**Myanmar, Korean speakers sign MoU on bilateral cooperation**

Nay Pyi Taw, 27 April—Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann and Korean National Assembly Speaker Mr Kang Chang-hee signed MoU on bilateral cooperation between two parliaments.

The Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker met the Korean National Assembly Speaker at the National Assembly Building of ROK on 23 April during his Korea visit at the latter’s invitation.

The Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker described the Korean Speaker’s visit to Myanmar in January as a boost to bilateral relations between the two governments, parliaments and peoples and praised the major role of the National Assembly in comprehensive development of South Korea.

The Korean Speaker spoke of the need of economic reform and development for democratization as well as the important role of science and technology in national development. He tipped technologies of Korea and resources of Myanmar for mutual benefits of the two nations.

Korean companies and businessmen are interested to make investment in Myanmar, said the Korean Speaker.

The Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker expressed his wish to promote human resources development works through bilateral cooperation, requesting the Korean Speaker to share the education system, HRD policies and projects and legislation of the ROK.

The Korean Speaker then hosted dinner to Myanmar delegation led by the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker. The Korean Speaker also hosted dinner to Myanmar parliamentarian delegation while they were in Ulsan.

Chairman of Korea-Myanmar Friendship Association of Korean National Assembly Mr Song Giwho hosted luncheon to the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker and party on 22 April. The Myanmar delegation visited Chang Duk Palace in Seoul in the noon.

On 23 April, the Myanmar delegation visited Human Resources Development Service and went cruising in Han River.

The delegation the following day visited Samsung Electronics Co in Suwon City.

The Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker then had luncheon together with Ven Mok Tak Hye, Chairman of the Korea-Myanmar Friendship Interchange Association at Lotte Hotel and visited Korea Development Institute (KDID) and then Korea Institute of Science and Technology (KIST).

**Mobile team and illegal trade routes**

Commerce and Consumer Affairs Department of the Ministry of Commerce has opened 13 trade camps for trade promotion and country’s economic development. Its aims are relaxations for smooth flow of goods, removals of trade barriers and control of food stuff and goods that are not suitable for health.

A mobile team is controlling illegal trades at the strategic point of Nyaungkhadhae-DaikU road in Waw of Bago Region. That mobile team has to present its daily reports to the higher level organizations.

Even though mobile teams control illegal trades, average trade flows on Myawady-Yangon has been on the decrease. This is because profiteering traders and illegal traders let the drivers to use illegal trade routes to carry their goods.

Unlicensed goods imported from Myawady trade zone in Thai-Myanmar border are kept in Kawakareik and Hpa-an in Kayin State and Mawlamyine, Thaton and Kyaikto in Mon State. Then, they carry these goods via four illegal routes by motor cycles and cars at night.

They use Kyaikto-Waw road (1), (2), (3) and (4). The mobile team also has to seize the luxury cars with Sasana flags which carry restricted goods, alcohol, beer and cigarette. Officials concerned should control the above illegal trade routes so as to control the illegal trades.

**Conflict-sensitive reporting course opened**

Mandalay, 27 April—Conflict-sensitive reporting course will be conducted in Mandalay from 5 to 7 May. Jointly organized by Myanmar Peace Center (MPC) and International Media Support (IMS), the course is designed to improve the presentation skills of Myanmar journalists in reporting conflict and peace process news.

The syllabus includes understanding conflict, conflict assessment, conflicts in Myanmar, media influence, newsroom management in conflict environment, responsible journalism, safety of journalists, decision-making in ethical issues, incident-based observing, field teamwork and so on.

The course is the third of its kind in Mandalay. Similar courses have been opened in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Mandalay, Magway, Taunggyi, Lashio, Kalay, Monywa and Myitkyina and will be opened in Sittway, Pathein, and Mawlamyine.

The curriculum of the course is based on conflict-sensitive reporting methods which have been in use worldwide for a decade and was recently reviewed and improved at international workshop in Nairobi, Kenya.

**Significant day temperatures**

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**Tornado touches down in some townships of Mandalay Region**

**Mandalay** 27 April—A tornado touched down in the squall. In accord with directives of authorities concerned, electrical staff contributed their all-out efforts for resumption of electricity supply in disaster-hit wards. So supply of electricity returned to Sagaing Township at about 4 pm on 23 April.

**Nay Pyi Taw** 27 April—Regarding the 7th ASEAN Para Games that will be held in Nay Pyi Taw in January 2014, APSF Board of Executive Committee Meeting held

**Kyaukse** 27 April—Kyaukse Township Development Affairs Department is carrying out building of more water supply facilities to meet the high demand for potable water as the region has experienced high temperature this year. Local people have access to safe clean drinking water. Laboratory experiments made at Public Health Laboratory in Mandalay showed that the pH level of water rests between 7.2 and 7.6. There was no evidence of chemical side effects,” says Deputy Director U Lay Lwin of Kyaukse Township Development Affairs Department.

**YCDC Cup Summer Golf Championship 2013 goes on**

**Yangon** 27 April—With the aim of development of Myanmar Golf Sport and turning out new generation golfers, YCDC Cup Summer Golf Championship 2013, jointly-organized Yangon City Development Committee and Dagon Beverages, continued yesterday at Yangon City Golf Course (Ngwethawdar course). At men's amateur level, Myanmar selected golfer Thein Naing Soe led the event with a handicap of 4 for two days followed by Myanmar selected golfer Y Htet Aung and Myo Win Aung with a handicap of 3 each.

As a gesture of ensuring transparency, ward administrator U Htay Win and members presented 123 SIM cards to ward dwellers at his office.

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**Kengtung Township sees couple of fires in single day**

Kengtung, 27 April—Two kitchen fires caused by embers occurred in Kengtung Township on 24 April. The first fire broke out at a house on M ingalar street in ward-4 in Kengtung at about 7.15 am on that day. It was a kitchen fire. The embers of the fireplace caused the fire. One-storey RC house was burnt down in the fire.

The second fire broke out at the house of U Sai Lon in Y an Hoke Village of Kengtung Township atabout 12 noon. The fire started from the kitchen. The kitchen fire caused by embers was due to negligence in use of fire.

Fire fighters of Kengtung Township put out the two fires with a few minutes in cooperation with local people. A citations are being taken against fire negligence by Kengtung Township police station.

**Cash donation for School for the Deaf in Mandalay**

Mandalay, 27 April—A ceremony to donate 1 million yen to the School for the Deaf in Mandalay Region Social Welfare Department by Chairman Mr. Sadaa Ki Tachi of Kyoshin Co., Ltd in Tokyo of Japan for the purchase of teaching aid for vocational purpose, computer and accessories and school furniture and conducting graphic design, sign language and computerized sewing courses was held at the school in Mandalay on 10 April. It was the fifteenth donation of the well wisher in Myanmar.

The cash donation ceremony was attended by Mandalay Region Hluttaw Speaker U Min Maung, Mandalay Region M insiter for Planning and Economy Aung Zan, Director-General U Sae Kyi of Social Welfare Department, officials concerned and Japanese representatives of the donor.

**Electricity supply resumes in disaster-hit Sagaing Township**

Sagaing, 27 April—Sagaing Township got caught a sudden vicious squall of rain at about 8.30 pm on 22 April. High wind and heavy rain uprooted trees, destroyed lamp posts and cut down power lines and telephone lines in some wards.

As all debris clearing and reinstalation works concluded, electricity supply resumed in Sagaing Township on 23 April evening. 29 lamp posts were damaged and power line cut down in the squall. In accord with directives of authorities concerned, electrical staff contributed their all-out efforts for resumption of electricity supply in disaster-hit wards. So supply of electricity returned to Sagaing Township at about 4 pm on 23 April,” says an electrical staff.

Daw Nweni Aye of Nan U Myothit ward said that she was very pleased to see sooner resumption of electricity supply. She expressed her thanks for strenuous efforts of electrical staff and department concerned.

**Beware of fire**
11 killed, 40 injured in bomb blast in Pakistan’s Karachi

Islamabad, 27 April
At least 11 people including a child were killed and 40 others injured on Friday night in a bomb blast that targeted a political meeting in Pakistan’s southern port city of Karachi, local media and police said.

According to the reports, the bomb exploded near a corner meeting of a political party Awami National Party (ANP) or “People’s National Party” in Mominabad area of Karachi, killing six people on the spot while injuring 45 others including six children. Police, security forces and rescue teams rushed to the site and shifted the bodies and injured to the Abbasi Shaheed Hospital and Civil Hospital of the city where five of the wounded succumbed to their injuries.

Hospital sources said that at least 15 of the injured people were in critical condition and had been shifted to the intensive care unit.

Superintendent of police Ch Asad told media that the target of the blast was a leader of ANP “Bashir Jan” who was addressing the gathering of political workers for his election campaign but he remained unharmed in the attack.

According to the police officer, preliminary reports showed that the bomb was fixed in a car and was detonated with a remote control device.

The intensity of the blast was so high that it destroyed the venue of the gathering, eight nearby shops, four vehicles including a car of the political leader besides smashing the window panes of nearby buildings.

Soon after the explosion, the whole area engulfed with darkness as the nearby electricity pole was also destroyed in the blast.

Anger on streets as Bangladesh building toll passes 300

DHAKA, 27 April—Bangladesh textile workers vented their anger on Friday, burning cars and clashing with police, as the death toll passed 300 following the collapse of a building housing factories that made low-cost garments for Western brands.

Miraculously rescued workers were still pulling people alive from the rubble — 72 since daybreak following 41 found in the same room overnight — two days after the eight-storey building collapsed on the outskirts of the capital, Dhaka.

But there were fears that hundreds of people were still trapped in the wreckage of the building, which officials said had been built illegally without the correct building permits. “Some people are still alive under the rubble and we are hoping to rescue them,” said deputy fire services director Mizanur Rahman. A spokesman for Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said she had ordered the arrest of the owners of the building and of the five factories that occupied it.

Army spokesman Shahinur Islam said the death toll had reached 304 and 171 Imam, an adviser to the Prime Minister, said it could exceed 350. Anger over the working conditions of Bangladesh’s 3.6 million garment workers, the overwhelming majority of them women, has grown steadily since the disaster, with thousands taking to the streets to protest on Friday.

A bout 2,350 people have been rescued, at least half of them injured, from the remains of the building in the commercial suburb of Savar, about 30 km (20 miles) from Dhaka. An industry official has said 3,122 people, most of them female garment workers, had been in the Rana Plaza building despite warnings that it was structurally unsafe.

Boston bomb suspect moved to prison from hospital

BOSTON, 27 April—Boston Marathon bombing suspect Dzhokhar Tsarnaev has been moved to a prison medical center from the hospital where he had been held since his arrest a week ago while recovering from gunshot wounds, US officials said on Friday.

The 19-year-old ethnic Chechen, wounded in a night-time shootout with police on 18 April hours after authorities released pictures of him and his older brother as suspects, was formally charged on Monday and could face the death penalty if convicted.

His brother, Tamerlan Tsarnaev, 26, died in the shootout. New York City officials said on Thursday that Dzhokhar told investigators in the hospital after the FBI released their pictures, the pair made an impromptu plan to drive to New York and set off more bombs in Times Square.

New York has been on heightened alert since the September 11, 2001 plane attacks and Manhattan’s Times Square was the target of an attempted car bombing by a Pakistan-born US citizen in May 2010.

US lawmakers are demanding answers from security officials about what they might have known about the brothers, particularly Tamerlan, before the bombing at the marathon finish line that killed three people and injured 264 others.

In 2011, Russia had asked the FBI to question Tamerlan because of concerns that he may have been an Islamic militant. Reuters

47-year-old gunman shoots county mayor, himself in NW Germany

BEILIN, 27 April—A 47-year-old gunman shot dead the mayor of a northwestern German county on Friday morning before killing himself, local police said.

The shooting took place around 10 o’clock local time in Hamelin-Pyrmont county of the German State of Lower Saxony. Local police confirmed that the county mayor Ruediger Butte was shot dead by the gunman who then turned the firearm on himself. There was no direct witness.

According to local media, county spokeswoman Sandra Lummitsch heard the shots in a neighboring office. She alerted the police, then locked herself in each office with her colleagues.

In a Press conference held on Friday afternoon, police said the shooting was pre-planned, as the offender had attempted for days to have an appointment with the mayor. Xinhua

US denies attempting to destabilize Venezuela

WASHINGTON, 27 April—The United States on Friday denied making any effort to destabilize the Venezuelan government, and called an American arrested in the South American nation “a private US citizen.”

State Department spokesman Patrick Ventrell said at a regular news briefing that Washington was seeking more information on Timothy Halley Tracy, an American documentary filmmaker arrested on Wednesday in the Venezuelan capital Caracas on charges of conspiring to destabilize the country.

Venezuela’s Interior and Justice Minister Miguel Rodriguez has said that locked herself in each office with her colleagues.

In violent street protests against the outcome of the 14 April presidential election, in which President Nicolas Maduro beat his closest rival only by a slim margin. The clashes last week left eight people dead. Washington has not recognized Maduro as Venezuela’s new president, and has been pushing for a recount of the presidential votes. US-Venezuela relations have been strained in recent years, and the two countries have not had each other’s ambassadors since July 2010. Maduro and his predecessor, late President Hugo Chavez, have regularly accused Washington of seeking to destabilize their oil-rich country.

Mourners offer flowers and candles at a memorial for victims of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster in Slavutich, Ukraine, on 26 April, 2013, the 27th anniversary of the disaster. — Kyodo News
Mobile broadband demand pushes Ericsson Brazil plant to capacity

New York, 27 April—Amazon.com Inc’s stock sank 6 percent on Friday as a poor financial outlook revived concerns about whether the company can sustain its torrid pace of expansion while profitability improves.

The world’s largest Internet retailer on Thursday reported its highest gross profit margins in a decade as years of spending on high-margin businesses, from digital media to cloud services, began to pay off. But slower revenue growth and a disappointing outlook for this quarter exacerbated uncertainty about the its business beyond the United States.

Amazon faces a sluggish European economy and has had inconsistent success breaking into emerging markets such as China, where competition from the likes of Alibaba is intense.

Year-over-year growth, which measures the number of items Amazon sells, was 30 percent in the first quarter, down from 49 percent in the first quarter of 2012.

Growth concerns worsen, the company will have to trouble justifying its triple-digit price-earnings multiple. Analysts at JP Morgan, Credit Suisse and Pacific Crest Securities on Friday lowered their price targets on Amazon shares, saying the top-line deceleration longer-term, investors are keeping a close eye on a fundamental shift in its business.

The Internet retail giant that once specialized in moving books and other physical items quickly is increasingly trying to do the same in the digital world, where profit margins are higher, partly because e-books, music and video files and are transmitted electronically at high speed.

It has diversified aggressively into other sectors, such as digital content, advertising and the Amazon Web Services cloud computing business.

In the past week, Amazon has branched into creating original video content.

Throw in a fast-expanding third-party merchant business, where Amazon books a cut of sales from seller listings on its website, and the long-term margin outlook looks solid.

“One of the long-term things it does help margins,” said Ben Schachter, an analyst at Macquarie. “You don’t have to put these things on a truck and ship them.”

“Amazon’s now growing at about 2x eCommerce, compared to 3x a year ago,” Doug Anmuth, an analyst at JP Morgan, wrote in a note to investors following the company’s results.

New York, 27 April—LivingSocial, the second-largest daily deal company behind Groupon Inc, said on Friday it was hit by a cyber attack that may have affected more than 50 million customers.

The company said the attack on its computer systems resulted in unauthorized access to customer data, including names, email addresses, dates of birth for some users and “encrypted” passwords.

LivingSocial stressed Social is also contacting customers who closed accounts, because it still has their information stored in databases, he added.

The attack hit customers in the United States, Canada, the U.K., Ireland, Australia, New Zealand, Malaysia, Southern Europe and Latin America. Customers in South Korea, Indonesia, Philippines and Thailand were not affected, according to the company.

“Light in recent successful widespread attacks
Moody’s S&G settle lawsuits over debt vehicle ratings

NEW YORK, 27 April — Moody’s Investors Service and Standard & Poor’s on Friday said they have settled two long-running lawsuits seeking to hold them responsible for misleading investors about the safety of risky debt vehicles that they had rated.

The lawsuits had accused Moody’s, a unit of Moody’s Corp, and S&P, a unit of McGraw-Hill Cos, of negligent misrepresentation over their activities regarding the Cheyne and Rhinebridge structured investment vehicles (SIVs).

Moody’s Stanley, which marketed both SIVs and helped structure the Rhinebridge SIV, also settled.

Settlement terms were not disclosed in the cases, which had been brought in 2008 and had sought more than $700 million (452 million pounds) of damages. Both lawsuits were dismissed with prejudice, meaning they cannot be brought again. Moody’s spokesman Michael Adler, McGraw-Hill spokesman Jason Feuchtwanger and Moody’s Stanley spokesman Mark Lake confirmed their company’s respective settlements.

“arresting this settlement allows us to put the significant legal defense and related costs, as well as the distraction, of these very protracted litigations behind us,” Adler said.

Feuchtwanger said McGraw-Hill’s settlement involved no admission of wrongdoing.

Lawyers for the plaintiffs investors did not immediately respond to several requests for comment.

A trial in the Cheyne case had been scheduled for 6 May before US District Judge Shira Scheindlin in Manhattan, who oversaw both lawsuits. Credit rating agencies have been accused by investors, regulators and politicians of inflating the ratings of risky mortgage-backed and structured securities in a bid to win new business.

Critics said these activities also fueled demand from investors who believed the ratings were objective, but prices collapsed once the risks materialized, helping to trigger the 2008 global financial crisis.

S&P still faces the US Department of Justice’s $5 billion civil fraud lawsuit that compound sterile drugs and ship them across state lines under proposed legislation announced on Friday.

The proposal from a bipartisan group of US senators comes in the wake of a meningitis outbreak last fall that killed 53 people and sickened more than 700. The outbreak was linked to a tainted steroid distributed by the New England Compounding Centre.

The proposal would draw a distinction between traditional compounding pharmacies, which make drugs based on specific prescriptions for individual patients, and those such as NECC, which make products without prescriptions for physicians to keep for future use.

“By clarifying FDA authority over high-risk compounding practices, this bill will enhance protections for patients taking compounded drugs and help prevent crises like last year’s tragic meningitis outbreak,” Iowa Democrat Tom Harkin, Chairman of the Senate Health Committee that developed the draft legislation, said in a statement.

The bill would create a new class of drugmaker that would be regulated by the FDA but would be exempt from the full raft of regulations that apply to traditional pharmaceutical companies.

Goldman Sachs lines up $1.75 billion

J C Penney loan

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Vodafone investors want bigger bid or full takeover by Verizon

London, 27 April — Six major Vodafone investors said 100 billion was not enough for the British company’s stake in its US joint venture with Verizon Communications, and urged the latter to come up with an offer of at least $120 billion.

Their comments followed a Reuters report on Wednesday that Verizon had hired advisers to prepare a possible $100 billion bid to buy Vodafone’s 45 percent stake in their Verizon Wireless joint venture, likely to be structured as a roughly $50 billion cash and stock bid.

Should the $100 billion figure stand, the six shareholders, with around 1.3 billion of Vodafone’s shares between them, said they would prefer the British group to push for a full merger with Verizon instead.

The main concern among investors contacted by Reuters was the fact that a sale of Verizon Wireless — the best performing asset by far in the Vodafone portfolio — would highlight the operator’s exposure to its troubled European markets.

“Without wishing to be too disrespectful, Vodafone is sitting with a rather ugly set of assets once you lose the Verizon Wireless stake,” said Ralph Brookfield, a fund manager at Ignis Asset Management, a top 40 institutional shareholder in Vodafone.

“I think the merger or full takeover scenario, although not at the forefront of discussions right now, could actually end up being the more palatable deal.”

Verizon Communications released a statement earlier this month to say it did not have any intention to merge or make an offer for Vodafone following bid speculation.

Vodafone’s share of Verizon Wireless represents around half of the British group’s adjusted operating profit in the six months to the end of September 2012, according to its financial results.

It also received before the end of 2012 a 2.4 billion pound dividend from its Verizon Wireless stake, and said it would pass on 1.5 billion pounds to its shareholders via a buy-back, showing the importance to the group of its holding.
Japanese architect Tadao Ando (L) receives an honorary doctorate from the University of Münster in northern Germany on 24 April, 2013. Kyodo News

15 rescued after hospital ceiling collapses in India

Mumbai, 27 April — Around 15 of nearly 20 people trapped under the ceiling debris were rescued after ceiling of a hospital collapsed on Friday in Bhopal in north India, according to local news channel CNN-IBN.

The section of the two-storey building that collapsed housed the women's medical ward and around 18 to 20 patients were admitted in the ward at the time.

Around 15 people, including a child, were rescued. But there has been no report about casualties yet. The army helped in rescue operation. Sources said the cause of the collapse is ageing of the building.

Xinhua

Palestinian protesters run in front of Israeli troops during clashes near the West Bank village of Deir Jarir near Ramallah on 26 April, 2013. — Reuters

Turkey warns opposition against sabotaging Kurdish peace moves

Istanbul, 27 April — The Turkish government welcomed a planned withdrawal by Kurdish militants as significant progress towards ending decades of conflict on Friday, and it warned its nationalist opposition not to sabotage the peace process. The main nationalist party, however, was quick to reiterate its opposition to any dealings with the militants. Rebel field commander Murat Karayilan on Thursday ordered his fighters to begin leaving Turkey on May 9 for the mountains of northern Iraq, in a step to halt a war that has killed more than 40,000 and scarred the nation.

The pullout is a major step forward in a peace plan hammered out during months of negotiations between Turkey’s MİT intelligence agency and the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) chief Abdullah Ocalan, who was jailed on a prison island near Istanbul. The onus is now on the government to enact reforms sought by Ocalan and his followers, a process that will require support for changes to the constitution in the face of nationalist anger at negotiations with a man they have long reviled. “The point we have reached in the process is very important and we need to be sensitive for it to be completed successfully,” Deputy Prime Minister Bulent Arinc said.

“It is necessary to determine how to avoid behavior and actions which would sabotage the process,” he said, criticizing opposition parties including the National Movement Party (MHP), for seeking to “beautify” the government.

Reuters

Masked supporters of jailed Kurdish rebel leader Abdullah Ocalan stand on the stage as one reads a statement during a gathering to celebrate Newroz in the southeastern Turkish city of Diyarbakir on 21 March, 2013. — Reuters

JAPAN LIFTS GROUNDING OF BOEING 787 AIRLINERS

Tokyo, 27 April — The Japanese Transport Ministry said on Friday it has given the green light for Boeing 787 Dreamliners to resume operation after the planes were grounded worldwide for more than three months, although the root cause of the trouble remains unidentified.

The move came after the US Federal Aviation Administration’s decision to allow 787 jets to fly again effective Friday following approval of Boeing Co’s modified battery system last month.

With approval from aviation authorities, carriers worldwide with 787s are striving to resume flights using the advanced, fuel-efficient jet at an early date. “It has been a long three months and 10 days” of suspension, said Japan Airlines Co President Yoshiharu Ueki in Tokyo after receiving the nod from the aviation authorities. “If things go properly, we can start (commercial 787 flights) in early June,” he said.

Ehime Airlines also expects to resume its 787 operations possibly Saturday, while United Airlines, the only US airline with 787s in its fleet, is looking to resume flights in late May.

All Nippon Airways Co and Japan Airlines — the world’s two largest 787 operators — were ordered by Japan’s transport ministry in January to ground their 787 fleets and make battery modifications approved by the ministry’s Civil Aviation Bureau. The carriers have already begun installing the modified lithium-ion batteries in their Dreamliner jets and are planning to conduct test flights using revamped 787s before resuming commercial operations in June at the earliest.

With Dreamliners expected to return to service, the chiefs of JAL and ANA both indicated plans to seek compensation from Boeing.

Kyodo News

MEXICAN UNIVERSITY BUILDING DESIGNED BY JAPANESE ARCHITECT ANDO COMPLETED

Los Angeles, 27 April — A school building designed by Japanese architect Tadao Ando has been completed at the University of Monterrey in northern Mexico. Ando, 71, who has won various awards for his works, attended the building’s inauguration ceremony on Wednesday. People can pass through the lower part of the six-story building, Centro Roberto Garza Sada, alternately called the “Gates of Creation.”

The building was the first designed by Ando in Central and South America, the university said. Ando said Mexico is known for many world-class architects, such as Luis Barragan Morfin (1902-1988), and called on university students who walk through the Gate of Creation to have the spirit and ideals for the future generations.

Japanese architect Tadao Ando completed

South Sudan rebels surrender in oil-rich north in amnesty deal

Juba, 27 April — An estimated 3,000 South Sudanese rebels have surrendered and accepted an amnesty, a government official said on Friday, ending a long-standing insurgency in the oil-producing north of the country.

South Sudan’s government has been struggling to contain several insurgencies it claims are supported by southern secession.—Reuters

South Sudanese soldiers walk alongside a tank as they withdraw from the town of Jau, at the disputed border with Sudan on 13 March, 2013. — Reuters

ISRAELI ARMY BREAKS UP PALESTINIAN MARCH ON JEWISH SETTLEMENT

Deir Jarir, (West Bank), 27 April — Israeli soldiers fired tear gas and rubber bullets to disperse about 500 Palestinian villagers marching toward a Jewish settlement outpost in the occupied West Bank on Friday. The procession, the largest of its kind for years, followed calls by Palestinians that the Israeli settlers, whose caravans abut village land, had attacked them twice this week.

Around half a million settlers have moved to the West Bank and East Jerusalem since Israel captured the area, along with the Gaza Strip, in the 1967 Middle East War. Palestinians want the settlements gone from where they see their future state. Men from Deir Jarir, including Christian and Muslim clerics, gathered for Friday prayers on a craggy outcrop between their village and a cluster of half a dozen makeshift settler homes surrounded by Israeli army jeeps and soldiers.

Their march, preceded by a group of stone-throwing youths, was repeatedly pushed back by salvos of Israeli tear gas. Young boys howled from the effects of the tear gas and old men hunched up their robes to flee, holding onion slices to their noses. Medics treated several men for gas inhalation and rubber bullet wounds.—Reuters

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Reuters

Masked supporters of jailed Kurdish rebel leader Abdullah Ocalan stand on the stage as one reads a statement during a gathering to celebrate Newroz in the southeastern Turkish city of Diyarbakir on 21 March, 2013. — Reuters
Wellwishers invited to donate cash and kind to fire victims

MANDALAY, 27 April—Wellwishers donate cash and kind to fire victims of Tampawady Ward in Chanmyathazi Township.

Up to 22 April, companies, social organizations and wellwishers donated K 27.63 million to 667 fire victims from 153 households.

Moreover, wellwishers donate blankets, clothes, kitchen utensils, foods, purified drinking water, edible oil and bags of rice to the victims. Officials shared four bags of rice to each fire victim family. The control and donation acceptance centre was opened at Sasana Gonyi Dhammayan in Chipa West Block of Tampawady Ward in Chanmyathazi Township. Donors may dial 09-2016706 and 09-2003599.

Under the supervision of the Chanmyathazi Township administrator, five townswomen and six fire victims were formed as the committee to carry out tasks for the victims. Arrangements are being made for enabling wellwishers to donate cash and kind to the victims in person.—Myanna Alinn

Squalls destroys trees, lamp-posts in Sagaing

SAGAING, 27 April—Squalls hit Sagaing at 8.40 pm on 22 April. In the incident, some trees fell down, tree branches and lamp-posts broke and some power lines and overhead telephone cables cut out.

A total of 29 concrete lamp-posts, two housing meters and one power meter were destroyed in NanU M yothit, Parami, Podan, Shwethamar, M inlan, Pabedan and Taungphila monasteries and trees fell down in the precinct of Aungmye Lawkha Pagoda in Podan Ward, M inla and Pabedan wards.

Deputy Commissioner U Myint Wai of Sagaing District General Administration Department and officials inspected the damages of lamp-posts and fallen branches of trees.

Sagaling District Electrician Engineer U Kyaw Khin and electricians carried out replacement of the damaged lamp-posts with new ones and installed power lines.—Myanna Alinn

Umbrella hoisted atop quake-striven pagoda in Wetlet Township

WELET, 27 April—M in B andar, pagoda in the precinct of Nyaungkoebin Monastery in Hanlin Model Village of Wetlet Township was damaged in the shakes of Richter Scale 6.8 earthquake on 11 November 2012.

The pagoda was renovated by veterinarians who graduated in 1986-87 academic year with the contributions of local people. The ceremony of hoisting umbrella atop the pagoda was held in conjunction with the consecration on the platform of the pagoda on 19 April.

The pagoda was works of the Konbaung Period. It was over 200 years old. Nyaungkoebin Sayadaw B haddanta T ejaniya organizes Buddha Pujaniya of the pagoda annually.—Myanna Alinn

Books, medicines donated to staff of Sittoung Paper Mill

KYAIKTO, 27 April—Deputy Minister for Information U P ike Htwe and wife, and Director-General U Y e Tint of Information and Public Relations Department donated medicines and cash to the fund to Thitthsin Parayatt M onastery of Theinnyatay Township in Kyaikto Township of M on State on 23 April morning.

The deputy minister and party paid homage to KyaiK to Sittoung Paper Mill, they donated books to Alinein Library, medicines for staff and snacks to children of Pre-Primary School.

Then, they paid homage to Kyaikpawlaw Mmehin-daw Pagoda. Later, they met staff of Kyaikto Township Information and Public Relations Department and gave necessary instructions.—Myanna Alinn

Four security personnel wounded in arresting suspect

TONGNOO, 27 April—Aye Chan Myaung express bus that left Yangon for Mawgaw to take passengers plunged into the drain due to out of control from the bridge between mile post 154/2 on Yangon-Mandalay Expressway in Keturmadhi M yothit of Tongnoo District at 5 am on 21 April.

In the incident, driver Than Tun, 57, of U Tin Tun of No 6 at Building 8 of Pyidawtha Housing in Mawgaw and bus conductor Than Lwin, 31, of U Saw Lin from Strand Road in Bagon Ward in Mawgaw were injured. There was no passenger onboard the car. Action was taken against the driver.—Myanna Alinn

PATHEIN, 27 April—While talking one another at 11 pm on 18 April, U Than Soe, 50 from No 16 of Khatta Street in Ward 4 of Pathein, security personnel M in Htet Aung, 20, security personnel Hein K o L at, 24 and Zin M in Oo, 28 from K hatta Street saw an unknown person who hidden himself between the house of dentist Dr Aung M oe Naing and an building.

They asked and prepared to arrest him. The unknown person attacked the security personnel with the use of an eight-inch knife and then run away.

In the incident, U Than Soe was injured with one bruise at right ankle, M in Htet Aung at right arm pit and right arm, Zin M in Oo at right thigh, and Hein K o L at chest and thigh.

U Than Soe opened FIR at Atheygyi Police Station at 3 am on 19 April. Surveillance squad leader SIP Zaw M in Tun and party searched the crime broker and arrested steel fixer Dr Myaung Maung, 26 of Pangyan Street in Kungyan area of No 1 Ward in Pathein.

Kyemon
Put the past behind

Whatever mistakes we have made or fears and suffering we had endured in the past, there is no need to dwell on it. Such kinds of past things would be better to forget and should be translated into a great boost, instead of wallowing in despair. The only thing we have to do is to pin our faith on the present day on which we see remarkable progress we have not hoped for and the future that holds notable success for us.

Two years was on and things are moving ahead. International community described the reform process of the new government as a bold move to democracy and admitted that Myanmar’s significant progress was found exciting and amazing. The country gained international recognition, with the result that EU all economic sanctions on Myanmar ended and the US is about to grant GSP to her. We are to be proud of these achievements and being on a right track. But there is something we have to bear it in mind. It is a call for taking lessons from past losses in preparation for challenges ahead made by our President at the start of the auspicious New Year period.

While the government and all stakeholders are making great strides in an adventure to build a more democratic, open and inclusive society, the country has been plunged by social unrest and unlawful violence triggered by intangible factors and invisible forces. Our infant democracy wasted for patience, tolerance, endurance, sympathy, healthy skepticism and negotiation culture. On our long road to democracy, we need to brace ourselves against malicious rumors and instigators of the disturbances. We must be mindful that harmonious pluralism must be prevalent in the society that is open, inclusive, tolerant and respectful of individual dignity. We must always be mindful of emerging challenges that could paralyze ongoing reform process of the nation.

Leaving nostalgia for the past behind and taking lessons from the past losses, we have to move towards community peace and tranquility, burgeoning practices of democratic freedom that must not infringe civil liberties and keeping a watchful eye on each and every attempt that could bring the nation on the verge of collapse.

Surprise check conducted in PyinOoLwin

PyinOoLwin, 27 April—For ensuring traffic safety, District Traffic Rules Enforcement Committee members yesterday conducted surprise check on the street corners of PyinOoLwin Township, Mandalay Region.

Together with Ward Administrators, they gave educative talks on traffic rules to the traffic rules breakers at the Bogoke Street junction, Market junction, Ward-4 junction, Sesai junction, No. 1 BEHS junction, combined office junction and Sanpya Restaurant junction along Mandalay-Lashio Road.

Actions are being taken against traffic rules breakers in PyinOoLwin Township.

Sunday, 28 April, 2013

**Perspectives**

Myanmar, Korean speakers sign...

(from page 1)

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann arrived back here by air this evening.

The Myanmar delegation was welcomed back at the Yangon International Airport by Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe, Region Hluttaw Speaker U Sein Tin Win, Deputy Speaker U Tin Aung, region Hluttaw representatives, Korean Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Kim Hae-Yong and officials of the Hluttaw Office.

Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Nanda Kyaw Swa, Hluttaw Committee Chairmen U Thein Zaw, U Hla Myint Oo and Dr Khin Shwe, Pyithu Hluttaw Committee Secretaries U AyeMaik and Dr Nay Lin, and officials of the Hluttaw Office also arrived back on the same flight.

MNA

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker meets Australian Senate President

**YANGON, 27 April—**Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann met President of the Australian Senate Hon John Joseph Hogg.—

The meeting focused on inter-parliamentarian cooperation and parliamentary affairs.

A also present at the call were Deputy Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Nanda Kyaw Swa, Chairman of Projects and Financial Development Committee U Soe Tha, Chairman of Commerce and Trade Development Committee U Maung Maung Thein, Chairman of International Relations Committee U Hla Myint Oo, Chairman of Investment and Industrial Development Committee U Htay Myint, Australian Ambassador to Myanmar Ms Bronte Nadine Moulies and officials.

MNA

Australian Senate President arrives in Yangon

**YANGON, 27 April—**President of Australian Senate Hon John Joseph Hogg arrived in Yangon this morning to pay a visit to Myanmar at an invitation of Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann and Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Aung M yint.

The delegation was welcomed at Yangon International Airport by Yangon Region Hluttaw Speaker U Sein Tin Win and wife, Deputy Speaker U Tin Aung and wife, member of Amyotha Hluttaw Bill Committee Dr Myat Nyana Soe, Australian Ambassador to Myanmar Ms Bronte Nadine Moulies and officials of the Hluttaw Office.

The Australian Senate President paid a call on Chairperson of Pyithu Hluttaw Rule of Law and Tranquility Committee Daw Aung San Suu Kyi at her residence in University Avenue in Kamayut Township this morning.

MNA
**LOCAL NEWS**

**SIM card sale in Dagon Myothit**

The direct sale of CDMA 800 MHz SIM cards to end users was launched at No.108 ward administrator office in Dagon Myothit Township in Yangon Region on 24 April.

**Low-cost SIM cards sold in Yedashe Township**

Low-cost SIM cards were sold through lucky draw programme in Yedashe Township of Bago Region on 24 April.

**Lychee yield drops due to scorching weather**

Lychee yield drops due to scorching weather in Yedashe Township of Sagaing Region. The high price is due to low harvest as a result of hot weather this year. The lychee seller in Toungoo, a packet of lychees was sold at the price of K 3500 during Thingyan which is the first day of the New Year, in Yedashe Township.

**Haul of drugs seized in M use**

Members of M use Anti-Drug (Special) Squad from M use together with ward Worcesters, Shan State (North) searched China made Lifan-125 motorcycle driven by Sai Hsan Saw near A sia Word Toll Gate on 17 March. They found WY brand pink 148,500 stimulant tablets weighing 13.365 kilograms. They also found tapes inside A Tang brand two sound boxes from the tool box of the motorcycle. Police Inspector Min Thein from M use Police Station opened a file against drug possessor Sai Hsan Saw.

**Buddha Puja niya of historic Kanni Myathit Pagoda held**

Strong winds hit Kyondo region of Kaw kareik Township in Kayin State on 24 April afternoon. The disaster destroyed the roof of a Basic Education Post-Primary School in Thayatgya village, causing a loss valued at K 320,000. Another strong winds destroyed the roof of house in Thahtaygon village in Myaukkanmageik village on the same day, causing a damage of K 1,026,500.

**Police force drawn to arrest those involved in drug possessor Sai Hsan Saw.**

**Educative talks on anti-human trafficking given in Mandalay**

Educative talks on anti-human trafficking was held at Youth Development Training School in Aungmyethazan Township, Mandalay yesterday. Responsible persons from World Vision (Myanmar) gave talks on anti-human trafficking. It was attended by Police Captain U Myo Zin of Mandalay Region Anti-human Trafficking Squad, Township Administrator U Spe Myint Win of Township General Administration Department, Principal of Women’s Vocational Training School in Aungmyethazan Township, Mandalay yesterday.

**Fire reduces one house to ashes in Nyaungeln Township**

Nyaungeln, 27 April— An ember fire broke out in Gyogyarkwin Village of Nyaungeln Township at 3.15 pm on 25 April. According to the report presented by SIP Thein Aung who discharged duty at Nyaungeln Township Police Station, the authorities inspected the outbreak of fire that started from the ember of kitchen at the house of U Ye Thwe, 28, son of U Aung Win. The fire caused loss of K 100,000.

**Ember fire torches 32 houses in ChaungU Township**

ChaungU, 27 April—Cooking 7-year-old child caused fire that engulfed 32 houses in Shwegu Village of ChaungU Township at 2.40 pm yesterday. The fire started from the kitchen of a house at plot No 7 in Shwegu Village while cooking rice by Ma Moe Moe Win, daughter of U B A Hman (a) Zaw M in Oo, torching 32 houses and three pigs.

**Lychee seller in Toungoo, a packet of lychees was sold at the price of K 3500 during Thingyan which is the first day of the New Year.**

**YANGON, 27 April—**

The head of Katha District Information and Public Relations Department of Sagang Region U Khin Maung Thein Lwin accompanied by TV Technician Grade-3 Daw Nwe Nwe Than met village administrator, village elders, village authorities, library committee members and rural people at the village administrator’s office in Thabya Village of Katha Township on 25 April. The head of District IPRD explained public service media and broaden the horizon of the local people by sharing knowledge from publications. They inspected the construction of library and urged officials to timely complete the construction tasks meeting set standard.

**Sunday, 28 April, 2013**

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British Islamists jailed for al-Qaeda suicide bomb plot

LONDON, 27 April — Three British Islamists were jailed on Friday for planning mass suicide attacks that had the blessing of al-Qaeda and which prosecutors said could have been as deadly as the 2005 London bombings.

A fourth man, an associate, was sentenced for terrorist financing. With the help of others, the three plot- ers had intended to detonate eight rucksack bombs in a mass attack and possibly use time bombs to set off other devices in crowded places. They had also considered using kni- fes to a truck and ramming it into a crowd of people, prosecutors said.

They said their targets remained un- identified, the intent was to create an attack more dev- astating than the four sui- cide bombings on London’s transport system on 7 July, 2005 which killed 52 peo- ple on underground trains and a bus, Irfan Naseer, Ir- fan Khalid and Ashik Ali were being sentenced after their conviction at London’s

Cambodia’s oil imports down 12 pct in Q1

PHNOM PENH, 27 April — Cambodia imported 412,190 tons of petroleum in the first quarter of 2013, a 12 percent decrease compared with the 471,000 tons it imported at the same period last year, the commerce ministry’s report showed on Saturday.

During the January-March period this year, the country spent 397 million U.S. dollars to buy the pet- roleum, down 15 percent from 469 million U.S. dol- lars at the same period last year, it said. Currently, the country totally purchases petroleum from Vietnam, Singapore and Thailand as its seabed’s oil and gas have not been exploited. On April 8, during the official visit of Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen to China, Hun Sen and Chinese Pre- mier Li Keqiang witnessed a signing on a Memorandum of Understanding on the 5 million tons oil refin- ery project among China Development Bank, China Export and Credit Insur- ance Corporation, China Perfect Machinery Industry Corporation and Cambodian Petrochemical Company. — Xinhua

Kazakhstan offers to host UN regional centre

ALMATY, 27 April — Kazakhstan intends to host a UN regional centre for Central Asia and Afghanistan, Foreign Minister Erlan Idrisov said here on Friday.

The idea, proposed by President Nursultan Naz- arbayev, is aimed at ad- dressing the lack of a sys- tematic UN field presence in the vast central region of Eurasia, Idrisov said at a regional foreign ministers’ conference on Afghanistan.

“Having such a centre in Almaty can be comple- mented by the construction of a UN storage depot in case of humanitarian emer- gencies,” Idrisov said.

A according to the min- ister, Kazakhstan would create all the conditions for establishing the center and ensure its functioning with- out any additional burden on the budget of the UN in the early stages.

US and South Korean soldiers take part in a joint landing drill, part of the Foal Eagle annual military exercise, in the southeastern port city of Pohang, South Korea, on 26 April, 2013. — Kyodo News

Winston Churchill to appear on new British pound banknote


Sir Winston Churchill was a truly great British leader, orator and writer. His energy, courage, elo- quence, wit and public ser- vice are an inspiration to us all,” he said in Crad of K ent, the family home of the wartime prime min- ister. Churchill served as the British Prime Minister in May, 1940 until 1945. He returned to office in 1951, and retired at 80 in 1955. According to the cur- rent plan, 5-pound notes that would contain Church- ill’s portrait would be is- sued in 2016. “Further de- tails on the full design will be revealed when the new note is launched, together with a full promotion and awareness campaign,” said the BoE. The central bank issues nearly a billion bank- notes each year, and with- draws as much as from circulation. — Xinhua
Ex-top Japan finance minister Nakao named new ADB head

MANILA/TOKYO, 27 April—Former Japanese Vice Finance Minister for International Affairs Takehiko Nakao has been named the new president of the Asian Development Bank, the organization said on Friday. The former top Japanese financial executive, who was the sole candidate, will formally take the helm of the ADB on Sunday, according to the Manila-based institution.

The 57-year-old Nakao succeeds Hachiro Kuroda, who assumed the post of Bank of Japan governor on 1 April, and will serve out the latter’s remaining term through November 2016.

“The ADB will help (the Asian economy) sustain well-balanced growth” as it has been growing “quite strongly” following the global financial crisis, cried by the collapse of Lehman Brothers Holdings Inc. in September 2008, Nakao said at a Press conference in Tokyo on Friday.

Asked whether he will pursue introduction of an Asian common currency at ADB head. Nakao expressed a negative view, saying, “Given that each country has grown at a different pace in Asia, it’s not desirable to create a common currency like the euro.” Indian Finance Minister P. Chidambaram, who chairs the ADB Board of Governors, said in a statement, “The ADB Board of Governors looks forward to working with Mr. Takehiko Nakao and his strong leadership of the institution.”

“The extensive experience in international finance and development and broad and deep knowledge of the Asian region will serve ADB well in realizing its vision of an Asia-Pacific region free of poverty,” he added. Japanese Finance Minister Taro Aso said in a statement, that ADB members who supported Nakao’s candidacy and wished him “the very best” with his new ADB presidency, drawing on his rich experience in the areas of international finance and development.

Since its establishment in 1966, Japan’s nominee has traditionally been chosen to head the 67-member ADB, where voting rights are allocated in proportion to members’ contributions.

Japan and the United States, in equal proportion, are the two biggest financial contributors to the bank. Kuroda, 68, was the eighth president of the ADB and had served in the post since 2005.

Nakao hopes to retain the post to maintain its influence in Asia amid expectations that other member countries such as China would field a candidate for the ADB presidency, Finance Ministry officials said. Nakao, a graduate of the University of Tokyo, joined the Finance Ministry in 1978 and earned a Master of Business Administration degree at the University of California, Berkeley, in 1982.

He was dispatched to the International Monetary Fund as a senior-level staff economist for three years from 1994 and was assigned as minister at the Embassy of Japan in Washington two years through 2007.

Steps to halt increase of radioactive water at Fukushima plant studied

Tokyo, 27 April—A government-appointed panel of experts on Friday started studying ways to prevent more radioactive water from accumulating at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant, including a plan to embed walls around the damaged reactor buildings to stop groundwater from entering. About 400 tons of groundwater seep into the plant every day, flowing into the lengthly and complicated water circulation loop that keeps the plant’s damaged reactors cool.

The panel of experts is studying ideas because the utility could not deal with the situation, the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, which runs the plant, said Friday. The problem involved keeping massive amounts of radioactive water at the site.

The country’s embattled utility could not deal with the situation, the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, which runs the plant, said Friday. The problem involved keeping massive amounts of radioactive water at the site.

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BAGHDAD, 27 April — Bomb blasts in Baghdad killed at least 20 more people on Friday at the end of a week of bloodshed that prompted a United Nations envoy to warn Iraq was “at a crossroads.” More than 160 people have been killed since Tuesday, when troops stormed a Sunni protest camp near Kirkuk, triggering clashes that quickly spread to other Sunni areas in western and northern provinces.

Although well below the heights of 2006-7, this week’s violence was the most widespread since US troops pulled out of Iraq in December 2011. Militant attacks have increased this year as Iraq’s fragile ethnic and sectarian balance comes under growing strain from the civil war in neighbouring Syria.

In and around Baghdad, eight people including a soldier were killed in a series of bomb blasts outside mostly Sunni mosques. Later on Friday, a car bomb killed seven in a busy shopping area in the south of the city.

In the capital’s Shi’ite stronghold of Sadr City, a motorcycle bomb exploded near a kiosk selling falafel, killing five.

No group claimed responsibility for any of the attacks, but Iraq is home to a number of insurgent groups including a local wing of al-Qaeda. “I call on the conscience of all religious and political leaders not to let anger win over peace, and to use their wisdom, because the country is at a crossroads,” U N envoy Martin Kobler said in a statement.

Reuters

Brazil government to tighten football financial rules

RIO DE JANEIRO, 27 April — The Brazilian government has unveiled plans to impose tough new financial rules on clubs in a move that will bring the country in line with European football. Under the proposal, clubs will be limited to squads of 25 players with salaries restricted to a maximum 60% of total revenue.

Toninho Nascimento, who heads the federal sports ministry’s newly formed football task-force, said Thursday the initiative was designed to stop clubs from spending beyond their means.

“We are not going to force anything upon the clubs. The idea is to bring them into the debate so that we can all decide what is best for Brazilian football,” Nascimento said. According to Nascimento, the government is considering waiving taxes of up to one billion US dollars currently owed by clubs to Brazil’s treasury.

He said discussions with clubs about new regulations would take place after the tax debt issue was resolved. Under European football’s fair play regulations, which will apply from next season, clubs must at least break even or risk exclusion from competition.

Xinhua

Terracotta warriors to be displayed in Romania

BASRAK, 27 April — A confrontation between two Arab communities left six people dead in northern Mali, local sources told Xinhua on Friday.

Each of the rival sides wants to position itself as the main Arab group in Thursday’s clash in Anelis, 200 km north of the biggest northern town of Gao.

“Terrorist attacks occurred under the watch of the Serval forces and the MNLA forces in Anelis as they were fleeing to Kidal,” another source said. The sources said the MNLA had deployed its fighters in Anelis with about thirty vehicles.

Xinhua

Six people killed after Arab communities clash in northern Mali

BEIJING, 27 April — China’s terracotta warriors and horses will be displayed in Romania as part of a cultural exchange program between the two countries, organizers said on Friday.

Terracotta sculptures depicting soldiers kneeling and firing arrows, generals wearing armour and reinsmen will be included in the three-month event, which is set to open Monday, according to Art Exhibitions China (AEC), the organizer.

The display, to be held at the National Museum of Romanian History, will also exhibit ancient Chinese cultural relics provided by 11 museums such as the Palace Museum and the Emperor Qinshihuang’s Mausoleum Site Museum. Visitors will get to enjoy and learn about 5,000 years of Chinese history.

The ancient terracotta army, buried for centuries to guard the tomb of China’s first emperor Qinshihuang, was discovered in 1974 in Xi’an City.

It represents one of the greatest archaeological finds of modern times, and was listed as a World Heritage Site in 1987.

This is the third time China will hold a major relics exhibition in Romania, with the first in 1973 followed by one in 1985.

Xinhua
Jennifer Aniston, Justin Theroux postpone wedding till August

Los Angeles, 27 April—Jennifer Aniston and Justin Theroux have postponed their wedding until August.

The 44-year-old actress and her 41-year-old fiance—who were originally planning to marry in May—reportedly can't agree on the size of their nuptials and have decided to tie the knot at the end of the summer instead to give them more time to iron out the details.

A source close to the couple told the MailOnline website: “Jennifer and Justin have been totally relaxed about the wedding planning. They're looking forward to the wedding, but they have different ideas about the actual wedding itself.

“It’s not to do with them as a couple, they’re madly in love. Every time you see them they’ve got their arms around each other. Jen wants something bigger with all their friends. Justin would just like something a bit more intimate. At this point, we’re expecting the wedding to be at the end of the summer, just before Labour Day Weekend (2 September).”

The former Friends star—who got engaged last summer—admitted recently that she hasn’t had time to select her wedding dress because she is so busy.

Jennifer was previously said to have found her first wedding to Brad Pitt in 2000 “stressful”. Her wedding planner Kevin Lee said she was uncomfortable with the lavish celebration—which cost a rumoured $1 million and included a 13 minute-long fireworks display and 50,000 flowers—and is planning a very different ceremony with Justin.

He said: “They won't be blowing millions on an over-the-top wedding with hundreds of people they barely know. Brad wanted that when she married him, and she got caught up in having a huge day. It was ultimately so stressful that she couldn’t really take time to enjoy it. So it’s going to be small and low-key so they feel relaxed.”

Rihanna boosts Chris Brown’s confidence

London, 27 April—Teen idol Justin Bieber on Thursday seemed to shrug off the latest controversy surrounding his European tour after Swedish police said they had found drugs on his tour bus but could not link them to any single person.

Bieber, 19, has made headlines in the past two months for showing up late for his own London concert, walking shirtless through airport security in Poland, posting a cartoon of himself in bed with a young woman, and expressing the hope that Holocaust victim Anne Frank would have been a “belieber” like his millions of fans.

On Thursday, Swedish police said an officer smelled marijuana on an empty tour bus outside the hotel where Bieber was staying before his Stockholm concert on Wednesday.

They said they found a small amount of drugs but had no suspects and did not plan further action.

“Some of the rumors about me...where do people even get this stuff, whatever...back to the music,” Bieber tweeted on Thursday to his 38 million Twitter followers after announcing he had arrived in Finland.

Representatives of the Canadian singer, who started his career as a squeaky-clean 15-year-old, had no comment—Reuters

Beyonce previews bikini collection and new song

New Delhi, 27 April—It’s a match made in music and fashion retail heaven.

Beyonce gives fans a sneak peak at a new song, possibly to be included on her fifth album, in a new video for high street giant H&M.

The video sees the 31-year-old star modelling a series of bikinis from the brand’s 2013 summer collection on a beach in the Bahamas, to the strains of Standing On The Sun, which starts with a low key calypso-style beat.

In the one and a half minute preview of the track, Beyonce sings: I can’t deny your desire, feel like I’m on fire / When you touch me, I feel the flame they can never feel. Can you feel the heat on my skin? Can you feel my loving / You and me, we’re standing on the sun.

In the clip Beyonce is seen wringing around on the beach and in the sea, then surrounded by fire-breathing dancers and sitting in a wicker chair.

Last night (24.05.13) the singer treated fans to a full version of another new song, performing Grown Woman live for the first time in Paris as part of her The Mrs Carter Show World Tour. Snippets from the song were previously heard in a Pepsi commercial.

Beyonce has also previewed another song, Bow Down through her blog in March, but at present she has not set a date for the official release of new material.

Jennifer Aniston and Justin Theroux

Justin Bieber shrugs off “rumours” after Swedish drug find

Stockholm, 27 April—Teen idol Justin Bieber on Thursday seemed to shrug off the latest controversy surrounding his European tour after Swedish police said they had found drugs on his tour bus but could not link them to any single person.

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Beyonce previews bikini collection and new song

New Delhi, 27 April—It’s a match made in music and fashion retail heaven.

Beyonce gives fans a sneak peak at a new song, possibly to be included on her fifth album, in a new video for high street giant H&M.

The video sees the 31-year-old star modelling a series of bikinis from the brand’s 2013 summer collection on a beach in the Bahamas, to the strains of Standing On The Sun, which starts with a low key calypso-style beat.

In the one and a half minute preview of the track, Beyonce sings: I can’t deny your desire, feel like I’m on fire / When you touch me, I feel the flame they can never feel. Can you feel the heat on my skin? Can you feel my loving / You and me, we’re standing on the sun.

In the clip Beyonce is seen wringing around on the beach and in the sea, then surrounded by fire-breathing dancers and sitting in a wicker chair.

Last night (24.05.13) the singer treated fans to a full version of another new song, performing Grown Woman live for the first time in Paris as part of her The Mrs Carter Show World Tour. Snippets from the song were previously heard in a Pepsi commercial.

Beyonce has also previewed another song, Bow Down through her blog in March, but at present she has not set a date for the official release of new material.
Ronaldo out of Madrid derby but should be ok for Dortmund

**Madrid, 27 April—** Real Madrid forward Cristiano Ronaldo picked up an injury in Wednesday’s 4-1 Champions League defeat at Borussia Dortmund and is out of Saturday’s La Liga match at city rivals Atletico.

The Portuguese international has a “muscle problem” but the club are hopeful he will recover in time for Tuesday’s semi-final second leg at home to Dortmund, assistant coach Aitor Karanka told a news conference on Friday.

“Before the Dortmund game he had physical problems and he won’t be in the squad (on Saturday),” Karanka said.

“He did not train today,” added the former Real player as he stood in for Jose Mourinho who rarely gives the customary news conference the day before a league game.

“He has a muscle problem and he cannot help us but we are hopeful he can play on Tuesday,” said Karanka.

Local media reported that Ronaldo felt a twinge in his left thigh during the warm-up before the Dortmund game although he played the whole match and scored Real’s goal.

He is the Champions League’s top scorer this season with 12 goals.

**Real Madrid’s Cristiano Ronaldo (R) reacts during their Champions League semi-final first leg soccer match against Borussia Dortmund in Dortmund on 24 April, 2013.**

**Wenger confirms Arsenal guard of honour for champions**

**London, 27 April—** Arsenal will keep with tradition and form a guard of honour for new Premier League champions Manchester United when the sides meet at The Emirates on Sunday.

“This is part of the tradition of English football and I want that, of course, to be respected,” Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger told a news conference on Friday.

“I’m French, I work in England and the English tradition should be respected. When you work somewhere abroad you have to respect the culture of the country,” he added.

Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger (L) talks to player Jack Wilshere during a team training session at their training ground in London Colney on 18 Feb, 2013.— Reuters

The Gunners will be without striker Olivier Giroud who starts a three-game suspension after losing his appeal against his red card during last weekend’s win at Fulham.

Arsenal, chasing a Champions League spot, are third in the table on 63 points, one ahead of Chelsea and two clear of Tottenham.

“Also, the rivalry we’ve had with Arsenal and then Chelsea over the years does put an edge to these games anyway so hopefully we’ll represent ourselves in the right way,” said Wenger.

“My side travel to third-placed Arsenal on Sunday, where Arsene Wenger’s side will form a guard of honour for them, and then host fourth-placed Chelsea the following weekend at Old Trafford where they secured a 20th title this week.

With last year’s champions Manchester City closing in on the runners-up spot, it leaves two Champions League places for the chasing pack of Arsenal on 63 points, Chelsea on 62 and Spurs on 61. Arsenal have played a game more fans at his former club.

“We have a few bumps and bruises from the other night but it is hopefully nothing serious and I expect to have a strong side on Sunday,” Ferguson said.

Motivation also comes from the record points total that United are still chasing the mark of 95 set by Chelsea in 2003-04.

V Van Persie, whose hat-trick against Aston Villa on Monday secured the 3-0 victory that clinched the championship, also has a second successive golden boot in his sights as he tops the scoring chart with 24 league goals.

Luis Suarez, his closest rival with 23, will not play again this season after the Liverpool striker accepted a 10-match ban for biting Chelsea’s Branislav Ivanovic, giving Van Persie the opportunity to run away with it.

Ferguson said he was pleased Wenger had followed tradition with his decision to form a guard of honour and that he was not worried about what sort of reception Van Persie might get.

“I don’t think Robin should bother about it either,” he said.

“There was some booing of him when he played against Arsenal at Old Trafford and I think you probably expect a portion of the fans will do that. But that’s the modern generation and modern society, I’m afraid.”

**Champions United face key role in another race**

**Manchester United’s Rio Ferdinand (L) and Michael Carrick celebrate after they clinched the English Premier League title with a win against Aston Villa at Old Trafford in Manchester, northern England, on 22 April, 2013.**

Manchester United’s Rio Ferdinand (L) and Michael Carrick celebrate after they clinched the English Premier League title with a win against Aston Villa at Old Trafford in Manchester, northern England, on 22 April, 2013.— Reuters

**London, 27 April—** Tottenham Hotspur should be the club feeling the most reassured by Manchester United manager Alex Ferguson’s promise on Friday that the Premier League champions will not be putting their feet up for the rest of the season.

Over the next two weekends, United face Arsenal and Chelsea, the two clubs locked in a tight battle with Spurs for Champions League berths.

“Having won the league, there’s always a danger of falling into the trap of ‘it’s all over and we can relax’ and enjoy our title this week,” said Ferguson.

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**Two wins in a day put Nadal into Barcelona semis**

**Barcelona, 27 April—** Rafa Nadal moved closer to an eighth Barcelona Open title in nine years on Friday when he breezed through two matches to set up a semi-final against Canadian fifth seed Milos Raonic.

Chasing a fourth title of the year after returning from a seven-month injury layoff in February, Nadal recovered from a slow start on the clay at the Real Club de Tenis to beat Benoit Paire 7-6, 6-2 in their delayed third-round match.

The world number five had been set to meet the 13-seeded Frenchman on Thursday before rain washed out the day’s play.

After a few hours rest, Nadal returned to centre court to dispatch fellow Spaniard Albert Ramos 6-3 6-3 for his 27th consecutive Barcelona Open win.

It was the first time he had played two matches in one day since the Monte Carlo Masters in 2009. “I played much better than this morning,” Nadal said in an interview with Spanish television broadcaster TVE.

“Making the semi-finals is great news and I am pleased to get through a difficult day like today,” he added.

To the relief of organizers, the rain forecast for the Catalan capital held off, allowing Thursday’s postponed matches to be completed before the quarter-finals were played.

Nadal, the world number 64, surprised Japanese sixth seed Kei Nishikori 6-4, 7-6 in their delayed third-round match before 2004 champion Robredo came back from a set down to upset third-seeded Czech Tomas Berdych 3-6, 7-6, 6-3.

Rafael Nadal moved close to an eighth Barcelona Open title on Friday. Reuters

Raonic, the world number 13, beat Latvian qualifier Ernests Gulbis 6-2, 7-6 before battling back from a set down against Robredo to win 6-7, 6-3, 7-6.

Germany’s Philipp Kohlschreiber became the first player to reach the last four when his quarter-final opponent, Thomaz Bellucci of Brazil, pulled out of the tournament with an abdominal injury. Kohlschreiber will play Nicolas Almagro for a place in Sunday’s final after the Spanish fourth seed beat Argentine Juan Monaco, the seventh seed, 6-3 7-5.

**Two wins in a day put Nadal into Barcelona semis**

**Reuters**

**New Light of Myanmar**

**SPORTS**

*Sunday, 28 April, 2013*
No deal with Lewandowski

BERLIN, 27 April — Bayern Munich and Borussia Dortmund have not signed a deal, the newly-crowned champions said on Friday, shooting down widespread speculation of another imminent surprise transfer.

"Bayern, as opposed to some reports, has no contract with Robert Lewandowski," the Bavarian Champions League semi-finalists said in a brief statement. Bayern, who beat Barcelona 0-4 this week in their Champions League semi-final first leg did not say whether talks were ongoing with the player's representatives.

Bayern stunned Dortmund fans a day before their team crushed Real Madrid 4-1 in the Champions League semi-final first leg on Wednesday with the announcement of a deal with Dortmund attacking midfielder Mario Goetze worth a reported 37 million euros.

Bundesliga top scorer Lewandowski, who netted all four goals for Dortmund against Real, has refused to sign a contract extension beyond 2014 and could leave as early as this summer.

He, unlike Goetze, does not have a buy-out clause in his contract and could be forced to stay on. "Until today we have no offer for him. He has a contract until 2014 without a buy-out clause," Dortmund boss Hans-Joachim Watzke told Bild newspaper.

Representatives of the players had said on Thursday the Poland international would not stay on in Dortmund but the 24-year-old has yet to comment on his future.

Lewandowski’s long-suggested move to Bayern was fanned by the signing of former Barcelona coach Pep Guardiola for next season.

Guardiola, who won more than a dozen titles with the Spanish club in a four-year spell before taking a year out, was also cited by Dortmund as youth product Goetze’s reason for a sudden change of heart and in favour of their arch-rivals.

The Bavarians, who secured their first silverware since 2010 when they won the Bundesliga title two weeks ago, are eager to dominate in the Champions League after losing the 2010 and 2012 finals.

Torrres will reclaim Spain place, says Hernandez

LONDON, 27 April — Chelsea's Fernando Torres can force his way back into the Spain team in time for next year's World Cup despite his struggles in the Premier League, according to Swansea City's Pablo Hernandez.

Torres has not scored a league goal for Chelsea since before Christmas, although the Europa League has proved more to his liking with his goals taking his side to the verge of the final.

Thursday's 2-1 victory in Basle, in which Torres struck the woodwork, makes them favourites to go through, although Sunday's Premier League home match against mid-table Swansea is arguably more important with Chelsea in a scrap for third and fourth spots with Arsenal and Tottenham Hotspur.

Hernandez, who has played alongside Torres for Spain, believes the Chelsea striker is close to re-discovering the kind of form he displayed at Liverpool.

"He is a big player. Sometimes, in football, the big players go through bad moments and don’t play at their best, but it does not mean they are not still big players," Hernandez was quoted on Walesonline.co.uk.

"All strikers love scoring goals. He went through a spell of not scoring goals and people criticised him. But Fernando has always been a big player and I think he will get back into the national team in the future.

"He's still an important player for the national team."

Hernandez believes the arrival of Rafa Benitez at Stamford Bridge has helped Torres regain his confidence.

"He's had his moments this season and in other seasons where he hasn’t had that confidence. But when he has confidence he’s a top player," former Valencia winger Hernandez said.

"I think Rafa is a help for him. The best moments for Fernando were with Rafa at Liverpool. He is a manager who seems able to help Fernando," he said.

"And I think you can see he has recovered his confidence in the last few months and games and now is a better moment for Fernando. But I hope he has a quiet day against us."

"I said to him before the (League Cup semi-final) game, 'Do not score' and he didn’t. I hope that happens again."

Torres, who has scored 31 goals in 101 appearances for Spain, has played nearly 1,000 minutes in the Premier League since his last goal in the 8-0 win against Aston Villa.

He was left out of the Spain squad for the recent World Cup qualifiers against Finland and France.— Reuters
Union ministers visit farms in Bago Region

**Nay Pyi Taw, 27 April**—Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Ohn Myint visited the Philippines on 22-26 April to observe processes in dealing with migrant workers there at an invitation of the Philippine minister of labour and employment.

He exchanged views on migrant workers’ issues, labour rights, efforts in ASEAN regarding labour issues, ILO provisions, employment and unemployment, foreign workers and bilateral cooperation in meeting with Ms. Rosalinda Dimapilis-Baldoz, his Philippine counterpart.

The Union minister also visited Department of Employment and Labour, Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA), Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA), Technical Education and Skill Development Administration Centre. He observed labour laws, functioning of the institutions, minimum wage issues, appointment of labour diplomats and formation of recruitment agencies.

He also observed pre-departure courses for domestic workers and vocational training courses for women.

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**First Ethnic Media Conference held in Mawlamyine**

**Mawlamyine, 27 April**—Ethnic media conference jointly organized by Myanmar News International, Sanaung Time, Mon People’s Pioneer News Journal and Thanlwin Time Journal, kicked off at Strand Hotel on Strand Road in Mawlamyine on 25 April with M State Chief Minister U Ohn Myint calling for emergence of a democratic media.

The conference was held on 25-27 April at attended by 150 participants from media, community-based organizations and political parties. Deputy Minister for Information Paik Htwe said media coverage will be promoted for ethnic people upon ratification of public service media law. Reps from Mizizima News Agency, Myanmar Journalists Association, Myanmar Journalists Union, Myanmar Journalists Network and Pyithu Hluttaw and A myotha Hlutaw representatives took part in the discussions, focusing on inclusion of local media in media draft law, promotion of ethnic media in peace process and protection of the rights of ethnic media in line with press freedom, exchanging experiences on ethnic media.

Today, approval was sought for recommendations made by participants who also adopted the future plans. The second ethnic media conference is set to be held in Tawnggyi in 2014. The conference was aimed to ensure freedom and legitimatization of ethnic languages for development of ethnic media. It is the first of series since the bud of democracy begins to blossom in Myanmar.

**Leading Committee for holding 7th ASEAN Para Games meets**

**Commission Meeting**

**27th April, 2013**

**Naypyitaw, Myanmar**

Seventh meeting of the Leading Committee for holding 7th ASEAN Para Games and Management Committee of ASEAN Para Sports Federations (APSF) in progress. The conference was opened at Zabuthiri Hotel, here, on 26 April, with an address by Committee Chairman Union Minister U Tint Hsan. APSF President Dato Zainal Abu Zarin spoke words of honour. President of Myanmar Para Sports Federation Maj-Gen Nay Lin and the APSF President signed the MOU on holding 7th ASEAN Para Games.

After that, committee members and officials from APSF Management Committee elaborated on sports programme and accommodation and transport of athletes and replied to the queries raised by media.

The three-day meeting was also attended by Deputy Minister U Thaung Hlaik, officials from Myanmar Para Sports Federation and APSF Management Committee and delegates from Asean countries.

**Union S & T Minister calls for establishment of resource centres**

**Nay Pyi Taw, 27 April**—Union Minister for Science and Technology Dr Ko Ko Oo addressed the work coordination meeting of the Union minister and delegates from Asean countries and principals of respective seats of education to take steps to dramatically improve the education standards in line with the instructions of the President.

He also called for equipment of resource centres at the universities and colleges with access to internet and e-libraries.

Next, the directors-general reported on academic matters and requirements of universities and colleges.

**Outlook for subsequent two days**

Likelihood of rain or thunderstorms in the Northern Myanmar areas.

**MNA**