President U Thein Sein felicitates South African counterpart

NAY PYI TAW, 27 April—U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr. Jacob Gedleyihlekisa Zuma, President of the Republic of South Africa, on the occasion of the Freedom Day of the Republic of South Africa, which falls on 27 April, 2013.—MNA

Vice-President U Nyan Tun receives former US Assistant Secretary of State

NAY PYI TAW, 26 April—Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Nyan Tun met a delegation led by former US Assistant Secretary of State and CEO of Asia Group Co Dr Kurt Campbell, at the Credentials Hall of Presidential Palace, here, this morning.

They held discussions on cooperation in the sectors of investment and economy, extension of Yangon International Airport and airport service, technical cooperation with Myanmar Airways and electricity generation by solar energy. Also present at the call together with the Vice- President were Deputy Ministers U Thant Kyaw, U Han Sein and U Set Aung and departmental officials.

Myanmar U-23 to play friendly match against Vietnamese counterpart 11 June

YANGON, 26 April—As a warming up for XXVII SEA Games, Myanmar U-23 team will play friendly match against Vietnam U-23 team in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam on 11 June.

Myanmar U-23 team will leave Yangon on 9 June according to the invitation of Vietnam Football Federation. Myanmar U-23 will play another friendly match against Vietnamese club in Vietnam.

Myanmar U-23 led by Head Coach Park Sung Wha will be 10-day camp in Taunggyi starting from 21 May before the friendly matches.

Myanmar U-23 will play a friendly match against Kanbawza FC (or) selected Myanmar team or MNL All Star team.

Then, they will come back to Yangon on 31 May and will continue an international friendly match on 4 June.

Low-priced SIM card makes Myanmar public happy

Myanmar’s first-ever mobile system Analog AMPS 800 Cellular mobile phone system was introduced in Yangon, Mandalay and Sagaing Regions in Myanmar in 1993. It was upgraded into Code Division Multiple Access (CDMA) Radio Phone in 1997. Since 2000, Global System for Mobile Telephone (GSM) has been launched like other global nations.

In 2010-11, CDMA 800/450 MHz and GSM mobile phones were sold in K 500,000 and GSM/CDMA in K 200, 000 and 250,000 per SIM card in 2012.

Low-priced SIM cards worth K 1,500 each were available on 24 April 2013. The low-priced SIM cards were sold through lucky draw program under the supervision of township/ward administrators on 23 April. It is learnt that people are appreciated having an opportunity to get SIM cards within a short period of time. Moreover, China-made low-priced handset dealers are doing a brisk trade.

According to mobile shops, affordable handsets are being in place in the market for ordinary people. Dagon Myohtlh Seikkan Township was allotted 1900 SIM cards. U Chit Lun, lucky draw winner for SIM card, 51, said that he was very, very glad to have a chance to acquire a low-priced SIM card. He expressed thanks for the government’s effort to realize the sale of low-priced SIM card. He continued that some people did not apply for SIM cards as they could not afford to buy a handset.

Ma Myo, 35, also shared her happiness that she was very pleased to see vendors who have access to mobile phones like those in Korean soap opera.

Mobile phone used to be a luxury item for rich people. With a better telecommunications network, it has become a public communication tool. As people were allowed to have mobile phone access with a certain price they have never expected, it can be said that it is a significant milestone in the time of the new government which was elected by the people two years ago.

Hole in one at Shwemantaung Golf Course

YANGON, 26 April—While playing golf with Secretary of State and CEO of Asia Group Co Dr Kurt Campbell.

Win Win Maw

I am very pleased to see vendors who have access to mobile phones.

(Ma Myo)
LOCAL NEWS

Two tourists wearing Myanmar Thanatkhar near Sule Pagoda

Yangon, 26 April—Two damsels wearing Myanmar traditional Thanatkhar and lighting up a smile on their face are not Myanmar young girls. They are globetrotters. On their arrival at Sule bus-stop near Sule Pagoda, they were attracted by children wearing Thanatkhar at the bus-stop. So they happily tried wearing Thanatkhar.

Bystanders spoke words of praise, saying that they were very good and very beautiful. That’s why, I made an request to photograph them and they posed for this photo. — Kemon

Two men stabbed with 10-inch long needles at Thiri Mingala new market

Nay Pyi Taw, 26 April—Two men were admitted to Yango Hospital as they were fatally stabbed by a man while they had an argument with him at Thiri Mingala new market in Hlinethaya Township on 18 April.

While they were having a quarrel with Kayin (a) Tin Maung (a) Tin Maung, 36, of Yamethin street in ward-16 of Hlinethaya Township for his big needle attack and investigation is ongoing.

Snatchers taken into custody

Yangon, 26 April—Police Inspector Tin Tun Naing and party arrested Mauaung Maung (a) Kalarlay, 20, of Kanbe railway station street in Yankin Township and Aung Khant Thu (a) Hmway Ni, 18, of Hinthada Township who were snatching money from Thingyan revellers in front of Shwe Padauk water-throwing pandal on Kandawgyi ring road in Mingala Taungnyunt Township.

The woman committed suicide by burning herself and her hands before touching the fire and sent her to the local hospital, she died of serious injuries at Mandalay General Hospital.

Police opened a case and investigation into the case is ongoing. — Kemon

Fingerlings, cattle set free in Pathein

Pathin, 26 April—Families of shop-keepers at Shwe enamel pagoda market of Ward-4 in Pathein set free more than 60,000 fingerlings worth K 1.5 million into Pathein river and three cows worth K 1 million at Phayargyikon monastery on Myamar River. Shop-keepers and ward dwellers happily took part in the ceremony.

Health education given at relief camp in Meiktila

Meiktila, 26 April—Health education on use of potable water was given at Shante temporary relief camp in Meiktila BEHS (S) on 22 April. Meiktila District Medical Officer Dr Min Aye, Meiktila In-charge of Myanmar Red Cross Society U Nay Do and Daw Theingi Han of Save the Children explained dos and don’ts of drinking water, stressing the need of keeping purified drinking water containers at clean places, and washing hands before touching water containers and cups to be free from waterborne diseases.

Man charged with human trafficking in Hpa-an

Nay Pyi Taw, 26 April—Myana police station filed a lawsuit against U Pann Son who is accused of committing a case of human trafficking and investigating into the case is ongoing.

Ma Sann M yint of Thushama Myothitt of Thaton sued U Pann Son for human trafficking, opening a case at Myana police station in Hpa-an on 18 April. According to Ma Sann M yint, she lived together with U Pann Son of Hsinkyon village at the house of Than Naing in Naung Kalaw village for five days as she was persuaded into getting married by U Pann Son. Then they went to Bangkok of Thailand where she was given a job at a garment factory and U Pann Son left for Myanmar. She was convinced that she had fallen victim of trafficking at the time of payday. So she ran away from the factory and sued him for human trafficking.

Squall of rain uproots trees, lamp posts in Sagaing Township

Sagaing, 26 April—In a sudden vicious squall of rain on 8.20 pm on 22 April, the high wind caused trees fallen on the houses and uprooted trees and lamp posts.

According to Sagaing District Meteorology and Hydrology Department, the traditional noodle shop, CI sheets roofed the Pabedan ward administrator’s office were blown away, trees fell down onto ground and some houses and lamp posts were uprooted across the township.

Self-immolation of psychotic disorder in Mandalay

Mandalay, 26 April—A 38-year-old woman with mental illness set herself alight on 21 April and jumped into the compound of Pyigiadugan Township in Mandalay.

The woman committed suicide by burning herself after pouring petrol on her body. Although her mother and neighbours put out the fire and sent her to the hospital, she died of serious injuries at Mandalay General Hospital.

Police opened a case and investigation into the case is ongoing. — Kemon

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While conducting a search of suspects, three K 1000 notes were discovered and seized from Mauaung Maung (a) Kalarlay. Investigation revealed that Aung Khant Thu snatched the money from a merry-maker and relayed it to Kalarlay. The two suspects are being taken into police custody at Mingala Taungnyunt Township police station.

Photo shows a newly-built decorated water fountain at Shwe Thamin roundabout in Muse. — Kyemon

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Photo shows a newly-built decorated water fountain at Shwe Thamin roundabout in Muse. — Kyemon
ASEAN leaders satisfied with progress of AEC

BANJAR SERI BEGAWAN, 26 April—The ASEAN leaders took note of and expressed satisfaction at the progress towards setting up an ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) by the end of 2015, according to the Chairman’s statement of the 22nd ASEAN Summit on Thursday.

The two-day summit under the theme “Our People, Our Future Togetherr” opened at the Prime Minister’s Office here on Wednesday, where leaders of the 10 member states gathered to review and deliberate on the economic integration efforts, and a host of regional and international issues of common concern. According to the statement, 259 measures, or 77.54 percent of the AEC Blueprint, have been implemented as of now.

The leaders agreed to enhance ASEAN’s competitiveness by better facilitating trade and investment, leveraging upon on-going work to establish the AEC. They also recommended rolling out a roadmap to set out initiatives to ease the way of doing business and address investment impediments in the region. Official statistics show that since the adoption of the Blueprint in November 2007, per capita income in the region has risen from 2,267 US dollars in 2007 to 3,759 US dollars in 2012.

The total trade of the 10-nation bloc grew by 16.8 percent, from 2.05 trillion US dollars in 2010 to 2.4 trillion US dollars in 2011, as intra-ASEAN trade grew 598 billion US dollars from $220 billion dollars, an increase of 15.1 percent year-on-year. The ASEAN region has also continued to attract foreign investors, generating a record foreign direct investment inflow of 114 billion US dollars in 2011, a 23 percent rise from 2010. Established in 1967, ASEAN groups Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

Dozens feared dead in Russian psychiatric hospital fire

RAMENSKY, (Russia), 26 April—At least 36 people were feared dead after a fire ripped through a psychiatric hospital north of Moscow on Friday, killing some patients in their beds and others who were trapped by barred windows. The fire broke out in the early hours and swept through a single-storey building at the hospital in woods in the village of Ramensky, officials said. Twelve bodies had been found by mid-morning, the Emergencies Ministry said, as grey smoke billowed from the charred yellow-brick building. Andrey Vorobyov, interim governor of the Moscow region said a nurse had led two patients to safety. He said 36 others were believed to have been in the hospital when the fire broke out, but another local official said 38 were feared dead. "Those who were in there said it happened in a flash.

Dozens rescued but Bangladesh building toll soars towards 300

DHAKA, 26 April—Rescuers pulled dozens of survivors from the rubble of Bangladesh’s worst industrial accident on Friday, but the death toll rose towards 300 after the collapse of a building housing factories that made low-cost garments for Western brands. Almost miraculously, 62 people trapped beneath the rubble since the eight-storey building collapsed on the outskirts of the capital, Dhaka, on Wednesday were rescued alive overnight, police and government officials said.

However, there were fears between 300 and 400 people were still inside. "Some people are still alive under the rubble and we are hoping to rescue them," deputy fire services director M Izuwar Rahman said. Junior local government minister Jahangir Kabir Nanak said the death toll had reached 292 and H T Imam, an adviser to Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, said the toll was "unfazed and undaunted as we dissect the features and issues of the Convention and the Plan of Action." "The partnership requires that we open our door to one another in the effort to synchronize our methods and processes of law enforcement and adjudication," he went on.

The Regional Plan of Action, on the other hand, "will be astrong impetus to enhance regional cooperation to protect and assist the victims of trafficking and other similar forms of exploitation," he said.

The Regional Plan of Action continues to be as robust an effort complementary, but it would not be as robust an effort compared to when both are determinedly pursued by all," Serapio said. Alazar said the meeting’s output will be submitted to the ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting in Vietnam in June this year, and hopefully, will subsequently be elevated to the ministerial level. ASEAN groups Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

Kyodo News
People talk on their cell phones as passers-by walk past a Sprint store in New York, on 15 October, 2012.

WASHINGTON, 26 April — US researchers have fabricated arrays of piezotronic transistors capable of converting mechanical motion into electronic controlling signals, a step that could help give robots a human sense of touch.

“The arrays made from bundles of vertical zinc ox- ide nanowires include more than 8,000 functioning piezotronic transistors, each of which can independently produce an electronic controlling signal when placed under mechanical strain,” said US Georgia Institute of Technology researchers in a statement.

That sensitivity is comparable to that of a human fingertip. The researchers made available on Thursday in the journal Science online, and will be published later in a print version.

“One mechanical motion, such as the movement of arms or the fingers of a robot, could be translated into electronic signals,” explained Zhong Lin Wang, a Regents’ professor at the Georgia Institute of Technology.

“This could make artificial skin smarter and more like the human skin. It would allow the skin to feel activity on the surface,” said US Georgia Institute of Technology researchers in a statement.

Peoplebrowsr Chief Executive Andrew Grill said the settlement gave Peoplebrowsr eight months to tidy up its business, as it approaches a widely anticipated initial public offering, began to exercise greater control over its content. Although Twitter contends that individual users retain intellectual ownership over their tweets, the company has moved aggressively to block some firms from profiting off of its data.

Peoplebrowsr, based in San Francisco, sifts through Twitter and resells social media “intelligence” to clients that include media organizations and the US Department of Defence.

The legal dispute between the two companies flared last late year, when Twitter, which has been ramping up its operations as it approaches a widely anticipated initial public offering, began to exercise greater control over its content. Although Twitter contends that individual users retain intellectual ownership over their tweets, the company has moved aggressively to block some firms from profiting off of its data.

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Yahoo C chairman Fred Amoroso resigns

Yahoo, once one of the Web's most successful companies, has seen its revenue stall in recent years as consumers and advertisers favor rivals such as Google Inc and Facebook Inc.

Amoroso, who has run Yahoo since May 2012, was due to leave the board at the end of his term. He was replaced as CEO by interim chief Marissa Mayer.

Amoroso becomes the second sitting chairman of a major US firm to resign this year, after Tim Adare, who was head of the British media group ITV.

New York, 26 April — Restricting the number of hours doctors-in-training are allowed to work without rest hasn't led to more patient deaths, according to a new study. Researchers found no increase in deaths over the three years following a rules change that restricted resident doctors to working a maximum of 80 hours per week.

“Every time that occurs there is some loss of communication that occurs within the system,” said Desai. “The more risk for an error.”

The new study’s authors write in the Journal of General Internal Medicine that the rules didn’t have a great effect on the number of patients who died immediately after the change, but no one had looked at hospital death rates years later.

For the new study, the researchers - led by The University of Pennsylvania’s Dr Kevin Volpe and a Philadelphia - used US hospital data from before the first rules change in 2003, and compared that to data for the years 2003 to 2008. Volpe and his colleagues looked at records for about 14 million people on Medicare, the government-run health-insurance plan for the elderly and disabled, who were admitted to the hospital for heart attack, heart failure, gastrointestinal bleeding or surgery.
Chinese, Russian officials meet on strategic cooperation

BEIJING, 26 April—China's top political advisor Yu Zhengsheng said here on Thursday that China is ready to advance its relations with Russia in a comprehensive way. Yu, Chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), made the remark when meeting with NikoIali Levich, leader of the Russia of Justice party and deputy chairman of the State Duma, in Beijing, capital of China, on 25 April, 2013.—Xinhua

Yu Zhengsheng (R), chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, meets with NikoIali Levich, leader of the Russia of Justice party and deputy chairman of the State Duma, in Beijing, capital of China, on 25 April, 2013.—Xinhua

Nearly 50 killed as sectarian violence flares in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 26 April—At least 15 policemen and 31 Sunni Islamist militants were killed in clashes on Thursday in the northern city of Mosul, sources said, on the third day of the most widespread violence in Iraq since US troops withdrew in December 2011. Gunmen attacked Mosul, 390 km (240 miles) north of Baghdad, on Wednesday night and seized several parts of the city after using a mosque loudspeaker to rally Sunnis to join the battle. Military sources said federal police and the army regained control after running a police headquarters seized by militants, who were holding 17 hostages. The federal police chief said 31 militants had been killed in the fighting. A source said a local municipality said they had received the bodies of nine militants and 15 policemen but others had yet to be recovered. Troops and tanks also encircled the town of Sulaiman Pek, 160 km (100 miles) north of Baghdad, awaiting the arrival of special forces to drive out militants who took control over-night. The highway between Kirkuk and Baghdad was closed.

Kurdish militants to begin withdrawal from Turkey in May

QANDIL MOUNTAINS, (Iraq), 26 April—Kurdish militants who have fought for autonomy in Turkey for decades will begin withdrawing to Iraq within two weeks, their commander Murat Karayilan said on Thursday. The Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) chief told a news conference in the group's mountainous stronghold of Qandil in northern Iraq that the pull-out would begin on 8 May. A Kurdish website had earlier given a date of 5 May. The withdrawal is planned to be done gradually in groups and targeted to be completed in the shortest possible time, Karayilan said. Our withdrawing forces will come and be based in southern (Iraqi) Kurdistan, Turkish Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan has taken a huge political risk in pursuing negotiations with the PKK despite fierce nationalist opposition before elections next year. The announcement bolsters a peace process launched some six months ago, in which jailed PKK leader Abdullah Ocalan has been in talks with Turkish intelligence agents on his island prison near Istanbul to end a conflict that has cost some 40,000 lives. The struggle has wrought huge human, social and economic damage in NATO member Turkey since the PKK took up arms in 1984 with the aim of carving out a Kurdish state in the south-east.

The fighting has stunted development of the economy in the mainly Kurdish region, while tens of billions of dollars in military spending has long burdened state coffers.

A Turkish soldier runs down a hill at a small military outpost in the mountains of Cukurca near the Iraqi border in southeastern Turkey, where thousands of Turkish troops have launched a ground and air offensive against PKK fighters on 21 Oct, 2011. Reuters

Putin says Boston shows need for security ties with US

MOSCOW, 26 April — President Vladimir Putin said on Thursday the Boston bombings proved his tough line against militants in the North Caucasus was right and showed Russia and the United States must step up cooperation on security. After receiving almost 2 million questions from the Baltic Sea to Russia’s far east, Putin used his annual “hotline” call-in to present the image of a man still in control a year into his third term and not afraid of criticism at home and abroad. “If we truly join our efforts together, we will not allow these strikes and suffer losses,” he said of the bombings in the four- and three-quarter-hour phone-in, which critics say now looks outdated as he fields predictable questions from loyal factory workers, airforce pilots and struggling mothers.

But this time he made sure there were critical voices in the audience, with a liberal journalist asking whether a clampdown on opponents since his return to the Kremlin last May echoed the repressions of Soviet dictator Josef Stalin. Putin denied the accusation, but told the editor that Russia needed order and discipline.

Former finance minister Alexei Kudrin also took him to task over the country’s slide towards recession but Putin dismissed him jokingly as a “slacker.” There was even one written question seeking Putin’s advice on how to handle a wayward son. This prompted a laugh but may have pleased Putin, who sees himself as the father of the nation and spoke of traditional and conservative values throughout the call-in.

Marubeni’s purchase of US Gavilon gets China’s conditional approval

The ministry said Marubeni could enhance its grip on the imported soybean market in China after acquiring the US company and thereby curb competition. China imported 58.38 million tons of soybeans in 2012, according to the Chinese Ministry of Commerce.

Marubeni handled 10.5 million tons of the total, far outpacing other Japanese traders in exporting the commodity to China. It is a tough condition to swell for Marubeni as it was aiming to bolster cereal exports to emerging markets such as China after the acquisition.

“We would like to withhold any comments while we are taking a detailed look at the conditions presented by the Chinese authority,” A Marubeni public relations official said. Marubeni has announced that it would buy Gavilon for around $3.6 billion in May last year and the Japan-based company was hoping to complete procedures by the end of September the same year.

The move was delayed because it could not obtain approval by the Chinese government.

Kyodo News

Russian President Vladimir Putin takes part in a live broadcast nationwide phone-in on Mosac on 25 April, 2013. Putin played down differences with his government over economic policy on Thursday and signalled he was not about to respond to calls to dismiss his intelligence minister.

Reuters
Fund set up for medical treatment of members of the Sangha

Myinnyin, 26 April — A ceremony to set up the medical fund for patient members of the Sangha was held at Myinnyin General Administration Hospital in Kachin State on 10 April.

The Sayadaw donates K 100,000 to the fund annually. From 2008-2009, a total of 82 wellwishers donated K 3,133,000.

Those wishing to make donations may dial 074-60097. — Myanna Alinn

Socio-economic Development Work Committee for Ensuring Peace and Stability and Implementation of Development in Rakhine State meets

Nay Pyi Taw, 26 April — First meeting (1/2013) of Socio-economic Development Work Committee for ensuring Peace and Stability and Implementation of Development in Rakhine State was held at the meeting hall of the Ministry of Industry, here, on 23 April, with an address by Chairman of the Committee Union Minister for Industry U Aye Myint.

In his speech, the Union minister said officials concerned are to make necessary coordination for social harmony between the two communities, mutual understandings, sympathy and tolerance. Socio-economic standards of local people would be promoted when Rakhine State sees the rule of law and peace and stability. He also highlighted sheltering of victims, rehabilitation and resumption of agriculture, livestock breeding and fisheries in the state.

Secretary of the Committee Deputy Minister U Thein Aung and State Electric Power and Industry Minister U Thar Lu Chay also presented the reports. Those present and representative from Myanmar Development Research Institute (MDR1) Dr Tin Maung Than held discussions. — MNA

Local News

Strong winds victims get cash assistance

Monghkat, 26 April — Heavy rains and strong winds hit Monghok Sub-Township of Monghkat District of Shan State on 8 April. A total of 26 households felt victims to strong winds.

A ceremony to provide cash assistance for the strong winds victims was held at Basic Education Primary School in Wamkaung Village of Monghok Sub-Township on 19 April morning. The Shan State government presented K 1 million to the victims through village administrator.

The Commander of Triangle Region Command had donated 400CI sheets, the commander and members of No 14 Operations Control Command K 406,000, regiments and units of Monghok Sub-Township K 150,000, departmental personnel K 295,000, wellwishers from three wards K 980,000, Wamkaung Village administrator 300CI sheets and villagers K 1,302,000 for the first time.

For the second time, the district and township General Administration Departments had donated K 100,000 to the victims. — Myanna Alinn

Painting, cartoon contests mark International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking

Kawlin, 26 April — The painting and cartoon contests to mark the 16th International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking was held at Thazin Hall of Basic Education High School in Kawlin of Sagaing Region on 19 April morning.

In the township level cartoon contest, Maung Banyo Kyaw (Taung-in BEPS) secured the first prize at the primary level; Maung Yan Zin (BEMS) stood first at the middle school level painting contest, Maung Thet Naing Tun (BEMS) second and Maung Aung Zaw Myo (BEHS) third in the middle school level cartoon contest.

Maung Zaw Min Paing bagged the first prize and Maung Khant Htet first prize in the high school level cartoon contest.

Myanna Alinn

WY brand stimulant tablets seized in Momauk

Momauk, 26 April — Bhamo Anti-Drug Special Squad and Momauk Police Station commander seized stimulant tablets from a motorcyclist near the concrete bridge at the entrance to Momauk of Bhamo District in Kachin State.

IP Aung Ko Naing and party of Bhamo Anti-Drug Special Squad, IP Han Mhwe and surveillance members of Momauk Police Station checked the motorcycle driven by Soe Myint Thaung (a) Thargyi leaving Lwejel for Bhamo at 4 pm on 19 April near the concrete bridge to the town. In the presence of witnesses, the policemen searched the motorcycle and seized 4000 stimulant tablets from the polyethylene bag weighing 400 grams and 4950 stimulant tablets weighing 495 grams.

All the stimulant tablets were pink colour with WY brand.

Momauk Police Station opened a file of lawsuit against Soe Myint Thaung (a) Thargyi of Bhamo under the law.

Myanna Alinn

Principal’s statue unveils at Shwebo Yoth Development Centre

Shwebo, 26 April — Shwebo Youth Development Centre, opened in 1963 by Principal Dr U Than Tun (Shwebo) turns 50 in 2013. So, the golden jubilee anniversary will be held soon.

The school had been under the name of Orphanage, but it was renamed with Yoth Development Centre.

While taking care of the children, the principal, compiled research treatises, various subjects of books, articles in Myanmar and English versions and interviews with radio and TV.

The principal compiled the stone inscriptions of Brick-made Tiered Roof Building of King Alaungphaya who established the Third Myanmar Empire, the stone inscription of Maha Nanda Lake and the stone inscription of Shwebon Yada Maingal Royal Palace.

At present, the principal is 74 years old. The supervisory committee of the centre unveiled the statue of the principal in honour of his historical performances at 9 am on 21 April. — Kyemon

M PF launches emergency, complaint-handling phone lines

Nay Pyi Taw, 26 April — Myanmar Police Force under the Ministry of Home Affairs has put hot lines into place at Myanmar Police Force HQ and region/state police stations to enable the public to submit tip-offs and complaints over illegal acts, mis-appropriation and corruption.

The public may reach the numbers for their information and complaints but are requested to avoid manmancausing disruptions to these phone lines.

Myanmar Police Force HQ, Nay Pyi Taw Police Force, Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Mon, Rakhine and Shan State Police Forces, Sagaing, Taninthayi, Bago, Yangon and Ayyawady Region Police Forces, Offices of Commanders of East, West, South and North District Police Forces in Yangon Region, No (1) Police Station in Taunggyi, Office of Deputy Commander of State Police Force in Lashio, and Kengtung Police Station in Kengtung have emergency numbers of 199.

Phone numbers receiving complaints from the public are Myanmar Police Force HQ (067-412222 and 067-412444), Nay Pyi Taw Police Force (067-530333), Kachin State Police Force (074-214444), Kayin State Police Force (051-233551), Sagaing Region Police Force (071-24996), Taninthayi Region Police Force (059-23998), Bago Region Police Force (052-239999), Magway Region Police Force (063-28099), Mandalay Region Police Force (02-614444), Mon State Police Force (051-239999), Rakhine State Police Force (043-22833), Ayeyawady Region Police Force (01-2302199), Shan State Police Force (081-2125455) and Ayyawady Region Police Force (042-23844). — MNA
HARMONIOUS INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

Foreign investments are poised to flow further into Myanmar following its wide-ranging economic reforms and lifting of all economic sanctions by EU. With western economies starting to turn their eyes on Myanmar, foreign investments have begun in recent months which has seen the visits of some prominent figures of business circles to Myanmar.

Meanwhile, the large part of investment still goes into energy sector which is rather a capital-intensive one, virtually leaving the unemployment figures status quo. While the lack of human resources has contributed to employment of foreign technicians in large and important projects, there have been complaints that such projects employ fewer local workers to do some basic tasks.

Generally speaking, the ultimate aim of projects at national and subnational levels is to help improve the socio-economic status of people by boosting business opportunities. The point is local people should be the main or at least the partial beneficiaries of the profit-making projects and the advantages from the projects should outweigh the disadvantages. Transparency is one and the only solution for next projects to avoid delays, public outcry and alleged misuse of power as well as superstitiousness of the people.

Harmonious industrial relations are one of the key factors to success of an economy. Though the labour unions have sprung into existence, they need further reinforcement perhaps with the help of civil society organizations to help protect the rights of workers. At the same time, certain legislation would be needed to improve working conditions, safety standards of workplace and welfare of the workers to an acceptable level.

The long-running practice of sparing jobs for the boys must be replaced immediately with merit-based system if some government offices are to improve their efficiency and productivity. Meanwhile, it should not be forgotten that while a bad workman may blame his tools, there are some who don’t even have proper tools and only the monkeys will come for bananas.

SEMINAR ON AVIATION INSURANCE HELD

Dr Maung Maung Thein addressed the seminar. At the seminar, a total of 100 participants from the departments under the Ministry of Finance and Revenue including Myanma Insurance, airlines and private insurance companies discussed procedures on aviation insurance in details.

WORKSHOP ON DAIRY CATTLE BREEDING AND DAIRY PRODUCTS DEVELOPMENT HELD

A workshop on dairy cattle breeding and dairy products development was held in Yangon on 25 April. Dr U Ohn Myint, fisheries and Livestock U Ohn Myint, called for the focus on requirements and works to be done in regions and states and needs to be fulfilled by Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries, here, on 24 April morning.

In his address, Union Minister for Livestock and Fisheries U Ohn Myint called to provide USD 6.5 million for the development of the sector, and cooperation in capacity building of dairy breeders in private sector would be carried out, he added. The Union minister said that the ministry was providing necessary assistance and conducting courses for dairy cattle breeding development. He said behalfful cooperation with the ministry.

Officials of the ministry, breeders who are dealing with dairy cattle breeding on a manageable and commercial scale and dairy product manufacturers took part in sector-wise discussions.
Committee meets to proceed with report on Letpadaungtaung copper mine

Nay Pyi Taw, 26 April—Committee on Proceeding with the report on Letpadaungtaung Copper Mining Project met at the President Office here this morning, attended by Committee Chairman Union Minister at the President Office U Hla Tun, committee Vice Chairman Adjutant-General Lt-Gen Khin Zaw Oo, Union Ministers U Win Tun and Dr Myint Aung, deputy ministers and personnel.

According to Union Minister U Hla Tun, the committee is taking care of the suggestions in the report with four teams adopting short and long-term plans. He called for transparency with a special focus on the rule of law and job creation for local people. He spoke of the urgent need to reclaim land, promote cottage industry, and build hospitals and schools and undertake environmental conservation measures for development of the region. Nott Lt-Gen Khin Zaw Oo elaborated on job creation for locals in project area and progress in regional development undertakings. Union Ministers and officials reported on progress of respective welfare works for locals. Union Minister U Hla Tun in his concluding remark urged them to fulfill the immediate needs.

Union FM felicitates Minister of International Relations and Cooperation of South Africa

Nay Pyi Taw, 27 April—On the occasion of the Freedom Day of the Republic of South Africa, which falls on 27 April 2013, U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to Her Excellency Ms. Maite M Nkoana-Mashabane, Minister of International Relations and Cooperation of the Republic of South Africa.

Israeli Chef Cooking & Contribution held in Yangon

Yangon, 26 April—A special event called Israeli Chef Cooking & Contribution, jointly conducted by Shwe Sa Bwe Hotel & Restaurant Training Centre (Yangon) and Dan Tel-Aviv Hotel, to mark 60th Anniversary Diplomatic Relations between Myanmar and Israel, was held at Shwe Sa Bwe Hotel & Restaurant Training Centre here today.

At the event, Mr. Oved Alfia, Executive Chef of Dan Tel-Aviv Hotel trained conducted cooking course to trainees at the SSB H&T Training Centre.

“The aims of our training centre is to provide young Myanmar nationals with 9 months & service courses training free of charge. Our training centre has its own professional pedagogical kitchen, training hotel and restaurant, which welcomes guests and allows students to acquire real-life experience under the watchful eyes of experienced teachers. We will help them to get job opportunities”, Mr. French Guy, the owner of SSB H&T Training Centre, Ambassador of the State of Israel to Myanmar Mr. Hagay Moshe Behar, the owner of SSB H&T Training Centre, French Guy and guests attended the event.

Hein Taezar Myo

MRCS and Save the Children donate drinking water to victims at relief camps in Meiktila

Meiktila, 26 April—With the assistance of International Committee of the Red Cross, Myanmar Red Cross Society and Save the Children started distribution of purified drinking water to victim families of relief camps in Meiktila on 22 April.

“We plan to distribute sufficient drinking water to the victims from relief camps opened at No. 5 Basic Education High School in Shandwe, B.E.M. No. 2 and Central Transport and Telecommunication Training School. The other day, we will supply drinking water to four remaining relief camps,” said an official of Myanmar Red Cross Society. MRCS has distributed one 20-litre water container to each family at relief camps and supplies water to them through water tank at all relief camps. The drinking water donated to the victims are being purified with the use of water from Meiktila Lake through modern water purifying machines.

Kyemon

Camps in Meiktila on 22 of purified drinking water

Children started distribution with the assistance of International Committee of the Red Cross, Myanmar Red Cross Society. MrCS has purified machines.

Lake through modern water supplies the use of water from Meiktila tank at all relief camps. The drinking water to them through water supplies container to each family at relief camps and supplies water to them through water tank at all relief camps. The drinking water donated to the victims are being purified with the use of water from Meiktila Lake through modern water purifying machines.

Kyemon
**LOCAL NEWS**

**MFF President calls for never-say-die attitude of footballers**

**Yangon, 27 April—**

President of Myanmar Football Federation U Zaw Zaw called for never-say-die attitude as he met responsible persons of men/women football teams and futsal football teams to be participating in XXVII SEA Games. The MFF President met managers and coaches of the teams at the federation yesterday, urging them to make utmost efforts to clinch victories in each tournament in coming SEA Games to be held in December.

He also spoke of the need for other responsible persons to ensure systematic preparation for successful holding of the SEA Games, calling for cooperation and coordination with a sense of responsibility.

**Computer course opened in Salingyi Township**

**Monywa, 26 April—**

Computer Course for Vocational Purpose No 1/2013 was opened at Basic Education Primary School in new Wethmay-Kantaw Village in Salingyi Township, Monywa District, Sagaing Region on 23 April, with an address by Deputy Speaker of Region Hluttaw U Thaung Sein.

Five instructors from University of Computer Studies (Monywa) are teaching 36 trainees from new Wethmay-Kantaw and new Sate-Zitaw villages in Salingyi Township basic computer lessons and typing with 20 sets of core i7 computer from 23 April to 3 May.

**YC DC sells low-priced SIM cards through lucky draw**

**Yangon, 26 April—**

Yangon City Development Committee got a quota of 1900 low-cost SIM cards. Except 921 officers, SIM cards were allotted to 6987 staff by lot. But daily wage-earners have no chance to join in the lucky draws at their office and their wards.

SIM cards were sold to the staff from departments and offices under the YCDC by lot yesterday morning.

It is known that sale of SIM cards through quota system will be made monthly.

**Books, journals donated in Mongkhat**

**Mongkhat, 26 April—**

To promote reading habits of rural people, Laypyaynyin Library was opened in Moenyn Village-tract in Mongkhat Township, Kengtung District, Shan State (East), yesterday morning.

Deputy Director of Shan State (East) Information and Public Relations Department U Sai Sam Tin and Deputy Heads of Department Daw Nan Nw rental Aung gave speeches. They carried out raising of reading habit. Later, they donated publications to the library.— Kyemon

**Citizenship Scrutiny Cards issued in Nawnghkio**

**Nawnghkio, 26 April—**

Under the Moe Pwint 5 Plan, issuance of Citizenship Scrutiny Cards was carried out by Staff Officer U Yin Htwe Aung and staff from Immigration and National Registration Department in Nawnghkio Township of Kyaukme District in Shan State (North) at the Dhammayon in Bhuta Ward yesterday morning.

State Hluttaw Representative U Kyaw Mya and officials also looked into the CSC issuance ceremony.

**Bogyoke Road of Kalay broadened**

**Kalay, 26 April—**

Broadening of Bogyoke tarred road in Kalay of Sagaing Region is underway. The Bogyoke tarred road is the main road of Kalay with a population of about 400,000, which is also crossroads to Monywa, Tamu and Chin State.

A bout-12-feet extension is being added to either side of the currently 24-feet wide tarred road. Upon its completion, the road would be 48 feet in width.

Starting from February, the extension work is being carried out from milepost Nos 3/1 to 8/3 on the road with a budget of K 140 million allocated in 2012-13 FY.
Abe to visit Myanmar in late May for bilateral summit

TOKYO, 26 April—Prime Minister Shinzo Abe plans to visit Myanmar in late May to meet President U Thein Sein for his first summit with the Myanmar leader, with the aim of accelerating Tokyo’s efforts to promote economic development and democratization in the Southeast Asian country, a government source said on Wednesday. It will be the first time in around 36 years for a Japanese prime minister to visit the country, after then premier Takeo Fukuda traveled there in August 1977.

Abe hopes his visit to

Myanmar, considered for 25 to 26 May 2013. Abe is also considering meeting Myanmar opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi again during the trip, after the 1991 Nobel Peace Prize winner visited Japan last week, according to the source. Myanmar has increasingly attracted foreign investments since its transition to a democratic government in March 2011, as it is widely seen as Asia’s last frontier with relatively cheap and abundant labour.

The arrangement for Abe’s visit to Myanmar got started to meet the premier’s “strong wish,” after it became certain that a trilateral summit between Japan, China and South Korea, which was being prepared for 25 to 26 May in Seoul, will be put off due to chilly Japan-China ties amid territorial rows, the source said. At the summit with Thein Sein, Abe is expected to convey Tokyo’s intention to help improve the investment environment and infrastructure in Myanmar for expansion of Japanese investments there, the source said.

Abe is also likely to announce the new policy to strengthen support for Myanmar’s ethnic minorities by building schools, giving technical assistance in farming and providing other forms of aid, if a national reconciliation is reached between the Myanmar government and the minorities to resolve the conflicts, the source said. Since the launch of the civil-vigilant government, Japan has stepped up its efforts to promote democratization in Myanmar, helping the country construct utilities and ports, and lift poverty.

At the beginning of this year and only around a week after the launch of Abe Cabinet, Deputy Prime Minister Taro Aso and Finance Minister Taro Aso visited Myanmar last week, according to President U Thein Sein in Myanmar’s capital Nay Pyi Taw. Abe, meanwhile, conveyed Japan’s support for the country in his meetings with Suu Kyi last week and with Ban Lai, chairman of the United Nations Federal Council, an umbrella group for 11 ethnic groups in Myanmar, earlier this month.

VNM news

Vietnam maintains world’s top pepper exporter so far this year

In the context of domestic and global economic difficulties, pepper remained in the list of Vietnamese top agricultural products with high export revenues. However, pepper export prices declined by 18.8 percent compared to the same period last year, with the average export price for black pepper reaching 103.86 dollars per kilogram (92 dollars/ton lower than last year), and 8,869 US dollars per ton for white pepper (436 dollars/ton lower than last year). Despite all these, Vietnam exported pepper to more than 80 countries and regions, which accounted for only 30 percent of the world’s pepper consumption, but up to 50 percent of the world’s pepper trading amount. With this, Vietnamese pepper production sector has enjoyed a lot of prospects in the coming years, said VPA Chairman Do Ha Nam.

Major import markets of Vietnamese pepper are the United States (accounting for 21.13 percent of the country’s pepper exports), Germany (11.6 percent), the United Arab Emirates (7.39 percent) and Singapore (6.77 percent).

According to VPA, about 40 percent of the total pepper output of this year’s crop was exported with good prices, hence domestic pepper exporters could increase their export volume remarkably.

Since 1996, pepper cultivated areas have been expanded, with an increase of nearly 30 percent, reaching over 52,000 hectares as the end of 2004.

VNM news

Vietnam hosts 19th meeting of Asian Political Parties

HANOI, 26 April—The 19th meeting of the International Conference of Asian Political Parties (ICAPP) Standing Committee convened in Vietnam’s capital Hanoi on Thursday. The two-day event drew the participation of delegations representing ruling parties and major political parties in Asian countries as well as observers and organizations from 25 countries on five continents.

Addressing the opening ceremony, Hoang Binh Quan, head of the Commission for External Relations of the Communist Party of Vietnam (CPV)’s Central Committee, invited Hanoi and Da Nang to market the fish in January. We’re hoping to let Vietnamese people know the authentic taste of our saury,” said a senior official of the Nemuro City government. “Sauries are expensive and high-quality, whereas in Vietnam, the fish is known as reasonable price, whereas in Vietnam, it is known as

Defence ministry confirms high-sea voyage of aircraft carrier

BEIJING, 26 April—A military spokesman confirmed on Thursday that China’s first aircraft carrier, the Liaoning, is set to conduct a voyage on the high seas.

When and in what waters the voyage will be conducted will be decided in accordance with overall conditions, Yang Yujun, spokesman of the Ministry of National Defense, told a press conference. Song Xue, deputy chief of staff of the People’s Liberation Army (PLA) Navy, said on Tuesday that China will have more than one aircraft carrier.

While speaking at a ceremony in Beijing to celebrate the 64th anniversary of the founding of the PLA Navy, Song said, “The next aircraft carrier we need will be larger and able to carry more fighters.” Song also refuted some foreign media reports that China was building new aircraft carriers in Shanghai, saying such reports were not accurate.

Supplied photo shows Vietnamese people tasting saury from Nemuro, Hokkaido, at a trade fair held in Hanoi in January this year by the Nemuro city government.
China Eastern Airlines will test flight using biofuel

China Eastern Airlines completed its first successful test flight of an aircraft powered by biofuel on Wednesday. The company said it now plans to introduce biofuel for commercial flights to reduce carbon emissions, although it has not revealed a timetable.

Biofuel-powered aircraft make our flights more environmentally friendly," said Captain Liu Zhimin, who piloted on Wednesday’s flight.

The jet, which used a palm oil biofuel made by China Petroleum and Chemical Corp, or Sinopec, Asia’s largest oil refiner, flew for 85 minutes after taking off from Shanghai Hongqiao International Airport.

Liu said he performed several extreme maneuvers, including diving above 12,000 metres, but found no significant difference between the Sinopec biofuel and gasoline. The plane’s left fuel tank was filled with gasoline to allow him to compare. "The performance of the biofuel during the takeoff was powerful," the pilot added.

Sinopec is the first company in China to master the technology of turning palm oil and waste cooking oil into jet biofuel. "We have developed two kinds of biofuel, palm oil and waste cooking oil, and the fuel we used during this flight was palm oil," Huang Zhongwen, deputy director of public relations for Sinopec Zhenhai Refining and Chemical Co, told China Daily.

"We have the capability of turning waste cooking oil into jet fuel, although the cost will be higher than producing ordinary fuel," he said, without providing specifics on the cost difference.

Waste cooking oil is dubbed gutter oil in China as illicit oil producers have recycled waste oil collected from gutters behind restaurants. The oil, which contains carcinogenic substances, is dangerous to human health.

Workers fuel a China Eastern Airlines airplane that uses biofuel for a trial flight early on Wednesday morning in Shanghai. — Xinhua

Briton gives makeover to bus stop in tsunami-hit Oshika District

TOKYO, 26 April—A bus stop bench, in a rather forlorn state, is situated against the backdrop of an idyllic, seaside landscape in Oshika, a remote area devastated by the 2011 earthquake-tsunami disaster. The sight of the small community on the Oshika Peninsula in northeastern Japan was too sad for Caroline Pover, a British writer and publisher, who has made Japan her home since 1996.

"Buses run but you don’t want to stand and wait there because water is coming up, and it’s cold and windy," especially for the community’s mostly elderly residents, Pover, 41, said. "I wanted to do something for people probably looking forward to a bit quieter time in their later years and make it a bit easier for them," Pover, who first worked in Japan as an English teacher and later launched a magazine for foreign women, discovered Oshika through a friend who volunteered there. At the time of the 11 March, 2011 earthquake, Pover said she was in Saipan writing a book about love between Western women and Japanese men. She put that book on hold and immediately flew to Britain where she gave lectures about Japan and collected donations for the hard-hit Tohoku region.

Two months after the tsunami, Pover was driving up to the peninsula with a friend and says she “fell in love with the place, which was beautiful even in the middle of all the debris everywhere,” and felt the trip was far from being a “one-time visit.” Pover, who is not part of a registered nonprofit group, seeks support for charity work through her own network of friends. In Britain, she continues to give talks about Japan and matches donations to potential reconstruction projects in Oshika.

The Oshika Bus Stop was one such recent project. Thanks to donations from the Summerhill International School in Tokyo and carpenters from Saitama-based firm Kigumi Co., a new bus stop was constructed in early April on the side of the road opposite the bench. People can now wait inside it for buses running in either direction. Working under a tarpaulin, Pover and other volunteers braved a typhoon to build it within three days. The Oshika Bus Stop was just as she had imagined it — a cozy place with a sofa, stool, locals’ photos hanging, plants and a bookshelf. Outside is a patio.

Kyodo News

Photo taken on 6 April, 2013, shows Caroline Pover (3rd from L), a British writer and publisher who engages in charity work for the disaster-hit Oshika Peninsula, and other volunteers in front of a new bus stop they created in the Oshika area on the peninsula. — KYODO NEWS

Eisai to build new plant in China for injection products

TOKYO, 26 April—Japanese drug maker Eisai Co. said Thursday it will build a new plant in Suzhou, eastern China, to make injection products.

The plant, which will be located in a production complex owned by Eisai China Inc, is aimed at creating a stable supply chain for injection products in the Chinese market, the parent company said. Eisai expects demand to grow in China for its Metyclo injection for peripheral neuropathies. Eisai is also considering supplying those products made at the Suzhou plant to emerging Asian markets as well as Central and South America.

Construction is scheduled to begin in late 2013 and be complete in the April-September first half of fiscal 2014, Eisai said.

Kyodo News
ABBA may return, says band member

BERLIN, 26 April—Agnetha Faltskog, a member of legendary Swedish pop group ABBA, said in an interview published by the German Press that she had not ruled out the possibility of reuniting the band’s members for a concert.

“Perhaps a charity concert? I, at least, would not rule it out,” the singer told Zeitgazin, the magazine of the weekly Die Zeit.

Faltskog is promoting her new solo album, A, whose title was inspired by the fact that she was “one of the ‘A’s in ABBA”.

The singer said she enjoyed listening to old ABBA hits, such as The Winner Takes It All.

ABBA, formed by Agnetha Faltskog, Bjorn Ulvaeus, Benny Andersson and Anni-Frid Lyngstad, broke up in 1982 after years of cranking out hits.

The band’s members have ruled out a reunion for years. Ulvaeus and Andersson, however, have worked together on other projects, including Mamma Mia, the hit musical and film, and the anthem for the 2013 Eurovision Festival, which will be held 14-18 May in Malmo, Sweden.

We Write the Story, the title of the song by Andersson and Ulvaeus, features an arrangement by Swedish producer and DJ Avicii, and will be performed for the first time during the festival’s May 18 grand finale.—PTI

Selena Gomez’s friends upset about her reconciliation with Justin Bieber

LONDON, 26 April—Selena Gomez’s friends are “furious” that she has reconciled with Justin Bieber.

The couple broke up in January, and though she was with her girls doing major promotion. “I mean he’s a great, great baby. He’s an easy one, I think. But nobody told me it would be this hard. It takes a lot of energy from you. But I love it. I’m really enjoying every bit of it. It’s just that it’s not as idyllic as everybody tells you, but also not as horrible as everyone tells you.”

The Insider added: “They’ve been spending a lot of time together, secretly, over the last couple weeks. But nothing is official between them.”

“I was so worried for him, but her friends are adamant that he’s bad for her.” Friends previously explained the brunette beauty initially dealt well with the split because she was busy promoting Spring Breakers with Ashley Benson and Vanessa Hudgens but after the movie premiered last month, Selena had time to reconsider her feelings and reportedly decided she wanted to see the Beauty and a Beat hitmaker again.

A source said: “She didn’t actually have to think of him cause she was with her girls doing major promotion.”—PTI

Shakira didn’t expect parenthood to be so “hard”

NEW DELHI, 26 April—36-year-old singer Shakira and her boyfriend Gerard Pique welcomed son Milan into the world in January, and though she says he is a “great baby”, she admits her experiences haven’t been “idyllic”.

She said: “I didn’t expect babies to need so many diapers! Nobody told me they needed to be changed so often.

“I mean he’s a great, great baby. He’s an easy one, I think. But nobody told me it would be this hard. It takes a lot of energy from you. But I love it. I’m really enjoying every bit of it. It’s just that it’s not as idyllic as everybody tells you, but also not as horrible as everyone tells you.”

The Voice coach is also thankful to have Gerard’s support as she says the 26-year-old Barcelona soccer star is a very hands-on parent.

She told Us Weekly magazine: “Thank God the father is very involved. He has been amazing.

“The baby spends as much time with me as he does with his dad. He’s the kind of dad who’s full hands on. He changes diapers, he bathes him, he enjoys playing with the baby, he enjoys feeding him, all of that stuff. So that’s great help for me, you know. I can’t imagine doing all of this and not having the father do his part of the job. So that’s a huge help to me.”—PTI
Late Luiz lifts Chelsea, Fenerbahce edge Benfica

The woodwork was also rapped a number of times in Istanbul. Fenerbahce’s Brazilian midfielder Cristian drilled a penalty against the left hand upright on the stroke of halftime after Ola John, who was booked, had a shot miss the return leg, dipped the legs of Gokhan Gonul. Former Liverpool striker Dirk Kuyt fired against the post after the break, as did Benfica’s Nicolas Gaitan before Korkmaz headed in from a corner for the game’s only goal — the ball bouncing off the underside of the crossbar.

The second legs take place on 2 May and the final will be played in Amsterdam on 15 May. — Reuters

Nadal faces busy Friday after rain hits Barcelona Open

Barcelona, 26 April— Rafael Nadal may have to play two matches at the Barcelona Open on Friday after his third round clash against Frenchman Benoit Paire was postponed because of rain on Thursday. The world number five and second seed, gunning for an eighth Barcelona title, will face Paire at 08:30GMT on Friday with either sixth seed Kei Nishikori or Albert Ramos waiting in the next round should Nadal avoid an upset.

Third seed Tomas Berdych was also frustrated by the weather and will play his third round against Spaniard Tommy R. Robredo on centre court on Friday.

Vassev Persian will get respect on Arsenal return

Leicester side Tottenham Hotspur in the quarter-finals, struck the post early in the second-half, as did Chelsea striker Fernando Torres a few minutes later. The achievement meant the Dutch international, along with the rest of the United squad, will be clapped on to the pitch by the Arsenal players in a guard of honour, a gesture that is likely to rankle the home fans still angry about his departure.

Wenger, however, said the player who quit the club for a reported fee of 24 million pounds ($36.64 million) would not be shunned by his former employers. “We will respect the players that have played for us a long time as we always have done and treat them well before and after the game,” Wenger told reporters. “As a champion or not as a champion it is exactly the same.”

What I want is for us to have a good game and to beat them, it doesn’t matter what kind of status they come with.”

Vassev Persian has been at the heart of United’s title push, rising to the top of the Premier League scoring charts with 24 goals, and Monday’s second strike against Villa was a spectacular highlight.

The first-time volley that had United fans fling through their memory banks for a finer goal scored at Old Trafford was typical of the type of finish that Vassev Persian produced in his final season at Arsenal.

First-time volley that had United fans fling through their memory banks for a finer goal scored at Old Trafford was typical of the type of finish that Vassev Persian produced in his final season at Arsenal.

Barnes sets record-tying pace in New Orleans

Boo Weekley and former US Open champion Lucas Glover also made the most of the low-scoring conditions with opening 65s, finishing a stroke in front of fellow Americans D.A. Points and PGA Tour rookie Morgan Hoffmann.

Four-times major winner Ernie Els was among a group of 10 players on 67, while defending champion Jason Dufner, who clinched last year’s title in a playoff with South African Els, launched his defence with a level-par 70.

China’s 14-year-old prodigy Guan Tianlang has also flourished in the opening round, juggling several big names as he rebounded from two early bogeys to card a level-par 72.

Competing this week on a sponsor’s exemption, Guan has been one of the biggest talking points in golf after becoming the youngest player to make the cut in a major championship at the Masters earlier this month.

Barnes, however, commented most of the early spotlight as he shrugged off memories of seven missed cuts in his last eight starts on the PGA Tour after beginning the season in reasonably good form. He eagled the par-five second before reaching the turn in two-under 34, then stormed home in six-under 30 to surge to the top of the leaderboard. — Reuters

Boxer Amir Khan defends link up with drugs cheat Cconte

London, 26 April— British boxer Khan defended his link-up with American drugs cheat Victor Conte against his fight with Mexico’s Julio Diaz on Saturday.

Conte was jailed in 2005 after pleading guilty to conspiracy to distribute banned steroids and his association with Khan has been criticised by UK Anti-Doping. However, Khan said the controversial American, who was introduced to the boxer by trainer Virgil Hunter, had passed on a lot of invaluable tips. “The advice he’s been giving me has been brilliant,” Khan had told the British boxer Amir Khan poses during a media opportunity at Ponce De Leon Boxing Club in Montebello, California on 11 Dec, 2012, for his upcoming WBC silver super lightweight boxing match against Mexican American boxer Carlos Molina, scheduled for 15th December in Los Angeles. — Reuters

Van Persie will get respect on Arsenal return

Manchester United striker Robin van Persie will be treated with respect on his return to Arsenal, his former manager Arsene Wenger said on Thursday.

Van Persie, who quit Arsenal last year after eight seasons at the club, returns to his old stomping ground on Sunday as a Premier League champion after his hat-trick helped his new team wrap up the title against Aston Villa on Monday.

The achievement meant the Dutch international, along with the rest of the United squad, will be clapped on to the pitch by the Arsenal players in a guard of honour, a gesture that is likely to rankle the home fans still angry about his departure.

Wenger, however, said the player who quit the club for a reported fee of 24 million pounds ($36.64 million) would not be shunned by his former employers. “We will respect the players that have played for us a long time as we always have done and treat them well before and after the game,” Wenger told reporters. “As a champion or not as a champion it is exactly the same.”

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“Virgil Hunter is my trainer and he’s the one who’s told me we are going to use Victor Conte as an assistant in a way, as he has a team of trainers who can teach you stuff.”

“On the training methods he’s brought so much good training into the game. He’s introduced me to a lot of new trainers who have helped me on my running, sprinting, on my engine really, which is working my fitness, also breathing methods and telling me what to do and what not to do.”

Conte was at the centre of the BALCO doping programme which included several high profile athletes like Marion Jones and Tim Montgomery. — Reuters
Dortmund crush Real Madrid 4-1 in UEFA Champions League

The Germans were not done with the scoring as Lewandowski wrapped up his hat-trick at the 55th minute when he controlled the ball inside box to beat Pepe and Raphael Varane and hammered the ball into the top right corner. Things changed from bad to worse when Real’s Xabi Alonso was penalized for a foul play on Reus inside the box to invite Lewandowski, who made it 4-1 on the scoreboard when he slammed the penalty into the center of the goal at the 66th minute. Things changed from bad to worse when Real’s Xabi Alonso was penalized for a foul play on Reus inside the box to invite Lewandowski, who made it 4-1 on the scoreboard when he slammed the penalty into the center of the goal at the 66th minute.

Real Madrid host Borussia Dortmund Saturday, 27 April, 2013

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Chef’s mistakes lead to N China’s food poisoning

Heibei, 26 April — A chef’s mistake of adding pesticide instead of a sauce while cooking has left one person dead and two others in critical condition in north China’s Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region.

Police in Baotou City told Xinhua on Thursday that the chef was among the 23 people who fell ill after eating lunch at the construction site of the Beijin-Tibet Expressway expansion project in Baotou on Tuesday. The pesticide, identified as carbophuran, was found in samples of the food. Police said evidence shows that the case was a crime of negligence. The workers are all migrant workers employed by the project contractor, the Inner Mongolia Highway Engineering Co.— Xinhua

IAAF to open blood test centre in Kenya

Nairobi, 26 April — World athletics governing body IAAF will open a blood test center (BTC) in Kenya’s Rift Valley town of Eldoret to cater for Kenyan and Ethiopian runners. IAAF is also seeking to collaborate with World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) to establish a laboratory to test samples collected in the region either in Nairobi or Eldoret, Athletics Kenya (AK) boss Isaiah Kiplagat said on Thursday.

“After three months, we expect progress to have been made on the proposed BTC. IAAF came up with the idea after extensive discussions about the seriousness of doping cases in this country,” he said.

“Currently, all samples collected here are sent to South Africa or Germany for analysis and having a lab here will keep us ahead in our fight to ensure that our athletes are clean,” the chair added. The development comes hot on the heels of the Kenyan federation revealing that five runners had been sanctioned for various doping offences in the past two months. “The matter has received a lot of attention at the IOC, WADA and IAAF. From the BTC, we shall have biological passports for every athlete in Kenya and Ethiopia,” Kiplagat said.

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61 injured in SW China quake

Chengdu, 26 April — A total of 61 people were injured and 46,592 were affected when a 4.8-magnitude earthquake jolted Yibin City, southwest China’s Sichuan Province, on Thursday morning, local authorities said.

More than 29,000 houses had been destroyed or damaged in the quake as of 2:30 pm on Thursday, according to the Yibin municipal emergency response office. A bout 14,000 people have been relocated.

Cristiano Ronaldo against Borussia Dortmund’s defenders— Xinhua

Without further warning, Dortmund broke the deadlock with their second chance as Polish international Lewandowski scored four goals against Real Madrid on Wednesday to ensure an advantageous position for the second leg of the Champions League semfinal in Bernabeu. Lewandowski donated four goals at outside Signal Iduna Park to become the first player to have scored four goals in a Champions League semifinal match.

Real Madrid were only able to restore parity before the break through Christiano Ronaldo but Lewandowski forked out three goals within 17 minutes to filabbergast the visitors. From the kickoff the hosts took the reins to press Madrid into their own territory. With seven minutes into the game Dortmund’s Marco Reus dangerously approached Real’s box to force keeper Diego Lopez to turn the shot around the far post.

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Chef’s mistakes lead to N China’s food poisoning

Heibei, 26 April — A chef’s mistake of adding pesticide instead of a sauce while cooking has left one person dead and two others in critical condition in north China’s Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region.

Police in Baotou City told Xinhua on Thursday that the chef was among the 23 people who fell ill after eating lunch at the construction site of the Beijin-Tibet Expressway expansion project in Baotou on Tuesday. The pesticide, identified as carbophuran, was found in samples of the food. Police said evidence shows that the case was a crime of negligence. The workers are all migrant workers employed by the project contractor, the Inner Mongolia Highway Engineering Co.— Xinhua
Electoral Stakeholders Roundtable Meeting held

Nay Pyi Taw, 26 April—Union Election Commission Chairman U Tin Aye promised to amend the electoral laws and bylaws as necessary to ensure free, fair and transparent general elections in 2015 as he addressed the electoral stakeholders roundtable meeting, at UEC office here this morning.

The UEC Chairman admitted that there are still weak points in voter registration, pre-election voting, political campaigns and dissemination of electoral knowledge to voters and also mentioned the huge financial gap among political parties.

The UEC has been taking steps to get accurate voters lists in coordination with election sub-commissions, civil society organizations and government departments and political parties while launching public education programmes.

UEC members U Win Kyi, Dr Daw Myint Kyi, U Myint Naing, U Nyunt Tin and U Win Ko discussed the topics of voter registration, financing of political parties, code of conduct for political parties, voter education, and status of observation for civil societies.

Those from political parties and CSOs held discussions on holding free and fair multi-party general elections in 2015 from various aspects, which are assessed by the UEC Chairman who guaranteed necessary amendments to electoral laws and bylaws to ensure free and fair general elections.

The meeting was attended by UEC members, chairpersons and CEC members of 21 political parties, electoral stakeholders from nine CSOs, personnel from government departments, and reps from UNDP, USAID, EU, UK AID, Asia Foundation IDEA and IFES and media.

Myanmar’s significant reform processes found exciting and amazing

Yangon, 26 April—“The US government eased economic sanctions against Myanmar last year. During his visit to the US, President U Thein Sein invited US businessmen to invest in Myanmar. US President Barack Obama has aimed to perform trade agreements in developing countries and Asia-Pacific region. The US started the process of considering Myanmar for inclusion in Generalized System of Preferences (GSP),” says US Trade Representative Ambassador Mr Demetrios Marantis in meeting with students and responsible persons of social organizations.

“Regarding the question about which sectors will be invested, he replied that the US government was seeking ways and means to invest in Myanmar. They found sweeping Myanmar reform processes that made significant progress exciting and amazing. Priority would be given to invest in sectors that could bring improvement in daily life of ordinary people. He continued that the most important point was to realize market economic system in Myanmar. Market liberalization was the key to economic development. The US government would carry out economic cooperation with Myanmar. Measures would be taken to boost bilateral trade. He expressed his belief that Myanmar market is very interesting one for businessmen.”

The US Trade Representative’s visit to Myanmar came out two days after EU’s economic sanctions on Myanmar were lifted. He arrived here on 24 April and his visit will conclude on 27 April.—MNA

Union Commerce Minister meets economic delegations from US and Thailand

Nay Pyi Taw, 26 April—Union Minister for Commerce U Win Myint received US delegation including US Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Derek Mitchell and seven members led by Acting US Trade Representative Ambassador Demetrios James Marantis at the ministry, here, this afternoon. They discussed matters related to trade and investment of the two countries, US’s offer for generalized system of preferences (GSP) in Myanmar, benefits of GSP and effective utilization of it, preparation and cooperation measures when Myanmar hosts ASEAN Summit, export of new items and value-added products through closer relations between the two countries.

The Union minister also met with Permanent Second Secretary Mr. Nappandon Sarawa and party of the Ministry of Commerce of Thailand. Both sides discussed local manufacturing prospects and trade of the two countries and further extension of private sector.

Union Minister U Win Myint made a speech at the coordination meeting on economic and trade development in Kayah State this afternoon. The Union minister said that plans are underway to open border trade camp in Mae Sariang, bordering Kayah State and Mae Hong Song Province of Thailand for economic development.

The meeting was attended by Kayah State Planning and Economic Minister U Tot Yal and officials from the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI) and brother associations.—MNA

 significant day temperature (26-4-2013) Aunglan 44°C

New Light of Myanmar Saturday, 27 April, 2013