. "Our goal is for everyone to enjoy the race."

Walsh said the city has prepared extensive security measures for preventing as well as responding to

emergencies. Over 100 cameras have been installed at more than 50 observation points along the Boston portion of the course.



*A peace sign is seen on a message tree as visitors look at artefacts in a public exhibition of objects and mementos left at the makeshift memorials that emerged in the aftermath of the Boston Marathon Bombings in Boston, Massachusetts, on 7 April, 2014. — REUTERS*

## Hungary's absentee ballot count gives Fidesz-KDNP two-thirds parliamentary majority

BUDAPEST, 13 April — Saturday's absentee ballot count confirmed the ruling Fidesz-KDNP party's two-thirds majority in Hungarian parliament, albeit by a single vote.

According to the National Elections Bureau, Fidesz-KDNP has 133 seats in the new parliament, the left-wing coalition has 38, the far-right Jobbik has 23, and the green LMP has 5.

The results of the Hungarian parliamentary elections held on 6 April remain unofficial until all challenges have been investigated.

Challenges will be ac-

cepted once the vote count is completed nation-wide but will be limited to charges of violations of election law backed by evidence. There will be no recounts for any other reason.

Official results could be delayed until early May at latest, but chances of any modification are almost nil.

Fidesz-KDNP MP candidates were ahead in two Budapest constituencies and one left-wing coalition candidate was similarly ahead in a third, where absentee ballots could have changed outcomes.—Xinhua

## Shaolin Temple invites calligraphy lovers to copy scriptures

ZHENGZHOU, 13 April — The Shaolin Temple, the cradle of Chinese kung fu, has invited 10,000 lovers of Chinese calligraphy around the world to copy Buddhist scriptures by hand.

"The activity will not only preserve classic Buddhist literature, but also help people cultivate themselves in line with Buddhism doctrines," said Shi Yanzhi, a grand master of the Buddhist temple in Dengfeng, central China's Henan Province.

*Xinhua*

## Truck in deadly California crash on fire before collision

SACRAMENTO, (California), 13 April — A witness reported that a FedEx tractor-trailer that crashed into a bus in northern California on Thursday killing 10 people was on fire before impact, the National Transportation Safety Board said on Saturday.

The driver of a car that had passed the bus just before the crash said flames were coming from beneath the cab of the truck, board member Mark Rosekind told a Saturday evening news conference. The truck clipped the car and then hit the bus, Rosekind said.

Among those killed were five teen-aged students en route to a college recruitment event, along with the drivers of the bus and truck. Some of the dead

were ejected from the bus, he said.

The crash happened on Interstate 5, about 90 miles north of the state capital, Sacramento. The students were from the Los Angeles area. The truck left a southbound lane at a 10-degree angle, crossed a 58-foot median into a northbound lane, hit a Nissan Altima and then struck the bus which was behind the Nissan, Rosekind said. There were no barriers in the median, he said.

"There is no indication of tire marks from braking in the median or in the northbound lane," Rosekind said. The driver of the Nissan said flames were coming from under the truck's cab, although her passenger did not see

the flames, Rosekind said. He did not identify the driver or passenger, but they were interviewed by California news media and Bonnie and Joe Duran said the truck was on fire before the collision.

"I was heading along in the outside lane and I looked over and saw the FedEx truck coming straight for me, and he was in flames already," Bonnie Duran told a CBS television affiliate. The preliminary investigation showed that the bus driver swerved to the right in an attempt to avoid the crash. "There was clearly reaction on the part of the bus driver," Rosekind said, adding "We can differentiate that from the truck driver, where we see no (skid) marks."—Reuters



*A Fed-Ex truck and a chartered bus carrying high school students are engulfed in flames after the truck crossed a divider on Interstate 5, side-swiped a car and smashed head-on into the bus near Orland, California in this picture courtesy of Evan Smutny taken on 10 April, 2014. — REUTERS*



## SCIENCE &amp; TECHNOLOGY

**'Million Orchid' project to revive native Florida flowers**

MIAMI, 13 April — Inside a small bright lab, nestled behind sprawling Banyan trees in Miami's Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden, scientists and volunteers tend to tens of thousands of just-germinated orchids tucked in glass bottles.

Fifty thousand more with long verdant leaves wait in a nearby nursery. In the coming weeks, crews in bucket trucks, usually used to fix power lines, will lift the fragile plants onto trees that line south Florida's roads, hoping they will take root and re-establish the blanket of millions of brightly colored flowers that once covered the state.

"We want to bring back not just the orchids, but the insects that pollinate them," said Carl Lewis, who leads the Million Orchid Project as director of the botanic garden.

Decades of breakneck urban development and population growth all but destroyed the region's native orchid species. The vividly colored flowers were pulled from their perches by enthusiasts and



*A Pine Pink Orchid (Bletia purpurea) is seen at Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden in Miami, Florida on 8 April, 2014.*  
REUTERS

dealers, who shipped them north to be sold in home stores and at spring farmer's markets.

Florida's obsession with orchids, particularly rare species, was detailed in journalist Susan Orlean's 1998 book, "The

Orchid Thief," which was about the arrest of a man and a group of Seminole Indians who poached the rare Ghost Orchid in hopes of cloning it for profit.

The effort to reintroduce millions of orchids in Miami was inspired by

a similar undertaking in Singapore that began in the mid-1990s, Lewis said.

Of the island-country's 229 native orchids, 170 are extinct and 54 are "critically endangered," Yam Tim Wing, principal researcher at the Singapore Botanic

Gardens, said in an email.

In the last two decades, researchers have managed to re-introduce 18 species of orchids once extinct in the wild across the densely urbanized island. The flowers include the Tiger Orchid, the largest orchid

species in the world. "More than 10 years after they were planted through the program, several Tiger Orchid plants flowered for the first time by the roadside in March 2013," Yam wrote.

A handful of the Florida species that Fairchild scientists are hoping to repopulate grow in limited numbers at the garden. The Cigar Orchid's tendrils hang from a wide palm tree, sprouting tiny yellow and brown flowers. A Pine Pink Orchid grows up from in between a broad-leaf shrub, blossoming slender lavender flowers.

Scientists know little about what makes the plants thrive. The most stunning species blossom as little as once every few years. Inside the lab, orchids germinate for different lengths of time, sometimes even in complete darkness. The seeds, as small as a speck of dust, are planted in different concentrations of nutrient-filled gels to see which stimulates the fastest growth, helping prepare for the myriad situations the plants face in the wild.

Reuters

**IAC increases stake in Tinder**

LOS ANGELES, 13 April — The shares of Barry Diller's IAC/InterActive Corp rose as much as 3 percent to \$70.34 on Friday after it increased its stake in the popular dating app, Tinder, according to a Bloomberg report.

IAC bought another 10 percent of Tinder for \$500 million from investor Chamath Palihapitiya, Bloomberg reported, adding that Tinder was now valued at \$5 billion. IAC Chief Executive Sam Yagan confirmed the transaction to Forbes, but said the valuation of \$5 billion was "nowhere near the truth."

Palihapitiya tweeted

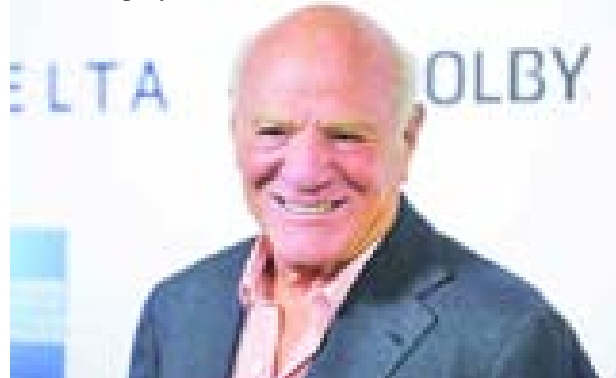
on Friday: "My Tinder sale for \$500M is inaccurate. I sold my stake but value was much less. Thx @samYagan for official IAC pos'n. #wishfulthinking"

A spokeswoman from IAC declined to comment.

IAC owns more than 50 percent of Tinder, but declined to give more details about its stake.

IAC's stock later trimmed its gains and closed at \$68.82, up 0.6 percent. Tinder has about 10 million users who signed up with their Facebook accounts. The app matches other users based on their geographic location.

Reuters



*Media tycoon Barry Diller attends the performance of the one-man-show "One Night Only" benefiting the Motion Picture and Television Fund in Los Angeles on 12 Oct, 2013.* —REUTERS

**Microsoft, Apple diverge on bankrolling big patent buyer**

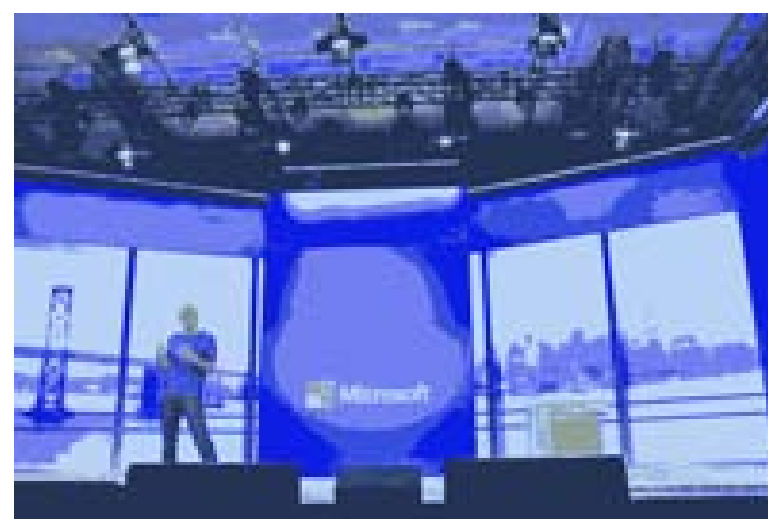
SAN FRANCISCO, 13 April — Patent buyer Intellectual Ventures has persuaded Microsoft and Sony to invest in its latest acquisition fund while Apple and Intel, which invested with IV previously, declined to participate, according to people briefed on the fund-raising.

The investment decisions by four technology companies come in the midst of a heated debate over whether it is too easy for patent owners to extract large royalty payments, and whether patent buying firms spur or stifle innovation.

Last year IV curtailed patent acquisitions as it sought new investors, and IV now is ramping up, say three sources familiar with IV's activity in the patent market.

"Microsoft and Sony's investments give IV a fresh war chest to buy new patents," said Kevin Jakel, chief executive of Unified Patents, which advises tech companies on alternatives to patent aggregators like IV.

But Apple and Intel's decision is significant because the biggest tech com-



*Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella gestures during his keynote address at the company's "build" conference in San Francisco, California on 2 April, 2014.*  
REUTERS

panies have supported IV in the past. "This would be a dramatic departure," Jakel said.

Intellectual Ventures declined to discuss investments. Microsoft, Sony, Intel and Apple also would not comment. It is unclear whether Intel and Apple could still opt to invest in IV's vehicle at a later time.

Created in 2000, Intellectual Ventures has raised about \$6 billion and acquired 70,000 patents and other intellectual property assets. The company is seeking to raise \$3 billion more, a 2013 investor presentation reviewed by

Reuters shows.

Over the years IV and other firms like it have faced criticism from some in the technology industry, who argue that firms like IV, which do not primarily make products, exploit the patent system by demanding royalties and threatening litigation.

IV argues that by buying patents from inventors, it creates a mechanism for them to capitalize on their ideas. Several large tech companies previously invested in IV, which gave them low-cost licenses to IV's vast patent portfolios as well as a portion of roy-

alties IV collected.

Microsoft Corp, Sony Corp, Apple and Intel all invested in IV's previous funds, court filings show. Prior to co-founding IV, Nathan Myhrvold was chief technology officer at Microsoft working closely with Bill Gates. Another IV co-founder, Peter Detkin, was previously an Intel in-house lawyer.

IV's fundraising comes as a proposal to make it easier to fight patent lawsuits passed the House of Representatives last year and is currently pending in the Senate Judiciary Committee.—Reuters

## S Korea, Japan to hold talks on wartime sex slavery next week

SEOUL, 13 April — South Korea and Japan are likely to hold director general-level talks in Seoul next week to discuss the issue of Japan's wartime sexual enslavement of Korean women, *Yonhap News Agency* reported Saturday, quoting government sources.

"The talks will likely be held next week and South Korea is in the final process of discussion to fix the date of the director level-talks with the Japanese side," one government source said, according to the report.

The two governments largely agreed to holding the director general-level talks at the end of March. However, South Korea reportedly wants the meeting, if held, to focus on

the so-called "comfort women" issue while Japan would rather it take up various outstanding bilateral issues.

Junichi Ihara, head of the Japanese Foreign Ministry's Asian and Oceanian Affairs Bureau, and Lee Sang Deok, director general of the South Korean Foreign Ministry's Northeast Asian Affairs Bureau, are expected to attend. There is a possibility that the two sides will exchange opinions on various matters centered on the comfort women issue.

It will be the first director general-level meeting between the Japan and South Korea since the middle of February.

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and South Korean President Park

Geun Hye met for their first formal talks in the Netherlands at the end of March. Based on that development, the Japanese side is apparently exploring the possibility of a summit meeting between the two countries.

Ties between Japan and South Korea have been severely strained since Abe came to office in December 2012 amid quarrels over historical issues surrounding Japan's colonial rule of Korea and a territorial dispute in the Sea of Japan.

Japan has urged South Korea to hold high-level dialogues to resolve their differences, but Seoul has made it clear that the Japanese government must first address historical issues, including the so-called "comfort women" issue.

*Kyodo News*



*A tourist takes part in a water gun battle during celebrations for Songkran Festival, in Bangkok, Thailand, on 12 April, 2014. Songkran Festival, also known as water festival, is celebrated in Thailand as a traditional New Year's Day which normally falls on 13 to 15 April.—XINHUA*

## Vietnam holds biennial Hue Festival 2014 to showcase heritage value

HO CHI MINH CITY, 13 April — Vietnam's biennial Hue Festival 2014, which kicked off in the central city of Hue on Saturday and runs through April 20, is expected to give tourists a host of compelling art, cultural and fashion performances from Vietnam and 36 other countries and territories.

According to organizers, this year's festival, the eighth of its kind held so far in the country, attracted nearly 600 artists from 43 international art troupes from five continents, along with more than 800 local artists. Around 100,000 international tourists are expected to watch the events, up 20 percent over 2012, in addition to thousands of domestic tourists.

The cultural feast will offer some 100 performances, which are strongly indicative of the countries' and regions' distinctive culture.

One of the new

features at festival is the international electro music fest, set to run from Sunday to next Saturday. It will feature four celebrated electro music bands, the UK's "Micachu", France's "Joachim Bouaziz", German's "Mijk van Dijk" and Vietnam's "Tri Minh".

Captivating performances by several world-leading DJs from Vietnam and several European countries are expected to hold audiences spellbound.

Besides, the feast will boast performances by Australia's "Deep Blue", Denmark's Stoffer and Maskinen, Israel's "Taram" and Congo's "Gasandji" as well as shows which combine Oriental and Western music like "Phuong Dong quyen ru" (The enchanting Orient) and "Vu cam" (Dances and musical instruments). A rock live show will close the feast on the evening of 19 April.—Xinhua



*Models pose at "1st Suzhou International Tourism Fair 2014" on 12 April, 2014, Suzhou, China. The expo kicked off on Saturday.—XINHUA*

## Sri Lanka has no faith in international probe

COLOMBO, 13 April — The Sri Lankan Government on Saturday said it has no faith in an international investigation into the alleged human rights abuses said to have occurred during the war in the country. President Mahinda Rajapaksa's special envoy on human rights and Government Minister Mahinda Samarasinghe said that Sri Lanka feels an international investigation will lack credibility and will not be independent.

Samarasinghe was speaking to reporters after meeting some of the island's leading Buddhist monks and briefing them on the latest developments in the country.

The UN Human Rights Council in Geneva last month passed a resolution, calling for an international investigation in Sri Lanka over allegations that human rights abuses were committed during the war between Tamil Tiger rebels and the army. Human Rights Council members also called on Sri Lanka to reduce the number of troops in the former war zones in the north in order to restore normalcy, five years after the war ended.

However, Samarasinghe said the decision to maintain troops on the ground in the North was justified following a clash between three former rebels and the army in the

northern Vavuniya town.

A most wanted rebel member identified as Gobi and two others were killed following a confrontation with the army on Thursday.

The army said that an exchange of gun-fire had taken place when soldiers confronted Gobi and two other former rebels who were armed. All three were eventually killed. Samarasinghe said that even the UN Human Rights Council had been told there was a need to maintain troops in the North as there were reports the rebels was attempting to regroup, and the clash involving Gobi has now proven the government stand was correct.

*Xinhua*

## Cambodia prepares for traditional New Year celebrations

PHNOM PENH, 13 April — Cambodia is preparing to celebrate its traditional Lunar New Year — the Year of the Horse, which will fall on 14-16 April.

People have begun to leave capital Phnom Penh on Sunday for their hometowns in provinces in order to enjoy the largest holiday occasion with their families.

Prime Minister Hun Sen has blessed the compatriots with best wishes

on the occasion. "May the Year of the Horse bring the Cambodian people with four Buddha's blessing: longevity, nobility, happiness and strength," the premier said during a graduation ceremony for about 1,800 students at the Human Resources University on Thursday.

He also called on people to do their utmost to avoid road accidents when they are leaving for home and returning during the

New Year celebrations. "I'd also like to appeal to all armed forces and local authorities everywhere in Cambodia to maintain security and protect people's safety while they enjoy the New Year holiday," he said.

Early this week, the Phnom Penh Municipality issued a directive, advising local authorities to strengthen security and public order for the people during the holiday.

The directive also

banned people from gambling, splashing water on each other, throwing bags of water on travelers and painting charcoal or powder on other faces during the celebrations. Traditionally, days ahead of the New Year, Trot dance, a Khmer traditional dance, is invited to perform at houses, shops, ministries or institutions as a symbol to drive away all bad luck from the past year and to greet the New Year.

*Xinhua*



*The steam locomotive "SL Ginga (SL Milky Way)" departs from JR Hanamaki Station in Iwate Prefecture, northern Japan, on 12 April, 2014, as East Japan Railway Co started operating the train between Hanamaki and Kamaishi Stations on the Kamaishi Line as part of efforts to help restoration in areas affected by the 2011 disastrous quake and tsunami. The train, named after "Gingatetsudo no Yoru (Night On The Milky Way Train)" written by Kenji Miyazawa, runs on weekends and holidays. Miyazawa, the late poet and author of children's literature, was born in Hanamaki in 1896.*

*KYODO NEWS*



## GENERAL



Photo taken on 1 April, 2014 shows soldiers from an artillery regiment of the Chengdu Military Area Command attending a bayonet training which is held to improve the force's combat capability.—XINHUA

## UNICEF calls for urgent action to avert child malnutrition in S Sudan

NAIROBI, 13 April—The UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) has called for more efforts to help thousands of children from suffering from severe acute malnutrition in South Sudan.

UNICEF Representative in South Sudan Jonathan Veitch warned that malnutrition that South Sudan is on the verge of a nutrition crisis and nearly a quarter of 1 million children will suffer severe acute malnutrition by the end of the year if more is not done now.

"Sadly, worse is yet

to come. If conflict continues, and farmers miss the planting season, we will see child malnutrition on a scale never before experienced here," said Veitch said in a statement received on Saturday.

Many children in South Sudan already faced emergency levels of under-nutrition in the two and a half years since independence in 2011.

The UN agency said the ongoing conflict, which erupted in 15 December, 2013, has pushed children to the edge — unless treatment is not scaled up

immediately, up to 50,000 children under the age of five are likely to die.

"If we cannot get more funds and better access to reach malnourished children in South Sudan, tens of thousands of under-fives will die," Veitch said.

He said more than 3.7 million people, including almost 740,000 children under five, in the country are at high risk of food insecurity. Many are already resorting to eating so-called "famine foods," wild foods such as bulbs and grasses.

Xinhua

## Funeral in Missouri for soldier killed at Fort Hood

ROLLA, 13 April—Mourners gathered in Rolla, Missouri, on Saturday for the funeral of one of three US soldiers killed in a shooting rampage at the Fort Hood Army base earlier this month.

Friends and family of Iraq war veteran Timothy Owens, 37, a native of Effingham, Illinois, attended a private service at First Baptist Church.

Outside the church, several dozen motorcyclists, many of them veterans, prepared to escort the hearse to the cemetery.

Veteran Frank Reinhart said the mission of the Patriot Guard Riders was to ensure dignity at memorial services for fallen military, something his generation missed after returning from

the Vietnam War.

"You go through little towns and see people with their hands over their hearts, it's very moving," Reinhart said, adding that the group aims "to see that the family gets support and a little bit of honour."

Two other soldiers died in the attack this month — Daniel Ferguson, 39, of Mulberry, Florida, and Carlos Lazaney Rodriguez, 38, of Puerto Rico. Their funerals will be held on Monday in Florida.

Sixteen people were wounded in the shooting spree before the suspect, Army Specialist Ivan Lopez, 34, killed himself, authorities said. They believe an argument over leave may have set off the incident, the second mass



Army Sergeant Timothy Owens, 37, of Illinois, who served as a heavy vehicle driver and had been deployed to Iraq and Kuwait, is pictured in this undated handout photo from Fort Hood Public Affairs Office.

REUTERS

shooting at the Texas Army base in five years.

Thirteen people, soldiers as well as civilians, were killed at Fort Hood in 2009 by Major Nidal Hasan, an Army psychiatrist, who has since been

convicted of murder and sentenced to death.

US President Barack Obama earlier this week spoke at a memorial service held at the base for the three slain soldiers.

Reuters

## Eight dead, 14 hurt in fatal highway accident in S Philippines

DAVAO CITY, 13 April—Eight people were killed and over a dozen others were injured when a wayward truck plowed to several vehicles along a national road in this southern Philippine city over the weekend, police said on Sunday.

The accident happened along a diversion road in Maa village of Davao shortly after 8 pm Saturday, said Chief Inspector Jed Clamor, Southern Mindanao police regional spokesperson.

Clamor told Xinhua by text message that a 10-wheeler truck apparently lost its brakes and rammed into four other vehicles, including an Asian utility vehicle (AUV) with 15 people on-

board.

At least eight people have been confirmed killed, while 14 others were injured and rushed to various hospitals in the city for treatment, said Clamor. "The truck driver is now under custody (of the Davao City police)," Clamor said. "Charges are to be filed against him."

Saturday's accident was the second that happened in the city which resulted in multiple fatalities.

Bad roads, reckless driving and poorly-maintained vehicles are the main causes of accidents on Philippine highways, which according to police kill at least 1,000 people yearly.

Xinhua

## Mexico prepares first illegal drug financing blacklist

MEXICO CITY, 13 April—Mexico is preparing to implement new regulations that will allow the government to identify individuals and businesses linked to drug trafficking and ban financial firms from doing business with them, the finance minister said on Saturday.

Mexican Finance Minister Luis Videgaray said banking authorities would provide further details in coming days.

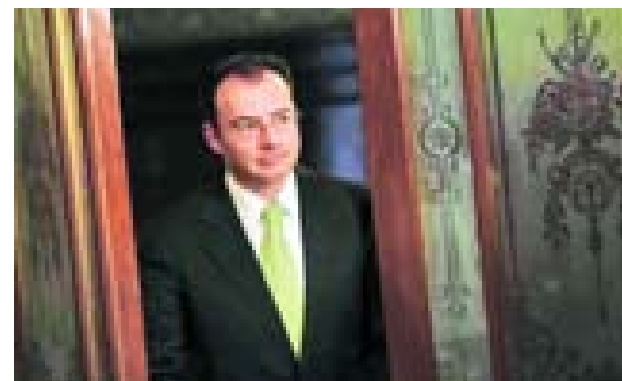
"For the first time, we have the capacity to issue a list and this list will impede any financial institution from carrying out transactions with these people," Videgaray told a news conference in Washington DC, according to a transcript.

The US Treasury's Of-

fice of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) periodically issues blacklists of individuals and businesses alleged to be laundering drug gang profits.

Mexico's powerful cartels launder billions of dollars a year made by shipping illegal drugs to the United States. US authorities have hailed Mexico's efforts to fight drug gangs and take down major drug lords, but they have also criticized a lack of action to dismantle cartel finances.

Videgaray said individuals identified by OFAC, or in a similar list put out by the United Nations, could end up being sanctioned in Mexico but that his administration would not necessarily implement all US-identified targets.—Reuters



Mexico's Economy Finance Minister Luis Videgaray meets with Reuters at his office during the Reuters Latin America Investment Summit at the National Palace in Mexico City on 22 May, 2013.—REUTERS

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## 15 killed in rebel attack against election in C India

NEW DELHI, 13 April—In a major blow to India's election, at least 15 people, including security personnel and election officials, were killed Saturday in land mine attacks by left-wing rebels in central India, said police.

This is the second deadly attack by the Naxalite rebels who killed two policemen on Thursday in the eastern state of Bihar during the polling.

Otherwise, the election has held four phases so far in a generally peaceful atmosphere and high turnouts.

The government has deployed thousands of security personnel in five worst rebel-infested states of Chattisgarh, Jharkhand, Orissa, Bihar and West Bengal during the election which is expected to last until early May.

The rebels have threatened all voters who might participate in polling and vowed to attack security forces and election officials wherever and whenever possible. Saturday's first attack took place near Darbha in the state's Jagdalpur District when the rebels attacked an emergency vehicle carrying some eight para-military troopers. The second attack took place in Bijapur District where a group of armed Naxalites blew up a bus carrying a number of election officials who were returning from polling duty. Both attacks took place in the Naxalite-infested Bastar region where peaceful polls were held just two days back and witnessed a moderate turnout despite a boycott call by the Naxalites.

A massive manhunt has been launched to track down those responsible for the two attacks during the general elections in the country.—Xinhua



People perform during the annual Cherry Blossom Festival Parade along the Constitution Avenue in Washington DC, capital of the United States, on 12 April, 2014. The parade is one of the US capital's biggest public events, drawing about 100,000 spectators from around the world.—XINHUA

## Sunny Leone: My past has made me what I am today

MUMBAI, 13 April—Actress Sunny Leone, who is riding high on the success of her latest Bollywood project Ragini MMS 2, says she doesn't look back with regret at her past as an adult film star.

"As far as my career goes, I don't regret anything that I have done. I believe that everything that I have done has led me to today," Sunny told reporters here on Friday at the unveiling of the cover

page of *Mandate* magazine, featuring her.

"This is the most amazing time of my life and this would not have been happening if my past did not exist. So there are no regrets regarding my profession," she added.

The adult film star has been a part of the Mumbai entertainment industry since her 2011 appearance on *Bigg Boss 5*. She made her Bollywood debut with the 2012 erotic thriller *Jism 2*.

She will next be seen in *Tina* and *Lolo*.—PTI



Sunny Leone is happy at the success of her latest Bollywood movie, *Ragini MMS 2*.

## Shah Rukh Khan: If you want a happy country, go out and vote

GURGAON, 13 April—Superstar Shah Rukh Khan has asked his fans to go out and vote in large numbers during these Lok Sabha elections if they want to live in a 'happy country'. The Lok Sabha elections this year are being held in nine phases from 7 April to 12 May.

"We want to live in a happy country. After watching things on TV and reading about people, I think they are intelligent enough to make up their mind on who to vote and who not to," the 48-year-old actor said during an event here. Yesterday Samajwadi Party chief Mulayam Singh Yadav and leader Abu Azmi, who is actress Ayesha Takia's father-in-law, created a furore amongst the public with their comment on rape.

Reacting to their statements, Shah Rukh said, "Our

country is going through elections. I think during the elections a lot of people say a lot of things. Whatever small, little knowledge that I have about these things I can only ask people to go out and vote for people who you would like to see as your leader."

The actor is currently shooting for Farah Khan's *Happy New Year*, and he

says the round-the-clock schedule will prohibit him from attending this year's India International Film Awards (IIFA) to be held in Tampa Bay, US.

PTI



SRK says people are not able to make up their mind on who they want to vote for.

## Vienna orchestra to return Nazi-looted painting

VIENNA, 13 April—The Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra will return to a French family a valuable painting that was looted by the

Nazis and given to the orchestra as a gift in 1940 by a Viennese secret police official.

The heirs of the painting's late owner, Marcel Koch, will receive "Port-en-Bessin" by neo-Impressionist Paul Signac at a ceremony this year, the orchestra said on Saturday, announcing the latest step to address its past association with Nazism.

About half the Philharmonic's musicians were Nazi party members by 1942, four years after Hitler's annexation of Austria. Thirteen musicians with Jewish origins or relations were driven out of the orchestra and five died in concentration camps.

"We have tried for many years to come to grips with the Vienna Philharmonic's past and face up to our responsibility to make good historical injustices," orchestra director Clemens Hellsberg said in a statement cited by the *Austria Press Agency*.

Last year the Philharmonic revoked awards it had made during Hitler's rule to six leading Nazis.

"Restitution of this painting is a special concern of ours," Hellsberg said. The orchestra said it was only now returning the painting as it only recently tracked down the rightful owner.—Reuters

## Outkast goes back to 1990s hip hop at Coachella reunion

Danielle Haim of rock band Haim performs at the Coachella Music Festival in Indio, California on 11 April, 2014. A slew of rising artists and bands kicked off the annual Coachella Valley Music and Arts Festival on Friday, ahead of the much anticipated reunion of hip-hop duo Outkast headlining the first night of the three-day festival.

REUTERS



INDIO, (California) 13 April—Hip hop duo Outkast reunited for the first time in eight years at the Coachella Valley Music and Arts Festival on Friday, and brought a taste of old school hip hop with them to the stage.

Outkast, formed by Atlanta rappers Andre 3000 and Big Boi, kicked off the anticipated set with "B.O.B" from the duo's 2000 album "Stankonia," before taking it back to the 1990s with sin-

gles such as "ATLiens" and "Skew It on the Bar-B."

"It's good to be back," Big Boi, real name Antwan Andre Patton, said on the Coachella stage against the backdrop of the Southern California desert lit up at night. Outkast last worked together on 2006 album "Idlewild," from which the rappers performed "Vibrate" and "Bowtie."

The duo were joined by soul singer Janelle Monae

on the stage as they sang her hit "Tightrope," and then by rapper Future, who rose to fame in the 1990s hip hop scene.

The rappers saved their best for last, bringing out their most mainstream hits "Ms Jackson," "The Way You Move" and "Hey Ya" at the end, before the set was cut short at 1:00 am (4:00 am ET), inciting boos from the crowd and apologies from Andre 3000.—Reuters



## GENERAL

**Firemen extinguish a blaze at Ninan Mountain in Baoshan City, southwest China's Yunnan Province, on 12 April, 2014. Over 700 firemen have been sent to Ninan Mountain to put out a forest fire, which occurred here on Saturday afternoon.**

XINHUA



## Kerry voices “strong concerns” about fresh attacks in eastern Ukraine

WASHINGTON, 13 April —US Secretary of State John Kerry on Saturday voiced “strong concerns” about fresh attacks by armed militants in eastern Ukraine, threatening “additional consequences” unless Russia moves to ease tension there.

In a phone conversation with his Russian counterpart Sergei Lavrov, Kerry said the attacks earlier in the day “were orchestrated and synchronized, similar to previous attack in eastern Ukraine and Crimea,” the State Department said in a statement.

About a dozen gunmen seized a police station and a state security building in Slavyansk, a town about 100 km north of Donetsk. Ukraine’s police said the gunmen seized at least 400 handguns and 20 automatic weapons in the police station.

“The secretary made clear that if Russia did not take steps to de-escalate in eastern Ukraine and move its troops back from Ukraine’s border, there would be additional consequences,” the State Department statement said.

Lavrov told Kerry that

“if Kiev’s threats to use force against people driven to despair in the southeast are carried out, prospects for further cooperation on the Ukrainian issue, including a planned four-party meeting in Geneva, will be foiled,” the Russian Foreign Ministry said.

The meeting between the EU, the US, Russia and Ukraine are scheduled for 17 April. US Vice President Joseph Biden will travel to Kiev on 22 April, the White House said on Saturday.

A new wave of unrest erupted in eastern

Ukraine last weekend, when pro-Moscow activists seized several government buildings in the cities of Donetsk, Lugansk and Kharkov, demanding referendum on autonomy and closer ties with Russia.

The developments came after Russian President Vladimir Putin and Crimean leaders signed a treaty on 18 March to make Crimea part of Russian territory, as almost 97 percent of voters on the peninsula backed secession from Ukraine in a referendum.

Xinhua

### Chinese tourists to Cambodia’s Angkor world heritage site continue to grow

PHNOM PENH, 13 April —The number of Chinese visitors to Cambodia’s Angkor Wat temple, one of the World Heritage Sites, has continued to grow in the first two months of this year, a tourism official said Sunday.

Some 71,100 Chinese had visited the 12th century temple during the January-February period this year, up 10.5 percent compared with the same period last year, said Chhoeuy Chhorn, administration chief of the tourism department in Siem Reap province, where the temple is located.

“China is the second largest source of tourists to the temple after South Korea,” he told Xinhua by telephone.

He said last year, the temple greeted about 266,500 Chinese tourists, up 50 percent year-on-year.

“The continued increase in Chinese tourists to the ancient temple is thanks to excellent Cambodian-Chinese ties, broader promotion of the Angkor to the globe, and more direct flight connection between Cambodia and various cities in China,” he said.

In December, Air China began operating regular flights between China’s Beijing and Cambodia’s Siem Reap province, and Cambodia’s national flag carrier Cambodia Angkor Air launched its regular flight linking Cambodia to China’s Shanghai.

Xinhua

### MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(14-4-14 07:00am~15-4-14 07:00am) MST

- \* Local News
- \* Myanmar Chinthe (Myanmar Lion)
- \* World News
- \* Myanmar Masterclass: Portraiture
- \* Local News
- \* Taste Of Myanmar (Fried Flat Noodle)
- \* World News
- \* Lucky Boy
- \* Local News
- \* Travel To The Southern Part Of Shan State (Kalaw)
- \* World News
- \* Myanmar Traditional Art Bronze Casting
- \* Local News
- \* The Legend Of An Ambulatory Surgeon (EP-2)
- \* World News
- \* Myanmar Street Foods
- \* Local News
- \* Myanmar’s Beauty and Nature “Beach”
- \* World News
- \* Temple Stalls
- \* Local News
- \* Myanmar National Poet and Literary Icon “Min Thu Wun” (Part-II) (Student life and early literary career)
- \* World News
- \* Myanmar Masterclass: Impressionism
- \* Local News
- \* The Beauty In The North of Myanmar
- \* World News
- \* Thingyan Dance-Summer Beauty and Festivity
- \* Local News
- \* Soft Crab Breeding Procedure
- \* World News
- \* Will you feed the pigeons

## Rainfall to ease in S China

BEIJING, 13 April — Rainfall will ease in southern parts of China on Sunday while dry weather will maintain in northern regions, the National Me-

teorological Center (NMC) said on Sunday.

Rainfall will linger in parts of southwest provinces and autonomous regions and areas south of the

Yangtze River. A cold front will start bringing gales and dust to Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region and Gansu Province,

the NMC said.

Meanwhile, dry and warm weather will maintain in north China in the next ten days, according to the NMC.—Xinhua

## Dortmund dazzle to crush lacklustre Bayern 3-0

BERLIN, 13 April — Borussia Dortmund reclaimed some of the Bundesliga’s bragging rights after crushing champions Bayern Munich 3-0 on Saturday with a stellar performance to claim victory in the league’s showcase encounter.

Just three days after they beat Real Madrid 2-0 but were eliminated in the Champions League last eight 3-2 on aggregate, Dortmund confirmed their battling spirit by inflicting the heaviest defeat in coach Pep Guardiola’s career.

For the Bavarians, already crowned German champions, the defeat was their second in a row in the league after a record 53-game unbeaten run in former Barcelona coach

Guardiola’s first season in charge.

Bayern also had Brazilian Rafinha sent off for slapping Henrikh Mkhitaryan in stoppage time.

“This has been an extraordinary week with wins over Real and Bayern and we did it in a fantastic way,” Dortmund coach Juergen Klopp told reporters.

“Maybe our opponents were lacking a percentage or two because they are already champions. We wanted to do a lot and we did most of the things we set out to do. It was extremely hard work.”

The visitors took a 21st minute lead when Mkhitaryan slotted home after some good play, the Armenian making up for a string of missed chances in

the defeat against Real.

The midfielder, who apologised to team mates and fans for his midweek lapses, kept his cool after Marco Reus sent him through with a fine pass.

Bayern, who face Real in the Champions League last four, were further hampered when goalkeeper Manuel Neuer was taken off at halftime with a calf muscle injury, making way for third-choice Lukas Raeder.

The 20-year-old’s league debut got off to a nightmare start after 49 minutes when Mkhitaryan launched a quick break and Reus tapped in with the keeper out of position.

Raeder could do nothing, however, when Jonas Hofmann broke free after a deep 60-metre cross from



Bayern Munich’s Mario Mandzukic (R) tackles Borussia Dortmund’s Sokratis during their German Bundesliga first division soccer match in Munich on 12 April, 2014.—REUTERS

Sokratis Papastathopoulos to rifle in Dortmund’s third in the 56th minute as the 71,000-crowd in the Alli-

anz Arena fell silent.

Bayern tried desperately to hit back but they rarely got past a solid Dort-

mund defence and were reduced to long-range efforts which sailed wide.

Reuters



## Watson upbeat about Masters prospects

AUGUSTA, (Georgia), 13 April — Bubba Watson was feeling good about his chances of winning a second Masters title despite squandering a sizeable lead in Saturday's third round, and for good reason.

After starting the day three shots in front then extending his lead to five strokes early in his round, the American's advantage quickly whittled away.

By the time he got to the 18th green, he needed to make a clutch putt to save par and finish tied for the lead with Jordan Spieth, the baby-faced 20-year-old who is bidding to become the youngest Masters champion.

"If this is my worst day, I'm still tied for the lead," said Watson, who followed up his previous rounds of 69 and 68 with a 74. "I have a great shot for tomorrow. "If somebody told me I would have shot two-over and still be tied for the lead, I would have taken it in a heartbeat." "If

I shoot 90 tomorrow I still have a green jacket."

Having already won the title, Watson said he was not under pressure to win again. The American claimed the coveted green jacket two years after a sudden-death playoff with South Africa's Louis Oosthuizen.

Faced with a seemingly impossible shot from deep in the woods, the left-handed Watson pulled off one of the most remarkable strokes seen in a major golf championship when he bent the ball around the trees and on to the green on his way to a par that clinched the title. The shot has been replayed countless times on television and visitors to the course make a pilgrimage to the spot where he played it.

Watson has taken a more conventional route to the top of the leaderboard this week. With his booming drives and unwavering self-belief from his 2012 win, he has been able

to carefully plot his way around the course with a minimum of fuss.

On Saturday, he averaged 308 yards off the tee and missed just one of 14 fairways. But he failed to consolidate his tee to green success by taking 33 putts to complete his round, seven more than he needed on Friday. "I hit my driver really

**US golfer Bubba Watson waits to putt on the seventh hole during the third round of the Masters golf tournament at the Augusta National Golf Club in Augusta, Georgia on 12 April, 2014.**  
REUTERS

well but had a couple three-putts," he said. "If I don't three-putt, then, obviously, I'm winning instead of tied for the lead."

Watson is bidding to become just the 17th player to win at least

two Masters titles. The 35-year-old Floridian, who has never had a coach, may play with a cavalier approach to the game but he knows the stakes are high.

"We are all trying to do the same thing. We are all going to be nervous and we all know what it means to our career, for our status to move forward in the game," he said.

"So it's going to be tough for everybody, not just guys that have never won one." When Watson won in 2011, he was in the penultimate group, and shot a 68 to finish at 10-under, then waited anxiously to learn his fate.

This time he will be in the final pairing, when the pressure of trying to win can be suffocating. Watson said he not only believes he can cope with it, but is looking forward to the experience. "You always have that dream as a kid when you're growing up, so when you get here, you hear the same roars and you want to be part of those roars."—Reuters

## Bogota WTA results

BOGOTA, (Colombia), 13 April — Following are the results Saturday from the Copa Claro Colsanitas at Club Campestre El Rancho (prefix number denotes seedings):

Singles semifinals

1-Jelena Jankovic, Serbia, bt Chanelle Scheepers, South Africa, 6-1, 7-5.

5-Caroline Garcia, France, bt 6-Vania King, United States, 6-2, 6-4.

Doubles finals

Lara Arruabarrena, Spain/Caroline Garcia, France, bt 1-Vania King, United States/Chanelle Scheepers, South Africa, 7-6 (5), 6-4.—Reuters

## Everton go fourth, relegation battle heats up

LONDON, 13 April—Champions League football beckoned on the horizon for Everton on Saturday after a 1-0 victory over bottom club Sunderland hoisted them above Arsenal into fourth place in the Premier League.

An own goal by Wes Brown gave Everton a club record seventh consecutive Premier League win to put them two points above Arsenal with five games remaining.

In an increasingly desperate relegation fight at the other end of the table three clubs in danger of the drop all won with Fulham, Cardiff City and Crystal Palace all collecting precious points while threatened West Bromwich Albion drew 3-3 with Tottenham Hotspur after leading 3-0.

The only goal at the Stadium of Light came after 75 minutes when Sunderland defender Brown chested a cross into his own net, settling a scrappy game.

Everton have 66 points, two more than Arsenal who were dragged into a penalty shoot-out against Wigan Athletic in the FA Cup semi-final at Wembley, eventually prevailing.

"It is really satisfying because we knew it was going to be a difficult game," Everton boss Roberto Martinez, trying to lead Everton to a top-four finish and a crack at the Champions League for the first time since 2005, said.—Reuters

## Lethargic Barca slump to shock defeat at Granada

MADRID, 13 April—Barcelona's nightmare week hit a new low when they followed up their Champions League exit with a shock 1-0 defeat at Granada on Saturday that left their bid for a fifth La Liga title in six years in serious jeopardy.

After Atletico Madrid dumped them out of Europe's elite club competition on Wednesday, Barca sought a morale-boosting domestic win that would have put them two points clear at the top ahead of Atletico, who play at Getafe on Sunday.

However, the Spanish champions again looked lethargic and short on ideas against a club with a fraction of their resources and surrendered second place to archrivals Real Madrid, who thumped struggling Almeria 4-0 at the Bernabeu to draw level on 79 points with Atletico. Atletico can stretch their advantage at the top to three points with a win at Getafe. They play at Barca in their final match of

the season and will already be assured of their first Spanish league title since 1996, when current coach Diego Simeone was in the side, if they win their next five matches. "The league is not in our own hands anymore," Barca coach Gerardo Martino told a news conference. "There is no reason to criticise the team, they gave it

everything they had," added the Argentine, who is in his first season in charge at the Nou Camp and now needs to lift his players for Wednesday's King's Cup final against Real.

"The ball did not want to go in and that's that. We just weren't up to scratch in taking our chances." Barca fell behind

at Granada's Nuevo Los Carmenes stadium when Alex Song lost possession in midfield in the 16th minute and Yacine Brahimi raced clear and fired

but Granada, who are fighting to avoid relegation, held firm against waves of attacks and the Catalan giants' second consecutive defeat will do little to dispel the impression of a club in crisis.

They had almost 90 percent possession but not even four-times World Player of the Year Lionel Messi, who turned in another subdued performance, or Brazil forward Neymar could unlock a stubborn home defence.

Neymar had several clear chances, while Messi drew a fine save from Granada goalkeeper Orestis Karnezis with a free kick just after the hour. Sergio Busquets almost scored when the ball fell to him at the resulting corner but his close-range effort was straight at the keeper.

"This is a step backwards," Barca playmaker Andres Iniesta, who was captain-the side in place of the rested Xavi, said in an interview with Spanish television broadcaster Canal Plus.—Reuters



**Barcelona's Lionel Messi (L) and Granada's Tiago Ilori fights for the ball during their Spanish First Division soccer match at Nuevo Los Carmenes stadium in Granada, on 12 April, 2014.** —REUTERS

They dominated the rest of the match