President U Thein Sein sends messages of sympathy to Chinese President, Premier

NAY PYI TAW, 23 April—U Thein Sein, President of Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent messages of sympathy to His Excellency Mr. Xin Jinping, President of the People’s Republic of China and His Excellency Mr. Li Keqiang, Premier of the State Council of the People’s Republic of China for the great loss of life and property caused by the earthquake in Sichuan Province of the People’s Republic of China.—MNA

Myanmar, Indonesia vow to increase trade volume

The Myanmar President and former Brazilian President Mr Luiz Lula have won the peace prizes. (See page 8)

President U Thein Sein holds discussion with Indonesian President Dr Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono and party.—MNA

There can be no democracy without peace and no peace without democracy

President U Thein Sein’s ICG Chairman’s Award Acceptance Speech

Yangon, 23 April—A video speech of President U Thein Sein was presented at the ICG Chairman’s Award acceptance ceremony.

The full text of the speech is as follows:-

Excellences, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen:

I receive this honor with gratitude and humility at a time when citizens of Myanmar are engaged in an adventure to build a more democratic, open and inclusive society. Before I continue, I wish to thank the International Crisis Group, Madam Louise Arbour, and Members of the Board of Trustees for honoring me with the Chairman’s Award. I also wish to thank Mr. George Soros for his kind words and congratulate my fellow honoree, his Excellency Mr. Lula.

I do not believe that I received this award as a person, but as a representative of a movement to transform a society. As you all may know already, we are undertaking a series of reforms aimed at political liberalization, peace building and economic development. I have been fortunate to participate in these reforms in my capacity as the President and witness change first hand. At the same time, I am mindful that we have friends in the international community who will keep us diligent and honest, but pick us up if we stumble.

But, I am also heartened to know that we have friends in the international community who will keep us diligent and honest, but pick us up if we stumble.

There can be no democracy without peace and no peace without democracy. I wish to extend an invitation to all of you to visit Myanmar. There is a sense of renewed hope now that we are on a democratic path. But, democracy is more than an idea. We must not just talk about democracy, but build its institutions and construct its new culture—a culture where we can give meaning to such values as equality, social justice, and tolerance. We must be mindful that the practice of democratic freedoms that we hold dear must not infringe on the civil liberties of others.

This is a time for possibilities. What seemed impossible before is now possible, but we must turn what is possible now into something enduring. We must chart a collective path towards something better—a society that is open, inclusive, tolerant, and respectful of individual dignity. I am mindful of the challenges. But, I am also heartened to know that we have friends in the international community who will keep us diligent and honest, but pick us up if we stumble. I sincerely hope that you will join us on this journey. Again, I thank you.
Cash and kind donated to victims in Meiktila

MEIKHTILA, 23 April—Wellwishers continuously donate cash and kind for victims of Meiktila up to now.

On 19 April, Phayagyi Monastery (Mandalay) donated two bags of assorted snacks, 200 dishes, 15 bags of rice, one bale of clothes, 100 bars of soap, one bag of salt, one bag of dried tea, Islam religious organization from Mandalay 150 bags of rice, 450 viss of beef, 800 viss of onion, 150 viss of garlic, ginger and chilli powder, 10 viss of turmeric, 2640 bottles of canned fish, 300 viss of tomatoes and Pact Myanmar 6776 viss of potato and 6776 viss of onion to the communication staff quarter. The donations up to 19 April amounted to K 479,466,900.

Transfomer fires waste over K 23.5 million in Dagon Township

YANGON, 23 April—Due to rainwater that flowed into underground cables, electric stock caused outbreak of fire at transformers in Dagon Township at 7 pm on 18 April.

According to the information given by dutiful fire engines and management vehicles from Kyauktada Township Fire Station arrived at the scene and put out the fire at 7.35 pm.

The fire started from the electric stock at the Dagon Township at 6.6 KV underground cable at the officer quarter of Public Works at the corner of Zizawa Street and Samon Street.

The fire engulfed the 6.6 KV power line of Township Electricity Supply Board at the corner of U Wisara Road and Ziwaka Road in Pyay (East) Ward of Dagon Township, 6.6 KV transformer of Yangon City Electricity Supply Board in the compound of Lower Myanmar Medical Research Department at No 5 on Ziwaka Road in Phayagyi Ward of Dagon Township, and 6.6 KV transformer of YESB at Nawtar Sub-Power Station on U Wisara Road in Dagon Township.

The loss in the fire amounted to over K 27.5 million.

Due to untimely rains in some townships of Yangon Region, there were electric shocks at power lines from the lamp-posts and housings.

People from Pyapon enjoy better transportation

PYAPON, 23 April—As transport of Pyapon, Bogale, Dedaye and Kyaiiktat townships of Pyapon District improves, the local people have easy access to Yangon and major cities through bus lines.

The daily newspapers reported that Shwe Ayeya express bus line plies the route from Pyapon to Dalla as of 24 March morning. The passengers enjoy cheap bus fares in better transport.

That is why the local people in Kyaiiktat, Bogale and Dedaye townships of Pyapon District wish to enjoy better transportation like that of Pyapon.

Tarmacking of Chaungphya-Kyondoe road commences in Kyondoe

KYONDOE, 23 April—Chaungphya-Kyondoe laterite road leading to Chaungphya Village in Kyondoe of Kawtareik District had poor transport in rainy season yearly.

As of 1 April, Chaungphya-Kyondoe laterite road in Chaungphya Village was tarmacked under the permission of Township Administrator U Hsan Oo. With the auspices of Chaungphya Sayadaw Bhaddanta U Phañãvamsa, Pyithu Hluttaw representative U Thurein Zaw donated K 1.7 million to the fund of the construction.

The local people participated in construction of asphalt road which is 13 feet wide and 2890 feet long.

The construction works are under supervision of Executive Officer U Kyaw Kyaw Oo of Township Development Affairs Committee and Engineer U Hla Myint.

Plan to implement second OPV immunization programme in Rakhine State

YANGON, 23 April—Mobile free health care services of White Heart Group of Mawlamyineyung Township was held at the Dhanmayon of Ale Monastery in Katingyoungyi Village of the township on 19 April morning.

Dr Pyae Sone Khant, Dr Aye Paing Thant and skilled pharmacologists gave free health care services to 140 people from five villages, UTmH-Thaung Daw Khin Htar Kyi of Township Health Department donated K 50,000 to the group through Chairman U Khin Maung Zin.

In addition, the 30th respect paying ceremony to 60 older persons of above 75 years was held at the same venue.

White Heart Group provides free health care services in Mawgyun

MAWLAMYINEYUNG, 23 April—Mobile free health care services of White Heart Group of Mawlamyineyung Township was held at the Dhanmayon of Ale Monastery in Katingyoungyi Village of the township on 19 April morning.

A Sonny super saloon taxi driven by U Thaung Win Htet running from 8th-Mile junction to Sawbawmyagon fuel station plunged into drain due to out of control at 6 am on 19 April.
IAEA calls for efforts in radioactive water management at Fukushima

Tokyo, 23 April—A team of experts from the International Atomic Energy Agency on Monday called on Japan to make efforts to enhance its management over the radioactive water accumulating at the crippled Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant, calling it “the most challenging issue” in the short term. “Measures should continue to improve management issues regarding radiation exposure and the site, particularly issues created by the storage of accumulated water,” the IAEA said in a summary of its draft report released the same day following its week-long mission in Japan. The 13-member team is the first IAEA mission to Japan to review the country’s efforts to decommission the reactors that were severely damaged during the Fukushima Daiichi complex disaster, triggered by a huge earthquake and tsunami in March 2011. The mission took place shortly after the plant’s fragile state was highlighted through a series of mishaps including leaks of radioactive water and electricity supply disruptions that affected key cooling systems of spent fuel pools. Team leader Juan Carlos Lentijo, Director of the IAEA Division of Nuclear Fuel Cycle and Waste Technology, said Tokyo Electric Power Co, the plant operator, has achieved the stable cooling of the crippled reactors and spent fuel pools, but the temporary systems installed at the complex in the face of the crisis need to be permanent ones to improve its stability. He also said at a Press conference in Tokyo that the team has called for the need to “design a new comprehensive strategy for the appropriate management” of the contaminated water accumulating at the plant.

The strategy should include the introduction of more reliable technological systems and an assessment of the doses to the public arising from the contaminated water in the tanks, he added. The draft report itself was not made public. The IAEA team plans to deliver a final report on the mission to Japan within one month. Japan hopes to reflect the advice given by the IAEA when it updates its medium- and long-term roadmap toward the decommissioning of the Nos. 1 to 4 reactors at the plant. The whole process is expected to take around 30 or 40 years.

The building housing the No 4 unit was subjected to a hydrogen explosion at the time of the accident. The IAEA team said Japan has “logical and rational plans” for the most complex task of removing the melted fuel from the Nos. 1 to 3 reactors, which experienced meltdowns.

In China, top military officer defends US pivot to Asia

BEIJING, 23 April—The United States’ top military officer on Monday defended the re-orientation of its foreign policy toward Asia in front of his Chinese counterpart, a week after Beijing criticized Washington for ramping up its military presence in the region.

China is uneasy with what the United States has called the “rebalancing” of forces as Washington winds down the war in Afghanistan and redraws its attention further east. China says the policy has emboldened Japan, the Philippines and Vietnam in longstanding territorial disputes with Beijing.

US Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Martin Dempsey said the United States “has been and will continue to be a Pacific power. “We seek to be a stabilizing influence in the region,” Dempsey said at a news conference at China’s Ministry of National Defence on Monday. “In fact, we believe it would be our absence that would be destabilizing in the region, not our presence.”

Dempsey was speaking at a joint Press conference with Chinese Chief of the General Staff of the Chinese People’s Liberation Army Fang Fenghui (not pictured) at the Bayi Building in Beijing on 22 April, 2013.—REUTERS

Taliban militants capture nine people from downed chopper

PUL-E-ALAM, (Afghanistan), 23 April—Taliban militants captured nine people from a downed helicopter in Azra district of Logar Province over night, local official Hamidullah Hamid said on Monday. “A civil-ian helicopter went down in Durai Manga area of Azra District overnight and Taliban militants captured all nine aboard,” Hamid told Xinhua.

Eight of the hostages are Turkish nationals and one is Afghan, Hamid said, adding that the Turkish nationals are construction engineers and were coming from Khost to Kabul. According to the Hamid, the efforts are under-way to rescue the abductees. Taliban militants fighting the government have yet to make comment.

Meantime, the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) confirmed the incident, saying there were no enemy ac-tivities in the area. “We can confirm that a civilian heli-copter was downed in east-ern Afghanistan,” Xinhua

European Union lifts sanctions against Myanmar

BRUSSELS, 23 April—The European Union decided at a meeting of foreign ministers on Monday to lift all sanctions against Myanmar, with the exception of arms embargo, to recognize changes toward democratization in Myanmar.

The decision will pave the way for Myanmar and the EU to strengthen economic relations as it removes the asset freeze and travel embargo to the EU against government officials and measures ban trading and investment in forestry, industrial and other sectors.

The EU Council said in a statement, “In re-sponse to the changes that have taken place and in the expectation that they will continue, the Council has decided to lift all sanctions with the exception of the embargo on arms which will remain in place.”

In January, it set up an office in Yangon, the largest city in Myanmar, to step up relations.—KYODO NEWS

Boston Marathon case prosecutor known for aggressive record

BOSTON/NEW YORK, 23 April—As the top federal law enforcer in Massachu-setts, US Attorney Carmen Ortiz has taken heat for being tough to a fault and coming down too hard on some defendants. But as she builds a possible death penalty case against suspected Boston Marathon bomber Dzhokhar Tsaemae, 19, the unrelenting approach that earned her opponents in the past could become a legal asset for the biggest case of her career, said attorneys who have faced off against her.

“The criticism lately has been that they’ve overcharged some people and that’s been overly harsh,” said Peter Elikann, a Boston defense attorney. “I don’t think it’s relevant for Tsaemae because no one is going to accuse any prosecutor of making too big a deal out of this case.”

Tsarnaev and his brother, Tamerlan, 26, are suspected of setting off bombs at the crowded finish line of the marathon on Monday, killing three people and injur-ing more than 170. Tsaemae was arrested late on Friday after a manhunt that shut down parts of Boston. He is hospitalized and in critical condition.

His older brother died after a shootout with po-lice. Ortiz’s office, which is leading the investigation, has not given a firm time-table for charges. Ortiz, 57, did not respond to questions sent via a spokeswoman.

Massachusetts Attorney General Martha Coakley told CNN on Sunday it was likely “most if not all the charges will be federal.” Tsaemae could face murder and other state charges.—REUTERS

Afghan, Pakistan, US meet to talk in Brussels

BRUSSELS, 23 April—Afghan President Hamid Karzai will travel to Brus-sels on Tuesday to meet US Secretary of State John Kerry and senior Pa-kistani officials to discuss the flagging Afghan peace process, an Afghan presidential spokesman said on Monday. The meeting had been arranged by Kerry in order to repair relations between Pakistan and Afghanistan, following weeks of tension related to border disputes and the peace process, Karzai’s chief spokesman, Aimal Faizi, said in Kabul.—REUTERS

Kyodo News
Slowdown in Apple orders weighs on LG Display’s first-quarter profit

Apple Inc, which analysts say provides about 30 percent of LG Display’s revenue, is facing intensifying competition from Samsung and up-and-coming rivals. A disquieting forecast by a US supplier to Apple last week heightened fears about slowing demand for the iPhone and iPad, pushing shares of Asian suppliers including LG Display sharply lower.

LG Display, which vies with Samsung Electronics Co Ltd’s panel unit for the top position in LCD flat screens globally, made 151 billion won ($135 million) in operating profit in its first quarter. That compared with the average forecast of a 147 billion won profit in a Thomson Reuters poll of analysts.

It was the South Korean company’s fourth straight quarterly profit after seven straight quarters of losses, as makers of liquid crystal display panels have since curtailed output after about two years of oversupply.

Nokia to launch new phone with physical keyboard on 24 April

Nokia to raise the bar for its Asha handsets with more features at a competitive price.

The Asha feature phone range is part of a phone’s screen as it launches from Pad-0A of the Mid-Atlantic Regional Spaceport Flight Facility on Wallops Island, Virginia.

“Beautiful view,” said NASA launch commentator Kyle Herring as live video from the rocket, broadcast on NASA TV, showed the booster riding atop a bright plume of fire above the Atlantic Ocean.

Ten minutes later, the rocket deposited its payload — a 3,830-pound (3,800-kilogram) dummy capsule — into an orbit 158 miles above the planet, fulfilling the primary goal of the test flight.

Orbital Sciences and privately owned Space Exploration Technologies, or SpaceX, hold NASA contracts worth a combined $3.5 billion to fly cargo to the space station, a $100 billion research output that flies about 250 miles above Earth.

Nokia has teased an image of something new, followed by its Asha feature phone range.

At the recent gathering of outer-space experts in Herzliya, one clear message echoed repeatedly: Israel may be a tiny nation, but it has a lot to offer the space community.

At the eighth annual Enterprise & Applications event in San Diego, California on 11 Oct, 2011.—

The images had featured in a record 14 international science, environment and space educational centers, including NASA and the Ministry of Science and Technology.

The conference, co-sponsored by the Fisher Institute for Air & Space Strategic Studies, focused on conquering new frontiers in space, collaboration projects, and the latest developments in the field.

Israel may be one of the anchors of cooperation between Israel and the US, with several other countries. The ministry said in a statement.

In space research, collaboration is the name of the game. And with heads of all the major players at the event, more than one handshake for proposed joint projects came about.

The conference, NASA and the Ministry of Science and Technology representatives announced that the search has begun for the next Israeli astronaut.

“Politically possible that an Israeli trained by NASA could be sent to work at the International Space Station in a few years,” the ministry said in a statement.

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**BUSINESS & HEALTH**

**Gold traders pick bargains fearing price rise**

NEW YORK, 23 April—As the clock ticks down to the start of a US healthcare overhaul, companies from device makers to hospital chains have been surprised to see Americans make even fewer trips to the doctor’s office.

Use of non-emergency medical services has been weak for several years in the wake of a deep recession, high joblessness and the steadily rising cost of care.

Those trends now may be exacerbated in the months before President Barack Obama’s healthcare law takes full effect in 2014, analysts said. Part of the reason is that employers are shifting more of the insurance benefits they offer to so-called high-deductible plans, requiring employees to pay more for their medical care upfront, to buffer new costs they face under “Obamacare.”

This is all starting to show in some weak and disappointing earnings reports for the first quarter.

“It’s still early in the reporting season, but so far it all points to softness. In the US volumes at hospitals, in-patient and outpatient are soft,” said David Heupel, senior healthcare analyst at Thrivent Investment Management.

In the past week, medical testing companies, such as Quest Diagnostics, medical device makers Johnson & Johnson and Abbott Laboratories, have reported surgical hospital operators, such as HCA Holdings Inc, and even diaper maker Kimberly-Clark, which has a surgical supply unit, have cited a slowdown in use of medical services.

Kimberly-Clark executives on Friday noted that other companies have reported surgical
demands down about 4 percent in the first quarter. Earlier this week, K&J reported a 10.5 percent decline in its US surgical sales, and Chief Financial Officer Dominic Caruso said a modest upswing in medical device orders in the fourth quarter did not persist into 2013.—Reuters

**World stocks gain, dollar up against yen after**

LONDON, 23 April—The dollar strengthened towards 100 per yon on Monday and shares rose after the G20 accepted Japan’s bold stimulus policies, helping to counter the gloom over the global growth outlook.

In a communique after a two-day meeting, the G20 said it would be “mindful” of possible side effects from extended periods of monetary stimulus, without committing to a complete exit from the stimulus programs.

* The actively traded gold for June delivery on the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX) was 266 rupees higher at 26,312 rupees per 10 grams at 2:39 pm, after hitting a low of 25,270 rupees, a level last seen in September 2011.

* The rupee, which weakened on Monday, plays an important role in determining the landed cost of the dollar-quoted yellow metal.

* Gold in the overseas market jumped more than 2 percent after a rebound above $1,400, igniting technical buying, but sentiment was shaky as steady outflows from exchange-traded funds trimmed their bullion holdings to the lowest in three years.

* May silver on the MCX was 215 rupees higher at 18,200 rupees per 30 grams.

* “There are a lot of deals as people are comfortable at these levels... All are saying prices may go up any time,” said a dealer with a state-run bullion importing bank.

* However, the federal government has been trying to keep a lid on bulging imports to counter the record high current account deficit.

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The move signals a country that was fulfilling its obligations...,” said Marshall Gittler, head of global FX strategy at Citizens Bank. “The real issue of deflation in Japan has to be tackled before we can have a genuine global recovery,” said James Bevan, chief investment officer at CCLA Investment Management.

The G20’s move has also removed any remaining obstacle to further yen weakness, setting up a test of the symbolic 100 yen to the dollar level.

A 787 Dreamliner jet painted in All Nippon Airways (ANA) plans about 100 to 200 round trip test flights in May of its repaired aircraft before carrying passengers again from June, sources knowledgeable about ANA’s operations told Reuters last week. The flights will check the safety of the aircraft, and allow ANA’s 180 Dreamliner pilots to get accustomed to flying it again and renew their licenses after more than a three-month break. ANA has not said how much the 787’s grounding has cost it to date, though it has said it lost about $900,000 in revenue per plane in the last two weeks of January. The grounding has cost Boeing an estimated $600 million. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) in the US on Friday approved a Boeing plan to encase the 787’s lithium ion batteries in steel box, install new battery chargers, and add a duct to vent gases directly outside the aircraft that could cause overheating. Investigators in the United States and Japan have yet to unravel what caused a 787 battery onboard an ANA jet to ignite in Japan and one on another JAL Dreamliner parked at Boston’s Logan Airport to overheat.—Reuters

**Euro zone consumer confidence rises in April**

BRUSSELS, 23 April—Consumer morale in the euro zone improved in April, the European Commission said on Monday, but remained well below the currency area’s long-term average.

The Commission said consumer confidence in the 17-member euro zone rose to -22.3 this month from a March figure of -23.5.

The reading beat expectations polled by Reuters, who had expected a deterioration to -23.85.

Consumer spending accounts for more than half of euro zone economic output, but with the effects of the debt crisis cutting disposable income, households have been in no position to contribute much to economic recovery.

In the wider 27-member European Union, consumer sentiment also improved in April, to -20.4, compared to -21.6 last month.—Reuters
Hollande wins acclaims on security amid economic challenges

PARIS, 23 April — Under pressure to effectively fix the French economy, President Francois Hollande recently won some acclamations on the security front. During a sudden visit to Charles de Gaulle Airport on Thursday morning, Hollande promised to French voters the highest vigilance against terrorist threats, stressing that citizens and public interests are safe thanks to reinforced safety measures.

"There are threats that are particularly targeting France... (However), everything was in place so that the safety of French is guaranteed, and it is, assured the president. A day after, the Socialist top official confirmed the release of seven French hostages, including four children after two months of captivity by an Islamist cell in Cameroon. Expressing firmness and determination, Hollande said, "This is an immense relief. This will redouble our determination to free the hostages who remain in the Sahel region."

The French President got to Paris’ Orly Airport on Saturday morning to welcome the freed French family. Their return is no doubt good news for Hollande amid all the economic hardships. "For the moment, the hostages’ release could be considered as a political success of Hollande in this context of disastrous news," said Thierry Arnaud, head of political division at BFMTV news channel. —Xinhua

Global partnership to fight malaria seeks annual $3 billion in aid

TOKYO, 23 April— Representatives of a global partnership to fight malaria called for more financial aid on Monday to control the infectious disease, saying their activities need an additional $3 billion a year.

Princess Astrid of Belgium, who serves as special representative to the Roll Back Malaria Partnership, said at a Press conference in Tokyo ahead of World Malaria Day on Thursday that some mosquitoes in Asia have become resistant to insecticide. Fatoumata Nafo-Traore, executive director of the initiative launched in 1998 by the World Health Organization, the UN Children’s Fund and other entities, also said the mosquito-transmitted disease claims the lives of 660,000 people every year globally, most of whom are children in Africa.

The partnership has been implementing coordinated action against malaria, including the promotion of mosquito nets to protect against the disease. Special nets developed by Sumimoto Chemical Co. have been widely used in Africa as the product has a long-lasting effect. Insecticide incorporated into polyethylene fibers of the nets continues to seep out from the fabric even after repeated washing. —Kyodo News

Delays hit major airports as control tower furloughs kick in

NEW YORK, 23 April — Travellers waited more than an hour for flights in New York and experienced delays at other US airports on Sunday evening as furloughs of air traffic controllers began, reducing the ability of busy hubs to handle arrivals and departures, the Federal Aviation Administration said.

The furloughs that started on Sunday reduced staffing by 10 percent across the country. Last week the FAA warned of delays up to 3-1/2 hours at some airports as the agency cuts spending to meet reductions required under federal budget cuts.

New York’s LaGuardia and John F Kennedy Airports reported delays of more than an hour, and Philadelphia International Airport also reported delays due to furloughs, the FAA said. Los Angeles International reported nearly 28-minute delays, though the FAA could not confirm whether those were related to the staff cuts. Delays of up to 58 minutes in San Francisco and 29 minutes in Orlando, Florida, were due to construction and weather, the FAA said.

"Relatively good weather throughout the country and light traffic helped minimize air traffic delays," FAA spokeswoman Laura Brown said.

The delays come as the FAA furloughs its 74,000 employees, including nearly 13,000 air traffic controllers who manage the nation’s airspace. —Reuters

Russia partially lifts ban on food imports from eastern Japan

TOKYO, 23 April— Russia on Monday partially lifted a ban on food imports from eastern Japan that was imposed just after the March 2011 Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant accident, the Japanese government said.

An import ban will remain on processed and unprocessed seafood products from eight eastern Japan Prefectures — Aomori, Iwate, Miyagi, Yamagata, Fukushima, Ibaraki, Chiba and Niigata. Seafood imports from other prefectures will still be subjected to tests for radioactive contamination. For food imports other than seafood products from Tokyo, Fukushima, Ibaraki, Tochigi, Gunma and Chiba prefectures, Russia replaced a ban with a requirement for government-issued certificates of tests for radiation. Imports from other prefectures will also remain subject to tests. —Kyodo News

Hosting US defence chief, Israel hints at patience on Iran

TEL AVIV, 23 April — Israel suggested on Monday it would be patient before taking any military action against Iran’s nuclear programme, saying during a visit by US Defence Secretary Chuck Hagel there was still time for other options. With Iran’s Presidential election approaching in June there has been a pause in hawkish rhetoric by Israel, which has long hinted at possible air strikes to deny its arch-foe any means to make an atomic bomb, while efforts by six world powers to find a negotiated solution with Tehran have proved fruitless so far.

"We believe that the military option, which is well discussed, should be the last resort," Israeli Defence Minister Moshe Yaalon told reporters at a news conference with Hagel. "And there are other tools to be used and to be exhaust-ed: Yaalon said, listing diplomacy, economic sanctions and “moral support” for domestic opponents of Iran’s hardline Islamist leadership. Iran has denied seeking nuclear weapons capability, saying it is enriching uranium only for civilian purposes while calling for the elimination of the Jewish state.

Israel is widely believed to have the Middle East’s only nuclear arsenal. US President Barack Obama has in the past clashed with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu over how urgent the need may be to consider military action against Iran. Washington has suggested more time should be given for concerted diplomacy combined with sanctions pressure to produce a peaceful solution. — Reuters
EU lifts all sanctions... (from page 16)

our relations with Myanmar by lifting political and economic sanctions, only to find that embargo remains in place. We know that much remains to be done, on human rights, on democracy, fighting poverty and achieving lasting peace, we don’t underestimate the challenges. But we believe that now it’s time to engage more and to help the transition move ahead. All these challenges can be better addressed in an open democratic society. And we look forward to working closely with the government and other stakeholders. The people want democracy, peace and prosperity, they deserve it.” President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry U Win Aung said that after taking office by the new government in Myanmar in 2011, series of political and economic reforms led the EU last year to suspend sanctions on Myanmar for a year but when European companies, organizations and entrepreneurs who wished to invest in Myanmar visited the country, they found some restrictions and had anxieties to make investment. But, now due to more political, economic and social reforms in Myanmar, they

Kyodo opens branch in Yangon

NAV PTI TAW, 23 April—Kyodo News Agency of Japan that signed an MOU with News and Periodicals Enterprise of the Ministry of Information was allowed to open its branch in Yangon today.—NLM

Phusin Parahita free clinic, reliable for needy persons in Magway

Magway, 23 April—Phusin Parahita free clinic was opened at circular road of Aungyadana Ward of Magway and 20th street in July 2012.

The clinic runs its functions under supervision of 15 executives to provide free health care services to needy persons. Ten doctors are assigned in rotation to open the clinic Saturday, Sunday, Monday and Tuesday a week from 7 am to 9 am.

Secretary of the clinic U Win Kyaw said, “Ten doctors including one physiotherapist physician in rotation provide health care services to the people. Two executives and three supervisors take responsibility of supervision for the clinic in rotation. Most of the patients came from rural areas and they are poor persons. About 30-40 patients receive medical treatment at the clinic daily. We give free health care services to them; and if necessary, we provide X-ray and CEGI services. The clinic costs about K 50,000 for the health care daily. The clinic was established with K 18 million contributions of merchants, gram mill owners and entrepreneurs of Magway. The donation to the clinic amounted to K 35 million. One on, the clinic cost K 13 million, and now we have K 25 million in hand. All the doctors are volunteers. However, the clinic serves them with breakfast.”

Four staff, one sanitation worker, one compounder, one clerk and one senior clerk are appointed at the clinic with salaries K 150,000 in total. Moreover, he said that the clinic costs K 50,000 per month for the hiring the room. The clinic organizes the blood donors association. If necessary, they donate blood for needy persons. At present, the blood donors association has 150 members.

“We need fund for the clinic. The wellwishers far and near may donate medicines to the clinic, dialing 063-253623 and 09-5342174,” continued U Win Kyaw.

M N A

Private schools prepare to open in Mandalay

Mandalay, 23 April—Myanmar is now marching to the modern, developed democratic nation. Meanwhile, reform process is being undertaken in the education sector. In the basic education sector, permissions have been presented to establishment of private schools. In 2012-2013 academic year, a total of 66 private high schools were opened, and of them, Mandalay Region opened 11 schools.

In 2013-2014 academic year, preparations are being made for opening 10 private high schools and one primary school in Mandalay. They applied to Mandalay Region Education Director’s Office. The founders make preparations for opening of the schools in May with advertisements put in the daily newspapers issued in Mandalay. One primary school student will cost about K 1 milllion, one middle school student about K 2 million and one high school student about K 3 million.

Children of the worthy persons from Mandalay and its surrounding regions enlist at the private schools.

K Y A U K P A D A U N G

Kyaupadaung to get new market in August

Kayaupadaung, 23 April—Under the supervision of new market construction committee and Township Development Affairs Committee, Myanmar Khit Company is taking responsibility of building Tanpawaddy Market in Kyaupadaung Township of Mandalay Region as of 1 August 2012. So far, the construction of the market has been completed by 75 per cent.

The market will be complete with 96 shoping rooms worth K 8 million each, 96 rooms worth K 6 million each, 72 rooms for meat and fish sales worth K 1.3 million each and 432 rooms for sales of groceries worth K 1.1 million each, totalising 969.

The market will be facilitated with car park. All the buildings will be one-storey structures.

A plan is underway to open the market in August 2013, said a member of construction committee.

M N A

Notice to CDMA-800 MHz mobile subscribers

MECTEL-branded low-cost SIM card (CDMA-800 MHz) will be sold under the supervision of State/Region governments as of 24 April. This mobile system will charge K 50 per minute for outgoing call. No fee will be charged for incoming call. Internet charge is K 10,000 per minute for outgoing call. No fee will be charged for incoming call. Internet charge is K 10,000 at their respective State/Region Manager Offices of Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications.

Those who lose the mobile SIM cards are to apply for it along with K 20,000 at State/Region Manager Offices of Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications.

The CDMA-800 MHz mobile system covers both local and trunk calls with prepaid cards. MECTEL-branded top-up cards (10 $, 20 $ and 50 $) are to be used for overseas calls. Shops that will sell MECTEL-branded prepaid cards have been announced at daily newspapers.

Those who lose the mobile SIM cards are to apply for it along with K 10,000 at their respective State/Region Manager Offices of Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications.

For more information, may dial 3456.

M N A

Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications

Myanmar market in Pakokku hustling after Maha Thingyan Festival

KYAUPADAUNG, 23 April—Myanmar market in Pakokku is hustling and bustling on 19 April as it was quiet and calm during the Maha Thingyan Festival 1374 ME.

The market is a focal point of commodity trading among the merchants from Yasesyo, Myaung, Pak, Chin State, Yaw, Pale, Taungtha, Bagan, NyaungU and other regions.

“Pakokku Myanmar market is constituted with over 2000 rooms. It can cope with over 5000 sellers. The market kicks off its active position at 4 am daily with flower and green grocery sellers. And then, the activities of the market faded out at 6 pm daily,” said a shopkeeper from the market.

Due to traffic congestion, No. 2 Khantaw Market was opened but most of sellers and local people join the Myanmar market.

“We have a plan to build an advanced one due to larger numbers of shopkeepers. In reality, the majority of sellers are poor persons. If they cannot afford to pay the charge of new shopping room, they will face much difficulty. Thus, we are mulling to build a new market,” said an official of the market.

Over 1000 vendors are selling goods near the Myanmar market. Therefore, officials concerned supervise systematic sales of goods and prevention against traffic jams daily. As Pakokku is constituted with factories, workshops, banks, bus lines, 15 awards, industrial zone and villages, Myanmar market is hustling and bustling daily.

M N A

EU lifted all sanctions except arms embargo.

As a result, European companies, organizations and entrepreneurs can make investment in competition with others in the country, and increase in the productivity will surely go together with flourishing of joint ventures and industrial development, he said.

U Win Aung also expressed his hope of winning Generalized System of Preference (GSP) as a consequence. This will create many job opportunities and increase the per capita income and raise social standard, he said.

He hailed the decision of EU to lift sanctions against Myanmar.

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M N A
Ensure people-centred development

The government has high aspirations for people-centred development while staying focused on achievable results. It shall start modestly but move decisively with international assistance to enlarge capacity and skill development to reduce incidence of poverty and achieve the Millennium Development Goals by 2015.

Towards this end, the government is strengthening relations with the international community to access knowledge, experience and resources to accelerate its development process already in place. It recognizes its responsibility to its citizens and to its development partners to achieve the most it can from this cooperation.

As the government and its development partners agree to take concrete actions to make their cooperation more effective, they are committed to pushing ahead with development plans. The development plans include strengthening public administration to enhance transparency and effectiveness of government programmes and foreign assistance, deepening consultation on development priorities, focusing on achieving national priorities, enabling effective decision-making and further developing coherent and efficient aid management systems.

Moreover, they are to strengthen institutions, build capacity, reduce transaction costs and apply inclusive approaches in a spirit of mutual benefits and accountability while inviting foreign investment. To invite the right kind of investment, the government has already developed policies that will protect national interests and social welfare with the right kind of investment, the government is focusing on achieving national priorities, enabling effective decision-making and further developing coherent and efficient aid management systems.

Seventh white elephant gives birth to a new elephant

Myanmar, Indonesia vow to...

(from page 1)

Myanmar’s reforms. He also promised to push Indonesia’s public and private firms to invest in Myanmar. He set the target trade volume of USD 1000 million next year. He agreed on the cooperation sectors proposed by the Myanmar President, vowing to materialize them.

He concluded his discussion with wishes for successful holding of XXVII SEA Games in 2013 in Myanmar and ASEAN Chairmanship in 2014.

President U Thein Sein...

(from page 1)

At the ceremony, Chairman of Soros Fund Management LC Mr George Soros announced the prize awarding to President U Thein Sein. Video clip of President’s strenuous efforts for the country was displayed. After that, video message of President’s Vice-Senior General Soe Win meets Thai Commander of First Army Area

NAV Pyi Taw, 23 April — Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win held a cordial meeting with Thai Commander of First Army Area of the Royal Thai Army Lt-Gen Paiboon Koomchaya and party at Zeyathiri Beikman, here, at 10 am today.

They focused on further strengthening relations and amity between Myanmar and Thai Armed Forces cooperation in ensuring stability in the border areas, matters related to the boundary passes, and bilateral cooperation between the two armed forces.

Also present at the call together with the Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) were Chief of General Staff (Army, Navy and Air) General Hla Htay Win, and senior military officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army).

The Thai delegation was accompanied by Deputy Commander of First Army Area Major General Panuvach Narkvong and Thai Military Attaché of the Royal Thai Army to Myanmar Senior Colonel Prachern Chaiyakit.

Seventh white elephant gives birth to a new elephant

NAV Pyi Taw, 23 April—Seventh White Elephant Haymawady gave birth to a baby elephant at 8:15 pm on 19 April at Yadana White Elephant Shed in the precinct of Uppatasanti Pagoda after estimated 22 months of pregnancy.

Seventh White Elephant Haymawady was found near Ale village-tract in Ngwehsaung Sub-Township in Pathein District of Ayeyawady Region on 25 October 2011 and arrived at Yadana White Elephant Shed on 20 November 2011. Veterinarian Dr Wan Tun’s team kept it under quarantine as they diagnosed it with pregnancy since seizure.

The newly-born male elephant has black skin and black eyes. It has 2 feet and 9 inches high and 3 feet and 7 inches wide trunk. The two elephants are in good health.

Fourth White Elephant Bhaddawady also gave birth to a white elephant named Zatakalyar on 27 November 2011 at the same shed.—MNA

Ambassador U Paw Paw Lwin Sein presents his Credentials to European Council President

NAV Pyi Taw, 24 April—Ambassador U Paw Paw Lwin Sein, Head of the Mission of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the European Union, presented his Credentials to the President of the European Council, His Excellency Mr. Herman Van Rompuy, on 12 April 2013, in Brussels.—MNA
NAY PYI TAW, 23 April—President U Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win hosted a dinner to Indonesian President Dr. Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono and wife at the Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace, here, at 8 pm today.

Before the dinner, the State Band played national anthems of both countries. The Presidents of two countries proposed a toast at the dinner.

Artists of Fine Arts Department presented songs at the dinner. President U Thein Sein and wife Daw Khan Kin Win, the Indonesian President and wife presented flower baskets to the artists and posed for documentary photo together with them.

The dinner was also attended by Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham and wife, Union ministers, deputy ministers, Myanmar Ambassador to Indonesia U Min Lwin and departmental heads, and the Indonesian Department presented songs to the Indonesian President and wife.

Before the dinner, the Indonesian President and wife arrive in Nay Pyi Taw.

Daw Khin Khin Win, wife of President U Thein Sein meets Indonesian first lady Mrs. Hajjah Ani Bambang Yudhoyono.

The meeting focused on incremental steps towards enhancing friendship, maternal and child welfare, women empowerment and activities of women’s entrepreneurs associations.

The Indonesian delegation was welcomed at Nay Pyi Taw international Airport by Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin and wife, Union Minister for Rail Transportation U Zeyar Aung and wife, directors-general of Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Indonesian Ambassador to Myanmar and officials of the Indonesian embassy.

A girl of the Fine Arts Department under the Ministry of Culture presented a bouquet to the Indonesian President and wife and party.

Insein gas container blast kills four

YANGON, 23 April—Four people died and another four injured in a gas container blast in Insein of Yangon Region this afternoon.

While a worker was welding iron rods, the nearby gas container exploded at Ngwe Lamin Construction Materials and Hollow Pipe Shop owned by Daw Ni Ni Win at No. (5) Room, No (30) Building, Padamya 6th Street, Sawbwagyigon brokerage and truck terminal at 2.25 pm. The explosion killed one man inside the shop and two male passers-by on the spot and five others—three men and two women—were injured. The injured were admitted to Insein Hospital. One of them died at the hospital.

Daw Khin Khin Win meets Indonesian first lady

President U Thein Sein, wife Daw Khin Khin Win host dinner to Indonesian President, wife and party

Amnesty granted for 93 prisoners

NAY PYI TAW, 23 April—Amnesty has been granted for 93 prisoners—90 locals and three foreigners—who have served their prison terms at respective jails and work camps in accord with Section 204(a) of the Constitution and Section 401 (a) of the Criminal Procedure as of today. Among them, the foreign prisoners were deported.

To ensure all inclusiveness in political processes and further strengthening the amity between the countries and on humanitarian and social grounds, the President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has granted amnesty to them in order that they can serve the interests of themselves, their region and the State along with the general public. —MNA
**Kishida says Japan willing to chair OECD ministerial council**

_TOKYO, 23 April —_ Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida on Monday told Angel Gurría, Secretary General of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, that Japan is willing to assume the chairmanship of its ministerial council next year, Japanese officials said. As no other member nation has expressed its intention to run for the position, Japan is likely to become the chair of the supreme decision-making body of the Paris-based club for the first time since 1978, the Foreign Ministry officials said. The council plans to approve its new chair at its regular meeting in Paris in May.

The government of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe wants to chair the OECD’s ministerial council as next year marks the 50th anniversary of the nation joining the organization in 1964 and being globally recognized as a developed country.

Japan, one of two Asian nations along with South Korea among the OECD’s 34 member countries, aims to act as a “bridge between the OECD and Asia,” a ministry official said.

The world’s third-largest economy is also eager to lead discussions in the OECD about assistance to developing nations and trade issues including the Trans-Pacific Partnership free trade negotiations, the official said. **Kyodo News**

**Iran to meet UN nuclear watchdog in May**

_DUBAI, 23 April —_ Iran and the United Nations nuclear watchdog will have further talks over Teheran’s disputed nuclear programme around 21 May in Vienna, Iranian media reported on Monday. There was no immediate confirmation from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), leaving unclear whether a firm date for the next meeting had already been agreed.

Iran’s Mehr and ISNA news agencies initially reported that the meeting would be held on 21 May, but ISNA later quoted an unnamed official as saying this was only a “preliminary agreement” and that the date could be moved by one or two days. The IAEA-Iran talks are separate from, but have an important bearing on, diplomatic negotiations between Teheran and six world powers aimed at a broad settlement to the decade-old dispute to head off the risk of a new Middle East war.

Western powers suspect Iran is trying to develop the capability to produce nuclear weapons under the guise of a declared civilian atomic energy programme. Iran denies this, saying it seeks only electricity from uranium enrichment. But its refusal to curb sensitive nuclear activity with both civilian and military applications and its lack of openness with IAEA inspectors have drawn UN and Western sanctions.

Last week, a diplomatic source told Reuters that a meeting between the Vienna-based IAEA and Iran in May was a possibility, but that no date had yet been fixed. **Reuters**

**Marubeni to set up mega solar power plant in Hokkaido**

_TOKYO, 23 April —_ Japanese trading house Marubeni Corp said on Monday it will set up in Hokkaido a 300- megawatt mega solar power plant that can provide electricity to about 1,000 households. Marubeni will invest about 1 billion yen in the solar power plant with the aim of expanding its renewable energy business. Construction is set to begin in late May, and the new plant is planned to start operating in December.

About 12,000 solar panels will be set up at four premises with a total area of about 70,000 square meters in the town of Shimizu, central Hokkaido. Marubeni plans to sell all electricity generated at the plant to Hokkaido Electric Power Co under a feed-in tariff scheme that awards renewable energy producers long-term contracts at fixed prices. **Kyodo News**

**Five dead after shooting at apartment in Seattle suburb**

_SEATTLE, 23 April —_ Five people were shot dead, at least one by police, during a Sunday night gunfight at an apartment complex about 20 miles south of Seattle, a police official said.

Police officers responding to an emergency call at roughly 9:30 pm heard gunshots when they arrived at a three-level apartment complex in Federal Way, Washington, said Cathy Schrock, a spokeswoman for the city police. As police officers approached two men on the ground in the complex’s parking lot, one of them reached for a weapon and police shot him dead, Schrock said. Two other men were also confirmed dead in the parking lot, and a man and a woman were found dead in the complex, which has roughly 25 units.

“We still don’t have any idea what started this disturbance tonight,” Schrock said, adding that police believe everyone involved was dead. Police were interviewing witnesses on Monday. “At this time, we are not looking for any additional suspects,” Schrock said. Eight Federal Way officers fired their weapons during the siege and have been placed on paid, administrative leave pending the investigation into the gunfight and their actions, Schrock said, adding that was standard policy. None were injured. **Reuters**

**E-Surveillance of tiger movement to be put in place**

.NEW DELHI, 23 April — Government will put in place safeguards including “e-Surveillance” of tiger movement for preventing the death of big cats due to train hits. The decision was taken at a recent meeting of senior officials from Railway Board and Environment Ministry convened by Environment Minister Jayan-thi Natarajan in the wake of a casualty reported recently near Chandrapur, Maharashtra, officials said. **PTI**

**Cigarettes are displayed behind the counter of a store in New York, on 18 March, 2013.** **REUTERS**

**New York City aims to ban cigarette sales for under age 21**

_New York, 23 April —_ New York City, home to bars on trans fats and salt, is taking a step toward outlawing sales of cigarettes to anyone under age 21.

City Council Speaker Christine Quinn, running to replace health conscious Mayor Michael Bloomberg, is due on Monday to announce legislation to increase the minimum age for buying cigarettes to 21 from 18, the current limit. On nearby Long Island, Nassau and Suffolk counties have boosted their legal age for buying cigarettes and other tobacco products to 19. **Reuters**
Japanese emperor, empress to visit India possibly this year

Tokyo, 23 April—The Japanese government is making arrangements for Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko to visit India as early as this year, the Imperial Household Agency said on Monday.

The visit is expected in autumn or later and will be the first ever to India by a Japanese emperor, the agency said. Japan and India marked the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties in 2012. India has offered an invitation for the imperial couple to visit the country in recent years. Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh made the request when he met the couple in Tokyo in October 2010, and an invitation was also made via the Japanese ambassador to India in February this year, the agency said.

When he was the crown prince, Emperor Akihito visited India three times between 1960 and 1975 on behalf of his father, Emperor Hirohito, the agency said. Empress Michiko once canceled her scheduled trip to New Delhi in September 1998 after India conducted a nuclear test in May of that year.

The emperor was slated to give a speech at the conference of the International Board on Books for Young People, but a recorded video of her speech was shown at the event instead.

Japanese Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko

Chinese, Thai legislators highlight friendly relations

BEIJING, 23 April—Top Chinese legislator Zhang Dejiang said here on Monday China places importance on expanding its relations with Thailand. “China will stick to good-neighbourly policy toward its neighbours,” Zhang said. Zhang, chairman of the National Committee of the National People’s Congress (NPC), held talks with visiting President Somsak Kittasuranont of the National Assembly of Thailand (NAT) in the Great Hall of the People in Beijing. Zhang expressed appreciation to Thailand for its support on major issues of China’s core interests.

He said the two sides should continuously step up strategic coordination, take care of each other’s concerns and enhance mutual trust. Zhang urged the two sides to explore new growth areas in economic cooperation by rapidly expanding trade and investment.

He said the two countries should strengthen people-to-people contact by encouraging younger generations to deepen mutual understanding and carry forward the China-Thailand friendship. Zhang said the two sides should have even closer cooperation on regional and international issues. He called for the two sides to jointly advance the China-ASEAN relationship and East Asia cooperation.

Zhang said exchanges between the NPC and the NAT have played an important role in advancing bilateral links, development of democratic and legal systems in each country and realization of their development goals. He said the NPC is ready to further develop the friendly ties with the NAT as to advance the comprehensive strategic and cooperative partnership between the two nations.

He called for the legislatures of the two countries to increase exchanges, learn from each other’s experience and enhance mutual understanding and friendship.

As planned, professional exchanges will be conducted in the fields of health, humanitarian assistance, natural disaster relief as well as dive training, salvage and underwater medicine. Ship tours, concerts, community relations events, and bilateral sporting events will also get underway.

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Philippines to start shipment of bananas to US

MANILA, 23 April — The Philippine government said on Monday that the initial shipment of 3,000 metric tons of Cavendish bananas to the US may finally push through before the end of April. The National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) said the shipment of Cavendish bananas to the US is expected to prop up Philippine farm exports in 2013. This would be the first time that the Philippines, one of the world’s biggest banana exporters, enters the US market.

Citing data from the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, NEDA Deputy Director-General Emmanuell F. Esquerra noted that the US is among the top 20 importers of bananas in the world.

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Yagon Golf Club

The Yangon Golf Club will be celebrating its 104th year Annual Art Home on the 12th of May 2013. Competition will start at 12:00 noon followed by the Captains’ drive in at 16:30 hr and will carry on with the Prize Giving ceremony which includes food and entertainment.

All members cordially with their families are invited to join us on this special occasion.

Executive Committee
Yangon Golf Club (Danyingone)

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV DAHIATUL KALBI VOY NO ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV DAHIATUL KALBI VOY NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 24.4.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W.I (1) where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: MS BAY LINE SHIPPING CO LTD.
Phone No: 256916/256919/256921

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV MINDORO VOY NO (136)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MINDORO VOY NO (136) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 24.4.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P.L where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: TOKO KAIU KALSHA LTD.
Phone No: 256924/256914

Spain marks Book Day as major event in booksellers’ calendar

MADRID, 23 April—The Spanish capital city of Madrid is preparing to celebrate International Book Day on Tuesday with a series of events to promote reading and the purchase of books. The event, first celebrated in Spain as the “Fiesta de Spanish Books” in 1926, will take on an extra dimension as April 23 coincides with the St. George’s Day. 23 April is also the anniversary of the death of Miguel Cervantes, author of Don Quixote and perhaps the most famous of all Spanish writers, and William Shakespeare in 1616.

Over 500 writers will participate in the eighth edition of Book Night, during which over 200 bookshops in the capital will offer a 10-percent discount on all books and remain open well past their usual closing time in an effort to spark interest in reading. The event provides a much-needed boost to the sector, which has been hit by the economic crisis. Bookshops usually conduct between 5 and 8 percent of their total sales for the year during the celebration.

Meanwhile, book-fairs are also held in emblematic places such as the Parque del Retiro, the Plaza Callao and along the central Paseo de la Castellana in the heart of the city. Next to the famous Cibeles Fountain, the government’s Post Office building will host several events, with readings and lectures from authors such as John Banville, Laurent Binet and Javier Cercas.

One of the most traditional events of the day is held in the Circle of Bellas Artes, where Spanish celebrities will spend three days reading Cervantes’ Quixote.

The opening words of the book are read by the winner of the previous year’s Cervantes Prize for literature. Last year’s winner, José Manuel Caballero Bonald, will continue the tradition, before he is given his award at the University of Alcalá. The ceremony will be attended by the highest number of book readers in Spain, around 12 percent above the national average.—Reuters
Rocky Mountain High

Rocky Mountain High

“Castles” have run out of life

“Family Guy” from re-radios

Boston bombings

Gerard Butler had the holiday from hell in the Himalayas

Gerard got sick while travelling to the Himalayas after drinking water from the Ganges River.

ABC delays bomb-themed “Castle” episode after Boston bombings

L O S A N G E L E S, 23 April—A bomb-themed episode of US television crime drama “Castle” has been rescheduled because of its close timing to Monday’s deadly bombings in Boston.

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New Delhi, 23 April—Rocker Jack White’s Nashville store offers “do-it-yourself” records

We’ll have the record booth open and available for people to come in, sing a song and get a copy of it on record.” Third Man Records executive Ben Blackwell said in an interview on Wednesday. “It’s a refurbished 1947 Voice-O-Graph recording booth,” Blackwell said. “As far as we can tell, it will be the only functioning record booth open to the public in the world.”

Record Store Day, which is marked internationally on the third Saturday of each April, aims to encourage people to visit independent record stores. In addition to the recording booth in the store’s “Novelties Lounge,” Third Man Records will be staging in-house performances by some of the music label’s artists.—Reuters

New Delhi, 23 April—44-year-old actress Jennifer Aniston insisted she will never give up her acting career but when Good Morning America correspondent Nick Watt joked he might want “to quit TV, grow a beard and gain 200 pounds,” Jennifer agreed. She said: “I’m not gonna give up acting, I had too much fun being silly that way [but] I have those moments.”

“I don’t know about the grow-a-beard part, but I could see, like, ‘Let’s just move to France or Italy and open up a little antique store’. That sounds great. Eat pasta, get fat.” Meanwhile, Jennifer—who is engaged to Justin Theroux—dined only a few tables away from her former boyfriend John Mayer at West Hollywood’s Sunset Tower earlier this week.

Gerard, 43, joked to ShortList magazine: “I bought her and we immediately started putting cigarettes in her mouth and all that stuff — not bit, of course — and I realised you could have a lot of fun with a dog.”

“Until she started s**xing all over the place. I was on a private plane once and it was like somebody had bathed us in s**t.”

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**SPORTS**

Liverpool fine Suarez for bite but won’t sack him

**London, 23 April—**

Liverpool have fined Uruguay striker Luis Suarez an undisclosed amount for biting Chelsea defender Branislav Ivanovic at the weekend but will not sack him, the Premier League club said on Monday.

Suarez, the league’s top scorer with 23 goals, has been widely condemned for his behaviour in Sunday’s 2-2 draw and is expected to get a lengthy ban from the Football Association but Liverpool managing director Ian Ayre said the club would stand by him.

“I think the most important thing is that we acted swiftly yesterday,” Ayre told the club’s website (www.liverpoolfc.com).

“Luis issued his apology and then we spoke with him last night and then again this morning. We’ve taken action to fine Luis for his actions.”

Ayre did not specify the size of the fine but Suarez asked for the money to be donated to the Hillsborough Family Support Group—an organization set up after the 1989 stadium disaster that left 96 Liverpool fans dead.

Former Liverpool midfielder Graeme Souness said on Sunday that Suarez had reached “last chance saloon” at Anfield after the latest in a string of misdemeanours while others have suggested the club could take a moral stance and terminate his contract.

However, Ayre said manager Brendan Rodgers would work with the player to help improve his discipline.

“The owners are happy with the way we are handling the matter,” said the managing director.

Clattenburg to ref first Chelsea game since Mikel accusation

**London, 23 April—**

Referee Mark Clattenburg will take charge of a Chelsea game on Sunday for the first time since being cleared of using racist language towards their midfielder John Obi Mikel.

Chelsea play Swansea City at Stamford Bridge, the scene of their 3-2 home defeat to Manchester United in October when Clattenburg was accused of using “inappropriate language” towards Mikel.

The referee was cleared after investigations by both London’s Metropolitan Police and the English FA found there was no case to answer.

The FA said the evidence for the accusation against Clattenburg had come from Mikel’s Brazillian team mate Ramires.

In clearing Clattenburg, the FA said: “The details of the allegation were that following one or the other of the red cards issued during the second half of the game, Ramires heard Mark Clattenburg say to John Obi Mikel, ‘shut up you monkey’. John Obi Mikel did not hear the alleged comment.”

“Ramires, whose first language is not English, explained that his instinctive reaction was to seek confirmation from John Obi Mikel as to what the referee had said. ‘John Obi Mikel, who was being spoken to by the referee, was much closer to the referee than Ramires and did not hear what it is suggested was said to him.’” —Reuters

Saina Nehwal banging head against Chinese wall

**New Delhi, 23 April—**

China’s enviable pool of outstanding talent makes it almost impossible for anyone else to make a dent on their ruthless domination of badminton, Saina Nehwal said on Monday.

The London Olympic bronze medalist has been something of an aberration in the women’s rankings, being the lone non-Chinese in the top five for much of the last year and offering sporadic challenges to the sport’s super-power nation.

Nehwal is ranked second, sandwiched between Li Xuerui and Wang Yihan, winners of the gold and silver in London last year, and in awe of China’s conveyor belt of talent.

“It’s not easy to break the Chinese wall,” Nehwal told reporters ahead of this week’s Indian Open in New Delhi.

“Even if you beat one or two in one tournament the others will be there in the next tournament. It’s not easy to beat them again and again;” added the 23-year-old.

“We can try to do it but we don’t have a system like that. They have so many players, it’s like cricket (in India).”

“I’m happy that girls from different countries are trying to beat them and be among the top players. But to be there consistently, it’s difficult for other countries.”

German Juliane Schenk and Korean Sung Ji Hyun complete the women’s top five.

“The competition is really tough,” said Nehwal.

“When you play a lot, you get tired but they (China) have seven or eight players.” —Reuters

Vettel forgets Malaysian storm with Bahrain win

**Manama, 23 April—**

World champion Sebastian Vettel won a Formula One race on Sunday without anyone kicking up a storm about it, at least inside the confines of the circuit. The last time the Red Bull driver had stood on the top step of the podium was in Malaysia last month, with grim-faced Australian team mate Mark Webber and unhappy Mercedes driver Lewis Hamilton alongside. The triple champion had ignored team instructions in that race and overtaken Webber, who had done as he was told and turned down the engine to save the tyres and fuel, to ‘steal the win’.

Hamilton had felt his Red Bull Formula One driver Sebastian Vettel of Germany kisses the winner’s trophy during the victory ceremony of the Bahrain F1 Grand Prix at the Sakhir circuit, south of Manama on 21 April, 2013.—Reuters

team mate Nico Rosberg deserved to be on the podium instead of him after the German obeyed orders and stayed behind him.

Rory McIlroy of Northern Ireland hits his tee shot on the fourth hole during third round play in the 2013 Masters golf tournament at the Augusta National Golf Club in Augusta, Georgia, on 13 April, 2013.—Reuters

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**General**

**Romania to purchase F-16 jets from Portugal**

**Bucharest, 23 April—** Romania will operate in 2017 a 12-strong squadron of F-16 multirole fighters purchased from Portugal, to replace the current Soviet-built MiG-21 Lancers, the country’s Defence Minister Mircea Dusa said on Monday. Dusa paid last week an official visit to Portugal and discussed the possible acquisition with his counterpart Jose Pedro Aguiar-Branco.

“By the end of May, we will probably finalize documents with the Portuguese party and subsequently, until September — with the American party, so that we resume the multirole aircraft equipping program at the scale of a squadron, i.e. 12 planes,” said the official, specifying that “we will also tackle the amounts to be paid,” when negotiations have been completed. Dusa’s predecessor Corneliu Dobritoiu announced last autumn that Romania will pay around 670 million euros over five years for these fighter jets. “Only about 120 million euros go to paying for the aircraft, the rest being logistic support, which would have been the same if we had purchased new aircraft,” he explained.

Romania and Portugal have a deadline this June to complete negotiations, Dusa said that the package included everything necessary for the operation of the planes: the training of the pilots, maintenance, upgrading and everything else. According to sources, the fighters are among the 25 F-16s delivered to Portugal by the United States in 1999 under the Peace Atlantic II Program. Prior to that, they had been used by the US Air Force since 1984 before they were placed in storage.

The aircrafts are in “very good” condition, according to the Romanian expert teams sent to Portugal to evaluate the technical condition of the multi-purpose jets with the assistance of US experts. The Romanian Air Force operates some 48 MiG-21 Lancer jet fighters which, after 40 years of missions, are towards the end of their flight resources.

Though the fighter jets from Portugal are already 30-years-old, they can be used for at least 20 more years, according to experts. Romania’s neighbour Bulgaria had also expressed interest in nine used F-16s from Portugal.

**Russia complete dramatic fightback to reach Fed Cup final**

**Moscow, 23 April—** Russia completed a remarkable fightback to beat Slovakia 3-2 in a dramatic Fed Cup semi-final by sweeping the last three rubbers on Sunday. The Russians will play Italy or the Czech Republic in the final in November. Italy led the top-ranked Czechs 2-1 after a rain-interrupted second day in Palermo and the tie will be finished on Monday.

Ekaterina Makarova and Elena Vesnina secured the winning point for hosts Russia when they ousted Dominika Cibulkova and Daniela Hantuchova 6-3 6-1 6-1 in the decisive doubles to clinch the two-day tie on Moscow clay.

After splitting the first two sets, the Russians broke Cibulkova in the fourth game and Hantuchova in the sixth to run away in the final set as the Slovak duo slowly ran out of steam.

“We hadn’t played such hard and dramatic matches in Fed Cup for a very long time,” Vesnina told Russian television NTV Plus.

“After a disastrous first day we still believed we could win. Luckily we did it.”

Slovakia, appearing in their first semi-final since 2002 when they went on to win the competition for the only time, led 2-0 after the first day when Cibulkova beat Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova 5-7 6-1 6-4 and Hantuchova made short work of Kirilenko 6-2 6-4.

But the Russians, who had won both previous ties on clay against Slovakia by the same 3-2 score, came roaring back on Sunday urged on by a partisan home crowd.

Missing their top two players, world number two Maria Sharapova and Svetlana Kuznetsova, who led them to their last Fed Cup title in 2008, the hosts found an unlikely hero in 24-ranked Makarova.

After replacing Pavlyuchenkova for Sunday’s reverse singles the blonde Muscovite beat Hantuchova 6-3 4-6 6-4 to level the tie at 2-2 after Russia number one Maria Kirilenko dispatched Cibulkova 7-5 6-1 in the earlier match.

She was our true hero today, she kept us going,” Vesnina told reporters, pointing to her doubles partner.—Reuters
Indonesia supports Myanmar’s crisis management process

NAY PYI TAW, 23 April—President U Thein Sein clarified the new government’s efforts in making political and economic reforms for prevailing peace and stability in the country and ensuring economic development which are the two desires of the people, making peace with national races armed groups, steps taken for all inclusiveness in political process and investment opportunities for Indonesia in Myanmar thanks to Myanmar’s economic reform.

The Indonesian President, for his part, highlighted Indonesia’s constant supports for Myanmar’s democratic reform process and potential for more cooperation in trade, investments and agricultural and energy sectors of the two countries. Indonesia continues to support Myanmar’s crisis management process, he added. —MNA

Lifting of all economic sanctions on Myanmar to encourage and engender far stronger Myanmar-EU relationship

NAY PYI TAW, 23 April—The Ministry of Foreign Affairs issued a press release on European Union’s decision regarding lifting of all economic sanctions on Myanmar today.

The full text of the press release is as follows:-

The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar welcomes the European Union’s decision on 22 April 2013, regarding the lifting of all economic sanctions against Myanmar.

The EU has enthusiastically supported the wide-ranging reform efforts of the Government of Myanmar, and as an initial gesture of its support for that reform, the EU, on 14 May 2012, suspended most of the sanctions it had previously imposed upon Myanmar for a period of one year.

The Government believes that this decision will be greatly beneficial to the Myanmar people who have demonstrated their strong determination to achieve democratic reforms and have been actively supporting the Government’s reform process during the last two years.

The lifting of all economic sanctions on Myanmar will encourage and engender a far stronger Myanmar-EU relationship and will facilitate a deeper and wider bilateral cooperation.

NAY PYI TAW, 23 April 2013

EU lifts all sanctions against Myanmar, except for arms embargo

The Union Minister for Commerce U Win Myint and Minister for Trade Gita Irawan of the Republic of Indonesia attend MoUs signing ceremony.—MNA

The European Union (EU) lifts all sanctions against Myanmar, except for arms embargo. EU has decided to lift all sanctions against Myanmar, except for arms embargo.

As regards lifting sanctions on Myanmar, British Foreign Secretary William Hague said: “The progress made was sufficient to justify lifting and the progress that has been made has been substantial enough, running of production. It was also attended by responsible persons from the Ministry of Commerce, Indonesian Ministry of Trade, entrepreneurs and officials.

Likewise, EU Foreign Policy Chief Catherine Ashton, said, “And today we closed a very long chapter in (See page 7)

MoUs inked between Myanmar and Indonesia

NAY PYI TAW, 23 April—Union Minister for Commerce U Win Myint and Minister for Trade Gita Irawan of the Republic of Indonesia attended MoUs signing ceremony, at Lake View Hall of Aureum Palace.

MoUs regarding development of precast concrete industry and project management services between United Machinery Group of Myanmar and PT. Wijaya Karya (Persero) Tbk of Indonesia.

Cooperation in power sufficiency crucial for better electricity supply, efficiency in power delivery and the losses reduction. EU cooperation in power development and project management services would help facilitate smooth ever-partnership as EU wants to open a new chapter with Myanmar. EU has decided to lift all sanctions against Myanmar, except for arms embargo.

The two Presidents signed MoUs regarding cooperation in power sufficiency crucial for better electricity supply between Kanbawza Bank of Myanmar and PT. PLNi of Indonesia. EU cooperation in power development and project management services would help facilitate smooth ever-partnership as EU wants to open a new chapter with Myanmar. EU has decided to lift all sanctions against Myanmar, except for arms embargo.

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