The New Light of Myanmar
THE MOST RELIABLE NEWSPAPER AROUND YOU
Volume XXI, Number 8 | 14th Waxing of Tagu 1375 ME | Wednesday, 24 April, 2013

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

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

NAY PYI TAW, 23 April—Myanmar President U Thein Sein had a meeting with Indonesian President Dr Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono and party at the Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace here this evening.

The Myanmar President opened the meeting with his wish for further cementing time-honoured ties between the two countries established since 1949.

The two countries agreed on increasing the trade volume to USD 500 million on his Indonesian visit in May 2012, he recalled, acknowledging the current trade volume between the two countries has reached USD 470 million.

According to statistics up to December 2012, 12 Indonesian firms have invested USD 241 million in Myanmar with plenty of future investment possibilities, he added.

The Myanmar President called for boosting bilateral cooperation in tourism, transportation, livestock and fishery, agriculture, energy and electricity sectors.

He said scholarships and cooperation for promotion of technology sector would be welcomed. The Indonesian President recalled his first trip to Myanmar in 2006 and recognized the country's significant progress in democracy, peace and stability and international relations he witnessed in his second visit.

He vowed to increase economic cooperation as Indonesia in supportive of

(See page 8)

President U Thein Sein wins "Pursuit of Peace" award

Union Minister U Aung Min, on behalf of President U Thein Sein, accepts ICG Chairman's Award.—MNA

YANGON, 23 April—Peace-prize awarding ceremony of the International Crisis Group (ICG) was held at The Pierre Hotel in New York of the United States of America yesterday evening.

President U Thein Sein and former Brazilian President Mr Luiz Lula have won the peace prizes.

(See page 8)

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:-

Excellencies, 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 Borad 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 I play but one part in this undertaking and humbled by those who came before, others who are equally deserving, and those who will continue the journey.

Words alone cannot describe the joy in my heart or the faith I place in my fellow citizens to mold "New Myanmar". We are on our way, but I am mindful that the kind of society we want to live in requires us to work harder. For Myanmar to be truly inclusive, all ethnic nationalities must come together and heal the wounds of the past in order to respond to the challenges we face today. 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.

LOCAL NEWS

Cash and kind donated to victims in Meiktila

MEIKTILA, 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 479,466,990.

Myanma Alinn

Transformer 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 people, 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 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 Nawarat 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.

Myanma Alinn

People from Pyapon enjoy better transportation

PYAPON, 23 April—As transport of Pyapon, Bogale, Dedaye and Kyaiklat townships of Pyapon District improves, the local people have easy access to Yangon and other 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 Kyaiklat, Bogale and Dedaye townships of Pyapon District wish to enjoy better transportation like that of Pyapon.

Myanma Alinn

Tarmacking of Chaungphya-Kyondoe road commences in Kyondoe

KYONDOE, 23 April—Chaungphya-Khondoe laterite road leading to Chaungphya Village in Kyondoe of Kawkareik 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 Paññavamsa, 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.

Myanma Alinn

Relief items donated to strong wind victims in Pyay

PYAY, 23 April—A total of 37 houses from Nawin Ward, Thitchitin Village-tract and Zeeok Village-tract in Pyay collapsed in strong winds at 5 pm on 16 April, and the roofs of 135 houses were blown off. However, there were no casualties in the strong winds.

On 19 April, a ceremony to donate cash to the strong winds victims was held at Zeeok Village-tract and Myaungngehla Village monastery. Pyithu Hluttaw representative U Win Myint, Amyotha Hluttaw representative Dr Khin Maung Lay, the deputy commissioner of Pyay District and member, the Pyay Township Administrator and party, the commander of Township Police Force and party, the head of District Health Department and Relief and Resettlement Department donated kitchen utensils, clothes, construction materials and instant noodles to victims of 37 houses.

The donations for each victim household amounted to K 102,000.

Myanma Alinn

Plan to implement second OPV immunization programme in Rakhine State

YANGON, 23 April—The second oral polio vaccine immunization programmes will be held in Rakhine State in the last week of April, according to UNICEF-Myanmar.

"In the first time, the immunization was held from 26 to 30 March in Rakhine State. In the last week of April, OPV will be given to children under five in villages and relief camps. Moreover, BCG vaccines and light refreshment will be provided to the children in addition to OPV," said the UNICEF resident representative.

Due to recent year's unrest in the state, 44 per cent of children under five missed the chance to get OPV, so the UNICEF will give the vaccine to the children. In the first immunization, OPV was given to over 300,000 children from 12 townships of Rakhine State, and in the second time, emphasis will be placed on providing OPV to the all remaining children.

UNICEF (Myanmar) issued news release that UNICEF and Ministry of Health are making concerted efforts for making Myanmar as polio free nation in 2014, so they are trying hard to successfully carry out immunization of OPV to the children across the nation.—*Myanma Alinn*

***As quartz jubilee of the 39th Intake of Defence Services Academy, graduate officers from the academy donated K 1.5 million to the medical fund for Tatmadawmen who sacrificed life and limbs for the State to officials of Defence Services Orthopaedic Hospital on 10 April.*—MYANMA ALINN**

White Heart Group provides free health care services in Mawgyun

MAWLAMYINEGYUN, 23 April—Mobile free health care services of White Heart Group of Mawlamyinegyun Township was held at the Dhammayon of Ale Monastery in Kaningyounggyi 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.

U Tin Hlaing-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.

Myanma Alinn

Yangon-Mawlamyine up and down trains resume regular schedules

YANGON, 23 April—No 35-up Yangon-Mawlamyine train and 36-down train suspended their runs on 14 and 16 April of Maha Thingyan Festival.

As of 17 April, Myanmar New Year Day, the 35-up train that leaves Yangon Railway Station at 9 pm and No 36-down train that leaves Mawlamyine Railway Station at 7.30 pm resumed their runs.

At present, No 89-up Yangon-Mawlamyine train that departs Yangon Railway Station at 7.15 am and No 175-up Yangon-Mawlamyine-Ye-Dawei Port train that departs at 6.25 pm also run on their schedules regularly.

Myanma Alinn

***A Sonny super saloon taxi driven by U Thaung Win Htet running from 8th-Mile junction to Sawbwagyigon fuel station plunged into drain due to out of control at 6 am on 19 April.* MYANMA ALINN**

WORLD

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 releases and exposure from 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 "define a new comprehensive strategy for the appropriate management" of the polluted 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.

Reuters

Juan Carlos Lentijo, director of the International Atomic Energy Agency Division of Nuclear Fuel Cycle and Waste Technology, speaks during a press conference in Tokyo on 22 April , 2013.
Kyodo News

An April 22, 2013, photo shows the carcasses of two rats found inside an outdoor electric transformer at the crippled Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station in Fukushima Prefecture.
Kyodo News

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 banning trade and investment in forestry, industrial and other sectors.

The EU Council said in a statement, "In response 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 April last year, the EU had decided to suspend all sanctions against Myanmar except arms embargo for one year. 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

Baston/New York, 23 April—As the top federal law enforcer in Massachusetts, 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 Tsarnaev, 19, the unflinching 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 been overly harsh," said Peter Elikann, a Boston defense attorney. "I don't think that's relevant for Tsarnaev 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 injuring more than 170.

Tsarnaev was arrested late on Friday after a manhunt that shut down parts of Boston. He is hospitalized and under guard.

His older brother died after a shootout with police. Ortiz's office, which is leading the investigation, has not given a firm timetable 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." Tsarnaev could face murder and other state charges.

Reuters

US Attorney Carmen Ortiz speaks to reporters outside the federal courthouse after a hearing for Catherine Greig in Boston, Massachusetts on 14 March , 2012.
Reuters

Afghan, Pakistan, US to meet for talks in Brussels

Afghanistan's President Hamid Karzai speaks during the opening ceremony of the third year of the Afghanistan parliament in Kabul on 6 March, 2013.
Reuters

Kabul, 23 April—Afghan President Hamid Karzai will travel to Brussels on Tuesday to met US Secretary of State of State John Kerry and senior Pakistani 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 relating to border disputes and the peace process, Karzai's chief spokesman, Aimal Faizi, said in Kabul.—*Reuters*

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 renews 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. "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 after both sides held talks earlier in the day. China's defence ministry made a thinly veiled criticism of the United States last week for increasing tensions in the Asia-Pacific, saying China faces "multiple and complicated security threats" due to the US strategy.

Reuters

US Joint Chiefs Chairman General Martin Dempsey speaks during a Press briefing with Chief of the general staff of China's People's Liberation Army Fang Fenghui (not pictured) at the Bayi Building in Beijing on 22 April , 2013.—Reuters

Taleban militants capture nine people from downed chopper

Pul-e-Alam, (Afghanistan), 23 April—Taleban militants captured nine people from a downed helicopter in Azra district of Logar Province over night, local official Hamidullah Hamid said on Monday. "A civilian helicopter went down in Darai 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 underway to rescue the abductees. Taleban 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 activities in the area. "We can confirm that a civilian helicopter was downed in eastern Afghanistan. —*Xinhua*

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Slowdown in Apple orders weighs on LG Display's first-quarter profit

The LG logo is shown at the Cellular Telecommunications Industry Association (CTIA) Enterprise & Applications event in San Diego, California on 11 Oct, 2011.—Reuters

Seoul, 23 April—LG Display Co Ltd reported its smallest profit since it returned to the black in the second quarter of last year, as demand for iPhone and iPad screens from Apple weakened amid concerns the US company is losing its luster in the mobile device market.

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 disappointing 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 January-March 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.

Reuters

New US rocket blasts off from Virginia launch pad

Cape Canaveral, 23 April—A privately owned rocket built in partnership with NASA to haul cargo to the *International Space Station* blasted off on Sunday for a debut test flight from a new commercial spaceport in Virginia.

The 13-story Antares rocket, developed and flown by Orbital Sciences Corp, lifted off at 5 pm EDT (2100 GMT) from a Virginia-owned and operated launch pad at NASA's Wallops 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 8,380-pound (3,800-kg) dummy capsule — into an orbit 158 miles above the planet, fulfilling the primary goal of the test flight.

The Orbital Sciences Corporation Antares rocket is seen as it launches from Pad-0A of the Mid-Atlantic Regional Spaceport (MARS) at the NASA Wallops Flight Facility in Virginia, on 21 April, 2013.—Reuters

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 outpost that flies about 250 miles above Earth.

NASA turned to commercial suppliers after retiring the space shuttles in 2011. Flight controllers radioed news of Antares' successful debut to the station crew shortly after launch.

Reuters

Nokia to launch new phone with physical keyboard on 24 April

New Delhi, 23 April—Nokia has teased an image of what possibly could be a new mobile phone, on its blog, Nokia Conversations and through its Twitter account.

The Finnish handset maker has also informed that it will be announcing something new, followed by a Q&A session with Neil Broadley from its Mobile Phones team along with an unnamed special guest on Wednesday, 24 April at 7am GMT (12:30pm IST).

The teaser displays part of a phone's screen and a small part of its hardware keyboard. The device is a yellow coloured phone with a polycarbonate shell similar to the designs we've seen in the company's Lumia range of Windows Phone smartphones.

It's difficult to say if the launch could be feature Nokia's first hardware keyboard equipped Windows Phone device or the company is launching a refreshed line-up of handsets in its Asha feature phone range. While we haven't heard much about the Windows Phone QWERTY handsets, we've seen some evidence of the latter.

Earlier this month, a purported pictures featuring Nokia's refreshed range of Asha mobile handsets had been posted online by the Twitter user @evleaks. The images had featured three different handsets in bold colours such as green, red and yellow. The images had made us think that Nokia was trying to apply a similar design philosophy to its Asha devices that it had adopted for its Lumia smartphones.

The launch event could see the rumour materialising into a real product. Nokia is facing increased competition in the sub Rs 5,000 category from the local handset makers offering affordably priced Android smartphones. Recently, Samsung too launched its REX series to take on Nokia. At this stage, it has become imperative for Nokia to raise the bar for its Asha devices. If the company is able to launch new Asha handsets with more features at a competitive price, it might be able to revive its fortune in the feature phone segment in India.

PTI

Cosmonauts tackle equipment installation outside space station

Cape Canaveral, 23 April—A pair of Russian cosmonauts wrapped up a 6-1/2 hour spacewalk outside the *International Space Station* on Friday, the first of up to eight outings this year to install experiments and prepare the orbital outpost for a new module, officials said.

Flight engineers Pavel Vinogradov, 59, a veteran of seven spacewalks and Roman Romanenko, 41, a second-generation cosmonaut on his debut spacewalk, floated outside the station's airlock at 10:03 am EDT/1403 GMT as the station soared 262 miles over the southern Pacific Ocean.

The primary purpose of the 6-1/2 hour excursion was to set up an experiment that monitors plasma waves in Earth's ionosphere, the outer layer of the planet's atmosphere that extends to about 370 miles into space.

Instruments on two boxes attached to handrails on the forward portion of the station's Zvezda module will measure low-frequency electromagnetic radiation, which, among other triggers, has been tied to earthquakes.

Reuters

Search is on for next Israeli astronaut

Herzliya, 23 April—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.

The eighth annual Ilan Ramon Space Conference at the end of January brought to Israel's shores a record 14 international heads of space agencies, including NASA and the European Space Agency, as well as experts from around the world.

Israeli activity in the study of outer space began in the 1960s with academic research. In 1983, the Israel Space Agency was established, by government decision, within the Ministry of Science and Technology.

The conference in Herzliya,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.

Maybe one of them will come from Moona, a new science, environment and space educational center in the mixed Arab-Jewish city of Sakhnin.

At the conference, NASA and the Ministry of Science and Technology representatives announced that the search has begun for the next Israeli astronaut. "It's 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.

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. Israel was invited to join the UN Committee on Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS), the central international body that deals with space matters.

US astronaut Randy Bresnik visiting the Science Park in Rehovot.

Science and Technology Ministry Director-General Menahem Greenblum and European Commission Deputy Director-General for Industrial Initiatives Dr Paul Weissberg signed an agreement for cooperation between Israel and the Commission in the field of space.

Bolden also spoke of his desire to renew NASA's cooperative agreements with Israel to include several new projects for the coming years. "Israel is one of the anchors of cooperation with NASA, along with several other countries.

We will consider expansion of cooperation on other applications in space exploration and development of integrated technologies," he told conference attendees.

NLM

BUSINESS & HEALTH

Gold traders pick bargains fearing price rise

A customer holds a gold necklace inside a jewellery showroom in Mumbai on 16 April, 2013.—Reuters

Mumbai, 23 April—Gold traders in India, the world's biggest buyer of the metal, continued to pick up bargains for a second consecutive week fearing further price rise, after prices rose nearly 1 percent from the lowest level in more than 18 months.

* An 11 percent slump in gold prices since last week released years of pent-up demand, resulting in a supply shortage in the physical market, triggering higher premiums.

* "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.

* 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 ignited 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 43,638 rupees per kg.—*Reuters*

Ahead of reform, medical care slowdown hits companies

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 out-patient 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, 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 admissions down about 4 percent in the first quarter. Earlier this week, J&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 use seen in the fourth quarter did not persist into 2013.—*Reuters*

A Tea Party member reaches for a pamphlet titled "The Impact of Obamacare'', at a "Food for Free Minds Tea Party Rally'' in Littleton, New Hampshire on 27 Oct, 2012.—Reuters

Boeing begins fixing Dreamliners

Tokyo, 23 April—Boeing Co (BA.N) on Monday began installing reinforced lithium ion batteries on five grounded *787* jets owned by launch customer All Nippon Airways (9202.T), starting a process that should make the first commercial Dreamliners ready to fly again in about a week.

A 787 Dreamliner jet painted in All Nippon Airways (ANA) of Japan livery (R), sits idle with other 787s on the tarmac parking at Paine Field in Everett, Washington, on 17 Jan, 2013.—Reuters

Teams of Boeing engineers are working on the ANA jets at four airports in Japan, including Tokyo's Haneda and Narita hubs, Ryosei Nomura, a spokesman for the carrier said.

The *Dreamliners* have been parked since regulators in the United States and elsewhere ordered all 50 planes out of the skies in mid-January after batteries on two of them overheated.

ANA is the world's biggest operator of the carbon-composite aircraft with 17 of the planes. After ANA, the biggest 787 operator is local rival Japan Airlines Co (9201.T) with seven jets, followed by United Continental Holdings Inc's (UAL.N) United Airlines and Air India AIN. UL with six each.

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 787s lithium ion batteries in steel box, install new battery charges, 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 in Japan and one on another JAL Dreamliner parked at Boston's Logan Airport to overheat.—*Reuters*

World stocks gain, dollar up against yen after G20 backs Japan

London, 23 April—The dollar strengthened towards 100 per yen 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 singling out Japan as some in the markets had feared.

The move signals acceptance that reflation of Japan's economy, the world's third largest, is seen as key to any global recovery, still very fragile after years of easy monetary policies by major central banks inn the US and Europe.

"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.

"Japan not only escaped criticism, but on the contrary won praise as a country that was fulfilling its global obligations...," said Marshall Gittler, head of global FX strategy at IronFX.

"That is in effect the green light for the BoJ's easing, which we expect will push USD/JPY through the magic 100 number in the not-too-distant future - perhaps as early as today."

The dollar was at 99.80 yen, off an intraday high of 99.89 and just below a four-year peak of 99.95 hit on April 11.

The euro also rose against the yen, reaching 130.70 from around 129.98 late on Friday. It was near to a three-year peak of 131.10 set earlier this month.

Against the dollar, the euro eased slightly to $1.3060 after touching a session high of $1.3130 on Friday. The euro, which failed to break above $1.32 recently, has been stuck in a $1.30/32 range for the past week.

Reuters

A trader looks at computer screens at Madrid's Bourse on 26 March, 2013. Reuters

Euro zone consumer confidence rises in April

The illuminated euro sign is seen between the European Central Bank's (ECB) headquarter (R) and the sky scrapers of main business banks Commerzbank (2nd R) and Dresdner Bank (L and C) in Frankfurt, in this 28 Nov, 2005 file photo.—Reuters

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 of economists 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

WORLD

Hollande wins acclaims on security amid economic challenges

French President Francois Hollande

Paris, 23 April —Under pressure to effectively fix the French economy, President Francois Hollande recently won some acclaims 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*

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

The blast site is seen in West, Texas, the United States, on 21 April, 2013. The seat, or center of an explosion that blew off a fertilizer plant and almost razed the US town of West had beenlocated, a US Official said on Sunday. **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 Sumitomo 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*

Princess Astrid of Belgium (R), special representative to the Roll Back Malaria Partnership, speaks during a Press conference in Tokyo on 22 April, 2013, ahead of World Malaria Day. At left is Fatoumata Nafo-Traore, executive director of the initiative launched in 1998 by the World Health Organization, the UN Children's Fund and other entities.— **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 Teheran 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 exhausted," 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 domestic energy 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*

US Defence Secretary Chuck Hagel (L) and his Israeli counterpart Moshe Yaalon walk together during an honour guard ceremony at the Kirya base in Tel Aviv on 22 April , 2013.— **Reuters**

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 a two-hour delay at 10 pm ET, and Newark Liberty International reported 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 47,000 employees, including nearly 13,000 air traffic controllers who manage the nation's airspace.

Reuters

The air traffic control tower is shown at the Ramona Airport in Ramona, California on 12 March , 2013. **Reuters**

NATIONAL & LOCAL NEWS

EU lifts all sanctions...

(from page 16)

our relations with Myanmar by lifting political and economic sanctions, only the arms 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, 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.

MNA

Kyodo opens branch in Yangon

NAY PYI 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*

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 4 per minute as in CDMA-800 MHz mobile phone. Those who want to use internet on their mobile are to apply for it along with initial installation cost of K 10,000 at their respective State/Region Manager Offices of Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications.

There are 282 radio stations (CDMA-800 MHz mobile system) across the country, from which local and trunk calls can be made. This mobile system will work within the radius of these radio stations. New radio stations are being built for better quality of communication and greater space.

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 oversea 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 20,000 at State/Region Manager Offices of Myanma Posts and Telecommunications. For the damages of SIM cards, subscribers can take out SIM cards at State/Region Manager Offices free of charge. For more information, may dial 3456.

Myanma Posts and Telecommunications

Myoma market in Pakokku hustling after Maha Thingyan Festival

KYAUKPADAUNG, 23 April—Myoma 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 Yesagyo, Myaing, Pauk, Chin State, Yaw, Pale, Taungtha, Bagan, NyaungU and other regions.

"Pakokku Myoma 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 Myoma 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 affort 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 Myoma 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, Myoma market is hustling and bustling daily.

Myanma Alinn

Phyusin Parahita free clinic, reliable for needy persons in Magway

MAGWAY, 23 April—Phyusin 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 physio-therapist 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 CEG 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 hear may donate medicines to the clinic, dialing 063-25362 and 09-5342174," continued U Win Kyaw.

Myanma Alinn

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 million, 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.

Kyemon

Kyaukpadaung to get new market in August

KYAUKPADAUNG, 23 April—Under the supervision of new market construction committee and Township Development Affairs Committee, Myanmar Khit Company is taking responsibility of building Tanpawady Market in Kyaukpadaung 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, totalling 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.

Myanma Alinn

The New Light of Myanmar

PERSPECTIVES

Wednesday, 24 April, 2013

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 progress 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 introduction of the Foreign Direct Investment Law.

However, if we are unable to promote peace and stability we will squander the opportunities and avenues available to advance economic development. Therefore, we all need to participate and provide support in promoting peace and stability, and only then will we be able to ensure the highly aspired people-centred development.

Seventh white elephant gives birth to a new elephant

A newly-born elephant seen with mother White Elephant Haymawady at Yadana White Elephant Shed.—MNA

NATIONAL

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.

The two leaders then attended the ceremony to sign agreements and MoUs between the two countries.

Union Minister Dr Kan Zaw and Indonesian Trade Minister Mr Gita Irawan Wirjawan signed Framework Agreement on Investment and Trade between the two ministries; Union Minister U Wunna Maung Lwin and Indonesian Foreign Minister Dr RM Marty M Natalegawa, MoU on Cooperation in Capacity Building; and Union Minister U Win Myint and the Indonesian Trade Minister, MoU on Rice Trade.—*MNA*

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 greetings was displayed. On behalf of the President, Union Minister at President Office U Aung Min accepted the peace prize and spoke words of thanks.

ICG said that the reason of selecting President U Thein Sein for awarding the peace prize, since taking office in March 2011, President U Thein Sein of Myanmar has pioneered a historic transformation of his country with bold reform initiatives. His leadership has seen decisive action towards improving Myanmar's relations with the political opposition and liberalizing past repressive laws. He has made significant strides in ending the country's decades-long internal conflicts, securing ceasefires with all but one of the ethnic armed groups. Key challenges remain to be addressed, a legacy of Myanmar's authoritarian past. These includes: securing a sustainable peace in all regions, ending discrimination against ethnic groups, and ensuring that all in Myanmar benefit from the opening up of the country to the international community after so many years in isolation.

MNA

Vice-Senior General Soe Win meets Thai Commander of First Army Area

NAYPYITAW, 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 Parnuvach Narkavong and Thai Military Attaché of the Royal Thai Army to Myanmar Senior Colonel Prachern Chaiyakit.

MNA

Vice-Senior General Soe Win and Commander of First Army Area of Royal Thai Army Lt-Gen Paiboon Koomchaya exchange gifts.

MNA

NAY 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 Lwin Sein presents his Credentials to European Council President

NAY PYI TAW, 24 April—Ambassador U 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*

NATIONAL

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

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 and party 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.

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

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

MNA

***President U Thein Sein, Indonesian President Dr Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono and party pose for documentary photo with artistes.*—MNA**

Daw Khin Khin Win meets Indonesian first lady

NAY PYI TAW, 23 April—President U Thein Sein's wife Daw Khin Khin Win received Indonesian President Dr Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono's wife Mrs Hajjah Ani Bambang Yudhoyono and party at the Presidential Palace here this evening.

Also present at the call were Daw Lin Lin Tin, wife of the Union Foreign Affairs Minister, Daw Thuzar Wai, wife of the Union Rail Transportation Minister, and Daw Sabei Win, wife of the Myanmar Ambassador to Indonesia, and officials of the President Office.

The meeting focused on Myanmar-Indonesia friendship, maternal and child welfare, women empowerment and activities of women's entrepreneurs associations.—*MNA*

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

Union FM sends message of sympathy to Chinese Foreign Affairs Minister

NAY PYI TAW, 23 April—U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of sympathy to His Excellency Mr. Wang Yi, Minister of Foreign Affairs 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

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

NAY PYI TAW, 24 April—Ambassador U 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 Commission, His Excellency Mr. Jose Manuel Barroso, on 20 February 2013, in Brussels.—*MNA*

Indonesian President, wife arrive in Nay Pyi Taw

NAY PYI TAW, 23 April—At the invitation of U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, and wife Daw Khin Khin Win, a goodwill delegation led by Indonesian President Dr. Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono and wife Mrs. Hajjah Ani Bambang Yudhoyono arrived here by special flight this afternoon.

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. The Guard of Honour saluted the Indonesian President and party, and students on both sides of the entrance road to Nay Pyi Taw International Airport also welcomed the Indonesian delegation waving miniature flags of both countries. —*MNA*

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*

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.

Lwin Zaw Phyo (a) Suphe, aged 15, was killed on the spot and two other victims died at the scene are being identified. The victim died at the hospital is Myo Lwin Oo, 24. Nay Phyo Wai, 16, Moe Yan, 22, and Ma Lwin Lwin Naing, 28, are being kept under intensive care at the hospital. Ma Ni Ni Win, 22, is not in critical condition.—*MNA*

WORLD

Kishida says Japan willing to chair OECD ministerial council

Tokyo, 23 April — Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida on Monday told Angel Gurria, 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

Japanese Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida

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 3,000-kilowatt 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

"Solar Impulse" is put indoor at the Moffett Federal Airfield, Mountain View, California, on 20 April, 2013. The Swiss-made world's biggest solar-powered aircraft that doesn't use a single drop of fuel will begin travelling across the United States in early May. It'll take off on 1 May from the San Francisco Bay area and reach New York's JFK Airport, the final destination, in early July.—Xinhua

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

Somali reporter killed in fourth journalist murder this year

Mogadishu, 23 April — A Somali journalist working for the government broadcaster was shot dead outside his home in the capital Mogadishu on Sunday, the fourth reporter to be murdered in the country this year, the union of journalists said.

Mohamed Ibrahim Rageh, who worked for Somali National Television and Radio Mogadishu, was killed by unknown assailants as he returned home after work, according to Abdirahim Isse Addow, director of Radio Mogadishu, who was quoted by the National Union of Somali Journalists.

Three other journalists had been killed in Somalia so far this year, the union said.

Reuters

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

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Director General Yukiya Amano attends a news conference during a board of governors meeting at the United Nations headquarters in Vienna on 10 Sept, 2012.—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 Jayanthi Natarajan in the wake of such 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 bans 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

REGIONAL

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 empress 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.

Kyodo News

Japanese Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko

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 United States 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 Emmanuel F Esguerra noted that the US is among the top 20 importers of bananas in the world.

The Philippines shelved plans to export bananas to the US in December 2012 after typhoon Bopha (local name: Pablo) damaged several plantations in key banana-growing areas in Mindanao.

Esguerra said the Philippines is also looking at opening up new markets for sugar in a bid to increase farm exports this year.

The Philippine government said it is coordinating with South Korea, India, Indonesia and countries in the Middle East for their specific requirements.Latest figures from the National Statistics Office showed that the value of total farm exports rose by 43.7 percent year-on-year to 343.9 million US dollars in February.— *Xinhua*

Chinese, Thai legislators highlight friendly relations

Zhang Dejiang (R), Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, shakes hands with Somsak Kitasuranont, President of the National Assembly and Speaker of the House of Representatives of Thailand, in Beijing, capital of China, on 22 April , 2013. Zhang held talks with Somsak in Beijing on Monday. — Xinhua

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 the route of peaceful development and pursue a friendly, 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 Kitasuranont 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 so 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.

Xinhua

Environmental activists perform theatrical action during a parade to commemorate the Earth Day in Surabaya, Indonesia, on 22 April , 2013. In 2009, the UN General Assembly proclaimed April 22 as International Mother Earth Day to promote harmony with nature and the Earth.— Xinhua

Vietnam, US hold naval exchange activities

Hanoi, 23 April—The *USS Chung-Hoon* and *USNS Salvor vessels, led* by Commander, Logistics Group Western Pacific Rear Admiral Tom Carney, and Commander, Maritime Staff Element Captain Paul Schlise are on a five-day visit to Vietnam's central Da Nang city, according to state-run *Vietnam News Agency*.

Sailors, maritime staff, medical trainers, a mobile diving and salvage detachment, and the 7th Fleet Band Orient Express will have naval exchange activities with the Vietnam People's Navy, with focus on non-combatant and skill exchanges in navigation and maintenance.

As planned, professional exchanges will be conducted in the fields of heath, 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.—*Xinhua*

Hearing-impaired children receive vocational training in Vietnam's central hilly Lam Dong Province, on 22 April, 2013. As of 2009, around 15 percent of total 1.2 million disabled children in Vietnam were suffering from hearing loss, according to the report by Vietnam General Statistics Office.—Xinhua

Japan, Vietnam to cooperate in grievance resolution system

Tokyo , 23 April— Japan and Vietnam agreed Monday to cooperate in establishing in Vietnam a grievance resolution system in which people can lodge complaints against and make requests to the government.

Japan's Internal Affairs and Communications Ministry signed a memorandum of understanding with Vietnam's Government Inspectorate in the first case in which the Japanese government will offer cooperation to a foreign country in the field, officials said.

As Japan has a system in which the central government has commissioned about 5,000 administrative counselors to hear complaints and requests from the general public, a ministry official expressed hope it will help build a system in Vietnam.The Government Inspectorate of Vietnam, which is tasked with handling complaints against public administration and corruption issues, has sought cooperation in improving its system through Japan's know-how in the area, according to the officials.— *Kyodo News*

ADVERTISEMENT & GENERAL

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

UNDP Empowered lives Resilient nations

Vacancy Announcement – 014/UNDP HR/2013

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is seeking applications from dynamic and highly motivated Myanmar nationals for the following vacancy with UNDP office in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

Functional Title	: Programme Analyst (Rule of Law)– Pillar III
Grade	: NO-B
Type of contract	: Fixed Term
Duty Station	: Nay Pyi Taw , Myanmar

Myanmar is at an historic stage in its development. A new Constitution was adopted in May 2008 and elections were held in November 2010 with bi-elections in April 2012. Parliament and governments have been formed at the national and region/stat levels. A number of reforms have already been undertaken focusing on good governance, human rights and reaching cease-fire agreements in a number of conflict areas. These reforms are seen as positive steps, which have led to increasing engagement with the international community and allowed Executive Board of UNDP to lift mandate restrictions and to propose a fully fledged UNDP country programme.

Against this rapidly changing background, UNDP Myanmar is undergoing strategic repositioning and ramping up its capacities in order to effectively support national priorities of democratic transformation and poverty reduction. After more than 20 years of working exclusively at the grassroots level through the Human Development Initiative, the draft country programme for Myanmar (2013-2015) envisages contributions towards strengthening democratic governance, provision of policy advice for poverty reduction, strengthening resilience against climate change and disaster risk reduction, and targeted support for strengthening institutions of local governance.

Competencies Required for the job:

Functional Competencies: ability to maintain and establish network of contacts with national counterparts for information sharing and responding to capacity development request; analysis and selection of materials for strengthening strategic alliances with partners and stakeholders; Advancing Policy-Oriented Agenda- preparing information for policy input; identification and communicating relevant information for a variety of audiences for advocating UNDP's mandate; ability to demonstrate good knowledge of Myanmar law and its application;

Core Competencies: Demonstrates integrity and fairness by modeling UN values and ethical standards; displays cultural and gender sensitivity and adaptability; treats all people fairly and without favoritism; shows strong corporate commitment.

Qualifications: Master's Degree or equivalent in Law. At least 2 years of relevant experience at the national or international level in providing legal advice, and hands-on experience in design, monitoring and evaluation of development projects. Experience in the use of computers and office software packages and handling of web based management systems. Fluency in both spoken and written English an absolute requirement.

Candidates should clearly indicate the post title in their application, and should submit the application with complete UNDP Personal History Form - P-11 Form. Detailed Terms of References are posted on the bulletin board at No.6, Natmauk Road, Tamwe Township, Yangon. Applications should be addressed to **Deputy Resident Representative (Operations) Attention: Human Resources Unit, No.6 Natmauk Road, UNDP, Yangon** or apply on-line through **application.mm@undp.org**.

UNDP is an equal opportunity employer and is committed to achieving workforce diversity in terms of gender, nationality and culture. Individuals from minority groups, indigenous groups and persons with disabilities are equally encouraged to apply.

Only those candidates in whose qualifications and experience the Organization has further interest will be contacted for subsequent interview(s). UNDP regrets its inability to reply individually or attend to telephone queries on the advertised posts. **Closing Date: 7 May 2013**

Yangon Golf Club

The Yangon Golf Club will be celebrating its 104th year Annual At 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(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: M/S 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 KAIUN KALSHA LTD

Phone No: 256924/256914

Press preview for Kabukiza Gallery showcasing costumes, props held

***hoto shows a studio to offer visitors the opportunity to be photographed wearing Kabuki costumes at Kabukiza Tower, a building adjacent to the reconstructed Kabukiza Theatre in Tokyo's Chuo Ward, on on 22 April, 2013. A press preview was held the same day of a gallery showcasing elaborate Kabuki costumes, props and other items at the same building.*—KYODO NEWS**

TOKYO, 23 April—A Press preview of a gallery showcasing elaborate Kabuki costumes, props and other items was held Monday at a building adjacent to the reconstructed Kabukiza Theatre in Tokyo's Chuo Ward.

The Kabukiza Gallery, located on the fifth floor of Kabukiza Tower, will open on Wednesday. An exhibit with the theme of "spring" will be held until June 30.

Kabuki actor Nakamura Baigyoku said he hopes the "gallery will serve as the way to spark interest (in Kabuki)." On the same floor, a studio will also open offering visitors the opportunity to be photographed wearing Kabuki costumes.

Kyodo News

***A woman introduces bee products at the National Honey Fair in Bucharest, capital of Romania, on 21 April , 2013. About 100 honey producers from all over the country participate in the 3-days fair which opened on 19 April .* XINHUA**

***Voters cast their ballots at a polling station in Abidjan, on 21 April, 2013. A total of 5.7 million registered voters went to polling stations for the 2013 municipal and regional elections in Cote D'Ivoire on Saturday. —*XINHUA**

Two held for fraud, goods worth Rs 80 lakh recovered

JAMMU, 23 April—A fraud case of trying to sell Kashmir-bound goods worth Rs 80 lakh by staging an accident, was cracked by the police after the arrest of two persons including a driver.

"Police first spotted broken parts of a truck and a few bundles near Maroog on the highway, but no injured persons were found near the accident site during search operation," a police officer said.—*PTI*

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 of Spanish Books" in 1926, will take on an extra dimension as April 23 coincides with the St. Georges Day. 23 April is also the anniversary of the death of Manuel 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. As well as publicizing the importance of 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 celebrations.

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 central 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, Jose Manuel Caballero Bonald will continue the tradition, before he is given his award at the University of Alcala. Madrid has the highest number of book readers in Spain, around 12 percent above the national average.—*Reuters*

ENTERTAINMENT

Jack White of the film "White Stripes: Under the Great White Northern Lights" speaks at a Press conference during the 34th Toronto International Film Festival, on 18 Sept, 2009.

Rocker Jack White's Nashville store offers "do-it-yourself" records

NASHVILLE, 23 April— Rock musician Jack White celebrated Record Store Day on Saturday by giving customers a chance to record their own voices on vinyl on a vintage machine at his record shop near downtown Nashville.

White, who has embraced vinyl over digital both as an artist and as the head of Third Man Records in Nashville, treated customers to a Voice-O-Graph, a record booth from 1947.

"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 record 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*

Jennifer Aniston wants to "move to Italy, eat pasta and get fat"

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.

PTI

Jennifer Aniston

ABC delays bomb-themed "Castle" episode after Boston bombings

LOS ANGELES, 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.

Broadcaster ABC said on Thursday that the 22 April episode of "Castle," which follows a crime novelist and New York police detective, will switch dates with the 29 April episode.

Series star Stana Katic said on Twitter that the move was made "out of respect" for the victims from the twin blasts near the finish line of the Boston Marathon. The bombings killed At least three people and injured 176.

Broadcaster Fox on Tuesday pulled a recent episode of animated series "Family Guy" from rebroadcast because it had an unconnected storyline of the Boston Marathon and a bombing. ABC is owned by Walt Disney Co and Fox by News Corp.

Reuters

Actress Stana Katic attends an event celebrating the 100th anniversary of The Beverly Hills Hotel in Beverly Hills, California on 16 June, 2012.

Gerard Butler had the holiday from hell in the Himalayas

NEW DELHI, 23 April—Gerard Butler has revealed he had the worst trip of his life to the Himalayas. The Olympus Has Fallen actor loves globe-trotting in between breaks from his film career, although contracting severe food-poisoning on a camping trip in the mountain range nearly put him off travelling for life.

He recalled: "We went up into the Himalayas and I drank water from the Ganges River. We hiked up to the top of this mountain and I got sick — and I mean sick. I ended up getting sick for a month."

"The water looks fresh up there but what I didn't realize is that, upstream, there's villagers pissing and s****ing in it. We camped on top of the mountain ... I'm up all night s****ing and throwing up, with a massive Himalayan thunderstorm going on. It felt like the whole world was exploding.

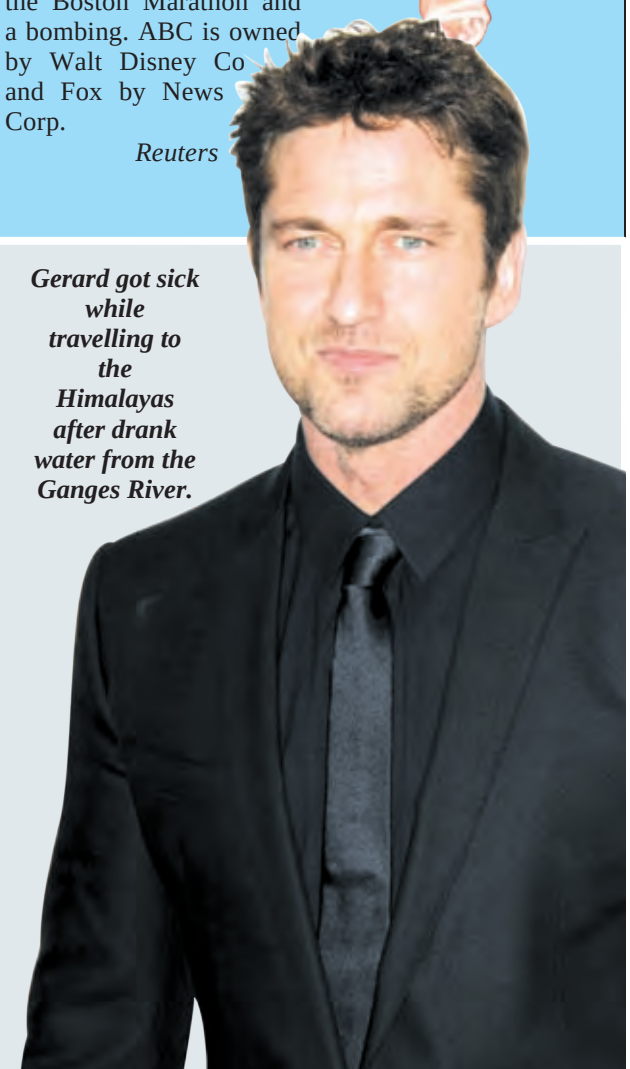
"Finally the next morning they had to bring me down on a donkey, and in the heat and the smell, I had to get off and walk. It was the most awful experience."

The poor star has become hardened to unpleasant situations when travelling thanks to his pet pooch Lolita because the cute pug — who he bought on a whim in a pet store — isn't properly toilet trained.

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

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

PTI



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

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.

"He's a very popular player with his team mates."—*Reuters*

Chelsea's Branislav Ivanovic (R) challenges Liverpool's Luis Suarez during their English Premier League soccer match at Anfield in Liverpool, northern England, on 21 April, 2013.—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 team mate Nico Rosberg deserved to be on the podium instead of him after the German obeyed orders and stayed behind him.

Reuters

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

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 Brazilian 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*

Referee Mark Clattenburg holds a red card after sending off Chelsea's Branislav Ivanovic during their English Premier League soccer match against Manchester United at Stamford Bridge in London on 28 Oct, 2012. —Reuters

Saina Nehwal banging head against Chinese wall

Saina Nehwal returns a shot to Aprilia Yuswandari of Indonesia during their women's singles match at the second round of Indonesia Open badminton tournament in Jakarta on 14 June, 2012. Reuters

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 medallist 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 is 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

Ryder Cup heroes reunited on home soil for first time

London, 23 April—Europe's triumphant Ryder Cup team will be reunited on home soil for the first time when all 12 players and captain Jose Maria Olazabal compete in next month's PGA Championship at Wentworth.

"It will be great to have the team back together," world number two Rory McIlroy said in a news release on Monday.

"It was such a special Ryder Cup, one that will have a special place in history, and I don't think anyone associated with that team will ever get tired of celebrating it."

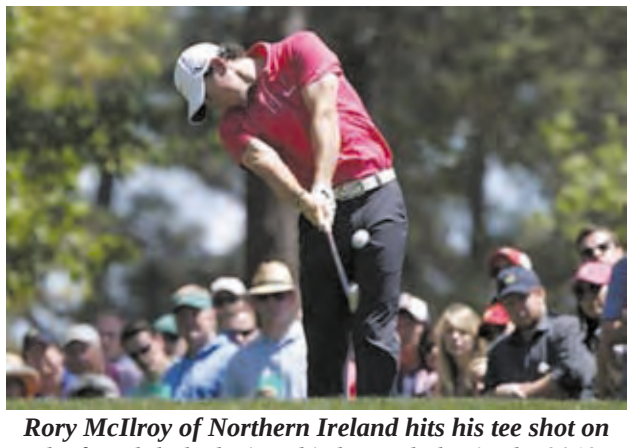
United States were 10-6 up going into the last day of the biennial event at the Medinah Country Club in Illinois in September but the Europeans staged a remarkable comeback to win by 14 1/2 points to 13 1/2.

"I am delighted the British public will get the chance to see all of my Ryder Cup team in action at Wentworth," said Olazabal.

"Medinah was an unforgettable experience for everyone who was there ... and the BMW PGA Championship is the perfect setting for the players to be reunited to show what they can do as individuals as opposed to the team environment."

McIlroy, Luke Donald, Justin Rose, Ian Poulter, Lee Westwood, Sergio Garcia, Nicolas Colsaerts, Peter Hanson, Graeme McDowell, Martin Kaymer, Francesco Molinari and Paul Lawrie will lead the chase for a record first prize of 791,660 euros on the outskirts of London.

Reuters



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

GENERAL

A visitor looks at an artwork in an exhibition of "From Picasso to Barcelo — Spanish Sculpture of the 20th Century" in Beijing, capital of China, on 22 April, 2013. A total of 79 pieces of artworks of famous Spanish artists were presented in the exhibition which celebrated the 40th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between China and Spain—Xinhua

Romania to purchase used 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 will 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-16*s delivered to Portugal by the United States in 1999 under the Peace Atlantis 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 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.

Xinhua

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(24-4-13 09:30 am ~ 25-4-13 09:30 am) MST

* News
* A Famous Festive Feature (Shwe Maw Daw Pagoda Festival) (Part-2)
* News
* Music
* Pre Opening Veremony of U Thant's Home Museum
* News
* Today's Fashion Trend
* Mobile Phone Etiquette
* News
* Food Trip (Episode-7)
* News
* How do we solve Traffic jam Problem?
* News
* Read to Enrich Your Mind with Knowledge
* News
* Today's Fashion Trend
* Mobile Phone Etiquette
* News
* If you wanna decorate your home
* Myanmar Movies "Misdeeds"

Myanmar TV

(24-4-2013, Wednesday)

6:00 am
1. Paritta By Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw

6:30 am
2. To Be Healthy Exercise

6:35 am
3. Dance & Song of National Races

6:45 am
4. Documentary

7:00 am
5. News

7:20 am
6. Teleplay

8:00 am
7. News/ International News

8:25 am
8. Sing A Song

9:00 am
9. News/ International News

9:20 am
10. How It's Works

9:45 am
11. TV Drama Series

10:55 am
12. Bakery World

11:15 am
13. Approaching Science Discovery World

12:00 pm
14. News/ International News

12:25 pm
15. Myanmar Movie (Part-1)

1:00 pm
16. News

1:15 pm
17. Myanmar Movie (Part-2)

2:00 pm
18. News

2:15 pm
19. Myanmar Movie (Part-3)

3:00 pm
20. News

3:15 pm
21. India Dramma Series

4:00 pm
22. News

4:15 pm
23. India Dramma Series

4:25 pm
24. Dance of National Races

4:30 pm
25. University Of Distance Education (TV Lectures) - Third Year (Chemistry)

5:15 pm
26. Fashion Show

6:20 pm
27. Shwe Yin Khone Than

6:45 pm
28. Road to 27th SEA Game (Yatching)

7:00 pm
29. News

8:00 pm
30. News / International News / Weather Report

9:00 pm
31. News / International News
32. Ny Mind Game My SEA Games
33. Teplay

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 (R) and Elena Vesnina of Russia celebrate victory over Slovakia's Dominika Cibulkova and Daniela Hantuchova during their Fed Cup World Group semi-final doubles tennis match in Moscow on 21 April, 2013. Reuters

Ekaterina Makarova and Elena Vesnina secured the winning point for hosts Russia when they outlasted Dominika Cibulkova and Daniela Hantuchova 4-6 6-3 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 24th-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*

Judo: Japan women's coach gives thumbs up to Ogata

Tokyo, 23 April— Japan women's coach Mitsutoshi Nanjo offered praise on Monday to 22-year-old Akari Ogata, who claimed her first title at the All Japan Women's Judo Championship by beating heavyweight Megumi Tachimoto the previous day.

"It is exciting to see a young wrestler perform that well as we look toward the coming three years (leading up to the Olympics)," Nanjo said, after returning to Japan from the Asian championships that were held in Bangkok. Nanjo stopped short of saying Ogata is a lock in the 78-kilogram category for this summer's world championships in Rio de Janeiro, but indicated she has definitely "moved closer."

"It was somewhat unexpected for our front-runner (Tachimoto) for the national squad to come out on the losing end," added Nanjo. Sunday's national championship, which was the first major domestic tournament since coaches on the women's national team were involved in an abuse scandal at the start of the year, served as a world qualifier for the over-78-kg class.

Akari Ogataof Japan

But it was the first time in 14 years someone outside that category won the crown at the open-weight meet.

Kyodo News

R/489 Printed and published by the New Light of Myanmar press in Nay Pyi Taw, the News and Periodicals Enterprise, Ministry of Information.

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The New Light of Myanmar

Wednesday, 24 April, 2013

Indonesia supports Myanmar's crisis management process

President U Thein Sein and Indonesian President Dr.Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono inspect Guard of Honour.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 23 April— President U Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win extended a warm welcome to Indonesian President Dr. Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono and wife Mrs Hajjah Ani Bambang Yudhoyono on the lawns of the Presidential Palace, here, at 4 pm today.

Afterwards, the two Presidents took the salute of the Guard of Honour and inspected the Guard of Honour.

It was also attended by the Union Ministers and the Myanmar Ambassador to Indonesia, departmental heads. The Indonesian President was accompanied by Indonesian Ministers, MPs, the Indonesian Ambassador to Myanmar and high-ranking officials.

The two Presidents held a meeting at the Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace.

During the meeting, 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
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Press Release

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 on 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.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Nay Pyi Taw
23 April 2013

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 Hotel, here, this afternoon.

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

Officials from the both sides signed MoU on the Feasibility study for the improvement of the energy efficiency in power delivery and the losses reduction pilot programme in Yangon between Ministry of Electric Power and PT. PLNl of Indonesia; MoU on fertilizer off Take between MAPCO of Myanmar and PT. Pupuk Indonesia (Persero) of Indonesia; MoU cooperation agreement on capacity building between Kanbawza Bank of Myanmar and PT. BNI of Indonesia; MoU 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 promoting bilateral trades between Myanmar and Indonesia, easy buying of fertilizers, banking services and human resource development and project management services would help facilitate smooth running of production.

It was also attended by responsible persons from the Ministry of Commerce, Indonesian Ministry of Trade, entrepreneurs and officials.

MNA

EU lifts all sanctions against Myanmar, except for arms embargo

YANGON, 23 April— The European Union (EU) Ambassadors held discussion on lifting sanctions against Myanmar on 17 April and have reached an agreement at EU ministerial meeting on 22 April.

An announcement was issued at 3236th foreign affairs meeting of European Council held in Luxembourg on 22 April. The announcement states that EU always monitors and supports Myanmar's significant reform processes and welcomes government's efforts for democratic development, functioning of Hluttaws, freedom of expression, eradication of corruption and releasing of the prisoners of conscience. It also says that EU is making efforts for closer relations in establishing 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.

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, is serious enough, and the government there are sufficiently committed to that, for us to take this decision, and it is absolutely vital to continue work where we can help to promote human rights and address crisis."

Likewise, EU Foreign Policy Chief Catherine Ashton, said, "And today we closed a very long chapter in

(See page 7)