

The NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Volume XX, Number 4

4th Waxing of Kason 1374 ME

Tuesday, 24 April, 2012

Pyithu Hluttaw session continues for 19th day Affirmation of office taken, three questions answered, one new proposal submitted and informed to Hluttaw

NAY PYI TAW, 23 April—The 19th day Pyithu Hluttaw session was held at Pyithu Hluttaw Hall of Hluttaw Building here at 1 pm today, attended by Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann and 377 MPs.

At the session, affirmation of office was taken, three questions answered and one new proposal submitted and informed to the Hluttaw.

First, under Article 8(b) of Pyithu Hluttaw Law, 40 defence services personnel Pyithu Hluttaw representatives who had not taken affirmation took the affirmation of office in the presence of the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker.

In response to the question of U Sai Bo Aung of Muse Constituency about how related departments and organizations can handle minor and major car accidents in accord with the law, Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Brig-Gen Kyaw Zan Myint clarified that if car accidents happen, they are handled in accord with the 1964 Vehicle Law and 1989 Vehicle Rule. There is no law prescribed separately to take action against minor or major accidents. If an accident happens, action is

only taken against those who break the law. So to ensure that car accidents are handled in accord with the law, action has to be taken against those drivers who breach the law in line with the correct procedures and laws if accidents happen no matter how accidents involve big or small cars.

U Tin Maung of Chanmyathazi Constituency asked whether there is any law banning land and house brokers who are in disguise of buying and selling houses. He then requested that prompt action should be taken if there is such law and asked about the issue of rejecting second-degree civil appeal cases at the Supreme Court of the Union in Nay Pyi Taw in September 2011. Union Supreme Court Judge U Soe Nyunt replied that as they give loans in advance with interest, they can be indicted with the 1945 Money Lenders Act for their illegal lending. In addition, anyone who persuades another in an insincere way, they can be prosecuted in accord with the law.

Regarding the second question, he went on to say that 64 second-degree civil appeal cases were heard at

the Union Supreme Court in September 2011 and 27 cases were rejected through

question of U Thein Tun of Kyaunggon Constituency about whether there is a



Pyithu Hluttaw representatives arrive at Pyithu Hluttaw Building to attend Pyithu Hluttaw session.—MNA

a brief. The court has to hear appeal cases in accord with the civil law section 109. The appeal cases in which action is unnecessarily to be taken are not accepted and the court usually orders to reject them through a brief. The rejected appeal cases cause no legal problems.

With regard to the

plan to allocate money for schools that are allowed to be built with cash contributions of the public like schools whose construction is taken charge by companies, Deputy Minister for Education U Aye Kyu replied that in building new school buildings, the State

only allocates actual amount of money. If an old school building is demolished and new one is to be built with public contributions, money will be only allocated if the useable property is to be used. But the allocation will be granted by subtracting cost of the property. If not,

there will be misappropriation. If there is no public contribution and useable property, the same rate of allocation as companies will be granted.

Then, Thura U Aung Ko of Kanpetlet Constituency submitted a proposal on assisting in (See page 8)

Significant Day Temperatures (23-4-2012)

Chauk (45°C)
Minbu (44°C)

Noteworthy amounts of rainfall (23-4-2012)

Kawthoung (0.71) inch
Ye (0.58) inch

Azarenka, Sharapova lead charge in Stuttgart



American Curtis snaps drought with Texas Open win



Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann holds talks with Swiss Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs Dr. Beat Nobs



Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann receives a Swiss delegation led by Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs Dr. Beat Nobs at Pyithu Hluttaw meeting hall of Hluttaw Building.

PERSPECTIVES

Tuesday, 24 April, 2012

Myanmar foreseeing tourism explosion

It is undeniable that Myanmar's tourism is developing year by year. According to data, the number of tourists coming to Myanmar has increased from 791,505 in 2010 to 816,365 in 2011, accounting for 3.14 percent increase.

Blessed with snow-capped mountains, long and wide river courses, unspoiled lakes and beaches, spectacular landscapes and vast tracts of forests, Myanmar is attracting more and more tourists to come and visit. Moreover, the open-heartedness and hospitality of Myanmar people make tourists willing to visit Myanmar again and again.

Since taking office in the 2010 post-election period, the new government has been trying not only to promote friendly ties with neighbouring countries but also to be able to stand tall in the ASEAN economic community. The government therefore is conducting a series of reforms in various sectors such as agriculture, production and services, transportation, communication, education, technology and human resources.

Recently, Myanmar hosted a responsible tourism conference under cooperation between Myanmar Tourism Board and Hanns Seidel Foundation. Today, more travels & tours companies are emerging in the country, and they are doing their best to provide good and reliable services under the directive of the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism.

With Myanmar having lots of tourist attractions plus more than 100 hospitable national ethnic groups, it will surely see tourism explosion in coming years.

Educators meet to promote national education standard

NAY PYI TAW, 23 April—A seminar on promoting national education of the basic education level kicks off at Yezin University of Agriculture here today.

The seminar for 2012 was opened by Union Education Minister Dr Mya Aye and it was attended by President of Myanmar Academy of Arts and Sciences U Than Oo, officials of Myanmar Education Research Department and Myanmar Examination Board, principals of colleges and education officers and headmasters of basic education high, middle and primary schools.

Speaking on the occasion, the union minister called for making efforts for boosting school enrolment rate and completion of grades rate.

The Education Ministry has planned to offer scholarships and stipends for needy students at basic

education middle and high school levels as from the 2012-2013 academic year, he said.

The ministry has already drawn registration rules and regulations for establishment of private schools and has been working to allow private schools as from the 2012-2013 academic year, he said.

He also urged participants of the symposium to work hard to meet the objective of education for all school-age children and promoting the education standard as part of the 30-year long-term plan of the ministry.

Divided into four groups, the participants of the symposium discussed the report of the previous academic year and future tasks.

During the seminar, four resource persons read out papers on the long term plan. The seminar will be held till 25 April.—MNA

Union Minister for Cooperatives and for L&F receives Israeli Ambassador

NAY PYI TAW, 23 April—Union Minister for Cooperatives and for Livestock and Fisheries U Ohn Myint received Israeli Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Yaron Mayer at the ministry here this afternoon.

At the call, they discussed matters related to rural development, technical assistance in agriculture and livestock-based cooperative tasks, technical aid and queen bees to be given for bee culture and bilateral cooperation in sending of Myanmar trainees.

Also present at the call were Deputy Minister for Cooperatives U Than Tun, officials from departments of the Ministry of Cooperatives and the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries, Tag International Development



and Southeast Asia regional adviser Mr Roy Ben Eliezer.—MNA

Union Minister U Ohn Myint receives Ambassador of Israel to Myanmar Mr Yaron Mayer.—MNA

Union EC&F Minister receives UNCCD and Global Mechanism personnel



Union Minister U Win Tun receives Ms Camilla Nordheim-Larsen from UN Convention to Combat Desertification and Global Mechanism.

MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 23 April—Union Minister for Environmental Conservation and Forestry U Win Tun received Ms Camilla Nordheim-Larsen

and party of UN Convention to Combat Desertification and Global Mechanism at his office, here, at 10 am today.

They discussed conservation of forests, continuous utilization of lands and combating desertification.

Also present at the call were Director-General U Sann Lwin of Planning and Statistics Department, Acting Director-General U Aye Myint Maung of Forest Department and Director-General U Htay Aung of Dry Zone Greening Department under Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry.

MNA

Myanmar families perform meritorious deeds at Lingguang Temple

NAY PYI TAW, 23 April—Under the aegis of Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Most Ven Shen Zhan of Sacred Buddha Tooth Relic Monastery, Myanmar Ambassador to People's Republic of China U Tin Oo and family members of Myanmar Embassy and Military Attaché Office, families of Myanmar tourists in Beijing, military and civilian Myanmar trainees, faculty members of Myanmar Department of Beijing University and students, totalling about 180 performed meritorious deeds at Kyun Yadana Hall of Lingguang Temple on 17 April (Myanmar New Year Day).

The Most Ven extended greetings. A total of 25 members of Chinese Sangha recited Parittas.

The Ambassador supplicated on purpose of the meritorious agenda. Next, they paid homage to the Sayadaws, kept Sabbath and donated alms and meals to members of the Sangha. The Most Ven gave Dhamma gifts to them. Later, they shared merits gained.

The Most Ven and the Ambassador released birds as peace and tranquility of China and Myanmar and the people.

The Most Ven hosted a lunch to those present, Myanmar travelers and scholarship students and he blessed to further strengthen friendly ties between China and Myanmar and promote religious affairs between the two countries.—MNA

Village road extended in Mawlu

MAWLU, 23 April—The Mawlu-Thetyintha Road, one and five furlongs long, is under extension in Mawlu Village-tract of Indaw Township in Sagaing Region.

On 29 March, the local people actively participated in construction of earthen work of the road with the use of 20 trawleries joining hands with townselders and village administrators.

Wellwishers served the volunteers with light refreshments.

Khin Maung Swe





Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki, centre, shakes hands with Iranian Vice-President Mohammad Reza Rahimi during his official arrival ceremony in Teheran, Iran, on 22 April, 2012.—INTERNET

Bomb kills two NATO service members in Afghanistan

KABUL, 23 April — NATO forces say two international service members have been killed in a bomb attack in eastern Afghanistan. The military coalition says in a statement issued Monday that the deaths happened on Sunday. The statement does not provide nationalities or other details.

NATO typically waits for member nations to announce casualties before providing more information. Most of the international troops in the east are American but their are forces from other NATO nations as well. The deaths make at least 25 international service members killed so far this month.

Internet

In this file photo, a member of US special operations forces and an Afghan National Army soldier search for roadside bombs during a joint patrol in Shewan, a former Taliban stronghold in Afghanistan's Farah Province. President Hamid Karzai's office said on 22 April, 2012 that Afghan and US officials have finalized a long-awaited strategic partnership deal.—INTERNET



US, Afghanistan reach deal on strategic pact

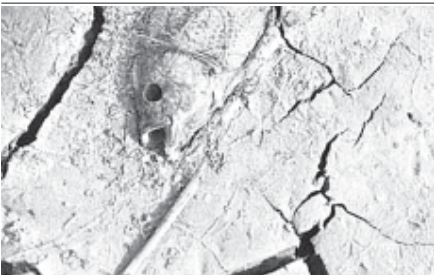
KABUL, 23 April — The US and Afghanistan reached a deal Sunday on a long-delayed strategic partnership agreement that ensures Americans will provide military and financial support to the Afghan people for at least a decade beyond 2014, the deadline for most foreign forces to withdraw. The pact is key to the US exit strategy in Afghanistan because it establishes guidelines for any American forces who remain after the withdrawal deadline and for financial help to the

impoverished country and its security forces. For the Afghan government, it is also a way to show its people that their US allies are not just walking away.

"Our goal is an enduring partnership with Afghanistan that strengthens Afghan sovereignty, stability and prosperity and that contributes to our shared goal of defeating al-Qaeda and its extremist affiliates," said US Embassy spokesman Gavin Sundwall. "We believe this agreement supports that goal." After 10

years of US-led war, militants linked to the Taliban and al-Qaeda remain a threat and as recently as a week ago launched a large-scale attack on the Capital Kabul and three other cities.

The draft agreement was worked out and initiated by Afghan National Security Adviser Ranganatha Spanta and US Ambassador Ryan Crocker. It must still be reviewed in both countries and signed afterward by the Afghan and American presidents.—*Internet*



Tornadoes, landslides, severe droughts...human are destroying our earth, which has brought climate change and resulted in the revenge of nature.—XINHUA

Iraqi premier starts talks in Iran

TEHERAN, 23 April — Iraq's prime minister traveled to Teheran Sunday for top level talks, underlining the close ties between governments of the two countries. Nouri al-Maliki met Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad at the beginning of his two-day official visit. Ahmadinejad praised al-Maliki, saying the Iraqi prime minister is working for reconstruction and progress in his war-battered country.

"If Teheran and Baghdad are powerful, then there will be no place for the presence of

enemies of nations in this region, including the US and the Zionist regime," the official Iranian news agency IRNA quoted Ahmadinejad as telling al-Maliki.

Al-Maliki's Shiite-dominated government has received support from Iran, a regional Shiite powerhouse. A news website, tabnak.ir, said al-Maliki's visit to Teheran is an attempt by the Iraqi prime minister to show that Iraq has strong regional allies. Al-Maliki is also expected to meet Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei

during his visit. Among topics for discussion is Iran's nuclear programme. Iraq will host the next round of nuclear talks between Iran and the six world powers in Baghdad on 23 May. The US and its allies suspect that Iran intends to produce nuclear weapons. Iran denies that, insisting that its nuclear programme is for peaceful purposes. Al-Maliki was given a red carpet welcome by First Vice President Mohammad Reza Rahimi at Saadabad Palace in north Teheran, state TV reported.

Internet

This file photo shows UNIFIL (L) and Lebanese security forces inspecting the area around near the seafont of the southern Lebanese port of Tyre, in November 2011, following a blast targeting a nightclub. Seven people were injured when an explosion apparently caused by a bomb shook a restaurant in Tyre late on Sunday, according to a Lebanese security source.—INTERNET

Seven injured in Tyre restaurant blast

TYRE, 23 April — Seven people were injured when an explosion apparently caused by a bomb shook a restaurant in the south Lebanese coastal town of Tyre, according to a Lebanese security source. The blast occurred at midnight Sunday in the elevator of the Nocean restaurant, injuring seven people who were hospitalised, the source said. A policeman said a bomb

had apparently been placed in the lift. It exploded on the fourth floor of the building where the restaurant is situated. The Nocean is known for its dance parties in this Shiite-majority region. A security perimeter was set up around the scene of the blast. Chunks of stone and shards of glass were strewn around up to 1,000 metres (yards) from the blast. Several restaurants



in the region have been damaged by bombs in recent months, the last in December. Two explosions have also targeted shops selling alcohol. Tyre is one of the few towns in south Lebanon where alcohol

is served in restaurants, which brings in tourists including members of the UN force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), but the recent blasts have caused several restaurants to ban alcohol.—*Internet*

Australian police appeal for calm after teen shootings

SYDNEY, 23 April — Australian police Monday renewed calls for calm after two Aboriginal teenagers were shot in Sydney's red-light district, saying footage of the incident was shocking but had to be judged in context. Graphic mobile phone footage appears to show a police officer viciously punching one of the teenagers after he had been shot. The youth, heavily bleeding, is then pinned face down on the ground.

"It's important to keep calm about this—what we've seen in the media over the weekend hasn't done anyone any favours, I don't think," New South Wales Assistant Police Commissioner Mark Murdoch told ABC radio. "We need to judge this matter very much in context." The video was taken as the suspects were arrested after the stolen car they were in mounted the pavement in Kings Cross early Saturday, hitting one woman and

dragging her beneath the vehicle, prompting the police to fire. Of the six indigenous youths in the car, two were hit by bullets—the 14-year-old driver in the chest and arm and his 18-year-old passenger in the neck.

The footage shows at least one of those taken from the car and rushed away on a stretcher but it also shows another being dragged along the ground, repeatedly punched and handcuffed as he bleeds.—*Internet*

File illustration photo shows a police car in Sydney. Australian police Monday renewed calls for calm after two Aboriginal teenagers were shot in Sydney's red-light district, saying footage of the incident was shocking but had to be judged in context.—INTERNET



Iran says it recovered data from captured US drone

TEHERAN, 23 April — Iran claimed on Sunday that it had recovered data from an American spy drone that went down in Iran last year, including information that the aircraft was used to spy on Osama bin Laden weeks before he was killed. Iran also said it was building a copy of the drone. Similar unmanned surveillance planes have been

used in Afghanistan for years and kept watch on bin Laden's compound in Pakistan. But US officials have said little about the history of the particular aircraft now in Iran's possession.

Teheran, which has also been known to exaggerate its military and technological prowess, says it brought down the RQ-170 Sentinel, a

top-secret drone equipped with stealth technology, and has flaunted the capture as a victory for Iran and a defeat for the United States. The US says the drone malfunctioned and downplayed any suggestion that Iran could mine the aircraft for sensitive information because of measures taken to limit the intelligence value of drones

operating over hostile territory.

The drone went down in December in eastern Iran and was recovered by Iran almost completely intact. After initially saying only that a drone had been lost near the Afghan-Iran border, American officials eventually confirmed the plane was monitoring Iran's military and nuclear facilities. Washington has asked for it back, a request Iran rejected.

Internet

Science & Technology Science & Technology Science & Technology

Depiction of Egyptian Pharaoh found

CAIRO, 23 April—A stone slab depicting Ramses III, who ruled Egypt's 20th Dynasty from 1186-1155 BC, has been found at the Karnak Temple, researchers say.

The rare archeological piece depicts the Pharaoh Ramses III providing sacrifices and offerings to the god Amon Ra, the Egypt State Information Service reported Friday. Also depicted on the

slab is Amon Ra's goddess wife Amont wearing a crown.

The Temple of Karnak, considered the largest ancient Egyptian temple in the world, is a large complex containing a group of temples such as the Great Temple of Amon Ra, The Temple of Khonso, The Ipt Temple, The Temple of Ptah, the Temple of Montho and the Temple of the God Osiris.—Internet



Car made in Missouri gets 358 miles per gallon

NEW YORK, 23 April—KYTV in Springfield, Mo, reports a car designed by students at Aurora Junior High School gets 358 miles per gallon. The red roadster seats one, has three small bicycle wheels and starts with a pull cord. The steering column is similar to a bicycle's to turn the two front wheels. The car was designed as part of the Missouri SuperMileage Challenge.

- * The car was not allowed to go over 30 mph per contest rules. The vehicle must also be able to make a turn within 35 feet of turning radius.
- * The engine must be a 4-cycle engine made from the factory of a brand name such as Honda or Briggs & Stratton. Basically, the engines are from lawnmowers or even gas-powered trimmers.
- * Unleaded fuel must power the lightweight vehicles. The engine can max out at six horsepower.
- * For the 2012 contest, there were two divisions. The first was the stock division with unaltered factory engines. The second was the experimental division in which engines burn ethanol or blended fuels.
- * The Aurora Junior High School team achieved the 358 miles per gallon rating over a 10-lap run. One run was calculated to have 437 miles per gallon.
- * The Aurora team took first place. The junior high

team's accomplishment was set apart due to the fact the annual contest is for high school teams.

- * The entry fee for the Missouri SuperMileage Challenge was \$5 to cover the costs of trophies and fuel. This year was the seventh annual contest to demonstrate how cars can get extreme gas mileage.
- * This was the fourth year in a row a team from Aurora won the event. In 2011, the Aurora Advertiser reported the SuperMileage students from Aurora High School won the experimental division using B20 biodiesel to get 275 miles per gallon. The junior high team placed second out of 14 cars in 2011 in the stock division with 158 miles per gallon.
- * The Missouri SuperMileage Challenge is held every spring in Warrensburg. The event is sponsored and sanctioned by the International Technology Education Association. There are similar competitions held in Minnesota, Indiana, Wisconsin and Michigan.
- * SAE International sponsors a college-level event for nearly two dozen teams from the US and Canada. The contest is similar in scope to the high school level. Teams must design a vehicle that gets the best gas mileage from factory engines donated by Briggs & Stratton. — Internet

Russia's Progress space freighter docks with ISS

Moscow, 23 April—Russia's cargo spacecraft Progress M-15M docked with the International Space Station (ISS) successfully on Sunday, the Mission Control Centre (MCC) said.

"The Progress M-15M docked with the Pirs unit at 18:39 pm Moscow time (14:39 GMT), and the docking went on smoothly," according to the MCC.

Some local media reported that the ISS crew would open the hatch of the Progress space freighter at around 21:25 pm Moscow time (17:25 GMT) and unload urgent cargo.

The Progress M-15M delivered about 2.4 tons of fuel and scientific equipment to the ISS as well as oxygen, food and clothes for the crew.

Among them, there is a special present for Russian cosmonaut Gennady Padalka, who is expected to fly to the ISS on 15 May and celebrate his 54th birthday in orbit on 21 June.

A Russian Soyuz-U rocket carrying a Progress M-15M cargo ship blasted off from the Baikonur space center in Kazakhstan at 16:50 pm Moscow time (12:50 GMT) on Friday to the ISS, according to Russia's Federal Space Agency, Roscosmos. This is the second of the five launches of Progress cargo ships to the ISS in 2012, Roscosmos said.

Progress freighters have been the backbone of the Russian space cargo fleet for decades. Russia lost a Progress cargo ship in 2011 for the first time in 30 years.—Xinhua

Gmail service disrupted

SAN FRANCISCO, 23 April—Millions of Gmail users were unable to get to their messages for about an hour on Tuesday due to a disruption at Google's free Web-based email service.

The problem affected about two percent of the approximately 350 million Gmail users, according to updates posted at a Google dashboard monitoring the status of its online applications.

"The problem with Google Mail should be resolved," the most recent message at the dashboard said.

"We apologise for the inconvenience and thank you for your patience and continued support," it continued.

"Please rest assured that system reliability is a top priority at Google."—Internet

Apple's new iPad goes on sale in South Korea



Apple's new iPad is displayed at a branch of KT, a Korean distributor of iPhones and iPads, in Seoul on 20 April, 2012.—INTERNET

SEOUL, 23 April—Hundreds of customers lined up on Friday at Apple stores as the new iPad went on sale in tech-savvy South Korea, about one month after it made its international debut.

Four of Apple's stores in Seoul opened early to sell the tablet computer, and there were also queues outside branches in the city of network providers KT and SK Telecom, the two distributors of iPhones and iPads.

First in line at KT was university student Lim Jun-

Hong, 21, who slept overnight on the pavement to be the first to get his hands on the tablet.

"Got my new iPad! Hooray!" wrote one Twitter user.

Apple is selling the gadget with WiFi at 620,000 won (\$545) to 860,000 won (\$755), depending on memory size. The cost is slightly higher for models with both WiFi and 4G.

South Korean users, at least for now, will use 3G instead of 4G. The faster connection speed is currently

unavailable locally due to differences in frequencies.

South Korea's Samsung Electronics, Apple's biggest rival worldwide, introduced its Galaxy Tab 10.1 in February last year, only four months after launching the series.—Internet

Satellite tracked as it remains silent

PARIS, 23 April—Optical, radar and laser observations of a European satellite that inexplicably went silent 8 April show it is still in a stable orbit, space officials say.

All efforts to restore contact with the Envisat

environmental monitoring satellite have so far failed, the European Space Agency reported from its Paris headquarters Friday.

With help from European and international partners, ground controllers are attempting to determine if Envisat has entered its "safe mode," which could offer a starting point for its revival, officials said.

On 15 April the French space agency CNES turned its Pleiades satellite, which normally provides high-resolution images of Earth, around to capture images of Envisat passing above it at

about 54 miles.

Flight specialists and engineers are studying the images to determine if Envisat's solar panel — the satellite's power source — is in a position for sufficient exposure to the sun to generate enough power to put Envisat into safe mode.

"These unique images will enable us to analyze Envisat's orientation, which will indicate whether we are able to regain contact with the satellite," Manfred Warhaut, head of ESA's Mission Operations Department, said.

Internet

Adobe to launch new software suite for designers

NEW YORK, 23 April — Adobe is launching the latest version of its software package for designers and Web developers. Adobe Systems Inc is set to announce CS6 on Monday at an event in San Francisco. Creative Suite 6 includes Photoshop, Illustrator and other programs aimed at designers.

Unlike previous versions, which came shrink-wrapped in a box, Creative Suite 6 will be available on a monthly subscription basis as part of Adobe's Creative Cloud offering. Subscriptions will start at \$50 a month for those who sign up for a year. Subscribers will be able to download programs such as Photoshop, InDesign or Illustrator, store their work online and share files with others.

This will likely make the pricey software package more desirable to new customers who may not want to shell out thousands of dollars upfront. Scott Morris, a senior marketing director at Adobe, compared the new pricing policy to the company's decision nearly a decade ago to start selling its design-software products in one package. The result then was higher sales, and Adobe hopes to replicate that success with its new revenue model.

Customers will still be able to buy CS6 as a packaged software suite, just as they can still buy the programmes separately.—Internet

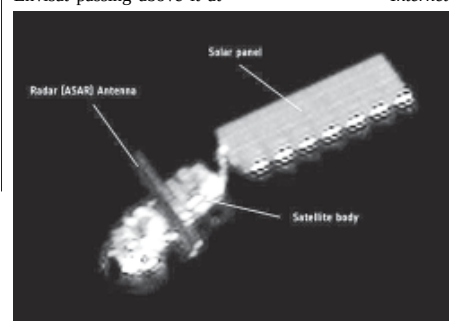


Image of the Envisat captured by France's Pleiades satellite from a distance of 54 miles.—INTERNET

Business & Health Business & Health Business & Health

Vitamin C may lower high blood pressure

Researchers at Johns Hopkins have found that large doses of vitamin C may help reduce hypertension in adults. The study, which was published in the current issue of the American Journal of Clinical Nutrition, found that the nutrient can cause a moderate decrease a person's blood pressure. What are the details of the study?

The study was what is referred to as a "review" study, which means that it looked at and analyzed previous research for patterns and observations. In this case, scientists looked at the data from 29 previous clinical trials involving more than 1,400 people in order to reach their conclusions, according to the *Baltimore Sun*.

What did the study find?

Preliminary conclusions would suggest that consuming large amounts of vitamin C, in this case, at least 500 milligrams per day for an average of eight weeks, can have a positive, though moderate, effect on someone suffering from hypertension. This amount is the equivalent of roughly five times the current daily recommendations.

How is vitamin C believed to work?

According to Prevention, vitamin C may be able to maintain or protect the body's levels of nitric oxide. Nitric oxide's function is specifically to help maintain healthy blood pressure. Past research revolving around the health benefits of vitamin C have focused on the nutrient's possible role as a diuretic. As such, it may help the kidneys to more efficiently rid the body of excess sodium and water, which

has the effect of lowering blood pressure by relaxing blood vessels.

What are the Johns Hopkins researchers recommending as a result of their findings?

Nothing yet. Dr Edgar R Miller III, one of the lead researchers in the study, said in the team's official press release that it was too soon to recommend a specific course of action. Further study is required to determine the exact effects of vitamin C on blood pressure.

What has been the critical response to the study's findings?

According to WebMD, the researchers involved in the study have themselves pointed out that the studies that they analyzed were usually small. They also pointed out that some of the patients in question were being prescribed blood pressure medication, which could have skewed the results.

Additionally, this initial study was not designed to prove whether there were any long-term benefits of taking higher doses of vitamin C. In particular, there was no evidence to suggest that taking large amounts of vitamin C would lower a person's risk of developing cardiovascular issues or having a stroke. —Internet



Details of children born after in vitro fertilization procedure (IVF) are seen on the board at Novum clinic in Warsaw.—REUTERS

Birth defects more common in IVF babies

WARSAW, 23 April—Babies conceived through certain fertility treatment techniques are about one-third more likely to have a birth defect than babies conceived without any extra help from technology, according to a review of several dozen studies.

However, the researchers, whose findings were published in the journal *Fertility and Sterility*, did not determine why fertility treatments are tied to a higher risk of birth defects or whether the technology is even responsible.

In vitro fertilization (IVF), in which the mother's egg is fertilized outside of her body and then transferred to her womb, has been available to would-be mothers for more than three decades, and numerous studies have looked at the potential hazards of these techniques.

Zhibin Hu at Nanjing Medical University and colleagues collected the

results of 46 studies that compared the number of birth defects among children conceived using an IVF technique to children conceived normally.

For more than 124,000 children born through IVF or using ICSI, in which a single sperm is injected directly into the egg, the risk of having a birth defect was 37 percent higher than that of the other children, they found.

"Children conceived by IVF and/or ICSI are at a significantly increased risk for birth defects, and there is no risk difference between children conceived by IVF and/or ICSI," the team wrote.

According to the US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention, major birth defects, such as malformation of a limb or organ, occur in about three out of every 100 babies born in the United States. A 37 percent increase would bump that rate to four out of every 100 babies.

Reuters

Hospitals see decline in care-related infections



A patient waits in the hallway for a room to open up in the emergency room at Ben Taub General Hospital in Houston, Texas.—REUTERS

ATLANTA, 23 April—The United States is making progress in reducing the spread of infections to patients while they are in the hospital, the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention said on Thursday.

Twenty-one states reported reductions in so-called "central line" bloodstream infections from 2009-2010, according to the federal health agency, which used data from a state-by-

state tracking system.

A central line is a tube inserted into a large vein of a patient's neck or chest for treatment, often while the patient is in intensive care. When not put in correctly or kept clean, the lines can become "a freeway for germs to enter the body and cause serious bloodstream infections," the CDC said.

Nationwide, there was a 32 percent decline in central line bloodstream infections from 2009-2010, said Dr Scott Fridkin, deputy chief of the surveillance branch in the CDC's division of health care quality promotion. The decline was even greater at 35 percent among intensive care patients, he said.

Fridkin attributed the reduced number of health care-related infections to national and state prevention efforts.

There were smaller reductions in infections caused by other surgical procedures, Fridkin said. "There's a lot of room for progress with surgical site infection prevention," he said.

With a state-by-state reporting system called the National Health Care Safety Network, launched in 2006, hospitals can compare their own infection rates with similar facilities. More than 5,000 acute-care hospitals now report data to the network.

Reuters

Bank of Canada head urges caution on housing market

TORONTO, 23 April—Parts of the Canadian housing market, especially condominiums in some major cities, have seen prices jump to levels that warrant caution, the head of the country's central bank said in an interview broadcast on Saturday. "There are issues, particularly in some parts of the country in the condo market, without question, where activity has been particularly strong, has reached back to levels of the late 1980s," Bank of Canada Governor Mark Carney said when asked if Canada was experiencing a housing bubble. "And in some of our major cities, without question, valuations are extremely firm, to put it one way. And so some caution is warranted in that environment." Carney did not mention specific regions or cities.

He noted that regulators

had toughened underwriting standards for home equity loans and the federal government had tightened mortgage rules three times to cool the housing market. The central bank has previously suggested hiking interest rates to cool housing would be a last line of defence.

Recent data showed Canadian home prices fell in



The Bank of Canada building is pictured in Ottawa.—REUTERS

March from year-ago levels, but that prices in Toronto, which has seen a condominium construction boom, jumped 10.5 percent. Some analysts also are

concerned about Vancouver's housing market and condo sector. While overall prices there have cooled from a year ago, it remains Canada's most expensive property market. Unlike the United States, Canada has experienced a post-financial crisis housing market rally triggered by record low borrowing costs. Carney spoke after the Bank of Canada surprised markets last week by explicitly warning it may need to start raising interest rates given reduced slack in the economy.

The central bank chief reiterated in the interview that the economy was almost back to full capacity. "It's in that environment that given the fact that rates are exceptionally low, there's considerable monetary policy stimulus, that we have signaled that if this continues, in light of this situation, some modest withdrawal of that considerable monetary stimulus may become appropriate," he said.—Reuters



A sign with the YPF Gas logo is seen outside a gas distributor in Moreno, Buenos Aires Province on 19 April, 2012. REUTERS

Argentina's YPF cuts computer links with Repsol

LONDON, 23 April—Argentine oil group YPF has cut computer links with parent Repsol, two sources familiar with the matter said on Sunday, following Buenos Aires' plans unveiled last week to seize control of the leading energy company.

The move is the latest in a string of actions that have shut Spain's Repsol out of YPF, even before Argentina has implemented laws to provide the basis for the nationalization.

Last Monday, President Cristina Fernandez announced plans to expropriate a controlling 51 percent stake in YPF by seizing most of

Repsol's shares, saying a failure of Repsol to invest sufficiently in YPF was contributing to an energy crunch in the country.

Repsol, which holds about 57 percent of YPF, said it had consistently raised investment at YPF and analysts said Argentina's price controls on oil and gas were the reason companies had not invested more in production.

Local media said that even before Fernandez finished her speech, the government's representative on YPF's board of directors, Roberto Baratta, had entered YPF's offices and read out

the names of executives who would have to leave the premises immediately.

Hours after the expropriation was announced live on national television, the state-appointed interim administrator, Planning Minister Julio De Vido, occupied the company's offices in the upscale neighborhood of Puerto Madero.

The two sources said that days later, YPF shut down electronic communications with Repsol, preventing Repsol from accessing information about YPF's operations.

Reuters

Wen, Merkel jointly open Hannover trade fair

HANNOVER, 22 April — Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao and German Chancellor Angela Merkel jointly opened the Hannover trade fair here on Sunday. In a speech delivered at the opening ceremony, Wen said China and Germany, two of the most important manufacturing countries in the world, are working closely to promote dialogue and cooperation of the global industries, and this will surely play a more important role in advancing global industrial innovation and development. China is the official partner country of this year's Hannover trade fair, the largest industrial expo in the world. Over 500 Chinese companies attended the fair, showcasing their innovative products or technologies in new energy, electric vehicles and intelligent manufacturing. Wen said in his speech that the People's Republic of China has achieved tremendous progress in industrialization since its founding, especially after the introduction of the reform and opening-up policy in the late 1970s. China would continue its market-oriented reforms,



Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao (2nd L) and German Chancellor Angela Merkel (2nd R) attend the opening ceremony of the Hannover Industrial Fair in Hannover, Germany, on 22 April, 2012.—XINHUA

remain open to the outside world, promote scientific and technological innovation, and promote industrialization, urbanization and agricultural modernization in a coordinated way, he said.

Products made in China are generally still at the mid-low end of the global industrial chain, and have a long way to go to catch up with the advanced levels, said the Chinese leader. China will continue to build an innovation-driven economy, accelerate the shift of growth model and economic

restructuring, and endeavor to achieve a transition from "made in China" to "created by China." China will embark on a new path of industrialization, which features high technology, good economic returns, low consumption of resources, low pollution and full exploitation of human resources, Wen said. The international financial crisis has brought huge impacts as well as new opportunities for global industrial development, he said, adding that it is an important mission for the

world to overcome the global financial crisis. Wen put forward a three-point proposal in this regard. First, he asked to put more resources to spur the development of the real economy, and create an environment conducive to job creation and the development of the real economy. Second, he urged efforts to vigorously push for innovation-based growth of the global economy.

Third, he asked for openness and cooperation. Wen said the world's economies should reject all forms of protectionism, move faster to improve global economic governance and make it fairer and more equitable. "We should work together to meet global challenges and make the world a better place for us all," he told the audience.

China's industrialization will continue to advance rapidly for a long time to come, creating huge development potentials and business opportunities for both Chinese and foreign companies, the Chinese premier said.—Xinhua

British TV crew freed in Bahrain

LONDON, 23 April — A team of journalists for Britain's Channel 4 News was released Sunday after being detained while covering Bahrain's Grand Prix race, which went ahead after a week of angry protests away from the track Foreign affairs correspondent

arrested while reporting from a village in Bahrain after the race, a Channel 4 News spokesman said. "Our primary concern is for the safety of the team, and we are working with the appropriate authorities to secure a swift release," the spokesman said shortly after



Toppled barricades and rocks litter the street in Bilad al-Qadeema, a suburb of the capital Manama, on 21 April. A team of journalists for Britain's Channel 4 News was released on Sunday after being detained while covering Bahrain's Grand Prix race, which went ahead after a week of angry protests away from the track.—INTERNET

Jonathan Miller wrote on microblogging site Twitter that he and his crew had been released and were being deported, but that his Bahraini driver and an activist who was travelling with them were still being held. Security forces told the Channel 4 team that the pair would be released soon.

Miller and his team were

their arrest. British Foreign Secretary William Hague wrote on Twitter that he was "very concerned" about the detention and confirmed the British embassy sought urgent consular access.

Miller managed to talk to Channel 4 News while being taken to the police station, revealing that he and his team were surrounded by riot police after being detained following a short car chase.

After leaving the race, Miller headed to a number of Shia villages on the edge of Bahrain City where protests were expected.

The team was on its way back to edit footage of the protests when it was apprehended by security forces, who Miller claimed had been "very aggressive".

Internet

Qantas chief calls for second Sydney airport

SYDNEY, 23 April — Qantas chief Alan Joyce Monday said bottlenecks at Sydney airport were unsustainable and called for a second hub in the city before its global reputation was damaged. Sydney's Kingsford Smith Airport is the main gateway into Australia and Joyce said its capacity limits needed to be fixed. "We cannot afford to wait much longer to make a decision about a second airport for Sydney," he said in an opinion piece for the Sydney Daily Telegraph.

"Aviation is too important, not just to Sydney and New South Wales, but to Australia. This is a national issue that will not go away. It needs to be fixed." Sydney is

Qantas's headquarters and Joyce said it was already facing serious problems, with a Boeing 747 often taking up to two hours to be towed from one end of the airport to the other.

He said planes were routinely stuck for 30 minutes circling Sydney due to congestion, while others were unable to take off on time. "With a quarter of Qantas's departures leaving from Sydney, there is no escaping the consequences of bottlenecks at our main airport hub," he said.

The federal government is in favour of a second airport in the city with Infrastructure Minister Anthony Albanese recently saying limitations were already hurting the

economy. He said that by 2035 the cost to national GDP of turning away flights would be Aus\$6 billion (US\$6.2 billion), and nearly six times more by 2060. But New South Wales state Premier Barry O'Farrell is against the idea, insisting Sydney is too urbanised for another hub. He prefers expanding the airport at national capital Canberra and introducing high-speed trains linking it with Sydney, some 280 kilometres (173 miles) away.

Internet

A lion cub plays with a snowball at the Belgrade Zoo in Serbia.
XINHUA



Pollution a source of nuisance to Afghans

KABUL, 23 April — "If not exaggerated, I eat about 1 kg dust from dawn to dusk every day and then shut down my shop and go home," a vegetable seller Mohammad Karim said. During his work in a makeshift vegetable market in Afghan capital Kabul, Karim, 28, complains of the polluted environment, saying that he has already got coughing and his throat has got irritation. Like other poor war nations, the war-ravaged Afghanistan has been facing numerous challenges including pollution.

Kabul, the capital of the war-torn but under-construction Middle Asian nation, has not been spared, as poor civic amenities, battered streets and pitiable

sewerage system have hugely contributed to the pollution there. The volume of pollution in Kabul City where all political, military and diplomatic missions are located and where some 4 million people are said to be living, can be gauged from the fact that a thick clod of cloud-like dust covers the city space almost every day.

"The environment and the air of our cities including Kabul are hugely polluted which is extremely hazardous to our health and even causes ailment and mortality," Ghulam Mohammad Malikyar, the Deputy to Environment Directorate, told Xinhua. He also said that the rate of pollution in the capital City Kabul has reached the alarming level and warned "living in

Kabul would be unsafe after five years if the status quo continues." Contrary to developed and developing nations, Afghanistan faces no problem of greenhouse gases, rather the lack of drainage system and the surge of second-hand vehicles that have caused the air pollution.

There is no chemical factory or plant in Afghan cities to produce carbon dioxide or other gases. Moreover, burning tires in public baths, battered roads, congested streets, smoke emitting from vehicles and poor forestation campaign have been contributing to the polluting environment. "Building unplanned houses, dense population and the lack of sewage system would

gradually contaminate underground water in Kabul and eventually cause a variety of diseases," Malikyar warned. More than 50 percent of Afghans are said to have no access to potable water. In addition to the government's support for greenery, a Kabul-based non-governmental organization — Green Club, celebrated the International Earth Day (22 April) by holding a number of programmes, calling on Afghans to make effort to keep the environment clean. Like security problems in the militancy-plagued Afghanistan, the high rate of pollution would also hurt people, Abdullah Fahim, advisor to the Afghan Public Health Ministry said.

Xinhua



A passenger waits for Qantas flights to resume service at Sydney Airport in October 2011. Sydney's Kingsford Smith Airport is the main gateway into Australia and Qantas chief Alan Joyce said its capacity limits needed to be fixed.—INTERNET

NAY PYI TAW, 23 April—Jointly conducted by the Ministry of Information and International Media Support (IMS), Workshop on Broadcast Media Regulation was held at Fantastic Hall of Hotel Amara in Nay Pyi Taw Hotel Zone here today.

In his opening address, Deputy Minister for Information U Soe Win stressed the importance of the workshop saying that it was the vital importance for media reforms in Myanmar and was the latest development of the fast advancing TV and radio industry of the country.

According to the deputy minister, Myanmar started radio broadcasting in 1936 and TV broadcasting in 1980. 2004 to date, the State paved the way for private sector participation in the broadcasting industry development drive.

In consequence, the Myanmar Radio and TV and Forever Group Co, Ltd jointly launched the MRTV-4 channel in 2004 and in 2010 MRTV in cooperation with Shwe Thanlwin started to air Myanmar International-MI channel. Moreover, 52 pay-TV channels covering international news, sports and movie programs under DVB-T system and 46 DTH system channels have appeared. The Yangon City Development Committee launched its FM radio program in 1997. In 2008 six government-private joint-

venture FMs began operations in 14 Regions and States.

TV and radio of Myanmar saw progress in the recent years, and it would gain rapid progress in the coming years, the deputy minister said.

He continued to say that Myanmar promulgated TV and Video Law in 1996 and the country need a law that would go well with the changing situation. The Ministry of Information had studied international and ASEAN laws and had made preparations to draft a Broadcasting Laws and it started to draft the law in 2008, he said. The aim of the workshop was to get suggestions and advice from international experts and domestic private media in addition to knowledge on foreign laws, he said.

He continued to say that the first was the provisions of the law must be as per the provisions of the Constitution, the second was to take into consideration future broadcasting models such as IPTV, Public Service Broadcasting Community Radio apart from existing models in Myanmar, the third was to keep in mind the appropriate percentage of health and education programs, ratio of commercial, the percentage of station created programs in overcoming the challenges of the country would face in liberalizing the TV and radio media.

Workshop on Broadcast Media Regulation held



Workshop on Broadcast Media Regulation in progress at Fantastic Hall of Hotel Amara in Nay Pyi Taw Hotel Zone.—MNA

The fourth point was to consider whether Myanmar needed to include the Internet which was the new media apart from radio and TV in drafting the law, he said. The final point was to consider whether the country needed an organization for development of TV and radio media that would emerge according to the law, observance of the media ethics and facilitation of technical and technical development, he said.

He quoted the speech of President U Thein Sein in his

address to the Union Government on 31 March 2011, saying that the president made it clear that new laws and rules should not be an obstacle to the fundamental rights of citizens; instead, they should serve as a check and balance for correctly exercising the fundamental rights of citizens without harming the interest of the Union and human society. Accordingly, he suggested not to draft the new broadcasting law with the intention of banning or hampering the press freedom and the new law should be to facilitate the correct use of

press freedom for long-term progress of Myanmar media world without damaging the interest of human society.

Afterwards, Mr Ranga Kalansooriya of International Media Support (IMS) extended greetings and Mr Toby Mendel and Deputy Director-General of Myanmar Radio and Television U Tin Wan discussed the subject entitled "International Standards and Main Issue for Myanmar."

In the afternoon, Mr Toby Mendel discussed Licensing and Convergence, Regulation of Content and Public Broadcasting and answered questions of

participants of the workshop.

Afterwards, workshop participants discussed "Other Issues and Agreement On Key Principles" and the workshop ended.

Also present at the workshop together with Deputy Minister for Information U Soe Win were departmental officials, responsible personnel from MRTV and Myawady TV, Forever Group Co Ltd, Family Entertainment, Shwethanlwin Media Co Ltd, Cherry FM, Ruby FM, Bagan FM, Yatanarpon Teleport, the Mizzima News Agency, inviting guests and NGOs.

MNA



Chinese national acrobatic team to visit Myanmar

NAY PYI TAW, 23 April—To foster the mutual understanding between China and Myanmar and to deepen the amity between the two peoples, Chinese acrobatics team under social and cultural

exchange programme of the two countries will visit Myanmar from 27 April to 6 May to entertain in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon and Mandalay.

The entrance fees from the entertainment shows

will be donated to Myanmar Libraries Foundation. The Chinese artistes will stage performance at National Theatre on 29 and 30 April in Yangon. Tickets are available at Ph: 01-382489.

MNA

Summer break

Than Daing Kaung (Meiktila)

"There is a real disadvantage in not being a teenager during Thingyan. If you don't happen to be preoccupied with hair-dyeing or biking with deafening noise the town doesn't want to know you. As far as it's concerned, you cease to exist a few years after you hit sixty". There are the first words I hear as I drop into a downtown teashop. It is a place of money-fueled traders where the rhythm of life even just after Thingyan doesn't seem slow. I amble over there with the intention to relax in a friendly camaraderie. Sitting at a corner table are my two garrulous friends chattering about time which appears as transient as Padauk (Pterocarpus macrocarpus) blossoms.

In ancient times people gave names to the group of stars which were in a belt in the sky called the Zodiac. 'Tagu' the first month in Myanmar calendar coincides with 'meitha'—Aries: the first sign of the Zodiac. Padauk blossoms symbolize both 'Tagu' and Thingyan when Myanmar New Year is ushered in leaving behind the old year.

As for me each year, new or old, brings with it a lasting gift to the fullness of experience to be treasured up, savored and remembered. They need not be startling, these gifts of years, they may be things that may be within everyone's reach.

Last year I worked as a teacher at a village school ten miles to the east of Meiktila. And every chance I got I joined a family working their land near the school. As we went home from a day's hard work in their vineyards, the old farmer whose name is U Thein Tun used to say to me, "We can't buy time, we have to make the best use we can of each moment." His working philosophy did amount to something. He could buy a house in the town.

On the last day of Thingyan down in town so many of out-of-control breakers were pouring in that the policemen had to come up with a regulation of law. However, the blowout at the central Pandol from around the country turned into a street party and revelled until a bus carrying 'Group of Mothers' arrived.

This year Meiktila Thingyan's most touching moment was when the efforts of 'Group of Mothers' have taken to our town to entertain at the Central Pandol. The full force of cheering applause erupted into the 4th Thingyan night sky as soon as Daw Nwe Nwe San and her eight colleagues hit the stage and took full fifteen minutes giving the audience a very rare chance to watch their suave dance. If you want to find deep meanings under their surfaces, feel free. After sitting through their performance, most anything will look profound this experience will remain cherished through my lifetime.

When I got up from my seat to go home, a strong arm gripped my hand and took me to a teashop on the other side of the street.

"I'm so glad to see you U Thein Tun, when did you come from the vineyard?"

"From the first day of Thingyan I like and value the Water Festival very much. It has been a source of enrichment for the respect of traditional culture," he said.

Then some revellers came to our table and danced around us.

"This merry-making, my son a policeman says, is just summer break." U Thein Tun said "It'll go away." Until next year.

Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann holds talks with Swiss Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs Dr. Beat Nobs

Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann receives a Swiss delegation led by Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs Dr. Beat Nobs at Pyithu Hluttaw meeting hall of Hluttaw Building.

MNA



NAY PYI TAW, 23 April—Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann received a Swiss delegation led by Swiss Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs Dr. Beat Nobs at Pyithu Hluttaw meeting hall of the Hluttaw Building here this noon.

Also present at the call with the Speaker of Pyithu

Hluttaw were Deputy Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Nanda Kyaw Swa, chairmen of the Hluttaw committees and officials concerned.

The meeting focused on matters relating to the Hluttaws, further cementing relationships between Myanmar and Switzerland, as well as progress of democracy

reforms in Myanmar.

Swiss Assistant Foreign Affairs Minister Dr. Beat Nobs made a donation of publications to the library of the Hluttaw.

The delegation viewed progress of the Hluttaw session.—MNA

Union Cooperatives and L&F Minister meets villagers in Lewe Tsp

NAY PYI TAW, 23 April—Union Minister for Cooperatives and for Livestock and Fisheries U Ohn Myint this morning met a total of 850 villagers of twenty villages near Sama Mountain in Thawutthi Village-tract in Lewe Township in Nay Pyi Taw

Council Area.

The Union Minister said that loans would be disbursed with low interest rates to villagers enabling them to generate more income while cooperatives societies would be making endeavors for fulfilling their needs.

Deputy Minister for Livestock and Fisheries U Khin Maung Aye and Deputy Minister for Cooperatives U Than Tun discussed matters relating to progress of livestock breeding and meat and fish production and cooperatives.

MNA

Union Minister looks into Beech-1900D airplane



Dy Construction Minister inspects maintenance of bridges

NAY PYI TAW, 23 April—Deputy Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lwin made inspection tours to Ngamoeyek Bridge (Parami), Twantay Bridge and Seikkyi-Khanaungto Suspension Bridge on 19 April.

The deputy minister looked into maintenances of Ngamoeyek Bridge (Parami) and Twantay Bridge. He then inspected the construction of Seikkyikhanaungto Bridge and its approach earthen road.—MNA

Pyithu Hluttaw session continues...

(From page 1)
ensuring the uprightness of judicial pillar. The proposal would be discussed on 24 April and enrolment lists were invited in the evening.

Emergency commodity and service bill was sent back to the Pyithu Hluttaw with amendments by Amyotha Hluttaw on 23 March. Those who want to submit



Union Supreme Court Judge U Soe Nyunt replies to queries.

MNA

proposals to discuss the amendments are to sign and send letters of reply no later



U Tin Maung, Pyithu Hluttaw Representative of Chanmyathazi Constituency, makes questions.

MNA

than 12 noon on 24 April. Today's session ended at 2 pm and the 20th

day session will be held tomorrow at 1 pm.

MNA

Union Minister for Transport U Nyan Tun Aung inspects Beech-1900D airplane purchased from South Africa.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 23 April—Union Minister for Transport U Nyan Tun Aung and Deputy Minister U Win Shein on 21 April inspected Beech-1900D airplane bought from South Africa at Yangon International Airport.

The Union minister gave instructions on flight capability of the airplane, condition of domestic flights, preparations for chartered flight, installation of modern electronic equipment and flights to remote areas.

After giving instructions on the hangar, the Union Minister heard

reports on plan to maintain ATR airplanes to be able to save foreign exchange and to have experiences of repairing the aircraft on completion of the hangar.

Senior Engineer U Kyaw Zeya of Ground Services Branch reported that passenger transport and ground services earn about US\$ 3 million. Now, more income can be fetched due to landing of non-schedule flights. He reported on supply of vehicles and heavy machinery and maintenance works.

The Union Minister left necessary instructions.

MNA

Amyotha Hluttaw session continues ...

(from page 16)

Regarding the question of Dr Tin Shwe from Yangon Region Constituency No (6) about **whether the factories under the Industry Ministry would manufacture consumer goods which were previously sold by former Ministry of Industry (1) and sold at Win Thuzar shops, and the current condition of domestic automobile production following old cars swap scheme and issuance of permits to purchase automobiles for abroad while industrial zones were manufacturing automobiles for Myanmar industrial development**, the deputy minister replied that there were a total of 78 Win Thuzar shops in Yangon and other towns. In the time of the incumbent government, the number was decreased to 62, of which 13 were rented to the private businessmen on a yearly basis.

Measures would be taken to let them sell only necessities based on market demand and consumer products like toothpaste and foodstuffs would be sold by the private businessmen. Especially, pharmaceuticals called for systematic storage to ensure consumer safety so that pharmaceutical products would be sold systematically in only some Win Thuzar shops.

In the market economy, the market sets the price and thus there was no plan to sell such consumer products at a loss. The remaining Win Thuzar shops would be kept on opening so as to make sure people have easy access to essential consumer products.

Regarding the second question, Automobile, Motorcycle manufacturing Development Subcommittee under the Industrial Development Committee allowed manufacturing of light trucks, buses, 20-ton trucks and dumper trucks.

It was allowed for manufacturing of multi-purpose vehicles in the past, however, industrial zones could not actually manufacture and pretended to be locally manufacturing importing illegally from abroad. So, it was no longer allowed to produce such vehicles. Now, the domestic automobile makers could manufacture 1-ton and 2-ton light trucks well and those home-made light trucks were found to be contributing much to domestic passenger and commodity transportation.

After issuance of permits to purchase vehicles from abroad, automobiles most imported from abroad were found to be passenger cars. Domestic automobile makers were not allowed to manufacture such cars. The swap scheme had decreased the prices of

all kinds of vehicles in local automobile market, but the decline was reasonable one decreasing from rocket high prices.

Even under the current market price of automobiles, domestic automobile makers were still seeking permits to manufacture already-permitted vehicles, so there were still no desired results. So, it could be concluded that the swap scheme had produced less impacts on domestic automobile market.

Next, Deputy Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs U Tint Lwin replied to questions of two MPs.

Regarding the question of Dr Myat Nyanna Soe from Yangon Region Constituency (4) about **the government's possible assistance for K 5000-SIM card programme presented by a businessman, whether the government could bring down the high-priced internet charges and plans for speedy internet connection**, the deputy minister replied that the Ministry of Communications, Posts and Telegraphs, had been bringing down initial installation charges to ensure the public had access to telecommunication services of international class step by step. In addition, it would extend its mobile phone services to rural regions meeting international norms and the installation charges would be reduced step by step to be level with those of neighbouring countries.

Telecommunications infrastructure for the first year of the mobile phone project took time costing huge amount of cash for initial installation. But in the coming years of the project, the cash capital would be decreased as it only needed to extend the infrastructure on a regular basis. So, phone charges could be reduced to be level with international countries.

The Ministry would work in partnership with communication services companies with experience in international communication sector, strong investment power and advanced technology. There is a lot of local and foreign companies wishing to invest in communication sector. The ministry was holding discussions with some international companies. They said that they can acquire capital, technology and equipment in short period but the classy infrastructural construction would take over one year. Thus, the ministry was committed to seek ways and means to level down the phone charges.

Regarding the second question, the high cost of initial installation, in comparison with neighbours, resulted from costly internet infrastructure. The monthly internet service charge was lesser or level to some countries. Initial installation charges were brought down to half and an increase in number of internet users would lead to decline in initial installation charges, covering the network construction



Deputy Industry Minister U Myo Aung replies to questions.—MNA

costs. Regarding the slow internet connection, experts from National Computer System (NCS) Co Ltd and Loxley Co Ltd for Thailand were invited to Myanmar for two times in November, and December, 2011 to search out the defects from core network of the two ISP in commission to end users, in the ministry's efforts to upgrade the internet network.

According to the suggestion of those experts, the minister was coordinating with foreign companies concerned to extend such connection links as SEA-ME-WE-4 and SEA-ME-WE-5 in addition to old SEAN-ME-WE-3 link, inland fiber links, further installation of ISP Oversea POP each in data centres in Singapore and Hong Kong. In addition, the volume of internet bandwidth would be extended to 14Gb. In near future, pay-as-you-download system would be introduced in WiMax system, which was hoped to bring down the net surfing charges.

Furthermore, according to the discussions at the 11th ASEAN Telecommunication Information and Information Technology Ministers Meeting hosted by Myanmar in December, 2011, the ministry was preparing to hold National ICT Forum in June 2012 to discuss how to increase ICT application inviting local and foreign experts as part of implementing 2nd ICT Master Plan (2010-2015). The suggestions and discussions of the forum would hopefully bring down the charges, making the connection speedier.

Regarding the question of U Than Myint from Taninthayi Region Constituency (11) about **when approximately the reinstallation of collapsed CDMA phone tower in Taninthayi Township would complete**, the deputy minister replied that 32-meter-long tower at 1987 microwave station was damaged due to strong wind and reconstruction of tower foundation was started in January completed in the second week of February. Transmission equipment was then installed



Amyotha Hluttaw representative Dr Myint Kyi of Yangon Region Constituency (8) raising question.—MNA

and finished on 25 March and now the communication was better, said the deputy minister.

Next, Secretary of Bill Committee U San Tun submitted the **import, export bill** amended by Pyithu Hluttaw, along with the report of the committee to Amyotha Hluttaw for its consideration. Next, the Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker informed the bill amending the **1955 Government House (Expelling) Act, foreign investment bill and social security bill** amended and sent back by the Pyithu Hluttaw to the MPs and announced that any MPs wishing to discuss the amendments may register.

U Maung Aye Tun of Rakhine State Constituency (9) proposed that **the government should amend the punishments of criminal law articles 417, 426 and 427, which was approved by the Hluttaw for discussion.**

U Myo Myint of Mandalay region Constituency (6) urged the government to **hire local and international experts and high-level work supervision committee so as to compile reports on economic and engineering development of Myanmar**, which was approved by the Hluttaw for discussion. It then announced that MPs wishing to discuss the proposals were to register.

The meeting was adjourned at 12.5 pm and the 20th day third regular session of First Amyotha Hluttaw would be held at 1 pm tomorrow and the 17th day third regular session of the First Pyidaungsu Hluttaw would be held at 10 am tomorrow.

Seven questions were answered, one bill sent back with amendments by the Pyithu Hluttaw submitted, three bills sent back with amendments by Pyithu Hluttaw informed to Amyotha Hluttaw and two new proposals submitted at today's session.—MNA

Myanmar, Israel to cooperate in higher education

NAY PYI TAW, 23 April—Deputy Minister for Education U Ba Shwe received Israeli Ambassador Mr Yaron Mayer and party at the Ministry of Education, here,

this afternoon.

They discussed cooperation in higher education between Israel and Myanmar.

MNA



Deputy Education Minister U Ba Shwe receives Israeli Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Yaron Mayer and party.—MNA

Construction of road sections inspected

NAY PYI TAW, 23 April—Deputy Minister for Construction U Soe Tint on 20 April inspected Yangon-Mandalay Expressway and Meiktila-Kalaw-Taunggyi section of Meiktila-Taunggyi-Kengtung-Tachilek Road.

He looked into progress of Meiktila-

Kalaw-Taunggyi Road by Hilly Region Road Construction Co Ltd and Meiktila-Nantpanet-Kalaw-Taunggyi Road.

The deputy minister gave instructions on construction of the roads meeting set standards for prioritizing safety.—MNA

Yangon Mayor views construction of roads, bridges

YANGON, 23 April—Yangon Mayor Yangon Region Minister for Development Affairs U Hla Myint this morning made an inspection tour of roads here.

The mayor looked into extension of roads, construction of bus stop, repaving of roads, cultivation of flowery plants at traffic islands and pavements, maintenance of roads and repaving of concrete roads in Dagon,

Sangyoung, Hline, Mayangon, Insein and North Okkalapa townships.

The mayor also inspected progress of Ngamoeik Bridge (Parami) linking Dagon Myothit (North) and South Okkalapa townships, placing of asphalt layer on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road in Mayangon Township, placing of concrete blocks and construction of drains in Mingala Taungnyunt Township.—MNA

Respects paid to older persons in South Okkalapa Township



YANGON, 23 April—A ceremony to pay respects to older persons was held at Thiri Yadana Hall of No. 1 Basic Education High School in South Okkalapa Township of Yangon Region on 17 April.

On the occasion, Township Administrator U Chit Thein and Ward 7 Administrator U Than Win made speeches.

Chairperson of Yangon

Region Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee and Women's Affairs Organization Daw Thau Mya, Chairperson of Yangon East District MCWSC Daw Moe Thu Tint, the chairperson of Township MCWA and WAO and members, townsenders and local people and wellwishers donated offertories to the aged.

Myanma Alin

Over 1000 feet deep tube-well successfully sunk in Taungdwingyi

NAY PYI TAW, 23 April—Taungdwingyi Township of Magway District is shortage of water as it is a hot and dry area of central Myanmar. In the region, it is not easy to sink tubewell in under 1000 feet deep to take water and difficulty to sink the well into above 1000 feet deep.

To be able to solve the problem, over 1000 feet deep tube-well has been sunk with the use of pebble in ancient Beikthanoe region of Taungdwingyi Township and it supplies potable water to the local people.

Underground water branch of Water Resources Utilization Department sank one four-inch diameter tube-well in the precinct of Dhamma Meikhet Monastery in Beikthanoe ancient cultural region of the township in May 2011. The tube-well pumps out 2500 gallons of water per hour and stores 35 feet deep of water. The tubewell is 1180 feet deep. According to the

chemical test, the quality of water can be used as drinking water.

With the assistance of the Water Resources Utilization Department, two more tube-wells have been



sunk in 550 new plot in Ohndaw Extended Ward 1 of Taungdwingyi and in the precinct of Beikman Monastery in Taungdwingyi. Arrangements have been made to sink more tube-wells there.

The Water Resources Utilization Department sinks

Health care services provided to children, expectant mothers

YANGON, 23 April—Health staff Daw Aye Aye Tin and party of Insein Township Health Department of Yangon North District provided health care services to children under 1.5 years and expectant mothers at the office of Myothit (C) Ward of Insein Township on 5 April.

They recorded body weights of 41 children and provided necessary vaccinations to them.

Moreover, the health staff and party injected anti-tetanus vaccines to the expectant mothers and broadened their horizon with health knowledge.

Kyemon

Chanmya Marlar Railway Overpass reopened for under-three tons vehicles

MANDALAY, 23 April—Chanmya Marlar Railway Overpass linking 78th and 80th streets in Mahaaungmye Township, opened in 1990, was damaged due to lack of standardization and illegal runs of overload trucks at night.

Thus, the overpass was closed temporarily.

After the Myanmar Railways of Ministry of Rail Transportation carried out major repairing of the overpass, vehicles are allowed to pass on it as of 1 April.

The above-three-ton vehicles are not allowed to pass on the facility. CCTVs have been installed at the

overpass to take images of undisciplined acts that



vehicles broke traffic rules on the overpass to be able to

take deterrent action against them.—Kyemon

DISTRICT NEWS

CASH DONATED: U Thein Zaw-Daw Aye Aye Khaing and family of Ottarathiri Township donated a diathermy worth K 1.72 million to Pyinmana General Hospital (200-bed) of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area on 2 April. Medical Superintendent Dr Hla Hla Kyi accepts the donation.—KYEMON



28-Buddha Images conveyed round Shwegyin

SHWEGYIN, 23 April—The respect paying ceremony to 137 older persons of above 80 years was held at Shwegyin Hall of Basic Education High School in Shwegyin of Bago District in Bago Region on 17 April.

At the ceremony, Township Administrator U Khin Thein Maung explained

the purpose of paying respects.

Those present at the ceremony paid respects to 137 older persons and presented K 11500 each to them.

On Myanmar New Year Day, famous pagodas were packed with pilgrims and those practising meditation

and offering water and flowers.

The 28-Buddha images were conveyed round in processing in Shan/Kyay Ward.

After the processing, the Township Administrator and officials presented prizes to winning teams.

Myanma Alin

Greening tasks undertaken at ancient lake in Yedashe Township

YEDASHE, 23 April—Yedashe Township Development Affairs Committee is striving for greening of Mingala Lake located near Thadawya Pagoda in Thagaya of Yedashe Township.

Thadawya lake is over 100 years old.

Many shade trees and teak plants are grown along the embankments of the lake. Moreover, steel rails and concrete steps are installed at the lake. In addition, the bund is decorated with landscape.

The arrangements have been made to grow shade



trees around the lake in the rainy season.

The local people take relaxation by walking along the bund.—Kyemon

Photo shows decorations and landscape at Thadawya Lake in Thagaya.

Choral dancing troupes awarded in Yangon North District

YANGON, 23 April—The prize presentation of Shweyi Nantha water throwing pandal was held in Yangon North District on 16 April.

Deputy Commissioner U Nay Lin of District General Administration Department presented the first prize to

Mogaung choral dancer troupe of Hlinethaya Township, the second prize to Tagu Shwewa choral dancer troupe of Sawbwagyigon Ward in Insein Township and the third prize to Padauk Shwewa choral dancer

troupe of Myothit (A+B) of Insein Township.

Chairperson of Yangon North District WAO Daw Sein Sein Soe, Township Administrator U Tin Naing Soe and officials presented consolation prizes to the winners.—Kyemon



Police stand outside a bar where 15 people had been killed in Chihuahua on 20 April, 2012.— INTERNET

Fifteen killed in northern Mexican bar shootout

CIUDAD JUAREZ, 23 April — Fifteen people were killed and at least one seriously wounded in a suspected drug-related shootout on Friday in a bar in northern Mexico, a region that has been brutalized by fighting between criminal gangs. On Friday night, armed men entered the bar in Chihuahua, capital of Chihuahua state, and opened fire on various people inside suspected of involvement in drug dealing, the local attorney general's office said in a statement on Saturday.

A local press association said two men killed in the attack were journalists, adding to the tally of media casualties from Mexico's rampant gang violence. The attorney general's office also said two other people

were shot dead in a separate bar attack in the city, bringing Friday's death toll to 17. Since 2008, Chihuahua, and in particular the city of Ciudad Juarez on the border with Texas, has been the area worst hit by bloody turf wars between drug cartels during the crackdown on gangs launched by President Felipe Calderon.

The gang violence and clashes with security forces have killed more than 50,000 people in Mexico in the past five years. However, the number of murders had eased somewhat in Chihuahua over the past year, with some counts suggesting the more easterly border state of Nuevo Leon had suffered more violence in the first months of 2012.—MNA/Reuters

Abducted Spanish doctor freed in Nigeria

ABUJA, 23 April — A Spanish doctor kidnapped in Nigeria's southeastern city of Enugu on 4 April has been freed and is in good health, his country's foreign ministry and Nigerian police said on Saturday. Jose Manuel Machimbarrena Corcuera "was freed on Friday," a ministry spokesman told AFP, adding: "He is tired but in good health." The spokesman said he did not have any details of the circumstances in which the hostage was freed. "We do not know if he is going to stay in Nigeria or return to Spain," he added.

He said the man had been seized for ransom, citing Spanish Foreign Minister Jose Manuel Garcia-Margallo, who had said the "organisation that he belongs to wants the utmost discretion." Spanish media reports said the 58-year-old doctor works for a clinic belonging to a foundation financially supported by Catholic institution Opus Dei in Nigeria. Nigerian police said the hostage was released Friday in Enugu.

"Since his abduction, there has been a serious

manhunt by police in collaboration with other sister security agencies which kept the entire atmosphere uncomfortable and consequently he was let go by his captors," Enugu police spokesman Ebere Amaraizu told AFP. He did not say if a ransom was paid. Scores of kidnappings for ransom have occurred in southern Nigeria, particularly in the oil-producing Niger Delta region, by armed gangs seeking cash. Most victims have been released unharmed following ransom payments.

An insurgency by Islamist group Boko Haram, which is concentrated mainly in northern Nigeria, has left more than 1,000 people dead since mid-2009. Authorities blamed the recent deaths of a British and an Italian hostage in Nigeria's north on a faction of Boko Haram. A German engineer was also kidnapped on the outskirts of the northern city of Kano in January. The group has not been known to operate in the south of Nigeria, Africa's most populous nation and largest oil producer.

Internet



A spoon of caviar is seen during a competition which requires participants to eat half-kilogram of caviar in the fastest possible time in Moscow on 20 April. A 49-year old Russian with a big spoon in hand swallowed a pound (500 grams) of caviar in about 90 seconds.

INTERNET

Russian eats pound of caviar in 90 seconds

MOSCOW, 23 April — A 49-year old Russian with a big spoon in hand swallowed a pound (500 grams) of caviar in about 90 seconds to win what was billed as the world's first eating contest featuring the pricey fish roe. "In Texas, people organise hot dog and hamburger eating championships and contests," the swanky Apartment restaurant said in a press release for the event.

"In Moscow, people eat black caviar instead," it said. The contestants were drawn from 12

winners of a lottery who were each handed a bowl of caviar lined up on a lacquered table while a man in black tie played lounge music on a white grand piano.

Muscovite Alexander Lavrov did not disclose his profession after swallowing about \$5,000 worth of the stuff in a minute and 26 seconds and then raising his arms up to applause. The Moscow River embankment house said it spent around two million rubles (\$70,000) on the promotional event.— Internet

SilkAir to launch flight to central China's Wuhan

BEIJING, 23 April — SilkAir, the regional wing of Singapore Airlines, has announced plans to increase services across China. From 24 April, SilkAir will launch the first flight from Singapore to Wuhan in central China, which will be operated thrice weekly. It will be SilkAir's seventh destination in China.

Flights between Singapore and Changsha will be increased to four times a week from three flights. Two weekly flights will be added to the Singapore-Chongqing route, making it a daily service. As a full-service premium airline, SilkAir currently flies to 38 destinations across 11 countries.

Xinhua



Cargo ship runs aground in western Japan

OSAKA, 23 April — 12 Chinese crew members on board a cargo ship were unhurt after the ship ran aground in a river in western Japan on Saturday, local Press reported. Japanese Coast Guard said it received a message at around 7 pm local time that a cargo ship with 12 Chinese crew members and one crew member from Myanmar ran aground in a river between Shimane Prefecture and Tottori Prefecture in western Japan.

The report said all crew members were unhurt and no oil spill was confirmed. The 2479-ton Kiribati-registered ship carrying pulp departed from a nearby port for China's Nantong City at around 6:30 pm local time. The accident occurred about 30 minutes later most likely due to strong winds which hit the area at the time, the report said.

Xinhua

A still from Hollywood blockbuster "Battle-ship" XINHUA

UK firm's 1,300 staff accidentally given marching orders

LONDON, 23 April — Workers at investment firm Aviva Investors got a shock on Friday when the company accidentally sent an email with leaving instructions intended for one departing employee to the entire worldwide staff of 1,300 people. The firm's human resources department realized its mistake and recalled the offending message 25 minutes later and soon afterwards sent out another email apologizing to staff for the error, company spokesman Paul Lockstone said.

"An email which was intended for a member of staff who was leaving today was accidentally sent to all Aviva Investors staff worldwide," Lockstone said. "People were pretty quickly aware of the fact that this was

a mistake ... I don't believe any of our staff would have seen it really as anything other than the mistake that it was."

The email was a standard message sent to people leaving the company, covering things such as handing back company equipment and confidentiality rules, and did not tell recipients they were fired, Lockstone said. Aviva Investors is the fund management arm of UK-based Aviva plc, the world's sixth-largest insurance group, and manages assets of more than 262 billion pounds (\$420 billion). It said in January it would shed around 160 jobs, about 12 percent of its global workforce. Lockstone said he did not know why the intended recipient of the email was leaving the company.— Reuters

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Dated :24 April, 2012.

Police hope grainy photos catch banker's shooter

LONDON, 23 April — The police released grainy photos on Monday of a man suspected of shooting a former Russian banker near London's Canary Wharf financial district in a case that has raised fears that Russian gangland violence could be spreading to Britain. Financier German Gorbuntsov, 45, was shot five times as he entered a block of flats where he lives near the River Thames in the east of the capital on 20 March. He survived the attack, but was critically injured and is recovering in hospital where his condition was described as stable.

London's Metropolitan Police have made no arrests in the case and say they are keeping an open mind about the motive.—Internet

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV FORTUNE HERO VOY NO (-)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV FORTUNE HERO VOY NO (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 17.4.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: CITIC SHIP MANAGEMENT LTD CHINA**

Phone No: 256924/256914

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV CORAL HERO VOY NO (117)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV CORAL HERO VOY NO (117) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 21.4.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of B.S.W-3 where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: EASTERN CAR LINER S'PORE PTE LTD**

Phone No: 256924/256914

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV KOTA RATU VOY NO (489)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA RATU VOY NO (489) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 23.4.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S ADVANCE CONTAINER LINES**

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV GENIUS STAR VIII VOY NO (30)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV GENIUS STAR VIII VOY NO (30) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 17.4.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P.L where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: TOKO KAIUN KAISHA LTD**

Phone No: 256924/256914

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV PHUONG NAM-68 VOY NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV PHUONG NAM-68 VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 24.4.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T-1 where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: RK SHIPPING & TRADING PTE LTD**

Phone No: 256924/256914

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV FORTUNE TRADE-1 VOY NO (229)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV FORTUNE TRADE-1 VOY NO (229) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 21.4.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W-6 where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: EASTERN CAR LINER S'PORE PTE LTD**

Phone No: 256924/256914

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV KOTA TAMPAN VOY NO (441)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA TAMPAN VOY NO (441) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 23.4.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S ADVANCE CONTAINER LINES**

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV ZAMBLES VOY NO (100)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ZAMBLES VOY NO (100) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 19.4.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P.L where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: TOKO KAIUN KAISHA LTD**

Phone No: 256924/256914

Germany sends grenades in potato shipment

Two World War II-era hand grenades were discovered in a shipment of potatoes from Germany being unloaded at a Greek processing plant, police said. Greek police say they've launched a preliminary investigation into Thursday's incident at the Atalanti factory where the first rusty grenade, minus its detonator, was found by workers who heard a unique sound during the potatoes' pre-wash stage, the *Athens-Macedonian News Agency* reported.

After workers on the night shift discovered a second grenade in the same shipment the plant was shut down and police were called. Bomb-disposal experts arrived Friday to neutralize the weapons, the news agency said.



**Renowned
"Karat chef"
Angelito
Araneta Jr
places African
diamonds on
top of pearls to
re-create his
Guinness World
Record for
most expensive
sushi in Manila
recently.**

Man put police car gas theft pic online

A 20-year-old Kentucky man is facing a theft charge after he allegedly stole gas from a police cruiser and posted a picture of the crime on Facebook.

Michael Baker was arrested by Jenkins police after officers discovered the Facebook picture of him using a tube and a gas can to steal fuel from the tank of the police cruiser, WYMT-TV, Hazard, reported on Wednesday.

Baker and his girlfriend, who snapped the photo, said the incident was supposed to be a joke.

"We was just standing there and thought it would be funny to take a picture and then post it on Facebook," Baker said.

News Album

Every bride's dream, a toilet paper gown

The call is out in the United States and Canada for anyone who can create a wedding gown from toilet paper, and contest organizers say first prize is \$2,012.

The eighth annual "Toilet Paper Wedding Gown Contest," sponsored by Charmin, Procter & Gamble's toilet tissue division, and a Florida-based Web site devoted to "cheap chic" weddings, was announced Thursday.

Contestants, who must be 18 or older, are to make a wedding dress of Charmin toilet paper and then submit photographs of the creation. The only other materials allowed are tape, glue and thread. The organizers pointed out, in a statement, that the competition is directed to those for whom "saving money on weddings is more than a hobby and a little less than an obsession."

Wedding gown creators

have until 1 June to complete their entries. The winner will receive a \$2,012 prize, with \$1,000 for second place and \$500 for third, at an event in late June hosted by the "Ripley's Believe It or Not! Times Square Odditorium" in New York.

The rules do not limit the number of rolls that can be used in creating the gowns, and made no mention of what to do with those small cardboard tubes.

Hen has chick without laying egg

A hen in Sri Lanka gave birth to a chick without an egg, veterinary officials said. Instead of being laid by the hen and incubated in the nest, the egg was incubated inside the hen for 21 days and then the chick hatched inside the mother. The chick is normally formed and healthy, veterinarians say, although the mother hen died.

The government veterinary officer in the area, PR Yapa, said he had never seen anything like it before, the BBC reported. An examination of the hen's carcass showed the fertilized egg had developed within the hen's reproductive system but stayed inside the hen's body until it hatched, Yapa said.

The examination showed the hen died of internal wounds. The story has made headlines in Sri Lanka, the BBC said, with one Sri Lankan newspaper carrying the headline: "The chicken came first; not the egg."

'Catching Fire' close to getting director



American director Francis Lawrence attends the premiere of "I Am Legend" at Odeon, Leicester Square in London on 19 December, 2007.—INTERNET

LOS ANGELES, 23 April—Lionsgate plans to offer Francis Lawrence a deal to direct "Catching Fire," the sequel to the blockbuster, "The Hunger Games," *The Hollywood Reporter* said.

Gary Ross, who co-wrote and directed the first installment in the film franchise, declined to return for the sequel, saying he didn't think he had enough time to properly prepare before the studio wanted to start shooting.

Lawrence directed "I Am Legend" and "Water for Elephants." *The Hollywood Reporter* said on Thursday an offer was expected to go out to him soon.—*Internet*



Singer-actress Selena Gomez.

Gomez named ambassador of Seacrest's charity

LOS ANGELES, 23 April—Singer-actress Selena Gomez has been appointed ambassador of "American Idol" host Ryan Seacrest's charity foundation.

Seacrest announced the news on his Los Angeles radio show. He revealed that Gomez will join him in highlighting the plight of seriously ill and injured children, reports contactmusic.com.

Gomez made a special appearance last year at The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, joining Seacrest as he hosted the first broadcast from the hospital's multimedia centre, which had been installed by the Ryan Seacrest Foundation.

As the ambassador, she will continue her work with the foundation in an official capacity, visiting new locations and providing

inspiration to sick children.

"The Ryan Seacrest Foundation does such incredible work and I'm thrilled to be a part of it. I'm particularly excited about helping to launch a media centre in my hometown of Dallas at the Children's Medical Centre and giving back to the kids there," said Gomez.

Seacrest is happy with Gomez's association.

"From the beginning, I could tell that Selena really understood our mission. I'm so grateful that she's decided to take on this larger role with us, joining our efforts to bring hope and spirit to seriously ill and injured kids," he said. "With her as ambassador, we will continue to expand our programmes at children's hospitals throughout the country (America)," added Seacrest.—*Internet*

Adele voted as 'new gay icon'

SYDNEY, 23 April—Adele, who picked up thousands of votes in a survey of GaydarRadio listeners in the UK, has taken the gay icon crown from Australian singer Kylie Minogue.

The 23-year-old singer won more than half (55 percent) of the 4,000 votes for the Pop Artist of the Year, while her nearest rival, Lady Gaga, got 18.9 percent.

Other winners were rugby star Gareth Thomas, who was voted Celebrity of the Year picking up more than a quarter (27.1 percent) of the votes, and openly gay Swedish footballer Anton Hysen was named Hero of the Year after getting more than a third of the votes.

"Adele has had a

fantastic year with numerous Grammys and Brit Awards, but we know that this is the accolade she has been waiting for," the *Sydney Morning Herald* quoted Robin Crowley, programme controller at the station, as saying.—*Internet*



Singer Adele

Vanessa Williams looking for love

LOS ANGELES, 23 April—Singer-actress Vanessa Williams is on the lookout for love, and says she would be happy to pamper her man and family.

"I have nothing going on in my life right now, so I have nothing to be naughty about! But I would love to be in a relationship. I'm a

romantic, I love having a partner," contactmusic.com quoted Williams as saying.

"I'm one of those girls that loves to cook and bake and provide. My home is my sanctuary and I love making my home and my family, my dog, everything, part of my life," she added.

The 49-year-old knows

exactly what she wants in her partner.

"He must be available, and not afraid of a relationship. Accomplished and not afraid of a woman, who is accomplished as well. There's nothing wrong with being accomplished," she said.

Internet



Singer-actress Vanessa Williams.

Quick close for 'King's Speech' play

LONDON, 23 April—The producers of the stage version of "The King's Speech" have announced the play will close in London's West End less than two months after it opened.

David Seidler penned the play and script for the 2010 film version, which starred Colin Firth.

Firth won the Best Actor Oscar for his portrayal of Britain's King George VI, a reluctant ruler who overcame a debilitating stammer, and the movie



Colin Firth, pictured in a scene from "The King's Speech" was nominated for best leading actor for his performance in the film for the 83rd annual Academy Awards. The 83rd annual Academy Awards will be held in Los Angeles on 27 February, 2011.—INTERNET

scored the Best Picture Oscar.

Although Seidler wrote the play before the movie, it was not staged until more than two years after the film was released in theaters.

"Two years ago, originating producer Michael Alden was ready to put the play on and the film came along and blocked its path," the producers said in a statement issued to the BBC Friday.

"At the start of this year, we believed that enough time had passed between the film

and our opening. This clearly was not the case," the statement said. "We are extremely proud of what we have accomplished. It is a production of genuine quality that has been critically and publicly acclaimed across the board."

The play is to close 12 May. It stars Charles Edwards as King George VI, Jonathan Hyde as unorthodox Australian speech therapist Lionel Logue, Emma Fielding as Queen Elizabeth, Joss Ackland as King George V and Ian McNeice as Winston Churchill.

Internet

Azarenka, Sharapova lead charge in Stuttgart



World number one
Victoria Azarenka

STUTTGART, 23 April — World number one Victoria Azarenka, second-ranked Maria Sharapova and number three Petra Kvitová begin their French Open build-up on Monday at the star-studded \$740,000 Stuttgart tournament. Belarusian Azarenka, the Australian Open champion, returns to action for the first time since losing her 26-match winning streak to Marion Bartoli in the quarter-finals of the Miami hardcourt event. That loss came after a breathtaking start to 2012 in which the 22-year-old had captured four titles, including her first Grand Slam crown.

Sharapova, who turned 25 on Thursday, was beaten by Azarenka in the Melbourne final and in the Indian Wells title match before losing in the Miami final. The Russian star, who has yet to make the final of the French Open, falling in

the semi-finals twice, believes she has developed a better understanding of claycourt tennis as her career has progressed. "I feel like I've improved with every year that I have been playing on it and I enjoy it," she said. "I feel like you learn so much about the construction of the points and the games — such a cat-and-mouse game. I didn't necessarily like that many years back, but I feel like I'm much better at it and I have improved physically as well."



Maria Sharapova

After local favourite Julia Goerges won the 2011 Stuttgart title, world number 11 Andrea Petkovic is the top-ranked German for this week's tournament. China's Li Na, eighth in the world, Australia's Samantha Stosur, fifth, and former world number

one Caroline Wozniacki of Denmark are all part of the powerful line-up. With Germany desperate for a new star since Steffi Graf dominated women's tennis in the 1990s, Petkovic is leading Germany's tennis revolution. She reached the last eight at the Australian Open in 2011, the first German to reach a Grand Slam quarter-final since 2006.

The 24-year-old followed that up by reaching the quarters of the French and US Opens, the only player all year to make the final eight at three of the four Slams. Having started 2011 ranked 32nd in the world, she reached a high of ninth in December and is back playing after a back injury robbed her of three months of tennis since injury struck in January. Goerges followed Petkovic in the German revival by overpowering Wozniacki in the final here last year with huge serves and groundstrokes on her way to collecting her first Premier title. "I had goosebumps at match point," Goerges said of the Stuttgart final. "It was an unbelievable feeling playing the final with so many people watching." — *Internet*

American Curtis snaps drought with Texas Open win



Ben Curtis holds the champion's trophy after winning the Valero Texas Open at the AT&T Oaks Course at TPC San Antonio, on 22 April, in San Antonio, Texas. — *INTERNET*

SAN ANTONIO, 23 April — Former British Open champion Ben Curtis registered his first PGA Tour victory in six years by holding off a pair of pursuers down the stretch to claim an emotional two-stroke victory at the Texas Open in San Antonio on Sunday. Curtis, the 2003 British Open winner, made a 22-foot par-saving putt at the 17th hole and then sank a birdie putt at the last to finish

with a flourish for a level-par 72 and nine-under 279 total at TPC San Antonio.

"I don't know how I did it," Curtis said in a greenside TV interview, choking back tears. "Somehow these last couple of years, just fighting through it, and stay positive. That's all you can do." His fellow-Americans Matt Every (71) and 21-year-old John Huh (69) tied for second at 281

though the outcome was in doubt to the end as they trailed by one stroke heading to the 18th. For the 34-year-old Curtis, who entered the tournament ranked 285th in the world after struggling the last couple of seasons, it was his fourth PGA victory but first since the 2006 Booz Allen Classic. Curtis failed to register a single top-10 finish last year and was playing in just his fourth tournament of the year due to a limited status on the tour. "The last couple of years I felt like I was so close to playing so many good tournaments and just ended up missing the cut by one or having a bad round here or there, and just haven't putted well," Curtis told reporters. "Finally this week, every part of the game together."

Reuters

Juventus' players celebrate their 4-0 victory at the end of their Serie A football match between Juventus and Roma at the "Juventus Stadium" in Turin. — *INTERNET*

Juve take control as Milan slip up again

TURIN, 23 April — Juventus took control of the Serie A title race with a 4-0



victory over Roma on Sunday as AC Milan slipped up again in a 1-1 draw at home to Bologna. It was Juve's sixth win in a row and opened up a three-point lead at the top with five games left.

They also have a better head-to-head record than the rossoneri meaning Milan need to make up four points to hold onto their scudetto

crown. Juve coach Antonio Conte said he doesn't even want to think about what Milan are doing. "We have to look after our own affairs, we're ahead now and we're masters of our own destiny," he said.

"It's useless looking at the others and we'll keep going this way to the end."

Internet



Paris Saint-Germain's French midfielder Jeremy Menez (C) vies with Sochaux' French forward Rafael Dias (L) and Sochaux' French midfielder Marvin Martin during the French L1 football match PSG vs. Sochaux at the Parc des Princes in Paris. Paris Saint-Germain defeated Sochaux 6-1. — *INTERNET*

PSG run riot as Lyon keep top-three dream alive

PARIS, 23 April — Paris Saint-Germain closed to within two points of Ligue 1 leaders Montpellier by overwhelming second-bottom Sochaux 6-1 at a sun-splashed Parc des Princes on Sunday. Goals from Thiago Motta and Jeremy Menez put PSG 3-1 up at half-time, after Modibo Maiga had cancelled out Javier Pastore's opener for the hosts.

Nene claimed a second-half brace before substitute Sylvain Armand got on the score-sheet in injury time as Paris recorded their most emphatic win of the season. "We completely changed our attitude, and this was the right one," said PSG coach Carlo

Anelotti, who had criticised his players after their 1-1 draw at Auxerre. "We looked after the ball very well and we created lots of chances."

Lyon sustained their faint hopes of playing in next season's Champions League by fighting back from two goals down to beat Lorient 3-2 at Stade Gerland, allowing them to return to within six points of third-placed Lille. "I was worried at 2-0, but I told the players at half-time that there was a chance to come back," said Lyon coach Remi Garde, whose side meet third-tier Quevilly in the French Cup final next Saturday.

Internet

Milan coach says nothing is decided yet

ROME, 23 April — AC Milan head coach Massimiliano Allegri refused to shelve his side's Serie A title dreams after they were held to a 1-1 draw by Bologna at home on Sunday. The Rossoneri were a point behind Serie A leaders Juventus going into the weekend and are now on level terms after scraping a stoppage-time 1-1 draw with Bologna.

"We had to get the points this afternoon," admitted Allegri. "In the second half the team believed and created many chances. Unfortunately we were unable to win." "If

Juventus win tonight against Roma, then they have a great chance of winning the Scudetto. If they do not, then it's all the same as it was before. "Do Milan deserve the title? If we finish above Juve, then yes. If Juventus finish the season in front then they'll deserve it, but nothing is decided yet."

"Don't forget not even second place is mathematically secure either. Now we have to win the next game," he added. Juventus took control of the Serie A title race with a 4-0 victory over Roma. It was Juve's sixth win in a row and opened up a three-point lead at the top with five games left.

Xinhua

Valencia, Atletico, Bilbao win before Europa semis

VALENCIA, 23 April — Atletico Madrid and Athletic Bilbao all collected wins in La Liga on Sunday, providing crucial boosts ahead of their Europa League semi-finals involvement on Thursday. Third-placed Valencia beat nine-man Real Betis 4-0 at home with goals from Jonas Gonzales, Sofiane Feghouli, Roberto Soldado and Pablo Piatti to stay on track for a Champions League place next season. Valencia are now six points ahead of

city rivals Levante in fifth place and with only four games left are close to assuring Champions League qualification for next season. The result also means Valencia will go into the second-leg of their Europa League semi-final at home to Atletico in good spirits as they look to turn around a 4-2 deficit.

The win puts Atletico into seventh position, three points behind Malaga, who currently hold a Champions League place, and level on points with Athletic Bilbao in sixth who

beat Racing Santander 1-0. Gaizka Toquero got the first-half goal for Bilbao that almost certainly condemns Racing Santander to relegation. Athletic, who trail Sporting Lisbon 2-1 ahead of their Europa League semi-final second leg in Spain on Thursday, are currently in a position that qualifies them for that competition again next season.

Racing are rock-bottom of La Liga, and with only four games left they are 11 points

from safety and very close to losing their place in Spain's top flight that they have held since the 2000-01 season. Real Sociedad and Villarreal shared the points in a 1-1 draw that almost guarantees safety for both clubs. On Saturday a Cristiano Ronaldo winner gave Real Madrid a 2-1 victory in Barcelona that gives 'los blancos' a seven-point advantage over Barca at the top of La Liga and edges them closer to their first title triumph in four seasons. — *Internet*

International Sports

Focus Myanmar TV Programme**MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL**

(24-4-12 09:30 am ~ 25-4-12 09:30 am) MST

- News
- Safety Visit... Shwe Chaung Bridge
- News
- Music Programme
- The Artworks of Bagan Gift Centre
- News
- IWT...Getting Ready for the People and the Country (Part - II)
- News
- "Thingyan Road Trip 2012" Day (3)
- Mawlamyine & Balu Island
- News
- Alluring Myanmar's Rattan Product
- Rakkhine Traditional Wrestling
- News
- Traveling in Shan Mountain Plateau (Pin Loung Gyi Chan Thar Pagoda Festival)
- News
- Myanmar Movies Impact "Destined Couple"
- News
- Zar Ni Aung & Her Goal of Arts
- Fish Culture in Myanmar
- Myanmar Movie "Matchmaking Wreath"

MYANMAR TV

(24-4-2012) (Tuesday)

7:00 am

1. Paritta By Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw

7:25 am

2. To Be Healthy Exercise

7:40 am

3. Nice & Sweet Song

8:05 am

4. Songs Of Yester Years

8:25 am

5. Dance Of National Races

8:40 am

6. International News

3:15 pm

7. AFC Cup 2012 Group Stage Football (Live) Ayeyawady United (Myanmar) Vs Arema (Indonesia)

5:45 pm

8. Songs For Upholding National Spirit

5:50 pm

9. Documentary

6:40 pm

10. Sing A Song

7:15 pm

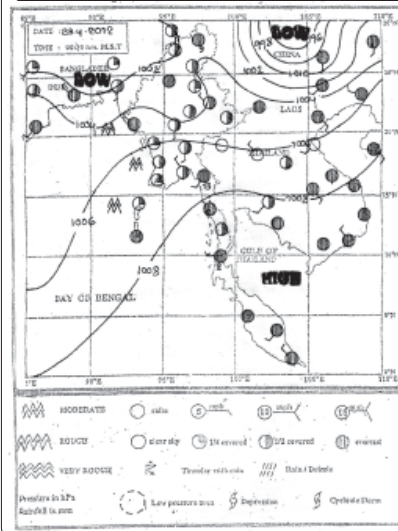
11. TV Drama Series

8:00 pm

12. News

13. Documentary

14. India Drama Series

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas**Weather forecast for 24th April, 2012**

Sr. No.	Region/States	Temperature (C/F)		For Tomorrow	
		Maximum	Minimum	Forecast	Percent
1	Kachin	31/88	21/70	Likelihood of scattered rain or thundershowers	(60%)
2	Kayah	35/95	23/73	Partly cloudy	
3	Kayah	37/99	23/73	Likelihood of scattered rain or thundershowers	(60%)
4	Chin	27/81	16/61	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	(60%)
5	Upper Sagaing	36/100	23/73	Likelihood of scattered rain or thundershowers	(60%)
6	Lower Sagaing	43/109	23/73	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	(60%)
7	Tanintharyi	36/97	25/77	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	(60%)
8	Bago	39/102	26/79	Partly cloudy	
9	Magway	43/109	28/82	Partly cloudy	
10	Mandalay	41/106	28/82	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	(60%)
11	Mon	36/97	25/77	Likelihood of scattered rain or thundershowers	(60%)
12	Yangon	36/100	26/79	Partly cloudy	
13	Rakhine	34/93	28/82	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	(60%)
14	Southern Shan	31/88	18/64	Likelihood of scattered rain or thundershowers	(60%)
15	Northern Shan	35/95	17/63	Likelihood of scattered rain or thundershowers	(60%)
16	Eastern Shan	37/99	21/70	Likelihood of scattered rain or thundershowers	(60%)
17	Ayeyawady	39/102	26/79	Partly cloudy	
18	Neighbouring Nay Pyi Taw	40/104	27/81	Partly cloudy	
19	Neighbouring Yangon	38/100	26/79	Partly cloudy	
20	Neighbouring Mandalay	41/106	28/82	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	(60%)

Summary of observations at 09:30 hr MST on today: During the past (24) hours, rain or thundershowers have been scattered in Kayah and Mon States and isolated in Upper Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway and Tanintharyi Regions, Kachin State and weather has been partly cloudy in the remaining Regions and States. Day temperature were (27°C) below April average temperatures in Kachin State, (6°C) above April average temperatures in Chin State, (3°C) to (4°C) above April average temperatures in Sagaing and Magway Regions and about April average temperatures in the remaining Regions and States. The significant day temperatures were Chind (45°C), Minkha (44°C). The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded Kawthung (0.71) inch and Yay (0.56) inch.

Bay Inference: Weather is partly cloudy in the North Bay and partly cloudy to cloudy in the Andaman Sea and elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

State of the Sea: Seas will be moderate in Myanmar waters.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Continuation of likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers in Northern Myanmar areas.

Van Persie named PFA player of year

Arsenal's Robin van Persie catches the ball during their English Premier League soccer match against Newcastle at Emirates Stadium in London on 12 March, 2012.—REUTERS

LONDON, 23 April—Arsenal striker Robin van Persie was named the English Professional Footballers' Association (PFA) player of the year on Sunday after scoring 27 league goals to revive his club's season.

The Dutch international, 28, tops the Premier League scoring charts and Arsenal's third spot with three matches to go after a poor start to the campaign is in large part down to his stunning contribution.

"If other people are saying it, it is special, but it is even more special if your opponents are saying it," the skilful Van Persie told a gala in London.

"If they make up their minds that I'm the best player it is a big honour."

Without their captain, Arsenal could be languishing in mid-table and fans will shudder at the thought of who would score their goals if injury struck or he was tempted away in the search of trophies. The London side have won just the 2005 FA Cup since he joined from Feyenoord in 2004.

Van Persie is the third Dutchman to win the award after Dennis Bergkamp (1997-98) and Ruud van Nistelrooy (2001-02). He was the first Arsenal player to claim it since Thierry Henry in 2004.

Victoria Beckham turns designer hand to cars

BEIJING, 23 April—British fashion designer Victoria Beckham had her soccer-superstar husband "David in mind" when helping create a new special edition of Range Rover's off-road vehicle, the "Evoque".

"I've stayed very true to myself. I've designed a car that I want to drive, a car that I think David wants to drive," the former Spice Girl told Reuters in an interview in Beijing, where she was promoting the vehicle, late on Sunday.

"I think that though women will drive this car, it has a masculine edge. I think it's very cool," she added.

Beckham, who admitted she had never done a project like this before, said she had learned "an enormous amount."

"And the bottom line is, would I drive this car, like when I'm designing a dress, would I wear this dress? I love what I do. I consider myself so blessed to do a job that I love and this has been a great experience for me," said Beckham, wearing a sleeveless striped dress from her own collection.

She said she searched for inspiration in many places.

The PFA's Premier League team of the year was as follows:

Joe Hart (Manchester City); Kyle Walker (Tottenham Hotspur), Vincent Kompany (City), Fabricio Coloccini (Newcastle United), Leighton Baines (Everton); David Silva (City), Yaya Toure (City), Scott Parker (Tottenham), Gareth Bale (Tottenham); Robin van Persie (Arsenal), Wayne Rooney (Manchester United).—Reuters



Soccer player David Beckham and his wife Victoria Beckham arrive at the 2012 Vanity Fair Oscar party in West Hollywood, California.—REUTERS

"I did a lot of research and not just with cars, old and new, but boats, planes, movie stars, different locations," she said.

"It would be hard to pinpoint exactly where the inspiration came from. It's just what I like, that's the bottom line. I don't try to be too technical about it ... It's what feels real to me."

The special edition "Evoque" features exclusive, hand-finished matt paint, the first for a Land Rover-type vehicle.

The vehicle also has rose gold accents on the grille and gloss black forged alloy wheels. Inside, the four-seat coupe includes vintage-inspired leather seats, rose gold-plated accents and features trimmings of black lacquer, textured aluminum and mohair.

In addition, the vehicle has bespoke luxury accessories, such as a four-piece leather luggage set and a hand-sewn leather wallet for the owner's manual signed by (Victoria) Beckham.

The special edition "Evoque" costs 80,000 pounds (\$129,000), twice the cost of a regular model. Only 200 will be made, the first of which will be rolled out in China as early as October.

Beckham has begun to make a name for herself as a designer, and in 2011 picked up a British Fashion Award.

Still, the singer-turned-designer said she "doesn't want to run, before she can walk" with her collection.—Reuters

10th rice offering ceremony held in Mingaladon Township

YANGON, 23 April—The 10th rice offering ceremony of Marlar Myaing Agriculture Family on 2nd Aungmyethar Pagoda Road was held in Thigangyun Village of Mingaladon Township in Yangon Region on 12 April.

Wellwisher U Htay Hlaing-Daw Le Oo donated alms to 400 members of the Sangha and 200 nuns.

Later, they served the people with snacks and refreshments.

Myanma Alin



LIBRARY WORKS EXPLAINED:
Dawbon Township Information and Public Relations Department undertook mobile works at Pynnya Alinyaung Library in Thinbawkyin Ward of Dawbon on 6 April. Head of Township IPRD Daw Khin Htay Myint discusses durability of library.

MYANMA ALIN

Amyotha Hluttaw session continues for 19th day

Seven questions answered, two new proposals submitted



Amyotha Hluttaw representatives seen before the Amyotha Hluttaw session.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 23 April—The 19th day third regular session of the First Amyotha Hluttaw continued at Amyotha Hluttaw Hall in Hluttaw Complex here today, attended by Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Aung Myint and 215 MPs.

First, 22 MPs who have not taken affirmation of office took the affirmation before the Hluttaw Speaker in accord with Article 8 (b) of Amyotha Hluttaw Law.

Next, Deputy Minister for Industry U Myo Aung replied to questions of three MPs. Regarding the question of Dr Myint Kyi from Yangon Region Constituency (8) about **if there is any plan to conduct courses on factory-, workshop-related works to the youth**, the deputy minister replied that

the Industry Ministry was opening technical training schools in Sinte, Mandalay, Thagara, Pakokku and Magway conducting one-year courses on mechanics and automobile. Those courses were eligible for youths aged between 18 and 25 with basic education level of middle school. The ministry was planning to open a technical training school in Myingyan to conduct mechanical courses.

In addition, under the aegis of Industrial Supervision and Inspection Department, electrical proficiency course and boiler operation course were opened in Mayangon Township, Yangon for staff under 50 from ministries and outside with basic middle school level basic education and industrial

experience. The duration of the courses was six weeks, and the qualified were presented with competency certificates.

The Science and Technology Ministry conducted two-year courses at its technical training schools for the youth who had completed middle school level basic education. Those qualified from those schools could attend B.Tech and B.E courses. The Labour Ministry also was opening four-week electrical, piping, welding, lathe and other courses eligible for those with middle school level basic education.

The outside organizations were also conducting welding, electrical, and construction special proficiency courses to those with basic industrial proficiency. The duration of the courses was at most six months and those who had completed those courses, based on their expertise had chance to work overseas.

Regarding the question of U Soe Han Linn of Ayeyawady Region Constituency No (1) about **if there is any plan to establish cement plant in Gawyingyi Island in Ngayokkaung Sub-township, Ngaputaw Township and Mt. Chaungwa**, the deputy minister replied that according to raw material supply measurement for establishment of cement plants in those places, Gawyingyi Island had about 25 million tons of limestone deposit and Mt. Chaungwa about 50 million tons deposit.

Although the raw material, limestone was available other inputs such as iron, quartz, power and energy had to be transported into there from other places. The implementation of factories and workshops had to be based on industrial development plan and investment plan of the State in consideration of its ecological and social impacts. Though the government now had no plan to set up factories there, region government had such plan to do it alone or in cooperation with private businessmen.

Ayeyawady Region government was arranging to submit proposal for establishment of cement plants to the Union government, but now there was only limited power to run such plant.

(See page 9)

Advanced stadiums under construction in Nay Pyi Taw

Article: Myint Maung Soe; Photo: Thiha (Myanma Alin)

As Myanmar will host the SEA Games 2013, two advanced stadiums are being built in Nay Pyi Taw.

The stadiums are under construction in Zeyathiri Township and Zabuthiri Township of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area.

Max Myanmar Group of Companies is taking responsibility of building Zeyathiri Advanced

Stadium. Each stadium is located on 384 acres of land including car parking, training ground and gymnasium.

The ground floor of the stadium comprises showrooms, offices, meeting rooms and recreation centres of the members.

Recreation centres and rest rooms for athletes are constituted on the first floor.

The second floor comprises TV room, control room, VIP lounge, light and sound control room.

The stadium will have a seating capacity of 30000. At present, Max Myanmar Group of Companies is building the stadium day and night for timely completion.

Translation: TTA
Myanma Alin: 23-4-2012



Photo shows progress of Zeyathiri Advanced Stadium.



Chelsea's Ivorian forward Didier Drogba

Drogba no cheat, says Pique

BARCELONA, 23 April—Barcelona defender Gerard Pique leapt to the defence of Chelsea striker Didier Drogba here Monday, denying the Ivorian had "cheated" during last week's Champions League semi-final clash.

Drogba's conduct during Chelsea's 1-0 win at Stamford Bridge has attracted a storm of criticism in England, with the 34-year-old accused of repeatedly feigning injury to disrupt Barcelona's rhythm.

However the two-time former African Footballer of the Year received staunch support from centre-half Pique here Monday, who said he had no doubts about the Ivorian's integrity. "Every time a player goes down and complains I believe he has

been hurt," Pique said. "I trust the player every time he goes down. I don't think he's been criticised. I believe in Drogba, I believe in his honesty."

"I think every time he goes down it's because he's in pain or he felt a kick. I don't think that Drogba is trying to act or dive. I don't think so. Because he's not like that."

Pique, who did not play in the first leg and also missed Barcelona's 'Clasico' defeat to Real Madrid on Saturday, meanwhile said he was confident the Spaniards could overturn their first leg deficit. "We have to play our game and play 90 minutes with the ball. We will have our chances. I don't know if we will score or not but we will have to work hard to find the chances," he said.

"If we have 70 percent possession like we've had in the last few days and years I think we will have opportunities to get to the final. It's hard to play against Chelsea because they are strong, really competitive, they know how to play these games because they have a lot of experience."—Internet

Hole-in-one

YANGON, 23 April—Major Mya Lwin (Rtd) scored an ace at 185-yard-distance hole No 6 with Serixon Z Star No 4 ball with Nike-7 iron club at Tatmadaw Golf Course (Dagon Course) in Mingaladon on 11 April while playing together with Dr Pyae Sone, U Mya Soe, MD of Doh Shwe Pyi Construction, U Than Htay, MD of Myint Motor Car Brake Washer Industry and U Tin Hlaing Win (General Secretary of Kaman National Development Party).

MNA