President U Thein Sein felicitates South African counterpart

NAY PYI TAW, 27 April—On the occasion of the Freedom Day of the Republic of South Africa which falls on 27 April 2012, U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Jacob Gedleyihlekisa Zuma, President of the Republic of South Africa.

President U Thein Sein visits TEPCO Kawasaki gas-fired power plant, J Power, Isogo thermal power plant, pays homage to Kamakura Buddha Image

NAY PYI TAW, 26 April—President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein, met Deputy Prime Minister of Japan Mr Katsuya Okada, at Hotel New Otani in Tokyo, at 6:30 pm on 22 April. Also present at the call together with the President were Union Ministers U Wunna Maung Lwin, U Soe Myint, U Hla Tun, U Tin Naing Thein and U Win Myint and departmental officials.

At the meeting, both sides discussed matters related to further cooperation between Myanmar and Japan and Japan’s assistance in Myanmar’s development process.

First, the President and party arrived at TEPCO Kawasaki gas-fired power plant and thermal power plant of J Power, Isogo. They were welcomed by the chairman of the company and officials. At the meeting hall, Chairman of the company Mr Katsumata extended greetings and the President disclosed the visit to the power plant.

Next, the Myanmar delegation led by the President was conducted round the power plant. The TEPCO company is supplying power to Tokyo and its environs. As the power coverage of the company is 10 percent (39527 kilometres) of Japan’s area, it benefits 34 per cent (44 million) of the nation’s population. The power generation of the company is based on natural gas, coal and oil. To satisfy the power demand of the nation, the company built power plants (See page 8)

True patriotism

It is very important for every one of the nation regardless of the place he lives to have strong Union Spirit.

Only Union Spirit is the true patriotism all the nationalities will have to safeguard.
**Union Information and Culture Minister receives Italian delegation**

**Union for Information and Culture U Kyaw Hsan receives visiting Italian delegation by Foreign Affairs Minister Mr. Giuliomaria Terzi Di Sant’Agata**

Director-General U Kyaw Oo Lwin of Archaeology, National Museum and Library Department explained UNESCO’s engagement in capacity building Programme for Safeguarding Cultural Heritage in Myanmar with the aid of Italy. The programme covers three sections—the first section is on-job training to draw management plan for safeguarding sites of cultural heritage in ancient Pyu cities and ancient Bagan city in need of urgent preservation. The on-job training includes renovation of brick and stone buildings, record making, and renovation of murals and concrete floral items.

The second section is cultural heritage data management system with the application of geography information system. It includes provision of equipment and software, training on data management technologies, capacity building course and GIS theoretical and practical courses for three times.

The third section is policy and technological assistance to Myanmar in the process to nominate world heritage sites. It includes listing of national heritage sites, assistance in nomination and provision of other necessary assistances.

The Culture Ministry said capacity building programme for safeguarding cultural heritage in Myanmar being undertaken with the assistance of the UNESCO and Italy would contribute much to cultural heritage preservation works in Myanmar.

**Union A&I Minister addresses ministry’s annual coordination meeting**

**Union for Information and Culture U Kyaw Hsan received the visiting Italian delegation led by Foreign Affairs Minister Mr. Giuliomaria Terzi Di Sant’ Agata at his office here yesterday evening.**

Also present at the call were Deputy Culture Minister Daw Sandra Khin, departmental heads of the Information Ministry and Culture Ministry, Italian Mayor of Turin Mr. Paolo Andrea Bettorelli and delegation members.

During the meeting, the two sides cordially discussed capacity building for cultural heritage preservation of Myanmar being undertaken with Italy’s assistance under the aegis of the UNESCO, increased cooperation for preservation of Myanmar cultural heritage, training for human resource development of Myanmar, and further cooperation in cultural and information sectors.

Next, a press conference on capacity building for cultural heritage preservation undertaken with Italy’s assistance under the aegis of the UNESCO was held at the assembly hall of the ministry, attended by correspondents from local and foreign news agencies and journalists from domestic journals.

**Union Health Minister receives guests from WHO, Thailand**

**Union for Health Minister Dr Pe Thein Khin received South East Asia Director of the World Health Organization Dr Samlee Plianbangchang and Resident representative Dr H.S.B Tennakoon and Professor Nicholas White of Mahidol-Oxford Tropical Medicine Research Unit and Dr Frank Smithuis of Thailand at his office yesterday separately.**

During the meeting with the WHO South East Asia Director, the Union Minister exchanged experience on health care, implementation of disease prevention and treatment campaign, and discussed future aid programmes, production of anti-venom and anti-rabies vaccine, anti-hepatitis “B” vaccine and vaccination campaigns programme, vaccination campaigns against malaria, TB and other communicable diseases and programmes for upgrading of labs.

The Union Minister and the Mahidol-Oxford Tropical Medicine Research Unit team exchanged experience on anti-malaria campaigns, research works, and drug resistance problems and discussed cooperation in HIV/AIDS, TB and other health care services.
Chinese Premier meets Polish President on bilateral ties

WARSAW, 26 April — Visiting Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao and Polish President Bronislaw Komorowski met here on Wednesday afternoon and pledged to deepen bilateral relations. Speaking highly of Poland’s long history and splendid culture, Wen said Poland is a major nation in central and eastern Europe and also an important member of the European Union. China and Poland enjoy a traditional friendship and respect each other’s development path, he said, adding that the two countries also boast sound development momentum in their ties and tremendous potential for bilateral cooperation.

Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao (2nd L, front) inspects the guard of honour during a welcoming ceremony held for him by Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk (L, front) in Warsaw, Poland, on 25 April, 2012. — Xinhua

The photograph shows the achievements China has made in development. Noting that bilateral relations have developed steadily over the past years on the basis of mutual respect, he said the two sides can learn from each other as both of them are striving for national development.

On Poland, the president said, is willing to push forward high-level contacts with China and enhance mutually beneficial cooperation so as to bring more benefits to the two peoples. Meanwhile, Poland will play a positive role in enhancing China’s relations with central and eastern Europe and deepening the comprehensive strategic partnership between Europe and China, he said. Poland is the last leg of Wen’s four-nation Europe tour. He said that he has visited Iceland and Sweden and attended the opening ceremony of Hamoveum Fair in Germany. — Xinhua

Brikin accused in Iran missile scheme released from US custody

SAO PAULO, 26 April — A federal judge in Texas released British millionaire Christopher Tappin from custody on Wednesday, but ordered him to remain in the state while awaiting trial on charges he attempted to sell missile parts to Iran.

US Magistrate Judge Robert Castaneda ordered Tappin to surrender his British passport after going through the security checkpoint at the El Paso airport for a flight to Houston, where he will live with one of his attorneys, officials in the US Attorney’s office said. The judge urged Tappin to follow court rules that include monitoring of any e-mail and he stay within five minutes of his attorney’s home in suburban Houston. He will wear an electronic monitor so officials can track his whereabouts, they said.

Tappin, 65, of Orpington, Kent, was required to put down $50,000 cash to secure his $1 million bail, the US Attorney’s office said. The judge urged Tappin to follow court rules that include monitoring of any e-mail and he stay within five minutes of his attorney’s home in suburban Houston. He will wear an electronic monitor so officials can track his whereabouts, they said.

This file photo shows a Susi Air Cessna C208B Grand Caravan aircraft, pictured at an airport in Jakarta, in 2011. A Susi Air Cessna aircraft on Thursday crashed in Indonesia’s East Kalimantan Province killing two people, one of them an Australian. — Antara

Australian, S African dead in Indonesia plane crash

JAKARTA, 26 April — A South African pilot and his Australian passenger were killed when their Cessna Airplane crashed in eastern Indonesia, officials said, in the airline’s third fatal accident in a year.

They were the only people on board the Pilatus PC-6 aircraft, which was carrying the Australian photographer on a chartered flight, the airline’s operations director Christian Stromeback told AFP on Thursday. The pilot was

South African and the photographer was Australian. Both were killed,” he said.

“The plane crashed at 5:30 pm local time (0930 GMT), and the bodies were found around 1:30 am Thursday,” he said. Another official had initially said the plane crashed around 5:30 am.

“The aircraft crashed at the edge of a ravine,” he said.

Susi Air is a small domestic airline that operates mostly Cessna Grand Caravan planes usually configured to carry 12 passengers and two pilots. It also operates a few smaller Pilatus aircraft.

In November, one of the company’s Cessna aircraft crashed while trying to land in Indonesia’s remote Papua Province, killing a Swiss pilot.

The Indonesian archipelago of more than 17,000 islands relies on air transport to reach remote areas and has a poor aviation safety record.

Russia confirms new crew members for ISS

MOSCOW, 26 April — Russia’s Cosmonaut Training Centre (CTC) confirmed on Wednesday the three new crew members scheduled to leave for the International Space Station (ISS) on May 15. They are Russian cosmonauts Gennady Padalka and Sergei Revin, and NASA astronaut Joseph Acaba. The CTC also revealed the backup crew of Russians of Oleg Novitsky and Yevgeny Tarelkin and American Kevin Ford. Padalka told reporters the new crew would stay in orbit for 126 days. During their duty, the crew would host two manned space vehicles and one cargo space ship. The cosmonauts would also conduct a spacewalk and 40 scientific experiments, he said.

Also on Wednesday, the ISS was raised by some 4.1 km to an average altitude of 395.3 km, in a bid to create favorable conditions for the upcoming docking on 15 May. The maneuver started at 16:13 Moscow time (21:13 GMT) by the boosters of the ISS European ATV supply spacecraft and lasted 972 seconds.

Kurdish rebels kill four Iran guards

Tehran, 26 April — Kurdish rebels have killed four members of Iran’s elite Revolutionary Guards in the country’s west, a provincial official told the Mehr news agency on Wednesday. The attack was carried out by members of the Party of Free Life of Kurdistan (PJAK) near the town of Paveh in Iran’s Kermanshah Province on Tuesday evening, Mehr reported.

“The(cosmonauts)had been detained upon arrival in Tehran and held for 180 days before being released on bail in January,” Zeleny said. The two will remain in space station until October when Padalka and Revin will return to Earth.

The ISS is designed to continue operating until 2020 and operate as a multinational space station. The Russian crew is expected to be the first to leave the ISS after the US crew, scheduled to leave in December, 2011.

The new crew was set to arrive at the ISS on May 15, replacing current crew members from Russia and the United States. The ISS is due to begin its first commercial mission later in the year.

A AFDJ (revolutionary faction) member of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) is seen in a picture released by Fars news agency on May 11, 2012. (Reuters)

A Kurdistan rebel from PJAK (Party of Free Life of Kurdistan) inspects a crater left behind by an alleged Iranian artillery attack near a mountain encampment in Qandil in northern Iraq in 2008. Kurdistan rebels have killed four members of Iran’s elite Revolutionary Guards in the country’s west, a provincial official said.

The report on Wednesday was the first such account of a deadly conflict between Iranian forces and the Kurdish rebels in a year.

In July 2010, the Islamic republic’s Guards launched a string of operations against the rebels and began shelling districts near the border with Iraq, killing dozens including the rebels’ deputy commander.

Later in September, the Guards said they had forced the rebels out of northwestern districts of their province and had killed more than 100 of them in a summer-long offensive.

Also on Wednesday, the three new crew members are expected to lift off aboard a Soyuz spacecraft from Baikonur Cosmodrome on 15 May. They will spend six months in orbit before returning to Earth on 15 November, the same day as the scheduled departure of the current Expedition 29 crew members.

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Heydari said PJAK rebels also suffered casualties, but did not provide any details.

The PJAK, labelled as terrorists by Tehran, has often clashed with Iranian forces, sparking retaliatory bombing of their rear bases in the mountainous border districts of neighbouring Iraq and Kurdistan.

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Google launches Street View in Israel

Google has launched Street View in Israel, putting on show streets and sites of interest such as the Muslim, Christian, Jewish and Armenian quarters of Jerusalem’s Old City, the Via Dolorosa, Church of the Holy Sepulchre, Western Wall, Mount of Olives, old port of Jaffa, the Baha’i Gardens,” a Google local said.

Street View, which was launched in 2006, lets computer users view panoramic street scenes on Google Maps and take a virtual “walk” through cities such as New York, Paris or Hong Kong. Panoramic images are taken by cars equipped with special cameras which photograph an area while driving through the streets.

The images are then processed in the US, where details such as faces and registration plates are automatically blurred before being published on Google Maps. In August, Israel’s justice ministry gave Google the green light to start photographing the streets, but asked that Street View provide the public with a reliable way to request that further details be blurred after the images are published online.

Google said on Sunday that users will be able to ask for “additional blurring of themselves, their home or their car.”

To the images available now at www.google.co.il/ streetview Google will later add pictures of other cities and sites, including the Dead Sea, Nazareth, Tiberias, Acre and Eilat. — Internet

World’s largest camera get go-ahead

Palo Alto, (Calif), 26 April — The world’s largest digital camera, meant to make the deepest survey ever of night sky, has passed a critical milestone in its creation, US researchers say.

The Large Synoptic Survey Telescope camera — which will capture the widest, fastest and clearest view of the night sky ever observed — has received “Critical Decision 1” approval by the US Department of Energy to move into the next stage of the project. The LSST camera will be roughly 5 feet by 10 feet, provide a 3.5 degree field of view with an image surface diameter of just over 2 feet, providing an image resolution of approximately 3.2 billion pixels.

“With 189 sensors and over 3 tons of components that have to be packed into an extremely tight space, you can imagine this is a very complex instrument,” said Nadine Kurita, the project manager for the LSST camera at SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory. “But given the enormous challenges required to provide such a comprehensive view of the universe, it’s been an incredible opportunity to design something so unique.”

Having passed Critical Decision 1, the project will enter a detailed engineering design, schedule and budget phase, an SLAC release said on Tuesday.

If all continues as planned, construction of the telescope will begin in 2014. Preliminary work has started on LSST’s 28-foot primary mirror and its final site atop Cerro Pachon in northern Chile. — Internet

Proposed camera will be the world’s largest digital camera — breaver

The LSST camera will be a very large and complex instrument,” said Kurita. “We know that it will be a challenge to build and operate, but we believe that it will be worth it. The LSST will provide a comprehensive view of the universe, and help us understand our place in the cosmos.”

NASA POTTER, (Greece), 26 April — Geologists suggest a tsunami was due to become available Tuesday and Wednesday on Tuesday and Wednesday,riendly scientists said.

Researchers from Aachen University in Germany said sediment on the northern Greek peninsula where the ancient village of Potidaea and the modern town of Nea Potidea are located shows signs of massive marine events such as large waves, evidence of tsunamis of the sort Herodotus said saved the village in 479 BC. The BBC reported.

Herodotus wrote of huge waves that killed hundreds of Persian soldiers during their siege of the village.

“They then came upon them [the Persians] a great flood-tide of the sea, higher than ever before, as the natives of the place say, though high tides are often,” he wrote.

“So those of them who could not swim perished, and those who could were slain by the men of Potidaea who put out to sea.”

The researchers said northern coastal regions should be included among the Greek regions prone to tsunami, although it is usually the southern coast of Greece that is identified as risk area.

“We have found several historic tsunamis on the coast,” Aachen’s Professor Klaus Reicherter said.

The researchers presented their findings at the annual conference of the Seismological Society of America in San Diego. — Internet

City heat could be beneficial for trees

New York, 26 April — Urban “heat islands,” which are characterized by higher solar energy being absorbed by pavement, buildings and other infrastructure, then radiated back into the air. While the phenomenon is generally viewed as a threat to public health and a cause for concern, trees actually benefit, researchers say.

“Some organisms may thrive on urban conditions,” Columbia tree physiologist Kevin Griffin said.

While a city’s hot summer nights can be a trial for humans, they are a boon for trees, he said, allowing them to perform more of the chemical reactions needed for photosynthesis when the sun comes back up. — Internet

GIANT ASTEROIDS HIT EARTH MORE FREQUENTLY THAN THOUGHT: RESEARCH

Washington, 26 April — Research by international scientists concluded that giant asteroids, similar or larger than the one believed to have killed the dinosaurs, hit Earth billions of years ago more frequently than previously thought, US space agency NASA announced Wednesday.

To cause the dinosaur extinction, the killer asteroid that impacted Earth 65 million years ago would have been almost six miles (10 kilometers) in diameter. By studying ancient rocks in Australia and using computer models, researchers estimate that approximately 70 asteroids the same size or larger impacted Earth 1.8 to 1.9 billion years ago. During the same period, approximately four similarly-sized objects hit the moon.

Evidence for those impacts on Earth comes from thin rock layers that contain debris of nearly spherical, sand-sized droplets called spherules. These micrometer-scale spherules were formerly molten droplets ejected into space within the huge plumes created by mega-impacts on Earth. The hardened droplets then fell back to Earth, creating thin but widespread sedimentary layers known as spherule beds. The new findings were published Wednesday in the journal Nature.

“The beds speak to an intense period of bombardment of Earth,” said William Bottke, principal investigator of the impact study team at the Southwest Research Institute in Colorado.

“The team’s findings support the theory that the giant planets changed. They discovered that the giant planets in our solar system were in a resonant grouping of four similar-sized objects hit the moon. The team’s findings support the theory that the giant planets changed.”

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Dollar trade stays at lower level in early Tokyo market

BEIJING, 26 April—The US dollar trade stays at the lower 81-yen level early Wednesday in Tokyo market.

At 9 am, the dollar fetched 81.40-45 yen against 81.27-37 yen in New York and 81.16-17 yen in Tokyo at 5 pm Tuesday.

Chinese researchers eye anti-AIDS gel

BEIJING, 26 April—Chinese researchers said Monday they have discovered an HIV-blocking agent that could be developed into a vaccine to limit the sexual transmission of AIDS.

Scientists from Hong Kong University said joint research with Shanghai Targetdrug Co, Nanjing University and City University of Hong Kong had discovered a molecule that blocks HIV from entering human cells.

Zhizhe Chen, director of the AIDS Institute of the University of Hong Kong Li Ka Shing Faculty of Medicine, said the potency of the TD-0690 molecule against sexually transmitted HIV was “encouraging”.

The new molecule could be developed into a microbicide gel to “prevent HIV sexual transmission” by killing off the virus as it tries to enter the body. This would give people, especially women, an “alternative method to protect themselves from the virus, in addition to condoms”, Chen said. “The ideal solution is to develop an effective vaccine. Since such a vaccine remains elusive, we must explore other strategies such as topical microbicide,” he said.

The TD-0690 molecule is “potentially more potent than Mar涣ir, a Pfizer-developed equivalent which has been approved by the US Food and Drug Administration for clinical treatment, the Chinese scientists said. Unprotected sex accounts for more than 90 percent of AIDS infections in China, the researchers said in a statement. Their work was published recently in the peer-reviewed Journal of Biological Chemistry.

Asia’s first Legoland to open in mid-september in Malaysia

KUALA LUMPUR, 26 April — Asia’s first Legoland is set to open for business on Sept. 15 in Malaysia’s southern state of Johor, bringing a new tourist attraction to the country. The 30.8-hectare theme park, located in Iskandar Malaysia, was 75 percent completed, said Siegfried Boerst, Legoland Malaysia General Manager.

Boerst was quoted as saying by local media on Thursday that the contractors began work on the park last month and would begin installing the 50 million Lego bricks and models next month. The Asia’s first Legoland was scheduled to open by the end of this year, but Boerst said the theme park would be opened ahead of schedule by a couple of months, thanks to “the hardwork of all our contractors.”

The official park’s single-day tickets will go on sale online later this month with a special introductory offer of 99 ringgit (31.4 US dollars) for adults and 70 ringgit (22.9 US dollars) for kids, and the operator will hold promotion on its website. Boerst said over 35,000 annual passes had been sold and 60 percent of the buyers were Malaysians. The annual passes, priced at 195 ringgit (63.8 US dollars) for adults and 70 ringgit (22.9 US dollars) per adult and 150 ringgit (49 US dollars) per child, are valid until the end of 2011.

The park, with seven special themes namely Lego kingdom, imagination, land of adventures, city and minioland, is especially designed for families with children from two to 12 years of old. It will feature more than 40 interactive rides, shows and attractions when it opens.

Fewer bad debts, more saving help

New Zealand bank profits rise

WELLINGTON, 26 April—New Zealand’s registered banks reported combined profits of 3.3 billion NZ dollars (2.68 billion US dollars) last year, despite the fact that borrowing continued to slow, according to a survey out Tuesday.

The KPMG Financial Institutions Performance Survey (FIPS), which analyses the performance of New Zealand’s registered banks, showed combined net profits after tax were the “highest seen in recent times” rising to 2.77 billion NZ dollars in 2010.

John Kensington, KPMG head of financial services, said the “deleveraging trend” that began in 2010 showed “no clear sign of abatement” and could continue into 2013 and beyond.

The trend was driven by a softening of business confidence and concerns about slowing demand from China and Europe, said Kensington in a statement.

New Zealanders who had money available were not yet ready to spend and those without were reluctant to borrow, he said.

“For many, the global financial crisis was a wake-up call and people are now more concerned about their debt levels and less likely to increase borrowing,” New Zealand’s saving record was woeful, so the deleveraging trend was the only possible outcome from the global financial crisis.

The results pointed to an improvement in asset quality with reductions in bad debts. “Given the soft business confidence it is possible some industries and sectors are struggling and, should conditions not improve, a deterioration of asset quality cannot be ruled out in the future,” said Kensington.

Three test positive for avian flu in Taipei

TAIPEI, 26 April—Three poultry farm workers have been tested positive for the H5N2 avian influenza strain but none have displayed flu symptoms, Taipei’s disease control authorities said.

They were among 141 people working at five poultry farms where the avian flu was discovered.

Tens of thousands of chickens in the farms have been culled since the outbreak of H5N2 in the past few months.

Medical experts believe the test results may well be a cross-reactivity since all the three persons had flu jabs last year, Xinhua news agency reported.

Domestic industry sees marketable opportunities

BEIJING, 26 April—Leading Chinese industrial firms see this year’s Hannover Messe as a great opportunity to showcase their innovations and new technologies, and are seeking chances to find overseas cooperation in sustainable development.

As the partner country of the Messe, China’s major industrial and technology show, China has brought its latest achievement in new-energy vehicles and smart manufacturing, under the general theme of “Green and Intelligence”.

Low carbon economy and energy conservation are receiving increasing attention from consumers and manufacturers from all over the world, as these industries have experienced a smaller impact from the current global downturn,” said Gu Chao, director-general of the exhibition administration office of China Council for the Promotion of International Trade.

Chinese firms in these areas “hope to improve technology exchange and cooperation with European counterparts to promote industrial sustainable development and achieve global economic recovery,” he said.

The Hannover Messe, which runs from Monday to Friday, has attracted some 5,000 exhibitors from 69 countries and regions. Almost half of these exhibitors come from outside Germany, among which more than 500 came from China, promoting their latest products and technology in the Chinese Exhibition Hall.

They include Bajuyan Electric Group, a Guangzhou-based business that specializes in operating electrical equipment, and CHINT Group, a Zhejiang company that provides engineering, procurement and construction services to transmission lines and power stations. China’s First Automobile Works shows its plug-in hybrid electric car, the C131 PHEV, which reduces car emissions to almost zero.

Cases of humans who tested positive for H5N2 while showing no health disorders were previously reported in South Africa and Japan between 1993 to 1995.

Taipei authorities confirmed the outbreak of H5N2 following sporadic reports in farms in central Taiwan. The flu has so far affected chicken farms in Changhua, Tainan and Nantou. —MNA/Xinhua

A man tries out the “ExoHand”, a solution for future human-machine cooperation, at the Hannover Messe in Germany on Sunday.—Xinhua

More saving help

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A man tries out the “ExoHand”, a solution for future human-machine cooperation, at the Hannover Messe in Germany on Sunday.—Xinhua

More saving help
New York, 26 April — One World Trade Centre, being built at the site of the fallen twin towers, could surpass the Empire State Building as the tallest building in New York as soon as next week, an official said on Tuesday. The iconic Empire State Building, built in 1931, was the city’s tallest at a height of 1,454 feet to the tip of its broadcast antenna until 1972 when it was overtaken by the original World Trade Centre towers. It then regained the title after the 11 September, 2001 attacks, which destroyed the complex. Construction started six years ago on the new World Trade Centre and now the skyscraper, formerly called the Freedom Tower, is poised to surpass the 1,605-foot-high Empire State Building, Port Authority Executive Director Patrick Foye told reporters. “Weather permitting, we expect that we could exceed the height of the Empire State Building on Monday,” Foye said. One World Trade Centre will stand at 1,776 feet to the tip of its antenna when it is completed, possibly by late 2013. The skyscraper, only 55 percent of which is leased, will be higher than the former twin towers, which were toppled in the 2001 attacks in which more than 3,000 people were killed. The new tower stood 1,271 feet including its antenna. Calling One World Trade Centre a “newer, taller cousin,” the Empire State Building’s spokesman in a statement said: “We’ve watched you grow and now we salute you.” — Reuters

World’s largest solar plane to make first cross-continent flight

Payerne, 26 April — Swiss-made solar-powered plane “Solar Impulse,” the largest of its kind in the world, will take its first-ever cross-continent flight in May or June, the company announced on Tuesday. The plane, co-piloted by Bertrand Piccard and Andre Borschberg, will attempt for the first time to fly more than 2,500 kilometres, taking off from Payerne in western Switzerland, crossing the Pyrenees and the Mediterranean without using a drop of fuel, and finally landing in Morocco.

The exact date for taking off will be decided according to weather condition. Bertrand Piccard and Andre Borschberg will take turns to fly the aircraft on its 48-hour journey, with a scheduled intermediate stopover near Madrid to change pilots. This long-duration flight will serve as a dress rehearsal for the round-the-world flight in 2014, and will allow the team to gather experience in cooperating with international airports, integrating the prototype into regular air traffic patterns, and managing the logistics of maintenance, said Borschberg, co-founder and CEO of Solar Impulse. “Solar Impulse,” the first aircraft that can fly day and night without fuel or polluting emissions, has a wingspan of 63.4 metres, as wide as an Airbus A340, and weighs only 1,600 kg. It has 12,000 solar cells mounted on the wings, which provide maximum power for its four electric motors. The plane took its first international flight from Switzerland to Brussels on 13 May, 2011, and marked its second international flight to Paris in June last year.

Indonesia tries to double tourist arrivals from China

Jakarta, 26 April — Indonesia intends to double tourist arrivals from China by 2014 as bilateral relations have developed rapidly in recent years, Indonesia’s Tourism Minister Mari Elka Pangestu has said. Indonesia would like to have more flights to China, with the aim of attracting 1 million tourists from the world’s second-largest economy by 2014, the minister told Xinhua ahead of a Chinese leader’s visit to the country. Li Changchun, a member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, is currently on a four-nation overseas tour. The Chinese leader has visited Britain, Canada and Colombia and is expected to arrive in Indonesia on Thursday. The visit will last till Saturday. To attract more Chinese tourists, Indonesia’s leading carrier PT Garuda Indonesia has opened an office in Beijing and is planning to provide daily Jakarta-Beijing flights. Pangestu, who is of Chinese origin, said the weakening global economy would not have a significant impact on the country’s tourism industry as the government has diversified its market to emerging economies in Asia.

“The beauty and uniqueness of the island country attracted the majority of tourists from China last year,” she said. “We will see that Asia would not be significantly impacted by the global economic crisis. We will boost our promotion to penetrate the market in Asia, such as China, South Korea, India and Russia.” The tourism industry has been the third biggest revenue generator for Indonesia after energy and palm oil industries.

The number of tourists from China coming into Indonesia was around 470,000 in 2011, according to Indonesian official figures. Indonesia has been working hard to boost the competitiveness of its tourism industry that may become a new engine of economic growth. Jakarta has asked the Association of Southeast Asian Nations to speed up implementation of a common visa for the 10-nation bloc in a bid to boost tourism. Indonesia, the world’s largest archipelago country with 17,508 islands, boasts cultural and ethnic diversity, natural sights and historical heritage.

Boy awaiting heart transplant abducted from St Louis hospital

Kansas City, 26 April — A child-abduction alert was issued on Tuesday in St Louis for a 5-year-old boy who police said was on a waiting list for a heart transplant and is believed to have been taken by his father.

Porter Stone was reported missing from Children’s Hospital at 4:20 pm local time after his father, with whom he left, called the boy’s mother to tell her “he was taking his son,” said officer Sherri Bruns of the St Louis Police Department.

The couple reportedly has been embroiled in a custody dispute over the boy, she said. The boy was carrying a backpack with a medical intravenous pump and medication that will last 48 hours, Bruns said. He was at the hospital awaiting a transplant, she said, adding, “He is next on the list.” — Reuters

Leftist rebel killed in S Philippine clash

Davao City, 26 April — Government troops clashed anew with leftist rebels in southern Philippines on Tuesday, leaving one insurgent dead, police said on Wednesday. A 12-man team from the army’s Scout Rangers Regiment Training School were conducting a test mission when they encountered four suspected New People’s Army rebels near Bitaugan Village, San Miguel town, in Mindanao’s Surigao del Sur Province at 11 am, according to Martin Gamba, spokesman of Caraga police regional office.

Gamba said in a statement that the soldiers recorded at the site of encounter the body of the slain rebel, an AK-47 assault rifle and an improvised Claymore landmine. “The operation was coordinated with the local police. A pursuit operation was now being conducted against the fleeing guerrillas,” said the police official.
**UNHCR Resident Representative calls on Union I & P Minister**

NAV PYI TAW, 26 April—Resident Representative Mr Johannes Gerhard Ten Feld of the UNHCR paid a call on Union Minister for Immigration and Population U Khin Yi at the latter’s office here yesterday evening.

The two had a frank discussion on joint programmes of the ministry and the UNHCR in northern Rakhine State and follow-up plans, progress in implementation of MoU and plans, assistance of the UNHCR to be rendered in peace negotiations in Kajin State, laws and procedures on Myanmar citizenship and potential for further cooperation in the future.

Director-General U Maung Maung Than of Immigration and National Registration Department, Head of Office U Than Nai Tun and personnel were also present at the call.

**Union Minister for Finance and Revenue U Hla Tun meets Deputy President Mr Hiroshi Minoura of Sumitomo-Mitsui Banking Cooperation (SMBC)**—MNA

Union Minister for Finance and Revenue U Hla Tun received Deputy President Mr. Hiroshi Minoura of Sumitomo-Mitsui Banking Cooperation (SMBC) at Hotel New Otani on 23 April morning. The meeting focused on matters related to bilateral cooperation for development of Myanmar banking system, as well as new Doing for advancing private banks in Myanmar.

Likewise, Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Tin Naing Then held discussion with Japanese Deputy Minister of Economics, Trade and Industry Mr. Hideichi Okada and NEDO party at Hotel New Otani, giving attention to matters related to bilateral cooperation tasks for development of Yangon City.

**Union Ministers hold discussions**

NAV PYI TAW, 26 April—Union Minister for Industry U Soe Thein, who accompanied President U Thein Sein of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar on the State visit to Japan, held discussions with Vice President Mr. Yasuhiro Harayama of Suzuki Motor Corporation, Executive Vice President Mr. Sakki Akira of Tobacco International (JTI) at Hotel New Otani in Tokyo on 21 April.

At the meeting, they concentrated on matters relating to making investment, planting industries, sharing techniques for human resource development and creating job prospects in Myanmar.

Similarly, Union Minister for Finance and Revenue U Hla Tun received Deputy President Mr. Hiroshi Minoura of Sumitomo-Mitsui Banking Cooperation (SMBC) at Hotel New Otani on 23 April morning. The meeting focused on matters related to bilateral cooperation for development of Myanmar banking system, as well as now doing for advancing private banks in Myanmar.

Union Minister in Finance and Revenue U Hla Tun received Deputy President Mr. Hiroshi Minoura of Sumitomo-Mitsui Banking Cooperation (SMBC) at Hotel New Otani on 23 April morning. The meeting focused on matters related to bilateral cooperation for development of Myanmar banking system, as well as now doing for advancing private banks in Myanmar.

**Union FM felicitates South African International Relations and Cooperation Minister**

NAV PYI TAW, 27 April—On the occasion of the Freedom Day of the Republic of South Africa which falls on 27 April 2012, U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to Her Excellency Ms Maite M Nkoana-Mashabane, Minister of International Relations and Cooperation of the Republic of South Africa.—MNA

**Safe and secure transportation essential for tourism industry development: Union Hotels and Tourism Minister**

**Unemployment, sharing relating to making concentrated on matters on 21 April.**

**Tobacco International (JTI) President Mr. Saeki Akira of Corporation, Executive Vice Harayama of Suzuki Motor discussions with Vice the State visit to Japan, held Thein Sein of the Republic accompanied President U Soe Thein, who Union Minister for Industry Immigration and National cooperation in the future. on Myanmar citizenship and State, laws and procedures UNHCR to be rendered in plans, assistance of the implementation of Moepwint plans, progress in Rakhine State and follow-up programmes of the ministry and the UNHCR in northern Rakhine State and follow-up plans, progress in implementation of MoU and plans, assistance of the UNHCR to be rendered in peace negotiations in Kajin State, laws and procedures on Myanmar citizenship and potential for further cooperation in the future.

Director-General U Maung Maung Than of Immigration and National Registration Department, Head of Office U Than Nai Tun and personnel were also present at the call.

20 militiants killed in operations in Afghanistan

KAYIN, 26 April—A total of 20 Taliban militants have been killed and 11 others detained during joint military operations within the past 24 hours across the country, the Afghan Interior Ministry said Wednesday morning. A Afghan National Police (ANP), army, NDS or intelligence agency and Coalition Forces launched 15 joint cleanup operations in Kabul, Kapisa, Helmand, Logar, Kandahar, Ghazni and Pakista provinces over the past 24 hours, killing 20 armed Taliban insurgents and detaining 11 other suspects, “the ministry said in a statement. They also found and seized weapons besides defusing 11 anti-vehicle mines, the statement said without saying if there were any casualties on the side of security forces.

MNA/Xinhua

**Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Tin Naing Then meets Japanese Deputy Minister of Economics, Trade and Industry Mr Hideichi Okada and NEDO party.**—MNA

**Union Minister for Immigration and Population U Khin Yi receives UNHCR Resident Representative Mr Johannes Gerhard Ten Feld.**—MNA

**NAY PYI TAW, 26 April—Road transport coordination meeting, with a view to ensuring smooth and secure transportation for foreign tourists in Myanmar, was held at the Sports Ministry here this morning, with an address by Chairman of Committee for Ensuring Smooth Entrance for Foreign Tourists Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism and for Sports U Tint Hsan.

Speaking on the occasion, the Union Minister said the committee was undertaking four-point work plans for systematic development of hotels and tourism industry, namely, systematic and smooth entrance and departure procedures for the foreign tourists, systematization of transportation vehicles for provision of smooth and convenient transport to passengers, high-standard of hotels and restaurants, further development and sustainability of tourist destinations.

The Union Minister called for taking measures for standardization of vehicles, passenger security and customer satisfaction over the services and reasonable prices, warning that lack of such infrastructure and attitude would harm the image of the nation and its people.

The Union Minister stressed the intention of the meeting as systematization of transportation vehicles to avoid such problems.

He called for foreign-tourist-service sign, fixed price tag, and phone numbers of information counter MTT to be hanged over on vehicles, powered schooners, and horse-carts.

Next, the Managing Director of Myanmar Hotels and Tourism service and personnel reported on arrangements for provision of vehicles, horse-carts in Bagan Region, and powered schooners at Ayeyawady Port, and Heho, and Nyaung Shwe ports.

Next, the deputy minister made supplementary report, followed by concluding remark of the Union Minister.

MNA
President U Thein Sein visits TEPCO Kawasaki gas-fired power plant, J Power, Isogo thermal power...

In eight different areas with the effective use of fuels. Of the power plants, Kawasaki power plant is equipped with steam turbine and gas turbine and it recycled byproduct as fuel.

Next, the President and Union ministers asked queries and officials answered them. Afterwards, the President and party proceeded to J Power, Isogo thermal power plant and they were welcomed by the chairman of the company and officials. At the meeting hall, Chairman of the company Mr Hitamura extended greetings and the President disclosed the visit to the power plant. Later, they were conducted round the power plant by officials.

President U Thein Sein explains the purpose of visiting J Power, Isogo thermal power plant.

Being the power plant using coal, it is facilitated with advanced technology and contributes much toward environmental conservation. With over 70 power plants in different countries, the company has to purchase most of coal from Indonesia and Australia. At the meeting hall of the power plant, the President and Union ministers asked queries and officials concerned answered them. Afterwards, the President and party proceeded to Kamakura Buddha Image in Kamakura, and paid homage to the Buddha Image and made cash donations.

The 13.35 metre high Buddha Image was cast with bronze in 1252. It is kept at Kotokuin Temple. It is the second greatest of its kind while Todai Buddha Image kept at Todaiji Temple in Nara is the greatest.
President U Thein Sein meets correspondents of Japanese News Agencies

President U Thein Sein concludes his visit to Japan

NAY PYI TAW, 26 April—President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein together with delegation members left Hotel New Otani in Tokyo by car for Narita Airport, at 9.30 am LST on 24 April, to leave Japan for Myanmar.

They were seen off at the airport by Senior Deputy Minister Mr Kenichiro Sasae of Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan and officials, Japanese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Takashi Saito, Chairman of Japan-Myanmar Friendship Association Mr Hideo Watanabe and members, Myanmar Ambassador to Japan U Khin Maung Tin and wife and Military Attaché Brig-Gen Tun Tun and embassy staff.

After that, President U Thein Sein and party left Japan for Bangkok by Thai International Airways and arrived in Bangkok of Thailand. There from, they arrived in Yangon at 8 pm and stayed for the night there. The President and party arrived in Nay Pyi Taw on 25 April morning.—MNA

President U Thein Sein meets correspondents of Japanese News Agencies


Also present on the occasion together with the President were Union Ministers U Wunna Maung Lwin, U Soe Thein and U Hla Tin, Myanmar Ambassador U Khin Maung Tin and officials.

The President answered queries over latest development in Myanmar politics, parliamentary matters, cooperation on common ground in the interest of the State and the people setting aside the differences, salient points on the Constitution, Japan’s assistance to Myanmar, cooperation with the international community, holding talks with national race armed groups for prevalence of pace in the nation and future works and matters on Dawei Deep Sea Port which were raised by the correspondents.—MNA

President U Thein Sein at Narita Airport in Tokyo before his departure for home.

Industrialists to follow fixed period of electricity use

NAY PYI TAW, 26 April—When there is an increased use of electricity and it cannot be generated to meet the consumer need, priority is given to supplying power to the public. So, industrial zones, factories and workshops are not allowed to use electricity between 5pm and 11 pm during which the public use electricity most. Moreover, steps have to be taken to supply power alternatively in the daytime when there is no enough electricity. However, some factories and workshops are found to have failed to follow the rules, causing difficulty in power supply. Therefore, according to the procedures of the Ministry of Electric Power No.2, the following actions will be taken against the illegal use of electricity:

(a) Power supply will be cut off together with a fine if the illegal use of electricity is found out for the first time.

(b) Power supply will be cut off together with a fine for a month if the illegal use of electricity is found out for the second time.

(c) Power supply will be cut off together with a fine for three months if the illegal use of electricity is found out for the third time.

(d) If the illegal use of electricity is found out for the fourth time, a lawsuit will be filed against the offender at a police station and power supply will be cut off for good.

The Ministry of Electric Power No.2 has issued a notice that with the industrialists exactly following the fixed period of electricity use, it will facilitate smooth distribution of electricity.—MNA

President U Thein Sein visits TEPCO Kawasaki natural gas-fired power plant. (News on Page-1) —MNA

President U Thein Sein at J Power, Isogo coal-fired power plant. (News on Page-1) —MNA

President U Thein Sein at J Power, Isogo coal-fired power plant.
Pyidaungsu Hluttaw session continues for 28th day

Messages put on record, MPs involved in discussions and clarifications made on bills

NAV PHTW, 26 April—Third regular session of the First Pyidaungsu Hluttaw continued for 28th day at Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Hall in Hluttaw Complex here at 10am today, attended by Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Aung Myint, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann and 598 Pyidaungsu Hluttaw representatives.

At today’s session, messages were put on record, MPs participated in discussions and clarifications on bills made.

The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw recorded message on press release of Cambodian 1 April by-election monitors’ group on behalf of the ASEAN Chairman, message on report on 20th ASEAN Summit and message on Japan’s debt. They were sent by the President when the session was adjourned and were still to put on record.

U Kyaw Naing Htay of Intaw Constituency, U Myint Soe of Pyawbwe Constituency, U Thein Nyunt of Thingyanngy Constituency, U Shwe Maung of Buthidaung Constituency, U Ye Tun of Hsipaw Constituency, Daw Tin Nwe Oo of Dagon Myothit (North) Constituency, U Zung Htii Thang of Chin State Constituency (2), U Win Naung of Yangon Region Constituency (5) and Daw Khin Waing Kyi of Yangon Region Constituency (1) made discussions on report of Joint Bill Committee on resolution of the Constitutional Tribunal of the Union that defining committees, commissions and organizations formed by respective Hluttaws as Union level organizations is not appropriate with provisions in the constitution. They discussed: There is no particular definition for the phrase “Union level organization” in the constitution. The phrase includes only in Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Law, Pyithu Hluttaw Law, Amyotha Hluttaw Law, Union Attorney-General Law and Union Auditor-General Law. It would be wrong to mix it up with provisions in the constitution. It is not in line with provisions in Section 46 of the constitution.

Applying definition of “Union level organization” prescribed in enacted Hluttaw laws, the tribunal decided that defining committees, commissions and organizations formed by respective Hluttaws as Union level organizations is not appropriate with provisions in the constitution. It is not in line with provisions in Section 46 of the constitution. Moreover, it also objects to provisions in Section 443 of the constitution.

The session concluded at 1 pm and continues for 29th day on 30 April.—MNA

Myanmar, Malaysia to promote cooperation in science and technology

NAV PHTW, 26 April—Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation Datuk Seri Dr Maximus Johny Ongkili of Malaysia and party paid a call on Union Science and Technology Minister U Aye Myint at the latter’s office this morning.

The two sides discussed development of competent human resources and bilateral cooperation and science and technology.

Also present at the call were Deputy Minister Dr Ko Ko Oo, the director-general of Industry and Vocational Education Department, the acting managing-director of Advanced Science and Technology Department and the rector of Mandalay University of Computer Studies.—MNA

Yangon Region Chief Minister meets JICA resident representative and party

NAV PHTW, 26 April—Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe received a delegation led by Resident Representative in Myanmar Mr. Masahiko Tanaka of Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and Director Mr. Akihito Sanjo of Economic Infrastructure Department of JICA (Headquarters) at the meeting hall of the office of Yangon Region government at 11:00 am today.

Both sides discussed matters related to bilateral cooperation in development of Yangon City.

Also present at the call were Yangon Mayor Region Minister for Development Affairs U Hla Myint, Region Minister for Transport U Aung Khin and secretary of the region government U Than Aung.—MNA

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Representatives sign in attendance book.—MNA
Environmental conservation measures to be taken in gems mining in Mogok

Mandalay Region Chief Minister U Ye Myint views condition of flowing water at Yeni Creek in Mogok. — MNA

Hong Kong to return rare Philippine turtles

HONG KONG, 26 April — Thirty-six turtles seized from smugglers, including 20 of one of the world’s rarest species, are to be returned from Hong Kong to the Philippines, an official said on Wednesday. It will mark the first time a protected Philippine species seized from the illegal wildlife trade abroad has been returned, Philippine environment department deputy chief Luz Corpuz told AFP. Wildlife authorities in Hong Kong will hand the 20 pond turtles and 16 South Asian box turtles to Philippine environment department officers on Friday. “They are Philippine species, and returning them back to their natural habitat is a big accomplishment for our conservation efforts,” Corpuz said. Philippine pond turtles, which are found only in the island of Palawan. “In the past we had routinely allowed protected wildlife confiscated abroad to be turned over to our local shelters because we do not have money. ‘This time we’re lucky because we have a little money left and we would like to enhance our enforcement activities.”

Swiss-based International Union for the Conservation of Nature listed the 20-centimetre box turtle, Cuora amboinensis, as “vulnerable” in the Philippines, though it is also found in other tropical countries of Southeast Asia.

Corpuz said airport authorities in Hong Kong seized the 36 turtles in February after a flight from Manila. They will be released back into the wild in Palawan, she added. Trafficking in pond turtles is punishable by a six-year prison term and a fine of more than 26 million pesos ($23,447) fine. “We don’t know who were responsible for smuggling them to Hong Kong, but the turtles could have most likely ended up as medicine, as pets, or as food in Chinese restaurants,” she said.

Union Defence Minister receives Major General Stephen D. Tom of USA Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command and party

NAVPYITAW, 26 April — Major General Stephen D. Tom of the USA Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command and party paid a call on Union Minister for Defence Lt-Gen Hla Min at his office here this morning and discussed searching of remains of US military personnel lost on Myanmar battleground during World War II. Also present at the call were Deputy Minister Maj-Gen Kyaw Nyunt and personnel. — MNA

US, Japan near agreement on realignment

WASHINGTON, 26 April — The United States and Japan are near an agreement over the realignment of US forces in Okinawa and Guam, a Pentagon source disclosed Monday. According to a Pentagon statement, US Defence Secretary Leon Panetta on Monday called his Japanese counterpart Taro Aso to discuss the realignment.

Panetta told Taro he “looked forward to an official announcement in the very near future outlining specifics of the mutually agreed-upon way ahead,” regarding the realignment of US forces in Okinawa and Guam, said Pentagon spokesman George Kirby. Kirby said both Panetta and Tanaka reaffirmed “the importance of the US-Japan Alliance for the defense of Japan and in contributing to regional peace and security,” and both expressed their interest in continuing to modernize the alliance by enhancing their already strong security cooperation initiatives.

Japan astronomers find most distant galaxy cluster

TOKYO, 26 April — Japanese astronomers Wednesday said they had found a cluster of galaxies 12.72 billion light-years away from Earth, which they claim is the most distant cluster ever discovered. Using a powerful telescope based in Hawaii, the team peered back through time to a point just one billion years after the Big Bang, the birth of the universe.

“This shows a galaxy cluster already existed in the early stages of the universe,” said the team, which is headed by professors from the state-run Graduate University of Advanced Studies and the National Astronomical Observatory of Japan using the Subaru Telescope in Hawaii. They found a “protocluster of galaxies”, which is expected to help scientists understand the structure of the universe and how galaxies developed.

The study is to be published in the Astronomical Journal of the United States. Researchers using NASA’s Hubble Space Telescope have previously announced the discovery of a possible cluster of galaxies around 13.1 billion light-years from Earth, but that has not yet been confirmed, the Japanese researchers said.— Internet

More Chinese to enjoy better Internet surfing experience

BEIJING, 26 April — More people in China will have broadband Internet access and enjoy an improved Internet surfing experience thanks to a government campaign to increase broadband coverage and width. Deputy Minister of Industry and Information Technology Shang Bing said in an online press conference that the ministry will prioritize the project in order to raise broadband coverage and width this year. China will offer another 35 million families optical-fiber broadband access by the end of this year, Shang said. “In 2011, the country’s broadband users with a width higher than 4 megabits (M) accounted for 40 percent of all users, and we plan to raise it by 10 percentage points this year,” Shang said.— Xinhua

Xinhua

Google starts to sell smartphone in web store

SAN FRANCISCO, 26 April — Google said Tuesday it has begun selling Galaxy Nexus smartphone in the new Devices Section of its Google Play web store. According to Google Mobile Blog, the unlockable Android smartphone, certified Galaxy Nexus costs 399 US dollars with no carrier commitment or contract.

The phone also supports NFC (near field communications) technology and is pre-installed with Google Wallet, which let users to make purchases and redeem offers with a simple tap of their phone. It’s not Google’s first time to get in mobile business. In 2010, the company failed to sell Nexus One, a specially-designed Android smartphone, directly to consumers. The store was closed only four months later.

Late last month, Google is reported to plan to sell tablet computers directly to consumers in its online store. Some industry watchers said Google may use the store to boost the introduction of much-anticipated Nexus tablet, a 7-inch device at the price of 199 dollars.
Winter punches back with snow, heavy rain in Northeast

BUFFALO, 26 April — Winter made a comeback on Sunday as a powerful storm brought rare, late season snowfall to the northeastern United States, and parts of New England faced the threat of flooding. After a milder-than-normal winter in most of the country, snow fell late Sunday from the mountains of West Virginia to the southern shores of Lake Erie in Pennsylvania and New York, with as much as one to two feet expected over the next 36 hours. In Buffalo, New York, 3 to 6 inches of snow were expected over the period, said Bob Hamilton, meteorologist next 36 hours. In Buffalo, New York, 3 to 6 inches of snow were expected over the period, said Bob Hamilton, meteorologist at the National Weather Service in Buffalo. He said there could be power outages from the wet, heavy snow on power lines. “It’s going to cause some damage, no question about that.”

The National Weather Service warned of flooding across southern New England as heavy rain was expected to continue falling through the night. It issued a flood watch for parts of northern Connecticut, Massachusetts, southern New Hampshire and Rhode Island, according to its website. Late season storms are unusual, but not unheard of, in the Northeast, Hamilton said.

“It happens every 15 years or so. It’s something you deal with when you live in this part of the country,” he said. The rain extended south to Washington, DC, and into North Carolina, spurred by a deep low pressure system along the Atlantic coast. The rain was accompanied by 50 mile per hour winds. Travel delays were expected on Monday.

Private debris forecaster AccuWeather said the highest rainfall amounts of up to 4 inches would fall from Virginia to New York City late Sunday. New England would be hit during early Monday into the morning; hourly. — Internet

Women visit Spanish town to ease a bride shortage

CANDELARES, 26 April — Country boy, meet city girl. Inspired by a Hollywood western, a Spanish dating association is trying to slow a population drain from the country’s beleaguered central villages, introducing bachelors to women bussed in from the big City of Madrid with hopes of ending a bride shortage.

Candelares, a town of 6,000 on the banks of the picturesque Lobera River, hosted a weekend fiesta to welcome 68 women for a meet-and-greet with the village’s single men. Ancient cave paintings show Candelares had been inhabited for some 5,000 years, and resident Jose Miguel, 67, said he would hate to see its population dwindle after such a long history. “I checked out the few widows and single women here,” said Miguel. “I signed up for this to meet new ladies and to hopefully show them the beauty of my town.”

He and his case helped fuel an intense national campaign in search of missing children in the 1980s. The revival of the search on Thursday by the FBI and New York Police Department raised hopes of a breakthrough but ended without finding any bones or obvious human remains, said the source, who was informed on the matter but declined to be identified because of the sensitive nature of the case.

“The search is going to continue, and we’ll be back out there tomorrow,” said Peter Donald, an FBI spokesman. The stain, described as a spot on a wall, was found on Saturday in a basement that was used by a handyman as a workshop at the time of Patz’s disappearance, according to another law enforcement official who asked not to be named because the investigation was continuing. The boy was formally declared dead in 2001.

Investigators recently re-opened the case and began tearing apart the basement looking for clothing and human remains after a cadaver-sniffing dog sensed something at the site. Investigators found the stain by spraying the site with luminol, a chemical that can help indicate the presence of even trace amounts of blood, among other substances. In 1979, Othniel Miller, then a handyman, used the basement as his workshop, less than a block from Patz’s home, in an apartment in which Patz’s parents still live.

Investigators recently interviewed Miller, who has not been charged with a crime. Miller’s lawyer has said his client was not involved in the boy’s disappearance and he is cooperating with authorities. A woman who answered the door at Miller’s red-brick terracehome in Brooklynston said she had answered all questions to Miller’s lawyer. “This is so overwhelming,” she said, before heading back upstairs. “We just want peace.” — Reuters

In this 20 April, 2012, photo, David Meyer, a professor of Geology at the University of Cincinnati, holds a lobe of a fossil at Caster Library on the campus in Cincinnati, Experts in the US are trying to figure out what the 450 million-year-old fossil dubbed “Godzillus” used to be. The 150-pound fossil recovered last year in Kentucky by amateur paleontologist Ron Fine is more than 6 feet long.— Internet

Kentucky by amateur paleontologist Ron Fine is more than 6 feet long. The 150-pound fossil recovered last year in Kentucky by amateur paleontologist Ron Fine is more than 6 feet long. The 150-pound fossil recovered last year in Kentucky by amateur paleontologist Ron Fine is more than 6 feet long. The 150-pound fossil recovered last year in Kentucky by amateur paleontologist Ron Fine is more than 6 feet long. The 150-pound fossil recovered last year in Kentucky by amateur paleontologist Ron Fine is more than 6 feet long. The 150-pound fossil recovered last year in Kentucky by amateur paleontologist Ron Fine is more than 6 feet long. The 150-pound fossil recovered last year in Kentucky by amateur paleontologist Ron Fine is more than 6 feet long.
4000-year-old cliff paintings discovered in N China

Eighteen cliff paintings dating back over 4,000 years have been discovered by archaeologists in northern China’s Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, an official said on Sunday.

The prehistoric portraits were unearthed in the Yinshan Mountains in Urad Middle Banner (an administration division of the Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region), said Li Bingjie, head of the Cultural Relics Bureau of Urad Middle Banner. The patterns are still clear and the paintings have been arranged in an orderly manner on the cliffs. Liu added that they are the finest of their kind that have been unearthed so far. Among the paintings, seven faces were exaggerated and monstrous, and have been identified as the seventh star of the “Big Dipper” constellation. Liu concluded that these may have been drawn by prehistoric men for worship. So far, over a lot of our ancient cliff paintings have been discovered in the Yinshan Mountains, according to the official.

Man charged with felony for stealing soda

After leaving a Naples, Fla., McDonald’s without paying for a cup of soda, Mark Abaire, 52, is in hot water, facing a felony theft charge, police say. Abaire walked into the restaurant around 10 pm Thursday and asked the employee at the counter if he could have some water. When he was given one, he went to the soda fountain and filled it with soda instead, then left to sit outside. A manager told police he asked Abaire to pay for the soda and he refused, and then returned on the premises after being asked to leave. He then called the manager, prompting them to call the police. Due to previous petty theft convictions, who had he been, a misdemeanor petty theft charge was escalated to a felony, which could earn Abaire up to five years in jail and a $5,000 fine. He also faces charges of trespassing and disorderly intoxication, the Daily News (Naples, Fla.) reported.

Internet made me famous: Kim Kardashian

LOS ANGELES, 26 April—Socialite Kim Kardashian feels that she wouldn’t be famous without the internet. Social networking sites allow her to interact with her fans.

“I don’t have a fan base and a lot of our connection with people is Internet based. I think that the Internet has brought on a different kind of celebrity,” femalefirst.co.uk quoted Kardashian as saying.

We are very well aware of who we are and what our place is. We are so active on twitter, on our Facebook pages, we are writing back, we are connecting. We enjoy it,” she added. While she likes to interact with her fans, Kardashian also revealed how she enjoys hitting back at the people, who abuse on twitter.

“I love writing them back. People will write me, ‘My phone battery lasts longer than Kim Kardashian’s marriage,’ and I’ll write back, Oh, which phone is that?” she said.

“When people are so stupid, you just have to have fun with it. Someone [without]

Chessex boxing uses fighters’ brains, brawn

Participants in Chessboxing in London said the latest European sport craze allows them to use both their brains and their brawn in the ring.

The game involves two competitors playing three minutes of chess followed by three minutes of boxing for 11 alternate rounds, with the game ending with either a knockout or a checkmate, CBS News reported on Tuesday.

Andy “The Rock” Costaello, a former police officer who played chess for his English county at age 10, said Chessboxing is a perfect marriage of his interests.

“I think the contrast of seeing two people playing chess and then hitting each other, either of them in isolation wouldn’t be comedic,” said Costaello, who faced off recently in London against Nikolai! “The Siberian Express” Suzhin. “But when they’re alternated it is [pretty funny].”

So far, Costaello said hewas “disappointed” to lose to Suzhin, who served on the Russian boxing team as a teenager and has been playing chess for 10 years, in a checkmate.

Swedish cop fined over salad, keeps badge

A Swedish police officer was convicted of dehydration for soliciting a free salad from a restaurant owner he had pulled over. The officer testified that he had been having lunch when he proposed tearing up the traffic ticket in exchange for some greens from the motorist’s restaurant.

“He gave me the salad anyway,” testified the officer, whose name was not revealed. “I think we want to gain some new customers.”

The Local said the restaurant owner testified he was happy to avoid a hefty fine for not wearing his seat belt but felt a little upset and told a friend about the transaction. The friend then reported it to the police.

The conviction carries a $3,100 fine, but the Gothenburg Police Department decided the conviction wasn’t that serious and won’t fire the officer.

Fischer: Everyone wants to come back to ‘Office’

LOS ANGELES, 26 April—Jenna Fischer says she and he co-stars from the American version of “The Office” all want to return for a ninth season of the sitcom. The future of the series has been uncertain as NBC has not announced whether it will renew it, while media reports suggest cast members Mindy Kaling and Rainn Wilson are working on new TV pilots for next season.

Fischer said for the inside scoop on the situation, Fischer told The Hollywood Reporter, “I don’t know it, it’s not up to me, because I’m just the actor, but the actors are all prepared and wanting to come back.

“ar maines, I’m talking about everybody — Ed [Helms], John [Krasinski], me, everyone is wanting to come back. So it’s really just a matter of NBC pulling the trigger,” the actress said. “They have to announce it by May 15 when the up-fronts happen, right? So we’re all just waiting. We’re really excited to come back, everybody wants to come back. I know Rainn and I have his show, but he’s going to come back to ‘The Office’ as well, so yeah, we’re just waiting.”

Singer Carrie Underwood is coming to head over to London to perform for my UK fans. “I’m so excited,” contactmusic.com quoted her as saying. “It’s the home of some of my musical influences. I love George Michael, Adele, The Rolling Stones, and of course, Adele.

“I want to do that tradition proud,” she added.

“there are so many great British artists doing well in the US at the moment, I want to show the UK another side of America,” she said.

Cheryl Cole ‘testing culinary skills on WillIAM’

WASHINGTON, 26 April—Cheryl Cole has been testing her newly honed culinary skills on WillIam as soon as he relocated to the UK to work as a mentor on ‘The Voice’.

The 28-year-old girls Aloud singer has had the Black Eyed Peas front man — who also happens to be her manager — around for dinner every night in a bid to save the rapper from eating room service alone.

The treats that she’s been serving up include everything from roast dinners and cakes through to scones and tarts.

“Will, I am loving the food. It makes a change from backstage catering, restaurants and hotels,” Contactmusic quoted a source telling The Sun newspaper. We’re all just waiting. We’re really excited to come back, everybody wants to come back. I know Rainn and I have his show, but he’s going to come back to ‘The Office’ as well, so yeah, we’re just waiting.”

Martin and Shamicka Lawrence to divorce

LOS ANGELES, 26 April—Martin Lawrence’s publicist confirmed on Tuesday that the Hollywood actor and his wife, Shamicka, are divorcing after two years of marriage.

“Martin and Shamicka Lawrence have decided to divorce,” the actor’s representative told People.com. “The couple has made the joint decision to part ways. The Lawrencees dated for 15 years before tying the knot in 2010. They have two children. “Out of love and respect for one another we will continue to remain friends and raise our two beautiful daughters together,” the couple said in a joint statement issued to People.com.
**Bayern Munich qualify for Champions League final after penalty shoot-out**

It was a frantic game and neither defence looked comfortable and Madrid defender Pepe again showed his lack of a cool head just before the half-hour when he allowed Bayern into the tie by needlessly pushing Mario Gomez in the Madrid penalty area. Former Madrid striker Arjen Robben produced a fine penalty which beat Iker Casillas, who had guessed his intentions, but was unable to get to the ball. After a frantic first period, the second was rather more conservative from both sides and the chances were more limited as Madrid perhaps realized that a second goal from the Germans would need them needing two more goals. Mario Gomez forced a save from Casillas after 57 minutes, while Benzema also had a chance for Madrid.

As the half continued it became clearer that both sides were increasingly scared of conceding a decisive goal. Kaka replaced Angel De Maria with 15 minutes left for Madrid, while Bayern coach Jupp Heynckes kept with his starting 11. Ronaldo saw a shot blocked in the last minute and the match went on to extra time. Shortly into extra time Bayern brought Thomas Muller on for Frank Ribery, but as so often happens in extra time feared appeared to both over both sides, with neither willing to take risks and neither Madrid nor their visitors were able to direct a shot on target and as a result the game went into the fatal penalty shoot-out.

**Juve and Milan scrape wins as Cesena relegated**

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**Monterrey repeats CONCACAF Champions title**

Monterrey won the CONCACAF Champions League title on Wednesday, taking the two-game series with a 3-2 aggregate total against fellow Mexican club Santos Laguna after a loping the second game 2-1 on Wednesday night. Monterrey, which won the first leg 2-0 last week, gave the team to win consecutive championships since Pachuca did it in 2007 and 2008. Mexican clubs have won seven consecutive titles and 13 of the last 17.

Monterrey’s Neri Cardozo, an Argentine, scored the deciding goal in the 2nd minute, converting a pass from Angel Reyna. “This team had lots of personality, and that’s how we won,” Monterrey coach Victor Manuel Vucetich said. Daniel Luduena, also an Argentine, scored in first-half injury time for Santos and Oribe Peralta had a goal in the 1st minute.

The title gives Monterrey a berth in the Club World Cup in Japan later this year. Monterrey played without top striker Humberto Suazo, who scored both goals in the first leg. The Chilean was suspended from the match because of an accumulation of yellow cards. “Sadly I couldn’t be in there,” Suazo said. “One feels really bad watching from the outside. We are deserving champions and now we can try to improve in Japan.”

**Kuznetsova out with leg injury in Morocco**

FIZZ, 26 April — Second-seeded Svetlana Kuznetsova is out of the Grand Prix SAR after retiring with a leg injury in the third set of her second-round match against Irina-Camelia Birsan of Romania on Wednesday. Former French and US Open champion Kuznetsova breezed through the first set 6-1, lost the second in a tiebreaker and trailed 3-2 in the third when she pulled out.

Sixth-seeded Chanelle Scheepers of South Africa lost 7-5, 1-6, 6-3 to Dutchwoman Kiki Bertens. Third-seeded Petra Cetkovska defeated Tine Baun 6-3, 6-2, and fifth-seeded Simona Halep stopped Alexandra Cadantu 6-2, 7-5. Qualifier Garbine Muguruza Blanco advanced when Patricia Mayr-Achleitner retired after losing the first set 6-4.
Manchester braced for biggest derby

LONDON, 26 April—Alex Ferguson has described it as the most important derby in his 26 years at Manchester United while Manchester City manager Roberto Mancini thinks his side are too far behind in the Premier League title race for it to be decisive.

Differing views, but the reality is that whoever wins the game at the Etihad Stadium on Monday is likely to be crowned Champions with United three points clear at the top and three matches of the season left.

The battle for Champions League places involving Arsenal, Newcastle United, Tottenham Hotspur and Chelsea also becomes more intense after Chelsea reached next month’s Champions League final.

Should Chelsea go on to win the Champions League, whoever finishes fourth will not qualify for the elite competition and go into the Europa League.

Meanwhile, at the bottom, the battle to avoid joining Wolveshampton Wanderers in next season’s Championship (second tier), is just as frantic with Blackburn Rovers, Bolton Wanderers, Wigan Athletic, Queens Park Rangers and halting Aston Villa battling for their Premier League lives.

Jeremy Lin tests knee as NBA playoffs loom

NEW YORK, 26 April—Jeremy Lin underwent a surgically repaired left knee with the condition getting the starting nod from coach Mike D’Antoni and energizing a flagging Knicks team.

Lin, who was born in California to parents from Taiwan, became an international sensation as the first American of Chinese or Taiwanese descent to play in the NBA.—Reuters

Eight Taleban militants killed in Afghan Kandahar province

KANDAHAR, 26 April—Eight Taleban militants were killed during an operation in southern Afghan province of Kandahar, provincial police chief said on Thursday.

“Based on intelligence, a special unit of Afghan Border Police raid a Taleban hideout in Haddah area of Spin Boldak district Wednesday night killing eight militants,” General Abdul Raziq told Xinhua.

They also found and seized a handful of weapons and explosive materials besides seizing six motorcycles used by militants, the police chief added. Taleban militants have yet to make comments.—Xinhua
President U Thein Sein meets former Japanese prime ministers, MPs

Naypyitaw, 26 April—President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein received Japanese MP Mr Takeda Ryota at Hotel New Otani at 8.30 am on 23 April.

Next, the President received Japanese MP Mr Hirohiko Nakamura at 8.50 am.

The President also received former Japanese Prime Minister Mr Shinzo Abe and party at 9.20 am.

Afterwards, he received Chairman of International Friendship Exchange Council (FEC) Mr Ken Matsuzawa and party at 9.50 am.

In a similar manner, the President received Chairman of Graduate Institute of Policy Studies (GRIPS) Professor Takashi Shirashi and party at 10.20 am.

Next, he received former Japanese Prime Minister Mr Nakasone at 10.55 am.

Also present on the occasions were Union Ministers U Wunna Maung Lwin, U Soe Thein, U Hla Tun and U Tin Naing Thein, Myanmar Ambassador U Khin Maung Tin and high-ranking officials.

At the meetings, they had discussions on further cementing friendship between the two countries, exchange of visits of youth delegations for further strengthening friendly ties between Japan and Myanmar peoples.

In the evening, the President together with Myanmar delegation members attended a dinner hosted by Japan-Myanmar Association at Hapoan Restaurant.

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw session continues for 28th day

Messages put on record, MPs involved in discussions and clarifications made on bills

Union Information and Culture Minister receives Italian delegation

Safe and secure transportation essential for tourism industry development: Union Hotels and Tourism Minister