Established 1914

The New Light of Myanmar

Volume XX, Number 6 | 6th Waxing of Kason 1374 ME | Thursday, 26 April, 2012

President U Thein Sein sends message of felicitations to Israeli President

NAY PYI TAW, 26 April—U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to Mr Shimon Peres, President of the State of Israel, on the occasion of the Independence Day of the State of Israel, which falls on 26 April 2012.—*MNA*

Our Three Main National Causes

* **Non-disintegration of the Union**
* **Non-disintegration of National Solidarity**
* **Perpetuation of Sovereignty**

More technologies and foreign investment from developed countries outside Mekong region needed

President U Thein Sein attends fourth Mekong-Japan Summit

The fourth Mekong-Japan Summit in progress at State Guest House in Tokyo.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 25 April—President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein attended fourth Mekong-Japan Summit at Hagoromo-No-Ma Hall of State Guest House in Tokyo at 9 am on 21 April.

The summit was also attended by Japanese Prime Minister Mr Yoshihiko Noda, and leaders of Mekong region countries Cambodian Prime Minister Samdech Hun Sen, Laotian Prime Minister Mr Thongsing Thammavong, Thai Prime Minister Ms Yingluck Shinawatra and Vietnamese Prime Minister Mr Nguyen Tang Dung, ministers, deputy ministers and high-ranking officials of Japan and countries in Mekong region.

On arrival at the State Guest House, President U Thein Sein and leaders of Mekong region countries received cordial welcome by Japanese Prime Minister Mr Yoshihiko Noda.

The leaders then posed for documentary photo.

The Japanese PM and leaders of Mekong region countries addressed the summit.

The President underscored the need to continue exerting efforts for sustainable and equitable comprehensive economic development in Mekong region while peace prevails in the countries of the region witnessing progress. He tipped rich natural resources and industrious workforce in the region as the sound foundation for future development in Mekong region. East-West Economic Corridor and Southern Economic Corridor, being implemented with the assistance of Japan, could contribute much to both the region and tasks for ASEAN integration by 2015. He said that he is confident that swift commodity flow in the region could boost the role of Mekong region in the international community outside the region.

(See Page 7)

Japan to cancel 60% of Myanmar's debt to assist the country's moves toward democracy

NAY PYI TAW, 25 April—The following is a joint statement issued by President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein and Japanese Prime Minister Mr Yoshihiko Noda at news press conference held at Hagoromo-No-Ma Hall of the State Guest House in Japan on 21-4-2012.

1. Japan will resume yen loans to Myanmar and cancel about 60 per cent of the debt and overdue charges it is owed to assist the country's recent moves toward democracy.
2. At the Saturday's conference and sideline meetings of leaders from the Mekong region countries—Myanmar, Cambodia, Laos, Thailand and Vietnam, Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda agreed to implement a two step process to reduce Myanmar's financial burden 1—1 a ¥ 127.4 billion debt writeoff and the cancellation of ¥ 176.1 billion in overdue charges from the past two decades. The cancellation is contingent on a year of joint monitoring of the country's democratic reforms. For its part, Myanmar will return ¥ 198.9 billion in previous borrowing from Japan by taking out a new long-term concessionary loan.
3. During the news conference, President U Thein Sein thanked Japanese Prime Minister Noda for cancelling around 60 per cent of Myanmar's debt to Japan, and stressed the importance of Tokyo's financial support, saying that Japan's cooperation and support will be extremely beneficial in Myanmar's development and reform efforts.
4. Japan will officially resume the low-interest yen loans once the two governments determine the best way to use the funds to improve Myanmar's infrastructure.
5. Japan will also provide ¥ 5 billion in aid to assist ethnic minorities and improve medical care, as well as to support disaster prevention, agriculture and rural development programmes.

PERSPECTIVES

Thursday, 26 April, 2012

We are able

As Myanmar is chasing her dream of democracy, human capital is of crucial importance in her stride towards her destination. Knowledge is power, so goes the saying and human resources are much needed for all these hard work. Here, the participation of all is fundamental to human resources development.

The workforce of the disabled should never be neglected in our efforts for better future. The disabled should have access to education, earn a livelihood for survival and have chance to join nation-building endeavours. The Ministry of Education in cooperation with the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement is implementing inclusive education, providing free education, accommodation and other expenses for the disabled youths from basic to higher education level.

Again, assistance of civil society is much needed to empower the disabled. It is profitable to enhance their role for disabled human resources can still be knowledge workers who work with their brains not with their hands to produce ideas and knowledge.

Another forgotten human resource is the aged. The retirement age in Myanmar is 60. Most of the pensioners, soon after their retirement, feel like useless, inviting diseases. An idle brain is not only the devil's workshop but also the diseases' labour room. Having no work to do is one of the reasons that shorten the lifespan of humans, discovered the scientists.

In fact, the elderly are the source of wisdom who can share their experiences and knowledge to the young. In Myanmar, those aged above 60 was 8.7 per cent of the population in 2007 and increased to 9.1 in 2010. The unprecedented global increase in the number of the aged has posted threat to social security, public health care and even to economic growth. However, the aged who are still fit with full of beans, if allowed to work on, can be main contributors to their families and the society.

It is learnt that home care services projects for the aged have been initiated, but more work is to be done to cover the most. In addition, formation of Older People Self Help Groups (OPSHG) would also contribute to fitness and longevity of the elderly, possibly curbing swelling health care costs.

Weak and withered as they are, the disabled and the aged, under the warm and caring hands of us, still can demonstrate power of willing mind. Every chance should be provided to them to do so. They are the part of the society. They should never be left out nor should they feel they are left out.

President U Thein Sein arrives Tokyo, Japan

NAY PYI TAW, 25April— President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein, left here by air on 19 April morning to attend the 4th Mekong-Japan Summit in Tokyo of Japan and to pay the State visit to Japan at the invitation of Japanese Prime Minister Mr Yoshihiko Noda, and arrived Yangon. They thence left Yangon by Thai International Airways for Japan via Bangkok.

The aircraft carrying President U Thein Sein and Myanmar delegation members Union Ministers U Wunna Maung Lwin, U Soe Thein, U Hla Tun, U Tin Naing Thein and U Win Myint, deputy minister Dr Win Myint and departmental heads, arrived Narita Airport in Tokyo at 8 am local time.

President U Thein Sein and party were welcomed at the airport by Director-General of Asia and Southeast Asia Affairs Department of Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan Mr Kunio Umeda and officials, Japanese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Takashi Saito, Chairman of Japan-Myanmar Friendship Association Mr Hideo Watanabe and members, Myanmar Ambassador to Japan U Khin Maung Tin, Military Attaché Brig-Gen Tun Tun and officials.

Afterwards, the President and party arrived at Hotel New Otani where they were going to stay.

MNA

***President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein arrives at Narita Airport of Japan.*—MNA**

President U Thein Sein receives Chairman of Japan-Myanmar Friendship Association and party

President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein receives Chairman of Japan-Myanmar Friendship Mr Hideo Watanabe and party at Hotel New Otani.

MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 25 April—President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein received Chairman of Japan-Myanmar Friendship Association Mr Hideo Watanabe and party at Hotel New Otani at 5 pm on 20 April.

Also present on the occasion together with President U Thein Sein were Union Ministers U Wunna Maung Lwin, and U Tin Naing Thein and officials. The Chairman of Japan-Myanmar Friendship Association was accompanied by MPs Mr Makoto Koga, Mr Sengoku Yoshit, Mr Keishu Tanaka and Japanese Ambassador Mr Takashi Saito.

At the meeting, they had a cordial discussion on Myanmar-Japan friendship.

MNA

Rakhine State Chief Minister makes tours of inspection to Pauktaw Tsp

NAY PYI TAW, 25 April— Chief Minister of Rakhine State U Hla Maung Tin held a meeting with departmental officials and townselers at the General Administration Department in Pauktaw Township on 23 April.

Afterwards, the Chief Minister visited Pauktaw Township People's Hospital and contributed cash to the funds of the hospital.

During his tour of the township, the State Chief Minister inspected the site chosen for construction of a basic education primary school at Ywachaunggyi Village and construction of a road linking Ywachaunggyi Village and Sunye Village. He also attended a ceremony to open YaungchiOo Library at Kyaukseik Village.—*MNA*

Union Minister for Foreign Affairs receives Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Italian Republic and party

NAY PYI TAW, 25 April—Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin received Mr Giulio Terzi di Sant'agata, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Italian Republic and party at his office at 9 am today.

Both sides exchanged views on promotion of bilateral relations and cooperation.—*MNA*

ASEAN welcomes EU suspension of sanctions on Myanmar

JAKARTA, 25 April— ASEAN on Wednesday welcomed the European Union's announcement of its suspension of sanctions on Myanmar, a Press statement from the ASEAN Secretariat said.

"All ASEAN member states welcome the suspension of sanctions on Myanmar. We have called for this soon after the country's general elections in 2012, and we reiterated our call immediately after the by-elections in early April," ASEAN Chief Dr Surin Pitsuwan said. The 27 foreign ministers of the EU made the announcement in Luxembourg on 23 April, suspending restrictive measures imposed on the government, with the exception of the arms embargo which it will retain. "It is the right thing to do at the right time," said ASEAN Secretary General Dr Surin.

He added he was hoping that a long period of strained relations between ASEAN and the EU would be put behind both sides. "The ASEAN-EU Foreign Ministers Meeting in Brunei at the end of April will see a new productive relationship being put on a higher plane for cooperation," Dr Surin said.—*MNA/ Xinhua*

Canada drops non-military sanctions on Myanmar

OTTAWA, 25 April — Canada has suspended its non-military sanctions against Myanmar in recognition of the latter's moves towards democracy, Foreign Affairs Minister John Baird announced here on Tuesday. Baird said he made the decision to drop sanctions after political activist Daw Aung Sang Suu Kyi, who had spent years under house arrest, won a seat in parliament in this month's elections. In March, Baird visited Daw Suu Kyi and conferred honorary Canadian citizenship on her. Baird said he made his decision at Daw Suu Kyi's advice.

During his visit to Myanmar, Baird also met with the country's new civilian leaders and said he was impressed by the country's reforms. The sanctions on imports, exports and financial transactions have been lifted, but Canada will still maintain an embargo on arms and military technology. Baird said he wants more time to monitor the situation before deciding whether to lift the embargo. He said the sanctions may be re-imposed if Myanmar reverses its policies of freeing political prisoners and relaxing its control of the media.

"This is progress, but much more remains to be done," Baird told reporters during a news conference in the Canadian parliament. "We put in sanctions to try to encourage and force change," he said. "This is probably one of the best examples in the modern era where sanctions have proven very effective. Given the government has taken such significant reforms, we're prepared to give them a shot."

Canada's decision follows a similar move earlier this week by the European Union which suspended most of its sanctions but maintained its arms embargo. The United States has not yet dropped sanctions, but Secretary of State Hillary Clinton recently visited the country. Baird said he hoped the thawing of relations between the two countries could result in the establishment of trade links. Myanmar is a resource-rich country with 60 million people. — *MNA/Xinhua*

Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao (3rd L) and Swedish Prime Minister Fredrik Reinfeldt (3rd R) attend a signing ceremony of agreements on bilateral cooperation in Stockholm, Sweden, on 24 April, 2012.
XINHUA

China to promote cooperation with Sweden in sustainable development: Chinese premier

STOCKHOLM, 25 April — Visiting Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao told his Swedish counterpart Fredrik Reinfeldt here Tuesday that China would like to promote cooperation with Sweden in environmental protection and sustainable development. Sweden has been a global leader in environmental protection and sustainable development, while China takes sustainable development as a national strategy, said Wen, adding that China is ready to carry out long-term and all-around cooperation with Sweden in policy dialogue and mechanism construction.

During his meeting with Reinfeldt, Wen said China will take concrete steps to back its enterprises and research institutions to cement innovation cooperation with Sweden, which is the most innovative country within the European Union (EU). Treating Sweden as an important cooperative partner, China highly values its influence in Europe and international affairs, and is willing to strengthen coordination and collaboration with Sweden to push forward bilateral ties. Wen also welcomed the Swedish side to enlarge its investment in areas such as modern manufacturing, high-tech, service industry and agriculture in China, especially in its central and western regions.

While encouraging Chinese companies to do business in Sweden, China hopes that Sweden could push the EU to launch negotiations with China on an investment deal as soon as possible, he said. Moreover, Wen also called for closer exchanges in such areas as education, culture and tourism between the two countries. Reinfeldt said Sweden is the first Western nation to set up diplomatic relationship with the People's Republic of China, which is now Sweden's largest trading partner in Asia. He urged the two countries to step up their cooperation in areas such as environmental protection, sustainable development and innovation.

The Swedish prime minister also welcomed China to expand its investment in his country, and hoped more Chinese citizens would come to study, travel and work in Sweden. He promised that Sweden would like to play an active role in promoting EU-China relationship. After the meeting, Wen and Reinfeldt attended a signing ceremony of cooperation agreements between the two countries and met the press. The two sides also issued a framework document on strengthening strategic cooperation in sustainable development. Before meeting Reinfeldt, Wen also held talks with the King of Sweden Carl XVI Gustaf in Stockholm.—*Xinhua*

Pakistan tests nuclear-capable ballistic missile

ISLAMABAD, 25 April— Pakistan successfully test-fired a nuclear-capable ballistic missile on Wednesday, the military said, less than a week after rival India tested a missile capable of delivering nuclear warheads as far as Beijing and Eastern Europe. Pakistan's *Shaheen-1A* is an intermediate range ballistic missile, capable of reaching targets in India. Military officials declined to specify the range of the missile.

The missile's impact point was in the Indian Ocean. India and Pakistan have fought three full-scale wars since they were carved out of British India in 1947. They conduct missile tests regularly and inform each other in advance.

Pakistan conducted nuclear tests in May 1998, shortly after India conducted similar tests. US intelligence estimates last year put the number of nuclear weapons deployed by Pakistan at 90 to 110. Analysts say the strategic US ally's nuclear arsenal is the fastest growing in the world. Pakistan, like neighbouring India, is not a signatory to the nuclear non-proliferation treaty (NPT).—*Reuters*

Handout photo from Inter Services Public Relations shows a Hatf IV Shaheen 1 medium-range nuclear-capable ballistic missile is launched from an undisclosed location in Pakistan in 2010. Pakistan successfully test fired a nuclear-capable intermediate range ballistic missile on Wednesday, the military said.
INTERNET

Three Bahraini policemen injured in blast

MANAMA, 25 April — Three Bahraini policemen were injured Tuesday night by a bomb explosion in a riot-hit village, the interior ministry said.

A home-made explosive device detonated when the police were patrolling in the Duraz Village. The ministry describe the blast as a "terrorist bombing" targeting the security forces, and said two of the three injured policemen were in critical conditions.

The police secured the area after the incident, and blocked all roads leading to the village as a precautionary measure. Earlier this month, seven policemen were injured, three seriously, after a home-made explosive made with petrol exploded in East Ekar Village.

Xinhua

Soldier killed by armed groups near Damascus

DAMASCUS, 25 April — Armed groups launched an assault on Tuesday at the Syrian government troops in the Damascus suburb of Douma, killing one army personnel and leaving three others injured, state-run *SANA* news agency reported. The armed men fired RPG shells at civilians and law-enforcement forces in Douma, leaving many injured, said *SANA*.

Douma, some 10 km northwest of the centre of Damascus, has emerged as a hotspot of armed insurgency against the government troops. Earlier in the day, UN observers who arrived in Syria 10 days ago to oversee a cease-fire toured Douma and met with people there. The 11-member UN observer team continued their tours in different hotspots in Syria and the deployment of 300 observers would be completed over the next few weeks.

Syria has repeatedly declared its commitment to the peace plan brokered by international envoy Kofi Annan, but also accused " armed groups" of escalating their violent acts to stymy Annan's efforts. Syria reported a surge in murders and kidnappings by armed groups in the country since the UN observers' arrival.

Xinhua

Rescuers and reporters gather at the blast site in eastern Pakistan's Lahore on 24 April , 2012. At least three people were killed and 23 others injured in a blast at a railway station in Lahore on Tuesday, local Urdu TV channel Dunya reported.
XINHUA

Science & Technology Science & Technology Science & Technology

Crew members of the next expedition to the International Space Station (ISS), US astronaut Joseph Acaba (L) with Russian cosmonauts, Gennady Padalka (C) and Sergei Revin (R), pose for a photo in front of a mock-up of a Soyuz TMA space craft.—INTERNET

Mini helicopters fly autonomously

ZURICH, 25 April—Swiss researchers say they've helped develop a type of flying robot that can be navigated using only on-board cameras and a miniature computer.

Researchers at ETH Zurich say the micro helicopters, developed as part of a European project called sFly, require neither GPS nor remote control, but can operate autonomously.

Current flying robots are large and heavy and when used in open fields they often require GPS or a trained pilot, they said. Compared with GPS-based flying robots, the new micro helicopters can work both in the open air and in enclosed spaces, and can be navigated deep inside buildings where GPS often fails, an ETH Zurich release said on Monday.

With a diameter of 20 inches, they are designed to maneuver in tight or even enclosed spaces, and to detect and fly around any obstacle.

Possible uses could include protection or rescue missions, or flying over disaster areas and giving a picture of the situation from the air or locating victims.

"This is a research project that above all aims to explore the technical possibilities.

However, we can well imagine that the flying robots developed in the sFly project could be an important aid for rescue teams in disaster relief missions in the not too distant future," Roland Siegwart, head of the Laboratory for Autonomous Systems at ETH Zurich.

Internet

Autonomous mini helicopter.
INTERNET

Long-lost scroll fragment found in museum

BRISBANE, 25 April—Egyptian artifacts in an Australian museum include a long-lost section of the burial scroll of one of the civilization's greatest builders, a researcher says.

British Museum curator John Taylor — in Brisbane for the opening of a touring exhibition of mummies from his museum — spotted a shred of papyrus on display in the Queensland Museum bearing the distinctive hieroglyphs of Amenhotep, a chief builder in the 15th century BC, whose burial scroll, known as a "Book of the Dead," was scattered across the globe in the 1890s.

The fragment was given to the museum in 1913 as an anonymous gift, and Taylor asked if there were any more such fragments in the museum's storage areas.

"When I was brought into the conservation lab to see them, after a very short period of time it became apparent that we did indeed have many fragments of the Book of the Dead of this extremely important man," Taylor told The Australian. "This is not the papyrus of just anybody — this is one of the top officials in Egypt at the peak of Egyptian prosperity."

Books of the Dead contained magical spells and were entombed with mummified Egyptians to ensure safe passage from this world to the next life, he said.

Other fragments of Amenhotep's Book of the Dead are in collections at the British Museum, the Boston Museum of Fine Arts and the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York.

"If we can reconstruct the whole document, then that's going to tell us a whole lot about how these religious texts were put together in ancient Egypt (and) how they selected different component spells," Taylor said.

Internet

Photo taken on 23 April, 2012 shows a fuel cell car produced by Saic Group during the 2012 Beijing International Automotive Exhibition in Beijing, capital of China. With surging gas prices and new government incentives to back new-energy vehicles, Chinese people are showing greater interest in the fledgling sector. China's State Council recently approved a development guideline for the energy-saving and new-energy car industry, a step conducive to easing pressure on natural resources and the environment. —XINHUA

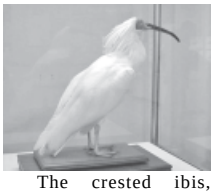
Rare crested ibis hatches in Japan

TOKYO, 25 April—Japanese wildlife researchers say a crested ibis chick hatched in the wild is the first of the endangered birds born outside captivity in 36 years.

The nestling hatched from an egg produced by a pair of the endangered birds on Sado Island in Niigata prefecture, the Environment Ministry said on Sunday.

Its parents, a 3-year-old male and 2-year-old female, were raised at an ibis conservation centre on the island and released into the wild in March 2011.

They were found to have built a nest on 16 March of this year, *Jiji Press* reported, and the chick's birth was recorded by a remote camera placed near the nest.



The crested ibis, Nipponia Nippon, is registered as a special Japanese natural treasure, but their population plummeted in the late 19th and early 20th centuries when they were overhunted for their beautiful feathers and when agricultural chemicals degraded their habitats.

The last true Japanese crested ibis died in October 2003, and Japan has been trying to reintroduce the species into the wild since 2008, after receiving a pair from China in 1999 to breed in captivity.

All crested ibises in Japan now are Chinese birds or their offspring, and a total of 76 have been released since September 2008.

Internet

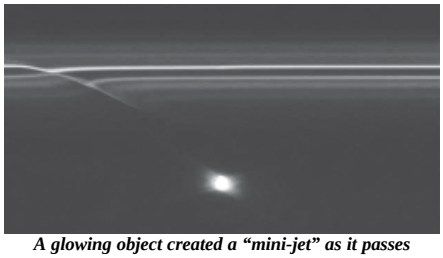
Private company delays 1st space station visit

CAPE CANAVERAL, 25 April— A private US company has delayed launching a cargo ship to the International Space Station.

Space Exploration Technologies Corp, or SpaceX, was scheduled to launch the supply ship next Monday. But company officials said that the spaceship needs more testing. The delay will probably be about one week.

The Dragon spacecraft will be first private ship to go to the station. It will be hoisted aboard the company's Falcon rocket from Cape Canaveral. NASA loaded the test flight with non-essential cargo of clothing, food, computers and science equipment.

SpaceX has successfully launched the Falcon and Dragon before, but going to the space station requires more proven precision. NASA is turning to private companies to carry cargo and eventually astronauts to the space station.—*Internet*



A glowing object created a "mini-jet" as it passes through Saturn's F ring. —INTERNET

Saturn's outer ring in cosmic light show

PASADENA, 25 April— Scientists say strange half-mile-sized objects punching through parts of one of Saturn's rings leave glittering trails behind them they've dubbed "mini-jets."

The findings, seen in images from NASA's orbiting Cassini spacecraft, fill in a missing link in the understanding of the curious behavior of Saturn's outermost ring, known as the F ring, a release from NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, Calif, said on Monday.

The F ring, perhaps the most active ring in the solar system, has features that can change on a timescale of hours, astronomers say.

"I think the F ring is Saturn's weirdest ring, and these latest Cassini results go to show how the F ring is even more dynamic than we ever thought," said Carl Murray, a Cassini imaging team member based at Queen Mary University of London, England. "These findings show us that the F ring region is like a bustling zoo of objects from a half mile to moons like Prometheus a hundred miles in size, creating a spectacular show." Scientists have known large objects like Prometheus can create channels, ripples and snowballs in the F ring, and now believe smaller objects, perhaps created when larger objects break up after passing through the ring, go off in new orbits that mean they can pass through the F ring on their own, creating the visual "mini-jets."

These small objects appear to collide with the F ring at low speeds, about 4 mph, and then drag glittering ice particles out of the F ring with them, leaving a trail typically 20 to 110 miles long, such as the ones seen in the Cassini images.

"Beyond just showing us the strange beauty of the F ring, Cassini's studies of this ring help us understand the activity that occurs when solar systems evolve out of dusty disks that are similar to, but obviously much grander than, the disk we see around Saturn," Linda Spilker, Cassini project scientist at JPL, said.—*Internet*

US offers more aid to drought-hit Horn of Africa

WASHINGTON, 25 April— The United States is offering an additional 120 million dollars in aid to help the drought-hit Horn of Africa countries to cope with the crisis, the White House said on Tuesday.

The aid aims to prevent a worsening of the situation on the ground in Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia as the lateness and insufficiency of rains are expected to have a "significant" negative impact on crop production there, White House spokesman Jay Carney said in a statement.

He said over 9 million people remain in need of emergency assistance since the worst drought in 60 years struck the Horn of Africa in 2011, and the additional contribution has brought total US aid to more than 1.1 billion dollars.

"We urge the international community to continue their support and assistance to those in need of emergency assistance in Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia with the objective of building resiliency in order to save lives," the spokesman added.

Xinhua

Pyithu Hluttaw session continues for 21st day
Four questions raised and answered; one bill approved; report clarified and one bill submitted

NAY PYI TAW, 25 April—The 21st day session of Pyithu Hluttaw was held at Pyithu Hluttaw Hall in Hluttaw Complex here at 10.05 am today, attended by Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann and 383 Pyithu Hluttaw representatives.

At the session, four questions were raised and answered; one bill approved; report clarified and one bill submitted.

With respect to the question of U Aung Kyaing of NyaungU Constituency whether **"there is any plan to move Phawtaw gate in Thabeikkyin Township to the entrance way to Mogok about 100 feet away from current location",** Deputy Minister for Immigration and Population U Kyaw Kyaw Win replied: systematic inspection was carried to prevent foreigners from entering the restricted areas. With the permission of respective departments and organizations, a total of 1050 foreigners were allowed from Mandalay to Mogok and 2164 from Mogok to Mandalay during the period from 1-1-2011 to 29-2-2012. So, that gate does not restrict the people who go through and allow the people to pass it only after staff of departments concerned inspected whether they have the permission to enter restricted areas in accord with the existing order of the Ministry of Home Affairs .

At present, foreigners are allowed to go to Thabeikkyin and Mogok Townships through the gate with prior permission. And there is no difficulty. The Region also gave comment that the gate is running smoothly. So, at present, there is no plan to move it to the entrance way to Mogok. But, with respect to the proposal, the move will be reconsidered at an appropriate time, based on the factors including increased interest in Tagaung ancient city and the completion of Tagaung road.

With regard to the question of U Soe Win of Sangyoung Constituency on "**Section 359 of the Constitution prescribes that the Union prohibits forced labour except duties assigned by the Union in accord with the law in the interest of the public. He would like to know how the ministries would follow this provision, how the people would complain about forced labour and why farmers are not allowed to grow crops they want to**."

Deputy Minister for Labour U Myint Thein said: Para 2, subpara 1 of ILO Convention No. 29 states that the term forced or compulsory labour shall mean all work or service which is exacted from any person under the menace of any penalty and for which the said person has not offered himself voluntarily.

In addition, Para 2, Subpara 2 also says that the term forced or compulsory labour shall not include any work or service exacted in virtue of compulsory military service laws for work of a purely military character; any work or service exacted from any person as a consequence of a conviction in a court of law, provided that the said work or service is carried out under the supervision and control of a public authority and that the said person is not hired to or placed at the disposal of private individuals, companies or associations; any work or service exacted in cases of emergency, that is to say, in the event of war or of a calamity or threatened calamity, such as fire, flood, famine, earthquake, violent epidemic or epizootic diseases, invasion by animal, insect or vegetable pests, and in general any circumstance that would endanger the existence or the well-being of the whole or part of the population; minor communal services of a kind which, being performed by the members of the community in the direct interest of the said community, can therefore be considered as normal civic obligations incumbent upon the members of the community, provided that the members of the community or their direct representatives shall have the right to be consulted in regard to the need for such services.

Pyithu Hluttaw representative U Soe Win of Sangyoung Constituency raising question.—MNA

(See page 6)

Amyotha Hluttaw session continues for 20th day

NAY PYI TAW, 25 April—The third regular session of the First Amyotha Hluttaw continued for 20th day at Amyotha Hluttaw Hall in Hluttaw Complex here today, attended by Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Aung Myint and 216 MPs.

First, Bill Committee Member U Myint Tun read the report of the committee on Foreign Currency Expenditure Bill which was sent back to the Amyotha Hluttaw by the Pyithu Hluttaw with amendments.

The Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker sought approval from the Hluttaw about the amendments and supplements of the Bill Committee made to the bill.

Next, U Zaw Myint Pe of Mandalay Region Constituency (5), U Steven Thabeik of Chin State Constituency (4), Dr Myint Kyi of Yangon Region Constituency (8) and U Nyan Lin of Ayeyawady Region Constituency (3), in their affirmative discussion about the proposal of U Myo Myint from Mandalay Region Constituency (6) who **urged the Union government to hire local and foreign experts to compile reports on economic and engineering development of Myanmar and to form high-level work supervision coordination committee,** said it needed to draw national development for both short term and long term. It was disappointing that KTL Plan was still the blueprint of the national development plans of the present time. It was required to adopt Myanmar Investment Plan with the assistance of local and foreign experts. As there was a great potential of investment from foreign countries flooding into the country following the reforms of the nation, it was advisable to have a master plan to get ready. It needed to compile comprehensive reports on economic and engineering development for such reports were pivotal for national development.

Regarding the proposal, Deputy Minister for Industry U Myo Aung said the 30-year grand plan was initially drawn by experts from ministries of the nation without the ideas foreign experts. The plan was found to be incomprehensive despite the utmost efforts of the ministries due to time and financial constraint for detailed surveys on the ground. Policies and fields of some ministries had changed much during ten-year period from 2001 to 2010.

The new government was re-drawing 30-year grand plans of the respective ministries in line with national project policies of the modern time. In addition, it was also planning rural development project, township development project, urban development project, regional projects for regions and states, calling for sheer quantity of local and foreign competence assistance. Likewise, previously it was focused on net production and GDP in agriculture, meat and fish, forestry, industry, mines and minerals, energy, electric power, construction, transportation, communication, finance, social and management, service, trade and other sectors. Now, it had been instructed to launch projects in national interests, which means to only essential projects for the nation, region and the people will be implemented under consideration of economic viability and socio-economic needs. In so doing, it needed to invite the assistance of experts at home and abroad.

Now, as there were offers from international organizations for assistance and economic cooperation, some ministries had started seeking international competency assistance. Under the assistance of UNDP, foreign experts were conducting trainings to local experts in shifting over to 1993, 2008 System of National Account from 1986 System of National Account in national planning. Investment feasibility surveys were being carried out by hiring foreign consultant groups in addition to local experts, and seeking assistance from UNCTAD. It was also preparing to draw industrial development plan with foreign assistance. The national plan covered sector-wise projects and regional projects. Coordination for adopting of comprehensive plan was under way and discussions would be held in near future.

Regarding formation of a high-level project coordination committee, "National Plan Commission" led by the Prime Minister was formed in parliamentary democracy era. "Special Projects Implementation Committee" chaired by the Chairman of State Peace and Development Council was established in time of SPDC. In time of the new government, the President chairs "Special Projects Implementation Committee".

Financial Commission was formed in line with Section 229 of 2008 Constitution which does not require the formation of Planning Commission. Formation of the National Planning Commission would focus more on sector-wise projects and regional projects.

As the Hluttaw was agreed on the proposal, it was approved.

Daw Khin Waing Kyi of Yangon Region Constituency-1 seconded the proposal submitted by U Maung Aye Tun of Rakhine State Constituency-9 "**urging the Union government to amend penalties in Sections 417, 426 and 427 of Penal Code**".

Amyotha Hluttaw representative U Steven Thabeik of Chin State Constituency (4) takes part in discussion.

MNA

(See page 6)

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker meets Italian delegation

NAY PYI TAW, 25 April— Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann met delegation led by Italian Foreign Minister Mr Giuliomaria Terzi Di Sant' Agata at Zabuthiri Hall in Hluttaw Complex here this afternoon.

Also present at the call were Deputy Speaker U Nanda Kyaw Swa, chairmen of Pyithu Hluttaw committees and commission and officials.

They frankly discussed matters related to further cementing friendly ties between Myanmar and Italy and parliamentary affairs.

MNA

***Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann receives Italian Foreign Minister Mr Giuliomaria Terzi Di Sant' Agata and party at Zabuthiri Hall in Hluttaw Complex.*—MNA**

Amyotha Hluttaw session continues...

(from page 5)

She discussed the rule of law is important in the country and it is needed to draft new legislations commensurate with the age, to amend the old ones which are not suitable to the current trend and to abide by laws.

Judge of Supreme Court of the Union U Mya Thein said: The Supreme Court sent Bill amending Penal Code (Draft) and explanations to the Office of the Attorney-General of the Union on 16-11-2011 and the latter returned the bill (draft) with remarks on 10-2-2012. The bill (draft) was amended to meet requirements in the remarks and sent again to the Union Attorney-General's Office on 12-3-2012. Provisions in Sections 417, 426 and 427 of Penal Code were amended in the bill (draft). By the time the Supreme Court receives the final remarks of the Union Attorney-General's Office, it will continue efforts to enact the bill (draft).

As the Hluttaw was agreed on the proposal, it was approved.

Today's session concluded at 12.25 pm.

One bill was approved and two proposals discussed and approved at today's session.

MNA

Union Minister receives UNHCR resident rep, French ambassador

NAY PYI TAW, 25 April—Union Minister for Border Affairs and for Myanma Industrial Development Lt-Gen Thein Htay received Resident Representatives of United National High Commissioner's Office for Refugees Mr Johannes Gerhard Ten Feld at 1 pm and French Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Thierry Mathou at 3 pm at his office today.

In meting with the UNHCR resident representative, he discussed matters related to enhanced cooperation between Myanmar and UNHCR, providing more humanitarian assistances and resettlement of displaced families. The meeting with the French ambassador focused on improving relations between the two countries, border region development, progress of peace talks with ethnic armed groups and providing international aids.—*MNA*

Bicyclists who attend the Critical Mass Earth Day bicycle ride lift their bikes in Budapest, capital of Hungary, on 22 April, 2012. Critical Mass Hungary organizes bicycle rides twice a year to demonstrate the importance and popularity of bicycle as a solution of everyday city transportation. —XINHUA

Coast Guard rescues 10 from burning fishing boat

HONOLULU, 25 April — Ten members of a Taiwanese fishing ship were rescued in the Pacific after being forced to abandon the burning vessel before it sank, authorities said on Sunday.

The crew aboard the 70-foot ship made a radio call about the fire Saturday afternoon when it was about 700 miles west of Guam, Coast Guard Lt jg Richard Russell said.

Internet

Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker receives Resident Representative of UNHCR

NAY PYI TAW, 25 April— Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Nanda Kyaw Swa received Mr Johannes Gerhard Ten Feld, Resident Representative of United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) at Pyithu Hluttaw Meeting Hall (1) in Hluttaw Complex here on 9 am today.

They discussed matters related to bills and cooperation with international organizations.

Also present at the call were International Relations Committee Chairman U Hla Myint Oo, Member of Hluttaw Rights Committee U Aung Than, Member of Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission U Than Tun and responsible persons of Hluttaw Office.

MNA

Bus tours of Japan tsunami areas begin

TOKYO, 25 April — Organizers say their bus trips for tourists to the area of Japan hit by last year's tsunami are meant to keep the memory of the disaster alive.The tours bring visitors to areas of Iwate prefecture to see such dizzying sites as a police station with a car deposited precariously on the roof of a hotel.Hanamaki Kanko Bus launched its "reconstru-ction" bus tour this month. Local residents act as volunteer guides and a percentage of the ticket sales will be donated to relief organizations.

"I hope participants will understand the present conditions of the disaster-hit areas and will be prompted to provide constant support to the area's recovery," a bus company executive told The Mainichi Shimbun.

The newspaper said hotel accommodations in Iwate remained in short supply, meaning the bus tours are the best way for visitors to witness the devastation.—*Internet*

Pyithu Hluttaw session continues...

(from page 5)

Assignment of duties by the State in accord with the law for the interest of the general public means that every works making cooperation with the local people must benefit them directly and special emphasis are to be placed not to be a massive burden to them when there occurs emergency that causes damage to the interest of people and the local people.

Affected region and time are to be fixed and disclosed in assigning duties for that emergency condition. The period for necessary participation of the people must not exceed the period needed for the emergency. So, the ministries are now following the provision as per the Constitution.

As to the second question, he said stern actions can be taken in accord with the Amended Ward or Village-tract Administration Bill. Decision of court is to be taken after the case is applied to the court directly.

With regard to the last question, he replied, at present, the country has no such cases. Farmers can grow any crops they want to, except permission and restrictions. Those who give order to grow can be complained in case of that case.

Deputy Minister for Education U Aye Kyu replied the two questions. With respect to the question of U Mya Thein of Bogale Constituency whether **"there is any plan to lay down education plan for narrowing education gap between urban and rural areas and to place emphasis on education in rural areas",** he replied: the number of basic education schools in rural areas has reached 89 percent across the country. And over 67 percent of students are taught by 69 percent of teachers**.** The average ratios of teacher and student in rural areas are 1:23 at high school level, 1:37 at middle school level and 1:26 at primary schrol level.

At present, Plans are under way to transfer teachers from the schools having a lot of teachers to the schools with few teachers in order that the students can learn lessons effectively. In addition, arrangements are being made to assign new teachers with the growing number of students. Special emphasis placed on appropriate appointments of teachers according to the ratio of teacher and student and teacher and class room ratio.

Respecting the question of U Khin Maung Myint of Paung Constituency whether "**there is any plan to hold National level Education Conference with the participation of experienced scholars and organizations so as to implement education development programme for the development of the country",** he said: Ministry of Education has been holding education promotion programme since 1998. National Education Promotion Conference with the participation of officials and scholars is held at the last week of April yearly. Works to be done for coming academic year are discussed and decided at the conference. State-level policy choosing conference on Education and Health Development was held in February, 2012. Integrations programme with International experiences were coordinated at the conference. There is no plan to hold National-level Education Conference as national education promotion conference is held yearly.

At the bill approval session, Hluttaw approved the para 1, para 2 (c), para 3, para 3 heading, Para 4 (a and b), para 5 and para 9 of amended Important Goods and Services Bill by Amyotha Hluttaw.

At the report submitting session, member of Bill Committee U Thein Tun read out the report of Bill Committee on the 2012 Examination Board Bill submitted by Pyithu Hluttaw Education Promotion Committee yesterday. At the bill submitting session, Secretary of Pyithu Hluttaw Education Promotion Committee Dr Mya Oo submitted the 2012 Basic Education Bill. The date will be announced to discuss the bill and those wishing to discuss the bill are to register along with detailed para, subpara and content not later than 4 pm on 29 April. The meeting came to an end at 11:40 am and date will be announced for the 22nd Day meeting.—*MNA*

More technologies and foreign investment from developed countries outside Mekong region...

(from page 1)

Wider transportation routes in the region would establish more mutual understanding and friendship among the peoples and bring about regional stability and development thanks to more frequent contacts among the peoples in the region, he went on. He called for more technologies and foreign investment from developed countries outside the region like Japan in transforming the region into an economically developed one based on its natural resources, sound foundations for tourism development and human resources. He underlined the need for harmonious development of private-public partnership to lure more technical assistances and foreign investment.

Development of industries and economy in Mekong countries calls for investment and technical aids, he said. He sincerely believed that these steps should take cautious approach in regard of environmental degradation and climate change. He reiterated the pledge to cooperate fully in Mekong region greening programme led by Japan, and ambitions and undertakings for reduction of carbon emission and for shaping the world with mild climate. Nowadays, countries in every corner of the world, including those in the region, often suffer natural disasters, he pointed out, saying Myanmar welcomes the proposal to establish ASEAN network for disaster risk management. He thanked Japan for its assistances to ASEAN Coordination Centre for providing humanitarian assistances in disaster risk management.

President U Thein Sein being welcomed by Japanese Prime Minister Mr Yoshihiko Noda.
MNA

President U Thein Sein participates in fourth Mekong-Japan Summit.
MNA

He again expressed his gratitude towards the host for its helps in education, health and human resources development sectors for achieving Millennium Development Goals in the region. He urged the country to push for providing equal assistances to countries in the region by monetary institutions such as Asian Development Bank. He said Myanmar fully supports 2012 Tokyo Strategy with a set of work programmes for enhanced Mekong-Japan partnership drafted in the summit.

On behalf of Myanmar people and government, he thanked Japanese government and people for sincere assistances in socio-ecnomic development, environmental conservation and infrastructural development in the countries in the region within Mekong-Japan Cooperation Framework.

Japanese and Mekong leaders discussed cooperation between Mekong countries and Japan and future programmes.

The fourth Mekong-Japan Summit then adopted 2012 Tokyo Strategy for Mekong-Japan Cooperation which includes fundamental objectives for cooperation for human safety comprised of regional communication network, economic development and prevention against natural disaster between Mekong countries and Japan during coming three years from 2012 to 2015.

The Japanese PM and Mekong leaders met the press between 11 am and 11.15 am.

They then proceeded to demonstration of new electric car designed by Nissan Company of Japan.

MNA

Fourth Mekong-Japan Summit in progress at State Guest House in Tokyo.
MNA

President U Thein Sein receives Italian FM and party

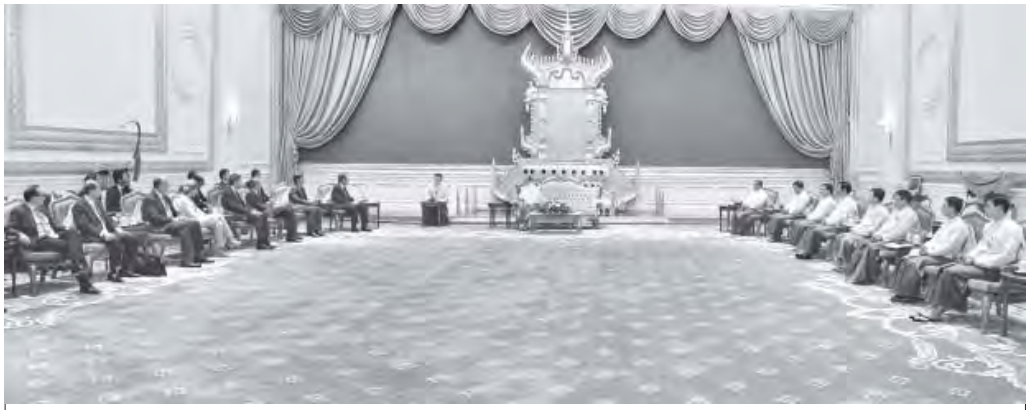
Nay Pyi Taw, 25 April—President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein received a delegation led by Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Italy Mr Giuliomaria Terzi Di Sant' Agata at the Credentials Hall of the President Palace here at 11 am today.

Also present on the occasion together with President U Thein Sein were Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister at the President Office U Soe Maung, Union Minister for Rail Transportation U Aung Min, Union Minister for Finance and Revenue U Hla Tun, Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Tin Naing Thein and heads of department.

The Italian Minister of Foreign Affairs was accompanied by Mayor of Turin Mr Piero Fassino and delegation members, businessmen and Italian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Paolo Andrea Betorelli.

At the meeting, they had a cordial discussion on further strengthening friendly ties between the two countries, economic development, promotion of investment and economic ties between Myanmar and EU countries.

MNA



***President U Thein Sein receives Italian delegation led by Foreign Affairs Minister Mr Giuliomaria Terzi Di Sant' Agata at the Credentials Hall of the President Palace.*—MNA**

Myanmar ready to open new chapter…

(from page 16)

poverty, improvement of displaced people, preventive measures against natural disasters and producing value-added agricultural products and the second pillar was to focus on the human resource development which was vital for the socio-economic development and the thrid pillar was to assist in construction of basic infrastructures to achieve long-term development, Mr Noda said, Similarly, Japan would help development of agro-based industries in Myanmar. He also expressed Japan's willing to help build necessary infrastructures for the development of Yangon and its environs and drawing the Master Plan for development of the transportation sector. Mr Noda also added that Japan had a plan to send an expert team to renovate the Biluchaung Hydro Power Plant No 2 and was willing to implement the task as soon as possible. He also welcomed the ways for the debt cancelling agreement and pledged that Japan would help to negotiate with international monetary organizations regarding the finanancial assistance from the organizations. Japan had a plan to review giving loans to Myanmar and welcomed the joint-venture projects of Thilawa Deep Sea Port and special economic zone between Myanmar and Japan. He urged the Myanmar side to encourage the practical cooperation between the government and the private sector in order that the project could be impleted early.

Production, agriculture, mining and energy companies in Japan were willing to invest in Myanmar and Japan was willing to help draft the foreign direct investment law and the special economic zone law and to coordinate for drawing the investment law between the two countries, Mr Noda said, To develop the information technology in Myanmar, Japan could share his experiences of information technology to Myanmar, he added. All Nipon Airway (ANA) had planned to launch its maiden direct-flight between Yangon and Narita, he said. Mr Noda also expressed his delight over assistance of Daiwa Security Group and Tokyo Stock Exchange in establishment of a stock market in Myanmar.

President U Thein Sein said that since Japan proposed to open a new chapter between the two countries after the Republic of the Union of Myanmar emerged in March, 2011, Japanese MPs and personnel from organizations and businesses companies had visited Myanmar. Similary, Myanmar's foreign affairs minister also paid a visit to Japan, he said. Myanmar was ready to open a new chapter with Japan as it valued the friendship between the two countries, he said.

President U Thein Sein also clarified the achievements of Myanmar and efforts of the people and the government, saying that the government was making efforts for the stability and prevalence of law and order, national reconciliation, flourishing democratic practices, emergence of the good governance and clean government, enjoying fundamental rights in accordanec with the provisions of the constitution, promotion of education and health standard, economic reforms, promotion of the socio-economic life of the people and environmental conservation.

Especially, the government had steadfastly made endeavours for the stability and development of the country, improvement of the socio-economic status of the people, democratic transition and helping the people to earn their livelihood in accordance with the law, he said.

The government was also making efforts for prevalence eternal peace in the country, witnessing the achievements in the peace making process, he said, besides, the government had taken every possible steps to ensure that all participate in the national poltical process.

Besides, the government was implementing the tasks for promotion of the socio-economy and poverty reduction of the farmers and workers who are majority of the people across the country, he added. The President also expressed his thanks for signing the MoU during his visit for sending food aid to areas where ethnic minorities and needy people were residing.

For the 45 vacant seats out of 48 vacant seats in the parliament, the by-election was held on 1 April and the National League for Democracy party won the majority and Daw Aung San Suu Kyi was also elected as a representative of Kawhmu Township, he said. He expressed his hope that Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and NLD party would be in parliaments and would join hands with the government in the interests of the country and the people, praising the by-election as a free, fair and transparent one.

A policy-making meeting on Official Development Aid (ODA) between the two countries was held in Nay Pyi Taw in November, 2011. He said he had proposed to construct foundry plant renovation, repairing and upgrading of Yangon-Mandalay railroad section, repairing and upgrading of Yangon circular railroad section, renovation of Belu Creek Nos. 1, 2 and Sedawgyi power plants, feasibility study for Middle Paunglaung Hydropower Project under the OAD of Japan. He also proposed the Japanese government to complete the remaining eight projects including extension of Yangon International Airport out of the projects implemented before 1988. He expressed his special thanks to Japan for its contribution in human resources development, fulfillment to basic needs of socio-economic life, and assistance for education, health and forest conservation of Myanmar.

The Myanmar President went on saying that Myanmar was rich in natural and human resources but in need of international investments and technologies. It had permitted over 40 billion USD investment in 460 businesses. Japan stood 12 in 31 investors in Myanmar having invested 216.22 million USD which accounted for 0.53 per cent of total investment in Myanmar. He thanked the Japanese Prime Minister for his encouragement to Japanese companies to make investments in Myanmar. The Myanmar President said that Myanmar has projects to build Thilawa Special Economic Zone near Yangon and deep sea ports in Dawe, the southern part of Myanmar, inviting Japanese to make investments, pledging to make sure smooth investment procedures.

***President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein extends greetings at dinner party hosted by Prime Minister of Japan Mr Yoshihiko Noda at State Guest House in Tokyo.*—MNA**

***President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein shakes hands with Prime Minister of Japan Mr Yoshihiko Noda at Myanmar-Japan Summit.*—MNA**

The Myanmar government was adjusting the investment law, continued the Myanmar President, promising to create investor-friendly business environment. Myanmar was trying to bring down its poverty rate to 16 per cent in 2015 from current rate of 26 per cent to meet the Millennium Development Goals. In so doing, the government's focus was on power supply, jobs creation and increased income in rural regions as 70 per cent of the population are rural people who live in poor condition. The Myanmar President then proposed the Japanese Prime Minister to urge Japanese businessmen to make a lot of investments in production industries that can create a large number of jobs, small and medium enterprises and local product-based industries in Myanmar.

The Myanmar President then expressed his commitment that Myanmar government would like to promote the bilateral trade further. During 2010-2011, the bilateral trade amounted to 493.8 million USD and in 2011-2012 it nearly doubled, reaching 822.5 million USD. And he added that he would like Economics, Trade and Industry Ministry, Chambers of Commerce and Industry and Japanese export, import companies including JETRO to smoothen the way for increased trade activities.

The Myanmar President said that Myanmar, based on agriculture, was working hard for industrialization of the nation. He requested the Japanese Prime Minister to render prioritized help in reclamation of flooded farmland, construction of anti-salt water embankment in farmlands prone to natural disaster-led salt water, production of paddy seeds and modern rice mills. He also requested for more help in human resources development and technological assistance in agricultural development of Myanmar, and continued assistance in arid zone water-sparing agricultural technologies under implementation, projects in Ayeyawady Delta and provision of mechanized farming equipment. Myanmar was actively participating in agricultural sector, and human resources development of ASEAN countries in addition to emergency rice reserve project, food security and information technology projects under ASEAN+3 cooperation. In energy sector, Myanmar was working in partnership with enterprises from Japan. Six Japanese enterprises including the Economy, Trade and Industry Ministry had come to Myanmar to discuss exploration of oil and gas, construction of oil refineries and LPG factories and renovation of factories. Myanmar would like to establish

(See page 9)

President U Thein Sein attends tea party hosted by Japanese Emperor

NAY PYI TAW, 25 April—President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein attended a tea party hosted leaders of Mekong region countries by Japanese Emperor Akihito at Japanese Emperor's Palace in Tokyo at 3.30 pm on 20 April.

Also present on the occasion were leaders of Mekong region countries Cambodian Prime Minister Samdech Hun Sen, Prime Minister of Lao People's Democratic Republic Mr Thongsing Thammavong, Thai Prime Minister Ms Yingluck Shinawatra, Vietnamese Prime Minister Mr Nguyen Tan Dung, Japanese Foreign Affairs Minister Mr Koichiro Gemba and officials.

The Japanese Emperor cordially greeted President U Thein Sein and leaders of Mekong region countries who were present to attend the tea party.

Next, the Japanese Emperor hosted a tea party to those present.

MNA

President U Thein Sein being welcomed by Japanese Emperor Akihito as he arrives at tea party.

MNA

Myanmar ready to open new chapter…

(from page 8)

production factories run with energy as raw material besides special economic zones. As Japan was a technological superpower, Myanmar would like to cooperate with it in mines, cottage industries, export of products of cooperative societies, improvement in standards and quality of foodstuff, construction of dockyards including water and air transportation, and port modernization and related works. The Myanmar President said he was glad to hear that ANA Airways would run direct flights between Japan and Myanmar. He then invited the Japanese Prime Minister to visit Myanmar at his earliest convenience.

Next, the two leaders were present at the MoU signing ceremony during which Myanmar Ambassador to Japan U Khin Maung Tin and Japanese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Takashi Saito signed MoU on Japanese government's assistance to Myanmar government for human resources development fellowship programme and exchanged notes before the Myanmar President and the Japanese Prime Minister.

Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Tin Naing Thein and Japanese Foreign Affairs Minister Mr Koichiro Gemba and Japanese Economy,

***Myanmar President U Thein Sein and Japan Prime Minister Mr Yoshihiko Noda attends MoU signing ceremony.*—MNA**

Trade and Industry Minister Mr Yukio Edano signed MoU on cooperation in main project development of Thilawa between Japan and Myanmar. Myanmar Ambassador to Japan U Khin Maung Tin and Japanese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Takashi Saito signed MoU on Japan's assistance in preventive measures against natural disaster for rehabilitation of mangrove forests in Ayeyawady Delta.

The two leaders then gave interview to media teams during which they explained matters related to the summit and future programmes of the two countries.

Next, the Myanmar President and the Japanese Prime Minister heard reports on Thilawa Sepcial Economic Zone Project and Grand Yangon Development Plan presented by a responsible official at the presentation hall.

The President then attended the dinner hosted by the Japanese Prime Minister together with his entourage. The two extended greetings at the dinner and had dinner together.—*MNA*

President U Thein Sein and Prime Minister of Japan Mr Yoshihiko Noda make explanation to media men at State Guest House of Tokyo.

MNA

President U Thein Sein attends dinner hosted by Japanese Prime Minister

NAY PYI TAW, 25 April—President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein attended a dinner hosted to leaders of Mekong region countries by Japanese Prime Minister Mr Yoshihiko Noda at the State Guest House in Tokyo at 7 pm on 20 April.

Also present on the occasion were leaders of Mekong region countries, Japanese Deputy Prime Minister Mr Katsuya Okada and ministers from Japan and Mekong region countries and high-ranking officials.

On arrival at the dinner, the President and leaders of Mekong region countries were cordially greeted by the Japanese Prime Minister.

After extending greetings on the occasion, the Japanese Prime Minister hosted a dinner to leaders of Mekong region countries.

Afterwards, the Japanese Prime Minister and leaders of Mekong region countries fed fishes at the pond in commemoration of a friendship between Mekong region countries and Japan.

MNA

President U Thein Sein attends a dinner hosted to leaders of Mekong region countries by Japanese Prime Minister Mr Yoshihiko Noda at the State Guest House in Tokyo.

MNA

***Japanese Prime Minister Mr Yoshihiko Noda and Heads of Mekong region countries feed fishes at pond.*—MNA**

President U Thein Sein attends luncheon hosted by Keidanren, Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry

NAY PYI TAW, 25 April—President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein attended a luncheon hosted to leaders of Mekong region countries by Keidanren, Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry at Imperial Hotel in Tokyo at noon on 20 April.

Present at the luncheon were leaders of Mekong region countries the Cambodian Prime Minister, the President of the Republic of Union of Myanmar, the Thai Prime Minister, the Vietnamese Prime Minister, ministers from Japan and Mekong region countries, deputy ministers, ambassadors, high-ranking officials, businessmen and traders.

On arrival at Imperial Hotel to attend lunch, leaders of Mekong region countries were welcomed by Chairman of Keidanren Mr Hiromasa Yonekua and President of Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry Mr Tadashi Okamura, and they had a documentary photo taken together.

President U Thein Sein and leaders of Mekong region countries pose for documentary photo.

MNA

Myanmar President U Thein Sein extends greeting at Imperial Hotel in Japan.

MNA

Next, the Chairman of Keidanren extended greetings on the occasion.

Afterwards, President U Thein Sein and leaders of Mekong region countries extended greetings.

Next, the Chairman of Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry toasted further development of economy in Japan-Mekong region.

Later, leaders of Mekong region countries, ministers from Japan and Mekon g region countries, deputy ministers, ambassadors, high-ranking officials, businessmen and traders enjoyed a luncheon together.

MNA

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham stresses the need to bring dignity to nation at SEA Games

Leading committee meeting for preparation of XXVII SEA Games held

NAY PYI TAW, 25 April— The 4th meeting of Leading Committee for Preparation of XXVII SEA Games took place at assembly hall of the Ministry of Sports here at 2 pm today, with an opening address by Patron of Leading Committee for Preparation of XXVII SEA Games Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Dr Sai Mauk Kham.

It was attended by Chairman of the Committee Union Minister for Sports U Tint Hsan, Chairmen of Subcommittee Union Ministers and deputy ministers, departmental heads, guests and officials.

Patron of Leading Committee for Preparation of XXVII SEA Games Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham speaking at the fourth meeting of the committee.—MNA

In his opening speech, Dr Sai Mauk Kham, said that XXVII SEA Games was drawing near and now it turned one year since the first meeting. The purpose of holding the fourth meeting was to review work progress during the one year period, preparation and difficulties of 13 subcommittees formed under the Committee and coordinate expenses necessity for the SEA Games. With the passing of time, the work progress was to materialize. Arrangements were being made to hold all competitions in Nay Pyi Taw, the capital city. But, competitions would be held in Yangon, Mandalay and Ngwehsaung in addition to Nay Pyi Taw after reviewing the benefits of buildings, sport grounds and gymnasiums after the post period of the competition. It needed to review preparations of 13 subcommittee based on the discussed facts. So, respective sub-committee and members of Leading Committee were to discuss work progress, funds, Leading Committee's resolutions and suitable advices. Difficulties of all sub-committee were coordinated after the Ministry of Sports was fixed as focal ministry. Individuals were to submit reports to the Leading Committee as quickly as possible.

Union Minister U Tint Hsan reported on preparedness for organizing the event and for achieving successes in the games and estimated budget of four sub-committees; Union Minister U Thein Nyunt, Union Minister U Kyaw Hsan, Union Minister U Hla Tun, Union Minister U Nyan Tun Aung, Deputy Minister U Soe Win, Union Minister U Thein Tun, Union Minister Lt-Gen Ko Ko, Deputy Minister Dr Win Myint on work progress and estimated budgets of each subcommittee. Deputy Ministers U Aye Myint Kyu and Brig-Gen Aung Thaw and those present at the meeting made supplementary reports on progress of works.

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham in his concluding remarks said it is important to portray country's social, economic, education and health sectors in hosting such a huge event as discussed by the leading committee and the subcommittees. He said Myanmar has capacity to host such event. For various peoples from many countries would participate in the games, friendship among the peoples would be enhanced. He thanked those present at the meeting for participating in discussion of what they could do within the timeframe.

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham, Union ministers, deputy ministers and guests viewed logos and medal samples and souvenirs to be used in XXVII SEA Games.

MNA

Union Minister for Finance and Revenue receives Italian delegation

NAY PYI TAW, 25 April—Italian Foreign Affairs Minister Mr Giuliomaria Terzi di Sant' agata and party paid a call on Union Minister for Finance and Revenue U Hla Tun at the Central Bank of Myanmar here this evening.

During the meeting, they discussed loan assistance of Italian government to Myanmar government in its political, economic and social reforms, investment opportunities, and prospects for future economic growth, and matters of mutual benefits. The Union Minister replied to queries of the Italian delegation in the areas of businesses that Italian businessmen are interested in making investments.

Also present at the call were Deputy Minister U Win Than, Governor of Central Bank of Myanmar U Than Nyein and personnel concerned.—*MNA*

Union Foreign Affairs Minister felicitates Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the State of Israel

NAY PYI TAW, 26 April—U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to Mr Avigdor Lieberman, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the State of Israel, on the occasion of the Independence Day of the State of Israel, which falls on 26 April 2012.—*MNA*

Union Minister for Livestock and Fisheries U Ohn Myint being welcomed by Israeli Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Yaron Mayer at the reception to mark 64th Anniversary Independence Day of Israel which falls on 25 April.—MNA

Rail Minister receives Italian guests

NAY PYI TAW, 25 April—Delegation led by Italian Foreign Affairs Minister Mr Giuliomaria Terzi di Sant' agata called on Union Minister for Rail Transportation U Aung Min at the ministry here this afternoon.

Also present at the call were Deputy Minister Thura U Thaung Lwin, directors-general, managing directors and officials.—*MNA*

H & T Dy Minister receives guests

NAY PYI TAW, 25 April—Deputy Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Htay Aung received Chief Operation Officer Mr Richard R Brouwer of Diethelm Travel Group, Thailand, and Managing Director Mr Lilli Saxer at his office here this afternoon.

During the meeting, they discussed matters on development of hotels and tourism Industry in Myanmar.—*MNA*

US oil price edges up

NEW YORK, 25 April— The US crude oil price edged up on Tuesday while the Brent crude slipped, and the spread between the two benchmarks narrowed further.

Driven by solid US corporate earnings, the market sentiment rose, which offered support to the US crude price.

And a weakening dollar, which dipped about 0.2 percent against a basket of currencies, also contributed to the price increase.

But the US economic data offered no support. According to a closely-watched gauge, US home prices in most major cities hit new lows in February, suggesting a struggling situation in the housing industry. Besides, the Conference Board's consumer con-fidence index slipped in April in a reflection of the softening general economy.

Investors were waiting for the inventories data due out on Wednesday and the Federal Reserve's updates about the US economy following a two-day policy meeting.—*Xinhua*

Three hurt in southern Philippine blast

COTABATO, 25 April — At least three people were wounded following a grenade explosion on Tuesday night in the restive southern Philippines, police said on Wednesday.

The provincial police commander Cornelio Salinas said that two unknown men on board a motorbike tossed a grenade at the house of trader Gerry Gornez at 6:10 pm in the township of Midsayap in North Cotabato, wounding three locals identified as Nenita Benitez, 64, Amid Bruno, 15, and Asmirah Daud.

Xinhua

Take Fire Preventive Measures

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV BANGPAKAEW VOY NO (194)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV BANGPAKAEW VOY NO (194) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 26.4.2012 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 WONGSAMUT OCEAN SHIPPING CO LTD
Phone No: 256916/256919/256921

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV OEL BLESSING VOY NO (157)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV OEL BLESSING VOY NO (157) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 26.4.2012 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: M/S BLPL LOGISTICS PTE LTD
Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

MINISTRY OF RAIL TRANSPORTATION
MYANMA RAILWAYS
INVITATION TO OPEN TENDER

1. Open Tenders are invited for supply of the following items in Euro:

Srl No.	Tender No	Description	Qty
1.	12(T)1/MR(ML) 2012-2013	- Wheel Steel Solid (Y)	1000 Nos
		- Wheel Steel Solid (YD)	1000 Nos
		- Axle Steel (Y)	200 Nos
		- Axle Steel (YD 1)	400 Nos
		- Axle Steel (W)	200 Nos
2.	12(T)2/MR(ML) 2012-2013	Spare Parts for Diesel Hydraulic Locomotive	78-Items

Closing Date & Time - 8.6.2012 (Friday)(12:00)Hours

2. Tender documents are available at our office starting from 26.4.2012 during office hours and for further detail please contact: Deputy General Manager Supply Department, Myanma Railways, Corner of Theinbyu Street and Merchant Street, Botahtaung, Yangon. Phone:95-1-291985, 291994,

Two UN observers station in Syria's Hama on Tuesday

DAMASCUS, 25 April— The spokesman of the advance team of UN observers said that two observers have stationed in Syria's central Hama Province on Tuesday. The team has toured Douma suburb of Damascus, central Hama Province and is currently patrolling the outskirts of central Homs province, Neeraj Singh told *Xinhua* by phone on Tuesday.

He said that two observers have stationed in Hama to monitor the situation there following reports of continued clashes between

Neeraj Singh (L), the spokesman of the advance team of UN observers, speaks to media in Damascus on 24 April, 2012. —XINHUA

Syrian troops and rebel forces in that area over the past days. On Saturday, two observers also stationed in Homs. Witnesses told *Xinhua* that the situation there got calmer after the deployment of observers.

On ground, there are 11 unarmed military observers operating and preparing the ground for the larger mission, which the UN Security Council has agreed to expand to around 300 observers. The advance team of international observers arrived last week after Syria accepted the UN-backed truce aiming to solve its crisis politically. Since their arrival, violence has declined to some extent, but attacks and deaths are still reported to take place on daily basis.

Xinhua

Central China mine flood kills nine

ZHENGZHOU, 25 April — Four miners who went missing following a coal mine flood in central China's Henan Province have been confirmed dead, bringing the death toll for the 14 April flood to nine, rescuers said on Wednesday.

A total of 53 miners were working in the mine in the city of Pingdingshan when it flooded. Forty-two of them managed to escape on their own, while two others were pulled out after rescuers pumped water out of the mine, according to the local rescue headquarters.

The bodies of five miners were found shortly after the flood, leaving four miners unaccounted for. After finding their bodies on Wednesday, rescuers wrapped up their rescue efforts to make way for a subsequent investigation into the accident.

A preliminary investigation showed that the flooding was caused by seepage from a disused mining pit adjacent to the mine. The mine is owned by the Yulongyuantong Coal Mining Co, which was taken over by Henan Coalbed Methane Development Co Ltd, in January this year.— *Xinhua*

A collage of profile pictures makes up a wall in the break room at the new Facebook Data Centre, on 19 April, in Forest City, North Carolina. Facebook struck a $550 million deal to get its hands on hundreds of AOL patents from Microsoft as the social network hardened its defenses before it goes public on the Nasdaq. INTERNET

Judge killed in ambush in C Philippines

MANILA, 25 April — A trial court judge was killed in an ambush on Tuesday night in central Philippine Province of Negros Occidental, police said on Wednesday.

The victim was identified as Judge Henry Arles of Regional Trial Court in Kabankalan, a city of the Negros Occidental Province, Philippine National Police spokesman Agrimero Cruz Jr said.

Initial investigation by the police revealed that the victim, while driving his car going to south direction, was shot by a group of unidentified suspects on a tricycle in the vicinity of Manalad village, Ilog town of the province. Arles was brought to a hospital but was declared dead on arrival by the attending physician.

Cruz said investigation has been ongoing to determine the possible motive of the killing and for the apprehension of the suspects.— *Xinhua*

Explosion rocks soccer viewing centre in Nigeria

JOS, 25 April — An explosion rocked a football viewing centre in Nigeria's central north city of Jos on Tuesday night, the police said. Plateau State commissioner of police Dipo Ayeni confirmed this to *Xinhua*, saying that the number of casualties cannot be confirmed now.

A *Xinhua* reporter in the restive city said three persons were injured in the blast that rocked a football center at Tudun Wada in Jos north area of Plateau. According to him, the affected persons have been rushed to the hospital while the youths in the area are demanding for the immediate withdrawal of security from the area.

He said security personnel have condoned off the area and dispersed the protesting youths. There is no immediate claim of responsibility from any group. The blast occurred when the European Champions League match between Chelsea football club of England and FC Barcelona of Spain was going on.— *Xinhua*

Beijing roast duck prepared by culinary disciples

BEIJING, 25 April — Wearing white chef uniforms and hats, four top-ranking chefs from the Quanjude Group, a chain of restaurants renowned for their roast duck, presented a bouquet of flowers and bowed to Gu Jiuru and Zheng Shaowu, two master chefs who represent the highest level of Chinese cooking. The ceremony, referred to as a "discipleship ceremony," is a traditional part of many Chinese workplaces. In these ceremonies, "disciples" (workers who are being trained to improve their abilities) bow and serve tea to their "shifu" ("master"), the person responsible for guiding their training.

Although the more traditional aspects of the ceremony are seldom observed, the respect given to the masters by their disciples has never changed. Of the four top chefs from Quanjude, 38-year-old Yang Huiyu is the youngest. He is in charge of a team of 43 chefs at a Quanjude branch in southwest China's Chongqing municipality. After going through a meticulous selection and examination process administered by Quanjude, Yang finally got the opportunity to acknowledge and pay his respects to Gu at the discipleship ceremony, which was held last Wednesday. "Chinese dining culture is extensive and profound. I hope to learn about and inherit traditional cultural knowledge from my master Gu," Yang said.

China Quanjude (Group) Co, Ltd has been around for nearly 150 years and is one of China's most well-known restaurant chains. Although perhaps best known for their roast duck, Quanjude serves a wide variety of Chinese cuisine, all prepared by some of the best chefs in the business. Quanjude's chefs bear a quote from the late Chairman Mao Zedong in mind while working: "Quanjude should be forever kept."

Xinhua

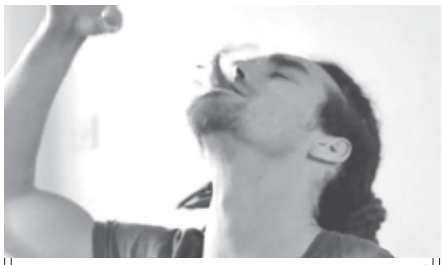
In this photo released by Tsunemi Kubodera, a researcher with Japan's National Science Museum, a giant squid attacking a bait squid is being pulled up by his research team off the Ogasawara Islands, south of Tokyo, on 4 Dec, 2006. The research team, led by Kubodera, has succeeded in filming the giant squid live, possibly for the first time, at the surface as they captured it off the remote island of Chichijima, which is about 960 kilometers (600 miles) southeast of Tokyo. About seven meters (24 feet) long squid died in the process of being caught. The photo was made out of the video they filmed. —INTERNET

Parrot picked to grace Frontier plane tail

Denver-based Frontier Airlines announced Polly the parrot will become the latest animal to be pictured on the tail of an airplane. Dan Krause, Frontier's vice president of marketing and customer experience, said the parrot received more votes than Chloe the chipmunk and Enrique the tree frog to join the airline's cast of characters, *The Denver Post* reported on Thursday.

"It was a tight race all the way through but Polly came out ahead with 39 percent of the vote," Krause said. "With nearly 65,000 unique votes cast throughout the campaign, it is clear the public feels strongly about which animal should join our current cast of characters and we look forward to integrating Polly into upcoming campaigns."

Krause said Chloe was close behind with 36 percent and Enrique finished last with 25 percent.



A British man named Louis Cole uploaded a video of eating his pet goldfish alive on Youtube. He has also eaten a live tarantula, scorpion and crayfish.

Woman angry at dating spreadsheet leaker

The woman who received the highest ranking on a New York investment banker's dating spreadsheet said she's angry at the woman who leaked the document.

Liliana Beidaut, 26, a makeup artist who received a 9.5 ranking on the infamous Match.com dating scorecard made by David Merkur, 28, said she was upset to find someone had leaked the spreadsheet to the public, the *New York Post* reported on Friday. The spreadsheet, which Merkur used to rank eight female Match.com users on their appearances, became public after the banker sent it to one of his dates, a woman named Arielle, and she sent it to her friends. "Why would she send it to the whole world?" said Beidaut, whose ranking was the highest on the list. "It was a really stupid move. x "My face is plastered everywhere now," she said. "I was just thinking that I was using Match.com."

Beidaut, who theorized Merkur sent the list to Arielle because he "really liked" her and she passed it on because she was "spiteful" about her low ranking, said she is "absolutely" considering legal action against the other woman.

News Album

South American bird found in Chicago

Chicago bird-watchers say they've found a South American white-crested elaenia 7,000 miles away from home — only the second to be spotted in the United States.

Two Oak Park brothers spied the green and white bird last week during a routine bird-watching trip to Douglas Park.

The teens posted photographs on Facebook on the Illinois Birders' Forum, *the Chicago Tribune* reported Sunday, and other bird-watchers quickly weighed in to confirm the boys' suspicions.

"You're finding something that shouldn't be there," said Ethan Gyllenhaal, 16. "It's so weird to think that it flew 7,000 miles away. You just happen to be looking at the right tree and the right time."

"It's kind like being a proud parent," said Aaron Gyllenhaal, 15. The elaenia — about 13.5 to 15 centimeters long and weighing about half an ounce — is normally found in the forest edges in the Andes Mountains, the Cornell Lab of Ornithology said.

The American Birding Association has not confirmed the bird is, in fact, a white-crested elaenia. No one seems to know how or why the bird traveled 7,000 miles to perch in Douglas Park, the *Tribune* said.

Century-old tortoise dies

A 660-pound Aldabra tortoise more than 100 years old has died at the Silver Springs Nature's Theme Park in Silver Springs, Fla, officials say.

Frank the Tank passed away in his pen Thursday, *The Ocala (Fla) Star-Banner* reported. Considered to be the theme park's oldest animal, the park was Frank's home for more than 40 years. Aldabra tortoises are native to the Aldabra group of islands of Seychelles, a country off the east coast of Africa.

Singer Jessie J

Christina Aguilera loves her make-up

LOS ANGELES, 25 April— Singer-actress Christina Aguilera loves her cosmetics too much, says make-up artist Scott Barnes, who doubts the former can ever keep her look toned down.

Barnes suggested that Aguilera should opt for a more subtle look for the show "The Voice", but he he isn't sure how long the change will last.

"Christina didn't really want to change anything, but sometimes, too much of too much is definitely too much. I cut back on the bronzer and redefined her look a bit, while keeping to who she is," contactmusic.com quoted Barnes as saying.

Singer-Christina Aguilera.

"She has a very expensive voice and I wanted her look to reflect that. It was fun playing with her look, but at the end of the day, the girl loves her make-up," he added.

"She's very opinionated about the way she looks, but she really likes the end result. She looks beautiful," he said.

The actress has previously admitted she finds it hard to stay with one style for too long because she gets bored.

"I like to keep it fresh and interesting. I get bored and I'm an artist first and foremost. I'm from the world of making videos and touring and I love theatrics," she said.

"That's why sometimes you'll see me with a hat, sometimes you'll see me just a little more subdued like today," she added.

Internet

Jessie J working on musical

LONDON, 25 April —Singer Jessie J, who suffered a stroke when she was 18, is writing a feel-good musical. She wants the show to inspire youngsters who wish to achieve their dreams.

Currently seen as a mentor on US-based reality show "The Voice", Jessie J believes the tough love of one of her teachers helped her become a star, and insists she wants to do the same for her contestants on the show, reports contactmusic.com.

"I would love to do musicals. That is what I trained in. I've started writing one but it's kind of been put to the side," she told radio.com. "It's about life and feeling good. It's about time there's something on stage that kids can go to and come out thinking they can take on the world and do something with their life if they are in a bad place," she said while explaining the script.—*Internet*

Zeta-Jones sings at school fundraiser

Actress Catherine Zeta-Jones.

NEW YORK, 25 April— Actress Catherine Zeta-Jones let the singer in her loose at a fundraiser for her children's school.

The actress stole the show at the benefit, which helped raise money for the Windward School in White Plains here. Her two children — Dylan, 11, and Carys, nine — attend the school.

She took to the stage with a group of students at the event held at Manhattan's Cipriani 42nd Street restaurant last week, reports dailystar.co.uk.

Music star Sting also paid a visit to the charitable event.

Internet

Aniston and Theroux not marrying in Crete

Jennifer Aniston

LOS ANGELES, 25 April— Jennifer Aniston's publicist Monday denied a media report that said the Hollywood actress plans to wed beau Justin Theroux in Crete this July. The film star's representative told US Magazine.com the wedding report is a "total fabrication" and said Aniston "was not in Greece" scouting locations for a possible ceremony.

"How is it that one of the most photographed people in the world supposedly goes to Greece to check out a hotel she never heard of and is not spotted or photographed?" the representative told the celebrity news Web site.

Aniston and Theroux have been dating for nearly a year.—*Internet*

Bonham Carter wore nappies on 'Harry Potter' sets

LONDON, 25 April— Actress Helena Bonham Carter had to wear a nappy on the set of "Harry Potter and The Half-Blood Prince" because she had a weak bladder after the birth of her second child.

The star started work on the sixth movie just 12 weeks after welcoming her daughter Nell.

But her high-energy scenes came too close to the birth, and she admits she had several accidents during filming. So, she resorted to wearing a nappy to save herself from embarrassing drying-off sessions, reports dailystar.co.uk.

"I really couldn't jump up and down and scream without losing most of my bodily liquid. They had these air dryers on set, these huge things - that's where I would dry myself off," said Carter.

Actress Helena Bonham Carter

She managed keeping the diapers a secret during the shoot.

"None of the men knew I wore diapers. They don't know, you see. But all the girls were, like, 'How can you?' But, actually, I don't think I was too embarrassed. There's something quite liberating about having a baby."

"I loved having a baby. I would have a baby every day if I could. The birth day is fantastic. It is magic. It is complete magic," she said.

Internet

Visitors take picture of actress Gong Li's portrait in the Olympic Park of Beijing, capital of China, on 21 April, 2012. Portraits of 50 film artists were decorated in the Olympic Park during the second Beijing International Film Festival kicked off on Monday.

XINHUA

Di Matteo hails Chelsea's unbreakables

***Chelsea's Italian coach Roberto Di Matteo celebrates after beating Barcelona during the UEFA Champions League second leg semi-final football match Barcelona against Chelsea at the Cam Nou stadium in Barcelona.*— INTERNET**

BARCELONA, 25 April — Roberto Di Matteo hailed the phenomenal spirit of his players after Chelsea completed the latest in a line of stunning fightbacks to upset Barcelona and advance to the Champions League final. In one of the most remarkable nights in the illustrious competition's history, a Chelsea side reeling from the dismissal of captain John Terry came back from 2-0 down to draw 2-2 and seal a 3-2 aggregate win over the Catalans. Brazilian midfielder Ramires and striker Fernando Torres scored the goals which secured Chelsea's passage to the Munich final after Sergio Busquets and Andres Iniesta had put Barcelona in the driving seat. But Chelsea owed everything to a heroic collective effort from a battle-hardened group of players who once again managed to pull victory from the jaws of defeat. "It was an incredible game with all the events that happened," Di Matteo said. "I am very happy and pleased for all the players because they deserved this moment. "We've had a difficult season; they always seem to dig something special out when they need to. I think that's part of the DNA of these players. "Barcelona are the best team in the world.

Internet

***Chelsea's Spanish forward Fernando Torres scores past Barcelona's goalkeeper Victor Valdes during the Champions League second leg semi-final at Nou Camp.* INTERNET**

International Sports

***The Senegal team celebrates beating Oman in their men's final Olympic playoff in Coventry, central England on 23 April, 2012.* —REUTERS**

Wimbledon's early victims to get pay rise

LONDON, 25 April — Wimbledon's early victims will be comforted by a larger slice of the total prize money this year after organizers on Tuesday announced a 26 percent pay rise for first-round losers. The substantial increase for the also-rans dwarfs the 4.5-percent rise for the men's and women's singles winners at this year's grasscourt tennis grand slam.

However, the 1.15 million pounds up for grabs for the champions still represents a 50,000-pounds jump on what last year's victors Novak Djokovic and Petra Kvitova received.

Total prize money for the 25 June - 8 July Wimbledon championships, the 126th edition of the tournament, will be 16.1 million pounds, a 10 percent rise on last year. Those who crash out in first-round matches on the opening Monday might even be able to spend some of their 14,500-pounds cheque on a spot of lunch as play on all but the two main show courts will begin for the first time at 1130 local time.

Internet

***2011 Wimbledon champions Petra Kvitova and Novak Djokovic.* INTERNET**

***Chelsea's defender John Terry (L) receives a red card from Turkish referee Cuneyt Cakir during the UEFA Champions League second leg semi-final football match Barcelona against Chelsea at the Camp Nou stadium in Barcelona.*— INTERNET**

Britain to face Senegal in first game

LONDON, 25 April— Hosts Britain, taking part in their first Olympic soccer finals since 1960, will kick off their bid for gold against Senegal at Old Trafford after being placed in a tough opening round group in the draw at Wembley on Tuesday. Senegal, who play Britain on 26 July, reached their first Olympics after beating Oman 2-0 in a playoff on Monday and the group will be completed by Uruguay and the United Arab Emirates. Like Britain, who won the soccer gold in 1908 and 1912, Uruguay also boast two Olympic titles from 1924 and 1928, and they are returning to the Games after a long absence, in their case 84 years since they won the tournament in Antwerp. "I saw them play at the Under-20 World Cup and they were very impressive," Britain coach Stuart Pearce told a news conference.

Pearce has a list of 80 probables for his Olympic squad from England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland and can call on leading players from the Premier League. Luis Suarez of Liverpool could be included in the Uruguay squad and Newcastle United strikers Demba Ba and Papiss Cisse would add considerable firepower to the Senegal team. "It is such an honour to play against Britain in the opening match at Old Trafford," Augustin Senghor, the president of the Senegalese FA, told *Reuters*. "I know we were the last to arrive in these finals after the playoff last night, but I hope that we will not be the first to leave. We will also field our strongest team and see if our players at Newcastle like Demba Ba and Papiss Cisse can be involved."

Seeded Brazil, five-times World Cup winners but never Olympic champions, face Egypt, Belarus and New Zealand in Group C and will play their matches in Cardiff, Manchester and Newcastle.

Reuters

Brazil to invest $17 billion in mass transit for World Cup

SAO PAULO, 25 April — Brazil will invest $17 billion on public transport for the 2014 World Cup and the 2016 Summer Olympics, President Dilma Rousseff announced on Tuesday. She said in a speech here that the federal government, states and cities would earmark a total of 32 billion reals ($17 billion) for streetcars, subways and bus stations but gave no timetable for completion.

The president stressed that the projects would directly benefit 53 million Brazilians in several cities. "Young people, children and adults use these transport systems and mass transit most serves people with the lowest incomes," she stressed.

With a population of more than 191 million, Brazil, Latin America's leading economic power, faces huge transportation problems in big cities such as Sao Paulo, Rio de Janeiro, Salvador and Belo Horizonte, its biggest challenge as host of the world's two top sporting events.

Internet

No complaints says Terry after red card

BARCELONA, 25 April — Chelsea captain John Terry said he deserved his red card in Tuesday's 2-2 draw at Barcelona which eliminated the holders and booked the Premier League side's place in next month's Champions League final. Defender Terry was shown a straight red card by Turkish referee Cuneyt Cakir in the 37th minute for kneeing Alexis Sanchez in the back and will miss the final on 19 May.

"It does look bad on the replay. I raised my knee which in hindsight I shouldn't have done. No complaints from the replay," the Englishman told Sky Sports after his team went through 3-2 on aggregate. "Sanchez darted in behind me. At the time I was bewildered. I feel like I've let the lads down," added Terry, whose missed penalty cost Chelsea the 2008 title against Manchester United in Moscow.

Chelsea will also be without the suspended Branislav Ivanovic in the Munich final while fellow defender Gary Cahill was injured during Tuesday's match and David Luiz missed the game.

Terry said he was not surprised at Chelsea's stunning upset. "This is what this football club deserves. It's massive." Caretaker coach Roberto Di Matteo said: "He's a fantastic leader of this group. Everybody can make a mistake in life. We're just happy to go through. We're all human beings. They're under huge pressure these players."

Reuters

Schalke star Huntelaar left behind by team bus

***Schalke 04 midfielder Jermaine Jones (L) and striker Klaas-Jan Huntelaar. Huntelaar capped a memorable weekend, which included a training ground bust-up and his 25th league goal of the season, by being stranded in Augsburg, it was reported on Tuesday.*— INTERNET**

AUGSBURG , 25 April — Schalke 04's Dutch striker Klaas-Jan Huntelaar capped a memorable weekend, which included a training ground bust-up and his 25th league goal of the season, by being stranded in Augsburg, it was reported on Tuesday. Huntelaar was photographed fighting with team-mate Jermaine Jones in training on Saturday, and then scored as the Royal Blues drew 1-1 at Augsburg on Sunday only to be forgotten by his team-mates, according to German daily *Bild.* The 28-year-old netted in the first-half in Bavaria to make him the Bundesliga's top scorer alongside Bayern Munich's Mario Gomez. But after answering a barrage of questions from waiting journalists, Huntelaar discovered the Schalke team bus had left without him en route to Munich airport, from where the squad were due to fly back to Gelsenkirchen. Local police helped him link up with the team bus so he could catch the flight home, but he is not the first Bundesliga star to be left behind in Bavaria.

Last month, Borussia Dortmund midfielder Ilkay Gundogan suffered a similar fate after scoring the winning goal in extra time in the German Cup semi-final at Greuther Fuerth. "Someone counted double," admitted Schalke goalkeeper Lars Unnerstall before captain Benedikt Hoewedes finally noticed Huntelaar was missing. "On a day like that, it can happen," said Schalke's general manager Horst Heldt.

Internet

***The construction site of a new stadium, Itaquerao, which will be used for the opening match of the 2014 World Cup is illuminated during the night in Sao Paulo on 3 April. Brazil will invest $17 billion on public transport for the 2014 World Cup and the 2016 Summer Olympics, President Dilma Rousseff announced Tuesday.*—INTERNET**

Focus Myanmar TV Programme

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(26-4-12 09:30 am ~ 27-4-12 09:30 am) MST

- News
- Thingyan Image
- News
- Myanmar Movie Impact "Broken Heart"
- News
- Music Programme
- News
- Today's Efficient Youths
- News
- Shwe Bo Township Bearing Five Names (Part-1)
- News
- Culture Stage
- News
- A Highland with Peace and Charm
- News
- Beauties of Makyee Island
- Myanmar Movie "The Magician's Flower"
- "Short Story" Enslaved

MYANMAR TV

(26-4-2012) (Thursday)

7:00 am
1. Paritta By Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw

7:30 am
2. Morning News

7:50 am
3. Nice & Sweet Song

8:10 am
4. Dance of National Races

4:00 pm
5. Martial Song

4:20 pm
6. Cute Little Dancer

4:50 pm
7. One Village and One Product

5:10 pm
8. Songs ForUpholding National Spirit

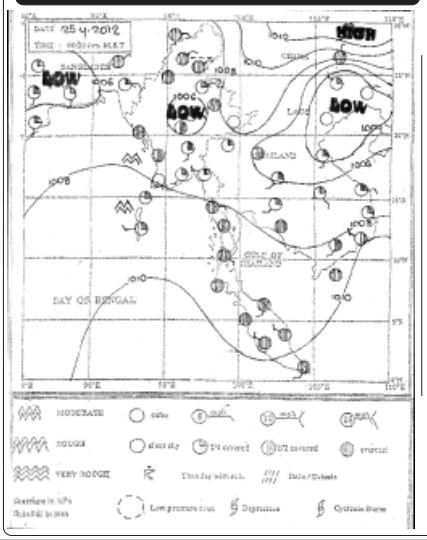
5:30 pm
9. Science and Environment

6:20 pm
10. Myanmar Series

6:40 pm
11. approaching Science Discovery World

8:00 pm
12. News
13. TV Drama Series
14. TV Drama Series

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



Weather forecast for 26th April, 2012

Sr. No.	Regions/States	Temperature (°C/°F)		For Tomorrow	
		Maximum	Minimum	Forecast	Percent
1	Kachin	36/97	22/72	Likelihood of scattered rain or thundershowers	(60%)
2	Kayah	36/97	20/68	Partly cloudy	
3	Kayin	39/102	24/75	Partly cloudy	
4	Chin	27/81	16/61	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	(60%)
5	Upper Sagaing	39/102	25/77	Likelihood of scattered rain or thundershowers	(60%)
6	Lower Sagaing	43/109	23/73	Partly cloudy	
7	Tanintharyi	37/99	24/75	Likelihood of scattered rain or thundershowers	(60%)
8	Bago	40/104	25/77	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	(60%)
9	Magway	43/109	28/82	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	(60%)
10	Mandalay	41/106	29/84	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	(60%)
11	Mon	36/97	27/81	Partly cloudy	
12	Yangon	39/102	25/77	Partly cloudy	
13	Rakhine	35/95	28/82	Partly cloudy	
14	Southern Shan	39/84	17/63	Likelihood of scattered rain or thundershowers	(60%)
15	Northern Shan	36/97	18/64	Likelihood of scattered rain or thundershowers	(60%)
16	Eastern Shan	37/99	20/68	Likelihood of scattered rain or thundershowers	(60%)
17	Ayeyawady	38/100	26/79	Partly cloudy	
18	Neighbouring Nay Pyi Taw	42/108	25/77	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	(60%)
19	Neighbouring Yangon	39/102	25/77	Partly cloudy	
20	Neighbouring Mandalay	41/106	29/84	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 Kachin State, isolated in Upper Sagaing, Mandalay, Bago and Tanintharyi Regions and weather has been partly cloudy in the remaining Regions and States. Day temperature were (5°C) above April average temperatures in Upper Sagaing Region and Chin State, (3°C) above April average temperatures in Lower Sagaing and Magway Regions, Northern Shan and Eastern Shan States and about April average temperatures in the remaining Regions and States. The significant day temperatures were Chauk (46°C), Monywa and Minbu (43°C) each. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Bago (0.39) inch and Putao (0.24) inch.
Bay Inference	Weather is partly cloudy to cloudy in Southwest Bay and partly 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.

***Bolton Wanderers' Ryo Miyaichi passes the ball during their English Premier League soccer match against Aston Villa at Villa Park in Birmingham, central England on 24 April, 2012.*—REUTERS**

Bolton fight back to beat Villa

LONDON, 25 April— Bolton Wanderers fought back from a goal down to beat Aston Villa 2-1 on Tuesday and boost their chances of Premier League survival.

Hosts Villa took the lead through Stephen Warnock after 61 minutes but Bolton hit back immediately with a penalty by Martin Petrov and David N'Gog grabbed the winner a minute later.

Bolton climbed above Blackburn Rovers into 18th place in the 20-team standings, a point behind Wigan Athletic and Queens Park Rangers with a game in hand. Villa remained in serious danger of going down on 36 points, just two ahead of Wigan and QPR with three matches left.

Bolton manager Owen Coyle praised his side's character in hitting back from a goal down. "Coming into the game we had been in good form and the win tonight gives us 13 points from 21 that have been available," he told the club's website. "All credit to the players because, to a man, they stood up and were counted tonight. Our character and belief on and off the pitch is going to be so important for us, home and away in our last four games."

Bolton travel to face Sunderland on Saturday while Villa, who have taken just three points from their last seven games, make the short journey to West Brom. *Reuters*

Singer Beyonce

Beyonce named People's most beautiful woman

NEW YORK, 25 April— People magazine has named Beyonce as the World's Most Beautiful Woman for 2012.

The 30-year-old singer tops the magazine's annual list of the "World's Most Beautiful" in a special double issue. The announcement was made Wednesday.

Commenting on her selection, Beyonce tells People: "I feel more beautiful than I've ever felt because I've given birth. I have never felt so connected, never felt like I had such a purpose on this Earth." Beyonce, who is married to rapper Jay-Z, gave birth to a daughter, Blue Ivy Carter, in January.

"She's just the cutest thing," says the Grammy winner, who sings to her daughter and claims to "love" changing diapers. Does Blue resemble mom or dad? "She looks like Blue," the singer says. "She's her own person." "The best thing about having a daughter is having a true legacy," she adds. "The word 'love' means something completely different now." Other celebrities on the list include Julia Roberts, Nicole Kidman and Jessica Pare of "Mad Men."—*Internet*

UK police still hope to find missing Madeleine alive

LONDON, 25 April— British police investigating the disappearance of Madeleine McCann, the three-year-old who went missing in Portugal five years ago sparking a global hunt, still hope to find her alive, the officer leading the inquiry said on Wednesday. Detective Chief Inspector Andy Redwood told reporters police have identified 195 "investigative opportunities" from existing evidence that have been handed to Portuguese police. Some, he said, included new information.

"We genuinely believe there is a possibility that she is alive," he said. "We would like the case to be reopened."

Madeleine disappeared from her family's holiday apartment in the resort of Praia da Luz on May 3, 2007, prompting a massive police probe and a search that gripped media across the world. She went missing while her parents Kate and Gerry were dining at a nearby restaurant with seven friends.

Despite numerous

Madeleine McCann.

reported sightings from Belgium and Spain to Morocco, France and Malta and investigations stretching as far as Australia, her whereabouts remain a mystery. The McCanns were named as official suspects by Portuguese police four months after their daughter's disappearance but in 2008 they were cleared and Portugal's public prosecutor later dropped the case citing a lack of any evidence.

The McCanns had won 550,000 pounds ($888,000) in damages from two British newspapers who suggested they had killed Madeleine, while their friends - known as the "Tapas 7" - also won large payouts over claims they had lied about the abduction. Last year, the McCanns wrote to British Prime Minister David Cameron saying neither the British nor Portuguese officials were doing enough to find their daughter and that only private investigators they had hired were still following their case.

Cameron subsequently ordered a new probe by London police who are working through 40,000 pieces of material and documents, and have issued a computer-generated photograph showing how Madeleine might look now as her ninth birthday approaches.

Redwood, who has been to Portugal seven times on the case, declined to give details about any possible suspects, or sightings, although he said these form part of the new findings. He said he would not be drawn on any hypothesis of where Madeleine might be if alive and that police were giving equal weight in their review to the notion she was dead. Any formal decision to reopen the case would have to be taken by Portugal.—*Reuters*

Former England striker Michael Owen

Owen aims for return this season

LONDON, 25 April—Former England striker Michael Owen thinks he could still feature for Premier League title-chasers Manchester United before the end of the season, despite being sidelined by a string of injuries. The 32-year-old has not featured since November 2 due to a thigh problem but is now back in full training.

With just three games of the league season left, Owen accepts he is unlikely to start but is keen to be involved from the bench. Reigning champions United lead Manchester City by three points at the top of the table before a potentially vital derby at Eastlands on Monday.

"I can't imagine myself getting back and starting in the 11," Owen told MUTV, United's own television station, on Wednesday. "My mindset has got to be get myself ready mentally, physically and everything else because I might be needed for 10 or 20 minutes at a late stage of the season. "Who knows? It could be the last game of the season at Sunderland. "I might have built up enough, whether playing in a reserves game or two, and then that's fine.

"But I think the immediate thing is to get myself mentally ready, just in case the manager says, 'I'll put you on the bench' or whatever and I'll come on for 15 minutes and try to nick a goal if we're struggling."

Owen's only league appearance this season was in a draw at Stoke in September but he has scored three goals in two League Cup matches.—*Internet*

Myanmar ready to open new chapter in friendly relations with Japan

President U Thein Sein

Japan supports Myanmar's reform process

Japanese PM Mr Yoshihiko Noda

NAY PYI TAW, 25 April— President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar attended the Myanmar-Japan Summit at the State Guest House in Tokyo, Japan, on 21 April.

When President U Thein Sein arrived at the State Guest House, he was welcomed by Prime Minister of Japan Mr Yoshihiko Noda.

At the summit, Myanmar delegation led by President U Thein Sein was comprised of Union Ministers U Wunna Maung Lwin, U Soe Thein, U Hla Tun, U Tin Naing Thein and U Win Myint, Deputy Minister Dr Win Myint, Ambassador of Myanmar to Japan U Khin Maung Tin and high-ranking officials while Japanese side was comprised of Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda, ministers, deputy ministers, Japanese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Takashi Saito and high-ranking officials.

Myanmar-Japan Summit held at State Guest House in Tokyo.—MNA

First, Japanese Prime Minister extended greetings expressing Japan's high praises for the constructive progress in democratic transition, national reconciliation and economic reforms and for the success of the April-1 by-elections which was important for Myanmar. He continued to say that international community including Japan were keeping a watchful eye on the reform processes in Myanmar and Japan would continue to support the process. Results from the summit would strenghten the relations between the two countries, he added.

President U Thein Sein on his part said that his visit to Japan was the first after the new government was elected by the people in accordance with the State Constitution and the visit was a historic milestone between the two countries as a Head of State paid a visit to Japan during 28 years.

He continued to say that he hoped that the two countries would be able to lay down infrastructures to open a new chapter for bilateral relations thanks to the summit.

President U Thein Sein expressed his wish to work together with the Japanese Prime Minister as part of efforts for promoting the understanding and friendship between the two countries and bilateral cooperation based on the historic friendship of the two countries.

Afterwards, Japanese Prime Minister Mr Noda said that Japan would make efforts for promoting the bilateral friendship and was ready to help Myanmars' reform process. In responese to constructive develop-ments in Myanmar, Japan was reviewing its polices on Myanmar, he added. He pledged Japan's aids as three pillors in three sectors in Myanmar. The first pillar would help aiding the socio-economic development of Myanmar people including socio-economic development of ethnic minorities in border areas and rural people, reducing

(See page 8)

President U Thein Sein arrives back from Mekong-Japan Summit and official goodwill visit

President U Thein Sein being welcomed back by Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham and Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Vice-Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at Nay Pyi Taw Airport.

MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 25 April—President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein and party after attending the 4th Mekong-Japan Summit in Tokyo of Japan and paying a state visit, arrived back at Nay Pyi Taw Airport here this morning.

The Myanmar delegation led by President U Thein Sein was welcomed back at Nay Pyi Taw Airport by Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Vice-Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) General Soe Win, Union Minister for Religious Affairs Thura U Myint Maung, Union Ministers at the President Office U Thein Nyunt and U Soe Maung, Union Construction Minister U Khin Maung Myint, Union Transport Minister U Nyan Tun Aung, Union Energy Minister U Than Htay, Union Science and Technology Minister U Aye Myint, Union Electric Power No.2 Minister U Khin Maung Soe, Nay Pyi Taw Command Commander Maj-Gen Maung Maung Aye, departmental personnel, Minister-Counsellor Deputy Chief of Mission Mr Ichiro Maruyama and officials of Japanese Embassy.

Delegation members Union Foreign Affairs Minister U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Industry Minister U Soe Thein, Union Finance and Revenue Minister U Hla Tun, Union National Planning and Economic Development Minister U Tin Naing Thein and Union Commerce Minister U Win Myint, Deputy Health Minister Dr Win Myint and departmental officials also arrived back here together with the President.—*MNA*