Pyithu Hluttaw session continues for 19th day
Affirmation of office taken, three questions answered, one new proposal submitted and informed to Hluttaw

Nay Pyi Taw, 23 April—The 19th day Pyithu Hluttaw session was held at Pyithu Hluttaw Hall of Hluttaw Building here at 1 pm today, attended by Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann and 377 MPs.

At the session, affirmation of office was taken, three questions answered and one new proposal submitted and informed to the Hluttaw.

First, under Article 8(b) of Pyithu Hluttaw Law, 40 defence services personnel Pyithu Hluttaw representatives who had not taken affirmation took the affirmation of office in the presence of the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker.

In response to the question of U Sai Bo Aung of Muse Constituency about how related departments and organizations can handle minor and major car accidents in accord with the law, Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Brig-Gen Kyaw Zan Myint clarified that if car accidents happen, they are handled in accord with the 1964 Vehicle Law and 1989 Vehicle Rule. There is no law prescribed separately for Home Affairs Brig-Gen Kyaw Zan Myint clarified that if car accidents happen, they are handled in accord with the 1964 Vehicle Law and 1989 Vehicle Rule. There is no law prescribed separately for Home Affairs.

Regarding the second question, he went on to say that 64 second-degree civil appeal cases were heard at the Union Supreme Court in September 2011 and 27 cases were rejected through a brief. The court has to hear appeal cases in accord with the civil law section 109. The appeal cases in which action has to be taken if there is such law and asked about the issue of rejecting second-degree civil appeal cases at the Supreme Court of the Union in Nay Pyi Taw in September 2011.

Union Supreme Court Judge U Tin Maung of Chanmyathazi Constituency asked whether there is any law banning land and house brokers who are in disguise of buying and selling houses. He then requested that prompt action should be taken if there is such law and asked about the issue of rejecting second-degree civil appeal cases at the Supreme Court of the Union of the Union Supreme Court in September 2011.

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PERSPECTIVES
Tuesday, 24 April, 2012

Myanmar foreseeing tourism explosion

It is undeniable that Myanmar’s tourism is developing year by year. According to data, the number of tourists coming to Myanmar has increased from 791,505 in 2010 to 816,365 in 2011, accounting for 3.14 percent increase. Blessed with snow-capped mountains, long and wide river courses, unspoilt lakes and beaches, spectacular landscapes and vast tracts of forests, Myanmar is attracting more and more tourists to come and visit. Moreover, the open-heartedness and hospitality of Myanmar people make tourists willing to visit Myanmar again and again.

Since taking office in the 2010 post-election period, the new government has been trying not only to promote friendly ties with neighbouring countries but also to be standing tall in the ASEAN economic community. The government therefore is conducting a series of reforms in various sectors such as agriculture, production and services, transportation, communication, education, technology and human resources.

Recently, Myanmar hosted a responsible tourism conference under cooperation between Myanmar Tourism Board and Hanns Seidel Foundation. Today, more travels & tours companies are emerging in the country, and they are doing their best to provide good and reliable services under the directive of the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism.

With Myanmar having lots of tourist attractions plus more than 100 hospitable national ethnic groups, it will surely see tourism explosion in coming years.

Educators meet to promote national education standard

A seminar on promoting national education of the basic education level kicks off at Yezin University of Agriculture, here today. The seminar for 2012 was opened by Union Education Minister Dr Mya Aye and it was attended by President of Myanmar Academy of Arts and Sciences U Than Oo, officials of Myanmar Education Research Department and Myanmar Examination Board, principals of colleges and education officers and headmasters of basic education high, middle and primary schools.

Speaking on the occasion, the union minister called for making efforts for boosting school enrolment rate and completion of grades rate. The Education Ministry has planned to offer scholarships and stipends for needy students at basic education middle and high school level as from the 2012-2013 academic year, he said.

The ministry has already drawn registration rules and regulations for establishment of private schools and has been working to allow private schools in the 2012-2013 academic year, he said.

He also urged participants of the symposium to work hard to meet the objective of education for all school-age children and promoting the education standard as part of the 30-year-long-term plan of the ministry.

Divided into four groups, the participants of the symposium discussed the report of the previous academic year and future tasks.

During the seminar, four resource persons read out papers on the long term plan. The seminar will be held till 25 April.—MNA

Union Minister for Cooperatives and for L&F receives Israeli Ambassador

Myanmar families perform meritorious deeds at Lingguang Temple

Village road extended in Mawlu

Union EC&F Minister receives UNCCD and Global Mechanism personnel
Iraqi premier starts talks in Iran

**THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR** Tuesday, 24 April, 2012 3

**IRAN**

Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki, centre, shakes hands with Iranian Vice-President Mohammad Reza Rahimi during his official arrival ceremony in Teheran, Iran, on 22 April, 2012. — **INTERNET**

**IRAQ**

Seven injured in Tyre restaurant blast

**SYRIA**

Australian police appeal for calm after teen shootings

**LEBANON**

Iran says it recovered data from captured US drone

**IRAQ**

Iraqi forces, including the special forces and those of the Iranian-led Mahdi army, have clashed in the city of Fallujah. The government has said it is disrupting the activities of the group, which is blamed for a number of attacks in the region. The clashes come amid a wider rise in violence in Iraq.

**AFGHANISTAN**

In this file photo, a member of US special operations forces and an Afghan National Army soldier search for roadside bombs during a joint patrol in Shewan, a former Taliban stronghold in Afghanistan’s Farah Province. President Hamid Karzai’s office said on 22 April, 2012 that Afghan and US officials have finalized a long-awaited strategic partnership deal. — **INTERNET**

**US, AFGHANISTAN REACH DEAL ON STRATEGIC PACT**

KABUL, 23 April — The US and Afghanistan reached a deal Sunday on a long-delayed strategic partnership agreement that ensures Americans will provide military and financial support to the Afghan people for at least a decade beyond 2014, the deadline for most foreign forces to withdraw. The pact is key to the US exit strategy in Afghanistan because it establishes guidelines for any American forces who remain after the withdrawal deadline and for financial help to the impoverished country and its security forces. For the Afghan government, it is also a way to show its people that their US allies are not just walking away.

“Our goal is an enduring partnership with Afghanistan that strengthens Afghan sovereignty, stability and prosperity and that contributes to our shared goal of defeating al-Qaeda and its extremist affiliates,” said US Embassy spokesman Gavin Sandwall. “We believe this agreement supports that goal.” After 10 years of US-led war, militants linked to the Taliban and al-Qaeda remain a threat and as recently as a week ago launched a large-scale attack on the capital Kabul and three other cities.

The draft agreement was worked out and initiated by Afghan National Security Adviser Rangin Dadfar Spanta and US Ambassador Ryan Crocker. It must still be reviewed in both countries and signed afterward by the Afghan and American presidents. — **INTERNET**

**IRAQI PREMIER STARTS TALKS IN IRAN**

TEHERAN, 23 April — Iraq’s prime minister travelled to Teheran Sunday for top level talks, underlining the close ties between governments of the two countries, Nouri-Maliki said.

Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad at the beginning of his two-day official visit. Ahmadinejad praised al-Maliki, saying the Iraqi prime minister is working for reconstruction and progress in his war-battered country.

“If Teheran and Baghdad are powerful, then there will be no place for the presence of enemies of nations in this region,” including the US and the Zionist regime, he said.

The official Islamic Republic News agency IPSA quoted Ahmadinejad as telling al-Maliki: “The pact between the US and Afghanistan reached a deal Sunday on a long-month.-

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Al-Maliki’s visit to Teheran is an attempt by the Iraqi prime minister to show that Iraq has strong regional allies. Al-Maliki also expressed his regret at the US decision to withdraw from Iraq.

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**Science & Technology**

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### Depiction of Egyptian Pharaoh found

Cairo, 23 April—A stone slab depicting Ramesses III, who ruled Egypt’s 20th Dynasty from 1186-1155 BC, has been found at the Karnak Temple, researchers say. The rare archeological piece depicts the Pharaoh Ramesses II providing sacrifices and offerings to the god Amon Ra, the Egypt State Information Service reported Friday. Also depicted on the slab is Amon Ra’s goddess wife Amon wearing a crown. The Temple of Karnak, considered the largest ancient Egyptian temple in the world, is a large complex containing a group of temples such as the Great Temple of Amon Ra, The Temple of Khonos, The Ipt Temple, The Temple of Ptah, the Temple of Monthu and the Temple of the God Osiris.—Internet

### Car made in Missouri gets 358 miles per gallon

New York, 23 April—KYTV in Springfield, Mo, reports a car designed by students at Aurora Junior High School gets 358 miles per gallon. The red roadster seats one, has three small bicycle wheels and starts with a pull cord. The steering column is similar to a bicycle’s to turn the two front wheels. The car was designed as part of the Missouri SuperMileage Challenge.

- The car was not allowed to go over 30 mph per contest rules. The vehicle must also be able to make a turn within 35 feet of turning radius.
- The engine must be a 4-cycle engine made from the factory of a brand name such as Honda or Briggs & Stratton. Basically, the engines are from lawn mowers or even gas-powerd trimmers.
- Unloaded fuel must power the lightweight vehicles. The engine can max out at six horsepower.
- For the 2012 contest, there were two divisions. The first was the stock division with unaltered factory engines. The second was the experimental division in which engines burn ethanol or blended fuels.
- The Aurora Junior High team achieved the 358 miles per gallon rating over a 10-lap run. One run was calculated to have 437 miles per gallon.
- The Aurora team took first place. The junior high school’s accomplishment was set apart due to the fact the annual contest is for high school teams.
- The entry fee for the Missouri SuperMileage Challenge was $5 to cover the costs of trophies and fuel. This year was the seventh annual contest to demonstrate how cars can get extreme gas mileage.
- This was the fourth year in a row a team from Aurora won the event. In 2011, the Aurora Advertiser reported the SuperMileage students from Aurora High School won the experimental division using B20 biodiesel to get 275 miles per gallon. The junior high team placed second out of 14 cars in 2011 in the stock division with 158 miles per gallon.
- The Missouri SuperMileage Challenge is held every year in Warrensburg. The event is sponsored and sanctioned by the International Technology Education Association. There are similar competitions held in Minnesota, Indiana, Wisconsin and Michigan.
- SAE International sponsors a college-level event for nearly two dozen teams from the US and Canada. The contest is similar in scope to the high school level. Teams must design a vehicle that gets the best gas mileage from factory engines donated by Briggs & Stratton. —Internet

### Apple’s new iPAD goes on sale in South Korea

Seoul, 23 April—Hundreds of customers lined up on Friday at Apple stores as the new iPad went on sale in tech-savvy South Korea, about one month after it made its international debut. Four of Apple’s stores in Seoul opened early to sell the tablet computer, and there were also queues outside branches in the city of network providers KT and SK Telecom, the two distributors of iPhones and iPads.

First in line at KT was university student Lim Jun-hong, 21, who slept overnight on the pavement to be the first to get his hands on the tablet.

“Got my new iPad! Hooyay!” wrote one Twitter user.

Apple is selling the gadget with WiFi at 620,000 won ($545) to 860,000 won ($755), depending on memory size. The cost is slightly higher for models with both WiFi and 4G.

South Korean users, at least for now, will use 3G instead of 4G. The faster connection speed is currently unavailable locally due to differences in frequencies.

South Korea’s Samsung Electronics, Apple’s biggest rival worldwide, introduced its Galaxy Tab 10.1 in February last year, only four months after launching the series.—Internet

### Adobe to launch new software suite for designers

New York, 23 April—Adobe is launching the latest version of its software package for designers and Web developers. Adobe Systems Inc. is to announce CS6 on Monday at an event in San Francisco. Creative Suite 6 includes Photoshop, Illustrator and other programs aimed at designers.

Unlike previous versions, which came shrink-wrapped in a box, Creative Suite 6 will be available on a monthly subscription basis as part of Adobe’s Creative Cloud offering. Subscriptions will start at $50 a month for those who sign up for a year. Subscribers will be able to download programs such as Photoshop, InDesign or Illustrator, store their work online and share files with others. This will likely make the pricey software package more desirable to new customers who may not want to shell out thousands of dollars upfront. Scott Morris, a senior marketing director at Adobe, compared the new pricing policy to the company’s decision nearly a decade ago to start selling its design-software products in one package. The result then was higher sales, and Adobe hopes to replicate that success with its new revenue model.

Customers will still be able to buy CS6 as a packaged software suite, just as they can still buy the programmes separately.—Internet

### Satellite tracked as it remains silent

Paris, 23 April—Optical, radar and laser observations of a European satellite that inexplicably went silent 8 April show it is still in a stable orbit, space officials say. All efforts to restore contact with the Envisat environmental monitoring satellite have so far failed, the European Space Agency reported from its Paris headquarters Friday. With help from European and international partners, ground controllers are attempting to determine if Envisat’s hardware is its “safe mode,” which could offer a starting point for its revival, officials said.

On 15 April the French space agency CNES turned its Pleiades satellite, which normally provides high-resolution images of Earth, around to capture images of Envisat passing above it at about 54 miles.

Flight specialists and engineers are studying the images to determine if Envisat’s solar panel — the satellite’s power source — is in a position for sufficient exposure to the sun to generate enough power to put Envisat into safe mode.

“These unique images will enable us to analyze Envisat’s orientation, which will indicate whether we are able to regain contact with the satellite,” Manfred Warthaud, head of ESA’s Mission Operations Department, said.

### Russia’s Progress space freighter docks with ISS

Moscow, 23 April—Russia’s cargo spacecraft Progress M-15M docked with the International Space Station (ISS) successfully on Sunday, the Mission Control Centre (MCC) said.

“The Progress M-15M docked with the Firs unit at 18:35 Moscow time (13:35 GMT) and undocked urgent cargo.”

Some local media reported that the ISS crew would open the hatch of the Progress space freighter at around 21:25 pm Moscow time (17:25 GMT) and unload urgent cargo.

The Progress M-15M delivered about 2.4 tons of fuel and scientific equipment to the ISS as well as oxygen, food and clothes for the crew.

Among them, there is a special present for Russian cosmonaut Oleg Kononenko Padalka, who is expected to fly to the ISS on 15 May and celebrate his 54th birthday in orbit on 21 June.

A Russian Soyuz-U rocket carrying a Progress M-15M cargo ship blasted off from the Baikonur space center in Kazakhstan at 16:50 pm Moscow time (12:50 GMT) Friday on FSS, according to Russia’s Federal Space Agency, Roscosmos. This is the second of the five launches of Progress cargo ships to the ISS in 2012, Roscosmos said.

Progress freighters have been the backbone of the Russian space cargo fleet for decades. Russia lost a Progress cargo ship in 2011 for the first time in 30 years.—Kinhua

### Gmail service disrupted

San Francisco, 23 April—Millions of Gmail users were unable to get to their messages for about an hour on Tuesday due to a disruption at Google’s San Francisco data center.

The problem affected about two percent of the approximately 350 million Gmail users, according to updates posted at a Google dashboard monitoring the status of its online applications.

“The problem with Google Mail should be resolved,” the most recent message at the dashboard said.

“We apologize for the inconvenience and thank you for your patience and continued support,” it continued.

“Please rest assured that system reliability is a top priority at Google.”—Internet

### Image of the Envisat captured by France’s Pleiades satellite from a distance of 54 miles—Internet

Internet
Vitamin C may lower high blood pressure

Researchers at Johns Hopkins have found that large doses of vitamin C may help reduce hypertension in adults. The study, which was published in the current issue of the American Journal of Clinical Nutrition, found that the nutrient can cause a moderate decrease in a person’s blood pressure.

What are the details of the study?

The study was what is referred to as a “review” study, which means that it looked at and analyzed previous research for patterns and observations. In this case, scientists looked at the data from 29 previous clinical trials involving more than 1,400 people in order to reach their conclusions, according to the Baltimore Sun.

What was the study find?

Preliminary conclusions suggested that consuming large amounts of vitamin C, in this case, at least 500 milligrams per day for an average of eight weeks, can have a positive, though moderate, effect on someone suffering from hypertension. This amount is the equivalent of roughly five times the current daily recommendations.

How is vitamin C believed to work?

According to Prevention, vitamin C may be able to maintain or protect the body’s levels of nitric oxide. Nitric oxide’s function is specifically to help maintain healthy blood pressure. Past research revolving around the health benefits of vitamin C have focused on the nutrient’s possible role as a diuretic. As such, it may help the kidneys to more efficiently rid the body of excess sodium and water, which has the effect of lowering blood pressure by relaxing blood vessels.

What are the Johns Hopkins researchers recommending as a result of their findings?

Nothing. Dr. Robert R. Miller III, one of the lead researchers in the study, said in the team’s official press release that it was too soon to recommend a specific course of action. Further study is required to determine the exact effects of vitamin C on blood pressure.

What has been the critical response to the study’s findings?

According to WebMD, the researchers involved in the study have themselves pointed out that the studies that they analyzed were usually small. They also pointed out that some of the patients in question were being prescribed blood pressure medication, which could have skewed the results. Additionally, this initial study was not designed to prove whether there were any long-term benefits of taking higher doses of vitamin C. In particular, there was no evidence to suggest that taking large amounts of vitamin C would lower a person’s risk of developing cardiovascular issues or having a stroke. — Internet

Business & Health Business & Health Business & Health

Hospitals see decline in care-related infections

A patient waits in the hallway for a room to open up at the emergency room at Ben Taub General Hospital in Houston, Texas.—Reuters

The Bank of Canada head urges caution on housing market

TORONTO, 23 April—Parts of the Canadian housing market, especially condominiums in some major cities, have seen prices jump to levels that warrant caution, the head of the country’s central bank said in an interview broadcast on Saturday. “There’s no panic, particularly in some parts of the country in the condo market, without question, where activity has been particularly strong,” Carney said when asked if Canada was experiencing a housing bubble. “But in some of our major cities, without question, valuations are extremely firm, to put it one way. And so caution is warranted in that environment.” Carney did not mention specific regions or cities.

He noted that regulators had tightened underwriting standards for home equity loans and the federal government had tightened mortgage rules three times to cool the housing market. The central bank has previously suggested hiking interest rates to cool housing would be a last line of defence.

Recent data showed Canadian home prices fell in January from year-ago levels, but that prices in Toronto, which has seen a condominium construction boom, jumped 10.5 percent. Some analysts also are concerned about Vancouver’s housing market and condo sector. While overall prices there have cooled from year ago, it remains Canada’s most expensive property market. Unlike the United States, Canada has experienced a post-financial crisis housing market rally triggered by record low borrowing costs. Carney spoke after the Bank of Canada surprised markets last week by explicitly warning it may need to start raising interest rates given reduced slack in the economy.

The central bank chief reiterated in the interview that if there is a “health” to the economy it was almost back to full capacity. “It’s in that environment that given the fact that rates are exceptionally low, there’s considerable monetary policy stimulus, that we have signalled that this continues, in light of this situation, some withdrawal of that considerable monetary stimulus may become appropriate,” he said. —Reuters

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The Bank of Canada building is pictured in Ottawa.—Reuters

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Bank of Canada head urges caution on housing market

The Bank of Canada building is pictured in Ottawa.—Reuters

March from year-ago levels, but that prices in Toronto, which has seen a condominium construction boom, jumped 10.5 percent. Some analysts also are concerned about Vancouver’s housing market and condo sector. While overall prices there have cooled from year ago, it remains Canada’s most expensive property market. Unlike the United States, Canada has experienced a post-financial crisis housing market rally triggered by record low borrowing costs. Carney spoke after the Bank of Canada surprised markets last week by explicitly warning it may need to start raising interest rates given reduced slack in the economy.

The central bank chief reiterated in the interview that if there is a “health” to the economy it was almost back to full capacity. “It’s in that environment that given the fact that rates are exceptionally low, there’s considerable monetary policy stimulus, that we have signalled that this continues, in light of this situation, some withdrawal of that considerable monetary stimulus may become appropriate,” he said. —Reuters

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Birth defects more common in IVF babies

WARSAW, 23 April—Babies conceived through certain fertility treatment techniques are about one-third more likely to have a birth defect than babies conceived without any extra help from technology, according to a review of several dozen studies.

However, the researchers, whose findings were published in the journal Fertility and Sterility, did not determine why fertility treatments are tied to a higher risk of birth defects or whether the technology is even responsible.

In vitro fertilization (IVF), in which the mother’s egg is fertilized outside of her body and then transferred to her womb, has been available to women for more than three decades, and numerous studies have looked at the potential hazards of these techniques. Zhihui Hu at Nanjing Medical University and colleagues collected the results of 46 studies that compared the number of birth defects among children conceived using an IVF technique to children conceived normally.

For more than 124,000 children born through IVF or using ICSI, in which a single sperm is injected directly into the egg, the risk of having a birth defect was 37 percent higher than that of the other children, they found. “Children conceived by IVF and/or ICSI are at significantly increased risk for birth defects, and there is no risk difference between children conceived by IVF and/or ICSI,” the team wrote.

According to the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, major birth defects, such as malformation of a limb or organ, occur in about three out of every 100 babies born in the United States, a 37 percent increase would bump that rate to four out of every 100 babies.
Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao and German Chancellor Angela Merkel jointly opened the Hannover trade fair here on Sunday. In a speech delivered at the opening ceremony, Wen said China and Germany, two of the most important manufacturing countries in the world, are working closely to promote dialogue and cooperation of the global industries, and this will surely play a more important role in advancing global industrial innovation and development. China is the official partner country of this year’s Hannover trade fair, the largest industrial expo in the world. Over 500 Chinese companies attended the fair, showcasing their innovative products or technologies in new energy, electric vehicles and intelligent manufacturing. Wen said in his speech that the People’s Republic of China has achieved tremendous progress in industrialization since its founding, especially after the introduction of the reform and opening-up policy in the 1970s. China would continue its market-oriented reforms, remain open to the outside world, promote scientific and technological innovation, and promote industrialization, urbanization, and agricultural modernization in a coordinated way, he said.

Qantas chief calls for second Sydney airport

SYDNEY, 23 April — Qantas chief Alan Joyce Monday said bottlenecks at Sydney airport were unsustainable and called for a second hub in the city before its global reputation was damaged. Sydney’s Kingsford Smith Airport is the main gateway into Australia and Joyce said its capacity limits needed to be fixed. “We cannot afford to wait much longer for a second airport for Sydney,” he said in an opinion piece for the Sydney Daily Telegraph.

“Aviation is too important, not just to Sydney and New South Wales, but to Australia. This is a national issue that will not go away. It needs to be fixed.” Sydney is Qantas’s headquarters and Joyce said it was already facing serious problems, with a Boeing 747 often taking up to two hours to be towed from one end of the airport to the other. He said planes were routinely stuck for 50 minutes circling Sydney due to congestion, while others were unable to take off on time.

“With a quarter of Qantas’s departures leaving from Sydney, there is no escaping the consequences of bottlenecks at our mainairport hub,” he said.

The federal government is in favour of a second airport in the city with Infrastructure Minister Anthony Albanese recently saying limitations were already hurting the economy. He said that by 2035 the cost to the national GDP of turning away flights would be A$6 billion (US$6.2 billion), and nearly six times more by 2060. But New South Wales state Premier Barry O’Farrell is against the idea, insisting Sydney is too urbanised for another hub.

He prefers expanding the airport at national capital Canberra and introducing high-speed trains linking it with Sydney, some 280 kilometres (173 miles) away.

Pollution a source of nuisance to Afghans

KABUL, 23 April — “It’s not exaggerated, I eat about 1 kg dust from dawn to dusk every day and then shut down my shop and go home,” a vegetable seller Mohammed Karim said. During his work in a makeshift vegetable market in Afghan capital Kabul, Karim, 28, complained of the polluted environment, saying that he has already coughed and his throat has got irritation. Like other post war nations, the war-ravaged Afghanistan has been facing numerous challenges including pollution.

Kabul, the capital of the war-torn but under- construction Middle Asian nation, has not been spared, as poor civic amenities, battered streets and pitiable sewage system have hugely contributed to the pollution there. The volume of pollution in Kabul City where all political, military and diplomatic missions are located and where some 4 million people are said to be living, can be gauged from the fact that a thick plume of cloud-like dust covers the city space almost every day.

“The environment and the air of our cities including Kabul are hugely polluted which is extremely hazardous to our health and even causes aliments and mortality,” Ghulam Mohammad Malikyar, the environmental organization Green Club, said.

Kabul, the capital of Afghanistan, has reached the alarming level and warned “living in Kabul would be unsafe after five years if the status quo continues.” Contrary to developed and developing nations, Afghanistan faces no problem of greenhouse gases, rather the lack of drainage system and the surge of second-hand vehicles that have caused the air pollution.

There is no chemical factory or plant in Afghan cities to produce carbon dioxide or other gases. Moreover, burning tires in the city streets, battered roads, congested streets, smokes emitting from vehicles and the use of fossil fuels have been contributing to the polluting environment. “Building unplanned houses, dense population and the lack of sewage system would gradually contaminate underground water in Kabul and eventually cause a variety of illnesses,” Malikyar worried. More than 50 percent of Afghans are said to have no access to potable water. In addition to the government’s support for greenery, a Kabul- based non-governmental organization — Green Club, celebrated the International Earth Day(22 April) by holding a number of programmes, calling on Afghans to make effort to keep the environment clean. Like security problems in the militancy-plagued nation, the high rate of pollution would also hurt people, Abdullah Fahim, advisor to the Afghan Public Health Ministry said.

British TV crew freed in Bahrain

LONDON, 23 April—A team of journalists for Britain’s Channel 4 News was released Sunday after being detained while covering Bahrain’s Grand Prix race, which went ahead after a week of angry protests away from the track. —Xinhua

Jonathan Miller wrote on microblogging site Twitter that he and his crew had been released and were being deported, but that his Bahraini driver and an activist who was travelling with them were still being held. Security forces told the Channel 4 team that the pair would be released soon.

Miller and his team were arrested while reporting from a village in Bahrain after the race, a Channel 4 News spokesperson said. “Our primary concern is for the safety of the pair and the appropriate authorities to secure a swift release,” the spokesman said shortly after

A passenger waits for Qantas flights to resume service at Sydney Airport in October 2011. Sydney’s Kingsford Smith Airport is the main gateway into Australia and Qantas chief Alan Joyce said it capacity limits needed to be fixed.—INTERNET
Workshop on Broadcast Media Regulation held

by T.S. (NLM)

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The fourth point was to consider whether Myanmar needed to include the Internet which was the new media apart from radio and TV in drafting the law, he said. The final point was to consider whether the country needed an organization for development of TV and radio media that would emerge according to the law, observance of the media ethics and facilitation of technical and technical development, he said.

He quoted the speech of President U Thein Sein in his address to the Union Government on 31 March 2011, saying that the president made it clear that new laws and rules should not be an obstacle to the fundamental rights of citizens; instead, they should serve as a check and balance for correctly exercising the fundamental rights of citizens without harming the interest of the Union and human society. Accordingly, he suggested not to draft the new broadcasting law with the intention of banning or hampering the press freedom and the new law should be facilitation the correct use of press freedom for long-term progress of Myanmar media world without damaging the interest of human society. Afterwards, Mr Ranga Kalanosooyita of International Media Support (IMS) extended greetings and Mr Toby Mendel and Deputy Director-General of Myanmar Radio and Television U Tin Wan discussed the subject entitled “International Standards and Main Issue for Myanmar.”

In the afternoon, Mr Toby Mendel discussed Licensing and Convergence, Regulation of Content and Public Broadcasting and answered questions of participants of the workshop. Afterwards, workshop participants discussed “Other Issues and Agreement On Key Principles” and the workshop ended.

Also present at the workshop together with Deputy Minister for Information U Soe Win were departmental officials, responsible personnel from MRTV and Myanmar TV, Forever Group Co Ltd Family Entertainment, Shwethanlwin Media Co Ltd, Cherry FM, Ruby FM, Bagam FM, Yatanarpon Teleport, the Mizzima News Agency, inviting guests and NGOs.

Chinese national acrobatic team to visit Myanmar

by T.S. (NLM)

NAY PYI TAW, 23 April—To foster the mutual understanding between China and Myanmar and to deepen the amity between two peoples, Chinese acrobatics team under social and cultural exchange programme of the two countries will visit Myanmar from 27 April to 6 May to entertain in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon and Mandalay. The entrance fees from the entertainment shows will be donated to Myanmar Libraries Foundation. The Chinese artists will stage performance at National Theatre on 29 and 30 April in Yangon. Tickets are available at Ph: 01-382302.
Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann holds talks with Swiss Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs Dr. Beat Nobs

NAY PYI TAW, 23 April—Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann received a Swiss delegation led by Swiss Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs Dr. Beat Nobs at Pyithu Hluttaw meeting hall of the Hluttaw Building here this noon.

Also present at the call with the Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw were Deputy Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Nanda Kyaw Swa, chairmen of the Hluttaw committees and officials concerned.

The meeting focused on matters relating to the Hluttaws, further cementing relationships between Myanmar and Switzerland, as well as progress of democracy reforms in Myanmar.

Swiss Assistant Foreign Affairs Minister Dr. Beat Nobs made a donation of publications to the library of the Hluttaw.

The delegation viewed progress of the Hluttaw session.—MNA

Union Cooperatives and L&F Minister meets villagers in Lewe Tsp

NAY PYI TAW, 23 April—Union Minister for Cooperatives and Livestock and Fisheries U Ohn Myint this morning met a total of 850 villagers of twenty villages near Sama Mountain in Thawuthi Village-tract in Lewe Township in Nay Pyi Taw.

Council Area.

The Union Minister said that loans would be disbursed with low interest rates to villagers enabling them to generate more income while cooperatives societies would be making endeavors for fulfilling their needs.

Deputy Minister for Livestock and Fisheries U Khin Maung Aye and Deputy Minister for Cooperatives U Than Tun discussed matters relating to progress of livestock breeding and meat and fish production and cooperatives.

MNA

Union Minister looks into Beech-1900D airplane

NAY PYI TAW, 23 April—Union Minister for Transport U Nyan Tun Aung and Deputy Minister U Win Shein on 21 April inspected Beech-1900D airplane purchased from South Africa at Yangon International Airport.

The Union minister gave instructions on flight capability of the airplane, condition of domestic flights, preparations for chartered flight, installation of modern electronic equipment and flights to remote areas.

Senior Engineer U Kyaw Zeya of Ground Services Branch reported that passenger transport and ground services earn about US$ 3 million. Now, more income can be fetched due to landing of non-schedule flights. He reported on supply of vehicles and heavy machinery and maintenance works.

The Union Minister left necessary instructions.

MNA

Pyithu Hluttaw session continues...

(From page 1)

ensuring the uprightness of judicial pillar. The proposal would be discussed on 24 April and enrolment lists were invited in the evening.

Emergency commodity and service bill was sent back to the Pyithu Hluttaw with amendments by Amyotha Hluttaw on 23 March.

Those who want to submit proposals to discuss the amendments are to sign and send letters of reply no later than 12 noon on 24 April. Today’s session ended at 2 pm and the 20th day session will be held tomorrow at 1 pm.

MNA

Union Supreme Court Judge U Soe Nyunt replies to queries.

MNA

U Tin Maung, Pyithu Hluttaw Representative of Chanmyathazi Constituency, makes questions.—MNA
Amytha Hluttaw session continues ...

(from page 16)

Regarding the question of Dr Tin Shwe from Yangon Region Constituency No (6) whether about the factories under the Industry Ministry would manufacture such consumer goods which were previously sold by former Ministry of Industry (1) and sold at Win Thuzar shops, and the current condition for automobile manufacturing production following old swap scheme and issuance of permits to purchase automobiles for abroad while industrial zones were manufacturing automobiles for Myanmar industrial development, the deputy minister replied that there were a total of 78 Win Thuzar shops in Yangon and other towns.

In the time of the incumbent government, the number was decreased to 62, of which 15 were rented to the private businessmen on a yearly basis.

Measures would be taken to let them sell only necessities based on market demand and consumer products liked toothpaste and foodstuffs would be sold by the private businessmen. Especially, pharmaceuticals called for systematic storage to ensure consumer safety so that pharmaceutical products would be sold systematically in only some Win Thuzar shops.

In the market economy, the market sets the price and thus there was no plan to sell such consumer products at a loss. The remaining Win Thuzar shops would be kept on opening so as to make sure people have easy access to essential consumer products.

Regarding the second question, Automobile, Motorcycle manufacturing Development Subcommittee under the Industrial Development Committee of the Ministry of Commerce was manufacturing of light trucks, buses, 20-ton trucks and dumper trucks.

It was allowed for manufacturing of multi-purpose vehicles in the past, however, industrial zones could not actually manufacture and pretended to be locally manufacturing import products. Domestic automobile makers were no longer allowed to produce such vehicles. Now, the domestic automobile makers could manufacture 1-ton and 2-ton light trucks well and those home-made light trucks were found to be contributing much to domestic passenger and commodity transportation.

After issuance of permits to purchase vehicles from abroad, automobiles most imported from abroad were found to be passenger cars. Domestic automobile makers were not allowed to manufacture such cars. The swap scheme had decreased the prices of all kinds of vehicles in local automobile market, but the decline was reasonable one decreasing from rocket high prices.

Even under the current market price of automobiles, domestic automobile makers were still seeking permits to manufacture already-permitted vehicles, so there were still no desired results. So, it could be concluded that the swap scheme had produced less impacts on domestic automobile market.

Next, Deputy Minister for Communications, Posts and Telecommunications U Tin Win replied to question No. 26.

Regarding the question of Dr Myat Nyana Soe from Yangon Region Constituency (4) about the government’s possible assistance for K-5000 SIM card programme presented by a businessman, whether the government could bring down the priced internet charges and plans for speedy internet connection, the deputy minister replied that the Ministry of Communications, Posts and Telecommunications, had been bringing down initial installation charges to ensure the public had access to telecommunication services of international class step by step. In addition, it would extend its mobile phone services to rural regions meeting international norms and the installation charges would be reduced step by step to be level with those of neighbouring countries.

Telecommunication infrastructure for the first year of the mobile phone project took time costing huge amount of cash for initial installation. But in the coming years of the project, the cash capital would be decreased as it was only needed to extend the infrastructure on a regular basis. So, phone charges could be reduced to be level with international countries.

The Ministry would work in partnership with communication services companies with experience in international communication sector, strong investment power and advanced technology. There is a lot of local and foreign companies wishing to invest in communication sector. The ministry was holding discussions with some international companies. They said that they can acquire capital, technology and equipment in short period but the classy infrastructural construction would take over one year. Thus, the ministry was committed to seek ways and means to level down the phone charges.

Regarding the second question, the high cost of initial installation, in comparison with neighbours, resulted from costly internet infrastructure. The monthly internet service charge was lesser or level to some countries. Initial installation charges were brought down to half and an increase in number of internet users would lead to decline in initial installation charges, covering the network construction costs. Regarding the slow internet connection, experts from National Computer System (NCS) Co Ltd and Lexcoy Co Ltd for Thailand were invited to Myanmar to tests in November, and December 2011 to search out the defects from core network of the two ISP companies and end users, in the ministry’s efforts to upgrade the internet network.

According to the suggestion of those experts, the minister was coordinating with foreign companies concerned to extend such connection links as SEA-ME-WE-4 and SEA-ME-WE-5 in addition to old SEA-ME-WE-3 link, inland fiber links, further installation of ISP Oversea POP each in data centres in Singapore and Hong Kong. In addition, the volume of internet bandwidth would be expanded to 14 Gb. In future, pay-as-you-download system would be introduced in W/Max system, which was hoped to bring down the net surfing charges.

Furthermore, according to the discussions at the 11th ASEAN Telecommunication Information and Information Technology Ministers Meeting hosted by Myanmar in December, 2011, the ministry was preparing to hold National ICT Forum in January 2012 to discuss how to increase ICT application inviting local and foreign experts as part of implementing 2nd ICT Master Plan (2010-2015). The suggestions and discussions of the forum would hopefully bring down the charges, making the connection cheaper.

Regarding the question of U Than Myint from Tanintharyi Region Constituency (11) about whether the reinstallation of collapsed CDMA phone tower in Tanintharyi Township would complete, the deputy minister replied that 32-meter-long tower at 1987 microwave station was damaged due to strong wind and reconstruction of tower foundation was started in January completed in the second week of February. Transmission equipment was then installed and finished on 25 March and now the communication was better, said the deputy minister.

Next, Secretary of Bill Committee U San Tun submitted the import, export bill amended by Pyithu Hluttaw, along with the report of the committee to Amytha Hluttaw for its consideration. Next, the Amytha Hluttaw Speaker informed the bill amending the 1955 Government House (Expiring) Act, foreign investment bill and social security bill amended and sent back by the Pyithu Hluttaw to the MPs and announced that any MP’s wishing to discuss the amendments may register.

U Maung Aye Tun of Rakhine State Constituency (9) proposed that the government should amend the punishments of criminal law articles 417, 426 and 427, which was approved by the Hluttaw for discussion.

U Myo Myint of Mandalay region Constituency (6) urged the government to hire local and international experts and high-level work supervision committee so as to compile reports on economic and engineering development of Myanmar, which was approved by the Hluttaw for discussion. Then it announced that MPs wishing to discuss the proposals were to register.

The meeting was adjourned at 12.5 pm and the 20th day regular session of First Amytha Hluttaw would be held at 1 pm tomorrow and the 17th day third regular session of the First Pyidaungsu Hluttaw would be held at 10 am tomorrow.

Seven questions were answered, one bill sent back with amendments by the Pyithu Hluttaw submitted, three bills sent back with amendments by Pyithu Hluttaw informed to Amytha Hluttaw and two new proposals submitted at today’s session.

Construction of road sections inspected

Nav Pyi Taw, 25 April—Deputy Minister for Construction U Soe Tin on 20 April inspected Yangon-Mandalay Expressway and Meiktila-Kalaw-Taunggyi section of Meiktila-Taunggyi-Kengtung-Tachileik road. He looked into progress of Meiktila-Kalaw-Taunggyi Road by Hilly Region Road Construction Co Ltd and Meiktila-Nampantet-Kalaw-Taunggyi Road.

The deputy minister gave instructions on construction of the roads meeting set standards for prioritizing safety.

Yanuary, 25 April—Yangon Mayor Yangon Region Minister for Development Affairs U illa Myint this morning made an inspection tour of four roads here.

The mayor looked into extension of roads, construction of bus stop, repaving of roads, cultivation of flower plants at traffic islands and pavements, maintenance of roads and repaving of concrete roads in Dagon, Sanyangyi, Hlone, Mayangon, Insein and North Okkalapa townships.

The mayor also inspected progress of Ngayogyakarta Bridge to Bagyin Bridge, and Myothu (North) and South Okkalapa townships, placing of asphalt layer on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road in Mayangon Township, placing of concrete blocks and construction of drains in Mingala Taungnyunt Township.
Respects paid to older persons in South Okkalapa Township

YANGON, 23 April—A ceremony to pay respects to older persons was held at Thiri Yadana Hall of No. 1 Basic Education High School in South Okkalapa Township of Yangon Region on 17 April. On the occasion, Township Administrator U Chit Thein and Ward 7 Administrator U Than Win made speeches.

Chairperson of Yangon Region Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee and Women’s Affairs Organization Daw Thuang Mya, Chairperson of Yangon East District MCCSC Daw Moe Thu Tin, the chairperson of Township MCWA and WAO and members, townswelders and local people and wellwishers donated offerings to the aged.

Myanma Alin

Over 1000 feet deep tube-well successfully sunk in Taungdwingyi

NAY PYI TAW, 23 April—Taungdwingyi Township of Magway District is shortage of water as it is a hot and dry area of central Myanmar. In the region, it is not easy to sink tubewell in under 1000 feet deep to take water and difficulty to sink the well into above 1000 feet deep.

To be able to solve the problem, over 1000 feet deep tube-well has been sunk with the approval of Ministry of Beikthano region of Taungdwingyi Township and it supplies potable water to the local people.

Underground water branch of Water Resources Utilization Department sunk one four-inch diameter tube-well in the precinct of Dhamma Meikhat Monastery in Beikthano ancient cultural region of the township in May 2011. The tube-well pumps out 2500 gallons of water per hour and stores 35 feet deep of water. The tube-well is 1180 feet deep. According to the chemical test, the quality of water can be used as drinking water.

With the assistance of the Water Resources Utilization Department, two more tube-wells have been sunk in 550 new plot in Ohndaw Extended Ward 1 of Taungdwingyi and in the precinct of Beikthan Monastery in Taungdwingyi. Arrangements have been made to sink more tubewells there.

The Water Resources Utilization Department sinks tube-wells in hot and dry regions of central Myanmar as tap underground water for supplying it to the local consumption.

At present, the local people of Taungdwingyi Township thanks the government for sinking tube-wells.

Ko Hnin

Choral dancing troupes awarded in Yangon

YANGON, 23 April—The prize presentation of Shwewa choral dancer troupe of Myothit (A+B) of Insein Township, Chairperson of Yangon North District WAO Daw Sein Soe, Township Administrator U Tin Naing Soe and officials presented consolation prizes to the winners. —Kyemon

Health care services provided to children, expectant mothers

YANGON, 23 April—Health staff Daw Aye Aye Tin and party of Insein Township Health Department of Yangon North District provided health care services to children under 1.5 years and expectant mothers at the office of Myothit (C) Ward of Insein Township on 5 April.

They recorded body weights of 41 children and provided necessary vaccinations to them. Moreover, the health staff and party injected anti-tetanus vaccines to the expectant mothers and broadened their horizon with health knowledge.

Kyemon

Chamnya Marlar Railway Overpass reopened for under-three tons vehicles

MANDALAY, 23 April—Chamnya Marlar Railway Overpass linking 78th and 80th streets in Mahaungmye Township, opened in 1990, was damaged due to lack of standardization and illegal runs of overload trucks at night.

Thus, the overpass was closed temporarily. After the Myanma Railways of Ministry of Rail Transportation carried out major repairing of the overpass, vehicles are allowed to pass on it as of 1 April.

The above-three-ton vehicles are not allowed to pass on the facility. CCTVs have been installed at the overpass to take images of undisciplined acts that vehicles broke traffic rules on the overpass to be able to take deterrent action against them. —Kyemon

Greening tasks undertaken at ancient lake in Yedashe Township

YEDASHE, 23 April—Yedashe Township Development Affairs Committee is striving for greening of Mingala Lake located near Thadawya Pagoda in Thagaya of Yedashe Township.

Thadawya lake is over 100 years old. Many shade trees and teak plants are grown along the embankments of the lake. Moreover, steel rails and concrete steps are installed at the lake. In addition, the bund is decorated with landscape. The arrangements have been made to grow shade trees around the lake in the rainy season.

The local people take relaxation by walking along the bund. — Kyemon

28-Buddha Images conveyed round Shwegyin

SHWEGYIN, 23 April—The respect paying ceremony to 137 older persons of above 80 years was held at Shwegyin Hall of Basic Education High School in Shwegyin of Bago District in Bago Region on 17 April. At the ceremony, Township Administrator U Khin Thein Maung explained the purpose of paying respects.

Those present at the ceremony paid respects to 137 older persons and presented K 11 500 each to them.

On Myanmar New Year Day, famous pagodas were packed with pilgrims and those practising meditation and offering water and flowers.

They were conveyed round in processing in Shwe Kyaw Ward.

After the processing, the Township Administrator and officials presented prizes to winning teams.

Myanma Alin

DISTRICT NEWS

CASH DONATED: U Thein Zaw-Daw Aye Aye Khaing and family of Ottarathiri Township donated a dishawry worth K 1.72 million to Pyinuma General Hospital (200-beds) of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area on 2 April. Medical Superintendent Dr Hla Hla Kyi accepts the donation. —Kyemon

Photo shows decorations and landscape at Thadawya Lake in Thagaya.
The New Light of Myanmar  Tuesday, 24 April, 2012  11

Abducted Spanish doctor freed in Nigeria

ABUJA, 23 April — A Spanish doctor kidnapped in Nigeria’s southeastern city of Enugu on 4 April has been freed and is in good health, his country’s foreign ministry and Nigerian police said on Saturday. José Manuel Machimbarrena Corcuera “was freed on Friday,” a ministry spokesman told AFP, adding: “He is tired but in good health.” The spokesman said he did not have any details of the circumstances in which the hostage was freed. “We do not know if he is going to stay in Nigeria or return to Spain,” he added.

He said the man had been seized for ransom, citing Spanish Foreign Minister José Manuel García-Margallo, who said he wanted the “organisation that he belongs to wants the utmost discretion.” Spanish media reports said the 58-year-old doctor works for a clinic belonging to a foundation financially supported by Catholic institution Opus Dei in Nigeria. Nigerian police said the hostage was released Friday in Enugu.

“Since his abduction, there has been a serious manhunt by police in collaboration with other sister security agencies which kept the entire atmosphere uncomfortable and consequently he was let go by his captors,” Enugu police spokesman Eberu Amaraizor told AFP. He did not say if a ransom was paid. Scores of kidnappings for ransom have occurred in southern Nigeria, particularly in the oil-producing Niger Delta region, by armed gangs seeking cash. Most victims have been released unharmed following ransom payments.

An insurgency by Islamist group Boko Haram, which is concentrated mainly in northern Nigeria, has left more than 1,000 people dead since mid-2010. Authorities blamed the recent deaths of a British and an Italian hostage in Nigeria’s north on a faction of Boko Haram. A German engineer was also kidnapped on the outskirts of the northern city of Kano in January. The group has not been known to operate in the south of Nigeria, Africa’s most populous nation and largest oil producer.

Cargo ship runs aground in western Japan

OITA, 23 April — 12 Chinese crew members on board a cargo ship were unhurt after the ship ran aground in a river in western Japan on Saturday, local Press reported. Japanese Coast Guard said it received a message at around 7 pm local time that a cargo ship with 12 Chinese crew members and one crew member from Myanmar ran aground in a river between Shimane Prefecture and Tottori Prefecture in western Japan.

The report said all crew members were unhurt and no oil spill was confirmed. The 2479-ton Kirihati-registered ship carrying pulp departed from a nearby port in China’s Nantong City at around 6:30 pm local time. The accident occurred about 30 minutes later most likely due to strong winds which hit the area at the time, the report said.

Fifteen killed in northern Mexican bar shootout

CIUDAD JUAREZ, 23 April — Fifteen people were killed and at least one seriously wounded in a suspected drug-related shootout on Friday in a bar in northern Mexico, a region that has been brutalized by fighting between criminal gangs. On Friday night, armed men entered the bar in Chihuahua, capital of Chihuahua state, and opened fire on various people inside suspected of involvement in drug dealing, the local attorney general’s office said in a statement on Saturday.

A local press association said two men killed in the attack were journalists, adding to the tally of media casualties from Mexico’s rampant gang violence. The attorney general’s office also said two other people were shot dead in a separate bar attack in the city, bringing Friday’s death toll to 17. Since 2008, Chihuahua, and in particular the city of Ciudad Juarez on the border with Texas, has been the area worst hit by bloody turf wars between drug cartels during the crackdown on gangs launched by President Felipe Calderon.

The gang violence and clashes with security forces have killed more than 50,000 people in Mexico in the past five years. However, the number of murders had eased somewhat in Chihuahua over the past year, with some counts suggesting the more eerily border state of Nuevo Leon had suffered more violence in the first months of 2012. — MNA/Reuters

SilkAir to launch flight to central China’s Wuhan

SINGAPORE, 23 April — SilkAir, the regional wing of Singapore Airlines, has announced plans to increase services across China. From 24 April, SilkAir will launch the first flight from Singapore to Wuhan in central China, which will be operated thrice weekly. It will be SilkAir’s seventh destination in China.

Flights between Singapore and Changsha will be increased to four times a week from three flights. Two-weekly flights will be added to the Singapore-Chongqing route, making it a daily service. As a full-service premium airline, SilkAir currently flies to 38 destinations across 11 countries.

Russian eats pound of caviar in 90 seconds

MOSCOW, 23 April — A 49-year-old Russian with a big spoon in hand swallowed a pound (500 grams) of caviar in about 90 seconds. Interfax

A spoon of caviar is seen during a competition which requires participants to eat half-kilogram of caviar in the fastest possible time in Moscow on 20 April. A 49-year-old Russian with a big spoon in hand swallowed a pound (500 grams) of caviar in about 90 seconds. Internet

A still from Hollywood blockbuster “Battle-ship” Xeon’s

UK firm’s 1,300 staff accidentally given marching orders

LONDON, 23 April — Workers at investment firm Aviva Investors got a shock on Friday when the company accidentally sent an email with leaving instructions intended for one departing employee to the entire worldwide staff of 1,300 people.

The firm’s human resources department realized its mistake and recalled the offending email 25 minutes later and soon afterwards sent out another email apologizing to staff for the error, company spokesman Paul Lockstone said.

An email which was intended for a member of staff who was leaving today was accidentally sent to all Aviva Investors staff members. “People were pretty quickly aware of the fact that this was a mistake. … I don’t believe any of our staff would have seen it really as anything other than the mistake that it was.”

The email was a standard message sent to people leaving the company, covering things such as handing back company equipment and confidentiality rules, and did not tell recipients they were fired, Lockstone said. Aviva Investors is the fund management arm of UK-based Aviva plc, the world’s sixth-largest insurance group, and manages assets of more than 262 billion pounds ($420 billion). It said in January it would shed around 160 jobs, about 12 percent of its global workforce. Lockstone said he did not know why the intended recipient of the email was leaving the company. — Reuters
Police hope grainy photos catch banker's shooter

LONDON, 23 April — The police released grainy photos on Monday of a man suspected of shooting a former Russian banker near London's Canary Wharf financial district in a case that has raised fears that Russian gangland violence could be spreading to Britain. Financier German Gorbuntsov, 45, was shot five times as he entered a block of flats where he could be spreading to Britain. Victor Kharitonov, a banker near London's Canary Wharf financial district in a case that has raised fears that Russian gangland violence could be spreading to Britain.

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV CORAL HERO VOY NO (117)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV CORAL HERO VOY NO (117) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 24.4.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of B.S.W-3 where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon. Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel. No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV FORTUNE TRADE-1 VOY NO (229)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV FORTUNE TRADE-1 VOY NO (229) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 21.4.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W-6 where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon. Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel. No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV KOTA RATUS VOY NO (489)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA RATUS VOY NO (489) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 23.4.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon. Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel. No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV GENIUS STAR VIII VOY NO (30)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV GENIUS STAR VIII VOY NO (30) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 17.4.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P.L where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon. Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel. No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV PHUONG NAM-68 VOY NO (717)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV PHUONG NAM-68 VOY NO (717) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 24.4.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T-1 where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon. Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel. No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV ZAMBLES VOY NO (100)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV ZAMBLES VOY NO (100) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 19.4.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W-6 where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon. Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel. No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

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Germany sends grenades in potato shipment

Two World War II-era hand grenades were discovered in a shipment of potatoes from Germany being unloaded at a Greek processing plant, police said Monday. Greek police said they’ve launched a preliminary investigation into Thursday’s incident at the Athalanti factory where the first rusty grenade, minus its detonator, was found. Two other officers who heard a loud sound during the potatoes’ pre-wash stage, the Athens-Macedonian News Agency reported.

After workers on the night shift discovered a second grenade in the same shipment the plant was shut down and police were called. Bomb-disposal experts arrived Friday to neutralize the weapons, the news agency said.

Adele voted as ‘new gay icon’

British singer Adele has been voted as the new gay icon, a survey of GaydarRadio thousands of votes in a week-long contest announced Thursday.

Adele, who picked up the Female Vocalist of the Year award at the Brit Awards last week, is the new pop idol according to GaydarRadio.co.uk, a gay dating and social networking site.

The eighth annual “Toilet Paper Wedding Gown Contest,” sponsored by Charmin, Proctor & Gamble’s famous toilet paper, and contest organizers said first prize is $2,012.

Contestants, who must be 18 or older, are asked to create a wedding dress of Charmin toilet paper and then submit photographs of the creation. The only other materials allowed are tape, glue and thread. The organizers pointed out, in a statement, that the competition is directed to those for whom “saving money on weddings is more than a hobby and a little less than an obsession.”

Wedding gown creators have until June 1 to complete their entries. The winner will receive a $2,012 prize, with $1,000 for second place and $500 for third, at an event in late June hosted by the “Ripley’s Believe it or Not! Times Square Odditorium” in New York.

The rules do not limit the number of rolls that can be used in creating the gown and made no mention of what to do with those small cardboard tubes.

Every bride’s dream, a toilet paper gown

The Call is out in the United States and Canada for anyone who can create a wedding gown from toilet paper, and contest organizers say first prize is $2,012.

A hen in Sri Lanka gave birth to a chick without an egg, veterinary officials said. Instead of being laid by the hen and incubated in the nest, the egg was incubated inside the hen for 21 days and then the chick hatched inside the mother. The chick is normally formed and healthy, veterinarians say, although the mother died.

The government veterinary officer in the area, PR Yapa, said he had never seen anything like it before. The BBC reported. An examination of the hen’s carcass showed the fertilized egg had developed within the hen’s reproductive system but stayed inside the female’s body until it hatched, Yapa said.

“Before the examination showed the hen had laid an egg, the story has made headlines in Sri Lanka, the BBC said, with one Sri Lankan newspaper carrying the headline: ‘The chicken came first, not the egg.’”

Gomez named ambassador of SeaCrest’s charity

LOS ANGELES, 23 April—Singer-actress Selena Gomez has been named an ambassador of “American Idol” host Ryan Seacrest’s charity foundation.

Seacrest announced the news on his Los Angeles radio show. He revealed that Gomez will join him in highlighting the plight of seriously ill and injured children, reports contactmusic.com.

Gomez made a special appearance last year at The Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, joining as he hosted the first broadcast from the hospital’s multimedia center, which had been installed by the Ryan Seacrest Foundation.

As the ambassador, she will continue her work with the foundation in official capacity, visiting new locations and providing inspiration to sick children.

“Ryan — The Ryan Seacrest Foundation does such incredible work and I’m thrilled to be a part of it.”

“Selena really understood our mission. I’m so grateful that she’s decided to take on this larger role with us, joining our efforts to bring hope and spirit to seriously ill and injured children,” said Gomez.

“With her as ambassador, we will continue to expand our programmes at children’s hospitals throughout the country (America),” added Seacrest.

Vanessa Williams looking for love

LOS ANGELES, 23 April—Singer-actress Vanessa Williams is still looking for love, and says she would be happy to pamper her man and family.

“I have nothing going on in my life right now, so I have nothing to be naughty about! But I would love to be in a relationship. I’m a romantic, I love having a partner,” contactmusic.com quoted Williams as saying.

“I’m one of those girls that loves to cook and bake and provide. My home is my sanctuary and I love making my home and my family, my dog, everything, part of my life,” she added.

The 49-year-old knows exactly what she wants in her partner.

“He must be available, and not afraid of a relationship. Accomplished and not afraid of a woman, who is accomplished as well. There’s nothing wrong with being accomplished,” she said.

Quick close for ‘King’s Speech’ play

LONDON, 23 April—The producers of the stage version of “The King’s Speech” have announced the play will close in London’s West End less than two months after it opened.

David Seidler penned the play and script for the 2010 film version, which starred Colin Firth.

Firth won the Best Actor Oscar for his portrayal of Britain’s King George VI, a reluctant ruler who overcame a debilitating stammer, and the movie scored the Best Picture Oscar.

Although Seidler wrote the play before the movie, it was not staged until more than two years after the film was released in theaters.

“Two years ago, originating producer Michael Aidlen was ready to put the play on and the film came along and blocked its path,” the producers said in a statement issued to the BBC Friday.

“From the start of this year, we believed that enough time had passed between the film and its opening. This closely was not the case,” the statement said. “We are extremely proud of what we have accomplished. It is a production of genuine quality that has been better and betterly acclaimed across the board.”

The play is to close 12 May. It stars Charles Edwards as King George VI, Jonathan Hyde as unorthodox Australian speech therapist Lionel Logue, Emma Fielding as Queen Elizabeth, Joanna Scanlan as Queen George V, and publicly acclaimed as Winston Churchill.

Man puts police car gas theft pic online

A 20-year-old Kentucky man is facing a theft charge after he allegedly stole gas from a police cruiser and posted a picture of the crime on Facebook.

Michael Baker was arrested by Jenkins police after officers discovered the Facebook picture of him using a tube and a gas can to steal fuel from the tank of the police cruiser, WYMT-TV, Hazard, reported on Wednesday.

Baker and his girlfriend, who snapped the photo, said the incident was supposed to be a joke.

“When I was just standing there and thought it would be funny to take a picture and then post it on Facebook,” Baker said.
Azarenka, Sharapova lead charge in Stuttgart

STUTTGART, 23 April — World number one Victoria Azarenka, second-ranked Maria Sharapova and number three Petra Kvitova begin their French Open build-up on Monday at the star-studded $740,000 Stuttgart tournament. Belarusan Azarenka, the Australian Open champion, returns to action for the first time since losing her 26-match winning streak to Marion Bartoli in the quarter-finals of the Miami hardcourt event. That loss came after a breath-taking start to 2012 in which the 22-year-old had captured four titles, including her first Grand Slam crown.

Sharapova, who turned 25 on Thursday, was beaten by Azarenka in the Melbourne final and in the Indian Wells title match before losing in the Miami final. The Russian star, who has yet to make the final of the French Open, falling in the semi-finals twice, believes she has developed a better understanding of claycourt tennis as her career has progressed. “I feel like I’ve improved with every year that I have been playing it and I enjoy it,” she said. “I feel like you learn so much about the construction of the clay and the games — such a cat-and-mouse game. I didn’t necessarily like that many years back, but I feel like I’m much better at it and I have improved physically as well.”

One Caroline Wozniacki of Denmark are all part of the powerful line-up. With Germany desperate for a new star since Steffi Graf dominated women’s tennis in the 1990s, Petkovic is leading Germany’s tennis revolution. She reached the last eight at the Australian Open 2011; the German Open 2011; the French Open 2011; the Roland Garros quarter-final of 2011; the first leg of the Italian Open 2011; the Grand Slam quarter-final since 2006.

The 24-year-old followed that up by reaching the quarter of the French and US Opens, the only player all year to make the final four of the three Slams. Having started 2011 ranked 32nd in the world, she reached a high of ninth in December and is back playing after a back injury robbed her of three months of tennis since injury struck in January. Goerges, Petkovic and Wozniacki in the final last year with huge serves and groundstrokes on her way to collecting her first Premier title. “It was an unbelievable feeling playing the final with so many people watching.”

PSG run riot as Lyon keep top-three dream alive

PARIS, 23 April — PSG coach Carlo Ancelotti, who had criticised his players after their 1-1 draw at Auxerre, “We looked after the ball very well and we created lots of chances.”

Lyon sustained their faint hopes of playing in next season’s Champions League by fighting back from two goals down to beat Lorient 2-1 at Stade Geoffroy Guillemaut, giving them a point to hold in the top six, in the third-placed Lille. “It was a good win,” said one PSG coach Carlo Ancelotti, who had criticised his players after their 1-1 draw at Auxerre, “We looked after the ball very well and we created lots of chances.”

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**Van Persie named PFA player of year**

**London, 23 April—** Arsenal striker Robin van Persie was named the English Professional Footballers’ Association (PFA) player of the year on Sunday after scoring 27 league goals to revive his club’s season.

The Dutch international, 28, tops the Premier League scoring charts and Arsenal’s third spot with three matches to go after a poor start to the campaign is in large part down to going after a poor start to the third spot with three matches to go after a poor start to the campaign is in large part down

**Arsenal’s Robin van Persie catches the ball during their English Premier League soccer match against Newcastle at Emirates Stadium in London on 12 March, 2012.—REUTERS**

Without their captain, Arsenal could be languishing in mid-table and fans will shudder at the thought of who would score their goals if injury struck or he was tapered away in the search of trophies. The London side have won just the 2005 FA Cup since he joined from Feyenoord in 2004.

Van Persie is the third Dutchman to win the award, after Dennis Bergkamp (1997-98) and Ruud van Nistelrooy (2001-02). He was the first Arsenal player to claim it since Thierry Henry in 2004.

“Van Persie has become a key player for Arsenal,” says PFA chief executive Gordon Taylor. “He is a genuine world class player who would have been included in any team this season.”

**Victoria Beckham turns designer hand to cars**

**BREMEN, 23 April—** British fashion designer Victoria Beckham has begun to make a name for herself as a designer hand to cars.

Victoria Beckham, who admitted she had never done a project like this before, said she had learned “an enormous amount.”

“She can’t wait to drive, before she can walk” with her collection.— Reuters

**The PFA’s Premier League team of the year was as follows:**

Joe Hart (Manchester City);
Kyle Walker (Tottenham Hotspur);
Vincent Kompany (City);
Fabrizio Coloccini (Newcastle United),
Leighton Baines (Everton);
David Silva (City),
Yaya Toure (City),
Scott Parker (Tottenham),
Gareth Bale (Tottenham);
Robin van Persie (Arsenal),
Wayne Rooney (Manchester United).— Reuters

**Summary of AFC Cup 2012 Group**

Joe Hart (Manchester City);
Kyle Walker (Tottenham Hotspur),
Vincent Kompany (City),
Fabrizio Coloccini (Newcastle United),
Leighton Baines (Everton),
David Silva (City),
Yaya Toure (City),
Scott Parker (Tottenham),
Gareth Bale (Tottenham),
Robin van Persie (Arsenal),
Wayne Rooney (Manchester United).— Reuters

“Van Persie has become a key player for Arsenal,” says PFA chief executive Gordon Taylor. “He is a genuine world class player who would have been included in any team this season.”

**Soccer player David Beckham and his wife Victoria Beckham arrive at the 2012 Vanity Fair Oscar party in West Hollywood, California.—Reuters**

“Still, the singer-turned-designer said she “doesn’t want to run, before she can walk” with her collection.”

**Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas**

**Weather forecast for 24th April, 2012**

**Weather is partly cloudy in the North Bay and partly cloudy to cloudy in the Andaman Sea and elsewhere**

**Maximum Minimum Forecast Percent Temperature (°C/°F) For Tomorrow**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Forecast Percent</th>
<th>Temperature (°C/°F)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Kachin</td>
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**Partly cloudy in the remaining Regions and States. Day temperature were (3°C) below April average**

**Isolated in Upper Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway and Taninthayi Regions, Kachin State and weather has been**

**During the past (24) hours, rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Kayin and Mon States and**

**Van Persie named PFA player of year**

**Arsenal’s Robin van Persie catches the ball during their English Premier League soccer match against Newcastle at Emirates Stadium in London on 12 March, 2012.—REUTERS**

**If they wake up their minds that I’m the best player it is a big honour.**

Van Persie has become a key player for Arsenal,” says PFA chief executive Gordon Taylor. “He is a genuine world class player who would have been included in any team this season.”

**Victoria Beckham turns designer hand to cars**

**BREMEN, 23 April—** British fashion designer Victoria Beckham has her soccer-superstar husband “David in mind” when helping create a new special edition of Range Rover’s off-road vehicle, the “Evoque.”

“I’ve stayed very true to myself: I’ve designed a car that I want to drive, a car that I think David wants to drive,” the former Spice Girl told Reuters in an interview in Beijing, where she was promoting the vehicle, late on Sunday.

“I think that though women will drive this car, it has a masculine edge. I think it’s very cool,” she added.

Beckham, who admitted she had never done a project like this before, said she had learned “an enormous amount.”

“And the bottom line is, would I drive this car, like when I’m designing a dress, would I wear this dress? I love what I do. I consider myself so blessed to do a job that I love and this has been a great experience for me,” said Beckham, wearing a sleeveless striped dress from her own collection.

She said she searched for inspiration in many places.

**LIBRARY WORK EXPLAINED:**

Dawbon Township Information and Public Relations Department undertook mobile works at Pyinu Alnayang Library in Thinzawkyin Ward of Dawbon on 6 April. Head of Township IPKD Daw Khin Hlyn Myint discusses durability of library. **MYANMA ALIN**
Amyotha Hluttaw session continues for 19th day
Seven questions answered, two new proposals submitted

Amyotha Hluttaw representatives seen before the Amyotha Hluttaw session.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 23 April—The 19th day third regular session of the First Amyotha Hluttaw continued at Amyotha Hluttaw Hall in Hluttaw Complex here today, attended by Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Aung Myint and 215 MPs.

Next, Deputy Minister for Industry U Myo Aung replied to questions of three MPs. Regarding the question of Dr Myint Kyi from Yangon Region Constituency (8) about the Industry Ministry was opening technical training schools in Sinte, Mandalay, Thaga, Pakokku and Magway conducting one-year courses on mechanics and automobile. Those courses were eligible for youths aged between 18 and 25 with basic education level of middle school. The ministry was planning to open a technical training school in Myingyan to conduct mechanical courses.

In addition, under the aegis of Industrial Supervision and Inspection Department, electrical proficiency course and boiler operation course were opened in Mayangon Township, Yangon for staff under 50 from ministries and outside with basic middle school level basic education and industrial experience. The duration of the courses was six weeks, and the qualified were presented with competency certificates.

The Science and Technology Ministry conducted two-year courses at its technical training schools for the youth who had completed middle school level basic education. Those qualified from those schools could attend B.Tech and B.E courses. The Labour Ministry also was opening four-week electrical, piping, welding, lathe and other courses eligible for those with middle school level basic education.

The outside organizations were also conducting welding, electrical, and construction special proficiency courses to those with basic industrial proficiency. The duration of the courses was at most six months and those who had completed those courses, based on their expertise had chance to work overseas.

Regarding the question of U Soe Han Linn of Aye Pyawady Region Constituency No (1) about if there is any plan to establish cement plant in Gwiyngyi Island in Ngokkaung Sub-township, Ngapagaw Township and Mt. Chaungwya, the deputy minister replied that according to raw material supply measurement for establishment of cement plants in those places, Gwyngyi Island had about 25 million tons of limestone deposit and Mt. Chaungwya about 50 million tons deposit.

Although the raw material, limestone was available other inputs such as iron, quartz, power and energy had to be transported into there from other places. The implementation of factories and workshops had to be based on industrial development plan and investment plan of the State in consideration of its ecological and social impacts. Though the government now had no plan to set up factories there, region government had such plan to do it alone or in cooperation with private businessmen.

Aye Pyawady Region government was arranging to submit proposal for establishment of cement plants to the Union government, but now there was only limited power to run such plant.

(See page 9)

Advanced stadiums under construction in Nay Pyi Taw
Article: Myint Maung Soe; Photo: Thiha (Myanma Alin)

As Myanmar will host the SEA Games 2013, two advanced stadiums are being built in Nay Pyi Taw.

Since the stadiums are under construction in Zeyathiri Township and Zaibathiri Township of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area.

Max Myanmar Group of Companies is taking responsibility of building Zeyathiri Advanced Stadium. Each stadium is located on 384 acres of land including car parking, training ground and gymnasium.

The ground floor of the stadium comprises showrooms, offices, meeting rooms and recreation centres of the members.

Recreation centres and rest rooms for athletes are constituted on the first floor.

The second floor comprises TV room, control room, VIP lounge, light and sound control room.

The stadium will have a seating capacity of 30000.

At present, Max Myanmar Group of Companies is building the stadium day and night for timely completion.

Translation: TTA

Myanma Alin: 23-4-2012

Chelsea’s Ivorian forward Didier Drogba

Drogba no cheat, says Pique

BARCELONA, 23 April—Barcelona defender Gerard Pique leapt to the defence of Chelsea striker Didier Drogba here Monday, denying the Ivorian had “cheated” during last week’s Champions League semi-final clash.

Drogba’s conduct during Chelsea’s 1-0 win at Stamford Bridge has attracted a storm of criticism in England, with the 34-year-old accused of repeatedly feigning injury to disrupt Barcelona’s rhythm.

However the two-time former African Footballer of the Year received staunch support from centre-half Pique here Monday, who said he had no doubts about the Ivorian’s integrity. “Every time a player goes down and complains I believe he has been hurt,” Pique said. “I trust the player every time he goes down. I don’t think he’s been criticised. I believe in Drogba, I believe in his honesty. I think every time he goes down it’s because he’s in pain or if he felt a kick. I don’t think that Drogba is trying to act or dive. I don’t think so. Because he’s not like that.”

Ivorian, who did not play in the first leg and also missed Barcelona’s ‘Clasico’ defeat to Real Madrid on Saturday, meanwhile said he was confident the Spaniards could overturn their first leg deficit. “We have to play our game and play 90 minutes with the ball. We will have our chances. I don’t know if we will score or not but we will have to work hard to find the chances,” he said.

If we have 76 percent possession like we’ve had in the last few days and years I think we will have opportunities to get to the final. It’s hard to play against Chelsea because they are strong, really competitive, they know how to play these games because they have a lot of experience,” —Internet

YANGON, 23 April—Major Mya Lwin (Rtd) scored an ace at 185-yard-distance hole No 6 with Serixon Z Star No 4 ball with Nike-7 iron club at Tatmadaw Golf Course (Dagon Course) in Mingaladon on 11 April while playing together with Dr Pyae Sone, U Mya Soe, MD of Doh Shwe Pyi Construction, U Than Hway, MD of Myint Motor Car Brake Washer Industry and U Tin Hlaing Win (General Secretary of Kaman National Development Party).

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