President U Thein Sein attends opening of 20th ASEAN Summit, 45th Anniversary of ASEAN

NAY PYI TAW, 4 April—President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein attended the opening of the 20th ASEAN Summit and the 45th Anniversary of the ASEAN at Naku Srey Hall of the Peace Palace in Phnom Penh in Cambodia yesterday morning.

Also present on the occasion were Brunei King Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Muizzaddin Waddaulah, Cambodian Prime Minister Samdech Hun Sen, Vice-President of Indonesia Dr Boediono, Lao Prime Minister Mr Thongsing Thammavong, Malaysian Prime Minister Dato Sri Mohd Najib bin Tun Haji Abdul Razak, President of Philippines Mr Benigno Aquino, Singaporean Prime Minister Mr Lee Hsien Loong, Thai Prime Minister Ms Yingluck Shinawatra, Vietnamese Prime Minister Mr Nguyen Tan Dung, Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Information and for Culture U Kyaw Hsan, Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Tin Naing Thein, deputy ministers, departmental officials, ministers from ASEAN countries, high-ranking officials, ASEAN Secretariat-General Dr Surin Pitsuwan, and invited guests.

Cambodian Prime Minister Samdech Hun Sen extended a warm welcome to Heads of State/Government attending the summit, followed by opening of the ceremony with ASEAN anthem sung by Cambodian cultural troupe.

In his opening address, Alternate ASEAN Chairman Cambodian Prime Minister Samdech Hun Sen called for further cooperation for attainment of the goal of “ASEAN: One Community—One Destiny” of the ASEAN, establishment of single ASEAN Community in 2015 under the ASEAN Charter, increased cooperation for regional economy in line with Chiang Mai Initiative Multilateralization (CMIM), completion of Road Map for ASEAN Community Building (2009-2015), prioritized measures for establishment of ASEAN economic community in 2015, narrowing of development gap among the ASEAN members and linking material and institutional infrastructure for successful integration.

President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein and Heads of State/Government of ASEAN countries pose for documentary photo at the opening of 20th ASEAN Summit and 45th Anniversary of ASEAN.—MNA

President of the Republic of Myanmar U Thein Sein attended the opening of 20th ASEAN Summit and 45th Anniversary of ASEAN at Peace Palace in Phnom Penh.—MNA

Swachaung Reservoir and Nagapauk Sluice Gate contributing to agricultural development in Bago Region

Dagon Myothit (South) gets new self-reliant library
The right job at the right moment

Nowadays, the scope of reforms taking place in Myanmar is growing under the leadership of the government committed itself to building a true democratic state where freedom, justice and liberty flourish.

Basically, reforms are carried out to make amendments or improvements through changes of a system and structures. By introducing reforms the government is finding out faults or abuses and getting rid of them in addition to repairing, restoring or correcting necessary sectors for a better tomorrow.

Here the government staff at all levels are the persons responsible for the task of maintaining, accelerating and safeguarding the reform process of the country at different stages on behalf of the Union. In consequence, the first thing they need is to adapt themselves well to the changes taking place in their own institutions. And in the second step, they must have an overall view of the democratic transition.

As the reform process is gaining more ground and running at a higher pace the government staff at all levels need more efficiency to do their job smoothly. However, in one way or another, majority of government employees do not have the required competence yet for certain reasons. Besides, they do not have much experience in democracy.

Accordingly, the government and the private organizations are turning to domestic capacity-building programs conducting more and more courses, in-house trainings, seminars, workshops and conferences by their own or in cooperation with regional or international institutions or global countries. They are also sending a larger number of staff abroad for study tours, scholarship programs, short-term and long-term courses, group discussions, roundtables and seminars.

Additionally, the President himself and Union level officials are receiving guests from abroad seeking common ground and greater international cooperation for our capacity-building programs.

And through capacity-building programs, all government and private staff will have a clear picture of the democratic reforms, having efficiency to do the right job at the right moment.

Press Release

Foreigners can bring into the Republic of the Union of Myanmar at any one time any foreign currency not in excess of US Dollars Ten Thousand or its equivalent without making a declaration to the Customs on arrival with effect from 1st April 2012. Central Bank of Myanmar.

Books donated to ward and village libraries

With the aim of ensuring development of ward and village libraries in Mawlamyine Township of Mon State, raising of reading habit and book donation was held at the hall of Mon State Red Cross Supervisory Committee in Mawlamyine on 20 March. After the reading habit raising contest, Mon State Minister for Development Affairs Dr Toe Toe Aung, State Minister for Social Affairs Dr Hla Oo and officials awarded the winners. They then donated books and publications to ward and village libraries. MNA

UEC Chairman receives delegation of European Union Headquarters

Chairman of Union Election Commission U Tin Aye received a delegation comprising of Mr Robert Cooper and Ms Malgorzata Wasklewska from European Union Headquarters at the hall of the Office of Chairman of the Union Election Commission, here, on 10.30 am today. Also present at the call were members of the UEC U Myint Naing, U Win Kyi and U Nyunt Tin, Secretary U Win Ko and officials. At the call, the EU delegation praised Myanmar for transparently holding the free and fair elections and they exchanged views on cooperation in better processes for future elections. —MNA

Committee for smooth entrance of foreign tourists meets for e-visa system

Chairman of the committee Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism and for Sports U Tint Hsan said in his address that coordination was made with related ministries to introduce e-visa system which could save time and ensure security. The system will be installed firstly at Yangon International Airport, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Immigration and Population, Ministry of Communications, Posts and Telegraphs and Ministry of Hotels and Tourism and then at Mandalay International Airport and Muse, Tachilek, Kawthoung andMyawady border gates. Thirdly it will be installed in Bagan, Hecho and Thandwe airports. Tourist visa, business visa, social visa and other visa will be transformed into e-visa which will be introduced in fourth week of this April, he said. Managing Director U Kyaw Moe Naing of Myanmar Ease Net Co.Ltd, technical arm of e-visa system implementation team, and committee members reported on the progress of works. —MNA

Attorney-General of the Union receives NY Legal Partners, LPC Advocate of Japan

They frankly discussed legal affairs. Also present at the call were Director-General of the Office of the Attorney-General of the Union U Myint Swe received Vietnamese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Chu Cong Phung at the office of the Yangon Region Government yesterday afternoon. They discussed friendly relations and economic cooperation between Yangon and Hanoi as they have signed as sister cities. Also present at the call were Yangon Mayor Yangon Region Minister for Development Affairs U Ha Myint, Region Minister for Electricity and Industry U Nyan Tun Oo and Secretary of Region Government U Than Aung.—MNA

Yangon Region Chief Minister receives Vietnamese Ambassador

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10th Customs Capacity Building Working Group Meeting held

To be able to establish ASEAN Economic Community, 15 strategic plans on development of customs are being implemented in 2011-2012 fiscal years. The meeting is aimed at emerging better process for regional custom cooperation and emergence of modern custom. The meeting will last up to 5 April.

MNA
BAGHDAD, 4 April — Iraq has proposed holding the next round of talks with six world powers over its disputed nuclear programme next week in Iraq instead of Turkey, Iraq’s foreign minister said on Wednesday, US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said on Saturday the 13 to 14 April negotiations with Iran would prompted an official complaint war. The move had earlier comes days after the 30th South Atlantic. However, it month deployment in the Defence says it is a “pre-
Islands. The Ministry of defence destroyers, is due to the largest and most powerful air
negotiations with Iran would be held in Istanbul, the first five Western powers plus Germany on Teheran’s plan. “The proposal came from them. We received a delegation from Iran... Today we are inviting 6 plus one ambassadors to hand over a letter about the proposal,” Zebari said. Iraq’s Shi’ite government is closely aligned with Iran in a region where Serbian minister, was jockeying for influence with Shell’s power Teheran. A senior Austrian figure recently spoke out against Turkey hosting the talks as soon as the sound record Turkey relations have cooled in the past year, over the Turkish position on Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, Iran’s close Arab ally.

The UK says HMS Dauntless is being sent to the South Atlantic as part of routine operations. — Internet

LONDON, 4 April — HMS Dauntless, one of the UK’s largest and most powerful air defence destroyers, is due to set sail for the Falkland Islands. The Ministry of Defence says it is a “pre-planned and routine” six-month deployment in the South Atlantic. However, it comes days after the 30th anniversary of the start of the war. The move had earlier prompted an official complaint by the Argentine to the United Nations about the UK’s “militarisation” in the South Atlantic. HMS Dauntless, a Type 45 Destroyer, will sail from Portsmouth to relieve HMS Montrose. It will carry out operations off West Africa and the wider South Atlantic, with planned port visits in both West and South Africa. The BBC defence correspondent Jonathan Beale said it was unlikely that there would be any visits to Argentina’s ports. The Royal Navy said it was the first operational deployment for HMS Dauntless since it was commissioned in 2010.

Commanding Officer Captain Will Warrender said: “HMS Dauntless’ ship’s company has been working extremely hard over the last year or so to prepare for our first operational deployment. We are now ready to provide a reassuring presence in the region and protect British interests.” A total of 255 British servicemen and about 450 Argentines died after the UK’s defeat forced Argentina to surrender. The Argentine invasion on 2 April 1982. Britain has controlled the Falklands since 1833 but Argentina claims the territory — which it calls Malvinas — saying it is inherited rights to them from Spain.

Pakistan van bomb kills six passengers

PESHAWAR, 4 April — A bomb ripped through a passenger van in Pakistan’s restive tribal belt on Wednesday, killing at least six people and wounding nine others, officials said. The van was carrying 15 men from Kharlakhe to Jamrud, the main town in Khyber district when it was hit while passing through a ravine. “The passengers were running to town for shopping. So far we can confirm the death of six people while nine others are injured,” Shabaz Khan, a senior administration official, told AFP. Three people are seriously injured. It is unclear whether the blast was caused by an IED or a planted bomb in the van but explosives were used, he said. A doctor at the local government hospital where the dead and the injured were taken also confirmed the casualties. “We are treating six other passengers who were wounded while three seriously injured have been shifted to Peshawar,” Shabaz Khan told AFP. Khyber is one of seven districts in Pakistan’s semi-autonomous tribal belt, where Taliban and Al-Qaeda-linked militants have carved out strongholds to plot attacks on Pakistan, Afghan and Western targets. Pakistani government troops are currently operating against militants loyal to local warlords Mangal Bagh. The UN refugee agency denounced last week that more than 100,000 people, mostly women and children, have fled the fighting in Khyber since January.

Bomb kills TV presenter in central Iraq

BAGHDAD, 4 April — A “sticky bomb” killed a television presenter working for a local station in Salaheddin Province of central Iraq, a provincial spokesman said on Tuesday. Kamiran Saliheddin, a presenter for Saliheddin Channel, was killed in central Tikrit by a bomb he had driven home from work late on Monday, Saliheddin provincial council spokesman Jamal al-Daulims told AFP. Saliheddin, a 34-year-old father-of-two, was the second journalist killed in Iraq this year, according to the Press Freedom Observatory, an Iraq-based media rights group. Saliheddin Channel was established by American forces in 2004 and is funded by Saliheddin provincial council.

“The Iraqi authorities must do everything possible to ensure that those responsible for his death are brought to justice,” Paris-based watchdog Reporters Without Borders (RSF) said in a statement condemning the attack. “His murder must not go unpunished.”

BAHRAIN, 4 April — A Bolivian-flagged vessel seized by Somali pirates since last week has been freed, and is continuing on to Iran with its sugar shipment, the Bolivian government announced on Tuesday. The MV Eglandine was seized by Somali pirates last week off Houtzahali island in the Maldives, the first hijacking in the waters of the archipelago. The Bolivian-flaged and Iranian-owned vessel had a total of 23 crew, but their nationalities were not immediately known. It is the ship’s “no longer is in their (the pirates) control as of Monday. Now it is sailing securely to port to deliver its cargo” of Brazilian sugar, said the Bolivian International Ship Registry office, which reports to the defence ministry. A 1992 UN treaty allows land-locked countries like Bolivia to use sea routes including providing paid services as ship registry. Maldivian and Indian forces were also patrolling the vessel but did not board it, a defence spokesman in Male said. The Maldivian authorities said they were alerted to the hijacking by the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System, the emergency communications system for global shipping, which maintains an operation in the Maldives. In November, the Maldives announced it was working with Sri Lanka and India on a strategy to deal with Somali pirates. The Maldives had arrested 37 Somali pirates who were drifting near the archipelago. Sri Lanka has also arrested an unspecified number of Somali pirates. Two decades of lawlessness have carved up Somalia into mini-kingdoms ruled by gunmen and militia, encouraging rampant piracy. At least 40 vessels and more than 400 hostages were still being held in or just off Somalia at the end of last year, according to the Ecoterra International group which monitors piracy in the region. — Internet

Three NATO troops killed in one day in Afghanistan

KABUL, 4 April — Three international troops were killed in separate insurgent incidents in Afghanistan in one day, the NATO-led coalition force said. The International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) said one service member was killed by an improvised explosive device in the south of the country, one by a similar blast in the east and one by an insurgent attack in the east. All three incidents happened on Tuesday, with the last statement released on Wednesday. The ISAF claimed responsibility for his death are “an increase in murders of journalists” in Iran, and “journalists are very often the target of violence by the security forces, whether at demonstrations in Tehran or in other parts of the country.” The ISAF said there was “an increase in murders of journalists” in Iran, and “journalists are very often the target of violence by the security forces, whether at demonstrations in Tehran or in other parts of the country.” The ISAF said there was “an increase in murders of journalists” in Iran, and “journalists are very often the target of violence by the security forces, whether at demonstrations in Tehran or in other parts of the country.” The ISAF said there was “an increase in murders of journalists” in Iran, and “journalists are very often the target of violence by the security forces, whether at demonstrations in Tehran or in other parts of the country.” The ISAF said there was “an increase in murders of journalists” in Iran, and 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Space tourist is just one way to describe Simonyi

Charles Simonyi may still be described as a space tourist even though the Microsoft billionaire has no plans to take a third vacation on the International Space Station and hasn’t hung out in outer space for a few years. He’s still obsessed with space and is heavily involved in the Seattle Museum of Flight’s new space gallery, which is named in the philanthropist’s honour. Since 2002, Simonyi has been running his own company called Intentional Software that specializes in creating industry-specific computer software, and he recently took on a new title: book publisher.

The son of a Hungarian physician, the 63-year-old just made one of his dad’s dreams come true by helping to translate the son’s epic about physics into English. “A Cultural History of Physics” by Karoly Simonyi, who died in 2001, is a heavy tome with an intimidating name but inside the non-scientist will find lots of pictures and stories that offer a whimsical side of physics. Flip through the book, which has had five editions in Hungarian and three in German, and you’ll find a full-page diagram showing how the scientists of the 17th century enjoyed dismissing each other’s theories. A diagram and an explanation by Sir Isaac Newton of how rainbows are formed are on another page. An illustration of a cat, with its hair standing on end may catch your attention toward the end of the book. If you stop to find out why the cat is on the page, you’ll find an explanation of quantum mechanics and radioactive decay.

March weather third warmest on record, says Met Office

LONDON, 4 April — Last month was the third warmest March on record — onlybeat only by 1938 and 1987 — the Met Office has said. It had an average temperature of 7.7°C, compared with March 1938, which had an average of 8°C. It was also the fifth driest and third sunniest March. March saw a total precipitation of 36.4mm of rain and 156.6 hours of sunshine across the month. Records for temperature and rainfall began in 1910, while the measurements for sunshine began in 1929.

How do we fall asleep?

with an air of detached disinterest; so, though most of us fall asleep every night, we can’t say exactly how we do it. Even neuroscientists are still struggling to understand the mechanisms the brain uses to switch from a state of wakefulness to unconscious sleep, but research reveals that the transition is a lot more gradual and tumultuous than the flip of a light switch.

According to recent work by neuroscientists at Washington University in St Louis, during the pre-sleep stage of the process — the period when you’re in bed with the lights off and your eyes closed, slowly “letting go” of the trials of the tribulations of the day — your brain waves exhibit what’s known as alpha activity, typically associated with quiet wakefulness. “It is in this period that the brain progressively disengages from the external world,” Linda Larson-Prior and her colleagues wrote in a 2011 paper. “Subjects slowly oscillate between attending to external and internal thoughts, with the majority of internal thoughts being autobiographical or self-referential in nature.”

Self-sculpting sand robots are under development at MIT

NEW YORK, 4 April — Tiny robots that can join together to form functional tools and then split apart again after use might be ready for market in little more than a decade, according to researchers. A team at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology says it has developed about 30 prototype “smart pebbles” and the software to run them. The sides of each cube are 1cm (0.4 inches) in length. Efforts are now focused on creating smaller models.

The researchers from the university’s Distributed Robotics Laboratory liken the ultimate product they are trying to develop to “self-sculpting sand”. “We want to have a bag of this material that can form any shape you demand,” PhD student Kyle Gilpin told the BBC. “So if you are in an isolated situation and you need a certain tool, you can tell a bag of this material that to the bag by making a miniaturised model of the tool, dropping it into the bag, shake it around — and what you would end up with inside would be a magnified copy of the tool which is usable.”

The test cubes have electropermanent magnets embedded into their sides to allow them to stick together. The magnetic effect can be switched on and off and does not require an electric current to remain active. The cubes also contain a microprocessor to work out which of the magnets should be activated and when. Each processor can currently store 32 kilobytes of code and has only two kilobytes of space. Thus, you can use the camera to capture vivid out of this world photos that show a lot more detail than what images taken by ordinary DSLRs would show. The trade-off for this feature is, of course, the price: the new Canon 60Da will retail for $1,499 when it comes out later this month, a few hundred dollars more than the normal 60D’s price tag.

Teachers say they are noticing an increase in aggression among pupils...

LONDON, 4 April — Children are becoming more violent as they are being left unsupervised by their parents to play inappropriate computer games, teachers say. Pupils as young as four are acting out “graphic scenes” from games in class and in the playground, the Association of Teachers and Lecturers is to hear. And there are fears youngsters cannot separate fantasy worlds from reality. Schools minister Nick Gibb said some children came into school exhausted after playing games late at night. Bradford teacher Alison Sherratt is set to tell the ATL annual conference in Manchester that members of her reception class, who have been acting out scenes from games well above limit for their age. “The inspiration for this motion was when I watched my class out on the playground — throwing themselves out of the window of the play car in slow motion and acting out blood spurtling from their bodies,” she says. “I followed it up in circle time and talked about what they knew about playing games on the computer. ‘Out of 27, four or five-year-olds, most have FVs and laptops in their bedrooms, most have sight of or actually own Nintendos, playstation, Xboxes and Wii and many said they watched older brothers, sisters and cousins playing games.’

Pupils ‘made more violent by computer games’...
Women's height linked to ovarian cancer

London, 4 April — Tall women have a slightly higher risk of ovarian cancer, according to a review of studies. Obesity is also a risk factor among women who have never taken HRT, say international researchers. Previous studies have suggested a link, but there has been conflicting evidence. The latest research, published in the journal *PLoS One*, analysed all available data on the topic. It looked at 47 epidemiological studies in 14 countries, including about 25,000 women with ovarian cancer and more than 80,000 women without ovarian cancer. Lead researcher Prof Valerie Beral of the Oxford University Epidemiology Unit told the BBC: “By bringing together the worldwide evidence, it became clear that height is a risk factor.” She said there was also a clear relationship between obesity and ovarian cancer in women who had never taken HRT “Ovarian cancer can clearly be added to the list of causes linked to obesity,” she added. Sarah Williams, health information officer at Cancer Research UK, said the study produced a clearer picture of how much of the body is made up of fat. A fat percentage of 25% or more for men or 30% or more for women is the threshold for obesity. One of the researchers Dr Eric Pharoah, reader in cancer epidemiology at the University of Cambridge, said the increase in risk was small. "If he compare a woman who is 5ft tall with a woman who is 5'6” tall, there is a relative difference in ovarian cancer risk of 23% "But the absolute risk difference is small. The shorter women would have an absolute increase of about 16-1-1,000 which increases to 20-1-1,000 for the taller woman." A similar increase in absolute risk would be seen when comparing a slim woman with a body mass index of 20 to a slightly overweight woman with a body mass index of 30. — Internet

Us obesity ‘higher than thought’

New York, 4 April — The obesity problem in the US may be much worse than previously thought, according to researchers. They said the Body Mass Index (BMI) to determine obesity was underestimating the issue. Their study, published in the journal *PLoS One*, said up to 39% of people who were not currently classified as obese actually were. The authors said “we may be much further behind than we thought” in tackling obesity. BMI is a simple calculation which combines a person’s height and weight to give a score which can be used to diagnose obesity. Somebody with a BMI of 30 or more is classified as obese. The US Centres for Disease Control says at least one in three Americans is obese. Other ways of diagnosing obesity include looking at how much of the body is made up of fat. A fat percentage of 25% or more for men or 30% or more for women is the threshold for obesity. One of the researchers Dr Eric Braverman said: “The Body Mass Index is an insensitive measure of obesity, prone to under-diagnosis, while direct measurements are superior because they show distribution of body fat.”

Asia stocks slump on US job growth worry

Bangkok, 4 April — Asian stock markets on Wednesday followed Wall Street into negative territory after the Federal Reserve voiced concern about US job growth, but appeared to refrain from taking steps to prop up the economy. Japan’s Nikkei 225 index fell 1.4 percent to 9,910.84 after briefly slipping to 9,886.34, its lowest level in a month. South Korea’s Kospi fell 1.4 percent to 9,886.34, its lowest level in 22 months. South Korea’s Kospi fell 1.4 percent to 9,886.34, its lowest level in 22 months.

On Tuesday, the US Federal Reserve released minutes of the March meeting of its Open Market Committee, which sets interest rates and monetary policy. The Fed minutes showed that policymakers fearing a slowdown in economic growth doesn’t improve. That caused Wall Street stocks to slump. The minutes also did not address the logistics of more bond-buying — troubling to traders who have been hoping for more action from the Fed. The Fed has embarked on two previous rounds of bond-buying, most recently in August 2010, to drive down long-term interest rates and generally encourage profitable, hungry investors to buy stocks. The Dow Jones industrial average closed down 0.5 percent at 13,199.55. The Standard & Poor’s 500 index finished down 0.4 percent at 1,413.38. The Nasdaq composite index lost 0.2 percent to 3,113.57. Benchmark oil for May delivery was down 37 cents to $104.01 per barrel in New York on Tuesday. In currencies, the euro fell to $1.3199 from $1.3217 late Tuesday in New York. The dollar fell to 82.63 yen from 82.86 yen.

China surpasses US as world’s biggest grocery market

London, 4 April — China has become the world’s largest market for food and grocery retail, surpassing the US, a study showed. The grocery sector in China was worth £607 billion ($972 billion) by the end of the 2011, showed research published by IGD. The US market was valued at £527 for the same period, which means it ranks second. By 2015, the research forecasts that the Brics countries (Brazil, Russia, China and India) will be the top grocery markets. "China’s grocery growth story is phenomenal. Between 2006 and 2015, the Chinese grocery market is forecast to triple in value and to be worth nearly a trillion pounds," said Joanne Denney-Finch, chief executive of IGD. IGD forecasts that by 2015, the Chinese market will be worth £198 billion compared to a US value of £672 billion. "This rapid expansion has been fuelled by three main factors: rapid economic growth, population and rising food inflation,” Ms Denney-Finch added. The company said that many of the world’s largest retailers would be looking to China, and not just at the major cities but also at second and third tier cities. IGD said companies will also be looking to the Brics nations as the size of their markets grows. “Many UK food and grocery companies are already pursuing this opportunity,” Ms Denney-Finch said.

Moody’s downgrades GE, citing risks from financial unit

New York, 4 April — Moody’s on Tuesday said it had downgraded the ratings of conglomerate General Electric Co by one notch to Aa2 and the ratings of its finance unit General Electric Capital Corporation (GECC) by notch to A1. Moody’s affirmed the Prime-1 ratings of both companies and said the rating outlook for both was now stable. The move concludes a review began on 19 March.

"The downgrades result from the implementation of Moody’s revised global rating methodology for finance companies, and reflect in particular the impact of GECC’s higher risk profile in terms of off-balance-sheet vehicles," the agency said in a statement. Moody’s added that, while GECC had improved its liquidity and capital levels since the credit crisis, there remained material risks associated with the firm’s funding model.

Foreign grocery retailers are looking to China and the other Brics countries.

Us warns of cancer-agent in Japan weight loss pills

Washington, 4 April — The US Food and Drug Administration on Tuesday warned consumers not to take a product called “Japan Rapid Weight Diet Pills” because they contain a suspected cancer-causing agent. The pills, advertised as promoting weight loss, are distributed by a company called Xiahoseng and sold on popular web sites including Amazon.com, said the FDA. Consumers are advised not to stop using the pills which are packaged in three colors: green, yellow and blue — and discard them. They should also see a doctor if they have experienced any side effects, the agency said.

An FDA lab analysis has confirmed that the pills, “Japan Rapid Weight Diet Pills Green” contain “undeclared phenolphthalein,” the agency said in a statement. “Phenolphthalein is a solution used in chemical experiments and suspected cancer-causing agent that is not approved for marketing in the United States.” The FDA has classified the agent as “not generally recognized as safe and effective,” and it has been found to potentially damage or even cause mutations in a person’s DNA, the warning stated. A similar notice was issued for “Japan Rapid Weight Diet Pills Yellow” because they contain both phenolphthalein and sibutramine, a weight loss agent found in the drug Meridia that was removed from the market in 2010 because it boosted the risk of heart attack and stroke.

“The product poses a threat to consumers because sibutramine is known to substantially increase blood pressure and/or pulse rate in some patients and may present a significant risk for patients with a history of coronary artery disease, congestive heart failure, arrhythmias or stroke,” the FDA said.

Asia’s growth on track to top grocery markets

London, 4 April — Moody’s on Tuesday said it has downgraded the ratings of conglomerate General Electric Co by one notch to Aa2 and the ratings of its finance unit General Electric Capital Corporation (GECC) by notch to A1. Moody’s affirmed the Prime-1 ratings of both companies and said the rating outlook for both was now stable. The move concludes a review began on 19 March.

"The downgrades result from the implementation of Moody’s revised global rating methodology for finance companies, and reflect in particular the impact of GECC’s higher risk profile in terms of off-balance-sheet vehicles," the agency said in a statement. Moody’s added that, while GECC had improved its liquidity and capital levels since the credit crisis, there remained material risks associated with the firm’s funding model.

A General Electric Company (GE) logo is seen on a toggle switch package in New York on 18 Jan, 2012. — Internet

The US Food and Drug Administration warns of cancer-causing agent in Japan weight loss pills — Internet

The new light of myanmar Thursday, 5 April, 2012
Swachaung Dam and Nagapauk Sluice Gate contributing to agricultural development in Bago Region

**Swachaung Dam in Yedashe Township of Bago Region feeding irrigation water to 35000 acres of farmlands, contributing towards socio-economic development of local people and greening of its environs.**

**Nagapauk Sluice Gate**

* Nagapauk Sluice Gate lies near confluence of Nagapauk creek and Khamon Myitkyophyat creek about three miles east of DaikU-Nyaungkhashe road.
* It prevents inundation of 15000 acres of watershed areas in Waw Township in rainy season.

Translation: HKA

* It reduces the number of flood by preventing Sittoung River water from entering farmlands in monsoon and irrigates farmlands with fresh water of Sittoung River in summer.
* It has 40 valves with six-foot width and 16-foot height each.

Archive: Maung Nyein Aye

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**Memorial held for seven killed in Oakland shooting**

OAKLAND, 4 April — Civic and religious leaders in Oakland are mourning the deaths of seven people who were gunned down in one of the nation’s deadliest campus shootings in years. Several hundred people gathered on Tuesday night for a prayer vigil for the victims of Monday’s shooting at Oikos University, a small Christian school in Oakland.

Mayor Jean Quan joined pastors from the Bay Area’s Korean Christian community in calling for unity and an end to violence at the service at the Allen Temple Baptist Church. The service was attended by friends, family and colleagues of the victims whose identities were officially released Tuesday. Not long after the mass shooting, police arrested 43-year-old One Goh at a supermarket several miles away in Alameda.

Goh is being held without bail on suspicion of seven counts of murder, three counts of attempted murder and other charges.— Internet

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**NYC officials: one dead, four hurt in crane accident**

NEW YORK, 4 April — The boom of a crane set up at a subway construction site came perilously off its base and crashed to the ground, killing a construction worker and injuring four other people Tuesday night, city officials said. The worker was pronounced dead after the accident at the Manhattan construction site of the No 7 subway line extension, officials said.

One other person was hospitalized in serious condition and three people were treated for minor injuries, according to a Fire Department spokesman. Jack Sullivan, deputy chief for the FDNY EMS, said it was possible one of the workers had been struck by the crane’s boom. The crane operator and someone who worked with him were among those who were injured. He described the removal of the workers from the construction site, about 60 feet below street level, as “extremely dangerous.” Internet
President U Thein Sein attends meeting between ASEAN Heads of State/Government and ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly, informal meetings between ASEAN leaders and representatives of ASEAN public organizations, and between ASEAN leaders and youth delegates

NAV PSI TAW, 4 April—President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein attended meeting between ASEAN Heads of State/Government and ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly, informal meetings between ASEAN leaders and representatives of ASEAN public organizations, and between ASEAN leaders and youth delegates at Champei Room of Peace Palace in Phnom Penh in Cambodia on 3rd April noon.

First, President U Thein Sein attended the meeting between ASEAN Heads of State/Government and representatives of the AIPA. It was attended by Heads of ASEAN Heads of State/Government, youth reps and representatives of ASEAN public organizations.

President U Thein Sein of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar attends informal meeting between ASEAN Heads of State/Government and representatives of ASEAN public organizations at Champei Room of Peace Palace in Phnom Penh.—MNA

Alternate ASEAN Chairman issues statement at 20th ASEAN Summit

NAV PSI TAW, 4 April—The 20th ASEAN Summit was successfully held from 3 to 4 April. Alternate ASEAN Chairman issued statement dated today.

That statement includes the facts that ASEAN welcomes Myanmar’s current progress and also describes the following factors under the heading of regional and international issues—

“We welcomed the significant positive developments in Myanmar throughout 2011 and underscores the importance of maintaining a strong momentum in this regard, particularly on the bold steps undertaken by the Government of Myanmar to enhance socio-economic development, improve the livelihood of the people, promote good governance and democratic practices, strengthen promotion and protection of human rights, and achieve peace, and national reconsolidation and reconciliation.

We welcomed the successful holding of the by-elections in Myanmar on 1st April 2012, which was conducted in a free and fair manner.

We expressed appreciation to the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar for inviting a large number of election observers from ASEAN and its Dialogue Partners as well as from regional and international organizations.

We recognized that the holding of the by-elections was a significant step towards further democratization in Myanmar. We reaffirmed our full support for the Myanmar Government’s on-going efforts in democratization, national reconsolidation and reconciliation and reiterated our call for the international community to support and encourage the democratic developments in Myanmar.

We called for the lifting of all sanctions on Myanmar immediately in order to contribute positively to the democratic process and economic development in that country.

We also reaffirmed our commitment to expand necessary assistance and cooperation in view of Myanmar’s ASEAN Chairmanship in 2014.”—MNA
The unrestricted flow of skilled workers within the ASEAN, effective cooperation in regional disaster preparedness measures, further cooperation in the agricultural sector for food security, which could become a challenge in the future due to climate change and frequent catastrophes, and joint implementation of the Phnom Penh Agenda.

Next, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein together with Heads of State/Government of ASEAN nations posed for documentary photo. The Cambodian cultural troupe sang a song in commemoration of the 45th Anniversary of the ASEAN and traditional dances were presented and the opening ceremony came to an end.—MNA

President U Thein Sein attends dinner hosted by Cambodian Prime Minister Samdech Hun Sen and wife

NAY PYI TAW, 4 April—President U Thein Sein attended a dinner hosted by Cambodian Prime Minister Samdech Hun Sen and wife at Rumduol Room of the Peace Palace in Phnom Penh in Cambodia on 2 April evening.

Also present at the dinner were Heads of State Government of the ASEAN countries, Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint, ministers from ASEAN countries, high-ranking officials, ASEAN Secretary-General Dr Surin Pitsuwan and invited guests.

The Cambodian Prime Minister and wife warmly welcomed President U Thein Sein and Heads of State Government of ASEAN nations.

Next, the Cambodian Prime Minister and wife, Heads of State Government of ASEAN countries and ministers posed for documentary photo.

The Cambodian Prime Minister and wife and Heads of State Government of the ASEAN nations proposed a toast and had dinner together during which the Cambodian cultural troupe entertained with songs and dances.

MNA

President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein, Cambodian Prime Minister Samdech Hun Sen and ASEAN Heads of State/Government pose for documentary photo at the dinner.—MNA

A & I Ministry holds annual coordination meeting on researches

NAY PYI TAW, 4 April—Annual coordination meeting on researches for 2011-2012, was held at Yezin Agricultural Research Department in Zeyathiri Township this morning, with an address by Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing.

The Union Minister said that the country needs to conduct continual researches, which is basic foundation for the agricultural development of the country. Research findings need to be applied in actual practice.

The Ministry is improving the role of researchers and providing necessary assistance. After that, he inspected cultivation of high-yield paddy, research plantations, hybrid Palethwe paddy research plantation, Basmati hybrid paddy plantation and Palethwe hybrid paddy seed production plantation (100-acre) of University of Agriculture. Then, he met with trainees of hybrid paddy seed production course.—MNA

Coord meeting held for disaster risk reduction work plan

NAY PYI TAW, 4 April—A coordination meeting for ratification of Myanmar disaster risk reduction work plan was held at Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement here this afternoon, with an address by Chairman of Myanmar Natural Disaster Prevention Committee Union Minister U Aung Kyi. It was also attended by Union Minister for Environmental Conservation and Forestry U Win Tun, members of the Myanmar Natural Disaster Prevention Committee, deputy ministers of the ministries concerned, and representatives of Yangon, Mandalay, Nay Pyi Taw Development Committees.

Union Minister U Aung Kyi made a speech, followed by detailed explanation about work programmes of Myanmar Action Plan on Disaster Risk Reduction by the board joint secretary director-general of the Relief and Resettlement Department. Union Minister U Win Tun, deputy ministers and departmental heads made suggestions. The joint secretary read the minutes for approval of the board. The meeting came to an end with concluding remark of Union Minister U Aung Kyi.—MNA
Narrowing Development Gap should...

ASEAN should try to achieve more important role in G-20 bloc. It will expand ASEAN’s influence in international monetary sector. It is also accorded with Bali Agreement No. 3.

At today’s summit, Heads of State and Government from ASEAN countries frankly discussed matters related to narrowing rich-poor gap among ASEAN countries, equal and active participation in establishing three pillars of ASEAN, implementation of Phnom Penh Agenda for 2012, unanimous recognition of by-elections which had been held in Myanmar on 1 April as free and fair and transparent elections, unanimously supporting the lifting of sanctions on Myanmar as it is important not only for the country concerned but also for dignity of ASEAN, realization of “ASEAN: One Community—One Destiny”, implementation of Bali Agreement No. 3, successful establishment of ASEAN Community by 2015, establishment of Drug-Free ASEAN by 2015, energy and food sufficiency in ASEAN countries, cooperation in ASEAN highways, railroads, motor roads, civil aviation routes and ASEAN’s participation in G-20.

After the summit, the Heads of State and Government together had lunch hosted by the Cambodian Prime Minister.
Reading contest raises reading habit of rural people in Tachileik

TACHILEIK, 4 April—With the aim of raising reading habits of rural people, Tachileik District Women’s Affairs Organization and District Information and Public Relations Department jointly organized the reading contest at Hoonsianyin Library in Meitian Village of Phannim Village-tract in Tachileik on 20 March.

A total of 19 readers participated in the Myanma Alin newspaper reading contest.

After the contest, Chairperson of District Women’s Affairs Organization Dr Daw Htay Huy Win presented first prize to Ma My Thazin Htwe, Chairperson of Township Maternal and Child Welfare Association Daw Shwe Moe Thuza, the second prize to Maung Naing Lin Aung, Staff Officer U Maung Kyi of District Information and Public Relations Department the third prize to Ma Nan Bu, and Village administrator U Kyaw Naiing, the consolation prizes to respective winners.

Prizes awarded in reading skill contest

Labutta, 4 April—The raising of reading habit and prize presentation was held in conjunction with the book donation in Thayetgon Village of Labutta Township, Ayeyawady Region, on 28 February.

Deputy Commissioner U Aye Maung Kyi of Labutta District General Administration Department made a speech. Head of Ayeyawady Region Information and Public Relations Department U Kyaw Tun explained the procedure for raising the reading habit.

Next, officials awarded the winners in the open and primary level essay, poem recitation and reading skills contests.

Officials concerned also presented first, second and third prizes to the village library committees that strove for enabling the local people to have reading opportunity.

Later, wellwishers donated books and publications to the village libraries.

Township level age-wise measles vaccination coordinated

Kyain-Seikkyi, 4 April—The coordination meeting on township level age-wise measles vaccination was held at the hall of the Township People’s Hospital in Kyain-

YANGON, 4 April—Organized by Yangon East District Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee, the fruit and flowery arrangement course 1/2012 concluded at Basic Education High School No. 1 in Mingala Taungnyunt Township on 29 March.

It was attended by the chairpersons of Region and District Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committees and members, the chairperson of Township Maternal and Child Welfare Association and members, and trainees.

Chairperson of Region MCWSC Daw Thawng Mya concluded a delivering a concluding speech.

MLF invites donations of cash, books

Myanmar Libraries Foundation is giving encouragement to broaden the horizon of the people and developing self-reliant libraries across the nation.

Those wishing to donate cash and books to the libraries may contact Myanmar Libraries Foundation at No. 228 on Thanbyu Street in Botahtaung Township, Yangon, Tel: 01-371342, 01-201936 and 01-398756.
Texas tornadoes wreck homes and ground flights

DALLAS, 4 April — Several powerful tornadoes have touched down near Dallas, in the US state of Texas, flipping trucks, wrecking homes, uprooting trees and grounding planes. Dallas-Fort Worth Airport cancelled flights and moved passengers away from glass windows for their safety.

Meteorologists estimated that six to 12 tornadoes had touched down in North Texas. Police reported several injuries, but no fatalities so far. US TV footage showed images of houses with roofs and second storeys missing. Some of the properties were almost completely blown away. “Obviously we’re going to have a lot of assessments to make when this is done,” Dallas County spokeswoman Maria Arita told the Associated Press.

The National Weather Service (NWS) at first reported at least two “large and extremely dangerous” tornadoes. Its warning said that the area would remain on tornado watch until 12:00 on Tuesday. A renewed attempt to develop ways of making power stations greener is set to be unveiled by the government. For the second time in five years, £1bn will be offered for schemes to trap and bury carbon dioxide. An earlier competition collapsed after all nine entrants pulled out, most citing cost as the main problem. The last to withdraw was a project run by Scottish Power at its Longannet station in Fife, and the prize money was not awarded.

New UK attempt to capture carbon

Known as “carbon capture and storage” (CCS), the idea is to prevent CO2 escaping into the atmosphere. A major part of the government’s low-carbon strategy, CCS has been plagued by delays and uncertainty.

Its attraction is that existing fossil fuels including coal and gas can be burned without releasing the usual quantities of CO2, the key greenhouse gas.

However the research has proved costlier and more complicated than many expected, and the timescale keeps slipping.

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Imperial Chinese bowl fetches $27 million

**HONG KONG, 4 April —** An extremely rare Chinese porcelain bowl fetched nearly $27 million — smashing pre-sale estimates by about three times — at a hotly anticipated Sotheby’s auction in Hong Kong on Wednesday. The modest-looking imperial porcelain bowl that was made around 900 years ago had been expected to fetch up to HK$80 million, but it was snapped up by an unidentified telephone bidder for HK$208 million (HK$26.7 million).

The price sets a new world record for a piece of ceramic art. Its appearance on the market has created enormous excitement,” said Sotheby’s Asia deputy chairman Nicolas Chow said. The Ruyao Washer is among the most sophisticated achievements in Chinese ceramics. Its appearance on the market has created enormous excitement,” said Sotheby’s Asia deputy chairman Nicolas Chow.

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Despite all those decades of driving, Rachel Veitch is nowhere near to holding the Guinness World Record for highest mileage. — Internet

**Australian yacht reaches California after “monster wave”**

**SAN FRANCISCO, 4 April —** An Australian racing yacht stricken by a 100-foot (30-metre) wave plowed into San Francisco Bay for repairs on Tuesday, two days after the US Coast Guard rescued two injured crew members. The remaining crew members of the Geraldton Western Australia arrived in the port of Oakland, the mid-point of a round-the-globe sailing contest, after 30 days in the North Pacific, much of it in harsh weather.

Some gave vivid accounts of their brush with maritime catastrophe. “I was down below, when the last monster wave hit us,” crew member Ian Geraghty recalled. “Water was just pouring down and everyone was in a complete state of shock.” The Geraldton is one of 10 clipper-style vessels that set sail on 31 July, 2011, from Southampton, England, on a 40,000-mile voyage due to conclude back in Britain in July. The race already has taken the competing boats to ports in Brazil, South Africa, Australia, New Zealand, Singapore and China. Nearly a month after leaving Qingdao, China, the Geraldton ran into trouble about 400 miles off California after a 100-foot (30-metre) wave plowed it off course.

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The Geraldton is one of 10 clipper-style vessels that set sail on 31 July, 2011, from Southampton, England, on a 40,000-mile voyage due to conclude back in Britain in July. The race already has taken the competing boats to ports in Brazil, South Africa, Australia, New Zealand, Singapore and China. Nearly a month after leaving Qingdao, China, the Geraldton ran into trouble about 400 miles off California after a 100-foot (30-metre) wave plowed it off course.

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**Israel Museum showcased in Google Art Project**

**JERUSALEM, 4 April —** Until Tuesday, if history buffs wanted a glimpse of the Israel Museum’s vast collection — including a 9,000-year-old carved human face found in the Judean Desert — they would have to travel to Jerusalem to see it. Now, through a joint venture with Google Inc, people from around the world can examine the ancient Neolithic artifact, which the museum says is the oldest in the world, in greater detail than ever before with a simple click of a mouse from the comfort of their own home. The mask is just one of 520 objects made available as part of the museum’s partnership with the Google Art Project, an online compilation of high-resolution images of artwork from galleries worldwide, as well as a virtual tour of the museums using the high-tech giant’s Google Street technology. — Internet

The “Geraldton Western Australia” yacht races towards the finish line off of Tauranga, New Zealand in this undated handout photo courtesy of the Clipper 11-12 Round the World Yacht Race. — Internet

For sale: 1964 Mercury, one lady owner, 576,000 miles

**NEW YORK, 4 April—** A 93-year-old Florida grandmother has parked her car for good after driving 576,000 miles (927,000 km) over 48 years at the wheel of one trusty vehicle. Rachel Veitch bought her Mercury Comet Caliente for $289 in February 1964. It has outlasted three marriages and 18 battery changes, she says. On 9 March she had to give up driving as she has become legally blind. Mrs Veitch plans to sell the car instead of giving it to her family amid concerns they might not look after it. “They’re not going to get it. They couldn’t take care of it if they did,” Mrs Veitch told Fox News. She has four children, nine grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren. Mrs Veitch said the care and attention she paid to her car was one of the main reasons it had lasted so long. In 2009 she told Fox News: “When I buy gas, I write down the mileage, the date and how many miles per gallon I got. I’ve never been a destructive person and I’ve just taken care of everything, except my marriages.”

The car is said to be worth about $12,000 (£7,500) today and has been through three sets of shock absorbers and eight exhaust mufflers as well as surviving a rear-end collision in 1980. It is due to appear in an antique car show in the state of Wisconsin in July, though Mrs Veitch says she is not sure what will happen to it after that. Mrs Veitch has said she would consider selling the car to Jay Leno, a classic car enthusiast and host of the US late night chat show The Tonight Show.
GPS leads Customs to stolen luxury cars
Agents who opened a container labeled as “used fitness equipment” in Los Angeles found a $280,000 Ferrari, US Customs and Border Protection said on Tuesday.
Fifteen other stolen luxury cars were found in nearby containers, all marked as fitness equipment, the Los Angeles Times reported.
The investigation began when a car rental agency reported strange readings from the Ferrari’s Global Positioning System the day it was shipped to Hong Kong and was reported as a theft.
As the investigation continued, US authorities revealed that three individuals had shipped two luxury cars to California.
Investigators say they have evidence that at least four vehicles to thieves appears to have sent to Hong Kong and other vehicles appeared to be on a logistical path to the same destination.

Man allegedly urinated on women’s chairs
Police in Iowa said a man accused of urinating on the office chairs of female coworkers turned himself in to authorities.
The West Des Moines Police Department said Raymond Charles Foley, 59, who was caught on camera urinating on office chairs belonging to four female coworkers at the Farm Bureau, surrendered Saturday and was charged with second-degree criminal mischief, The Des Moines (Iowa) Register reported.

Burger King ad with Blige stirs criticism
NEW YORK, 4 April—A Burger King commercial featuring Mary J Blige singing about being fed up has been pulled. But the fast-food chain is blaming music licensing issues for the decision — not criticism of the ad.

Palin pans Julianne Moore in “Game Change” film
Actress Julianne Moore walks the red carpet for a viewing party for the HBO film “Game Change,” about the 2008 McCain-Palin republican presidential campaign, at the Newsroom in Washington, on 8 March, 2012.—INTERNET
WASHINGTON, 4 April—Sarah Palin gave a visible thumbs-down to actress Julianne Moore on Tuesday for her portrayal of Palin in the political documentary “Game Change,” but praised Tina Fey for her comic impersonation of the former Alaska governor.
The movie review came during a NBC “Today Show” panel discussion on whether Ashton Kutcher was the right actor to play the late Apple chief Steve Jobs.
“Do any of you have experience of people being paid a lot of money to pretend they’re you?” Palin asked the other panelists.

Japanese man, 97, charged in sword attack
A 97-year-old Japanese man was arrested on Tuesday after allegedly using his walker to get to a relative’s nearby home to attack her with a sword, police said.
Police in Kanazawa allege Kosho Kawamura made his way about 100 yards to the 84-year-old woman’s home and used a sword with a 20-inch blade to slash her left hand, The Yomiuri Shimbun reported.
Police said Kawamura vowed to the relative, “I’ll kill you.”
There was no word on how Kawamura was related to his alleged victim.

A second star is dismissed from ‘Dancing’
LOUISVILLE, 4 April—Jack Wagner remains among “The Bold and the Beautiful,” but his time on “Dancing With the Stars” is done.
The 52-year-old actor was axed from the ABC dance competition Tuesday despite turning in a samba that the judges praised. Judges’ scores are combined with viewer votes to determine who is ousted each week.
Wagner said he had a great time on the show and wished the remaining contestants good luck.
Returning to compete next week will be actors Jaleel White, Roshon Fegan, William Levy and Melissa Gilbert; singers Gladys Knight, Gavin DeGraw and Katherine Jenkins; TV personality Maria Menounos and Sherri Shepherd; and football star Donald Driver.

A diver swims near British artist Jason de Caires Taylor’s sculpture “The Flower of Hope” in this undated handout in the Mexican resort of Cancun.

A Chinese cabbage is handed to a robot named “Robovie-II” by Ms. Aki Kawamura during an experiment by utilizing the robot in an ubiquitous information system in Kyushu region.

Adiver swims near British artist Jason de Caires Taylor’s sculpture “The Flower of Hope” in this undated handout in the Mexican resort of Cancun.

Japanese man, 97, charged in sword attack
A 97-year-old Japanese man was arrested on Tuesday after allegedly using his walker to get to a relative’s nearby home to attack her with a sword, police said.
Police in Kanazawa allege Kosho Kawamura made his way about 100 yards to the 84-year-old woman’s home and used a sword with a 20-inch blade to slash her left hand, The Yomiuri Shimbun reported.
Police said Kawamura vowed to the relative, “I’ll kill you.”
There was no word on how Kawamura was related to his alleged victim.

Patton Oswalt to host 16th annual Webby Awards
NEW YORK, 4 April—Patton Oswalt will host the 16th annual Webby Awards. The actor-comedian will emcee the 25 May event, where winners are famously restricted to five-word acceptance speeches. The awards will be held at the Hammerstein Ballroom in New York City and streamed live on WebbyAwards.com.

Alec Baldwin goes Twitter-ballistic for fiancée
NEW YORK, 4 April—When it comes to his 28-year-old fiancée, Alec Baldwin is very protective.
He used Twitter to blast a New York newspaper for “crashing” yoga instructor Hilaria Thomas’ class.
He tweeted Monday: “Shame on the no-talent trash from the Daily News for invading the privacy of 75 people in a yoga class to take a picture of someone.”
Baldwin also posted the names of reporters at the class. He included a picture of one, and called her “nutty,” followed by a mild curse word.
The actor celebrated his 54th birthday on Tuesday. He popped the question last weekend.
The Daily News had no immediate response to comment requests on Tuesday.

In this 2 April, 2012 image released by ABC, actor Jack Wagner and his partner, pro dancer Elena Torgovitskaya perform on the celebrity dance competition series “Dancing with the Stars,” in Los Angeles.—INTERNET

In this 12 June, 2011 file photo, Alec Baldwin, right, and Hilaria Thomas arrive at the 65th annual Tony Awards in New York.—INTERNET

A diver swims near British artist Jason de Caires Taylor’s sculpture “The Flower of Hope” in this undated handout in the Mexican resort of Cancun.

A Chinese cabbage is handed to a robot named “Robovie-II” by Ms. Aki Kawamura during an experiment by utilizing the robot in an ubiquitous information system in Kyushu region.

In this 12 June, 2011 file photo, actor-comedian Patton Oswalt is seen on stage during the 17th Annual Critics’ Choice Movie Awards in Los Angeles.—INTERNET

In this 15 Jan, 2012 file photo, singer Mary J Blige arrives at the 69th Annual Golden Globe Awards in Los Angeles.—INTERNET

In this 20 Feb, 2011 file photo, actress Amy Adams arrives at Vanity Fair Campaign Hollywood at Siren Studios in Los Angeles.—INTERNET

In this 2 April, 2012 image released by ABC, actor Jack Wagner and his partner, pro dancer Elena Torgovitskaya perform on the celebrity dance competition series “Dancing with the Stars,” in Los Angeles.—INTERNET

The actor-comedian will emcee the 25 May event, where winners are famously restricted to five-word acceptance speeches. The awards will be held at the Hammerstein Ballroom in New York City and streamed live on WebbyAwards.com.

The Webbys, which celebrate Internet achievement, are presented by the International Academy of Digital Arts and Sciences, a group of about 1,000 Web experts and Internet professionals. Winners are announced ahead of the awards show. Nominees will be unveiled next week, with winners announced 1 May.
This year’s Webby Awards received more than 10,000 entries. Oswalt recently co-starred in the film “Young Adult.” He also plays a supporting role in the upcoming “Seeking a Friend for the End of the World.”

In this 2 April, 2012 image released by ABC, actor Jack Wagner and his partner, pro dancer Elena Torgovitskaya perform on the celebrity dance competition series “Dancing with the Stars,” in Los Angeles.—INTERNET

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Gunners’ runners raise thousands for charity

LONDON, 4 April — Charity runners were out in their hundreds on Saturday to help Arsenal raise £40,000 for its charity partner Save the Children. The annual ‘Be a Gunner. Be a Runner.’ event took place on Saturday 30th March and saw Arsenal fans, staff and keen runners from more than 20 countries around the world coming together to take part. Approximately 750 runners braved the chill at the Emirates Stadium — with 400 adults taking on the 10-6, 4km route around the Gunners’ home and more than 300 youngsters completing a shorter race.

There were also overseas-based individuals and groups taking part from more than 20 countries including Australia, India, Poland and Nigeria, to help spread the word about the club’s global charity partnership. To date the event has raised £40,000, with the figure expected to rise further over the coming weeks. Lizzie Llehi from Save the Children, who was also participating and who has been writing a weekly blog for

De Jong tells Balotelli to stop acting the fool

MANCHESTER, 4 April — Manchester City midfielder Nigel De Jong has warned controversial team-mate Mario Balotelli to stop acting like a “fool.” Balotelli has repeatedly been heard to say he is a “fool” in his bizarre antics on and off the pitch since moving to Eastland from AC Milan and the City striker was at it again over the last week. The first Italian in City boss Roberto Mancini by using his time off to make an unscheduled appearance at the press conference to unveil new Inter boss Andrea Stramaccioni.

Then Balotelli, who also

Olive fires Bayern into semi-finals

MUNICH, 4 April — Bayern Munich reached the Champions League semi-finals after Croatia striker Ibra Olic netted both goals in a 2-0 win over Marseille in Tuesday’s quarter-final second leg. With the Bavarians having won the first aggregate, Bayern will host the first leg of their semi-final on 17 April, most likely against Real Madrid, who hosted APOEL with a 3-0 lead in the second leg of their last-eight match on Wednesday. Olic was back in the hero role, two years after his last-batch Lyon put Bayern through to the 2010 final, where they lost 2-0 to Jose Mourinho-inspired Inter Milan in Madrid.

Bayern are now within reaching distance of the final that Munich’s Allianz Arena will host on 19 May as they look to win the Champions League trophy for the second time and claim their fifth European Cup title overall. “We were very concentrated, despite the amount of games we are playing at the moment,” said Bayern coach Jupp Heynckes, whose side are in contention for a Champions League, Bundesliga and German Cup treble.

“In the first half, (goalkeeper) Manuel Neuer rescued us a few times. After that we came back stronger and deserved the win. ‘Marseille weren’t in the semi-finals for the right reasons and they tried everything,’” Having lost the first leg 2-0 in Marseille last Wednesday, the visitors were always facing an uphill task to win in Munich. “At-half-time, I didn’t ask my players to score four goals,” said Marseille coach Didier Deschamps.
Suicide bomber kills 12 in Afghan north

KABUL, 4 April—A suicide bomber attacked foreign military forces in northern Afghanistan on Wednesday, killing 12 people, officials said, as NATO’s fatalities for the year passed the 100 mark.

“A suicide bomber targeted a group of foreign friends” near a park in Maymana, the capital of Faryab province, on Wednesday.—INTERNET

German snatch sprint cycling crown in record time

MELBOURNE, 4 April—Germany’s Miriam Welte and Kristina Vogel upset Australia on the opening day of the track world championships Wednesday by winning the hosts’ coveted women’s team sprint crown in a new record time.

Austria’s Evelyn Herl and Liesl Teschl broke the previous mark of 52.33 in qualifying races.

German Alessandro Zanardi is also set for a fourth world crown in the men’s individual pursuit in Melbourne Wednesday.

Cash donated to religious examination

Nay Pyi Taw, 4 April—A ceremony to donate cash to the fund for holding Dhammaçātya Examination 2012 of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area was held at Yadana on Hall of Basic Education High School No 1 in Pyinmana on 2 April morning.

Member of Nay Pyi Taw Council U Than Htay handed over K 440,700 for meals of 682 members of the Sangha who will sit for the examination. Chairman of the Religious Service Group U Hla Myint accepted the cash donation.

Whitney Houston items fetch 82,000 at auction

LOS ANGELES, 4 April—Whitney Houston may be gone, but her presence is still being felt — particularly on the auction block. A number of items once belonging to the deceased singer, who died in February at age 48, commanded slightly more than $82,000 at an auction this past weekend, with most items drawing much higher bids than they were originally estimated to bring in. The highest-selling Houston item, a beaded bustier that had been sold during a 2007 court-ordered debt auction, drew $18,750. In the catalog for the auction, the estimated value is listed as $4,000 to $6,000.

Also commanding a handsome price was a grey velvet gown that Houston wore to her mentor Clive Davis’ pre-Grammys party in 1996. The gown, which was sold for a combined $8,700.—INTERNET

Afghan policemen inspect the site of a suicide attack in Maymana, the capital of Faryab province, on Wednesday.—INTERNET

Weather forecast for 5th April, 2012

Temperature(°C/°F) For Tomorrow

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<th>Forecast</th>
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Who was Whitney Houston?

Whitney Houston, the Grammy-winning R&B performer and Olympic gold medalist, was the highest-selling Houston item, a beaded bustier that had been sold during a 2007 court-ordered debt auction, drew $18,750. In the catalog for the auction, the estimated value is listed as $4,000 to $6,000.

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The auction featured items that once belonged to the deceased singer, who died in February at age 48, and commanded slightly more than $82,000 at an auction this past weekend. Most items drew much higher bids than they were originally estimated to bring in.
Narrowing Development Gap should be one of main tasks to be implemented by ASEAN

President U Thein Sein attends 20th ASEAN Summit Plenary Session

NAY PYI TAW, 4 April—President U Thein Sein attended 20th ASEAN Summit Plenary Session at Peace Palace in Phnom Penh of Cambodia at 10.45 am yesterday.

The session was also attended by Brunei King Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Muizzaddin Waddaulah, Cambodian Prime Minister Samdech Hun Sen, Indonesian Vice-President Dr Boediono, Laotian Prime Minister Mr Thongsing Thammavong, Malaysian Prime Minister Dato’ Sri Mohd Najib bin Tun Haji Abdul Razak, Filipino President Mr Benigno Aquino, Singaporean Prime Minister Mr Lee Hsien Loong, Thai Prime Minister Ms Yingluck Shinawatra, Vietnamese Prime Minister Mr Nguyen Tan Dung, ASEAN Secretary-General Dr Sarin Pristavan, ASEAN ministers and high-level officials.

Alternative Chairman Cambodian Prime Minister Samdech Hun Sen extended greetings at the session.

President U Thein Sein, Heads of State and Government from ASEAN member countries and the ASEAN Secretary-General frankly discussed matters related to ASEAN community.

President U Thein Sein said that he was heartened by Cambodia’s active leadership in the bid for “ASEAN: One Community—One Destiny”. He expressed pride in reaching agreement on Phnom Penh Declaration and Phnom Penh Agenda which include priorities to be implemented in accord with the motto. The President believed the declaration and the agenda will formulate guidelines for priorities during the time from 2012 to 2015 in which ASEAN community will be established.

He called for speeding up integration attempt as the establishment of ASEAN Community in 2015 is nearing.

He underscored the need to narrow rich-poor gap among ASEAN countries and in a particular ASEAN country.

Narrowing the Development Gap should be one of the main tasks to be implemented by ASEAN.

Equitable Development goal adopted by ASEAN and UN Millennium Development Goals will be achieved as it focuses more on economic integration in ASEAN region for balancing regional economic development. Myanmar is adopting eight poverty alleviation and rural development tasks.

Energy and food sufficiency will have to be ensured with added momentum in ASEAN region. The world is worrying to feed growing population and all the countries including Myanmar are striving for food sufficiency.

ASEAN Connectivity plays the most important role in development and integration among the regional countries.

Myanmar’s strategic position could contribute to ASEAN’s access to countries outside the region. Myanmarpyu Special Economic Zone in the western part of Myanmar, Thilawa Special Economic Zone near Yangon in the southern part and Dawei Special Economic Zone in Taninthayi region are being implemented. These economic zones will contribute to ASEAN Connectivity and ASEAN’s communication with the outside countries.

Myanmar All-round Development Goal adopted with the help of Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia was approved. The realization of the ambition will contribute to Mekong-India Economic Corridor Programme. Now is time to start communication works for ASEAN integration. ASEAN links South Asia and North-East Asia region in terms of trade and tourism. It is a must to communicate with the prospective economies around ASEAN.

Myanmar supported the declaration of Drug-Free ASEAN in 2015. Myanmar is adopting effective plans for combating illegal drug cultivation, abuse and trafficking. Myanmar has targeted to be drug-free by 2014. It will contribute much to ASEAN’s ambition of being drug-free by 2015.

(See page 9)

President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein attends 20th ASEAN Summit Plenary Session at Peace Palace in Phnom Penh of Cambodia.—MNA

Navy Sein, 4 April —President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein arrives back from Cambodia

NAY PYI TAW, 4 April—President U Thein Sein, accompanied by delegation members, arrived back here by special flight of Myanmar Airways International at 5.30 pm today, from Phnom Penh of Cambodia after attending the 20th ASEAN Summit.

Myanmar delegation led by President U Thein Sein was welcomed back at Nay Pyi Taw Airport by Vice-Presidents Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo and Dr Sai Mauk Kham, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Vice-Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Union ministers, first secretary of Cambodian Embassy in Myanmar Mrs Tuot Kunthea and departmental heads.

Myanmar delegation members Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Information and for Culture U Kyaw Hsan, Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Tin Naung Thein, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs Dr Myo Myint, Deputy Minister for Health Dr Win Myint and departmental high-level officials also took the same flight.

Myanmar delegation led by President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein being welcomed back by Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo, Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Vice-Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and officials, at Nay Pyi Taw Airport. —MNA