Myanmar, US to further strengthen friendly ties, relations

Nay Pyi Taw, 3 April—President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win received former President of the US Mr. Jimmy Carter, wife Mrs Rosalyn Carter and party at the Presidential Palace, here, at 11 am today.

Also present at the call were Union Minister U Winna Maung Lwin and wife, Union Minister U Soe Thane, Union Minister Dr. Pe Thet Khin and departmental heads.

The former US President and wife and party were accompanied by high-ranking officials. They cordially discussed progress of reform process in Myanmar, plans for nation-wide censusing taking process in 2014, poverty alleviation tasks, rehabilitation of housing, creation of job opportunities and promoting of education and health sectors for victims from the conflict-stricken areas including Rakhine State, and further strengthening of friendly ties and relations between the two countries.

After the call, the President and wife hosted a luncheon to the US delegation led by former US President and wife.—MNA

Myanmar, Indonesia eye cooperation in forestry sector

Nay Pyi Taw, 3 April—Union Minister for Environmental Conservation and Forestry U Win Tun held talks with Indonesian Forestry Minister Dr Zulkifli Hasan, focusing on cooperation in forestry sector of Myanmar, at Aureum Palace Hotel here yesterday.

The Union minister invites Indonesia’s investment in Myanmar’s forestry sector as the Indonesian minister describes modern production technology and capital from Indonesia and teak and other hardwoods from Myanmar as winning combination beneficial for both sides.

Private sector was given permit to operate teak plantations in 2006 and so far nearly 20000 hectares of teak plantations have been established, according to the Environmental Conservation and Forestry Union Minister.

MNA

Australia to assist in Myanmar’s mine sector development

Nay Pyi Taw, 3 April—Union Minister for Mines Dr Myint Aung held talks with Australian Ambassador to Myanmar Ms Bronte Nadine Moiles at the ministry, here, this afternoon.

The meeting focused on Australia’s aids to drafting of mining law, rules and regulations, implementation as an EITI member country and development of mine sector in Myanmar.

MNA
YANGON, 3 April—Organized by Yangon City Development Committee, a photo contest-2013 entitled “Colourful Yangon City” was held with the participation of 138 photographers and 757 photos. Among contestants, young photographer Zey Min of Myanmar Photographic Society won first prize in the category of Development around the City and he was also awarded the grand prize of the Mayor, according to the committee for organizing the contest.

In an interview with grand prize winner Ko Zey Min, he shared his experience in taking the award-winning photo, saying that he had chosen a location that offers a panoramic view over Yangon City, placing Sule Pagoda in the centre, including Independence Monument, City Hall and high-rise buildings.

Man commits arson attack after having quarrel with his wife
KYAUKKyi, 3 April — According to information about an arson attack occurred at Kyunbinseik village, 11-mile west of Mone region in Kyaukkyi Township of Bago Region at about 7.40 pm on 29 March, Police Inspector So Win of Mone police station went there and made necessary investigation into the fire.

Investigation revealed that Po Phyu, 22, had set fire to his house, spraying three bottles of petrol on it after he had a big argument and a fight with his wife over the failure to play a DVD player. The fire swept through the whole house including a shop attached with it and spread to an empty building in the compound, reducing the fire.

No (131) Hmawby-Yangon bus line driven by Thet Naing Mone region in Kyaukkyi village, 11-mile west of Mone region in Kyaukkyi Township, here.

Three vehicles involved in the crash caused damage to three vehicles involved and left 11 passengers on the road after skidding out of control in front of Shwe Nyaungbin Po Po Gyi shrine.

The vehicle on the opposite lane collided head-on with a taxi saloon before it hit again a stationary vehicle opposite lane collided head-on with a taxi saloon before it hit again a stationary vehicle along the river on 28 and 29 March, Police Inspector Hla Tun of Myaungmya Traffic Police Corps and members went there and made necessary investigation into the crash.

They found mororcyclist Maung Khin, 30, died of a single cut to the right side of his neck as he was hacked to death by Daw Kyi Hla, his mother-in-law, who lives together with him at the same house while he was having a big argument with his wife, Ma Nge Lay, 23, at about 1.30 am on that day. Daw Kyi Hla, 52, was charged with murder by Zayatgyi police station.

Son-in-law hacked to death, mother-in-law charged with murder
HTTANTABIN, 3 April — A bizarre incident in which a mother-in-law hacked her son-in-law to death as she was no longer willing to see the miseries of her daughter who had been physically and mentally abused by his husband occurred at Thahtaygone village, three-mile west of Zayatgyi in Htantabin Township of Toungoo district in Bago Region on 30 March.

Actions are being taken against the case by Dagon Myothit (Seikk) Township police station.

As they were informed that a motorbike plunged into a drain near Naung Yoe hall in Yangon at about 7.45 pm on 28 March, Police Inspector Hla Tun of Myaungmya Traffic Police Corps and members went there and made necessary investigation into the crash.

Speedster’s tragic end in Myaungmya
MYAUNGMYA, 3 April — As they were informed that a motorbike plunged into a drain near Naung Yoe hall in Myaungmya at about 7.45 pm on 28 March, Police Inspector Hla Tun of Myaungmya Traffic Police Corps and members went there and made necessary investigation into the crash.

They found mororcyclist Maung Htet Min Khant, 14, Maung Aung Myat Kyaw, 13, and Maung Kyaw Ko Ko, 14, of ward-94 in Yuzana Garden City in the township drowned while they were swimming in the river at about 3.30 pm on 26 March.

As soon as they were informed of drowning of three boys, Police Sub-inspector Win Ko of Dagon Myothit (Seikk) Township police station went there and made necessary investigation into the crash.

Drowning death of three young boys in Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) Township
YANGON, 3 April — Three young boys died of drowning while swimming in Bago River in Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) Township in Yangon East District, here.

Maung Htet Min Khant, 14, Maung Aung Myat Kyaw, 13, and Maung Kyaw Ko Ko, 14, of ward-94 in Yuzana Garden City in the township drowned while they were swimming in the river at about 3.30 pm on 26 March.

The region draws the attention of those who are interested in generating hydropower there. “Japanese experts conducted a feasibility study in Yado three days ago. We learnt that it was also their study tour of the region for economic prospects”, says locals. If businesses for long-term benefits are set up, there will be more job opportunities in the region, thereby contributing towards economic development.

Waterfall near Leiktho sub-township generates hydropower
LEIKTHO, 3 April—There is a waterfall in the eastern part of Leiktho sub-township in Thandaunggyi of Kayin State. As the waterfall fell from the cliff edge, it enables local people to generate hydropower on a managerial scale.

The region draws the attention of those who are interested in generating hydropower there. “Japanese experts conducted a feasibility study in Yado three days ago. We learnt that it was also their study tour of the region for economic prospects”, says locals. If businesses for long-term benefits are set up, there will be more job opportunities in the region, thereby contributing towards economic development.

New Light of Myanmar
UN passes historic global Arms Trade Treaty

NEW YORK, 3 April—The UN General Assembly on Tuesday overwhelmingly adopted a landmark Arms Trade Treaty that will help regulate the global flow of conventional arms for the first time, despite its failure to be adopted by consensus last Thursday.

The resolution adopting the historic treaty was approved by 154 countries. North Korea, Syria and Iran, the three countries that blocked its adoption by consensus last week, voted against the decision, saying the final text was not balanced and favoured the interests of major exporters.

Twenty three countries including the world’s top exporters, such as Russia and China, and major importers, such as India and Indonesia, abstained from casting their votes.

“This is a treaty with teeth,” Australian Ambassador Peter Woolcott, who chaired the intense and lengthy negotiations that began on 18 March, told reporters. “I think it will make a difference over time, I think it is a very good framework for states to work with.”

As it is necessary for 50 countries to ratify the treaty before it comes into effect, Woolcott anticipated that the implementation process could take a year or two. It opens for signature on 3 June. While there have been mechanisms to curb the proliferation of nuclear, biological and chemical weapons, the international flow of conventional weapons has been poorly regulated.

Hundreds of thousands of people are estimated to be killed each year by conventional weapons, chiefly in conflict- torn areas.

The UN General Assembly discusses a landmark arms trade treaty that will help regulate the global flow of conventional arms for the first time in New York on 2 April, 2013. The assembly adopted the treaty later in the day.

Reactors-scrapping research facility to be built in Fukushima Prefecture

TOKYO, 3 April—The Japanese government said on Tuesday it will build a research facility for decommissioning reactors at the Fukushima Daiichi power plant in the town of Naraha, some 25 kilometres south of the crippled nuclear power plant.

The government’s panel on decommissioning the reactors at the disaster-hit complex will set up a real-size model of a reactor container there and use remote-controlled robots to develop the technology needed to identify damaged reactor parts and repair them.

The government plans to conduct geological surveys of the candidate site in Fukushima Prefecture and to launch the operation of the facility around March 2015, officials said.

There were three candidate sites for the facility in Naraha where the dosage of radiation is relatively low, and the one chosen by the panel is some 2.3 km away from a port and an expressway exit. The dosage of radiation at that site stands at 0.3 microsvet per hour, the officials said.

If the geological survey shows that the picked site is not suitable for the research facility, the panel will look at the remaining two candidate sites, they said.

The Japanese government has earmarked about 5.5 billion yen in its fiscal 2012 supplementary budget for establishing the research facility and also a separate facility aimed at analyzing samples of melted nuclear fuels. Tokyo Electric Power Co, the operator of the Fukushima Daiichi power station, has said it will decommission four of the six reactors at the plant.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said during a Diet session last Friday that it would not be easy to re-start the two reactors at the disaster-hit plant and four reactors at the Fukushima Daini plant, all of which are currently shut down, considering the strong opposition among residents and local governments.

Parties carp as Italy’s “wise men” seek end to political crisis

ROME, 3 April—Italian President Giorgio Napolitano expressed despair on Tuesday at fierce criticism of his latest plan to end a post-election deadlock that has raised fears of months of instability in the euro zone’s third largest economy.

Two groups of “wise men” appointed by Napolitano try to forge a policy compromise between squabbling parties to end the impasse since the 24-25 February election started work on Tuesday. Napolitano said they would report back in 8-10 days. The 87-year-old head of state reacted angrily to suggestions from the centre-right of Silvio Berlusconi that his plan, which came after all other efforts to find a government failed, was a useless waste of time that the country could ill afford.

“After seven years I am ending my mandate in a surreal way, finding myself the subject of absurd reactions, suspicions and incomprehensible paranoia, from the harmless to the unhinged,” Napolitano was quoted as saying by Corriere della Sera daily.

Italy is deep in its longest recession for 20 years and although markets have so far remained relatively sanguine about the political deadlock, the economy desperately needs a stable government to unlock decades of sluggish growth.

There are also fears Italy’s borrowing costs could rise dangerously if the impasse finally starts to spook investors. Since the election, the parties have refused to budget at all from irreconcilable positions that “made one despair of the possibility of governing this country”, Napolitano said.

Napolitano appointed the commissions after Democratic Party (PD) leader Pier Luigi Bersani failed to gather enough support for a centre-left led government despite a week of efforts.

The president’s own attempt to dislodge the parties from entrenched positions also faltered last Friday.—Reuters

Iran’s nuclear programme entails huge costs, few benefits

TEHRAN, 3 April—Iran will pursue its nuclear quest although it has reaped few gains from a totem of national pride that has cost it well over $100 billion in lost oil revenue and foreign investment alone, two think-tanks said on Wednesday.

A report by the Washington-based Carnegie Endowment for International Peace and the Federation of American Scientists said Iran’s atomic work could not simply be ended or “bombed away” and that diplomacy was the only way to keep it peaceful. “It is entangled with too much pride—however misguided— and sunk costs simply to be abandoned,” the report’s authors, Ali Vazei of the International Crisis Group and Carnegie’s Karim Sadjadpour, said of Iran’s five-decade-old nuclear programme, which began under the US-led Shah.

The new submarine Zuiyu is deployed at the Maritime Self-Defense Force base in Yokosuka, Kanagawa Prefecture, near Tokyo on 2 April, 2013. The 2,950-ton Soryu-class sub was commissioned in March 2013.

Argentina asks Britain for talks on disputed islets

BUENOS AIRES, 3 April—Argentine President Cristina Fernandez on Thursday proposed talks with Britain on the fate of the Malvinas Islands, which are known to the British as the Falklands.

“Peace and diplomacy are the only paths,” said Fernandez. “The Malvinas are an unwavering cause, not just a national cause, but also a regional cause for sovereignty and a global fight against colonialism.”

Fernandez spoke in Puerto Madryn, south of the capital Buenos Aires, at a ceremony marking the 31st anniversary of the 74-day Malvinas War, which ended with Argentina’s defeat after it failed to recover the islands from Britain.

London has steadfastly refused to hold talks on the Malvinas, arguing that the islands’ mainly descendants of English settlers, want to remain under the British rule.

To support its stance, Argentina helped organize a 10-11 March referendum in which 99.8 percent of islanders voted to preserve their status as a British Overseas Territory.

Argentina did not recognize the outcome, arguing the referendum of British “transplants” does not reflect legitimate self-determination.

The 1982 Malvinas War led to the deaths of 669 Argentinean soldiers, 255 British fighters and three islanders.—Xinhua

A general view of the Bushehr nuclear power plant, some 1,200 km (746 miles) south of Teheran on 26 Oct, 2010.—Reuters

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A general view of the Bushehr nuclear power plant, some 1,200 km (746 miles) south of Teheran on 26 Oct, 2010.—Reuters
The eight major races of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the official list of their ethnic groups

(Continued from yesterday)


The Kayah State is a comparatively small area but it makes up for it with stunning scenery as well as a wealth of natural resources. Their land is mountainous but fertile because of the many rivers and streams and most are farmers or breeders of cattle. They are proud of their traditions in the same way that the other races value their own culture and they are known to be excellent silversmiths and metal workers.

The Kayah race comprises of 9 ethnic groups: Kayah, Bbre (Ka Yaw), Gheko, Kebar, Manu Manaw, Padaung (Ka Yun), Yin Baw, Yin Talu, Zayein.

Outside of the Kayah State, this race with 11 ethnic groups lives in the delta and in Yan. They are mostly Buddhists, Christians or animists. Their biggest festival is the New Year which falls in December or January according to the Lunar Calendar. In rural regions they are mostly farmers, and also breed pigs and raise chickens and ducks for eggs. Kayin living in the cities are mostly Christians and are extremely devout.

The Kayin race comprises of 11 ethnic groups: Kayin, Bwe, Kayin Pyu, Monne Pwa, Mon Pwa, Pa Le Chi, Paku, Pwo (Shu), Sar Pyu (Mon Kayin), Sgaw, Ta Lay Pwa.

The Mon people may not have any other ethnic groups but they are proud of their rich and ancient civilization that goes back many centuries. They value their tradition of being devout Buddhists with a gentle and gracious lifestyle of art and music. The Mon monarch of the common- known as Queen Shin Saw Pu (r.1453-1473) was the first to gild the spire of the Shwedagon Pagoda with the amount of gold equal to her body weight, 90 lbs.

The Rakhine race is as old as the Pyu, the lost civilization that flourished in Myanmar since the 2nd century BC. They inhabit the narrow and rocky strip of the western coastline bordered by mountain ranges to the east. Their land was once among the richest in SE Asia and further archaeological surveys would give ample proof. Most Rakhine are Buddhists and there are many beautiful temples constructed of stone. They are famous as seafarers and skilled fishermen.

The Rakhine race comprises of 7 ethnic groups: Rakhine, Daingnet, Kamein, Kwe Myi, Mara Magyi, Mro, Thet. Concluded

Ref: Myanmar Hotels & Tourism Guide 2013

A sort of shellfish disappears near Japan’s crippled nuclear plant

Tokyo, 3 April—Japanese researchers announced recently that a sort of shellfish called Thais clavigera disappeared in a 30-km coastal area near Japan’s crippled Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant. Researchers from Japan’s National Institute for Environmental Studies and National Institute of Radiological Sciences conducted the study last April on shellfish’s living status in 43 places from Japan’s Chiba to Iwate Prefectures for four months. The team found that the Thais clavigera was extinct in eight of ten places within the 20-km-radius alert zone of the nuclear plant, which was damaged by tsunami in March 2011 and triggered the world’s worst nuclear disaster since Chernobyl in 1986.

The species includes different shellfish species, such as Cellana grata, were found in the alert zone but the amount of them declined, with high dose of radioactive materials inside their bodies, according to the researchers.

Thais clavigera, a kind of shellfish widely lives across Japan, was found in most places that had been surveyed, including 25 of his personal fortune, valued at about $15 billion.

Allen, 60, co-founded the world’s largest software company with Bill Gates in 1975, but left in 1983 after a bout with cancer. The riches

A high-speed train, unveiled in Simferopol, Crimea, will be tested on Crimean rail lines until 1 May, and then it will be put into commercial use, the statement said.

The nine-car train uses wear-resistant, environment-friendly and slow-burning materials and meets global railway safety standards, added the committee. The EKp1 train is equipped with first- and second-class coaches, dining rooms and places for the disabled. Ticket prices are expected to meet the demands of people with different levels of income.

Ref: Xinhua

Microsoft co-founder to open investment office in Silicon Valley

Seattle, 3 April—Paul Allen, the billionaire co-founder of Microsoft Corp., is opening an office in Silicon Valley to make new investments in emerging technology and internet companies. The Palo Alto office, set to open in the next few weeks, will operate under the name of Vulcan Capital, the investment arm of Allen’s Seattle-based Vulcan Inc, which manages

Chinese mobiles phones to get Beidou access

Beijing, 3 April—China is promoting the civil use of its indigenous Beidou Navigation Satellite System and plans to apply it in public mobile phones services, an official said on Tuesday.

The Beidou system has been performing well, with its navigation precision improving steadily since it began providing services to users in the Asian-Pacific region on 27 December last year, said Yang Qiangwen, a leading scientist with the China Satellite Navigation Office in an interview with Xinhua.

“We are seeking favourable policies and attracting investment to promote the technology for public use,” he said. “It will not be long before mobile phones adopt the Beidou system.”

China started to build up its own space-based positioning, Navigation and Timing system in 2000. So far, China has successfully launched 16 navigation satellites and four other experimental ones for the Beidou system. Beidou has so far mostly provided licensed services for China’s government and military users in transport, weather forecasts, gold mining, telecommunications, hydrological monitoring and mapping.

As the public interest in Beidou is rising, the fourth China Satellite Navigation Conference, to be held in Wuxi City of central China’s Jiangsu Province in May, will focus on the opportunities and challenges for the system’s application, Yang added.

Ref: Xinhua
WHO says notified by H7N9 bird flu infections in China

Geneva, 3 April— China’s National Health and Family Planning Commission on Sunday notified the World Health Organization (WHO) of three cases of human infection with H7N9 bird flu in China, the WHO stated on Monday.

The WHO’s statement said that the cases were confirmed on Friday by Chinese Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Laboratory testing for influenza A (H3N2), A (H1N1)pdm09 and A (H5N1), as well as for novel coronavirus were negative. According to WHO, the cases were reported from Shanghai and Anhui Province. Respiratory tract infection with progression to severe pneumonia and breathing difficulties has been found in all three cases. Disease onset was between 19 February and 15 March 2013. The two patients in Shanghai did not survive, and the third one from Anhui is currently in critical condition.

The WHO said there was so far no epidemiological link between the cases that have been identified. Up till now, no further cases have emerged among the 88 identified contacts under follow-up. The source of infection and the mode of transmission are under investigation.

The health organization said the Chinese government was engaged in an active investigation and had instituted enhanced surveillance, laboratory strengthening and training of healthcare professionals for detection, reporting and treatment.

WHO said it was in close contact with the national authorities to follow up the event, and updates would be issued as soon as new information becomes available.—Xinhua

End-of-life talks lacking between doctors, patients

New York, 3 April— Although many older patients in Canada have thought about end-of-life care and discussed it with family members, a new study suggests fewer have spoken with doctors and had their wishes noted accurately in their medical record.

Many elderly people prefer to die at home instead of in the hospital—but that’s not always the way it works out, researchers said.

Dr. Daren Heyland from Kingston General Hospital in Ontario said a lack of discussion about patients’ wishes is often what leads to very aggressive care at the end of life, followed by stress and regret from family members.

“These are 80-year-old patients who are frail, sick, in hospitals, and so they’ve obviously considered their end-of-life situation,” Heyland, who led the new study, told Reuters Health.

“The real problem is the failure of the health care team to engage them.”

To gauge whether patients’ wishes for end-of-life care were clear and known to everyone involved, the researchers interviewed 278 sick, elderly patients who were in the hospital and expected to live less than six months and 225 family members. The interviews were conducted at 12 hospitals across Canada. Reuters

Detroit, 3 April— General Motors Co is recalling a small number of 2013 Buick Encourages because the steering wheel could come loose or separate from the steering column, federal safety officials said on Tuesday.

The recall affects 144 Encourages equipped with heated steering wheels and built between 9 and 28 December, GM said in a filing with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

The Encore, a new compact crossover vehicle introduced in January by Buick, is built by GM Korea. A companion model is sold by GM in Europe as the Opel Mokka.

GM in its filing said a steering wheel fastener on the Encore may not have been properly installed. In a statement on Tuesday, GM said “there are no known injuries or crashes related to the issue.” The company said it had contacted 59 customers who had taken delivery of Encourages with heated steering wheels “and their vehicles are being inspected.” GM said the other 85 unsold vehicles were being inspected at Buick dealerships “and none have been found to have the issue.”—Reuters

German inflation reaches two year low in March

Berlin, 3 April— German annual inflation rate in March reached a two-year-low level of 1.4 percent, preliminary data showed on Tuesday.

The Federal Statistical Office (Destatis) said in a statement that the provisionally calculated consumer prices index in March 2013 increased by 1.4 percent per year, which was the lowest since December 2010. On a monthly basis, German consumer prices index rose by 0.5 percent in March.

Calculated by a harmonized method for the purpose of comparing with other European Union countries, German consumer prices increased by 1.8 percent in March 2013 year on year, below European Central Bank’s medium-term inflation maintenance target of 2.0 percent, and remained as the lowest since November 2010. Monthly harmonized inflation rate of Germany cased to 0.9 percent in March.

According to the Wiesbaden-based Destatis, final results for March 2013 German inflation would be released next Thursday. Despite a shrink of 0.6 percent in the last quarter of 2012, German economy was expected to return to its growth track this year. German central bank Bundesbank had forecasted the annual inflation rate to be 1.5 percent in 2013 and 1.6 next year. The low inflation rate, as well as stable labour market, has offered reasons for German people to stay optimistic about the outlook of their financial situation. Xinhua

Chrysler posts best monthly sales since December 2007

Detroit, 3 April— Chrysler Group said its vehicle sales in March were the best since December 2007, and estimated the industry’s annual sales rate last month was 15.6 million. Chrysler, a unit of Italian automaker Fiat SpA (FIA, MI), said March sales totaled 171,606 vehicles, up 5 percent from 163,381 a year earlier. The Fiat, Dodge and Ram Truck brands all posted increases.

Chrysler’s estimate of the industry’s seasonally adjusted annual rate in March is in line with an average SAAR of 15.3 million from a group of analysts polled by Thomson Reuters. Chrysler’s total includes about 300,000 heavy-duty vehicles, while the Thomson Reuters poll excluded such vehicles.

Ram Truck sales rose 24 percent in March, reflecting strong for the full-size Ram pickup, which received an extensive makeover for the 2013 model year.

Dodge sales were up 15 percent, led by double-digit increases for the Avenger, the Challenger and the Durango.

Sales of the compact Dodge Dart sedan topped 8,000 for the first time since the car was introduced last summer. Sales of the Fiat 500 rose 3 percent to 3,807. Jeep sales dropped 13 percent in March. Chrysler phased out the Jeep Liberty last fall and won’t start ramping up production of its replacement, the 2014 Cherokee, until this summer. The automaker also began phasing in production of the 2014 Grand Cherokee, which has undergone a facelift.

Chrysler brand sales fell 2 percent, with the biggest decline posted by the full-size Chrysler 300 sedan.
Israelis return fire into Syria

Jerusalem, 3 April—Israeli tanks fired into Syria on Tuesday after shots were fired at troops in the occupied Golan Heights, a military spokeswoman said, in a further spillover of the Syrian civil war.

“Shots were fired at an IDF (Israel Defence Forces) patrol on the border. No injuries or damage was caused. In response, IDF forces returned precise fire at the source and reported a direct hit,” the spokeswoman said.

The Security Council voiced concern last week about the increasing spillover into the Golan Heights of the civil war being fought between forces loyal to Syrian President Bashar al-Assad and rebels trying to topple him.

Earlier on Tuesday a mortar shell fired during fighting between Syrian forces and rebels landed in the Israeli-controlled territory of the Golan Heights, military sources said.

It was unclear whether the gunfire or the shell were deliberately aimed at Israeli forces and the spokeswoman said it was not known whether they were fired by Assad’s forces or the rebels.

The shell landed in an open area near an Israeli settlement and caused no injuries, a military source said.

Shells have fallen several times inside Israeli-occupied territory and some incidents have drawn Israeli return fire.

Reuters

A special train departs to mark Boao Forum for Asia in China

WASHINGTON, 3 April—Robert Hormats, US Under Secretary of State for Economic Growth, Energy and Environment, will attend the annual Boao Forum for Asia to be held this weekend in China, the State Department said on Tuesday.

Before participating in the 6-8 April Boao Forum for Asia, he will hold talks with foreign ministry officials and private sector companies in Beijing on Wednesday.

“Cherry blossoms on the sole remaining car.”

Kyodo News

Senior US diplomat to attend Boao Forum for Asia in China

Cairo, 3 April—Mass food poisoning at Egypt’s Al-Azhar University triggered public outrage

The photo taken on 2 April, 2013 shows the entrance of the dormitory area of Al-Azhar University in Cairo, Egypt.—Reuters

Israel’s Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Defence Minister Moshe Yaalon (2nd L) speak during the swearing-in ceremony, at the Knesset, the Israeli Parliament, in Jerusalem on 18 March, 2013.

Reuters

Israeli troops return fire into Syria

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Shells have fallen several times inside Israeli-occupied territory and some incidents have drawn Israeli return fire.

Reuters

Food poisoning at Egypt’s Al-Azhar University triggers public outrage

The photo taken on 2 April, 2013 shows the entrance of the dormitory area of Al-Azhar University in Cairo, Egypt.—Xinhua

Cairo, 3 April—Mass food poisoning at Egypt’s Al-Azhar University triggered public outrage on Tuesday led to the hospitalization of more than 500 students and triggered public outrage against the slack food safety practice at the institute. As many as 561 Egyptian students have been poisoned by the university’s canteen food where no death has been reported in the incident so far, spokesman for the Ministry of Health Yahiya Moussa told Xinhua.

The incident occurred in the dormitory of Al-Azhar University in Nasr City, east of the capital Cairo, where the students felt spasms in the stomach and vomited after eating the lunch food from the canteen.

They were immediately taken to several local hospitals for treatment.

In the wake of the incident, hundreds of anxious students stormed Mashiahk al-Azhar (the administration building of Al-Azhar), demanding the dismissal of University President Obama al-Abd. The interior ministry had to send security forces to contain the protests. The angry students

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Primary students to be fed with milk in 2013-2014 academic year

NAY PYI TAW, 3 April—With the aim of ensuring physical and IQ development of new generation children, a three-year plan is being implemented for feeding milk to primary students.

With the assistance of a company based in Sweden, the milk feeding plan will be implemented for the students of 2013-2014 academic year. Aplan has been set to feed milk to about 40000 primary students three successive years. Milk will be given to 17500 primary students from Yangon Region, 17500 students from Mandalay Region and 10000 from Nay Pyi Taw.

Primary students will have the opportunity to consume 200 ml of milk each daily as of opening the school days in 2013-2014 academic year.—Mya Amin

Burning of crop lands cause air pollution in Tachilek

TACHILEK, 3 April—Due to smoke from reckless burning of crop lands, sky of Tachilek was covered with smog, causing air pollution.

Especially, smoke from burning the crop lands causes impact on aviation in Tachilek region.

“On 22 March, some flight schedules were cancelled due to bad weather. Today, Sun Far airlines cancelled two of four flight schedules. Likewise, Air Kanbawza postponed its schedules. Smog in the air may cause danger to the pilots,” said in-charge of Air Kanbawza.

Vocalist R Zarni

Anti-human trafficking activities organized in Bago

BAGO, 3 April—Under the supervision of Vice-Chairman of Bago Region Anti-Human Trafficking Committee Commander of Bago Region Police Force Police Col Mya Win, the anti-human trafficking min-concert programme was organized as fund-raising activity of Bago Region Maternal and Child Welfare activity of Bago Region.

Chairman of Bago Region Development Affairs Department, Head of Township FSD U Myo Min, the Supervisory Committee at the car park of Shwe maw daw Pagoda in Bago on 23 March evening.

Vocalist R Zarni presented songs on anti-human trafficking to the accompaniment of Lazy Club Band.

In-charge of Bago Anti-Human Trafficking Squad Police Major Win Aung and party distributed pamphlets on knowledge about trafficking in person to about 5000 people.

Mya Amin

Kayah State govt donates K 10 million to fire victims at relief camp

LOIKAW, 3 April—Kayah State government donated K 10 million to fire victims at No 2 Kayinni relief camp in Khunyom of Thailand on 23 March.

In addition to cash donation, the Kayah State government handed over blankets, mosquito nets, clothes donated by local people and 500 bags of rice by Nippon Foundation to the fire victims through Myanmar Peace Centre.

Local people and peace groups plan to donate more cash and kind to the fire victims. Kayah State government offers the national people from the relief camps in Thailand to return home and will provide basic needs to them when they arrive in the native regions.

Four wards comprising over 1000 houses each are located in No 2 Kayinni relief camp in Khunyom Township of Thandaw.

At 4 pm on 22 March, outbreaks of fire caused at Ward 1 and Ward 4, destroying over 400 houses. The incident left over 30 people dead and over 100 wounded.

The majority of the victims at the relief are Myanmar nationals from Pasawng Township of Kayah State.

Mya Amin

Rural earthen road commissioned into service

MINBU, 3 April—Yedwingon-Hsinlangyi rural earthen road was inaugurated in Minbu (Sagui) Township on 24 March morning.

Executive Officer U Tin Lwin Oo of Township Development Affairs Committee explained construction of the road. Local authorities formally opened the earthen road.

Mya Amin

Advanced mobile phone technology shared at MICT Park

NAY PYI TAW, 3 April—The mobile phone (UMTS/ LTE) technological course, organized by Shwe pyai Tagun Telecom Public Company Ltd, concluded at Room 205 at MICT Park in Yangon, on 22 March afternoon.

Altogether 31 trainees attended the course from 18 to 22 March.

Mobile phone technician from UK U Than Htay Aye and Mr Jean-Marc Phan Van of France gave training to the enthusiasts.

Chairman U Lwin Naing Oo of Shwe pyai tagun Telecom Public Co made a concluding remarks and presented certificates to the trainees.—Mya Amin

Burning of crop lands cause air pollution in Tachilek

Tachilek in Shan plateau is rounded with hills. In open season, the authorities warn the local people not to set the crop lands on fire. However, some of them do not abide by the rules and regulations, causing air pollution. That is why it is necessary to disseminate advantages of abiding by the rules and to take action against the offenders.—Mya Amin

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Lower cost, better services

Myanmar is seen by many—if not all—international telecom service providers as a huge and still untapped market. Only about 5% of the 60 million population have access to mobile services.

Despite a series of dramatic cuts of SIM card prices, they were still expensive for a large piece of population who live on meagre earnings. Recently, the government announced the sale of low-cost SIM cards. The price—K1500 (approximate to 2 US$) for one SIM card of CDMA 800 MHz—is announced Wednesday as the President in a coordination meeting for sale of low-cost mobile SIM cards said the responsible organization would release information as necessary.

The President in his fourth radio message on 1 April said SIM cards would be distributed “equitably” to each regions and states after considering such details as demands and capacity of telecom facilities.

He promised to build new mobile telephone towers to increase “infrastructural capacity” through cooperation with local and foreign companies to enable the adequate supply of SIM cards each month.

If 350,000 SIM cards are sold each month as planned, Myanmar’s mobile density will be doubled within a year. If the government has no thorough plan to develop the country’s telecom facilities, the mobile subscribers may suffer more disruptions in the future.

There are complaints over higher service charges of the mobile services. The ministry should also pay attention to reducing service charges to prevent losing out their subscribers to emerging private peers.

The Ministry of Communications and Information Technology is due to allow two international telecom service providers this year, privatizing the state-monopolized industry for the first time in decades. The competitiveness in the industry is expected to be seen which means the general public would enjoy lower cost and better services.
Recent incidents in Meiktila clarified to diplomats

NAY PYI TAW, 3 April—Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin gave a briefing to the diplomatic corps based in Myanmar on the recent incidents that occurred in Meiktila Township, Mandalay Region and in Bago Region (West) at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, here, today.

In the briefing, the Union Minister clarified about the true facts of the recent incidents and answered the queries raised by the diplomats. Later on, the guests viewed the exhibit photos and charts sheets displayed in the briefing hall.

The Briefing Session was attended by Ambassadors and members of the diplomatic corps, UN agencies based in Myanmar, Ministries concerned deputy ministers and high ranking officials, Bago Region Minister for Security and Border Affairs as well as officials from the Myanmar Police Forces also attended the session.

Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications’ SIM card sales programme

Here is the plan of how Myanmar Posts and Telegraphs will sell low-priced SIM cards.

1. The sales will start on 24 April, 2013 under the programme of region/state governments.
2. The unit price is K 1,500 with a presented prepaid top-up of K 300. Monthly, 350,000 SIM cards will be distributed to regions and states.
3. The type of the SIM card on initial sale will be CDMA-800 MHz system serviceable both for local and foreign calls. GSM (2.75 G), WCDMA (3G) will be sold in coming months and the sales programme will be announced later.
4. For regions and states without CDMA-800 MHz communication facilities, WCDMA 3G SIM cards will be sold at the same unit price of K 1500.
5. The telephone subscribers are to fill at least K 5000 top-up within 15 days from the date of purchase before the presented K-300 top-up expires, as the SIM cards are sold for end users at low price. To prevent the transferred sale to another person, SIM card that is not used within a year expires, as the SIM cards are sold for end users at low price.
6. Mobile phone subscribers are to at least spend K 2500 a month for the equipment and installation costs are set to be covered by service charges from the users. The failure to spend the K-5000 top-up within two months is subject to automatic cut to zero top-up. The failure to recharge within 15 days after the expiry of prepaid card is subject to invalidation.
7. SIM cards will be sold without any restrictions after adequate infrastructures are extended by Myanmar Posts and Telegraphs and other licensed operators.

UEC Chairman meets former US President Jimmy Carter

NAY PYI TAW, 3 April—Chairman of Union Election Commission U Tin Aye meets former US President Mr Jimmy Carter and wife, at his office here this noon. Also present at the call were UEC members, the commission secretary and officials of the commission office. The two sides had a wide-ranging discussion on actions for greater development of electoral process, and sharing electoral experience and technical knowledge for making 2015 general elections free and fair.

Myanmar junior golfers win prizes in international golf competitions

YANGON, 3 April—Myanmar youth golf team took part in the 12th True Visions International Junior Golf Championships 2013 held at Windsor Park Golf Club in Bangkok of Thailand from 26 to 29 March. The Myanmar youth team comprising 12 male golfers and six female golfers participated in the competitions that cover a wide range of age level. Among 248 participants from the US, England, Japan, South Korea, India, Chinese Taipei, Thailand, Singapore, Hong Kong, the Philippines, Indonesia, Guam, Malaysia, Vietnam, Germany, Finland, Ireland and Myanmar, Thin Wai Khine came in first in the consolation event (Boy Class B) and (Boy Class D) respectively.

Phu Pwint Yati Khine was awarded first prize in the Flight B event of the 23rd Thailand Ladies Amateur Open held at Bangsai Country Club from 21 to 22 March. The Myanmar youth golf team arrived back here on 30 March. — NLM
Four face manslaughter charges for Brazil nightclub fire

SAO PAULO, 3 April—Prosecutors charged four people with manslaughter on Tuesday for their roles in the 27 January nightclub fire that killed 241 people in southern Brazil, saying they overlooked grave safety irregularities.

The Kiss club’s two owners, as well as two members of a band who lit a flare that ignited a sound-proofing ceiling foam, will stand trial for manslaughter while four others face lesser charges, including for false testimony.

“They ignored what could have happened to these people for financial reasons,” prosecutor Joel Dutra said of the accused. He said the band knowingly used a cheap firework for a risky special-effects show. Police have said the crowd was over capacity and the club, in the wealthy college town of Santa Maria, should have had more exits. Most of the deaths were caused when victims inhaled toxic fumes trying to escape from the building.

Lawyers for the club owners and band members have maintained their innocence. Brazil is facing major international scrutiny over safety and security issues as it prepares to host the World Cup soccer tournament in 2014 and the Olympic Games in 2016.

Obama unveils $100 million human brain research project

WASHINGTON, 3 April—US President Barack Obama on Tuesday proposed a new research project, dubbed the Brain Initiative, aimed at gaining a better understanding of the human brain, with $100 million allocated in the budget for fiscal 2014 starting October.

The brain initiative will give “scientists the tools they need to get a dynamic picture of the brain in action and better understand how we learn and how we remember,” Obama told a Press conference at the White House.

The National Institutes of Health will be a key organizer in the research project, with private research institutions expected to participate. Obama had indicated in his State of the Union address in February that his administration would invest in a human brain research project to better deal with brain-related illnesses such as Alzheimer’s disease.

“The Brain Initiative will accelerate the development and application of new technologies that will enable researchers to produce dynamic pictures of the brain that show how individual brain cells and complex neural circuits interact at the speed of thought,” the White House said in a statement. “These technologies will open new doors to explore how the brain records, processes, uses, stores and retrieves vast quantities of information, and shed light on the complex links between brain function and behaviour,” it said.

Japan to set up top-level task force to bolster farm industry

TOKYO, 3 April—The government plans to set up a top-level task force to strengthen the agriculture sector, which is feared to suffer heavy blows when Japan joins the Trans-Pacific Partnership free trade framework, government and ruling party sources said on Tuesday.

The ministerial-level task force, to be headed by Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and launched around May, will discuss how to promote farm product exports and preserve farm land, according to the sources.

Japanese farmers fear their livelihoods will be devastated by an influx of cheap imported products once Japan joins the TPP.

As farmers have been traditional supporters of Abe’s Liberal Democratic Party, the party apparently sees a need to set up the task force before the upper house election this summer.

The task force will also discuss how to stabilize farmers’ earnings and how to train their successors.

Last month Japan announced its intent to join the TPP trade liberalization negotiations now involving 11 nations, including the United States.

The task force is expected to include farm minister Yoshimasa Hayashi, Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihiko Noda and TPP Minister Akira Amari, according to the sources.

The government has already decided to set up a need to set up a task force on TPP issues headed by Amari. The government estimates that 3 trillion yen of Japan’s current 7.1 trillion yen worth of agricultural produce would be lost if the country abandons all tariffs in joining the TPP.

On the other hand, the framework is expected to boost Japan’s industrial exports and push up its gross domestic product by 3.2 trillion yen in a decade.
Japan, Mongolia hold new round of FTA talks after Abe’s visit

ULAN BATOR, 3 April—Japan and Mongolia launched their third round of free trade negotiations on Tuesday in Ulan Bator just days after Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe visited the fast-growing nation in the hope of securing supplies of mineral resources.

During the four-day meeting, the two sides are scheduled to deal with more specific areas, such as investment rules and customs regulations, seeking the early finalization of what would be Mongolia’s first free trade agreement.

The meeting comes after Abe met with Mongolian President Tsakhiagiin Elbegdorj and Prime Minister Norov Altankhuyag on Saturday and agreed to accelerate bilateral FTA talk and strengthen cooperation on developing Mongolia’s rich mineral resources and dealing with Asia’s security affairs.

While Mongolia has remained a small trading partner for Japan, its double-digit economic growth rate and diplomatic ties with North Korea, among other factors, make it an important country for Japan. The latest trade liberalization talks follow the two countries’ first round of negotiations in June and the second round in December.

Mongolia’s export to Japan totaled 2.06 billion yen in 2012, while Japan’s export to Mongolia stood at 27.53 billion yen, according to Japan’s Finance Ministry.

Honda to resume construction of 2nd auto plant in India

NEW DELHI, 3 April—The Indian subsidiary of Honda Motor Co said on Tuesday it will resume construction of its second auto plant in India, suspended since the 2008-2009 global financial crisis.

Honda Cars India Ltd aims to complete the plant in the western Indian state of Rajasthan next year, and to boost its annual vehicle production capacity in India to 240,000 vehicles.

The new plant will produce vehicles for sale in the growing Indian market and for export to Africa and Europe.

Honda Cars India President Hisunori Kana says the company will produce diesel engine vehicles to expand Honda’s product lineup in India.

“We will meet customers’ diversifying demand.”

Honda will invest a total 25 billion rupees (about 42.7 billion yen) on the assembly plant and adjacent diesel engine and component factories.

The Honda subsidiary plans to employ 2,200 workers at the Rajasthan plant.

Malaysian PM to dissolve parliament to set stage for elections

KUALA LUMPUR, 3 April—Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak is expected to dissolve the parliament on Wednesday, setting the stage for a closely-fought election.

Najib’s staff told the press that the prime minister is expected to make an announcement that would be telecast live from his office at 11:30 am local time. The election is expected to pile pressure on Najib, who is tasked to help the ruling coalition National Front recover from its worst ever showing in the previous election. The National Front had ruled the country since independence 56 years ago.

In 2008, the National Front won 140 of the 222 seats in the parliament, which was less than two-thirds of the majority, and lost five out of 13 states to opposition People’s Alliance. Parliamentary and state elections would be held simultaneously and must be called by June, the election commission said. Failure to improve the 2008’s election result would cost Najib his job.

Australia’s trade deficit narrows in February

SYDNEY, 3 April—Australia’s trade deficit narrowed to 178 million AU dollars (186.24 million US dollars) in February, according to data released on Wednesday by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS).

The result was less than economists’ forecasts of a 1 billion AU dollar deficit.

The ABS said the balance on goods and services was a deficit of 178 million AU dollars in February, a fall of 1.037 million AU dollars on the deficit in January.

Exports of goods and services rose 3.0 percent to 25,642 million AU dollars in February while imports of goods and services fell 1.0 percent to 25,820 million AU dollars in the month.

SINGAPORE Airlines’ girls give up bright blue eyeshadow for new look

SINGAPORE, 3 April—The Singapore Girl, the flight attendant that has been featured in the advertisements of Singapore Airlines over the decades, is getting a more subtle and modern look, local daily Straits Times reported on Wednesday.

She has now given up her bright blue eyeshadow, and the colours on her face are less striking, though she is still immaculate in her body-hugging signature kebaya — a traditional blouse-dress combination that is worn by women in Southeast Asia — with her hair nicely done.

She is sticking to blue, green, and brown eye make-up, and red lipstick to complement the colours of her kebaya. But the tones and shades are more subtle than before and trendier, said Marvin Tan, the airline’s head of cabin crew.

“We took into account feedback from our customers that the previous colours seemed to be on the strong side,” the newspaper quoted Tan as saying. Alex Wong, a 53-year-old businessman, said, “I’m glad the SIA Girl is moving towards a softer look. I do think some of them are too heavily made up, especially when compared with girls from other carriers.”

Honda unveils electric sports car

The Tommy kaira ZZ, an electric sports car, is unveiled by its developer, Green Lord Motors, an electric vehicle venture firm in Kyoto, in the ancient Japanese capital on 2 April, 2013.

Honda unveils electric sports car

BMW-21 rocket launchers are fired during a live fire drill at a military exercise base in Kampong Speu Province, about 70 kilometres west of Phnom Penh, the capital of Cambodia on 2 April, 2013. Cambodia on Tuesday conducted a live fire drill in order to strengthen capacity for the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces in defending territory.

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KBZ BANK LTD. is pleased to inform all that we have successfully opened Myan Aung Branch

Myan Aung Township, Hinthada District, Ayeyarwady Region as 103rd branch to date-effective 4.4.2013

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Meat Loaf says he really is on his final tour

LONDON, 3 April—After more than 35 years of touring, American rockstar Meat Loaf is quitting the road.

Meat Loaf, whose 1977 “Bat Out Of Hell” remains one of the biggest selling albums, said his “Last At Bat” tour starting in Britain this week and heading through Europe, would be his last, after struggling with health problems in recent years.

While other ageing rockers like the Rolling Stones are returning to the lucrative tour circuit, Meat Loaf said he has had enough.

“This is really it ... I just don’t want to travel anymore,” the portly singer told Reuters TV in an interview before his tour through Britain, Germany and the Netherlands.

“I outweigh (Mick) Jagger by about 100 pounds (45 kgs) and that counts for something. He hasn’t seen the wear and tear,” Meat Loaf, whose real name is Marvin Lee Aday, cancelled a European Tour in 2007 after being diagnosed with a cyst on his vocal chords, saying he received some “vicious” reaction to this.

He then sparked further fears for his health in 2011 when he collapsed on stage. He later blamed the blackouts on past concussion injuries and his health since then has been a matter of concern.

Meat Loaf said his health was “fine” but it was important to be able to perform to his best.

“Can’t tell you about the dance but all Koreans know this dance — but (those in) other countries haven’t seen it”, Psy told local television late on Monday.

“I can tell you about the song title is ‘Gentleman’.”

The music video for “Gangnam Style”, which featured the chubby Psy doing what he has become his trademark ‘invisible horse’ dance in a succession of garments, has been moved up a day to 12 April. The song will be available for Korean fans then, but Psy will perform it in the US singer Meat Loaf performs during the German game show “Wetten Dass” (Bet it...?) in the southern German town of Friedrichshafen on 13 Dec, 2011.

Trade mark caution

CITADINES, a French “Societe Anonyme” Company at 78 rue Jean Jaurès 92532 LEVALLOIS PERRET CEDEX, FRANCE and incorporated with registration number 311 127 278 RCS Nanterre is the Owner and Sole Proprieter of the following trademarks:

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US user has no rights in respect of - Class 35: Administrative management of hotels and residential hotels; administrative management assistance of hotels and residential hotels; business management assistance in the field of hotels and residential hotels; dissemination of advertising matter (leaflets, pamphlets, printed matter, samples); business organization and management consulting in the field of hotels and residential hotels; rental of advertising space; advertising promotion services

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Class 39: Transportation of travelers; transportation of passengers; escorting of travelers; tourist agency services (excluding hotel and boarding house bookings); chauffeur services; transport of persons and goods by rail, shuttle, bus, truck, train, arrangement of excursions, travel, cruises; transportation information; reservation services for transport; boarding of seats for travel; sightseeing services, namely sightseeing tours services, tour guide services; overhead catering, sea and land transportation services, vehicle towing; rental of vehicles, boats and parking spaces; pleasure boat transport

Class 41: Entertainment performance services; providing information and consultation services in the field of tourism related to tourism industry; providing information and consultation services in the field of practical training related to tourism industry; providing information and consultation services in the field of tourism related to tourism industry; booking of seats for shows

Class 42: Restaurant services, dancing and drinking hall services, bar services, cafe services, cafeteria services, cocktail lounge services, temporary accommodation, hotel services, motel services, reservation of hotels, motels, boarding houses and temporary accommodation; rental of meeting rooms; agencies of accommodation (hotels, boarding houses), arranging and booking holiday homes and campsites

Class 44: Health and beauty care services for human beings, namely nail art services, public baths for hygiene purposes; beauty salons; hairdressing salons; pet grooming

Fraudulent imitation or unauthorized use of any of these trademarks will be dealt with according to law.

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Managing Director
Public Works

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV ASIAN LEADER VOY NO (28)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ASIAN LEADER VOY NO (28) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 4.4.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.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.

SHIPPI NG AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: NYK LINE

Phone No: 256924/256914

Thursday, 4 April, 2013

New Light of Myanmar

13

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Sydney, 3 April—Former England striker Emile Heskey has signed up for another year at Australian club Newcastle Jets after scoring nine goals in 23 appearances in his debut A-League campaign. The Jets, who are owned by financially troubled mining mogul Nathan Tinkler, failed to reach the playoffs this year after finishing eighth in the league.

I’m pleased to be extending my stay in Newcastle for another year,” Heskey said in a statement on Wednesday. “Everyone has made me feel very welcome here and I’ve really enjoyed my first season playing for the Jets. “I’m looking forward to getting a full pre-season under my belt and helping the team push for a finals place next season.”

The 35-year-old former Leicester City, Liverpool, Birmingham City and Wigan Athletic player won 62 caps for his country, scoring seven goals and playing at two World Cups, but moved to Australia after being released by Premier League Aston Villa last year.

Along with former Juventus and Italy forward Alessandro Del Piero and Japanese standout Shinji Ono, Heskey had helped considerably boost the A-League’s international profile—Reuters

Matsuyama to debut as pro at Nagoya this month

Top Japanese amateur Hideki Matsuyama will make his professional debut at this month’s Token Homemate Cup, the 21-year-old golfer said on Tuesday. “I had many top-10 finishes last year in professional competitions, and this gave me the confidence that I can make it,” the 2010 and 2011 Asian amateur champion said in a statement.

“I want to become a player who can win around the world,” added the golfer, whose 2011 Taiteiyo Masters triumph made him only the third amateur to win on the Japan Golf Tour. The 130,000,000 yen ($919,196.21) Token Homemate Cup gets underway at Nagoya’s Token Tado Country Club on 18 April. Currently ranked fourth among the amateurs, Matsuyama finished tied 27th in the low amateur title at the 2011 US Masters tournament and followed that up with a tied 54th finish 12 months later.

He will compete at the British Open at Muirfield in July after he came through the international qualifier in Asia last month.—Reuters

Bayern hurt Juventus on Buffon off night

Munich, 3 April—Bayern Munich tore Juventus apart on a rare off night for Andrea Pirlo and Gianluigi Buffon but had to settle for a 2-0 win after missing a hatful of chances in Tuesday’s Champions League quarter-final first leg.

“Il’ll tell you after the second leg. “It’s a tough result. Bayern proved they are a really strong team, one of the favourites,” he added.

Juventus had won their last five games in the competition without conceding a goal but that record quickly fell.—Reuters

Amateur Hideki Matsuyama of Japan hits his tee shot on the third hole during final round play in the 2012 Masters Golf Tournament at the Augusta National Golf Club in Augusta, Georgia, on 8 April, 2012. Reuters

Mourinho defends decision to leave Casillas out again

Real Madrid coach Jose Mourinho walks on the pitch during a training session at the club’s training grounds in Madrid on 2 April, 2013. Reuters

Real Madrid coach Jose Mourinho has defended his decision to leave 2010 World Cup-winning captain Iker Casillas out of his squad again for Wednesday’s Champions League quarter-final first leg with Galatasaray.

The Spain goalkeeper is fit to train after recovering from a broken finger but will not feature against the Turkish team, having also been omitted for Saturday’s 1-1 draw at Real Zaragoza in La Liga.

Mourinho, who according to media reports has a strained relationship with Casillas, named three goalkeepers for the first leg — Diego Lopez, bought in January as cover and, youth team products Antonio Adan and Jesus. “(Casillas) is training well. He needs to carry on doing so and wait his opportunity,” the Portuguese told a news conference at the Bernabeu on Tuesday.

However, Conte was not writing his side off despite a comprehensive defeat which cost them their three-year, 18-match unbeaten run in European competition.

“We still have the second leg and in football, you play until the end before drawing conclusions,” he told a news conference.

Matsuyama of Japan hits his tee shot on the third hole during final round play in the 2012 Masters Golf Tournament at the Augusta National Golf Club in Augusta, Georgia, on 8 April, 2012. Reuters

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Argentina World Cup winners the late Fernando Redondo said beforehand it was a chance to see how much they lagged behind the likes of Bayern.

The answer appeared to be an awful lot as the runaway Bundesliga leaders ripped into a ragged, disorientated Juve in a match so one-sided it at times resembled their 7-0 win over FC Basel last season.

“Everyone has made me feel very welcome here and I’ve really enjoyed my first season playing for the Jets. “I’m looking forward to getting a full pre-season under my belt and helping the team push for a finals place next season.”

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China Navy kicks off visit to Algeria

Algiers, 3 April—The 13th Escort Taskforce of the Chinese Navy arrived on Tuesday in Algiers, capital of Algeria, beginning a four-day visit to the country.

The visit by the escort taskforce, composed of two frigates and one supply ship, is the first of its kind made to the nation by a Chinese naval fleet, said Li Xiaoyan, commander of the escort taskforce.

During the visit, Rear Admiral Li will meet with Commander of the Algerian Navy Malek Necib and other Algerian navy officers, and introduce the Chinese Navy’s anti-piracy operations in the Gulf of Aden and the waters off Somalia.

The Algerian military will organize a delegation to visit the Chinese fleet. Some cultural and sport activities, including a basketball game and a deck reception, are planned to be held during the visit.

The 13th Escort Taskforce has undertaken China’s convoy tasks for a four-month period in the Gulf of Aden and waters off Somalia before it departed the region on 18 March for nation-visiting tasks.

Algeria is the second leg of the fleet’s nation-visiting agenda. The fleet visited Malta on 26-30 March, and will later visit Morocco, Portugal and France.

Chinese warships have undertaken anti-piracy operations off the coast of Somalia since December 2008. To date, the Chinese Navy has succeeded in escorting more than 5,000 merchant ships.

UNICEF hails adoption of Arms Trade Treaty

New evidence frees US man 42 years after deadly hotel fire

Tucson, 3 April—An Arizona man was set free on Tuesday after serving four decades for murder in connection with a 1970 hotel fire that killed 29 people, after new evidence emerged throwing his conviction into question.

“It’s good to feel Mother Earth under my feet again,” Louis Taylor, 58, told reporters seconds after leaving the prison grounds in a car with members of his legal defence team.

Taylor was freed after a Pima County Superior Court judge agreed there was sufficient evidence to grant a new trial.

During the same hearing, Taylor pleaded “no contest” to each of 28 counts of murder and accepted a plea agreement in which he would not admit guilt.

He was immediately sentenced to time served and agreed to seek no compensation for his time behind bars. He will not be required to pay restitution.

Paul D’Hedouville II, whose father, Paul D’Hedouville, died in the fire, read a statement to the court. He listed a few life moments his father — a 31-year-old attorney in 1970 — missed over the years.

There were Christmases, anniversaries and weddings, soccer games, trips to the beach and camping trips, D’Hedouville said, at times choking back tears.

“He was never able to go to Ireland to meet my future bride,” he said.

D’Hedouville, who flew in from Washington, DC for the hearing, harbours no ill will toward Taylor and observed that the man convicted of his father’s murder can now do as he wants.—Reuters

Messi and Mascherano add to Barca injury woes

Barcelona's Lionel Messi celebrates after scoring goal against Paris St Germain during their Champions League quarter-final first leg soccer match at the Parc des Princes Stadium in Paris, on 2 April, 2013. Reuters

Paris, 3 April—Barcelona forward Lionel Messi injured his hamstring and defender Javier Mascherano sustained a more serious knee problem in Tuesday’s 2-2 Champions League quarter-final first leg draw at Paris St Germain.

World Player of the Year Messi limped off at halftime and was replaced by Cesc Fabregas.

“Messi sustained an injury to his right hamstring,” Barca said on their Twitter feed. “He will undergo further tests on Wednesday to determine the extent.”

Argentine compatriot Mascherano left the pitch on a stretcher later in the game.

“Mascherano has a tear on the internal lateral ligament of his right knee,” the club added. “The approximate time out will be six weeks.”

Messi’s injury deprived Barca of their most influential player and after he had given them the lead in the first half, PSG twice came back to level.

“We will try not to be influenced by the loss of these big players but I’m sure those on the pitch will do their best,” said assistant coach Jordi Roura.

With Mascherano out it is obvious (Gerard) Pique will now have a huge role in defence,” he added, referring to Barca’s only fit centre back.

Coach Tito Vilanova is already missing injured captain Carles Puyol and Adriano Correia while the versatile Eric Abidal has just returned after a year out since his liver transplant and has yet to play a competitive match.

Vilanova may be forced to turn to the youth team or perhaps convert midfielders Sergio Busquets or Alex Song into central defenders for the second leg at the Nou Camp on 10 April.—Reuters

Swine flu expected to wane in Georgia

Tbilisi, 3 April—New swine flu infections are expected to decrease in the coming weeks as the flu season has already passed in Georgia, a health official said on Tuesday.

So far, the South Caucasus country has registered 28 fatal cases caused by the (A)H1N1 virus, commonly referred to as swine flu, and 233 cases of infection in total, according to the Georgian national centre for disease control.

The centre’s chief, Paata Imnadze, said swine flu infections are expected to reduce as the flu season has already passed in the country.

The first case of (A)H1N1 infection in Georgia was registered in 2009. During the flu season between 2010 and 2011, the virus claimed 33 lives and infected 1,800 people in the country.—Xinhua

Residents take a closer look at a two-seater Cesna 125 plane that crashed in the middle of a rice field in Bulacan Province, the Philippines, on 2 April, 2013. The student pilot and his instructor were injured in the crash and were immediately rushed to a nearby hospital.—Xinhua

A working staff dressed up like a spider-man interacts with audience in the opening ceremony of the Canton Tower Spider Walk in Guangzhou, capital of south China’s Guangdong Province, on 2 April, 2013. The 1,000-metre-long Spider Walk locates at the 168-metre to 334.4-metre height of Canton Tower, with a transparent floor made up of 90 pieces of glasses.—Xinhua
**Coordination meeting for implementation of Visa Policy in Myanmar held**

**Nay Pyi Taw, 3 April—**

“Smooth issuance of visa to foreigners is crucial as Myanmar will take ASEAN Chairmanship in 2014,” said Vice-President U Nyan Tun at a coordination meeting for implementation of Visa Policy in Myanmar, at the Ministry of Immigration and Population, here, this afternoon.

The Union Government has designated Ministry of Immigration and Population as focal ministry. Myanmar issues six kinds of visa to foreigners. Visa on Arrival has been granted for citizens from 50 countries till now. The Vice-President called for a change in visa system for foreign technicians and tourists that can help improve economic performance of the country.

He invited recommendations from various aspects of those present. Union Minister U Khin Yi then explained plans for adoption of visa policy, followed by colourful suggestions of those present. Then the meeting came to an end with concluding remarks of the Vice-President. The coordination meeting was also attended by Union Ministers Lt-Gen Ko Ko, U Wunna Maung Lwin and U Tin Naing Thein and officials.

**Republic of the Union of Myanmar**

**Committee for implementation of report of investigation commission on Letpadaungtaung copper mine project**

**Press Release No. 1/2013**

8th Waning of Tabuung, 1374 ME

(3 April, 2013)

1. The committee for implementation of report of investigation commission on Letpadaungtaung copper mine project is following “ways to continue the project by fixing flaws in the findings and laying down plans to fully serve the national interest, the interest of local people and the interests of the future generation”.

2. As the committee is undertaking various tasks simultaneously, here is the progress of its undertakings till 3-4-2013.

3. Land survey squads of a scrutiny team formed to vet whether the project confiscated farmlands more than necessary could make the following conclusion:

   - Originally confiscated land 7867.78 acres
   - Least area of land to implement the project 6965.54 acres
   - Area of land that could be withdrawn from the project 902.24 acres

4. In granting compensation to local people whose farmlands were confiscated, 570 farmers have received the compensation of K 17856.75 million for 1753.71 acres of land as suggested in the final report of the investigation commission. The granting of compensation will continue.

5. We have received 177 complaints over hierarchy of lands and types of lands from local farmers. The committee formed land dispute scrutiny team which has settled 33 cases while others are being handled.

6. The committee is dealing with environmental conservation, development of relocated villages, employment, and regional development. The committee will continue to act on suggestions of the investigation committee and will issue press release occasionally.

**Committee for implementation of report of investigation commission on Letpadaungtaung copper mine project**

3 April, 2013

**Singaporean delegation arrives in Yangon**

**Yangon, 3 April—**

A goodwill delegation led by Singaporean President Mr Tony Tan Keng Yam and wife Mrs Mary Tan arrived here by special flight from Mandalay this morning.

They were welcomed at the Yangon International Airport by Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe and wife Daw Khin Thet Huy, Region Development Affairs Minister Yangon Mayor U Hla Myint and wife and officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Embassy of Singapore.

Next, the Singaporean President and party laid a wreath at the Martyr’s Mausoleum.