

Vice-President opens 9th SEA Youth Athletics Championships



Vice-President Dr. Sai Mauk Kham seen at opening ceremony of the 9th SEA Youth Athletics Championships.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 27 April—Vice-President Dr. Sai Mauk Kham on Sunday opened the 9th SEA Youth Athletics Championships.

On 27 and 28 April, 202 athletes from South-east Asian countries Myanmar, Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand, Vietnam, Laos and Singapore will com-

pete in 43 events.

Surapong Ariyamongkok, vice-chairman of the Asian Athletics Association, delivered the opening speech of the championships at Wunna Theikdi Stadium in Nay Pyi Taw.

The Union Minister for Sports added, "This is the first international sports

event after the Southeast Asian Games which were completed in December 2013. On behalf of our country, thank you for the chance to hold the 9th SEA Youth Athletics Championships."

The Union minister continued he is hopeful the meet could pave the way



for Myanmar athletes to be able to take part in ASEAN and international sports event.

U Aye Myint, chairman of the Parliamentary Sports, Culture and Public Relations Development Committee, and Union Minister U Tint Hsan, also attended the opening cere-

mony.

The Myanmar track and field team was the most successful sport team for the country in the 23rd Southeast Asian Games in the Philippines in December 2005, winning four

gold, three silver and one bronze medals.

The Myanmar Track and Field Federation, formed on July 8, 1947, is the only sport federation taking part in all SEA Games since 1959.—MNA

MNSC Chairman's Cup National Hockey League-2014 to start on 3 May

YANGON, 27 April—The Ministry of Sports and the Myanmar Hockey Federation will kick off the Myanmar National Sports Committee Chairman's Cup National Hockey League-2014 at Theinbyu turf hockey pitch in Yangon on 3 May.

Eleven hockey clubs will take part in the league. These clubs are Defence Services (Navy), Defence Services (Air), Yangon Command, Northern Com-

mand, Triangle Region Command, Central Command, South-West Command, Myanmar Police Force, Sky Wings, Tong Tah and Royalland Clubs.

Sports authorities allow players of tentatively selected hockey team, who are under training for the XXVIII SEA Games to be held in Singapore in 2015, to join their mother clubs for taking part in the league.

Than Swe (Pabedan)

Cyanide banned for use in gold panning until amendment of rules, regulations



Unsystematic use of cyanide in gold panning poses threats to environment and people.—PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

By Aye Min Soe

Cyanide will not be allowed to be used in panning gold at small scale gold mines until after the rules and regulations related to the use of cyanide have been amended, according to the Ministry of Mines.

The poisonous chemical, which can also be used as explosives, has been banned from use for gold panning mines by current laws.

Because there is danger in systemic use of cyanide in gold mines and in managing the toxic waste produced, the ministry has

issued a notification that effective action will be taken against those who use cyanide, a ministry official said.

The Mining Law, which is being amended, will include allowing region and state governments authority to grant permission for small-scale

gold mines with an area of fewer than 50 acres and a manageable gold mine with an area of three acres in respective regions and states.

The new move is aimed at reducing illegal gold mining and increasing national tax revenue, according to the ministry.

NLM



Cyanide, a poisonous chemical, and the toxic waste at gold mines pose danger to people and environment.—PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

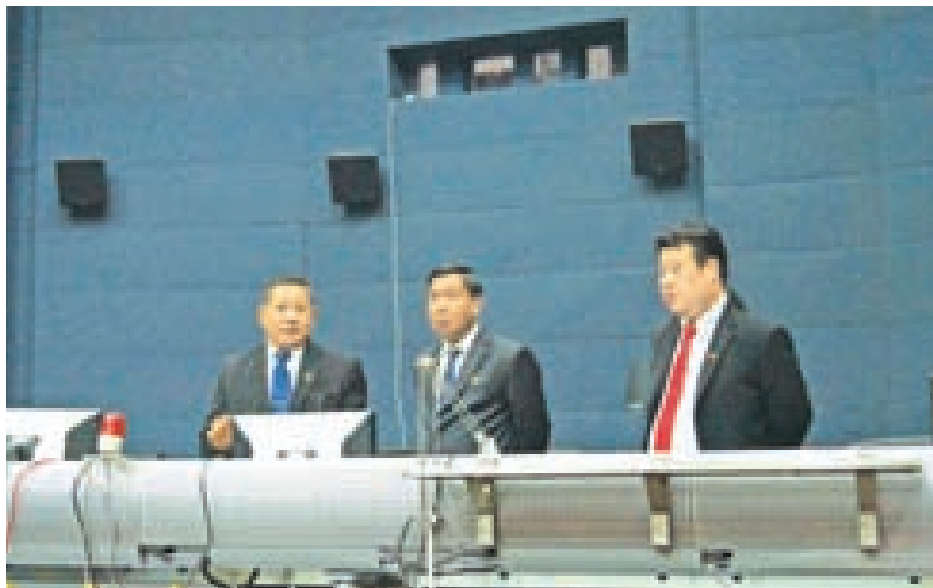
Deputy information minister attends Beijing International Film Festival

NAY PYI TAW, 27 April—Deputy Minister for Information U Pike Htway attended the closing ceremony of the fourth Beijing International Film Festival that ended on 23 April.

More than 800 films from 89 countries were shown at the festival, including that of Myanmar Film Director Sinyaw Maung Maung who showed “Pan Kyar Wut Hmon”.

Many film-makers, distributors and movie-lovers from all over the world attended the festival and exchanged their experiences. In addition to film showings, the festival included a prize ceremony, film lectures, showrooms and sales of movies.

The Myanmar delegation attended a dinner hosted by Deputy Minister



Deputy Minister for Information U Pike Htway observing a studio during his visit to Beijing International Film Festival.—MNA

Tong Gang of China's State Administration of Press, Radio, Film and TV-SAPPRFT.

They exchanged views on promoting relations between China and Myanmar,

further cooperation in the production of films and TV programmes that can enhance relations between the two countries and the sending of Myanmar scholarship students to China.

The deputy minister also met with the China Film Co-Production Corporation of China's Film Bureau to discuss bilateral cooperation in film production.—MNA

Magway Region hosts interfaith dialogue for peace, unity

MAGWAY, 27 April—An interfaith dialogue for peace and unity took place at the office of Magway Region General Administration Department in Magway on Sunday.

First, Magway Region Chief Minister U Phone Maw Shwe spoke on the

occasion. Religious leaders recounted the peaceful co-existence among different religions in the region and discussed ongoing work.

A total 65 persons including Buddhists, Muslims, Hindus and Christians attended the dialogue.

Tin Tun Oo



'Facts for life' course attracts 202 trainee teachers

NAY PYI TAW, 27 April—In order to enrich health and general knowledge among students, the Ministry of Education and UNICEF have arranged to conduct a “facts for life” course for trainee teachers from eight townships in Nay Pyi Taw.

Altogether 202 trainee teachers are attending the five-day course as of 25 April at the Basic Educa-

tion High School No.7 in Zabuthiri Township in Nay Pyi Taw.

The township education officer said: “The course highlights how to live a healthy life, protect against infectious diseases and life support knowledge. Students will benefit from the course through the teachers”. The UNICEF is paying for the project.

Shwe Kokko



Villages around Indawgyi Lake to get power soon



Photo shows progress in building of 66/33 KV 10 MVA power station in Hopin of Mohnyin Township.

Indawgyi Lake, 17.75 miles away from Hopin in Mohnyin District, Kachin State, in northern Myanmar, is home to rare species of South East Asia, especially birds and butterflies.

The natural sanctuary lake is also one of Myanmar's major tourist attractions because the lake gives shelter to migrating birds from other countries to escape from severe weather in their summer habitats.

And the local ethnic people are famous for their hospitality.

Now, the state has

implemented a project to supply power to 18 villages surrounding the lake.

The government started to transport the power

generated from Chipwe Electric Power Plant to Mogaung, Hopin and Mohnyin with the use of 66 KV cables passing

By Wai Yan

through Myitkyina.

To be able to supply power to the west and eastern areas of the Indawgyi Lake, a 66/33 KV 10 MVA sub-power station is being constructed at Hopin and being connected with a 63.25 mile-long cable by the government at a cost of US\$1.35 million and K2,248.95 million.

The project is expected to be completed soon and power available to the areas is expected in early May.

Trs: AMS

Linemen install 33 KV power line in Hopin of Mohnyin Township.



Fibre-optic cables linking Yangon, Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay damaged

NAY PYI TAW, 27 April—Fibre-optic cables along two highways between Yangon and Mandalay were damaged on Sunday, Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications said.

A vehicle hit a reserve cable near Yedashe Township in the Bago Region on the Yangon-Mandalay highway at 5:40 am.

While the employees of Toungoo Township MPT were repairing that damage, an underground fibre cable was damaged by a backhoe excavator near

milepost 89 on the Yangon-Nay Pyi Taw-Mandalay highway at 7:45 am.

The second fibre cable was joined with the reserve fibre link between Bago and Penwagon townships beside the Yangon-Mandalay expressway and connections of mobile phones and Internet were recovered at 11 am. Repair of that cable was totally completed at 5 pm.

The other cable was still being repaired at press time, according an MPT employee.—MNA

NATIONAL

Parliament focuses on legislative work, national unity and reconciliation

NAY PYI TAW, 27 April—Parliament is not only focusing on its own responsibility to pass laws but also working on consolidating national unity and reconciliation to achieve internal peace, Speaker of the Union Parliament and People's Parliament Thura U Shwe Mann said in Kayin State on Saturday.

In a speech at Zwekabin Hall in Hpa-an, he

highlighted the importance of formation of township/ward/village management committees, support committees and development committees to translate a top-down approach into a bottom-up one in a people-centred administration.

Without achieving peace, the rule of law and national reconciliation in the country, it is impossible to establish a modern and

developed nation, he said.

He continued that national unity and reconciliation cannot be brought about by slogans and lip service, words must be matched by action.

The speaker sympathized with people who have had a difficult life due to the lack of peace in Kayin State and called for participation of all in moving towards peace.

He also called on those present to outline their difficulties and requirements in the meeting, acknowledging that reports heard outside Parliament has significance.

Before delivering concluding remarks, the speaker heard reports presented by the Kayin State chief minister, the speaker of the Kayin State Parliament, parliamentarians and local residents.—MNA

Taekwondo training gymnasium coming for new generations

YANGON, 27 April—A stake-driving ceremony for construction of a Taekwondo training gymnasium was held at the venue in the Youth Training Centre (Thuwunna) in Yangon on 22 April.

On behalf of the Booyoung Co Ltd, Advisor Chang Myung Kwan donated US\$ 400,000 to the

fund for construction of the gymnasium.

Union Minister for Sports U Tint Hsan, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe, Deputy Minister for Sports U Thaung Htaik, Ambassador of Republic of Korea Lee Baek Soon and officials drove stakes at the designated places.—NLM

Confiscated farmlands come back to owners

MANDALAY, 27 April—The Mandalay Region Chief Minister U Ye Myint handed over confiscated farmland documents to local owners in Singu Township in Mandalay Region on Friday.

At the handing over ceremony at the Forest Department's hall, the chief

minister pledged to systematically return remaining farmlands to the owners and urged farmers to help as much as they can for socio-economic development of rural people.

The documents return 168.12 acres of farmland to the owners.

ThihaKoKo (Mandalay)

Mandalay residents to get electricity at full capacity soon



Electricians prepare power line to supply electricity to Mandalay residents.

MANDALAY, 27 April—The Mandalay Region Government has a plan to install transformers and power lines to bring hydro-power to about 2000 villages in the region in 2014.

The authorities have decided to install engines

and solar panels in the villages that are far from power grids.

Locals from seven townships in Mandalay District are now using a low-voltage power distribution.

Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)

Motorbike taxi stolen, driver stabbed in Insein Tsp

YANGON, 27 April—A motorcycle taxi driver is recovering after being stabbed and his motorcycle stolen Friday in Latmoeswe Street in Myothit Ward-8 in Insein Township in north Yangon.

The unknown passenger stabbed U Kyaw Hla, 55, and stole the motorbike

at around 12 p.m.

The driver took medical treatment at Insein Hospital and is not in critical condition.

The Township Police Station opened a file against the suspect under Article 394 of the Criminal Law.

Kyemon-684

Union Information Minister witnesses DVB-T2 set top box distribution



Union Minister for Information U Aung Kyi presents DVB-T2 set top boxes to low-income families in Monywa Township.—MNA

MONYWA, 27 April—The Union Minister for Information on Sunday witnessed the distribution of DVB-T2 set top boxes by Myanmar Radio and Television in Monywa Township

in Sagaing Region.

MRTV distributed 24,454 boxes to 2970 social organizations and 21,484 households ranked at social level E in the region 20 kilometers south-

west of Mandalay.

The Union minister said: "The distribution of DVB-T2 set top boxes is aimed to help poverty alleviation programmes guided by President U Thein Sein

to provide effective public services, to implement people-centred services and to take responsibility for certain losses of people during the change from one system to another."

Sagaing Region Chief Minister U Tha Aye acknowledged the distribution of these devices for his region.

As many as 16 channels, including MRTV, MITV, farmer channel, Hluttaw channel, national races, Myawady and MRTV-4, can be watched via set top boxes that can be used with either alternating current or direct current electricity.

Devices of Digital Video Broadcasting - Second Generation Terrestrial are for the broadcast transmission of digital terrestrial television.

MNA

Most Myanmar people working in Thailand have returned to their jobs after visiting home for New Year

KYONDOE, 27 April—Most Myanmar nationals in Thailand who returned home for the New Year Festival from 13 to 16 April have gone back to their jobs.

"I left Myanmar for Thailand to work there for six years and I am very happy to be celebrating the festival with my family. It is a very precious time for me," one native from Kyondoe in Kawkaik Township in Kayin State said.

"In the past, job seekers, students and others faced difficulties because to get a passport they had to go to Yangon. Now we can get a passport easily in our home states and regions,"



Myanmar nationals seen at border gate in Thailand to return works after visiting New Year festival at home.

he added.

He left for Thai-

land after the festival via the Myawady friendship

bridge.—Naing Naing Tun (Kyondoe)

Kanmye Village in Taungtha Tsp reaping fruits of development

TAUNGTHA, 28 April— Kanmye Village, home to more than 2,000 people about 10 miles west of Taungtha Township in Mandalay Region, is gaining the benefits of recent development.

King Anawrahta, the first emperor of Myanmar (1044-77 AD), built Kanmye Lake, pagodas and ordination halls in the village centuries ago and now a Basic Education High School is creating learning opportunities for local children and a rural health centre is providing healthcare services to area residents.

In accord with guidance from President U Thein Sein, Kanmye Lake has been dredged and now it is providing more than 20,000 people in 15 villages around Kanmye potable water. The water supply is also augmented by 15



An ancient building in area of Kanmye region in Taungtha Township, Mandalay Region.

tube-wells and new drinking-water reservoirs.

The Ministry of Elec-

tric Power has also installed power lines in 11 villages and the Taungtha-Mying-

yan motor road has improved transportation in the area.—NLM-018

Local ships in Yangon regularly running on schedule



YANGON, 27 April— Cargo ships running from seven jetties in Yangon are back on regular schedules

after the New Year holidays.

Kyaw Myint Aye (IPRD)

High jaggery prices raise income of toddy palm farm workers

MAGWAY, 27 April— As toddy palm plants are thriving in various areas of Magway Region sharing a border with Mandalay Region, many rural people are engaged in production of toddy and jaggery.

Last year, jaggery prices were low, but this

year's weather has reduced the production of toddy palm sap and, therefore jaggery, sending prices higher.

Generally, workers on toddy palm farms can earn more than K700,000 a year in collecting toddy sap and making jaggery.

Magway Hla Myint

Fire from overheated regulator engulfs 24 houses

MONYWA, 27 April— An electrical overheated regulator caused a fire that engulfed 24 houses in Thalla Ward of Monywa in Sagaing Region.

More than 100 fire fighters and policemen extinguished the blaze within 45 minutes.

The fire broke out from the house of Sithu Aung (a) Bo Tu and wife Ma Aye Yu Zaw on Seikta Thukha Street in Region-4 of Thalla Ward in Monywa at 11 pm on 25 April. A total 26 households from 24 houses are accommodated at the relief camp temporarily



opened at No 14 Basic Education High School. Ac-

tion is being taken against Sithu Aung (a) Bo Tu un-

der Section 285 of Criminal Law.—District IPRD

Market festival further strengthens ties between Myanmar and Thailand

MYAWADY, 27 April— In commemoration of strengthening relations between Myanmar and Thailand, a market festival was held in the precincts of Phayagyi monastery in Myawady in Kayin State from 25 to 27 April.

Fancy goods, ornaments, food, personal goods and traditional medicines were sold at the festival and cultural troupes from both countries enter-

tained visitors.

“The market festival focused on further strengthening ties between the two countries. We have a plan to organize an even better market festival next year,” said Daw Thin Thin Myat, chairperson of Myawady Township Commerce Association.

Myawady is among the townships in Kayin State in the southeast sharing a border with Thailand.

Htein Lin Aung (IPRD)



Performers present entertainments to visitors at market festival to further strengthen friendly ties between Myanmar and Thailand.

Edible oil crop prices slightly high in market

AUNGLAN, 27 April— Prices of edible oil crops have risen slightly at the market in Aunglan, one of townships in Magway Region.

After the Maha Thingyan festival, merchants from Mandalay are buying black and red strains of sesame to be exported to China. One basket of red sesame is sold at K45,300, winter black sesame K50,000 and monsoon

black sesame K56,600 in the market.

Due to high demand from oil mills in Yangon and Magway, groundnut trading is regularly operated at the market. Merchants must pay K1,300-K1,450 per viss (1.6kg) of groundnut, while sesame oil sells for K5,200-K5,400 per viss, groundnut oil K2,900-K3,300 per viss and palm oil K1,600-K1,800 per viss.—Magway Hla Myint

LOCAL NEWS

Bagaya Monastery in Amarapura Tsp attracts globetrotters

AMARAPURA, 27 April —The ancient Maha Waiyan Bontha monastery located beside the Mandalay-Sagaing Road in Amarapura Township in Mandalay is attracting flocks of globetrotters to observe the storage of ancient Buddha images, palm leaves inscriptions and folded papers.

The building, also called Bagaya Monastery, was built by King Badon in 1144 Myanmar Era but was destroyed by fire in 1183 ME. King Bagan rebuilt the monastery in 1209 ME. In 1228 ME, in the reign of

King Mindon who was the second last of the Myanmar kings, the monastery was again destroyed in the fire, leaving eight brick ladders.

With the aim of ensuring long-term preservation of ancient Buddha images, palm leaves and folded papers, Bagaya monastery was rebuilt in 1994 in line with its original style and construction was completed on 31 March 1995.

Thanks to systematic storage of artifacts, Bagaya monastery is now a major tourist attraction.

Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)

Photo shows ancient Maha Waiyan Bontha Bagaya monastery in Mandalay.



Motorbike licences issued in Nyaunglebin through one-stop service



NYAUNGLEBIN, 27 April — A 50-member one-stop service team led by the head of Bago Region Directorate of Road Transport issued licences to motorcycles from Nyaunglebin, Shwegyin, DaikU and Kyaukdaga townships in Bago Region from 8 am to 5 pm on Saturday.

Nearly 400 motorbikes were registered at the gymnasium in Nyaunglebin.

Personnel from the Nyaunglebin Township General Administration Department, the Myanmar Police Force and Bus Line Supervisory Committee co-operated with the one-stop

service team to issue licences for 389 motorcycles.

“Thanks to one-stop service, motorbike owners do not need to go to Bago to get licenses, so we save time and money,” one motorcyclist said.

Nay Lin (Nyaunglebin)

NAY PYI TAW, 27 April — As now is the hot and dry season, authorities in 17 wards and 18 village-tracts of Pobbathiri Township in the Ottara District in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area have stepped up fire prevention measures.

On Saturday, district and township officials checked fire preventive measures at markets in the township and inspected the readiness of firefighters and fire trucks at No 1 fire station.

District IPRD

Min Min Latt (Physics)

Fire from overheated regulator engulfs 24 houses

MONYWA, 27 April — An electrical overheated regulator caused a fire that engulfed 24 houses in Thalla Ward of Monywa in Sagaing Region.

More than 100 firefighters and policemen extinguished the blaze within 45 minutes.

The fire broke out from the house of Sithu Aung (a) Bo Tu and wife Ma Aye Yu Zaw on Seikta

Thukha Street in Region-4 of Thalla Ward in Monywa at 11 pm on 25 April.

A total 26 households from 24 houses are accommodated at the relief camp temporarily opened at No 14 Basic Education High School.

Action is being taken against Sithu Aung (a) Bo Tu under Article 285 of Criminal Law.

One million fingerlings to be released into Inlay Lake

NYAUNGSHWE, 27 April—Members of a philanthropic youth group in Dagon Myothit (South) Township in Yangon Region, plan to release 1 million fingerlings of various fish species into Inlay Lake

on Fullmoon Day of the Myanmar lunar month Kason, which falls on 13 May this year.

The plan is aimed at contributing to the ecosystem of the lake and ensuring local food sufficiency.

The youth philanthropic group and U Aung Aung of Twantay Township in the southern part of Yangon will join in releasing the fingerlings as meritorious deeds.

Than Naing (Zabuthiri)

Pyu Township People's Hospital helps people enjoy better healthcare

PYU, 27 April—Pyu Township People's Hospital in Bago Region delivers healthcare services and provides 70 per cent of the medicine to the local people in the area, treating more than 100 patients from Kyaukkyi, Htantabin and Pyu townships daily.

Seven specialists, assistant surgeons and nurses

headed by Medical Superintendent Dr Zaw Lwin provide care for the communities.

Already, the medical ward has been repaired at the hospital since February and construction of a 30-bed orthopaedic ward is about 60 per cent complete.

The changes are expected to cost more than

K130 million for construction, Medical Superintendent Dr Zaw Lwin said.

Hsu Latt Pyae Co spent K20 million on construction of a medical store and overall. The hospital authorities plan to repair the medical ward, extend the orthopaedic ward and build the medical store for around K150 million.—*Pyu Myint Oo*

Firefighters, trucks ready to act



Ukraine blames Moscow for 'human shield' detentions in east



An armoured personnel carrier is seen near a barricade around the state security service building in Sloviansk, on 26 April, 2014.—REUTERS

SLAVIANSK, (Ukraine), 27 April — Pro-Russian separatists in eastern Ukraine offered on Saturday to release eight captive international observers in a prisoner exchange, as Western governments prepared

and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE).

The separatists said they suspected the observers of spying; Ukraine said they were being used as human shields. Since Ukrainians toppled their pro-Russian president in February, Russia has annexed Ukraine's Crimean peninsula and massed tens of thousands of troops on the country's eastern border. NATO has responded by sending reinforcements to eastern Europe, in the gravest East-West crisis since the Cold War.

Earlier on Saturday the Group of Seven major economies announced they had agreed to impose more sanctions on Russia, which they believe is bent on destabilizing its former

Soviet neighbour and possibly grabbing more territory. Diplomats said the United States and the European Union were expected to unveil new punitive action against Russian individuals from Monday.

Russia denies orchestrating a campaign by pro-Moscow militants who have seized control of public buildings across eastern Ukraine. It accuses the Kiev government of whipping up tensions by sending troops to root out the separatists.

The OSCE sent more monitors on Saturday to seek the release of those detained in Sloviansk, a city under the separatists' control. Those being held are from Germany, Sweden, Denmark, Poland and the Czech Republic.—Reuters

South Korean PM resigns over government response to ferry disaster

SEOUL, 27 April — South Korean Prime Minister Chung Hong-won announced his resignation on Sunday over the government response to the ferry disaster, in which it was first announced that everyone had been rescued, focusing attention on poor regulatory controls.

The Sewol ferry sank on a routine trip south from the port of Incheon to the traditional holiday island of Jeju on 16 April.

More than 300 people, most of them students and teachers on a field trip from the Danwon High School on the outskirts of Seoul, have died or are missing and presumed dead.

The children on board the Sewol were told to stay put in their cabins, where

they waited for further orders. The confirmed death toll on Sunday was 187.

South Korea, Asia's fourth-largest economy and one of its leading manufacturing and export powerhouses, has developed into one of the world's most technically advanced countries, but faces criticism that regulatory controls have not kept pace.

As part of the investigation, prosecutors raided two shipping safety watchdogs and a coastguard office. They have also raided two vessel service centers, which act as maritime traffic control.

Chung's resignation has to be approved by President Park Geun-hye, who has the most power in government.—Reuters

Obama arrives in Malaysia amid ripples over TPP and Anwar

KUALA LUMPUR, 27 April — US President Barack Obama arrived in the Malaysian capital on Saturday for a three-day visit amid protests by activists against a US-led trans-Pacific free trade deal and criticism for snubbing Malaysian opposition leader Anwar Ibrahim.

Obama, the first sitting US president to visit this Southeast Asian country in 48 years, was greeted by King Abdul Halim Mu'adzam Shah and Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak at an official

welcoming ceremony at Parliament Square, where Obama inspected a guard of honor and received a 21-gun salute.

On Friday, a small group of activists staged a protest in front of the US embassy in Kuala Lumpur against the proposed Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement. They claimed a deal would lead to higher prices for medicine due to tighter protection of intellectual property rights.

Malaysia is one of the 12 countries involved in negotiating the free trade

deal, which also covers such issues as labor law, environmental standards and regulations, investor-state dispute settlement, and the status of state-owned enterprises.

In a media briefing earlier this week, International Trade and Industry Minister Mustapa Mohamad said the TPP will be on the agenda when Obama holds bilateral talks with Najib on Sunday.

"It will give an opportunity for Malaysia to share some issues and challenges that we are facing with

Obama," Mustapa said.

Among the sticking points Mustapa mentioned is the state-owned enterprises chapter.

"Malaysia has the most number of difficulties. We have large state-owned enterprises. It's a red-line for us. We are negotiating to protect Malaysia's interest," he said.

At the heart of the issue is Malaysia's affirmative action policy that accords special privileges to the ethnic majority Malays.

Kyodo News



Participants holding funeral streamers bearing messages for victims of the capsized passenger ship Sewol, march during a lotus lantern parade to celebrate the upcoming birthday of Buddha and to commemorate the victims, in Seoul on 26 April, 2014.—REUTERS

Five dead in British military helicopter crash in Afghanistan

KABUL, 27 April — Five service members were killed when a British helicopter crashed in southern Afghanistan on Saturday, the NATO-led coalition forces and the British Ministry of Defence said. An Afghan official said the helicopter carrying soldiers from the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) had crashed due to technical problems. "ISAF is still in the process of reviewing the circumstances to determine more facts," ISAF said. It did not provide details of their nationalities.

A spokesman for Kandahar Governor Tooryalai Wesa confirmed the crash occurred near Kandahar City.

"Today at 11 am (0630 GMT/7.30 am BST) an ISAF helicopter crashed due to technical problems in Takhteh Pol district. As a result five ISAF soldiers were killed," spokesman Dawakhan Minapal said.

In London, the Ministry of Defence said the helicopter was British but did not elaborate on the nationalities of the dead. "We can confirm that a UK helicopter crashed in southern Afghanistan today," the ministry said in a statement. "The incident is under investigation and it would be inappropriate to comment further until families have been notified."

Foreign forces casualties have fallen in the past few months, as US-led forces start to wind down operations ahead of a year-end deadline to leave Afghanistan.

The United States has been at odds with President Hamid Karzai who has refused US entreaties to sign a bilateral security agreement that would permit about 8,000 US troops to remain in the country after the formal US withdrawal at the end of the year.—Reuters

Germany's CSU to fight European election on eurosceptic platform

ANDECHS, (Germany), 27 April — Germany's Bavarian conservatives, sister party of Chancellor Angela Merkel's Christian Democrats (CDU), on Saturday agreed a manifesto for the European elections aimed at trying to hold on to voters tempted by more eurosceptic parties.

Policies outlined by the CSU include a proposal to secure Germany a veto on the European Central Bank's council, to drastically reduce the European Commission in size and to grant indebted euro zone states the right to go bankrupt.

Merkel does not back these moves so they are highly unlikely to become government policy, but the

manifesto highlights fears among German conservatives they will lose voters to the anti-euro AfD, polling a little above 5 percent, in the 22 May vote.

"Europe must be

turned on its head," states the programme passed on Saturday in Bavaria, describing the EU as a "project of the political elites".

The CSU, which shares power with Merkel's CDU



German Chancellor Angela Merkel, leader of the Christian Democratic Union (CDU), leaves the stage after her speech during the CDU congress in Berlin on 5 April, 2014.—REUTERS

and the centre-left Social Democrats, traditionally takes a more sceptical approach towards the EU than the CDU. It favours referendums on some EU policies and curbs on immigration from EU members Bulgaria and Romania.

The CSU, like the CDU, is part of the EPP conservative grouping in the European parliament.

Polls show that conservative parties, currently the biggest grouping in the European parliament, could lose out in the elections. A wave of eurosceptic sentiment around Europe, including in Britain, France, Austria and the Netherlands, could erode their support.

Reuters

WORLD

North Korea says army must develop to be able to beat US

SEOUL, 27 April — North Korean leader Kim Jong Un urged the army to develop to ensure it wins any confrontation with the United States, the reclusive country's news agency said on Sunday, a day after US President Barack Obama warned the North of its military might.

Kim led a meeting of the Central Military Commission and "set forth im-

portant tasks for further developing the Korean People's Army and ways to do so", KCNA news agency said.

"He stressed the need to enhance the function and role of the political organs of the army if it is to preserve the proud history and tradition of being the army of the party, win one victory after another in the confrontation with the US

and creditably perform the mission as a shock force and standard-bearer in building a thriving nation."

Obama said on Saturday on a visit to Seoul, where the US army has a large presence, that the United States did not use its military might to "impose things" on others, but that it would use that might if necessary to defend South Korea from any attack by

the reclusive North.

North and South Korea are still technically at war after their 1950-53 civil conflict ended in a mere truce.

The impoverished North, which routinely threatens the United States and the South with destruction, warned last month it would not rule out a "new form" of atomic test after the UN Security Council

condemned Pyongyang's launch of a mid-range ballistic missile into the sea east of the Korean peninsula.

North Korea is already subject to UN sanctions over its previous three atomic tests.

Recent satellite data shows continued work at the nuclear test site in North Korea, although experts analyzing the data

say that preparations do not appear to have progressed far enough for an imminent test.

"We don't use our military might to impose these things on others, but we will not hesitate to use our military might to defend our allies and our way of life," Obama told US forces at the Yongsan garrison.

Reuters

Kerry urges S Sudanese gov't, rebels to adhere to ceasefire deal

WASHINGTON, 27 April — US State Secretary John Kerry on Saturday called on the South Sudanese government and opposition forces to stop military offensives and adhere to a ceasefire deal reached in January.

Kerry spoke with South Sudanese President Salva Kiir to express "grave concern" about the ongoing conflict in South Sudan, including recent violence in the troubled young country and the deliberate targeting of civilians by armed groups on both sides of the conflict, said a statement issued by the US State Department.

Over the past two months, thousands of people are believed to have been killed by fighting that

began in mid-December as a political dispute between Kiir and his former deputy president, Riek Machar.

In the telephone talk, Kerry and Kiir expressed their support for the peace process led by Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD), the regional mediation bloc.

Kerry denounced recent attacks on bases of UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) and its personnel, and encouraged Kiir to ensure full and unfettered access throughout South Sudan for UNMISS, the African Union Commission of Inquiry, and the IGAD Monitoring and Verification Mechanism, according to the statement.

Xinhua

Afghans brace for another round of voting; bargaining begins

KABUL, 27 April — Afghanistan's presidential election is set to go to a second round between former foreign minister Abdullah Abdullah and ex-World Bank economist Ashraf Ghani after no candidate won an absolute majority, preliminary results showed on Saturday.

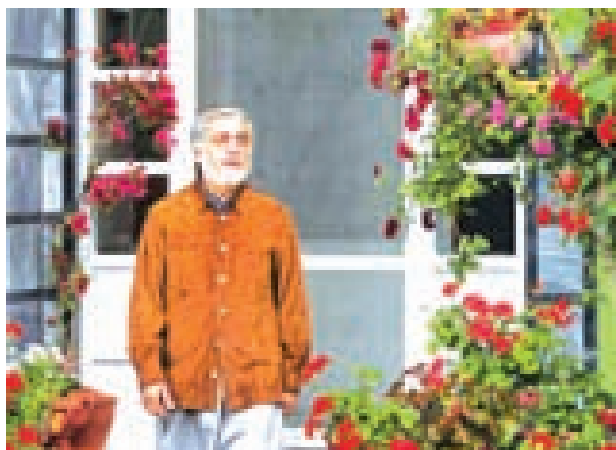
Abdullah finished top with 44.9 percent, followed by Ghani with 31.5 percent, the Independent Election Commission (IEC) said. Zalmay Rassoul, also a former foreign minister, was a distant third with 11.5 percent.

"This is a preliminary outcome and will now go to the Independent Election Complaints Commission and they will work on this. As soon as they share their findings with us we will also announce it," IEC chairman Ahmad Yousuf Nuristani told reporters.

The final result is due

to be announced on 14 May. In the meantime, authorities will investigate allegations of fraud involving up to half a million ballots.

It is unlikely, however, that Abdullah could be pushed to the 50 percent-plus-one required for victory if the suspect votes are cleared and included in the count.—Reuters



Afghan presidential candidate Abdullah Abdullah arrives for an interview in Kabul on 24 April, 2014.

REUTERS

More tornadoes expected in central US after North Carolina storm



A low-level thunderstorm supercell passes over the area of Hampton, Arkansas late 24 April, 2014.—REUTERS

NORMAN, (Oklahoma), 27 April — The first serious, prolonged storms of the year were brewing on Saturday in the Great Plains, with a growing risk of tornadoes touching down in Arkansas, Louisiana and Texas in the coming days, federal meteorologists said.

A separate storm system sent at least one tornado tearing through coastal North Carolina overnight on Friday. Dozens of homes in

Beaufort County collapsed, at least 16 people were hurt and thousands lost electricity, a county official said.

Rescue teams in the county spent the night and early Saturday morning "tearing people's houses apart where their house had collapsed around them," John Pack, the county's director of emergency services, said in a phone interview. Some 150 homes were damaged or destroyed by winds

in excess of 100 miles an hour (160 km an hour), he said, and three people were taken to the trauma centre at Greenville Memorial Hospital in South Carolina. Their injuries were serious but not life-threatening, he said.

About 2,500 residents were likely to remain without electricity for at least a couple more days while workers cleared downed trees and repaired power lines, Pack said.

That storm has since moved out to sea, but a new severe storm system is gaining strength in the Great Plains where large hail and damaging winds were expected on Saturday, meteorologists said.

"We're looking at multiple rounds of severe thunderstorms," said Ariel Cohen, a meteorologist at the federal Storm Prediction Centre in Norman, Oklahoma.—Reuters

Milan set to become "metropolitan" economic driver of Italy

MILAN, 27 April — Italy's business capital Milan has started the reform process to transform from next year into a "metropolitan city," an area that includes a large core city and the nearby smaller towns.

From 1 Jan, 2015, Milan is set to become a metropolitan city besides nine other major cities in Italy including Rome, Venice and Florence, in line with the best European experience.

According to recent studies, the Italian metropolitan cities headed by Milan and Rome will account for around 35 percent of the country's gross domestic product (GDP).

This sort of super-local governments will have administrative powers on the surrounding territories in the matter of economic policies, urban planning and public services, an architect and member of the PIM research

center for the metropolitan city of Milan, Dario Corvi, told Xinhua.

A law that gained parliament's final approval earlier this month has set the steps of the reform process. A main phase will be the establishment of a metropolitan council that consists of 24 mayors or councilors from the 134 surrounding municipalities of Milan, he said.

Xinhua

PERSPECTIVES

Monday, 28 April, 2014

Take opportunities to attract foreign investments

By Aung Khin

The economic potentials of Myanmar is largely relying on the access to foreign resources — in the form of trading opportunities, the inflow of foreign investment and bilateral and multilateral assistance from the global community.

Some Asian countries are now encountering disputes on territories and protests by opponents to their governments' policies.

While territorial disputes cause loss of trust in each other, internal political chaos disturbs in-

come sources of the respective countries, including tourism and foreign investment.

Myanmar can now expect more foreign investments from regional countries under these circumstances.

Myanmar people bear no grudge time against the countries and people who colonized the country, due to their forgiving natures. This is one of the advantages of the country. They welcome ethical foreign investments and those who make a genuine attempt to improve their lives.

The country's disadvantage is that human resources are still low in aspects of education and management, which is of concern to potential foreign investors.

Without fundamental reforms in the domestic economy and better human resources, foreign investment cannot be expected to bring about economic miracles.

The Asian Development Bank has estimated

that Myanmar, on its existing development path, can grow at 7 to 8 per cent a year and that it could sustain that growth rate at least over the next couple of decades.

If it becomes reality, the country's GDP per capita would reach US\$2,000 to US\$3,000 by 2030 — more than three times the current level — propelling Myanmar comfortably into the ranks of middle-income countries.

Therefore, Myanmar should not deviate from its democratic path and should keep political, economic and social stability to enjoy a period of sustained growth.

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 HEAVEN BORN

By Ba Than

Recently on February 2013 during our regular BCS pensioners' Wednesday breakfast meet, the author received an autographed book "The ICS and the BCS: life experiences of a retired BCS", in Myanmar. It was an interesting memoir of a fellow BCS U Ohn Than, pen name Myo Aung Hein, convincingly recounting the history of the beginnings of the famed Indian Civil Service (ICS), followed by Burma Civil Service (BCS). Being statistically minded he meticulously recorded the names, batches and numbers of the ICSs elected to serve in the Government of Burma province from 1921 to 1935 as published in the Civil List of the Home Ministry. In 1935 the Government of Burma Act was enacted. Myanmar was separated from India and stood as an independent province under

the British Empire. Recruitment of ICS ceased replaced by the BCS Class 1, from 1937 to 1948.

The author had also recorded briefly the history of ICS in his booklet, "Where Oldies Meet" by Ba Than, printed 2011, in the cover article 'Where Oldies Meet', (pp 8 to 31). The year 1853 was the landmark in the history of the British Civil Service when the Northcote and Travelyn Report was submitted to the British Parliament. It was a turning point in the recruitment of the Home Service and Colonial Service where the long-standing patronage system was replaced by the impartial open competitive system selected by the British Public Service Commission.

Come to think of it as the author writes this article in 2014, it is now 160 years since the Northcote Travelyn Report came into effect.

(1853-2013) Spurred by the inspiration to recall and record this memorable event little known today with the passing of time and change, the author hopes this informal presentation may serve as an integral niche in the history of Civil Service in Myanmar.

The ICS cadre was selected through open competitive examination by the British Public Service Commission, and trained to serve in the Home Service in UK and the Colonial Service in India and Burma (Myanmar). The competition was stiff, selected from among Oxford and Cambridge graduate youths in UK and talented Myanmar and Indian honours graduates. The selected probationers had to sign a Covenant which prescribed conditions of service, ethics morality and conduct to be adhered strictly as a personal pledge to the

British Crown. Thus they were known as Covenanted Service. The Myanmar ICSs were initially trained in Oxford and Cambridge in UK, and later batches in Fort Williams and Haileybury Colleges in India. The Myanmar ICSs gained immense popularity as elitist *heaven born* an attractive magnet of eligibility, sought by parents of eligible debutantes of high society. After training they were posted to selection grade and senior administrative positions of Extra Assistant Commissioner (EAC), Deputy Commissioner, Commissioners of administrative divisions, and as secretaries to the government in the Ministries of the Central Secretariat, and as Chief Secretary, Financial Commissioners etc. Their guidelines were condensed to three: *integrity, anonymity, and impartiality*. They were the delegated of-

ficials of the British Colonial Rule the steel frame from which other services evolved. Myanmar ICSs were appointed from 1921 to 1935.

The Government of Burma Act was promulgated in 1935 by which Myanmar was separated from India to stand as an independent province. Quoting U Ohn Than, there were 35 Myanmar ICSs from 1921 to 1935. With the separation from India the historic recruitment of the ICS ceased, though the covenanted senior officials were allowed to serve the Burma Government in their incumbent posts. New recruitment of BCS Class 1 administrative post and BCS Class 2 gazetted officers were carried out by the Public Service Commission of British Myanmar. The number of BCS (Class 1) direct recruits and BCS (Class 2) promotions

from 1937 to 1948 stood at 35, coincidentally equal to the ICSs at 35. The British recruited ICSs distinguished themselves by contributing in many ways towards development of civil administration. They instilled law and order, administration of justice and promotion of education in Myanmar schools subscribing to the modern curricula and methodology. In line with colonial rule. Teaching of English was prioritized making it the official language. It was also their discipline to record on the administrative, economic, cultural, and social condition of their charges namely divisions and districts. The District Gazetteers of important regions stood evidence to the methodical survey touching all aspects of administration, economic, social customs and traditions excelled himself with (See page 9)

Nay Pyi Taw Zoological Garden is helping the animals beat the summer heat

By Htin Linn Aung & Aung Kyaw Kyaw

The high summer heat is posing problems for Nay Pyi Taw's Zoological Garden—some welcome, others less so.

On one hand, the fine weather is drawing crowds of holiday-makers keen to see the variety of animals on display at the zoo.

On the other hand, the heat is making it extremely difficult for the animals, particularly those from climates

far cooler than Nay Pyi Taw in summer.

Already, eight of 10 penguins obtained from Thailand have perished from unknown causes, even though they were kept in a temperature-controlled penguin house.

Plans are underway to get another six penguins to join the two remaining, but officials admitted they will also need to get technical help to ensure the safety of the extremely popular flightless birds from Antarctica.

Garden Administrator U Than Soe Aye added

that until high-temperature survival questions are resolved, the arrival of more penguins will be delayed.

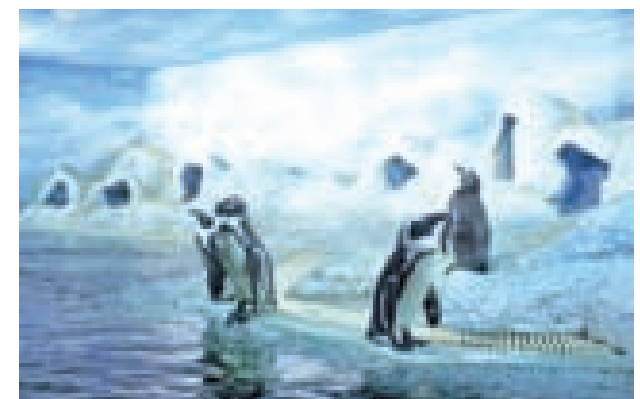
Beyond the penguin enclosure, the Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry is working to protect the animals in Nay Pyi Taw and at the zoological gardens in Yangon and Mandalay from the high heat.

At Nay Pyi Taw alone, more than 200 water sprinklers have been installed and wooden shelters have been built for some 700 animals representing 82 tropi-

cal and subtropical species kept at the 165-acre zoological garden that opened in 2008.

And while the fine weather is attracting masses of visitors, some must inevitably be disappointed they will not see all the animals in the zoological gardens because many animals shelter out of sight under bushes or in enclosures or caves to escape the scorching midday heat.

Still, the elephant and sea lion dances alone are well worth the admission price—K 1,000 for adults,



Penguins in temperature-controlled house at Nay Pyi Taw Zoological Garden.

K 500 for children. Group tickets are also available for 30 per cent less.

And while zoo lovers now have to visit the main gardens in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon or Mandalay for the best experiences in Myanmar,

Administrator U Than Soe Aye said a similar zoological garden is to be built soon near Myitsone in Kachin State that will make it easier for those in the north to enjoy a visit to a top zoo as well.

ARTICLE

Hands on the Move

Kyaw Win (Labour)

In the last few decades, international migration for employment has increased at an unprecedented scale. Permanent and temporary flows, regular and irregular, involving skilled, low-skilled or unskilled workers, are being witnessed in all parts of the world.

There seems to be a growing demand in the newly developed and the developed countries particularly for low-skilled or unskilled workers - the 'factory hands', 'farm hands', 'plantation workers', 'fishermen', 'domestic help' etc. In fact the demand for low-skilled or unskilled workers for many jobs for which the only requirement for performance is a pair of willing 'hands', have set these workers on the move to countries needing them. Their numbers, according to some estimates, far exceed the proportion of 'skilled' or 'qualified' workers seeking work in countries other than their own. Although many of these workers may be categorized as 'unskilled', in many simple jobs they may be 'taught' for a week or so to perform the required tasks.

Since the Eighties, structural changes in employment pattern both in developing and developed countries, labour shortages in some of the developed industrial countries because of their demographic situation, rising per capita incomes in the developed countries resulting in people being 'choosy' about some kinds of jobs are among the factors that resulted in growing demand for low-skilled or unskilled workers and the migration of such workers to these countries.

On the part of the migrating workers themselves, unemployment and under-employment, and the low levels of income, par-

ticularly in the rural areas, the comparatively higher levels of wages which can be earned in the major cities of their own country or the receiving countries and the desire to better support their families are the main 'push' factors that make them migrate, internally to the major cities and legally or illegally, to other countries.

In fact the numbers of low skilled or unskilled workers resorting to 'undocumented'/'irregular' movement to prospective 'employing' countries have been increasing at a higher rate than the 'documented'/'regular' workers.

The 'undocumented'/'irregular' low skilled or unskilled migrant workers are often in a vulnerable situation in the receiving country. Not only are many of them not paid 'fair' wages, unscrupulous employers may make them work long hours without giving them overtime pay rates. They are usually confined to their accommodation within the factory/ shop/ establishment. Many have to work without adequate rest periods or weekly holidays and are denied even the basic rights including medical treatment in case of illness and compensation in the event of losing life or limb in workplace accidents.

Myanmar has its share of internal migration of low skilled or unskilled workers from the rural areas to the major cities as well as out-migration of such workers, particularly those crossing the borders, to seek employment in the neighbouring countries.

The rural-urban migration has added to the population of the major cities. The population of Yangon, according to the Census just completed, is said to be about 20% higher than previously estimated. This

is not only because of the birth rate but also due to the rural-urban migration. Difficulty in finding affordable place to live, has led many people who come down from the rural areas, to erect 'kyu-kyaw' hutments in the outskirts of the city. If these people are required to work in the factories of the industrial zones, then low cost housing should be built for them near the zones.

Many of them travel to the business areas of the city to do any jobs available or work as street sellers and pavement hawkers. The increase in the daytime population of central Yangon has put a severe strain on the provision of services by the Municipal authorities as well as by the public transportation system. It's the same situation in the other major cities.

Regarding migration to other countries, many innocent and uninformed workers, particularly from the rural areas, do not know of the legal way to migrate and even if they do, they do not know how to go about it. They place their trust on the illegal recruiters/brokers who promise them high paying jobs in the receiving country. These recruiters/brokers charge exorbitant fees so that the potential migrant has to borrow money at high interest rates to pay them or they are held in debt-bondage to the brokers and employers. Many of the jobs promised are non-existent and the workers are sold to counterpart brokers in the receiving country.

To make matters worse, according to a recent article in the official Myanmar daily newspaper, the illegal brokers are helping unsuspecting persons who want to work in another country, to apply for passports. After the workers get their passports, the illegal recruiters/

brokers cut corners to send them quickly, in collaboration with counterpart illegal agents in the receiving country, to work on visit visas which after expiry of two months, renders their stay illegal in the receiving country. The article says there are many Myanmar workers who have been and are being sent that way to a neighboring country.

If the rural-urban migration or the illegal out-migration continues at the present rate, Myanmar, in the not too distant future, may suffer a shortage of workers to work in the paddy fields or plantations. Because of the out-migration there may even be a shortage of workers to work in the local industries or service enterprises where such workers are needed to do the same jobs they go abroad for.

However, out-migration of workers has its positive side also because the remittances sent by the migrants help support their families in Myanmar. If channeled legally through the banking system, remittances will add to the national income of the country.

One of the objectives of the Overseas Employment Law promulgated in 1999 is 'to enable the beneficial and systematic utilization of human resources of the State for building a modern and developed State'. The way forward therefore is to manage migration so that it takes into account national needs as well as needs of the employers in the receiving countries and the individual migrants.

First and foremost it is imperative for rural incomes to increase for stemming the tide of the 'hands' on the move. The President's programs to reduce poverty levels initiated when his Government was formed after the

general elections of 2010, will increase rural incomes and eventually, slow down the migration, both internal and external. The rural development measures that are part of poverty reduction programs, need to be sustainable to bear fruits.

As of now, it may be necessary to conduct campaigns to apprehend the many illegal agents and 'brokers' and their accomplices, all of who are benefiting immensely at the expense of the workers, to slow down the illegal migration process.

Many persons who migrate illegally to work abroad take the decision to do so by themselves. However, as mentioned above, they are often misled by false information by illegal recruiters and 'brokers'. It is therefore necessary to enable the potential migrant to get accurate information on all aspects of migrating for employment including the safe way to migrate. Measures to do this should be undertaken with priority given to areas or regions from where large scale illegal migration takes place. Recent news items about the establishing of Migrant Resource Centres by the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security to provide correct information relating to all aspects of migration is a step forward and will enable the potential migrants to choose the legal way to migrate, which is with the help of the Licensed Overseas Employment Agents.

Nevertheless, to reduce time and cost of the legal way to migrate, it is necessary to simplify and reduce the time taken for recruitment and placement functions of the Overseas Employment Agents that are licensed under the Law Relating to Overseas Em-

ployment. In this regard the relaxation by the new Government of certain stipulations concerning labour migration is conducive to reduction of the cost and shortening of the time of the migration process.

The passport issuing process has been decentralized recently. This will save the cost of obtaining passports for potential migrant workers from the various States and Regions. As such, the Licensed Overseas Employment Agents should be able to help the workers they recruit from the concerned States and Regions to apply for passports in the States or Regions they live.

The licensed agents often say that the procedures relating to the 'Job Offers' and recruitment of workers could be further simplified so that the cost and lead time to join employment in the receiving country is reduced. This will also induce more potential migrant workers to choose the legal way to migrate.

At the same time it is also important for the licensed agents to abide by the rules and regulations which have been made to promote legal and eradicate illegal migration. They should create trust in the regulators of migration by not resorting to unethical practices. That way, further relaxations can be expected.

Regarding countries to which large numbers of low skilled or unskilled workers migrate, making bilateral agreements or amending the agreements already made, to include clauses for better management of the migration process and at the same time protecting the migrant workers, will help to maintain such migration within acceptable levels and benefit both sending and receiving countries.

THE HEAVEN BORN

(from page 8)

the history of the Shan States, and also a numerous collection of what is Myanmar in his time. Maurice Collis served in many district positions during his tenure in Myanmar. Such collection during his charge produced many novels which became best sellers, namely: Siamese White, Lords of the Sunset, Trials in

Burma and many more.

In 4th January 1948 Myanmar gained Independence, ending 124 years of British rule. A new Myanmar Constitution was promulgated. The ICS and BCS Class 1 legally ceased as an administrative cadre. However these officials with proven experience and administrative acumen were permitted to serve on individual basis in the

Civil Service of Independent Republic of Myanmar till their stipulated age of retirement at the age of sixty. These senior officials dedicated their services to the development of their native land now independent. With experience and foresight they involved themselves in the new Myanmar towards nation building, economic and social development. These senior administrators were assigned for wider

global perspectives. Many served as ambassadors. Some were represented in world forums like the UN and specialized agencies: U Nyun (ICS), Executive Secretary of ECAFE Bangkok, with integrity and dignity in the world stage at large. A few ICSs, particularly a British J.S.Furnival, and senior Myanmar like U Shwe Mra, U Win Pe, U Ba Htay, U Htun Shein, Mr. James Barrington distinguished them-

selves in the world arena. Memoirs written by some have recounted their invaluable experience for all to read, a testimony of fame, prestige and dignity and legacy for upcoming generations to emulate. Myanmar ICSs vindicated the challenge with commensurate response: U Sein Tin (Theikpan Maung Wa), U Chan Thar, U Kyin, and U Ohn (commemorated by U Thet Tun), enriching literature in

its process.

Many such administrators have passed away some leaving behind invaluable mementos. Many incidents no less credible were lost to history, recounted as bed time stories of their grannies to their grandchildren. This article is a brief narrative to chronicle one aspect in the history of civil services in Myanmar and the contribution made by the ICS or the Heaven born.

Palestinian unity government will recognize Israel



Arab League Chief Nabil al-Arabi (L) greets Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, who waves to the media, before attending an Arab Foreign Ministers' meeting at the Arab League headquarters in Cairo on 9 April, 2014.—REUTERS

RAMALLAH, 27 April — Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas signaled on Saturday that he remains committed to troubled US-backed peace talks, saying that any unity government

agreed with the militant group Hamas would recognize Israel.

Abbas's comments appeared aimed at soothing US concerns about the unity deal he reached on

Wednesday with Hamas, an Islamist faction sworn to Israel's destruction and designated by the West as a terrorist organization.

Israel suspended peace negotiations with Abbas

after the reconciliation pact, and the United States said it would reconsider annual aid to the Palestinians worth hundreds of millions of dollars.

"The government would be under my command and my policy," Abbas told senior leaders of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) at his presidential headquarters in the occupied West Bank city of Ramallah.

"Its purview will be what happens domestically. I recognize Israel and it would recognize Israel. I reject violence and terrorism," he said.

The deal between Hamas and Abbas's Fatah party envisions agreement on a government of independent technocrats within five weeks and elections at least six months later. Hamas's opposition to Israel does not necessarily contradict Abbas's position, as both sides have agreed that the unity government will

not include Hamas members but be comprised of technocrats.

But Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu ruled out talks with such a government.

"That's the oldest trick in the book. It's called the front office-back office gambit," he said, in which "shady organizations" put forward "smooth-talking frontmen — the men in suits," Netanyahu said in an interview with MSNBC on Thursday.

"We will not sit and negotiate with a Palestinian government that is backed by Hamas in which Hamas has effective share of power," Netanyahu said.

Hamas on Saturday said it would not change its stance on Israel. "The recognition of Israel by the president of the Palestinian Authority, Mahmoud Abbas, is not new. What is important is that Hamas did not and will never recognize Israel," Ha-

mas spokesman Sami Abu Zuhri told Reuters.

Abbas seeks a Palestinian state in Gaza, the occupied West Bank and East Jerusalem, lands Israel captured in a 1967 war.

Hamas, which seized control of Gaza from Abbas's secular Fatah in a brief 2007 civil war, retains thousands of fighters and an arsenal of rockets. It has fought repeated battles with Israel since it took control of the enclave.

A senior US official said on Thursday that a unity government formed with Hamas could call into question some \$500 million in their annual security and budget aid to Abbas.

A future Palestinian government must "unambiguously and explicitly commit to non-violence, recognition of the state of Israel, and acceptance of previous agreements and obligations between the parties," the official told Reuters.—Reuters

Australian mistook cockpit for toilet, triggering hijack scare

JAKARTA/PERTH, 27 April — An Australian passenger mistook the cockpit door for the toilet, triggering Friday's hijack scare on a Virgin Australia flight from Brisbane to the Indonesian holiday island of Bali, police said.

Matt Lockley told Bali police after his arrest that he banged on what he thought was the toilet door for a last-minute bathroom break before the Boeing 737-800 aircraft landed.

The door was actually the cockpit door and the pilot, Neil Thomas Cooper, responded by alerting Indonesian traffic controllers of a possible hijacking. Crew members then

seized Lockley and handcuffed him.

A spokeswoman for Virgin Australia said Lockley was not handcuffed on board, but was directed by the crew back to a seat in the rear of the plane.

"The flight was about to land and (Lockley) was sleeping. The flight attendant woke him up and he went to the toilet. At the time, he thought the cockpit door was the toilet door," Heri Wiyanto, Bali police spokesman, told Reuters.

Virgin Australia said the 137 passengers and seven crew on board were never in any danger during the flight.

Reuters



Indonesian air force soldiers hold their weapons as they guard near a Virgin Australia airplane at Denpasar airport in the resort island of Bali on 25 April, 2014.—REUTERS

France denies it paid ransom for Syria reporters



French President Francois Hollande (C) speaks with former hostages, journalists Didier Francois, Edouard Elias, Nicolas Henin holding his children and Pierre Torres (L-R), moments after their arrival by helicopter from Evreux at the military airbase in Villacoublay, near Paris, on 20 April, 2014.—REUTERS

PARIS, 27 April — A French government spokesman denied on Sunday a report that it paid a ransom for the release a week ago of four French journalists held captive in Syria for more than 10 months.

Focus, a German mag-

azine, published on its website a report that France paid 18 million dollars for their release, citing NATO sources in Brussels. The report said the ransom money was brought to Ankara by Defence Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian.

"The government categorically denies this report and reiterates France's position on the question of liberation of hostages which (foreign minister) Laurent Fabius recalled last Saturday," a defence ministry spokesman told Reuters.

"Remember also that (president Francois) Hollande has said it is a very important principle that hostage-takers should not be tempted to take others. Everything is done through negotiations and discussions." The four journalists returned home to France on 20 April, where they were met at an airbase by Hollande and by their families and friends.

French authorities have released few details of the liberation of Nicolas Henin, Pierre Torres, Edouard Elias and Didier Francois. But Turkey's Dogan News Agency reported that an unknown group transported the journalists to the southeastern border of Turkey, where they were discovered by Turkish soldiers.—Reuters

President Xi vows intense pressure on terrorism

BEIJING, 27 April — Chinese President Xi Jinping has pledged to resolutely crack down on terrorism and secessionism with high intensity to safeguard national security.

Xi made the remarks on Friday at the 14th group study session on national security and social stability by the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee.

Calling terrorism the common enemy of the people, Xi urged improving counter-terrorism systems

and abilities and the public to build a "wall of bronze and iron" to fight against terrorism. "(We must) make terrorists become like rats scurrying across a street, with everybody shouting 'beat them!'" Xi said.

Resolute and decisive measures must be taken and high pressure must be maintained to crack down on violent terrorists who have been swollen with arrogance, he said. Violent terrorists ignore basic human rights, trample humanism and justice and challenge

the bottom-line of human civilization, Xi said.

It is neither an issue of nationality nor one of religion, but the common enemy of people of all nationalities, he said.

Xi also emphasized the fight against secessionism and promotion of ethnic unity and common prosperity. He called on a resolute strike on secession, infiltration and sabotage by hostile forces within and outside China.

Xi urged all regions and departments to shoulder

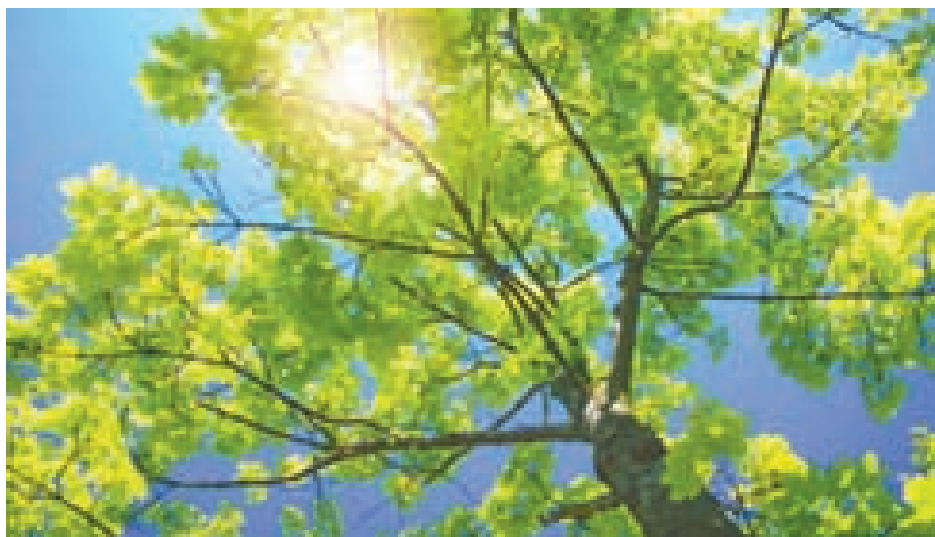
responsibilities and cooperate to maintain national security and social stability which are "extremely urgent" for deepening reforms and realizing the Chinese dream of national rejuvenation.

While China has managed to remain stable in providing a sound environment for reforms and opening-up, threats and challenges to the country's national security and social stability are increasing and reinforcing each other, he warned.

Xinhua

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

German study opens up new avenues in biohydrogen research



BERLIN, 27 April—A study recently published in the journal *Nature Chemical Biology* opens up new avenues in biohydrogen research, the Technical University of Berlin (TU Berlin) said on Friday.

Scientists at the TU Berlin succeeded in explaining the function of a molecular switch in biomolecules. The research was carried out with the Free University Berlin, the Charite and the

Humboldt University of Berlin.

The findings are significant not only for basic research but also for the technical application of biological hydrogen conversion, scientists said.

Knowledge of the molecular structure of hydrogenases paves the way for the synthesis of chemical model compounds to produce hydrogen, regarded as an alternative energy source,

said TU Berlin.

These biocatalysts called hydrogenases, which are not inactivated by the oxygen in the air, are of particular interest of the researchers. Due to their unusual property of oxygen compatibility, the molecular switch plays a key role.

The switch refers to a cluster of iron and sulfur atoms, which can conduct or optionally store electrons.

Understanding the cat-

alytic mechanism of hydrogenase might help scientists design clean biological energy sources, such as algae, that produce hydrogen.

“Because of its transdisciplinary methodology, our research group could decipher how the electronic switch allows the hydrogenase to detoxify the harmful oxygen, while ensuring that further energy is obtained from hydrogen,” says microbiologist Dr. Oliver Lenz from the Institute of Chemistry of the TU Berlin.

As the electronic switch is a key component of some proteins that are able to either produce hydrogen or to split hydrogen for energy, hydrogenases are the focus of research globally, said the study.

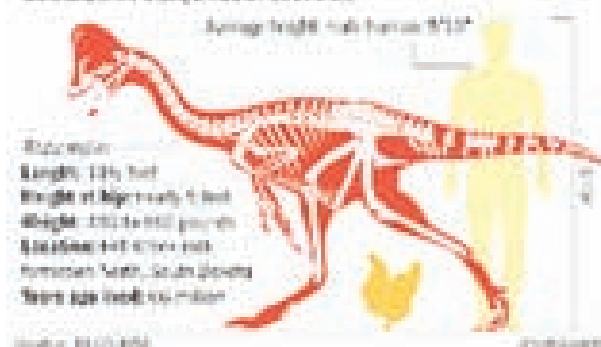
Hydrogen may be obtained from fossil sources, but these sources are unsustainable. So an important future application of hydrogen could be as an alternative for fossil fuels once global oil deposits are depleted.

Xinhua

Anzu wyliei: a new dinosaur discovered

Giant ‘chicken from hell’

Scientists from California and China have discovered the 100-million-year-old fossil of a new dinosaur, *Anzu wyliei*, the largest in its group found in North America. *Anzu wyliei* was a group of dinosaurs closely related to birds and often having a bird-like body shape.



Anzu wyliei, a new dinosaur nicknamed “chicken from hell”.—REUTERS

BEIJING, 27 April—*Anzu wyliei*, a new dinosaur nicknamed “chicken from hell,” was discovered in North and South Dakota of America, according to a study quoted in media reports on Friday.

Anzu wyliei, over two meters tall, seems strange for researchers, according to Matthew Lamanna, lead author of the study, for its jaws, feathers and crest all make it look like a bird. This

discovery also gives scientists a chance to look into caenagnathidae, a subset of a larger group of dinosaurs called oviraptorosaurs.

And *Anzu* bones also show oviraptorosaurs could live in North America, though their fossils were previously found in central and east Asia. The specimens were found in Hell Creek, a site formed over the last two million years of the Cretaceous Period.—Reuters

3D printers print ten houses in 24 hours

SHANGHAI, 27 April—A private company in east China recently used a giant printer set to print out ten full-sized houses within just one day.

The stand-alone one-story houses in the Shanghai Hi-Tech Industrial Park look just like ordinary buildings. They were created using an intelligent printing array in east China’s city of Suzhou.

The array consists of four printers that are 10 meters wide and 6.6 meters high and use multi-directional automated sprays. The sprays emit a combination of cement and construction waste that is used to print building walls layer-by-layer.

Ma Yihe, the inventor of the printers, said he and his team are especially proud of their core technology of quick-drying cement.

This technology allows for the printed material to dry rapidly. Ma has been cautious not to reveal the secrets of this technology.

Ma, who has been designing 3D printers for 12 years, said the new technology is cost-effective and environmentally friendly.

“To obtain natural stone, we have to employ miners, dig up blocks of stone and saw them into pieces. This badly damages the environment,” Ma said.

“But with the 3D printing, we recycle mine tail-

ings into usable materials. And we can print building with any digital design our customers bring us. It’s fast and cheap,” he said.

Buildings made with 3D printing technology can spare construction workers from having to work in hazardous, dusty environments, he said.

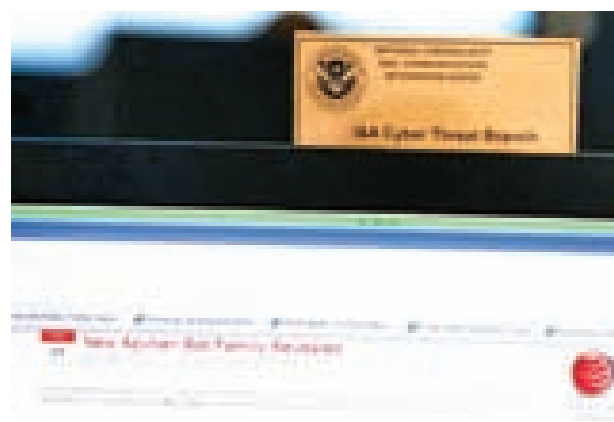
The printers can print multi-story houses, but Chinese building codes do not currently include standards for 3D-printed houses.

Quality checks are currently conducted by examining each piece of the structure as it is printed out.

Ma said he hopes his printers can be used to build skyscrapers in the future.

Xinhua

Homeland Security struggles to tempt, retain cyber talent



A work station is pictured at the US Department of Homeland Security’s National Cybersecurity & Communications Integration Center (NCCIC) located just outside Washington in Arlington, Virginia on 24 Sept, 2010.—REUTERS

WASHINGTON, 27 April—In the race to attract cybersecurity experts to protect the government’s computer networks, the Department of Homeland Security has a handicap money can’t fix.

Navigating the federal hiring system takes many months, which is too long in the fast-paced tech world.

“Even when somebody is patriotic and wants to do their duty for the nation, if they’re really good they’re not going to wait six months to get hired,” said Mark Weatherford, the former cyber chief at DHS.

After a spate of national security leaks and with

cybercrime on the rise, the department is vying with the private sector and other three-letter federal agencies to hire and retain talent to secure federal networks and contain threats to American businesses and utilities.

Phyllis Schneck, the former chief technology officer at security software company McAfee Inc who succeeded Weatherford in August, asked a US Senate committee for help.

“The hiring process is very, very difficult,” she said.

Cyber experts can command higher salaries — in some cases up to six figures more — at private com-

panies, Schneck said, but national security offers a “higher calling” and valuable experience.

“People say the good talent doesn’t come because we can’t pay them,” she said. “We could actually use our mission to outdo some of those salaries they’re offered. But we have to have the flexibility and some additional competitiveness to bring them inside.

The Homeland Security Department, created after the 11 Sept, 2001, attacks, is playing catchup with the Pentagon’s larger and more established cybersecurity operations at Cyber Command and the National Security Agency.

Not only does DHS lack the enhanced hiring powers of its military counterpart and the agility private companies offer, but the rigid bureaucracy of the 240,000-employee agency can foster an inside-the-box culture. “There’s a lot of really smart, scary cybersecurity professionals out there who also happen to have pink hair and tattoos,” said Weatherford.

But you won’t find them at DHS, which also is averse to hiring cyber experts without a college degree, he said.—Reuters

People stand at the booth of ZTE Corporation, a leading telecom equipment manufacturer in China, during an international information technology exhibition in Minsk, capital of Belarus, on 24 April, 2014. An international information technology exhibition was held here from 22 to 25 April, attracting exhibitors from over 20 countries and regions including China, Russia and South Korea.

XINHUA



Voting under way in 1st Diet by-election since tax hike

KAGOSHIMA, (Japan), 27 April — Voters went to the polls on Sunday for a House of Representatives by-election in Kagoshima Prefecture, the first parliamentary contest since a consumption tax hike in April.

Six candidates are running in the election to fill a seat formerly held by a ruling party lawmaker, Takeshi Tokuda, who resigned in February over an election scandal.

The focus of the race in the Kagoshima No 2 constituency is on the issue of “money and politics”

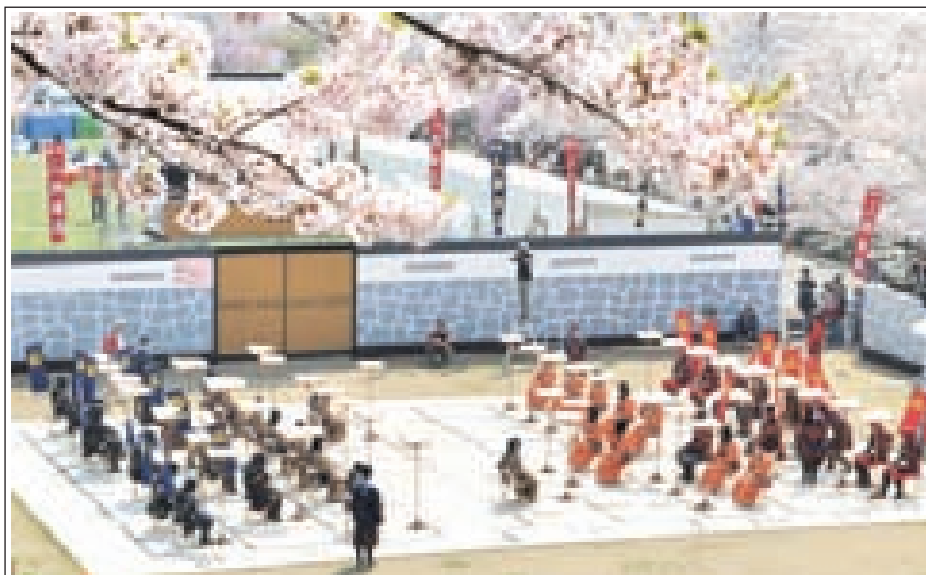
in the wake of the scandal involving illegal campaign practices, and the impact of the consumption tax hike to 8 percent from 5 percent on voters’ daily lives.

It is expected to be a close battle between the ruling Liberal Democratic Party’s Masuo Kaneko, 67, a former Kagoshima prefectural assembly chairman who is also supported by the LDP’s junior coalition partner the New Komeito party, and Akashi Uchikoshi, 56, backed by the Democratic Party of Japan and three other opposition parties.

Kaneko has promised to stimulate the local economy with the help of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe’s economic policies, while Uchikoshi, a former DPJ lower house member, has pledged to seek transparency and get to the bottom of the money scandal that cost former LDP lower house member Tokuda his post.

Tokuda resigned over the scandal related to campaigning for the 2012 election. The local election board is expected to release the final results for the election around midnight.

Kyodo News



A shogi, or Japanese chess, game with “human pieces” is played on 26 April, 2014, in the Japanese northeastern city of Tendo, Yamagata Prefecture, known for Japan’s largest production of Shogi pieces. People in armour or kimono moved on a 15-metre square shogi board under instructions from two professional shogi players. Some 90,000 people are expected to see the two-day event.—KYODO NEWS

Chinese nationals lost in another Australian fishing tragedy

SYDNEY, 27 April — In a further rock-fishing tragedy that has blighted the recreational fishing on Australia’s unpredictable eastern coast, police recovered on Saturday the body of a Chinese national lost off rocks at Wybung Head who tried to save a friend lost moments earlier on the NSW Central Coast. Police resumed on Sunday the search for another man who is assumed lost in the same circumstances.

About 6.30 pm Friday, a group of two women and four men from Sydney were fishing off rocks,

when one of the women was swept into the water by a wave.

The young rock fisherman appears to have drowned in the vain attempt to save his girl friend. The young man is among 10 risk-taking fisherman who have died in the past two years in the same treacherous waters of the NSW Central Coast.

A police spokesman told *Xinhua* that the search continues for a Chinese student, 20, who also leapt into the water in the attempt to save the young woman who was swept off

the rocks in the southern coast of Lake Macquarie by what locals call “freak waves”, though underlying the regularity of such events — where a far larger wave will seep across the rocks, far above the tidal line.

When the two men from the group made the fateful decision to leap into extremely dangerous white breakers — waves that smash into the rocky headlands — they struggled momentarily before the woman was miraculously swept back to safety by another wave.

Witnesses described the scene when the two men disappeared under the waves. When visual sight had been lost, authorities were contacted and a search commenced.

Local police were called in and were assisted in their rescue effort by officers from the Marine Area Command, NSW Ambulance SCAT, Surf Lifesaving, Volunteer Rescuers and the Westpac helicopter.

Shortly before 9 am Saturday, the body of a man was located off Wybung Head.—*Xinhua*

Asia-China gas pipeline metering station passes appraisal

URUMQI, 27 April — Construction of the Horgos metering station for Line C of the China-Central Asia gas pipelines has been completed and passed an appraisal by a quality inspection watchdog.

The station will be a hub connecting Line C and China’s No 3 West-East gas pipeline. The station will be used to conduct metering, inspection and settlement of imported natural gas from central Asian countries.

The Line C pipeline starts from the border area between Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan and runs through Kazakhstan before reaching northwest China’s Xinjiang with a length of 1,840 kilometers.

Construction of the project undertaken by

PetroChina started in 2012. The line has been designed to run parallel with existing Line A and Line B of China-Central China gas pipelines.

After the joining of the pipelines and the country’s West-to-East natural gas pipelines in Xinjiang, the gas imported from central Asia is sent to east China.

Xinjiang produces oil, gas and coal. Neighboring central Asian countries are also rich in natural resources.

The West-to-East natural gas pipelines that carry gas from both Central Asia and Xinjiang have transported more than 22 billion cubic meters of natural gas to Shanghai in the past 10 years, according to Shanghai Gas (Group) Co Ltd.

Xinhua

13 workers trapped in Nepal hydropower tunnel rescued, 3 missing

KATHMANDU, 27 April — Thirteen workers trapped inside a tunnel that was blocked by a landslide on Friday at a Chinese-financed hydropower project in western Nepal have been rescued while three others remain missing, police said on Saturday.

“Three people are still missing and rescue efforts are continuing,” said Basanta Kumar Lama, police chief of Kaski district, the site of the hydropower project.

Kaski is about 140 kilometres west of Kathmandu.

The 13 workers — 12 Nepalis and one Chinese — were rescued more than 14 hours after the landslide and all were in good health, Lama said, when reached by telephone.

The 25-megawatt Upper Madi hydropower project is 80 percent financed by China, and a Chinese contractor is involved in the construction work.

Kyodo News

China aims to build over 7 million public homes this year



A garbage collector walks past residential and office buildings in construction, in Hefei, Anhui Province, on 3 April, 2014.—REUTERS

BEIJING, 27 April — China aims to start building more than 7 million units of public housing this year, the Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development said on Saturday, signaling the latest govern-

ment move to counter high property prices.

The government intends to finish building 4.8 million units this year, the ministry said on its website.

Large-scale construc-

tion of public homes in China not only supports growth in the world’s second-largest economy, it also helps to quell discontent over rising house prices.

Yet some have in the

past criticized China’s public homes — also known as affordable housing — as being ineffective because they say good apartments are set aside for officials, leaving poorly built ones for the public.

The government has spent more than four years trying to tame record home prices on concerns that they were stoking an asset bubble and some see the efforts bearing fruit.

China’s home price inflation slowed to an eight-month low in March.

Average new home prices in China’s 70 major cities rose 7.7 percent in March from a year earlier, easing from the previous month’s 8.7 percent rise, according to *Reuters* calculations based on data released by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) last week.

Reuters

ADVERTISEMENT & GENERAL

TRADE MARK
CAUTION NOTICE

Allicor Inc., a company organized under the laws of the State of Michigan, United States of America and having its principal office at 7575 Fulton Street East, Ada, Michigan 49355, U.S.A. is the owner and sole proprietor of the following Trade mark:-

AMFEE

Reg.No. 4/12598/2013
Used in respect of -Coffee; tea; cocoa; sugar; rice; tapioca; sago; artificial coffee; flour and preparations from cereals; bread; pastry and confectionery; ice; honey; treacle; yeast; baking-powder; salt; mustard; vinegar; sauces; spices. (Int'l Class 30)
Any fraudulent imitation or unauthorized use of the said trademark or other infringements whatsoever will be dealt with according to law.

Aung Naing Moe, Advocate
May Phyo Kin, H.Q.P
For: Allicor Inc.
Myanmar Global Law Firm
Ph: 0973220023
Dated: 28 April 2014

Ministry of Energy Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise (Announcement)

Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise (MOGE), a state-owned enterprise under the Ministry of Energy, is now planning to upgrade its own drilling rigs with a range of capacity for shallow, medium and deep wells and to cooperate with local and foreign partners for mutual interests to participate in future drilling activities. All interested local and foreign companies are warmly invited to come and discuss for potential business cooperation at Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise Office, Complex 44, Nay Pyi Taw.

Contact: Ministry of Energy

Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise
Phone: 067-411346/411347

World Tai Chi Day marked in Malta

VALLETTA, 27 April — Moving with gentle oriental grace, red or white silk clad figures whirled before the stately palace here on Saturday, giving a Chinese aspect to the grand main square.

This came as Malta joined dozens of countries around the world to mark World Tai Chi Day, on the last Saturday of April.

Performers all the way

from Beijing Sports University joined local aficionados in an elegant display of this ancient and best known Chinese martial art, including Chen-style and Yang-style Tai Chi Quan, Sword and Broadsword.

Addressing a gathering of officials, participants and spectators in the capital's St George's Square, Chinese Ambassador to Malta Cai Jinbiao called sport an important part of bilateral exchanges between the two countries.

Internationally popular for its health benefits, Tai Chi is known as well for its "unique beauty," the Chinese ambassador said.

The traditional art, familiar to early morning visitors to Chinese parks or squares, where people practice it, is a "typical embodiment of traditional Chinese culture" that can also "bring peace of mind in today's fast-paced world," Ambassador Cai said.

He said he personally could attest to the benefits for a better quality of life as a practitioner himself.

Both the Maltese and Chinese representatives at the event were agreed that there could be a place for more Tai Chi instruction in Malta in future.

Malta's Parliamentary Secretary for Youth and Sport, Chris Aguis, said in his prepared remarks that the Maltese could certainly benefit from the practice, noting lackluster physical fitness statistics, and expressed an interest in seeing Tai Chi taught in the schools here.

"We should try to... promote the sport in our schools for the benefit of our children and our people" in both mind and body, Aguis told *Xinhua*.

For his part, Ambassador Cai told *Xinhua* that Tai Chi teachers could be made available here according to local interest.

Xinhua



A member from Malta Chen Tai Chi Chuan performs Tai Chi Chuan during the annual World Tai Chi Day events at St George's Square in Valletta, Malta, on 26 April, 2014.
XINHUA

Iran welcomes deal between Palestinian factions

TEHERAN, 27 April—The Iranian Foreign Ministry welcomed a recent reconciliation deal between the Palestinian Islamic movement of Hamas and the Palestinian Authority (PA), Press TV reported on Saturday.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran welcomes solidarity among Palestinian groups against the Zionist regime (of Israel)," Iranian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Marzieh Afkham said, adding that Iran also recognizes "any kind of national reconciliation which results in Palestinian unity."

The Islamic republic backs any measure contributing to the anti-Israel campaign, Afkham was quoted as saying.

Earlier on Wednesday Hamas and the PA reached a reconciliation agreement after two days of meeting, pledging to end differences, form a unity government within five weeks and hold a general election within six months.

Xinhua

Texas plant fire injures seven workers

HOUSTON, 27 April—At least seven workers were injured in a fire which erupted at a plywood plant in the US state of Texas on Saturday, local media reported.

The blaze began shortly after 18:15 local time (2315 GMT) at the Georgia-Pacific plant in Corrigan, about 160 km north of Houston, *The Houston Chronicle* reported.

At least four workers were airlifted to a medical

center in Houston, while three others were taken by ambulance to an area hospital, according to the report. Other media reports said four victims were airlifted to hospitals while as many as five others were taken to hospitals by ground ambulance. The number of victims cannot be verified immediately.

Firefighters have extinguished the blaze. It's not clear what caused that fire. Some firefighters

told the media there was a problem with a sawdust collection system and the dust caught fire. The Georgia-Pacific plant manufactures plywood and flooring products. The company released a statement late Saturday, saying "our thoughts and prayers are with the victims and their families."

The company also said the plant's operations will be shut down for an undetermined amount of time.

Xinhua

7th "Chinese Bridge" language competition held in Bulgaria

SOFIA, 27 April—Bulgarian national qualifications of the Seventh "Chinese Bridge" — Chinese Proficiency Competition for Foreign Secondary School Students, were held here on Saturday.

Twelve students, representing the 1,000 teenagers studying Chinese in eight Bulgarian towns, demonstrated Chinese language and cultural skills including a tea ceremony, at the event jointly organized by the Confucius Institute and the Chinese Embassy in Sofia. The competition specially dedicated to 10th anniversary of the Confucius Institute and the 65th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic re-

lations between Bulgaria and China, was won by Katerina Kopankova, 16, who will represent the Balkan country at the finals in China, together with her three runner-ups.

Yuan Jigang, head of the education section at the Chinese Embassy in Bulgaria, said at the opening ceremony that learning the Chinese language will bring new, very good opportunities for everyone, as the relations between Bulgaria and China will develop increasingly in all areas.

Alexander Fedotov, Director of the Center for Eastern Languages and Cultures at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" said that all participants in

the competition will have to go all the way across the bridge from the temple "Alexander Nevsky" in Sofia to the Temple of Heaven in Beijing.

Gu Weiping, Chinese Director of the Confucius Institute in Sofia, echoed that "Chinese Bridge" is not just only a competition but a bridge linking China and Bulgaria, and cultures and peoples of the two countries.

The "Chinese Bridge" competition was first organized in Bulgaria by the Confucius Institute in 2008 to inspire the students between 15 to 20 years old to learn Chinese and enhance their understanding of the Chinese culture.—*Xinhua*



Image taken on 19 April, 2014 shows coach Mariano Rozenberg (R, back), speaking with the players during a soccer training session in motorized wheel chairs, in the city of General Pacheco, 20 km from Buenos Aires, capital of Argentina. The soccer in motorized wheel chairs started to be practiced a year ago in Argentina to integrate people with disabilities to the practice of sports and to promote their social integration.

XINHUA

Building partially collapses after "blast" occurred in Vienna

VIENNA, 27 April — A building has partially collapsed, with five people injured after a reported "blast" took place in Vienna, local media said on Saturday.

A total of 10 people, including the five injured, have been evacuated from the collapsed building in the 15th district near the center of Vienna city, according to

Police spokeswoman Adina Mircioane. The Accident occurred at around 10 am (0800GMT). The rescue workers are keeping searching for people on the site since more people might be still trapped inside the building.

The accident is reportedly caused by a blast but the police said they are investigating into the matter.

Xinhua

New Mexico dig uncovers 'E.T.' video games buried after 1980s flop

ALBUQUERQUE, 27 April — Documentary filmmakers digging in a New Mexico landfill on Saturday unearthed hundreds of "E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial" cartridges, considered by some the worst video game ever made and blamed for contributing to the downfall of the video game industry in the 1980s.

Some gamers speculate that thousands or even millions of the unwanted cartridges made by Atari were buried in a landfill in Alamogordo, about 200 miles (320 km) southeast of Albuquerque.

Who dumped the videos, how many they buried and why they did it inspired the dig and a documentary of the event by Microsoft Corp's Xbox Entertainment Studios.

The first batch of E.T. games was discovered under layers of trash after about three hours of digging, a Microsoft spokeswoman said, putting to rest



The first recovered Atari cartridge and packaging recovered from the old Alamogordo landfill are shown in Alamogordo, New Mexico, on 26 April, 2014.

REUTERS

questions about whether the cartridges would be found at all.

She could not immediately provide an exact count of how many cartridges were uncovered.

The game was a design and marketing failure after it was rushed out to coincide with the release of Steven Spielberg's 1982 hit movie "E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial," and it contributed

to a collapse of the video game industry in its early years. Atari is believed to have been saddled with most of the 5 million E.T. game cartridges produced. According to *New York Times* reports at the time, the game manufacturer buried the games in the New Mexico desert in the middle of the night.

A game enthusiast later tracked down the suspected burial site and spread the word about the location, said Sam Claiborn, an editor at video game news site IGN.

The approximate size of the dig site at an old Alamogordo landfill measures 150 feet by 150 feet (46 meters by 46 meters) off the city's main commercial street.

"For a lot of people, it's something that they've wondered about and it's been rumoured and talked about for 30 years, and they just want an answer," said Zak Penn, the film's director.

When the game was first released in 1982 it retailed for around \$29.99, but now often sells on eBay for less than \$5.

"I don't know how much people would pay for a broken ET game, but as a piece of history, it has a much different value," Penn said.—Reuters



Austrian drag queen Conchita Wurst gestures during an interview with Reuters in Vienna on 24 April, 2014.

REUTERS

Bearded Austrian drag queen to take on Eurovision

VIENNA, 27 April — Drag queen Conchita Wurst will take to the European stage as Austria's contender for Eurovision, the song contest that pits nation versus nation and launched the global careers of ABBA and Celine Dion, Wurst's idol.

Sporting high-heels, butterfly eyelashes and a full beard, Wurst — real name: Tom Neuirth — is an unlikely contestant for conservative Austria, which has triumphed just once before, in 1966, with Udo Jurgens' gentle chanson "Merci, Cherie".

The annual Eurovision Song Contest, which has a huge gay following, could be the perfect platform for the singer to launch an international career. Israeli transgender singer Dana International won the contest in 1998 with "Diva".

But her entry has highlighted Europe's geographical divide on attitudes to homosexuality. Unlikely to

raise much controversy in the West, her appearance has prompted criticism by some in the East where anti-gay rhetoric remains more common. Online petitions have been started in Belarus, Armenia and Russia — whose government passed a law last year banning "gay propaganda" among minors — to have Wurst removed or edited out of broadcasts in their countries.

Armenian Eurovision contender Aram MP3, a 30-year-old man whose real name is Aram Sargsyan, said Wurst's way of life was "not natural" and she should decide to be a woman or a man.

Wurst shot back: "I told him I don't want to be a woman. I am just a working queen and a very lazy boy at home."

Aram MP3 has since apologised, saying his comments were intended as a joke.

Reuters



Cast member Kevin Spacey poses at the premiere for the second season of the television series "House of Cards" at the Directors Guild of America in Los Angeles, California on 13 Feb, 2014.—REUTERS

'House of Cards' producers reach tax deal, will stay in Maryland

WASHINGTON, 27 April — The producers of the Netflix series "House of Cards", who had threatened to stop filming in Maryland unless they received enough in tax breaks, have reached an agreement with the state.

The show's producers, Media Rights Capital, will receive \$11.5 million (6.84 million pounds) in tax credits this year to keep filming the series in

Maryland, Governor Martin O'Malley and the company said in a joint statement issued late on Friday.

"House of Cards", a Washington political thriller that stars Kevin Spacey, received \$26 million in tax credits for filming its first two seasons in Maryland.

In January, California-based Media Rights Capital sent letters to Maryland officials saying they

would stop filming in the state unless they received enough in tax breaks. The letters did not specify an amount.

Friday's joint statement said the \$11.5 million was less than what the producers had sought but enough to keep the show in the state.

Season three is expected to begin production in the next few months.

Reuters

IIFA 2014: John Travolta's favourite Bollywood actors

TAMPA BAY, (Florida), 27 April — Shekhar Kapur's Paani has taken its time getting off the ground but that's all clearly water under the bridge especially with the surprise announcement that John Travolta

had over IIFA Weekend.

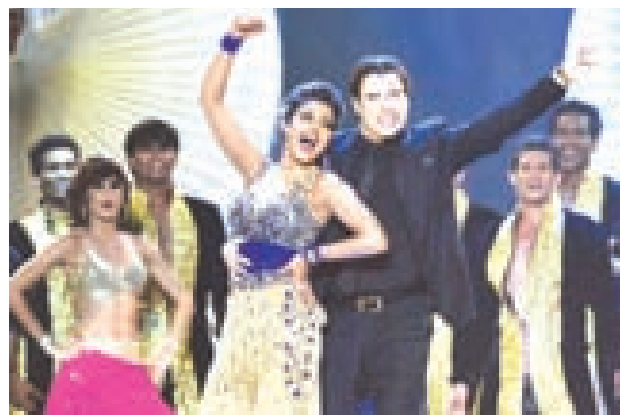
When asked if he would ever consider being a part of a Bollywood film, the Grease star quickly consulted some notes before replying, "I have been approached for a Bol-

lywood film which will be directed by Shekhar Kapur about water. I'm considering being a part of it. It sounds like an honest Bollywood film."

Considering John may be all set to make his Bollywood debut, it seems he's been keeping a check on Bollywood and is quite well-versed with what several actors are upto. The actor makes no secret of his admiration for Aamir Khan but it seems it's two lovely leading ladies that have really caught his attention.

"I loved Priyanka Chopra's Exotic. I also recently watched the Romeo and Juliet version and I loved the girl (Deepika Padukone) in that."

PTI



John reveals he is considering being a part of Shekhar Kapur's Paani.—PTI

Longtime bachelor George Clooney engaged to British lawyer



George Clooney is reportedly engaged to a British lawyer. PTI

LOS ANGELES, 27 April — Hollywood leading man George Clooney, who has said he was not suited for marriage, is engaged to British lawyer Amal Alamuddin, according to media reports on Saturday.

Alamuddin, 36, was spotted last week wearing a large ring at a Los Angeles restaurant where she

and Clooney, 52, were apparently celebrating their engagement with friends, *People* magazine reported, citing anonymous sources.

"George and Amal are trying to keep things very low-key, but they also aren't really trying to hide this, it doesn't seem," said a source quoted by *People*.

The New York Post

also reported the couple's engagement. Clooney's representative, Stan Rosenfield, did not respond to an email from Reuters seeking confirmation. He told the Post on Friday that he did not comment on the actor's personal life.

Clooney and Alamuddin have been dating since October, according to media reports. She practices international and human rights law, and Clooney is an international human rights activist.

The two-time Oscar winner has been married once, but since his 1993 divorce from wife Talia Balsam has remained one of Hollywood's most eligible bachelors.—PTI

GENERAL

Van Gaal to take charge at Manchester United after World Cup

THE HAGUE, 27 April — Dutch national team coach Louis van Gaal reached an agreement to become the new coach of Manchester United after the World Cup, Dutch newspaper *De Telegraaf* reported on Saturday.

According to *De Telegraaf*, the 62-year-old coach agreed on a multi-million contract with the English club on late Friday.

The negotiations took place in the Portuguese city of Algarve, where Van Gaal owns a holiday home, the Dutch newspaper stated. Van Gaal will start at United immediately after the World Cup.

United had to search for a new coach after the sacking of David Moyes



Louis van Gaal

earlier this week. Ryan Giggs was appointed as his interim replacement. Moyes had succeeded his illustrious Scottish compatriot Sir Alex Ferguson last year.

The results under Moyes were disappointing with an exit in the FA Cup

and the Champions League and a current seventh place in the Premier League for the reigning champions.

Van Gaal's mission will be to build a new team and to reach that goal he will receive 100 million euros (138 million US dollars) to spend on transfers,

according to *De Telegraaf*. Van Gaal's compatriots Robin van Persie, captain of the Dutch team, and Alexander Buttner are currently under contract at United.

Last year Van Gaal had already announced to stop with the Dutch team after the World Cup. He also said to take a sabbatical year or to sign at a major foreign club, preferably in the English Premier League.

Van Gaal gained league titles in the Netherlands (AZ, Ajax), Germany (Bayern Munich) and Spain (FC Barcelona). He will be present at his first major tournament as national team coach at the forthcoming World Cup.

Xinhua

Cardiac Rehabilitation Programme adopted in Brunei to improve quality of life

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, 27 April — About 62 cardiac patients in Brunei were invited to the Cardiac Rehabilitation Programme Phase Three by Ministry of Health in their effort to prevent patients from having a second heart attack and improve their quality of life through various exercise sessions on Saturday.

Of the 62 cardiac patients, 50 patients were categorized as low risk cardiac patients, while the remaining 12 were high risk cardiac patients. This initiative is to expose patients to the various places that are available for them to continue their exercise and

not necessary depending on exercise equipment to stay fit. The main aim of the cardiac rehabilitation is to prevent patients from having a second heart attack, prevent readmission, lower medical cost and improve their quality of life.

The Cardiac Rehabilitation Programme for low risk individuals was established at RIPAS Hospital in January 2004 and the Cardiac Rehabilitation Programme for the high risk individuals was then established on 13 Oct, 2010.

To date, there were registered 622 low risk patients and 49 high risk patients for the cardiac re-

habilitation programme in RIPAS Hospital. Of the total number of patients that were registered 60 percent of them has completed the Cardiac Rehabilitation Programme. The completion of the programme depends on their attendance and commitment to the programme. In Brunei Darussalam, Cardiac Rehabilitation Programme are offered in three phases. Patients are referred by the cardiologists and have been assessed by the cardiologists for fitness to undergo this programme. Phase One is where patients are being seen in coronary care unit. Phase two is outpatients

appointment to attend supervise exercise and education sessions. Phase three is where patients need to maintain their heart health by practicing the information learned in Phase 2.

For primary prevention, Pehin Adanan, minister of health is actively promoting it through Health Promotion Center (HPC) in encouraging lifestyle modification by eating healthy, exercise and stop smoking to reduce the number of Bruneian death cause by Non Communicable Diseases which includes cancer, heart disease, diabetic mellitus, asthma and more.

Xinhua

22 killed in attacks in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 27 April — A total of 22 people were killed and 35 others wounded in separate attacks across Iraq on Saturday, police and medical sources said.

A civilian was killed and ten others wounded in a roadside bomb attack at a popular restaurant in al-Naser district east of the Iraqi capital Baghdad, a police source said.

In a separate incident, a roadside bomb struck a police patrol in Saidiyah district in the southern part of Baghdad, killing a policeman and wounding two others, along with wounding three passersby, the source said.

Two civilians were killed when unidentified gunmen opened fire at a marketplace in a Sunni

neighbourhood in Baghdad's southwestern district of Amil, the source said, adding that a civilian driver was killed when a sticky bomb attached to his car was detonated in central Baghdad. Also in Baghdad, police found a body of a civilian who was shot dead after being tortured in the Shiite district of Shula in the northwestern part of Baghdad.

In Anbar Province, two people were killed and 20 others wounded in artillery shelling on several neighborhoods in the besieged city of Fallujah, a medical source from the city hospital said.

Also in the province, gunmen blew up bombs at a polling center in the city of Qaim, some 330 km north-

west of Baghdad, destroying the building without causing human casualties, a local police source said.

Elsewhere, two soldiers were killed and two others wounded when a roadside bomb went off near their patrol at a village north of the city of Tikrit, some 170 km north of Baghdad, a police source said.

A civilian was killed when a roadside bomb was detonated prematurely near Tikrit, the source added.

In northern Iraq, an army force carried out an operation to hunt down al-Qaeda militants south of the city of Mosul, some 400 km north of Baghdad, leaving eight suspected militants dead and 16 others captured, a local police source said.—Xinhua

MYANMAR TV

(28-4-2014, Monday)

- 6:00 am
- 1. Paritta By Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw
- 6:40 am
- 2. Nice & Sweet Songs
- 7:00 am
- 3. News/ Weather Report
- 7:40 am
- 4. Teleplay (Health)
- 8:30 am
- 5. Documentary
- 8:45 am
- 6. ASEAN Programme
- 9:30 am
- 7. Cartoon Series
- 10:15 am
- 8. Documentary
- 11:10 am
- 9. New Melody
- 12:00 pm
- 10. News/International News/Weather Report
- 12:35 pm
- 11. Myanmar Movie
- 2:45 pm
- 12. Documentary
- 3:20 pm
- 13. Documentary (Women in Myanmar Society)
- 4:00 pm
- 14. News/ Weather Report
- 4:30 pm
- 15. University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) Second Year (Physics)
- 5:00 pm
- 16. News
- 5:15 pm
- 17. Documentary
- 6:00 pm
- 18. News/ Weather Report
- 6:20 pm
- 19. Documentary
- 7:00 pm
- 20. News
- 8:00 pm
- 20. News/International News/Weather Report
- 9:00 pm
- 21. News
- 22. Teleplay

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(28-4-14 07:00am~ 29-4-14 07:00am) MST

- * Local News
- * Tumbling Doll,Pyit Tine Htaung
- * Local News
- * Tumbling Doll,Pyit Tine Htaung
- * World News
- * Product of Myanmar - Seashells Products
- * Local News
- * Taste of Myanmar (Shan Noodle Salad)
- * World News
- * Bago : A City of Famous Historic Pagoda
- * Local News
- * We'll leave after 12 passengers are on Board
- * World News
- * Mogok: The Colourful Land of Rubies
- * Local News
- * Visiting to Maw-lamyang Trip
- * World News
- * Kyaikhteeyoe: My Father The Porter
- * Local News
- * Cruising to Precious Islands
- * World News
- * Snake Dancer
- * Local News
- * Myanmar National Poet and Literary Icon "Min Thu Wun" (Part-IV) (Political Life and Remembrance)
- * World News
- * Myanmar Weaving
- * Local News
- * Mularsheedi we Love!
- * World News
- * Inlay Lake: The Challenges
- * Local News
- * Five Treasures in the Ancient City of MraukU
- * World News
- * Myanmar Masterclass: Cubism



A rock blocks a road after a rainstorm in Liuzhou City, south China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, on 26 April, 2014. A rainstorm lashed the city at night of 25 April and local meteorological bureau has issued a red alert for rainstorm.—XINHUA

IX SEA Youth Athletics Championships

Myanmar athletes win three gold on first day of IX SEA Youth Athletics Championships

NAY PYI TAW, 27 April—Myanmar athletes won gold medals on the first day of the 9th SEA Youth Athletics Championships held on Sunday.

At the event of 1500-m race (Women), three Myanmar women Aye Aye Aung, Hnin Thazin and Alex won gold, silver and bronze medals.

In 1500-m race (Men), three Myanmar men Sein Aung, Aung Ko Win and Thaw Zin Htet grasped gold, silver and bronze medals.

In Javelin (Women), Vietnamese athlete won gold and silver medals, and Indonesian athlete received bronze medal.

In Chain Shotput (Women), Thailand athlete won gold medal, Viet-

namese athlete silver medal and Myanmar athlete bronze medal.

In Discus (Women), Vietnamese athlete won

gold medal, Thai athlete silver medal and Myanmar athlete bronze medal.

In Pole vault (Men), three Myanmar athletes

won gold, silver and bronze medals.

The medals were awarded to the athletes after the events.—MNA



Sprinters dashing into the finished line at IX SEA Youth Athletics Championships held in Nay Pyi Taw. —MINISTRY OF SPROTS

United start life under Giggs by thrashing Norwich

LONDON, 27 April — Manchester United ushered in a new era under interim manager Ryan Giggs with a 4-0 Premier League win over Norwich City on Saturday full of the verve and attacking intent often absent under the sacked David Moyes.

The wheels came off Everton's charge for Champions League qualification in a 2-0 defeat at Southampton that left them a point behind fourth-placed Arsenal before United turned on the style to cheer Welshman Giggs in his unfamiliar new role.

A penalty and a superb curler from Wayne Rooney plus two close-range efforts from substitute Juan Mata were enough to see off a poor Norwich side and keep United seventh in the table, six points behind

Tottenham Hotspur who won 1-0 at Stoke City.

Norwich are now just one point clear of 18th-placed Fulham, who were pegged back to 2-2 by visitors Hull City after Ashkan Dejagah scored a fantastic opener as the Londoners took a two-goal lead.

The best goal of the day, however, was scored by Swansea City's Jonjo Shelvey, who volleyed in from the centre circle in a 4-1 win over struggling Aston Villa, who are four points above Fulham.

West Bromwich Albion took a huge step towards safety with a nervy 1-0 home win over West Ham United thanks to Saido Berahino's 11th-minute goal that moved them five points clear of danger.

Reuters

Klitschko retains WBO crown with Leapai knockout



World heavyweight boxing champion Vladimir Klitschko of Ukraine lands a punch to defeat Australian challenger Alex Leapai (L) during their WBO heavyweight title fight in Oberhausen on 26 April, 2014.—REUTERS

OBERHAUSEN, (Germany), 27 April — World heavyweight champion Vladimir Klitschko easily retained his WBO crown when he knocked out Alex Leapai of Australia in the fifth round on Saturday in an overwhelmingly one-sided bout. The 38-year-old Klitschko, who holds the WBA, IBF, WBO and IBO crowns, has now been unbeaten for 10 years with his most recent defeat back in April 2004 against Lamon Brewster.

Klitschko, with his brother Vitaly — the former WBC champion and a politician in his home country — in his corner, knocked down his opponent after a few seconds in the first round, a big left-right combination sending the 34-year-old Leapai

sprawling. The Ukrainian, whose record now stands at 62 wins with 52 knockouts and three defeats, then pummelled the hapless Australian in round five, knocking him down once again before a clean knockout with less than a minute left in the round.

"Alex Leapai, I know it was not easy for you but you were up against the best fighter in the world and it was hard," Klitschko said in a ringside interview.

"Despite my 38 years I felt superb. I was in top form tonight in the ring."

Klitschko also had a special mention for his home nation, saying his preparation for the fight was not easy due to the political crisis back home with neighbouring Russia.

Reuters

Ronaldo strikes twice as Real close on Atletico

MADRID, 27 April — Real Madrid's rampant Cristiano Ronaldo looked to be back at his best as he scored at the start of each half to set up a 4-0 victory over lowly Osasuna and put the pressure back on La Liga leaders Atletico Madrid on Saturday. Sergio Ramos and Daniel Carvajal also netted for Real who are second on 82 points, three behind Atletico before their trip to Valencia on Sunday with both teams having played 34 games.

Barcelona, mourning the death of former coach Tito Vilanova on Friday, are now in third place with 81 points from 34 matches and travel to Villarreal on Sunday. Real did not risk Gareth Bale or Karim Benzema against Osasuna ahead of their Champions league semi-final second leg at Bayern Munich on Tuesday in which they hold a 1-0 advantage. But there was no holding Ronaldo, who only returned from injury in Wednesday's first leg

against Bayern at the Bernabeu having been out since early April, as he cut in from the left wing and fired into the corner of the net after six minutes.

The prolific Portuguese forward then cracked home a fine long-range drive after 52 minutes before being substituted leaving Ramos and Carvajal to

that Bale and Benzema will be fine to face Bayern, saying: "Benzema is improving and won't have any problems for

Tues-



Real Madrid's Cristiano Ronaldo

wrap up the win with headers. "Cristiano is fine and he played with more assuredness and confidence than on Wednesday. It all went well for him and us," Real coach Carlo Ancelotti told a news conference. "We were able to rest some players and it was a good game even though there was no great intensity." The Italian added

day. He will train normally tomorrow.

"Bale had a cold that has left him very weak and we have preferred that he trains on his own but he will also be ready to play," he said. Earlier, Adrian Colunga struck for Getafe who beat Malaga 1-0 to boost their survival hopes and condemn Real Betis to relegation. The

Andalusian side went on to lose 1-0 at home to Real Sociedad with Carlos Vela scoring the only goal from the penalty spot at the start of the second half.

Osasuna went out with the aim of being solid and frustrating Real as they did at home

in the league, where they got a point, but Ronaldo only needed a sniff of goal which fullback Damia Abella gave him after a few minutes and he was unforgiving. Real controlled the midfield with Osasuna limited to counter-attacks where they created little danger.

There were anxious glances when Ronaldo held the back of his leg midway through the first half but it proved a false alarm and he continued to look lively on the ball.

Reuters

Injured Azarenka pulls out of Madrid, Rome

LONDON, 27 April — World number four Victoria Azarenka's French Open preparations have suffered a heavy blow, with the Belarusian pulling out of clay court tournaments in Madrid and Rome as she continues her recovery from a foot injury.

Since reaching the quarter-finals of the Australian Open, the 24-year-

old has played only one tournament, at Indian Wells last month where she was beaten in her first match and clearly hampered by injury.

"Hey everybody, unfortunately I won't be competing in Madrid and Rome this year," she said in a video linked to a post on her Twitter account.

Azarenka's problems



Victoria Azarenka of Belarus

with her left foot flared up at the Australian Open in January, where she was attempting to win the title for the third year in a row.

Missing the 3-11 May Madrid Open and the 12-18 May tournament in Rome leaves her with little time to gain match fitness ahead of Roland Garros, which kicks off from 25 May.

Reuters