President U Thein Sein sends messages of felicitations to the Netherlands

Regional leaders open 26th ASEAN Summit in Malaysia

Kuala Lumpur, 27 April — President U Thein Sein and first lady Daw Khin Khin Win attended the opening ceremony of the 26th ASEAN Summit at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre here on Monday.

The event started at 9 am at the Plenary Hall of the KLCC with all 10 ASEAN Leaders in attendance, as well as ASEAN Secretary-General Le Luong Minh.

In his opening remarks, Malaysian Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said 2015 would be a milestone in the history of ASEAN, as the vision of creating a single community would be realized by year-end.

Mr Najib said, “This is ASEAN’s time right here, right now. Let us work together to ensure that when we say an Asian Century, it is also ASEAN Century.”

“Malaysia holds the privilege to serve as ASEAN Chairman once again in a decisive year for the organization.“

“He stressed it was also imperative for the 10-member bloc to become more politically cohesive.

“Our potential, after all is huge,” Mr Najib said. “We already have the third-largest workforce in the world. We have a large, youthful, talented and increasingly skilled population of over 600 million people.”

Mr Najib said the burgeoning middle classes of ASEAN countries have made the region one of the world’s most dynamic areas.

Regarding tax exercise, he emphasized barriers to trade would be removed, including the elimination of non-tariff barriers to trade would be removed, including the elimination of non-tariff barriers.

The two-day workshop also includes a practical works at the heritage buildings around Maha Bandoola Road.

Myanmar ancient buildings have survived war, natural disaster, and numerous changes of ownership. While many of them have been repurposed over the years, the neglect and protection has included the biggest threat to these buildings, said a high court lawyer in Yangon.

According to the Yangon Heritage Trust (YHT), as much as 35% of downtown Yangon was destroyed between 1990 and 2011 to make way for new development projects. That’s about 1,800 buildings.—GNLM

Comparative legislation workshop held to enhance heritage protection

Yangon, 27 April — Yangon City Development Committee on Monday hosted a workshop on comparative legislation on Heritage Protection.

The workshop is a part of the Project on “Capacity building of YCDC Urban Planning Unit”, which is a collaboration of European Union, YCDC and two local NGOs of the Yangon Heritage Trust and Myanmar Egress.

During the workshop, Elizabeth Vines, an expert of heritage protection, said, “There is a lot of heritage building still surviving in the city and a lot of consistency straight guide collection of these buildings and there is established really unique place in Yangon.”

Experts also suggested the need of legislative protections on demolishing the heritage buildings and construction of modernized buildings near the ancient architecture designs.

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More than 500,000 tourists forecast to visit Mandalay in 2015

Mandalay, 27 April — Tourist arrivals in Mandalay City, the nation’s cultural hub, are increasing year by year. More than 400,000 tourists visited Mandalay in 2014. Travel agencies and the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism predict a rise to more than 500,000 in 2015.

According to the Mandalay Region Immigration and National Registration Department, 464,577 foreign tourists visited from January to December 2014, marking an increase of 60,385 from the previous year. Most of the tourists came from China, South Korea and Japan, a tourism guide said.

The top tourist attractions in the city include the Maha Muni Buddha Image, Mandalay Hill, Yankin Hill, Taungthaman Lake, Myanma Golden Monastery, ancient Inwa city, Kuthodaw Pagoda and Taungthaman Bridge.

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Immigration officers, NGO deliver citizenship scrutiny cards to residents

Dredging enables long-dry lake to store rainwater

Teak saplings marketable in Wuntho Township

Authorities urge residents not to throw garbage into drains

Dawei, 27 April — Amyotha Hluttaw representative U Tin Maung Myint and staff officer U Maung Maung of Launglon Township Immigration and National Registration Department, together with Norwegian Refugee Council officials, recently visited Lower Kyaukmat village in Launglon Township, Tanintharyi Region, to deliver citizenship scrutiny cards.

They issued 174 cards and 12 household registrations on 25 and 26 April to local people in Lower Kyaukmat village, while delivering 18 cards and five household registrations in Kyaukmat village.

Po Shwe Thun (Dawei)

Bago, 27 April — After being dry for 30 years, Kanthaya Lake in Phayagyi Town, Bago Region, will store rainwater for use by local people after undergoing dredging. Town Administrator U Thiha Nay Thway and officials led local people in dredging the lake from 24 April. M udon Maung Maung Company helped the local people dredge the lake with the use of excavators to be able to store rainwater in the monsoon season.

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Thiha Yazar (Phayagyi)
Regional leaders open . . .

(from page 1) barriers, such as overly burdensome regulation that hampers free and fair trade.

After posing for group photos, ASEAN delegates watched Mr Najib launch GOASEAN, the first ASEAN-focused travel channel, with hologram presentations of iconic buildings in each ASEAN member country on the stage.

During the Plenary Session at Conference Hall 2 of KLCC, President U Thein Sein pledged Myanmar will fully cooperate in implementation of eight principles adopted by the rotating chairmanship of ASEAN in accordance with its slogan ‘Our People, Our Vision, Our Community’.

U Thein Sein noted that member countries of the bloc need to implement ASEAN Beyond 2015 as per the Nay Pyi Taw Declaration, along with the Post-2015 Development Agenda of the United Nations.

ASEAN leaders then held separate discussions with representatives of the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly, ASEAN Business Advisory Council, ASEAN Youth and social organizations.

President U Thein Sein left the capital for Langkawi where the 26th ASEAN Summit continued at 7 p.m. local time.

The closing ceremony of the two-day summit was held at the same venue with the Malaysian premier hosting a dinner for leaders and their spouses.

Parliamentary speaker visits Guangzhou

GUANGZHOU, 27 April — A Myanmar delegation led by Thura U Shwe Mann, the speaker of the Pyiduangsu Hluttaw and Pyithu Hluttaw, visited Canton Tower here on the evening of April 25.

From Asia’s third-highest tower, at 118 storeys and 600 metres height, Thura U Shwe Mann and the visiting Myanmar delegation looked at the aerial view of Guangzhou, the capital and largest city of Guangdong province in South China.

On April 26, the Myanmar delegation visited Leafun Hi-Tech Company in the provincial capital.

Thura U Shwe Mann left Guangzhou for Beijing where Myanmar ambassador and diplomats welcomed the speaker who later stayed at the Diaoyutai State Guesthouse in the capital.

The speaker also held talks with Wang Jiarui, the head of the International Department of the Communist Party of China, at 6 p.m. on April 26 at the guesthouse concerning bilateral relations between the two countries.

MNA

KBZ Bank receives prize at regional financial sector awards

HONG KONG, 27 April — Myanmar’s Kanbawza Bank Ltd recently received a regional award in recognition of its implementation of a new electronic banking system at a ceremony in Hong Kong.

Singapore-based finance industry publisher The Asian Banker presented its Best Core Banking Implementation for Emerging Banks award 2015 to KBZ Bank and its partner Oracle Financial Services Software at Hong Kong’s Convention and Exhibition Centre in Hong Kong on 15 April.

The publisher lauded KBZ Bank’s implementation of the Oracle Flexcube Core Banking System.

KBZ Bank previously won Best Core Banking System Initiative of the Year in Myanmar 2014 awarded by Singapore-based Asian Banking and Finance in 2014.— MNA

An official of KBZ Ltd accepts award in Hong Kong.

UEC allows registration of political party

NAY PYI TAW, 27 April — The Union Election Commission allowed registration of Danu Nationals League Party, headquarted at the residence of U Tin Maung Oo, No. 1/348 on Thitsa Street in southern Sayyan Ward, Ywangan, Shan State, under Section 9 of the Political Parties Registration Law on 27 April.

Its registration number is 81.— MNA

Union FM sends message of felicitations to the Netherlands

NAY PYI TAW, 28 April — U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr. Albert Gerard Koenders, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, on the occasion of the Birthday of His Majesty King Willem-Alexander, which falls on 27 April 2015.— MNA
Department of Agriculture introduces six new paddy species to farmers

Kungyangon, 27 April — The Department of Agriculture introduced six new paddy species to local farmers in Kamapa village in Kungyangon Township, Yangon, on 21 April. The Plant Bio-Technology Centre of the Department of Agriculture produced the new species. Head of the centre Dr Pa Pa Aung spoke about research to cultivate the Paw Hsan Hmwe paddy species in any season.

Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation, U Ohn Than told officials to submit the new paddy species to the seed committee and distribute them to farmers as soon as possible. — Soe Win (Kyauktan)

Local residents receive citizenship scrutiny cards

Taungtha, 27 April — Under the Special Moe Pwint Project of the Ministry of Immigration and Population, a ceremony to deliver citizenship scrutiny cards to local people was held at the hall of Basic Education Middle School Branch in Nammyint Village in Taungtha Township, Mandalay Region, on 25 April.

Staff of the Township Immigration and National Registration Department led by Staff Officer U Kyaw Kyaw Khaing prepared the issuing of the cards. Mandalay Region Minister for Security and Border Affairs Col Aung Kyaw Moe, Myingyan District’s deputy commissioner U Myint Thin Aung and Head of Myingyan District INRD U Sein Myint presented cards to 108 people in Nammyint village and 75 in Phayahla village.

— Kyaw Myo Naing (Taungtha)

Residents work to upgrade road before monsoon

Yedashe, 27 April — Villagers have helped upgrade the Yedashe-Myanmar Highway in Yedashe Township, Bago Region, ahead of the rainy season.

“Local people including students faced difficulties in using an earthen road. So, local residents contributed K3.2 million to buying gravel to be placed on the road,” a resident said.

The local residents from villages on both banks of the Sitoug River mainly use the earthen road. However, they still require financial and technological assistance to complete the roadworks.

— Ko Lwin (Swa)

Teachers undergo additional training

Nay Pyi Taw, 27 April — The basic primary teacher training course was conducted at Basic Education High School in Kyidaunggan Village, Pobabthiri Township, on 27 April.

Ottara District Education Officer U Tha Tun and Township Education Officer U Hla Thaung spoke at the course.

A total of 89 trainees will attend the course until 26 May.

— Shwe Ye Yin

Cargo train derails on Mandalay-Myaikyina railroad section

Mandalay, 27 April — No 934 Mandalay-Myaikyina cargo train derailed between Bonchaung and Mezar stations in Sagaing Region at 11 a.m. on 21 April.

“There was no casualty of passengers and train crew. Officials of Naba and Namkham stations repaired the rail trucks. As of 5.30 p.m., the trains run the railroad as usual.” — Shwe Lin Pyae Sone

Taninthayi Region Real Estate Service Association meets

Dawei, 27 April — The Taninthayi Region Real Estate Service Association held an annual general meeting in Dawei on 26 April, with a speech by Region Minister for Finance U Than Aung.

Chairman of Taninthayi Region Chambers of Commerce and Industry U Ye Htut Naing, Daw Maw Maw Tun of Myanmar Real Estate Service Association and Chairman of the region association U Swan Shein spoke about the roles of their respective associations.

Secretary of the region association U Soe Thein submitted the annual report of the association while treasurer Dr Yin Yin Tun read out the financial report.

— Po Shwe Thun (Dawei)
Thai parties receive charter for review, unable to debate it

BANGKOK, 27 April — Thailand’s draft constitution went to political parties for review on Monday, but there’s a catch — they are forbidden by the junta from meeting to debate the charter.

The National Reform Council (NRC) completed a week-long debate on the charter on Sunday, before drafters sent the text to the cabinet, the junta and political parties for feedback.

Thailand has been divided for a decade between supporters of ousted former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra and the Bangkok-based royalist-military establishment, which re-verified Thaksin’s popularity.

The military seized power on 22 May after months of street protests aimed at ousting Thaksin’s sister, then-Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra.

The charter, Thailand’s 20th since 1932, was written by a 36-member Constitution Drafting Committee appointed by the junta.

Since the coup, the National Council for Peace and Order (NCPO), as the junta calls itself, has kept a tight lid on dissent and political activity, including party meetings.

“If they really want views from political parties then the NCPO should lift or relax rules for parties to hold meetings,” Chamwi Sakidet, deputy leader of the conservative Democrat party, told Reuters.

“The NCPO’s order still is — no meetings,” he said. “They would only get views from the party leader or party secretary-generals and not from all members of a party.”

Yingluck’s Thai party echoed its rival’s call to lift the ban on meetings to discuss the charter.

“It would be a good thing to gather views from everyone in the party,” Chavalit Vichayasot, acting deputy secretary-general of the party, said.

General Prat Ratanachai, a spokesman for the Constitution Drafting Committee, said there was no need for parties to meet as they had been airing their opinions on the constitution in the media.

The drafters say they hope the charter would guard against “parliamentary dictatorship,” but critics say it will weaken political parties and usher in a period of short-lived coalition governments.

The most controversial provisions allow for an unelected prime minister and establish a proportional representation electoral system.

The power of senators, two-thirds of whom would be appointed rather than elected, was another contentious issue. Along with Pol Bhum, a member of the NRC, told Reuters on Monday.

“The charter will be returned to drafters with feedback for possible revision on 25 May. The text must be endorsed by Thailand’s king by September if a general election promised for early 2016 is to take place.”

China opens consulate office in Malaysia’s Sabah state

KUALA LUMPUR, 27 April — China on Monday officially opened a consulate office in Malaysia’s remote city of Kota Kinabalu, the capital of Sabah state on Borneo.

China’s ambassador to Malaysia Huang Huikang, who announced the opening on behalf of the Chinese government, said the consulate in Kota Kinabalu represents the fast development of bilateral relationship between China and Malaysia, as well as China’s commitment to all-around cooperation with Sabah.

Saba, famous for its beach and rain forests, has become a major attraction for Chinese tourists in recent years.

A DB to provide $3 million grant to Nepal as immediate earthquake relief

MANILA, 27 April — The Asian Development Bank said on Monday it will provide a $3 million grant to Nepal to meet immediate humanitarian needs such as for tents, medical assistance, food and drinking water in earthquake-hit areas.

ADB President Takehiko Nakao said in a statement that the bank will provide up to $200 million in additional resources for projects in the first phase of rehabilitation.

Nepal was hit by a massive earthquake on Saturday that has killed more than 3,300 people and caused widespread property destruction.

“ADB stands together with the people of Nepal and the government at this challenging time,” Nakao said in a letter of condolence to Nepal’s Prime Minister Sushil Koirala.

An ADB statement said the bank has established a Nepal earthquake response team and will join UN agencies and other development partners to assess the damage and the long-term investment needs in Nepal for reconstruction and rehabilitation.

The ADB, based in Manila, has around $2 billion in ongoing projects in Nepal and provided $350 million in financial assistance to the country in 2014.

Quake death toll in Nepal tops 3,200 as relief aid pours in

KATHMANDU, 27 April — The confirmed death toll in Nepal from a magnitude 7.8 earthquake that struck Nepal on 25 April, and which was followed by a magnitude 7.3 earthquake on Saturday, has topped 3,200 on Monday and is expected to rise considerably, according to reports from Kathmandu.

Dozens more people have also been reportedly killed in a rural earthquake in Uda, China and Bangladesh.

As the Nepalese government continues its search-and-rescue activities, relief aid has begun arriving in the capital, but access to badly hit remote areas is said to be extremely limited.

The earthquake was particularly brutal to densely populated Kathmandu and its neighbouring Lalitpur and Bhaktapur districts where many centuries-old temples and monuments were flattened. More than 1,000 people died in these areas alone.

In Kathmandu, the destruction of Basantapur Durbar and Dharahara tower was the starkest reminders of the quake’s ferocity. Saturday’s epicenter was just 100 km away from the biggest Nepal has experienced since 1934 when a magnitude 8.2 quake killed over 10,000 people in Nepal and India’s Bihar state.

UNICEF says nearly a million children “severely affected” in Nepal

MUMBAI, 27 April — Nearly a million children have been “severely affected” by a severe earthquake in Nepal, which has killed more than 3,200 people, a spokesman for the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) said, as rescue and aid workers struggle to cope.

With hundreds of thousands of Nepalis sleeping out in the open, UNICEF said its relief workers were watching for waterborne and infectious diseases.

“We know that what is happening at this point is there are nearly a million children who are severely affected. Our biggest concern for them right now is going to be access to clean water and sanitation, we know that water and food is running out,” UNICEF’s Christopher Tiedt said by telephone.

A total of 3,218 people were confirmed killed in Saturday’s 7.9 magnitude quake in Nepal, and as police official said on Monday, the worst in Nepal since 1934 when 8,500 died.

More than 6,500 were injured.
Japan, US to revise defence cooperation guidelines amid security challenges

New York, 27 April — Japan and the United States are set to issue their revised defence cooperation guidelines when their defence and foreign ministers meet on Monday in New York for security talks, with the two allies likely to agree on how to deal with the changing regional security environment.

The first updating of the guidelines in 18 years will be finalized during the "two-plus-two" meeting in New York involving Japanese Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida and Defence Minister Gen Nakatani and their US counterparts — Secretary of State John Kerry and Defence Secretary Ashton Carter.

The four are expected to discuss ways to strengthen their bilateral security ties and to discuss ways to deal with the changing security environment in a "seamless" manner from peacetime to contingencies.

The revision comes at a time when Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe is trying to loosen the constitutional constraints on the SDF’s operations overseas.

The updating of the 1997 guidelines — which were designed to prepare for contingencies in the Korean Peninsula — comes amid China’s increasing assertiveness at sea and in the air and Abe’s push for his policy of making “proactive” contributions to global peace and giving SDF troops a greater security role abroad.

In the previous two-plus-two meeting in October 2013 in Tokyo, Japan and the United States agreed to revise the guidelines, which set the rules and missions of the SDF and US military.

Last October, the two allies issued an interim report saying the envisaged new guidelines will reflect the Japanese Cabinet’s landmark decision last July to reinterpret the war-renouncing Constitution to enable the use of collective self-defence, or defending an ally even when Japan is not under attack.

In what will constitute the exercise of the right to collective self-defence, the new guidelines are expected to refer to Japan-US cooperation in minesweeping operations in international sea lanes in the absence of a ceasefire agreement, sources close to Japan-US regional security cooperation, said Wednesday.

The updating of the guidelines when their ministers last met in November 2012 involved Japan’s Prime Minister Shinzo Abe (R) shakes hands with US Secretary of State John Kerry in front of Kerry’s private residence in Boston on 26 April, 2015.

During an eight-day official visit, Abe will hold talks with President Barack Obama and deliver a speech to a joint session of Congress, the first Japanese prime minister to do so. — Kyodo News

Prosecutors question Obuchi over suspected political fund misuse

Tokyo, 27 April — Prosecutors have questioned former industry minister Yuko Obuchi on a voluntary basis over suspected misuse of political funds linked to the former rising star of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe’s Cabinet, sources close to the matter said on Monday.

Obuchi, 41, resigned last October to take responsibility for the money scandal that involved her former secretary. In quitting, she admitted that a great deal of suspicion remains over her financial reports but denied that she had been aware of it.

Fund reports of four political groups related to Obuchi have shown that expenses for outings to theaters and baseball games to entertain her supporters between 2008 and 2013 exceeded money booked as received and paid out by more than 60 million yen ($505,000).

That suggests Obuchi shouldered the expenses in violation of the election law, which bans politicians from providing benefits to voters.

In addition, no outlays or income were reported for a 2012 theater visit, a

S Korea approves supply of 15 tons of fertilizer to N Korea

Seoul, 27 April — South Korea has approved a request by a private organization to supply 15 tons of fertilizer to North Korea, for the first time in about five years, the government said on Monday.

The Unification Ministry said a seven-member group of officials from Ace Kyoung-haum will cross the border on Tuesday to make a five-day visit to Sarinwon in North Hwanghae Province to deliver the fertilizer aid and other materials like vinyl and pipes for use in a project to create greenhouses.

"The South Korean government will continue to approve requests to provide humanitarian aid grounds for agricultural, livestock and forestry sectors of North Korea if such aid helps North Korean people and distribution of medicine," a spokesman of the ministry told reporters.

The government’s approval of the fertilizer pro

Freak storm kills 45 in Pakistan

Peshawar (Pakistan), 27 April — A freak "mini-cyclone" tore roofs of buildings and brought down trees and power poles in Pakistan, killing 45 people and injuring more than 200, officials said on Monday.

Army teams were on their way to the area of Peshawar city to help with the rescue, a military spokesman said.

"We’ve never experienced such a devastating wind storm before in this region," said M Umar Shah, director general of the Meteorological Office in Peshawar.

"Its speed in the open was more than 120 kph (75 mph) and that’s what caused destruction on such a large scale.

It’s a completely new phenomenon in this region. The wind, accompanied by heavy rain and hail, lasted on Sunday, disrupted power supplies and telecommunications services and damaged infrastructure and crops, said district official Riaz Mehsud.

The freak storm, which occurred on Saturday night, caught the authorities off guard and many residents were caught off guard.

Heavy weather on Monday forced the Pakistani military to cancel two flights to Nepal taking supplies to survivors of Saturday’s earthquake. They were rescheduled to Tuesday.

Reuters
Leftist Akinci wins north Cyprus election, seeking peace deal

**United Nations, 27 April** — A leftist moderate promising to press for a peace deal in ethnically-split Cyprus swept to victory in a Turkish Cypriot presidential election runoff on Sunday.

Mustafa Akinci, standing as an independent, won 60.3 percent of the votes, according to figures provided by the election commission. His rival was incumbent president Dervis Eroglu, a conservative elected five years ago.

Akinci, 67, has said he would work with fresh urgency to find a peace deal on Cyprus, split in a 1974 Turkish invasion that was triggered by a short-lived Greek-invasion which sparked a coup aimed at union with Greece.

Akinci, invited to run by the main Turkish Cypriot political party Democratic Rally, said he also wanted to find a peace deal with the Greek Cypriots to spell an end to the 40-year war and division of the island.

Eroglu said he would be vowed to support economic recovery and sound financial management.

**Merkel-Tsipras phone call confirmed amid cash squeeze report**

**Berlin, 27 April** — A German government spokesman confirmed on Monday that Chancellor Angela Merkel and Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras had telephoned on Sunday but declined to comment on the contents of their conversation.

“I can confirm the conversation took place,” a spokesman said.

Bild newspaper reported on Monday that Tsipras had called Merkel as well as Euro group head Jeroen Dijsselbloem to try to convince them of the need for more help for Greece and for the need for an emergency meeting of EU leaders this week.

Bild said the reason for the call is that the Greek government has run out of money. The newspaper quoted an EU diplomat saying: “It’s on fire and there’s no water there to put out the fire. The situation is more than dramatic.”

German government spokesman confirmed Tsipras-Merkel phone call on Sunday evening, however, no comment was issued on content of talks. — Reuters

**Kerry, Iran’s Zarif to meet at UN anti-nuclear arms conference**

**US Secretary of State John Kerry (L) and Iran’s Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif pose for a photograph before resuming talks over Iran’s nuclear programme in Lausanne on 16 March, 2015.** — Reuters

The United States, European Union and Iran, seeking nuclear weapons, will meet on Tuesday, 28 April, 2015, in Lausanne to finalise a historic deal expected to curb Iran’s nuclear programme.

Zarif and Kerry will meet on the sidelines to discuss negotiations on a landmark nuclear deal with the United States and five other global powers as they try to secure a final agreement with Iran by a 30 June deadline.

In a tentative deal reached on 2 April, US Secretary of State John Kerry, chief Federica Mogherini of the European Union and Iran’s Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei have said all sanctions, including the most severe restraints on its energy and financial sectors, should be lifted the moment a nuclear deal is signed.

Western officials say that this is not what Teheran agreed to in Lausanne. At that meeting, Zarif and European Union foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini read a joint statement that said the implementation of the agreement would not be reached “simultaneously with the IAEA-verified implementation by Iran of its key nuclear commitments.”

Western officials say that means sanctions will be lifted only after the IAEA verifies compliance.

A senior Iranian negotiator said last week that the latest round of nuclear talks in Vienna between Iran and the six powers had made good progress.

US Republic senators have pledged to try to toughen a bill giving Congress the power to review a nuclear agreement with Iran, a move that could further complicate the talks.

During this month’s NPT meeting, Austria is leading an initiative to ban nuclear weapons due to the immense humanitarian suffering they cause. Over 70 countries are backing it.

Israel, which opposes the nuclear deal with Iran, will be attending the conference as an observer for the first time since 1995 as it eyes closer ties with Arabs, who also fear Teheran’s nuclear ambitions.

Israel is widely believed to have the Middle East’s only nuclear arsenal. Like nuclear-armed India and Pakistan, Israel is not a signatory to the NPT. North Korea, which signed but later withdrew from the NPT, has tested nuclear devices.

**Israel issues tenders for 77 settler homes in East Jerusalem**

**Jerusalem, 27 April** — Israel has issued tenders for the construction of 77 housing units in Jewish settler neighbourhoods in East Jerusalem, settlement watchdog Peace Now said on Monday.

The tenders, published on Sunday by the Ministry of Housing and Construction, invited bids for building 41 housing units at Pisgat Ze’ev and 36 others at Neve Ya’akov. Hagit Ofran, Peace Now director, said that this was the first such announcement in East Jerusalem since the 17 March parliamentary elections.

The fact that the tenders for East Jerusalem are being published during Prime Minister Netanyahu’s interim government could signal that the deal would happen when the new government would be formed.”

Ofran said.

“Netanyahu is continuing his election campaign and settlement policy that aims to prevent the possibility of peace and the two-state solution,” she added.

The move came amid soaring tensions between Israelis and Palestinians in Jerusalem over access to the al-Aqsa mosque compound, or the Temple Mount, a holy site to both Muslims and Jews.

Israel seized Jerusalem and the West Bank in the 1967 Mideast war and has controlled it ever since. The settlements are illegal under international law.

Several rounds of peace talks between Israel and the Palestinians reached a deadlock over the continued construction in the settlements. — Xinhua
How should maturity be measured?

By M yint Win Thein

Maturity is the quality of thinking and behaving in a sensible, adult manner, according to the Oxford Advanced Learner’s Dictionary. Some scholars also define it from the perspectives of their respective disciplines. As it is can be defined differently, how to measure it may be a matter of dispute.

Generally speaking, we grow from a baby to an adult. As we grow old we drop some of our behaviours and adopt new ones. At first, we depend on our parent for everything. Before we develop the faculty of speech, they must gauge our feelings without us telling them. They have to think whether we are hungry, thirsty, sleepy or sick. Even when we learn to speak, they still have to find out what we want, since we still lack the ability to clearly express ourselves.

As we grow or mature by year, we gradually reduce the burden placed on our parents, performing more and more tasks for ourselves. They no longer need to feed us. They no longer need to make our beds. Eventually, they no longer need to support our education and living. We no longer depend on our parents and even repay the gratitude we owe to them.

Similarly, we depend on our society for our lives, too. As we grow old and attain maturity, we try not to depend on society, reducing our burden upon it and even trying to contribute back to it. This is the process all mature human beings undergo in our society. In our society today, many people talk about maturity but only a few of them understand how to measure it. As a result, some people continue to burden society and fail to contribute to it.

What is Water Security?

“Water security is defined as the capacity of a population to safeguard sustainable access to adequate quantities of acceptable quality water for sustenance of livelihoods, human well-being, and of socio-economic development, for ensuring protection against water-borne pollution and water-related disasters, and for preserving ecosystems in a climate of peace and political stability. This definition implies that water is managed sustainably throughout the water cycle and is done so through an inter-disciplinary focus, so that it contributes to socio-economic development and reinforces societal resilience to environmental impacts and water-borne diseases without compromising the present and future health of populations and ecosystems. A chieving water security requires allocation among users to be fair, efficient and transparent; that water to satisfy basic human needs is accessible to all at an affordable cost to the user; that water throughout the water cycle is collected and treated to prevent pollution and disease; and that fair, accessible and effective mechanisms exist to manage or address disputes or conflicts that may arise. The concept operates at all levels, from individual, house-hold and community, to local, sub-national, national, regional and international settings, and takes into account the variability of water availability over time. That was the definition by the UN-Water Task Force on Water Security worldwide in 2013, which was designated as UN International Year of Water Cooperation. Key aspects of water security are as follow:

• Access to safe and sufficient drinking water at an affordable cost in order to meet basic needs, which includes sanitation and hygiene and the safeguarding of health and well-being;
• Prevention of livelihoods, human rights, and cultural and recreational values;
• Preservation and protection of ecosystems in water allocation and management systems in order to maintain their ability to deliver and sustain the functioning of essential ecosystem services;
• Water supply for socio-economic development and activities (such as energy, transport, industry, tourism);
• Collection and treatment of used water to protect human life and the environment from pollution;
• Collaborative approaches to transboundary water resources management within and between countries to promote freshwater sustainability and cooperation;
• The ability to cope with uncertainties and risks of water-related hazards, such as floods, droughts and pollution, among others;
• Good governance and accountability, and the due consideration of the interests of all stakeholders through: appropriate and effective legal regimes; transparent, participatory and accountable institutions; properly planned, operated and maintained infrastructure; and capacity development.

We are 75% WATER

It is very important to understand the true value of water. We all live off water, because our body depends on it to function properly. The body uses water to get rid of waste materials, to maintain body temperature, and to lubricate joints in the body. Water also helps in the transportation of food, oxygen, and nutrients to the cells. Even though water makes up 75% of our body, it is very important for our health and well-being.

Here are some ways to conserve water:

1. Use a leak-free showerhead.
2. Fix any leaks in your home.
3. Use a broom instead of a hose to clean your patio.
4. Water your lawn in the early morning or late evening.
5. Use a timer to control your sprinklers.
6. Collect rainwater in a barrel for watering your garden.
7. Reuse water in your kitchen and bathroom.
8. Use a low-flow toilet.
9. Install a water-efficient toilet tank.
10. Fix any pipe leaks immediately.

We need to work together to ensure that we have enough water for everyone. Let’s all do our part to conserve water and protect our precious resource.
Illegal drugs worth about K 2.77 billion seized in Laukkai

NAY PYI TAW, 27 April—Tatmadaw column, in addition to performing security duties, have been combating drug trafficking alongside members of the Myanmar Police Force.

In a surprised check at an apartment building near a children’s skating rink to the west of Lower Market in Ward-2 in Laukkai on 25 April, members of the Tatmadaw and the MPF seized half a kilogram of methamphetamine, or “Ice”, worth about K 10 million, 174,000 stimulant tablets bearing the letters “WY” and worth over K 2.6 billion, 0.3 kg of red-brown stimulant powder worth K 6 million and 0.2 gram of heroin from 21 men and 2 women.
The accused were handed over to authorities. —Myawady

21 men and two women arrested for seizures of narcotic drugs at Lower Market in Ward-2 in Laukkai.— Myawady

President’s wife attends social business forum in Malaysia

NAY PYI TAW, 27 April — President U Thein Sein’s wife Daw Khin Khin Win attended the Forum for Spouses of ASEAN Heads of State/Government Empowerment through Social Business.— IPRD

M SF meets survivors and victims’ families in sinking of MV Dalniy Vostok

YANGON, 27 April—Representatives of the Myanmar Seafarers Federation met Monday with survivors from the MV Dalniy Vostok, which sank in Russia’s Okhotsk Sea on 1 April, as well as family members of sailors who lost their lives.

Water Scarcity and Water ...

(from page 8)

Three Factors Driving Water Scarcity

Throughout much of the world (1) an unprecedented rise in the demand for food as population grows, (2) rapid urbanization and (3) climate change are the drivers of increasing water scarcity. “If we fail today to make water an instrument of peace, it might become tomorrow a major source of conflict,” warns UNESCO director-general Irina Bokova in her foreword to the UN World Water Development Report released in March 2012. Issued every three years since 2003 at the triennial World Water Forum, the UN World Water Development Report offers an overview of the state of the world’s freshwater resources and aims to provide decision makers with the tools to make sustainable use of water a reality. “No water users, anywhere in the world, can be guaranteed they will have uninterrupted access to the water supplies they need or want or to the water-derived benefits from key developmental sectors such as agriculture, energy and health,” the report warns. While UNICEF and the World Health Organization issued a separate report showing that the world has achieved the Millennium Development Goal of halving the proportion of people without access to safe drinking water in advance of the 2015 deadline, water scarcity is still a big problem for millions of people around the world. The world’s “urban” population is forecast to grow to 6.3 billion people in 2050, from 3.4 billion in 2009, increasing problems of adequate water supply, sanitation and drainage, especially in urban slums already faced with a backlog of unserved populations. World total population will also increase from 6 billion in 2000 to 9 billion in 2050. Agriculture accounts for 70 percent of all water withdrawn by the agricultural, municipal, industrial and energy sectors, according to the report, which says, “Responsible agricultural water management will make a major contribution to future global water security.” The report projects a 70 percent increase in demand for food by the year 2050 when the world population is forecast to be 9 billion and warns that this level of demand will lead to a 19 percent surge in agricultural water use. In response to growing demand, countries have tapped into underground water sources, with water extraction tripling over the past 50 years. In some underground basins, water cannot be replenished and is now at critically low levels.
Climate change will have a growing impact on water resources as it alters rainfall patterns and soil humidity, melts glaciers and causes water-related disasters such as floods and droughts, which impact food production. It is projected that by 2070, these climate impacts will affect up to 44 million people all over the world. In the short term, the shrinking of glaciers is adding water to streamflows over and above annual precipitation and thus increasing water supply, the report states, but warns that as glaciers disappear those additional sources of water will diminish and the buffering effects of glaciers on streamflows will lessen. There are “major uncertainties” about the amount of water required to sustain ecosystems and to meet human demands for food and energy, adding, “These uncertainties are compounded by the impact of climate change on available water resources.” In April 2015 there was a so called flagship event held at the World Bank Headquarters on “Water Security for All in a World of Scarcity”. The seminar has highlighted that water security is emerging as the number one global risk in terms of development impact. While the impacts are felt most acutely in the arid, water scarce regions of the world, climate change and rapid urbanization have increased water scarcity for other regions as well. Fast growing cities in water-scarce environments are the most vulnerable. The meeting focused some of the most innovative management approaches and technologies now being deployed in the sector and some of the key challenges as well as positive lessons learned on how these can be used internationally to enhance “water security” globally.
Reynal, 27 April — Hundreds of Syrian rebels are approaching the start of US training to battle Islamic State, without knowing whether or how Washington would come to their aid on the battlefield and as other rebel leaders say the proxy army could spark opposition infighting.

The US plan to train and arm a force that is expected to eventually total more than 15,000 troops and to get underway in the coming weeks is a major test of President Barack Obama’s strategy of engaging local partners to combat extremists. But administration officials are already scaling back expectations of its impact and some rebel leaders say the force risks sowing distrust among enemies. People in the east are suffering very entanglement in Syria that Obama has long sought to avoid. Senior US military officials say protecting the forces will be vital to drawing new recruits and ensuring the success of the program.

The hardline Sunni Nusra Front movement has seized swathes of Syria and Iraq and proclaimed a caliphate. In the face of its brutal offensive through northern Iraq last June, Obama asked Congress for an initial $500 million to “train and equip” Syria’s opposition fighters, whom he later described as “the best counterweight” to Islamic militants and a key pillar in his campaign to defeat them. The total request so far is $1.1 billion.

Ten months later, it is just getting off the launch pad. US officials say several hundred US and coalition personnel are preparing to start training, initially at sites in Jordan, Turkey, and later in Saudi Arabia and Qatar. The sessions, which were originally expected to start in March, will cover everything from the rules of engagement to driving skills.

The plan reflected the priorities of a president reluctant to get entrenched in another Middle East conflict, but who needed a ground force to complement US air strikes against Islamic State in Syria. Congress approved it last year with two primary goals: to fight Islamic State and boost the chances of a negotiated settlement in the Syrian war by raising pressure on President Bashar al-Assad’s forces.

Opposition fighters and their backers, including Turkey and Saudi Arabia, say the plan will only succeed if it focuses more directly on fighting Assad’s forces and allied militias.

“For Syria, the biggest stated aim of the training is to stop the killing, and the biggest killer is the regime,” said Abu Hamoud, head of operations at Division 13, a non-Islamist opposition brigade which has received training under a separate CIA-led programme.

While fighting Islamic State may be the priority in Syria, the US is not true elsewhere in the country, according to Abu Majeid, commander of the Jund al Ahl brigade which has also been helped under the CIA operation launched last year.

“It’s a matter of priority. Priority in the east are suffering most from Islamic State. In our area, we are suffering from the regime. That is why we asked for US air strikes,” he said. Part of the US strategy, according to Obama administration documents seen by Reuters, is to provide Assad with aerial support to turn the tide against his regime and increasing the opposition’s prowess and territory under control. But the documents acknowledge that the US-trained rebel force’s impact is likely to be modest — at least initially.

Even when considered as a whole, US government assistance to the moderate armed opposition will not be decisive in defeating regime forces, the State Department wrote to Sen John M. McCain, the Senate Armed Services Committee chairman. In March, he added, “Nor will the fighters who receive this assistance, on their own, force Assad to change his calculus about trying to hold on to power,” the letter said.

Obama has also yet to announce whether he will go beyond resupplying and financing the proxy force, and to provide them with US fighter jets if they clash with Assad’s forces. The United States is already last month, seeing a threat of daily air strikes against Islamic State targets in Syria and Iraq, Assad, in a January state visit to India, was quoted as saying by Foreign Affairs magazine, said his army will fight the “illegal” US-backed rebels.

US military officials favor not helping them, the US Army Gen Lloyd Austin, commander of the US military’s Central Command, said in a Senate committee last month that he recommended US protection for the force against all adversaries.

“Currently,” he added, “that decision has not been taken.”

—— Reuters

Iranian general accuses Saudis of following in Israeli footsteps

Jafari, 27 April — The commander of Iran’s elite Revolutionary Guard accused Saudi Arabia on Monday of following in Israel’s footsteps in the Islamic world by carrying out air strikes in Yemen and across the Arabian Peninsula state.

“Saudi Arabia is following in the footsteps of the (Israel) regime’s footsteps and the (Iran) regime’s footsteps,” Jafari was quoted as saying by IRNA.

The United States and Saudi Arabia have accused Iran of arming the Shi’ite Houthi rebels in Yemen, a charge Tehran denies.

General Mohammad Ali Jafari, commander of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, said Saudi Arabia— Teheran’s arch regional adversary — was” shamelessly and disgracefully bombing and killing a nation”.

“Saudi Arabia is following in the footsteps of the (Israel) regime’s footsteps in the Islamic world,” Jafari was quoted as saying by IRNA.

General Mohammad Ali Jafari, commander of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, said Saudi Arabia— Teheran’s arch regional adversary — was” shamelessly and disgracefully bombing and killing a nation”. “Saudi Arabia is following in the footsteps of the (Israel) regime’s footsteps,” Jafari was quoted as saying by IRNA.

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Canon first-quarter profit falls 29 percent as compact camera sales slump

Tokyo, 27 April — Canon Inc on Monday said its net profit fell 28.7 percent in its first quarter, falling short of analyst estimates, as the Japanese company faced slumping sales of digital compact cameras.

Profit was 33.93 billion yen (187.88 million pounds) in January-March, compared with the 3.64 billion yen average estimate of 5 analysts according to Thomson Reuters data.

The result comes as the world’s biggest camera maker seeks growth opportunities, in part to offset a drop in demand for compact cameras as consumers increasingly rely on smartphone cameras.

It plans to buy Swedish surveillance firm Axis AB for $2.7 billion — offering 340 crowns ($39.31) a share until the extended deadline of 5 May — and as of Friday owned 84 percent.

It does not plan to up its offer even though hedge fund Elliott Management has since raised its ownership to 10 percent. “Sales volume for low-end (digital camera) models declined due to the ongoing contraction of the market in all regions from the previous year,” said Canon in its earnings release. Sales of high-end models increased, it said.

Canon also said it expects to sell 7.0 million compact cameras in 2015, versus a previous forecast of 7.8 million and 22.5 percent less than in 2014.

It projects sales of cameras with interchangeable lenses to reach 5.8 million units rather than its previous view of 6.4 million.

The firm, which earns about 80 percent of revenue overseas and is a major beneficiary of a weaker yen, maintained its view of the Japanese currency trading at 120 versus the US dollar in the second to fourth quarters.

Shares of Canon closed 0.7 percent higher in Tokyo Monday, versus a 0.2 percent fall in the broader market.

Nokia denies return to phone manufacturing

HELSINKI, 27 April — Finland’s Nokia (NOKIV.HE) denied reports in Chinese media that it planned to return to manufacturing phones.

“A view of Nokia’s head offices in Espoo, Finland, on 15 April, 2015.— Reuters

Nokia notes recent news reports claiming the company communicating the intention to return to manufacturing smartphones,” Nokia said in a statement posted on its website. “Nokia reiterates it currently has no plans to manufacture or sell consumer handsets.”

However, Nokia has said it is looking into returning to the smartphones business by brand-licensing.

Nokia sold its phone business to Microsoft (MSFT.O) last year, but just two months after that it launched a new brand-licensed tablet computer, produced under licence by Taiwan’s Foxconn (2335.TW), with an intention to follow up with more devices.

Nokia has agreed with Microsoft that it will not enter the mobile phone business before 2016.

“It would be crazy not to look at that opportunity. Of course we will look at it,” Sebastian Nyström, the head of products at Nokia’s Technologies unit, told Reuters in November.

Nokia this month announced a takeover of Finland’s Alcatel-Lucent (ALUA.PA), a bid to boost its mainstream network equipment business, and also said it could hive off its map business, which has reportedly drawn interest from carmakers as well as Facebook and online taxi service Uber.

India’s Ratan Tata buys stake in Chinese phone maker Xiaomi

Mumbai, 27 April — Ratan Tata, chairman emeritus of the holding company of India’s Tata conglomerate, has acquired a stake in Xiaomi Technology [XTC.UL], a deal that is likely to bolster the Chinese phone maker’s presence in the world’s third-largest smartphone market.

Financial details of the unspecified stake bought by Tata in Xiaomi, the first by an Indian, were not disclosed in the statement issued by the Chinese company on Sunday.

Xiaomi, the No 3 global smartphone maker, was valued at $45 billion after a December funding round.

Tata, a respected business leader who was the chairman of salt-to-software Tata Sons for more than two decades, has previously invested in Indian start-ups, including online retailer Snapdeal. Tata’s investment in Xiaomi comes against the backdrop of an aggressive push by Xiaomi in India after entering the market, which has huge growth potential with just one in 10 people using smartphones, in July 2014.

On Thursday, Xiaomi hosted its first global launch outside of China in the Indian capital New Delhi, unveiling its feature-heavy Mi 4i model that supports six Indian languages at 12,999 rupees (£154).

Xiaomi and other Chinese smartphone makers are drafting in cricket teams and Bollywood stars to conquer India, their largest overseas market and a key testing ground for their international expansion.

“Mr Tata is one of the most well-respected business leaders in the world. An investment by him is an affirmation of the strategy we have undertaken in India so far,” Lei Jun, founder and chief executive officer of Xiaomi said in the statement. “We are looking forward to bringing more products into India,” he said.

India’s Ratan Tata buys stake in Chinese phone maker Xiaomi

Three models of China’s Xiaomi Mi phones are pictured during their launch in New Delhi on 15 July, 2014. Reuters
Clinton Foundation admits making mistakes on taxes

WASHINGTON, 27 April — The Clinton Foundation’s acting chief executive admitted on Sunday that the charity had made mistakes on how it listed government donors on its former U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton speaking during a fundraiser event in New York on 9 March, 2015.— Reuters

A-bomb survivors, peace group members march for nuclear-free world

NEW YORK, 27 April — Atomic bomb survivors from Japan and peace activists from various countries march on a street in New York to push for nuclear weapons abolition on 26 April, 2015, the day before the start of a conference to review the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty that will continue through 22 May.— Kyodo News

Fire at Taiwan nuclear power plant prompts reactor shutdown

TAIPEI, (China) 27 April — A reactor at a nuclear power plant in southern Taiwan was shut down following a fire that broke out at around midnight Sunday, its operator said on Monday.

Taiwan Power Co spokesman Lin Te-fu told Kyodo News the fire broke out at 23:58 pm at the Maanshan Nuclear Power Plant at Hengchun, apparently caused by a short-circuited transformer. Firefighters extinguished the fire in 17 minutes and there was no leakage of radiation, Lin said.

Unit 2 reactor of the facility has been shut down and repair is estimated to take about two weeks, Lin said, because the facility has two reactors, the shutdown will not affect the supply of power. A probe is under way to determine the cause of the short circuit in the transformer, Lin said.

Taiwan has three operating nuclear power stations — two in the north and one in the south. All have operated safely for many years, while providing nearly 20 percent of the island’s electricity.

A fourth plant is under construction, also in the north. However, various worries have been raised due to engineering problems and policy reversals have delayed its completion.

The Taiwan said last year that it will freeze construction of the fourth facility pending endorsement of the project by voters in a national referendum.

Taipower, as the power utility is commonly known, said in January that construction will enter a three-year hiatus on 1 July.

Concerns about the safety of nuclear power have flared up again in the wake of the 2011 Fukushima nuclear disaster in Japan.

A part from apprehension over the growing stockpile of nuclear waste, critics say adding a new nuclear power facility in earthquake-prone Taiwan’s heavily populated north will only make matters worse.— Kyodo News

Collapsed pedestrian bridge kills 7 in Nigeria

LAGOS, 27 April — At least seven people lost their lives in southwest Nigeria’s Kano State on Sunday when a pedestrian bridge collapsed, the police said on Monday.

State police spokesperson Magaji Majiya, who confirmed the incident to Xinhua, said the bridge, which was still under construction, caved in and collapsed on a car, which was passing underneath it.

He said the workers at the site had warned motorists not to pass because they were working on the bridge but the driver of the taxi allegedly ignored the warning.

“So, the moment he moved; before he passed, the car was hit by the bridge,” Majiya said.

The vehicle has since been evacuated from the scene while the corpses have been deposited at a hospital morgue, he added.

Majiya said the police had launched an investigation into the cause of the incident.— Xinhua

S Korea ex-premier urges Abe to learn from his grandfather, father

SEOUL, 27 April — Former South Korean Prime Minister Kim Jong Pil urged Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe to learn from his grandfather and father and look squarely into the history of Japan’s 1910-1945 colonial rule of Korea, according to an interview published by the Joongang Daily on Monday.


Kim recalled that Kishi had acknowledged that “Japan tormented Korea” and offered his apology “as a Japanese” for Japan’s brutal colonial rule in Korea.

The late Kishi, who served as minister of munitions in the war cabinet, was held as a Class-A war crimes suspect after World War II but was not indicted or tried by the International Military Tribunal. He went on to serve as prime minister from 1957 to 1960.

Kim, who played a pivotal role in paving the way for normalization of diplomatic relations between South Korea and Japan in 1965, said he was very close to Abe’s father, the late Shintaro Abe, a former foreign minister in the 1980s.

Shintaro Abe “tried in his own way to improve Korea-Japan relations,” Kim said and described him as “a very good person who avoided hurtful words or actions.”

“Abbe seems to have a very different personality from his father,” Kim said, adding that it is “regrettable” that Abe “can’t learn lessons from...his father...or grandfather.”

Many South Koreans view Shinzo Abe, in office since December 2012, as a hardliner who says attempts to roll back past Japanese government apologies over the issue of “comfort women”—many of them from Korea—who were recruited to work at wartime Japanese military brothels.— Kyodo News

A-bomb survivors from Japan and peace activists from various countries march on a street in New York to push for nuclear weapons abolition on 26 April, 2015, the day before the start of a conference to review the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty that will continue through 22 May.— Kyodo News

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S Korea ex-premier urges Abe to learn from his grandfather, father

SEOUL, 27 April — Former South Korean Prime Minister Kim Jong Pil urged Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe to learn from his grandfather and father and look squarely into the history of Japan’s 1910-1945 colonial rule of Korea, according to an interview published by the Joongang Daily on Monday.


Kim recalled that Kishi had acknowledged that “Japan tormented Korea” and offered his apology “as a Japanese” for Japan’s brutal colonial rule in Korea.

The late Kishi, who served as minister of munitions in the war cabinet, was held as a Class-A war crimes suspect after World War II but was not indicted or tried by the International Military Tribunal. He went on to serve as prime minister from 1957 to 1960.

Kim, who played a pivotal role in paving the way for normalization of diplomatic relations between South Korea and Japan in 1965, said he was very close to Abe’s father, the late Shintaro Abe, a former foreign minister in the 1980s.

Shintaro Abe “tried in his own way to improve Korea-Japan relations,” Kim said and described him as “a very good person who avoided hurtful words or actions.”

“Abbe seems to have a very different personality from his father,” Kim said, adding that it is “regrettable” that Abe “can’t learn lessons from...his father...or grandfather.”

Many South Koreans view Shinzo Abe, in office since December 2012, as a hardliner who says attempts to roll back past Japanese government apologies over the issue of “comfort women”—many of them from Korea—who were recruited to work at wartime Japanese military brothels.— Kyodo News
T H E R E P U B L I C O F T H E U N I O N O F M Y A N M A R
M I N I S T R Y O F E N E R G Y
M Y A N M A O I L A N D G A S E N T E R P R I S E
( I N V I T A T I O N F O R O P E N T E N D E R )
(7/2015)

Open tenders are invited for supply of the following respective items in United States Dollars.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr.No</th>
<th>Tender No</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<td>(1)</td>
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Tender Closing Date & Time - 27th May 2015, 16:30 Hrs
Tender Document shall be available during office hours commencing from 27th April, 2015 at the Finance Department, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, No(44) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE
Ph: +9567-411097/411206

CL A I M S D A Y N O T I C E
MV Y A N T R A B H U M V O Y N O (954N)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV YANTRA BHUM VOY NO (954N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 28.4.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangoon.
Damaged cargo will be surveyed and surveyed and surveyed from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the vessel.
No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

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(1) Senior Program Officer, Governance
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WEATHER REPORT

BAY INFERENCE: Weather is partly cloudy in the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.
FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 28th APRIL, 2015: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Mandalay and Taninthayi Regions, Kayah, Kayin and M on States and isolated in the remaining Regions and States. Degree of certainty is (80%).

A previous military operation for the abducted joint forces of the Army’s Infantry Division, said personnel from the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP) of Surigao del Sur were transporting NPA detainees aboard a prisoner van when they were ambushed by at least 30 rebels around 7:45 am along a highway in a mountain village, Mairitag.

President Xi Jinping returned to Beijing on Friday morning after his trip to Malaysia, Singapore and Indonesia, the official Xinhua News Agency reported.

Chinese airlines deny price hike for Nepal flights

BEIJING, 27 April — China’s major airlines dismissed rumours that they raised ticket prices for evacuation flights from quake-hit Nepal on Monday.

Air China, China Eastern and China Southern told Xinhua it is impossible for them to hike ticket prices, which are under tight control of the National Development and Reform Commission.

However, Air China said it cannot be ruled out that some air ticket agents raised prices without approval. Rumors went viral online that Chinese visitors stranded in Nepal had to pay extra money for flight home.

About 4,000 Chinese tourists now remain in Nepal, where an 8.1-magnitude earthquake has killed at least 3,218 people, including four Chinese. Currently, Chinese carriers have the capacity to bring around 1,200 people home every day. — Xinhua

Gas leak at Iran’s Arak refinery injures seven workers

TWO WARDENS ABducted IN SOUTHERN PHILIPPINES

Photo shows an information display apparatus called the “diversity waterfall” within the Japan Pavilion of the Expo Milano 2015 in the northern Italian city of DuBai.

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Two wardens were abducted and two New People’s Army (NPA) detainees were freed following an ambush in southern Philippines of Surigao del Sur on Monday, the military said.

Capt Joe Patrick Martinez, deputy public affairs officer of the Army’s 10th Infantry Division, said personnel from the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP) of Surigao del Sur were transporting NPA detainees aboard a prisoner van when they were ambushed by at least 30 rebels around 7:45 am along a highway in a mountain village, Mairitag.

According to official report, three wardens and one of the detainees were wounded in the ambush. A previous military statement said the two rebels “were on their way to lay landmine” in the town when they were arrested by joint forces of the Army’s 2nd Scout Ranger Battalion and Lianga police station at a checkpoint.

Martinez said the military has deployed Special Forces and Infantry soldiers to conduct search and rescue operations for the abducted jail personnel. He said attack helicopters were also put on standby for close-air support. The NPA, armed wing of the Communist Party of the Philippines, has been waging a guerrilla campaign against the government in the countryside for four decades. — Xinhua
“Furious 7” leads North American box office for 4th week

Los Angeles, 27 April — “Furious 7” beat newcomer “Paul Blart: Mall Cop 2” to top the North American box office for the fourth weekend in a row.

In doing so, “Furious 7” became the first film to lead the box office for four consecutive weekends since “The Hunger Games” did so back in 2012.

Starring Vin Diesel, Dwayne Johnson and the late Paul Walker, “Furious 7” grossed an estimated 18.3 million US dollars in North American theaters over the weekend, according to studio estimates on Sunday.

The seventh film in the stunt-filled “Fast and Furious” street-racing franchise also had another stunning weekend overseas, particularly in China, where it earned nearly 323 million dollars in 15 days.

“Furious 7” has now grossed 1.3 billion dollars worldwide, which ranks fifth all-time. In the domestic market, “Furious 7” has earned 320 million dollars.

Playing at 3,633 locations, the Kevin James comedy “Paul Blart: Mall Cop 2” took in 15.5 million dollars, bringing its total to nearly 44 million dollars.

The Blake Lively fantasy romance “The Age of Adaline” ranked third this weekend, with 13.4 million dollars from 2,991 locations.

Other popular films this weekend in the United States and Canada were “Home” (8.3 million), “Unfriended” (6.2 million), “Ex Machina” (5.4 million), “The Longest Ride” (4.3 million), “Get Hard” (3.9 million), “Monkey Kingdom” (3.55 million) and “Woman in Gold” (3.5 million).

Harry Styles will be next to leave One Direction: Lance Bass

Los Angeles, 27 April — NSYNC star Lance Bass thinks Harry Styles will be the next member to quit boyband One Direction.

Speaking on The Meredith Vieira Show, Bass claimed that Styles, 21, has always planned on going solo, reported Billboard.

“I just see Harry Styles leaving soon, and I don’t see another One Direction album happening after he leaves,” Bass said.

He also noted that Styles has been recording on his own for some time and planned to leave One Direction before Zayn Malik broke away first.

“Harry Styles has been ready to go solo for many months. The Zayn thing was just spur-of-the-moment, but it was the best thing Zayn could have done because now he’s a household name.” — PTI

Kurt Cobain, Courtney Love’s old apartment available to rent

Los Angeles, 27 April — Exes clearly remained friends after the split because as Bush revealed she had plans to catch up with Fredinburg after his trek.

“I was looking forward to our planned download of ‘all the things’ when he got home. I am crushed that I will never hear that story,” she wrote.

“Please remember that our time on this Earth is not guaranteed. Please tell those you love that you do. Right now. This very minute. And please send a kiss to the sky for my friend Dan. His energy is so big and so bright, and it’s all around us, so put some love toward him today. And then hug your loved ones again.” — PTI

Sophia Bush heartbroken after ex Dan Fredinburg dies in Nepal earthquake

Los Angeles, 27 April — “One Tree Hill” actress Sophia Bush is left heartbroken after her former boyfriend Dan Fredinburg, a Google executive, was tragically killed after the Nepal earthquake caused a Mount Everest avalanche.

“I was looking forward to our planned download of ‘all the things’ when he got home. I am crushed that I will never hear that story,” she wrote.

“Please remember that our time on this Earth is not guaranteed. Please tell those you love that you do. Right now. This very minute. And please send a kiss to the sky for my friend Dan. His energy is so big and so bright, and it’s all around us, so put some love toward him today. And then hug your loved ones again.” — PTI

Los Angeles, 27 April — Actor Vin Diesel has revealed Universal Studios is currently working on “Fast and Furious 8”.

“We’re gonna make the best movie you’ve ever seen,” Diesel, 47, told the audience. The eighth movie will hit theaters on 14 April, 2017, reported US magazine.

The studio is yet to confirm which stars will join Diesel on the next adventure, but it was revealed where Dominic Toretto is headed to next.

A new movie poster features Dom and New York City’s Empire State Building. “FF8” it reads, “New City Even Vengeance.”

Earlier this month, the franchise’s seventh installment, “Furious 7”, broke records when it hit the USD 1 billion mark at the international box office.— PTI
Japanese para-athletes win bronze at London Marathon

Nishikori eyes Roland Garros after retaining Barcelona crown

Barcelona (Spain), 27 April — Kei Nishikori believes he is ready to have his best French Open yet after defending the Barcelona Open title on Sunday. Top-seeded Nishikori beat Pablo Andujar 6-4, 6-4 in the final for his second title of the season, also the ninth of his burgeoning career.

Nishikori, who stood at No 5 in the world rankings, fell at the first hurdle at Roland Garros last year but feels he is poised to do well in Paris having won 26 of 31 matches this year.

“My next goal is to produce a good result at the French Open,” Nishikori said. “I’m really looking forward to it. The Grand Slams are unlike the other tournaments, falling at the first hurdle of 31 matches this year.

In the closely contested male wheelchair category, Soejima finished third in 1:31:33 seconds — two seconds behind the winner, Joshua George of the United States. “Of course I am happy to have come third, but I was hoping to be first or second,” Soejima said.

Several in the lead collided a few metres away from the finish line, causing Kota Hokinoue, winner of this year’s Tokyo Marathon, to crash and end up seventh.

Said Soejima, “We were very close to each other and that’s why the clash happened. With seven of us coming in tight at the end, it was something I was anticipating.” Wheelchair racer Wakako Tsuchida, the Japanese team captain at the 2012 London Paralympics, was seventh in the women’s race after suffering a punctured left tire.

Japans Kei Nishikori raises the trophy after defeating Spain’s Pablo Andujar 6-4, 6-4 during the Barcelona Open final on 26 April, 2015, to retain the title.

Kyodo News

Japanese para-athletes win bronze at London Marathon


For the para-athletes, the London Marathon acted as a qualifier for the 2016 Rio de Janeiro Paralympic Games, awarding places to the top two finishers in each category.

Seven Japanese took part in the wheelchair marathon, attesting to the strength of the sport in the country, while many visually impaired athletes also came within the top 10.

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News Channel in Brief

(28-4-2015, Tuesday)

6:00 am • Panita by Venerable M injan Sayadaw
7:00 am • News / Weather Report
7:30 am • Head Line News
8:00 am • News / International News
9:35 am • Documentary
9:35 am • MRTV’s Youth Programme
10:35 am • Science and Technology Programme
11:35 am • Documentary
12:00 noon • News / International News / Weather Report
12:35 pm • TV Drama Series
1:25 pm • Sing & Enjoy
2:35 pm • Monoclassical Song (Part-129)
3:00 pm • News / International News
3:35 pm • Socio Economic Scenes
4:35 pm • Mynamar Traditional Performing Arts Competition
4:45 pm • University Of Distance Education (TV Lectures) — Second Year (Physics)
5:00 pm • News / Weather Report
5:40 pm • Documentary
6:00 pm • News / Weather Report
6:30 pm • Head Line News
6:35 pm • Money Talk Mynmar
7:30 pm • People’s Talk
8:00 pm • News / International News / Weather Report
8:35 pm • Documentary
9:00 pm • News / International News / Weather Report
9:45 pm • Pyi Thi Ni Ti
10:05 pm • TV Drama Series

Entertainment Channel

(28-4-2015, Tuesday)

6:00 am • Mono Classical Songs
6:15 am • Mynamar Series
7:00 am • Fashion Show
7:15 am • TV Drama Series
8:00 am • TV Drama Series
8:40 am • M usical Programme
9:00 am • Pyi Thi Ni Ti
9:45 am • Radio Teleplay
10:05 am • China In Mynmar
10:20 am • TV Drama Series

Myanmar International

(28-4-2015 07:00 am – 29-4-2015 07:00 am) MST

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* TV Drama Series
Chelsea edge closer to title with Arsenal draw

London, 27 April—The man selling ‘Chelsea Champions 2015’ scarves outside The Emirates was a little premature but he is unlikely to be asked for refunds after they ground out a 0-0 Premier League draw at Arsenal on Sunday.

A part from three penalty appeals, the strongest of which saw Arsenal’s goalkeeper clatter into Chelsea’s Oscar in the first half and put the Brazilian in hospital, there was precious little to raise the pulse on a dreary afternoon in north London.

But while Arsenal’s frustrated fans chanted “Boring Boring Chelsea” near the end, Blues boss Jose Mourinho will not care.

He extended his unbeaten record over Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger to 13 matches as Chelsea, with five games left, protected their 10-point advantage over north Londoners whose eight-match winning league run came to an end.

“I think boring is 10 years without the title,” Mourinho, whose side are the second-highest scorers in the Premier League this season, told reporters, referring to the last time Arsenal won the Premier League crown. “That’s very boring.”

Chelsea have 77 points from 33 games with three-placed Arsenal on 67. Last season’s champions Manchester City also have 67 but have played a game more, while Manchester United have 65.

If Chelsea beat Leicester City on Wednesday they can clinch the title against Crystal Palace at Stamford Bridge next Sunday.

While Chelsea look unbeatable at the top, United are suffering some jitters as they bid to secure a top four spot and a return to the Champions League after a season absent.

Louis van Gaal’s side were picked off ruthlessly by a clinical Everton outfit, losing 3-0 at Goodison Park a week after a 1-0 defeat at Chelsea.

SAFE HANDS

Chelsea’s Thibaut Courtois was at the top of his game as he helped with the shut-up job in goal.

He was out of his goal area to dribble past Chelsea’s Eden Hazard as he became the first goalkeeper to win the Football Writers’ Association’s Footballer of the Year award in history.

The Belgium international has played in all of Chelsea’s games this season, scoring 13 goals and 18 in all competitions.

“Personally I have son has got better and better,” he said. “I can ride the wave and this season has been there in the big games and I scored a lot of important goals, this is why I’m better this season.”

Hazard wins England’s PFA player of the year award

London, 27 April—Chelsea’s Brazil forward Eden Hazard won England’s PFA player of the year award ahead of Tottenham Hotspur’s Harry Kane and Manchester United goalkeeper David De Gea on Sunday.

England striker Kane, 21, was voted young player of the year at the Professional Footballers’ Association awards dinner with Hazard, 24, second and Liverpool’s Philippe Coutinho, 22, third.

“I’m very happy,” Hazard said. “One day I wanted to be the best and this is what I did this season. I played very well, Chelsea played very well. I don’t know if I deserved to win but it’s good for me,”

The Belgian added, “It’s better to be voted for by the players because they know everything about football,” added Hazard, who has played in all of table-topping Chelsea’s 33 Premier League games this season, scoring 13 goals and 18 in all competitions.

“Personally I have played a good season, I have been there in the big games and I scored a lot of important goals, this is why I’m better this season.”

Hazard has already helped Chelsea win the League Cup this term and they are two wins away from clinching the Premier League title for the first time since 2010.

Kane, who scored 79 seconds into his England début, is the second-highest scorer in the league with 20 goals, one behind Manchester City’s Sergio Aguero, and has 30 in all competitions.

“A very proud moment for myself and my family as well. Hopefully, the first of many (awards) to come. I’ve got to keep working hard to be recognized by the players is something special and definitely a night I won’t forget.”

“Always believed in my ability and wanted to get the chance to prove myself. I managed to ride the wave and this season has got better and better and this has topped it off. This is hopefully the beginning and there’s more to come.”

Cordoba and Real face a tough match at Sevilla on Saturday. “We’re going to treat every game like a cup final and give our all in every one of them,”