

The New Light of Myanmar

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Thursday, 25 April, 2013

President U Thein Sein heads to Brunei for ASEAN Summit



NAY PYI TAW, 24 April—President U Thein Sein left here for Brunei Darussalam to attend 22nd ASEAN Summit this afternoon.

The delegation led by President U Thein Sein was seen off by Vice-Presidents Dr Sai Mauk Kham and U Nyan Tun, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services

Senior-General Min Aung Hlaing, Union Ministers Lt-Gen Ko Ko, U Thein Nyunt, U Ohn Myint, U Nyan Tun Aung, U Win Myint, Dr Myint Aung and Dr Ko Ko Oo, Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Maj-Gen Maung Maung Aye, departmental heads and officials at Nay Pyi Taw International Airport.

Union Ministers U Wunna Maung Lwin, U Tin Naing Thein and Dr Kan Zaw, Deputy Ministers U Zin Yaw, Dr Daw Thein Thein Htay and Daw Sanda Khin and departmental heads accompanied the President as delegation members.

MNA

President U Thein Sein being seen off by Vice-Presidents Dr Sai Mauk Kham and U Nyan Tun and party at Nay Pyi Taw International Airport.—MNA

Region Chief Minister meets storm victims

NAY PYI TAW, 24 April—Bago Region Chief Minister U Nyan Win gave comfort to storm victims at Ayemon Village in Kawa Township on 22 April.

The Region Chief Minister provided cash assistance to storm-torn villages

and Region Social Affairs Minister Dr Kyaw Oo presented relief aids worth over K 4.9 million to 315 households.

Region Hluttaw Speaker U Win Tin and officials donated relief items and cash assistance to

storm victims in Thayetgon village.

The region government presented over K 20 million to 542 households—K 25,000 to each roof raved house and K 45,000 to each damaged house in ten storm-torn villages.—MNA

Pen culture fish breeding introduced

NAY PYI TAW, 24 April—Deputy Minister for Livestock and Fisheries U Khin Maung Aye inspected Sakyin fish pond in Sakyin Village in Madaya Township yesterday, calling for non-extinction of Ayeyawady

inhabitant indigenous fish. The Sakyin fish pond will operate pen culture fish farming with technical help from the Fisheries Department.

The deputy minister also visited pig farm in

Yinmyaw man-made lake and Yenantha fish breeding station. Pen culture fish breeding will also be adopted in Pauk man-made lake in ChaungU Township in Sagaing Region.

MNA

Thilawa Special Economic Zone estimated to create over 200,000 jobs

The news crew of Kyemon Daily met Director U Win Naing Tun of Resource & Environment Myanmar Co Ltd, a local environmental conservation observer, recently to learn about Thilawa Special Economic Zone Project being implemented in Thanlyin Township, Yangon.

Kyemon: What is your intention of seeking recommendations from the public about the project?

WNT: We would like to let the public know more about the project and reduce environmental impacts caused by the project.

Kyemon: How is the progress?

WNT: A Myanmar company and a Japan

company will jointly implement the project in two phases. The first phase includes heavy industries like automobile and electronics plants, residential areas, schools, hospitals and recreation areas. The second phase includes garment factories and food processing factories.

Kyemon: What is the operational plan?

WNT: The project is divided into two classes. Class A will cover an area of 5930 acres. It will have a main road and streets. Water supplies come from Zarmani Reservoir for the short term, Lagunpyin Reservoir for middle term and Ngamoeyeik Dam for long term.

Kyemon: Are there any preventive measures against floods?

WNT: The level of water reached over 17 feet during the flood of Nargis cyclone in 2008. We estimate the class A can cope with that height.

Kyemon: How is the electricity supply?

WNT: Currently, we can get from 10 to 20 megavolts from Thanlyin power station. Ministry of Electric Power will be responsible for electricity supply when the economic zone comes operational.

Interviewer: Soe Soe Naing (Kyemon)
Photo: Khin Maung Win (Kyemon)

Kyemon: What would be the advantages of the project?

WNT: The transportation will improve and job opportunities will increase upon completion of the project, leading to economic boom. In addition, it will also facilitate to better



Director U Win Naing Tun

drinking water supply and sanitation systems, along with corporate social responsibility programmes. The project is estimated to create over 200,000 new jobs. Environmental impact assessment has been under way and plans will be formulated to maintain the ecological balance of the project area.

Kyemon: 23-4-13
Trs: TKK



Piglets on sales in Pale Township

PALE, 24 April—The local people sell piglets produced from pig breeding on a manageable scale of rural regions in Pale Township of Monywa

District.

Piglets are on sales at rural areas of the township in addition to Haka, Thantlang, Falam, Tiddim and other hilly townships

of Chin State.

Piglets can be bred on a manageable scale and it can earn increased income for the families.

Kyemon

Fire of garbage, old electronic equipment écauses explosion in Loilem

LOILEM, 24 April—An exploration occurred at the drain in front of the house of U Myo Myint-Daw Htwe Kyi at No Ta/15 on Bawdi Street in Ward 4 of Loilem at 5.20 pm on 21 April. It started from setting old utensils and garbage fire.

Daw Htwe Kyi and her son-in-law piled up old spray cylinders, gas lighters, old electronic sockets and other

garbage near the drain and set them fire. After five minutes, they poured water on the fire, so an explosion occurred.

On the scene, the township administrator and officials of Township Police Force checked the root cause of explosion, and found out that the explosion was caused due to old cylinders, booster of satellite dishes and explosive electronic

equipment.

In the incident, house owner Daw Htwe Kyi sustained injuries to her right hand, hand pit and right hip and back, left thumb, left knee and leg. She is under treatment at the hospital. Daw Htwe Kyi opens a shop of satellite dishes and electronic equipment.

Kyemon



MCDC, people join hands in sanitation of drains

MANDALAY, 24 April—Mandalay City Development Committee is striving for keeping the city clean and pleasant by cleaning sewerage drains for proper flow of water in the city joining hands with

the local people.

On 21 April morning, workers of MCDC and people carried out sanitation at the drain along 27th street between 86th and 87th streets in East Thirihayma Ward of Chanayethazan

Township of Mandalay. The sanitation task was supervised by Township Administrator U Zaw Win Naing and officials of the Sanitation Department of the committee.

Ward administrator

U San Lin, Company Commander of Township Auxiliary Fire Brigade U Aye Ko and Deputy Commander U Myint Aung provided necessary assistance for the sanitation tasks.—Myanma Alinn

Myotha Industrial Park, Hsimeekhon Port under construction



MANDALAY, 24 April—Myotha Industrial Park is located 36 mile from Mandalay. It is a focal point of the region in doing business with China and India.

The park is 28 miles from Mandalay International

Airport.

The project of the park has been implemented since December 2011.

So far, the eight-lane road and the four-lane road have been roughly completed.

On completion, the

concrete roads will create easy access for the local people to take one and a half hours for Mandalay-Hsimeekhon route.

The industrial park will generate about 200,000 jobs for the local people.

Efforts will be made

Vice-Admiral Thura Thet Swe meets US ambassador, military attachés



NAY PYI TAW, 24 April—Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Thura Thet Swe met US Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Derek Mitchell and party at Bayintnaung Yeiktha, here, yesterday afternoon.

Neem tree falls on motorcycle in strong winds

YESAGYO, 24 April—Strong winds hit Yesagyo at 5.45 pm on 15 April.

In the stationary event, one neem tree fell on a motorcycle in front of Su Mon Edible Oil Shop of South Yesagyo.

The Thingyan revellers

Also present at the call together with the Commander-in-Chief (Navy) were Chief of Staff (Navy) Commodore Tin Aung San and the senior naval officers from the Office of Commander-in-Chief

(Navy).

The US ambassador and party were accompanied by Military Attaché Col William C Dickey and Naval Attaché Captain Sean C Cannon.

MNA

and local people removed branches of the neem plant. So, the motorcycle could be

moved under the tree, but it was damaged.

Kyemon



Football friendly match between former selected players of Upper Myanmar, Customs (Mdy)

MANDALAY, 24 April—In commemoration of the New Year Day, the Upper Myanmar's former selected footballers team and Customs (Mandalay) football team played a friendly match at Bahtoo Stadium of Mandalay on 21 April afternoon.

The Upper Myanmar former selected footballers team beat the latter 5-3.

After the match, Customs (Mandalay) team donated K 200,000 to the fund of the Upper Myanmar's former selected footballers team to carry out social affairs.

Myanma Alinn

Rural bridge inaugurated, culture course opened in Homalin

HOMALIN, 24 April—A wooden bridge across Hnaungkyinkun Creek that flows in middle of West Hteinkin Village in Homalin Township was opened on 12 April.

The village administrator and two members of the bridge construction committee formally opened the bridge.

It was also attended by Pyithu Hluttaw representative

U Aye, Region Shan national race affairs minister U San Shwe, Township Administrator U Myat Nyi and officials.

Next, Shan literature and culture course concluded.

Wellwishers donated K 120,000 to the literature committee, and officials presented completion certificates to the trainees.

Myanma Alinn

WORLD

US welcomes Myanmar's release of prisoners

WASHINGTON, 24 April —The US government welcomes Myanmar's release of over 90 prisoners under a fresh presidential amnesty order, a spokesman said here on Tuesday. "We understand the Government of Myanmar has ordered today the release of over 93 prisoners, including about 50 political prisoners," said State Department spokesman Patrick Ventrell at a briefing.

"So we welcome and encourage the unconditional release of all prisoners, but we do note that they have released about 50 today," he told reporters. The released prisoners, pardoned a week after the fall of Myanmar's new year, included three foreigners and prisoners of conscience, according to media reports from the Southeast Asian nation.

The order by Myanmar's President U Thein Sein said that the move was made in view of ensuring stability and lasting

peace of the state, national reconciliation, inclusiveness in political process and turning the prisoners to ones who take their fair shares in state building. In November 2012, 518 prisoners including 31 foreigners were released in Myanmar under the previous two amnesty orders by U Thein Sein. A total of 29,668 prisoners have been pardoned since Myanmar's new civilian government took office on 30 March, 2011.

At the Tuesday briefing, Ventrell said that in response to Myanmar's moves, Washington has eased economic sanctions on the country, including authorizing the export of US financial services and allowing for new US investment in Myanmar. "But we have a calibrated policy that includes sanctions authorities and leaves them in place as a means to encourage continued progress on reforms," he added.—Xinhua

French Embassy in Tripoli hit by car bomb

TRIPOLI, 24 April—France's Embassy in Libya was hit by what appeared to be a car bomb on Tuesday, injuring two guards in the first such attack in the capital Tripoli since the end of the 2011 war that ousted Muammar Gaddafi. Residents living near the embassy compound, in the capital's Hay Andalus area, said they heard two blasts



People stand among debris outside the French embassy after the building was attacked, in Tripoli on 23 April, 2013.—REUTERS

early in the morning around 0700 am (0500 GMT).

"We think it was a booby trapped car," a French Embassy official told Reuters. "There was a lot of damage and there are two guards wounded."

In Paris, Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius condemned what he called a heinous attack and said everything would be done

to find the perpetrators. "I send my solidarity and deepest sympathy to the two injured French guards and my wishes for their recovery," he said in a statement.

One resident living less than 100 metres from the embassy said his windows shook when the first blast occurred. "I think there were two blasts, the first was very loud and then there was a smaller one," another witness said. "There was some black smoke at first, and then it turned white."

Diplomatic missions have been targeted in Libya, most notably an attack on the US mission in the eastern city of Benghazi last September that killed the US Ambassador and three other Americans.

Reuters

Pakistan must play positive role in Afghanistan

BRUSSELS, 24 April —Pakistan must play a positive role in bringing stability to Afghanistan as foreign troops prepare to leave in 2014, the head of NATO said on Tuesday, before a US-chaired meeting that will try to ease friction between often feuding neighbours. US Secretary of State John Kerry will host talks between Afghan President Hamid Karzai and senior Pakistan officials in Brussels on Wednesday, with the aim of calming tension

over border disputes and the stalled peace process.

"If we are to ensure long-term peace and stability in Afghanistan we also need a positive engagement of Afghanistan's neighbours, including Pakistan," NATO Secretary-General Anders Fogh Rasmussen told reporters as alliance foreign ministers met in Brussels to discuss NATO's mission in Afghanistan.

Wednesday's US-chaired meeting is part of a series of on-off discussions

between Afghanistan and Pakistan at the behest of the United States.

Rasmussen said he would meet Karzai later on Tuesday.

Afghanistan has grown increasingly frustrated with Pakistan over efforts to pursue a peace process involving the Taliban, suggesting that Islamabad is intent on keep Afghanistan unstable until after foreign combat forces have left at the end of 2014.

Reuters

Irate Italian President begins talks on new coalition



Italy's newly re-elected President Giorgio Napolitano inspects a guard of honour during a welcoming ceremony at the Quirinale palace in Rome, on 22 April, 2013.—REUTERS

ROME, 24 April—Italy's President launched urgent talks on Tuesday that could lead to a Prime Minister quickly being named after two months of post-electoral stalemate that has weighed on a stagnant economy and alarmed Rome's partners in the euro zone. After an angry and emotional blast of impatience on Monday at the very parliament which handed him an unprecedented — and heartily unwanted — second term as head of state

at the weekend, 87-year-old Giorgio Napolitano announced a rapid round of consultations on Tuesday.

The meetings were beginning at 10.30 am (0830 GMT) with a series of brief discussions of no more than 30 minutes with

all of the house and senate leaders until a final meeting at 6.30 pm. The party leaders will not take part. Having threatened to resign if the parties continue with what he called their "irresponsibility" after the inconclusive parliamentary election of 24 and 25 February, Napolitano seems determined to force the pace, and could even designate a prime minister to form a grand coalition government within the day. One leading name is Giuliano Amato, a 75-year-old from the center-left who has twice before been prime minister but no longer sits in parliament.

Whoever is named is likely to forge a multi-party cabinet to take over from the technocrat government

of outgoing Prime Minister Mario Monti, who was appointed in late 2011. Though few in leadership show any appetite for holding a new election, any new administration may struggle for stability or the parliamentary backing needed for economic and political reforms seen as vital to revive Italy's competitiveness. The centre-left narrowly won a majority in the lower house but failed to win control of the Senate and its inability since February to cut a deal with either Silvio Berlusconi's center-right or the shock new third force of Beppe Grillo's anti-establishment 5-Star Movement has left the country in limbo.

Reuters

Canada thwarts "al-Qaeda-backed" passenger train plot

TORONTO, 24 April—Canadian police have arrested two men and charged them with plotting to derail a Toronto-area passenger train in an operation that they say was backed by al-Qaeda elements in Iran. "Had this plot been carried out, it would have resulted in innocent people being killed or seriously injured," Royal Canadian Mounted Police official James Malizia told reporters on Monday.

The RCMP said it had arrested Chiheb Esseghaier, 30, of Montreal, and Raed Jaser, 35, of Toronto in connection with the plot. Authorities said it was not linked to last week's Boston Marathon bombings, which killed three people and injured more than 200.



RCMP Chief Superintendent Gaeten Courchesne (L) speaks during a news conference as Assistant Commissioner James Malizia (R) looks on in Toronto, Ontario, on 22 April, 2013.—REUTERS

Neither suspect is a Canadian citizen, and police did not reveal their nationalities. Two sources following the investigation said one was Tunisian.

Canada's intelligence agency has long expressed concern about the

possibility that disgruntled and radicalized Canadians could attack targets at home and abroad. Police gave little detail about the alleged plotters, but said a tip from the Muslim community had helped their year-long investigation.—Reuters

Six killed in Karachi, Quetta blasts, bomb defused near Musharraf's residence

ISLAMABAD, 24 April —At least six people were killed and 53 injured in separate explosions in Karachi and Quetta in southwestern Pakistan on Tuesday night, less than three weeks before the country's general election, police said.

Meanwhile, Geo TV reported that a bomb disposal squad on Tuesday defused explosives found on vehicle parked near the farmhouse residence of former strongman General Pervez Musharraf, who has been placed under house arrest, in Chak Shahzad village near Islamabad.

Quetta, the capital of Baluchistan Province, was rocked by four explosions,

including a suicide attack, which together killed four people and injuring 35 others. Later Tuesday in Karachi, an explosive device planted in a motorcycle near an election office of the Muttahida Quami Movement went off, killing two people and injuring 18 others.

Following the attack, MQM chief Altaf Hussain directed the immediate closure of all the political party's election offices in Karachi, the party said in a Press release.

"How can peaceful elections be held during such attacks?" Hussain was quoted as having asked the caretaker gov-

ernment established last month to lead the country until the 11 May general election. Hussain has been living in exile in London for more than a decade because of alleged threats to his life.

The MQM was an ally of the outgoing government led by the Pakistani Peoples Party and its predecessor government led by Musharraf.

It has often said that its leaders and workers in Karachi were being targeted by Taliban militiamen who were entrenching themselves in Pakistan's main business and commercial centre.

Kyodo News

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

US trade panel says Apple did not violate Google patent

WASHINGTON, 24 April—Apple Inc scored a win on Monday when the US International Trade Commission ruled that it did not violate a Google patent to make the popular iPhones.

Apple had initially been accused of infringing on six patents for iPhone-related technology covering everything from reducing signal noise to programming the device's touch screen so a user's head does not accidentally activate it while talking on the phone.

If Apple had been found guilty of violating the patent, its devices could have been banned from being imported into the United States.

ed States.

Google can appeal the decision to the US Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit. "We're disappointed with this outcome and are evaluating our options," the company said in a statement. A spokeswoman for Apple declined comment.

The smartphone industry has seen dozens of lawsuits on several continents as Apple vies for market share with companies that make smartphones that use Google's Android software.

Google acquired the patents in the case — and the lawsuit — when it purchased Motorola Mobility for \$12.5 billion in 2012, partly for its library of telecommunications patents.



The Apple logo hangs inside the glass entrance to the Apple Store on 5th Avenue in New York City, on 4 April, 2013.—REUTERS

Google's Android software, which the company lets handset makers use for free, has become the world's No 1 smartphone operating system, ahead of the iOS software used on Apple iPhones.

The ITC, a US trade panel that investigates patent infringement involving imported goods, is a popular venue for patent lawsuits because it can bar the importation of infringing products and because it issues decisions relatively quickly.

Reuters

Samsung Galaxy S4 expected to launch in India this Friday for Rs 43,490



NEW DELHI, 24 April—Samsung is all set to launch its Galaxy S4 smartphone in India on 26 April. The Korean smartphone maker has already started sending out invites for the launch. It is noteworthy, that Samsung is

expected to launch Galaxy S4 in some other countries on the same date.

NDTV Gadgets has learnt from its sources that the phone is likely to be priced at Rs 43,490. Samsung is expected to take a leaf from HTC's book and market the phone carrying this as the 'best buy' price tag, though there's no confirmation of this yet. This will peg the Galaxy S4 at a slightly higher price tag than HTC One's Rs 42,900, but given Samsung's wider dealer network, marketing clout and

brand value in the country, that may not make much of a difference. Samsung Galaxy S4 was unveiled in an unpacked event on 14 March, 2013. The smartphone sports a 5-inch full-HD screen with a resolution of 1080x1920 pixels, and pixel density of 441ppi. It is powered by 1.6GHz Exynos octa-core processor in some regions, and a 1.9GHz Qualcomm Snapdragon quad-core processor in others. India is expected to get the octa-core version when the phone is unveiled this Friday.—PTI

ment worked out with its partner in that country, Alibaba Group. The service is scheduled to close on 19 August



The Yahoo logo is shown at the company's headquarters in Sunnyvale, California on 16 April, 2013. The company will release its quarterly results on Tuesday.

REUTERS

Nokia says it has won an injunction against HTC One

NEW DELHI, 24 April—Nokia Oyj said it won a court injunction that would prevent rival HTC Corp from using microphone components made by STMicroelectronics NV in HTC One phones.

The Finnish phone maker said in a statement announcing the decision by the Amsterdam District Court that the microphone components were invented by Nokia and manufactured exclusively for Nokia phones.

"HTC has no license or authorization from Nokia to use these microphones

or the Nokia technologies from which they have been developed," Nokia said.

It said the injunction was effective until March 2014 and would prevent ST Micro from selling the components to Taiwan's HTC globally.

Such a decision could create further headaches for HTC, which has already struggled with component shortages for its flagship HTC One smartphone.

HTC said it was disappointed with the decision.

"We are considering whether it will have any impact on our business and

we will explore alternative solutions immediately" HTC said in an emailed statement.

Nokia, which makes the Lumia line of smartphones based on Microsoft Corp software, and HTC, which uses Google Inc software, have both been scrambling to regain ground lost to bigger rivals Samsung Electronics Co Ltd and Apple Inc in the global smartphone market.

PTI

Hubble telescope spies incoming Comet ISON

CAPE CANAVERAL, 24 April—A recently discovered comet, dazzlingly bright even though it is still almost as far away as Jupiter, is racing toward a November rendezvous with the sun, officials said on Tuesday. If it survives the encounter — and that's a big if — the comet may be visible even in daylight in Earth's skies at the end of the year. Discovered by amateur astronomers in September

2012, Comet ISON is about to reach the outer edge of the asteroid belt, located some 280 million miles (451 million km) from Earth, said William Cooke, lead scientist at NASA's Meteoroid Environment Office at the Marshall Space Flight Centre in Huntsville, Alabama.

The comet is shedding dust from its nucleus at a rate of more than 112,000 pounds (50,802 kg) per minute, the

result of heating by the sun, observations from NASA's Swift telescope show. That level of activity is unusual for a comet still so far away from the sun. It could spell its doom. Preliminary measurements made with the Hubble Space Telescope, which captured an image of the comet that was released on Tuesday, indicate Comet ISON's body is no more than 4 miles in diameter.—Reuters



Logo of Yahoo

Israel's Babylon in 4-year Internet deal with Yahoo

TEL AVIV, 24 April—Israeli translation software provider Babylon has signed a four-year cooperation agreement with Yahoo Inc in the Internet sector, including on mobile devices.

According to the agreement, which can be extended beyond four years, the two companies will share in revenue from Internet advertising, Babylon said in a statement on Tuesday.

"Babylon's management estimates this agreement will have a substantial contribution to the company. At this stage management cannot assess the amount of this contribution," the statement said. A spokeswoman for the company declined to provide further details on the deal.

In 2012 Google was

the main source of revenue for Babylon.

The company has said it expects strong revenue growth this year thanks to increased advertising income on the back of its plan to offer its latest product free of charge.

Babylon, which provides translation of words, phrases, documents and web pages in 77 languages, said 94 percent of its revenue comes from advertising.

Among the company's mobile applications is Babylon Touch, which allows users to point a camera at signs or menus and receive instant translations.

In November, Babylon filed for an initial public offering on Nasdaq, with the aim of raising up to \$115 million this year.—Reuters

Yahoo to shut down email service in China

MUMBAI, 24 April—Yahoo's email service in China will close this summer as part of an arrangement

ment worked out with its partner in that country, Alibaba Group.

The service is scheduled to close on 19 August

Yahoo is recommending users of its free email service in China transfer their accounts to another provider such as Aliyun, an email alternative offered by Alibaba.

Yahoo Inc., based in Sunnyvale, California, has been phasing out of China since 2005 when it turned its website, email and other services over to Alibaba. As part of that deal, Yahoo paid \$1 billion for a 40 percent stake in Alibaba, one of China's biggest Internet companies.

It has proven to be an astute investment. Yahoo reaped a \$7.6 billion by selling half its stake back to Alibaba last year. Yahoo's remaining stake in Alibaba is now worth even more — about \$14 billion by one analyst's estimate.

Alibaba is expected to go public within the next two years, giving Yahoo an opportunity to sell more of its holdings.

PTI



BUSINESS & HEALTH

New York City wants to ban cigarette sales to people under 21



A model smokes before the Edun Spring 2011 collection show during New York Fashion Week on 11 Sept, 2010.—REUTERS

NEW YORK, 24 April—New York City took the first step on Monday in outlawing sales of cigarettes to anyone under age 21, in an effort to reduce smoking among the age group in which most smokers take up the habit.

The bill, which was introduced by the City Council and has the backing of Mayor Michael Bloomberg, would make New York City, which already has the highest

cigarette taxes in the nation, the first big city or state to set the smoking age at 21. Currently, individuals must be 18 to buy cigarettes.

Eight in 10 adult smokers in the city started smoking regularly when they were below the age of 21, and most smokers who are under age 18 obtain cigarettes from individuals who are just a few years older than them, city officials said.

While an increase in

cigarette taxes contributed to a 15-point drop among youth smokers from 1999 to 2007, the number of high-school-aged smokers has held steady at about 8.5 percent over the last six years. Cigarette packs sold in New York City currently carry a state tax of \$4.35 and a city tax of \$1.50 — making it the most expensive city in the nation to be a smoker.

“Too many adult smokers begin this deadly habit before age 21,” City Council Speaker Christine Quinn said. “By delaying our city’s children and young adults access to lethal tobacco products, we’re decreasing the likelihood they ever start smoking, and thus, creating a healthier city.”

The bill marks the latest effort in the city’s decade-long fight to discourage smoking, which the city’s health commissioner, Thomas Farley, said was the most significant cause of preventable death in the

city. In 2003, Bloomberg outlawed smoking in bars and restaurants, and smoking has since been banned in other public places, including parks.

Quinn, who is running to become the city’s next mayor, made clear that she would continue Bloomberg’s aggressive public health agenda — which has led his detractors to dub him the “nanny mayor.”

While most of the city’s anti-smoking initiatives have originated with Bloomberg, the mayor did not join Quinn in making the announcement on Monday, instead sending Farley to say that the mayor looks forward to signing the bill into law.

Every US state prohibits retailers from selling tobacco products to minors and in most states the smoking age is set at 18. Four states — Alabama, Alaska, New Jersey and Utah — require that a cigarette purchaser be at least 19 years old.—Reuters

Google buys Wavii for \$30 million, mirroring Yahoo’s deal



A Google sign is seen at a Best Buy electronics store in this photo illustration in Encinitas, California on 11 April, 2013.—REUTERS

SAN FRANCISCO, 24 April—Google Inc has acquired Wavii, the Seattle-based startup behind a news summarization app, for roughly \$30 million in cash, a person with knowledge of the matter said on Tuesday.

Google’s successful bid came after Apple Inc had expressed interest in buying Wavii to incorporate the startup’s natural language technology into Siri, Apple’s voice-activated personal assistant feature, said the person, who declined to be named because the deal has not been publicly announced.

Google and Wavii declined to comment.

Google’s purchase comes several weeks after Yahoo Inc paid a similar amount to acquire Summy, the news reader and Wavii competitor founded by 18-year-old Nick D’Aloisio in London.

The deals have taken out of play two small companies that sought to enhance how consumer experience news — a significant concern for

Google and Yahoo, which both maintain highly trafficked news sites.

In separate interviews last year, Wavii founder Adrian Aoun and D’Aloisio acknowledged the competition between the two startups.

D’Aloisio touted Summy’s superior user interface, which condenses articles into several easy-to-read paragraphs. Aoun played up his app’s technology, including a proprietary algorithm that boiled down complex news stories into sentences of just a few words.

Wavii’s investors included Paypal co-founder Max Levchin, former Facebook executive Dave Morin, and Fritz Lanman, a former dealmaker at Microsoft Corp. Most of the startup’s employees are expected to relocate to Google’s headquarters in Mountain View, California.

News of the acquisition was first reported by Techcrunch.—Reuters

Asian shares rise on firm US earnings, soft money outlook

TOKYO, 24 April—Asian shares advanced on Wednesday, tracking global equities higher on the back of solid US earnings, but the euro was pressured by soft German data underscoring the still-fragile state of the euro zone economy.

The positive tone in global equities markets despite several sluggish manufacturing surveys around the world reflected investor views that weak economic data justifies central banks maintaining monetary stimulus — encouraging investment in shares. MSCI’s broadest index of Asia-Pacific shares outside Japan climbed 0.8 percent, led by a 1.4 percent gain in Australian shares as benign inflation data strengthened the case for more local interest rate cuts.

Australia’s first-quarter core consumer price index (CPI) rose 0.3 percent on-quarter, below a 0.5 percent rise forecast in a Reuters

poll, narrowing the odds of interest rate cuts from the Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA).

“With such a reading coming out there’s definitely talk of room for further rate cuts. Whether or not the RBA will pull the trigger, it certainly seems that inflation is well under control,” said Stan Shamu, market strategist at IG Markets.

US stocks rallied on Tuesday, shrugging off data showing US manufacturing grew at its slowest pace in six months, while European shares posted their biggest one-day gain in seven months on Tuesday. After the bell on Wall Street, Apple shares rose 3.8 percent after the company reported better-than-expected second-quarter revenue of \$43.6 billion, reflecting strong sales of the iPad and iPhone.

According to Westpac bank, 72.8 percent of the 147 Standard & Poor’s 500 companies reporting so



Traders work at their desks in front of the DAX board at the Frankfurt stock exchange on 18 April, 2013.

REUTERS

far have beaten consensus earnings. “Equities were underpinned by positive reports on corporate earnings and US housing, some indications of progress in the Italian political arena, and perceptions that economic weakness in Europe may promote a further easing of monetary policy by the European Central Bank,” Barclays Capital said in a research note. Asian bourses also turned their attention to local earnings.

Seoul shares were up 0.8 percent after rising to a one-week high on

Wednesday after chipmaker SK Hynix reported quarterly operating profits that handily beat forecasts, but the upside was curbed ahead of more earnings being published.

The euro was around \$1.2991, managing to recover from Tuesday’s two-week low of \$1.2973 hit after a survey showed Germany, the euro zone’s largest economy, saw business activity decline in April for the first time in five months. Traders saw it as strengthening the case for the European Central Bank to cut interest rates.—Reuters

Chidambaram says to keep 2013/14 fiscal deficit below 4.8 percent

NEW DELHI, 24 April—India will limit the fiscal deficit for 2013/14 to below 4.8 percent of gross domestic product, the finance minister said on Wednesday.

The fiscal deficit target is a red line that would

never, never be breached, P Chidambaram said at an event in New Delhi.

The fiscal deficit for 2012/13 is expected to be at around 5 percent of gross domestic product, government sources said earlier this month.—Reuters



Finance Minister Palaniappan Chidambaram speaks during a news conference in New York, on 17 April, 2013. REUTERS

FedEx signs new \$10.5 billion contract with USPS

CHICAGO, 24 April—FedEx Corp said its FedEx Express subsidiary has entered into a seven-year express air transportation contract with the United States Postal Service for about \$10.5 billion.

FedEx’s current contract ends in September 2013, and the new contract will begin in October 2013.

The company on Tuesday also launched a new service to let customers select from a range of options to schedule dates, locations and times of delivery. Rival UPS (UPS.N) began offering its “UPS My Choice” service more than a year ago.

Reuters



A Federal Express truck is parked next to a UPS truck as both drivers make deliveries in downtown San Diego, California on 5 March, 2013.—REUTERS

WORLD

Russia studying US missile defence moves, still seeks guarantees



US Secretary of State John Kerry (R) walks behind Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov (L) at the start of a NATO —Russia foreign ministers meeting at the Alliance's headquarters in Brussels on 23 April, 2013.

REUTERS

BRUSSELS, 24 April —Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said on Tuesday that Russia was studying changes to the US missile defence programme, but was still seeking guarantees that it

would not be used against Russia.

Lavrov made the statement after a meeting with NATO ministers in Brussels, including his US counterpart John Kerry.

Reuters

In New Mexico desert, drone pilots learn the new art of war

HOLLOMAN AIR FORCE BASE, (New Mexico), 24 April— The tide of war may be receding, as President Barack Obama is fond of saying, but US military demand for unmanned drones and their remote pilots is growing.

Here in the New Mexico desert, the US Air Force has ramped up training of drone operators — even as the nation increasingly debates their use and US forces prepare to leave Afghanistan.

“Every combatant commander in the world is asking for these things. Down in Southcom, Africom, Pacom, they’re all asking for these assets, so it is in very high demand,” said Lt Col Mike Weaver, 16th Training Squadron commander at Holloman Air Force Base, referring to the military’s Southern, Africa and Pacific commands.

Weaver is an example of a fighter jet pilot turned pilot of Remotely Piloted Aircraft, or RPA, as the Air Force insists on calling drones.

He flew F-15 fighter jets over Iraq and, after those squadrons were drawn down, trained on drones and flew them over Afghanistan.

“With the growth of the RPAs being what it



Drone operators fly an MQ-9 Reaper training mission from a ground control station at Holloman Air Force Base, New Mexico, in this US Air Force handout photo taken on 3 Oct, 2012.— REUTERS

is, a fast-growing industry in the Air Force really, you’ve got pilots coming from all different walks of life to fill the shoes,” Weaver, clad in a green flight suit, said in his office here.

The use of drones to target and kill individuals has become increasingly controversial, and lawmakers have questioned Obama’s legal justifications for using them to kill militants overseas who are US citizens.

Obama has promised more transparency and, officials say, he and CIA Director John Brennan are deciding whether to remove the spy agency from the drone business and leave it to the Pentagon.

“Things are moving in

Turkish PM rejects US request to delay Gaza visit in May

ANKARA, 24 April — Turkish Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan will not reschedule his trip to the Palestinian Gaza strip, he said on Tuesday, despite a request to do so from the United States that had irked Ankara.

During a visit to Turkey on Sunday, US Secretary of State John Kerry urged Erdogan to delay his visit to avoid endangering US efforts to revive Ankara’s ties with Israel and Middle East peace talks.

Erdogan, who has always underlined his desire to visit the Palestinian enclave, said last week he planned to go to Gaza following an official visit to the United States in May. “Delaying my trip (to Gaza) is out of question. As I said in the past the Gaza trip will take place after my trip to the United States. There will be no delay,” Erdogan told reporters,

according to state media.

Erdogan’s trip would take place at a critical period for Turkish-Israeli relations, frozen after the 2010 killing by Israeli marines of nine Turks aboard a Gaza-bound aid ship.

In March US President Barack Obama brokered a first step in reconciliation between Israel and Turkey, which cut its once extensive ties with the Jewish state after the incident.

Persuaded by Obama, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu apologized last month and an Israeli delegation traveled to Ankara on Monday to discuss compensation to the victims’ families.



Turkey’s Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan addresses members of parliament from his ruling AK Party (AKP) during a meeting at the Turkish parliament in Ankara on 16 April, 2013.—REUTERS

Erdogan said his trip to Washington would be on 14 May, while Turkish officials said earlier this month that his planned visit to Washington to meet Obama was on 16 May.

Reuters

At least 26 killed after Iraqi forces clash with Sunni

BAGHDAD, 24 April — At least 26 people were killed on Thursday when Iraqi forces and Sunni protesters clashed after troops raided their anti-government demonstration camp near Kirkuk, military sources said.

The exchange of gunfire left six troops and 20 protesters dead during a

confused raid on the camp in Hawija town, at least three military sources in the area told Reuters.

The ministry of defence said in a statement that troops responded after coming under fire from gunmen in the camp, without giving casualty figures. But demonstrators said protesters were

unarmed when troops opened fire.

Thousands of Sunni Muslims have protested weekly since December in several Iraqi provinces to demand an end to perceived marginalization of their sect by Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki’s Shi’ite-led government.

Reuters

Texas fertilizer plant owner sued after deadly explosion

WACO, 24 April —The owner of a fertilizer plant that exploded last week killing 14 people and destroying dozens of homes and an apartment complex in a tiny Texas town is being sued by a single mom and by several insurance companies.

Two lawsuits, filed in McLennan County district court, have accused Adair Grain, Inc, the parent company of West Fertilizer Co, of negligence, according to copies of the filings provided by the court on Tuesday. The company “was negligent in the operation of its facility, creating an unreasonably dangerous

condition, which led to the fire and explosion,” said a lawsuit filed on Friday by insurance companies on behalf of individuals, two churches, and businesses including a Chevrolet car dealer and a bakery. Investigators have not said what caused the 17 April fire and explosion in West, Texas, near Waco.

Daniel Keeney, a spokesman for Adair Grain Inc and for its owner, Donald Adair, declined on Tuesday to comment on the lawsuits. “Our focus is on the fact-finding and on assisting the investigating agencies in any way we can,” Keeney said. The

other lawsuit was filed by Andrea Jones Gutierrez, a single, working mother who lived in an apartment complex next to the plant. She is seeking \$500,000 to \$1 million in relief, according to the lawsuit filed on Monday.

Jones Gutierrez and her child lost their apartment and all their possessions, according to the lawsuit. It said she also suffered physical and emotional injuries without offering details.

The lawsuit filed by the group of individuals and businesses does not list a demand for damages because many of the plaintiffs do not yet know what they have lost, said Dallas lawyer Paul Grinke, the lead attorney in that lawsuit. Some of them only have the clothes they were wearing when they were forced to abandon their homes, he said. The insurance companies involved in that lawsuit are Acadia Insurance Company, continental Western Insurance Company, Union Standard Lloyds, Union Standard Insurance Company.

Reuters



An aerial view shows the aftermath of a massive explosion at a fertilizer plant in the town of West, near Waco, Texas on 18 April, 2013.—REUTERS

LOCAL NEWS

Pakokku region to boost production of onion

PAKOKKU, 24 April—On 18 April, thousands of viss of onion flow into U Mayga monastery from Yaw Creek area of Pauk region, 30 miles from Pakokku Township.

Onion was sold at K220 per viss before Thingyan festival and K 290 per viss after the festival. Buyers prepared to purchase onions produced from Yaw Creek area. In the near future, tens of thousands of viss of onion will flow into the market, said a merchant.

Yaw Creek that originates at Mindat Region of Chin State flows into Ayeyawady River near Seikpyu. Local people from Pauk, Pakokku and Seikpyu regions grow onion plantations along both banks of Yaw Creek. Over 100 villages of Seikpyu



Township are located along the banks of Yaw creek.

In the month of Pyatho, they grow onion on the alluvial land and then

harvested it before raising water level.

In the previous year, onion production hit 10 million viss in Pakokku

region and but this year, the farmers can produce 15 to 20 million viss of onion, said a local merchant.

Myanma Alinn

Water treatment plant built to supply water to Mandalarians

MANDALAY, 24 April—With the aim of supplying more volume of water to the Mandalarians, Water and Sanitation Department of Mandalay City Development Committee built the water treatment building and No 8 waterwork between 16th and 19th streets of Mandalay in March 2013.

As of early April, water from Ayeyawady River is pumped up and supplied to

water tanks on Mandalay Hill through water pipelines.

Through gravity system, water is supplied to the dwellers in wards of Aungmyethazan and Chanayethazan townships.

Moreover, water from the waterwork No 8 and No 1 Malun waterwork is supplied to Mahaaungmye and Chanmyathazi townships.

Kyemon

Parahita Youth Group clean wells in Singaing

SINGAING, 24 April—A total of 25 members of Myitta Yaysin Parahita Youth Group of Singaing re-cleaned 39 tube-wells and lakes in Singaing and its environs.

Leader of the group U Win Tint said, "Our group was established four years ago. Yearly, we sank lakes in wards of Singaing and its surrounding villages. We use a pump to sink 35

feet deep well. If not, we clean the wells through manpower. We sank eight wells on Thingyan Akyo day, 16 wells on Akya Day, nine on Akyat Day, one on Atet Day and nine on New Year Day, totalling 39. Now, we are sinking one well in Shwekyauing monastery in Yanaungmyay Ward. Shwekyauing well is reliable for dwellers because it did not run dry although all the wells dried up across the town."

Myanma Alinn

MPF launches emergency, complaint-handling phone lines

NAY PYI TAW, 24 April—Myanmar Police Force under the Ministry of Home Affairs has put hot lines into place at Myanmar Police Force HQ and region/state police stations to enable the public to submit tip-offs and complaints over illegal acts, misappropriation and corruption.

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

Myanmar Police Force HQ, Nay Pyi Taw Police Force, Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Mon, Rakhine and Shan State Police Forces, Sagaing, Taninthayi, Bago, Magway, Mandalay, Yangon and Ayeyawady Region Police Forces, Offices of Commanders of East, West, South and North District Police Forces in Yangon Region, No (1) Police Station in Taung-

gyi, Office of Deputy Commander of State Police Force in Lashio, and Kengtung Police Station in Kengtung have emergency numbers of 199.

Phone numbers receiving complaints from the public are Myanmar Police Force HQ (067-412222 and 067-412444), Nay Pyi Taw Police Force (067-550333), Kachin State Police Force (074-21444), Kayin State Police Force (058-23355), Sagaing Region Police Force (071-24996), Taninthayi Region Police Force (059-23998), Bago Region Police Force (052-23999), Magway Region Police Force (063-28099), Mandalay Region Police Force (02-61444), Mon State Police Force (057-24987), Rakhine State Police Force (043-22833), Yangon Region Police Force (01-2302199), Shan State Police Force (081-2125455) and Ayeyawady Region Police Force (042-23844).—MNA

Strong winds, hailstone hit MraukU

MRAUKU, 24 April—Strong winds and hailstone hit MraukU of Rakhine on 16 April.

Two children who gathered hailstones sustained

head injuries.

Similar incidents occurred in Minbya, Sittway and Kyauktaw townships of Rakhine State.

Myanma Alinn

Shwegu Township gets Moesit Bridge

SHWEGU, 24 April—Moesit Creek Bridge has been opened in Sithaw Village of Shwegu Township in Bhamo District in the early April.

The villagers led by Sithaw Village administrator made concerted efforts for construction of the bridge. In the past, the local people found it difficult in

the rainy season due to lack of bridge.

Now, local people from Sithaw and Singan villages have easy access to each other.—Myanma Alinn

Outbreak of fire engulfs 19 houses in NyaungU

NYAUNGU, 24 April—A fire broke out in Yinhsan Village of NyaungU Township on 20 April afternoon.

The fire started from the house of Daw Kyan, 55 from Yinhsan Village, destroying 19 houses and one warehouse for feedstuff.

Fire fighters together with local people put out the fire with the use of two fire engines from NyaungU Township Fire Services Department, one from Forest Department, one from NyaungU Township Dry Zone Greening Department and one from timber rafting family.

They could die down the fire at 2 pm.

Under the arrangements of District and Township Administrators, local authorities accom-

modate 109 fire victims at the relief camp at Hsutaungpyae Dhammayon and provide necessary assistance to them.

Kyemon



Scale model of water treatment plant to be built by MCDC.

Oxen seized before smuggling in Thazi Township

THAZI, 24 April—Acting on tip-off, Township Administrator U Pauk Kyaw, Major Yan Naing Tun of No 419 Light Infantry Regiment, Commander of Township Police Force Police Captain Johnny Than, Deputy Head

of Department U Marn Ko Taw and policemen searched two vehicles, east of Kyatte Village, southern part of Meiktila-Taunggyi Road, five miles east of Thazi, on 13 April night.

Drivers of vehicles and

smugglers fled the scene. The authorities seized 42 oxen, and ailing one ox.

Thazi Township Police Station opened a file of lawsuit over cattle smuggling.

Kyemon

NATIONAL

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker receives Resident Representative of UNICEF

NAY PYI TAW, 24 April—Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint received Mr. Bertrand Bainvel, Resident Representative of United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in Myanmar at the hall of Amyotha Hluttaw Building, here, this afternoon.

Also present at the call were Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Mya Nyein, Chairman of Amyotha Hluttaw Bill Committee and National Plan Committee U Zaw Myint Pe, Chairman of International Relations Committee Col Maung Maung Htoo and officials of the Hluttaw office.

On the occasion, they



Speaker of Pyidaungsu and Amyotha Hluttaws U Khin Aung Myint holds discussion with Resident Representative of UNICEF Mr Bertrand Bainvel.

MNA

widely discussed more protection of the children's rights in Myanmar, further promoting of education and

health sectors, crucial role of Hluttaws that plays in the process of educational reforms and UNICEF's co-

operation with Hluttaws for continuous development of Myanmar.

MNA

Union Border Affairs Minister inspects Naga Region development tasks



Union Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Thet Naing Win presents cash assistance to a trainee.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 24 April—Chairman of the Work Committee for Progress of Border Areas and National Races

Union Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Thet Naing Win, on 18 April, inspected Border Regions National Races Youth Development Training School in Hkamti

of Naga Self-Administered Zone and provided cash assistance for the school. From there, he also visited Women's Vocational Training School in Hkamti and

provided cash assistance.

In the afternoon, the minister, accompanied by Sagaing Region Chief Minister U Tha Aye, looked into Border Regions National Races Youth Development Training School and Women's Vocational Training School in Lahe and presented cash assistance for the schools.

In the evening, they held discussions with officials on timely completion of roads and bridges in Naga Region.

MNA

Roads, bridges in Sagaing, Mandalay upgraded

NAY PYI TAW, 24 April—Union Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lwin inspected progress of extension of Shwebo-Kyaukmyaung tarred road and installation of steel frames between RP3 and RP2 at Ayeyawady Bridge (Yadana Theinga) construction site on 21 April morning.

The Union minister also viewed repairing of the approach road on Singuside, Singu-Madaya-Mandalay tarred road, construction of retaining walls between Sagainn-Tagundine road section along Yangon-Mandalay expressway and installation of guardrails and barriers for the road safety.

MNA

PERSPECTIVES

Thursday, 25 April, 2013

Closer ties with Indonesia

Myanmar and Indonesia have vowed to increase bilateral trade volume to USD 1 billion by 2006 in Tuesday meeting between Myanmar President U Thein Sein and Indonesian President Dr Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono on the latter's second visit to Myanmar. They also agreed on cooperation in a wide range of areas at the fruitful Nay Pyi Taw meeting before both head to Brunei Darussalam for ASEAN Summit.

A number of agreements and MoUs including cooperation pacts in rice trade, capacity building partnership and investment were inked on the Indonesian leader's Myanmar visit.

While Myanmar is seeking to boost rice export, Indonesia has reportedly made an order of 300,000 tons of rice from Myanmar to give a new life back to the rice trade between the two Southeast Asian countries.

As Myanmar has opened up, Indonesian companies are the ones invited to the country to invest in. 12 Indonesian firms have investment of USD 241 million in Myanmar up to December, 2012. With the new foreign investment law, there will be wider space for the Indonesian businesses in the Asia's 'last economic frontier' to put their money into. The Indonesian President pledged that he would push the country's public and private companies to invest in Myanmar.

The two leaders agreed to expand cooperation in tourism, transportation, livestock and fishery, agriculture, energy and electricity sectors.

The two countries have nearly hit the trade volume target of USD 500 million this year as it touches around USD 470 million up to date. The plan to double it has been agreed by the leaders. Indonesia is currently fourth largest ASEAN trade partner only after Thailand, Singapore and Malaysia.

As Myanmar has improved its international relations at a great pace, the stronger Myanmar-Indonesia ties established since 1949, within two years after Myanmar had regained her independence, would further approve the changing face of Myanmar on the international stage.

Nay Pyi Taw National Library opens first building



Union Minister for Culture U Aye Myint Kyu inspects bookshelves.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 24 April—As construction works have been completed at the first building of the National Library (Nay Pyi Taw) on Yazahtani Road in Pobbathiri Township in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, it puts more than 250,000 books on shelves. The categories include reference books, English books on Myanmar, English novels, archaeological and child literature with a recreation centre.

Besides, it will be serving the public with e-Library with more than 15,000 books as of 3 May.

Union Minister for

Culture U Aye Myint Kyu yesterday oversaw preparation tasks for the launch of the library.

The two remaining buildings are on schedule to be constructed one after another depending on the budgets allocated. Upon their completion, publications and palm-leaves scrolls room, special manuscripts study room, general study room, special guests' study room, engineering maintenance room, training center, conference hall, language labs would be opened.

MNA

LOCAL NEWS

Myeik facilitated with transformer, more power lines

MYEIK, 24 April—Installation of a transformer and extension of power lines were carried out in Monsu Ward of Myeik in Taninthayi Region for supplying more electricity to the local people at full capacity yesterday morning.

Skilled workers from Electricity Supply Enterprise installed a 315 KVA transformer and 1980 feet long 11 KV power line.

Myeik IPRD

Electricians install one transformer in Monsu Ward of Myeik of Taninthayi Region.



Basic Buddhist Culture Course opened in Pyawbwe

PYAWBWE, 24 April—With a view to turning youths into pious, polite and morally upright persons, basic Buddhist culture course was opened in Shwepyi Yanlon Ward of Pyawbwe here under the aegis of the ward administrator and the community elders.

The course was concluded at Basic Education Middle School in the ward on 24 April.

Ward Administrator U Aung Naing Oo explained the purposes of the course and a senior citizen U Tun Nyunt discussed future plans.

Prizes were given to outstanding trainees at higher, intermediate and lower levels. Donors U Aung Thein and Daw San Yi (Theikdhi Aung Candle Manufacturing) presented Buddha statues to

outstanding trainees.

A total of 143 students attended the course.

Township IPRD

Naungsaw Bridge collapses in Kalay

KALAY, 24 April—Naungsaw Bridge located on the village-to-village road in Kalay Township collapsed this morning when a car over-loaded with timber logs was passing on it. Car owner is U Nyo Win, son of U Kyaw Aye residing in 56th mile village of Khontha village tract.

The accident occurred as the bridge cannot withstand the over-laden car with 5.5 tons of timbers.

The 40-ft-long damaged bridge was

for remaining wards and villages continues tomorrow.

Myeik Township has a share of 3090 SIM cards.

IPRD

Low-cost SIM card sale starts in Myeik

MYEIK, 24 April—Buyers crowded Pale Yadana Hall as the sale of low-cost SIM cards was launched in Myeik this morning.

Potential buyers were required to submit the application form attached with original and one copy of household registration, original and two copies of citizenship scrutiny card, two colour photos to ward/village-tract administrator

offices on 22 April.

The SIM cards were sold by lots in populous wards and first come first serve in less populous ward. Township administrator U Thein Win supervised the sale by staff.

The low-cost SIM cards that start from 0931195861 were sold today to locals in Seiknge, Zedan, Kangyi, Yebon, Alegyun, Kangaung, Naunkle and Myeiktaung wards. The sale



BAGO, 24 April—Summer Buddhist Culture Course for children, conducted by Bawa-Alin Philanthropic Association and townselder U Myint Swe, was opened at Sasana Beikman in No.3 Ward in Yedashe of Toungoo District on 22 April.

Over 600 children from wards and villages in Yedashe Township are taking 10-day course on the Buddhist teachings and general knowledge. It will last till 1 May. —MNA

Summer Buddhist Culture Course opens in Yedashe



Low-priced mobile phone subscribers chosen by lots

TAUNGGYI, 24 April—Residents from urban Taunggyi wards, Ayethaya Myothit and Shwe Nyaung drew lots to purchase low-priced CDMA-800 MHz SIM cards sold at K 1500 per unit, at Taunggyi Town Hall yesterday.

A total of 4700 people drew lots for 2500

units of CDMA-800 MHz SIM cards. Among the residents there was Daw Nan Mya Wunyan from Nyaungbyu Sakhan Ward of Taunggyi to draw lots. U Zaw Min Oo of Ayethaya Myothit spoke of his delight as he became one of the 2500 newly subscribers.

U Zaw Myint

Thein, chairman of Taunggyi Township low-priced mobile phone sales committee and Taunggyi Township administrator, said that those out of luck for this time need not to submit the application forms for next batch of SIM card sales.

Nan Pyone Yi



Traffic rules broker motorcycles seized in Monywa

MONywa, 24 April—The motorcycles driven without exhausts and number plates during the Maha Thingyan festival in Monywa were taken action at Monywa Township Court on 22 April of Sagaing Region. The owners are to take out their motorcycles with ownership documents, according to the office of the deputy commander of Monywa Traffic Police Corp.

"We seized 74 traffic-broker motorcycles. After fitting the exhausts, the motorcycles will be allowed to be drawn from the office," an officials of the traffic police force.

During the Maha Thingyan festival, there was

no significant occurrence related to the water festival in Monywa, and action was taken against some traffic brokers, according to the Monywa District Police Force.

"We desire that

action should be taken against those who drive motorcycle without exhausts for disturbing the people with loud noises," said a local people of Monywa.

Myanma Alinn



Japan to lift grounding of Boeing 787s this week

TOKYO, 24 April—Japanese transport minister Akihiro Ota said on Tuesday the ministry will lift the grounding of troubled Boeing 787 jets as early as this week, after US aviation

regulators approved Boeing's new battery system for the airplane last Friday.

The Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism will officially announce the lifting after



Photo taken from a Kyodo News helicopter on 22 April, 2013, shows an All Nippon Airways Co Boeing 787 Dreamliner jet parked at Okayama airport in western Japan. ANA and Japan Airlines Co began modifying the same day their grounded Boeing 787 jets due to battery-related incidents, exchanging their batteries for modified ones. — KYODO NEWS

Turkey, Israel agree on principles to compensate flotilla attack victims

ANKARA, 24 April — Turkey and Israel have agreed on the principles of how to compensate the victims of a 2010 Israeli raid on a Gaza-bound aid flotilla, Turkish Deputy Prime minister was quoted as saying on Tuesday.

Bulent Arinc said the two sides have agreed on “the methods and principles, the basics and parameters” for working out the compensation for the families of the killed in the attack, or the Mavi Marmara incident, *Today's Zaman* reported. The amount to be paid has not been determined, but “the meeting was positive in general,” Arinc said, adding that the two sides have decided to hold

a second meeting soon. According to sources from the Turkish Foreign Ministry, the second meeting will be held in the coming days, but no date or venue has been set. Senior Turkish and Israeli officials started on Monday the compensation talks in Ankara. According to unconfirmed Israeli media reports, Israel is willing to pay 100,000 US dollars per victim, in return for the dropping of all lawsuits against Israeli commandos in Turkish courts.

However, days before the Israeli mission's arrival, families of the victims spoke out against compensation, saying Israel must first fully lift its blockade of the Gaza Strip.—Xinhua

PC shipments in Japan remain high in FY2012

TOKYO, 24 April—Domestic personal computer shipments in Japan totaled 11,152,000 units in fiscal 2012, exceeding 10 million for the third straight year as corporate demand for replacements remained steady, an industry body said on Tuesday.

But the number for the year up until last month posted a 1.1 percent drop from the previous year when shipments hit their highest level since comparable data became available in fiscal 2007, said

the Japan Electronics and Information Technology Industries Association.

While shipments of desktop PCs declined 8.6 percent to 3,023,000 units, those of notebook PCs increased 2.0 percent to 8,129,000 units and their share of total shipments hit a record high of 72.9 percent.

PC shipments in value declined for the second straight year in fiscal 2012, falling 8.3 percent to 795.2 billion yen, due to price drops.—Kyodo News

two days of public hearings by the US National Transportation Safety Board starting on Tuesday. All Nippon Airways Co and Japan Airlines Co are expected to resume commercial flights as early as in June after completing modifications to their 787 fleets.

The Federal Aviation Administration has approved Boeing's design for modifications to the plane's battery system and is expected to allow US carriers to resume 787 operations within this week. At the NTSB's public hearings, engineers of Boeing, GS Yuasa Corp, the maker of lithium-ion batteries for the 787, and French military aircraft builder SA, which built the plane's electrical system, are expected to testify.

Kyodo News



A woman rides across a tulip field in Lisse, central Netherlands, on 22 April, 2013.—XINHUA

Russia to commission three strategic subs in 2013

MOSCOW, 23 April—Russia's strategic forces were speeding up rearmament process with three more nuclear submarines to be commissioned this year, the Defence Ministry said on Tuesday. “There is certainty that these submarines will be put into service this year,” Andrei Vernigora, director of the ministry's department of state defence orders, told reporters.

According to the official, two of these subs, *Alexander Nevski* and *Vladimir Monomakh*, are of Borei-955 type and another one, *Severodvinsk*, is of Yasen-855 type.

He said that *Alexander Nevski* had passed all tests, while *Vladimir Monomakh* was to start tests in May, and *Severodvinsk's* tests could be completed by the end of 2013.

Meanwhile, Vernigora noted there were no plans to increase the num-



Afghans are seen at a market in Kabul, Afghanistan on 22 April, 2013.—XINHUA

Ukraine eyes deeper cooperation with OSCE

KIEV, 24 April—Ukraine is interested in expanding collaboration with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) over regional and global issues, President Viktor Yanukovich said here on Tuesday.

During his meeting

with Wolfgang Grossruck, acting President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, Yanukovich said Kiev, which currently holds the presidency of the OSCE, is disposed to carry out constructive dialogues with other member states. “We consider Ukraine's chairmanship in the OSCE as a real opportunity to contribute to the strengthening of security and stability in the region,” Yanukovich said.

For his part, Grossruck noted that Ukraine has always been an active participant in all the processes taking place in the framework of the OSCE. “Ukraine is a very active member of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly.

The Ukrainian delegation has played a leading role in our assembly. And now we are very happy about Ukraine's chairmanship,” Grossruck said. Based in Vienna, capital of Austria, the OSCE is the world's largest regional security organization, consisting of 57 members from Europe, Central Asia and North America. Ukraine took over the rotating OSCE chairmanship from Ireland on 1 Jan, 2013

Xinhua

TEPCO swaps plutonium kept in France for German utility's fuel

TOKYO, 24 April — Tokyo Electric Power Co said on Tuesday it has swapped 434 kilograms of plutonium kept in France for the same amount of plutonium in Britain owned by a German utility, following a proposal by a British nuclear authority and French nuclear fuel company.

The transaction was conducted on paper in March and did not involve the actual transfer of the fissile plutonium. It was the first time for a Japanese utility to exchange plutonium with a foreign power company, according to TEPCO.

The swap was realized as the German company hoped to manufacture uranium-plutonium mixed oxide fuel, known as MOX, with TEPCO's plutonium kept in France, following the closure of a nuclear fuel factory in Britain.

The plutonium stored in France was originally meant to be used for the manufacturing of MOX fuel for the No 3 reactor of TEPCO's Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear plant crippled by the March 2011 devastating earthquake and tsunami.

Since TEPCO had decided to decommission the Nos. 1 to 4 reactors of the crisis-hit plant, the Japanese utility accepted the plutonium swap proposed by the British Nuclear Decommissioning Authority and the French nuclear fuel maker Areva.

Several kilograms of fissile plutonium are said to be enough to make a nuclear weapon.

Kyodo News



People visit the sculptures which called *Human Nature* in New York, on 22 April, 2013. *Human Nature*, created by artist Ugo Rondinone, is a public art exhibition made up of nine 16-to-20-foot-tall human-shaped stone figures, and weigh 30,000 pounds each.—XINHUA

REGIONAL

ASEAN Community 2015 top priority at 22nd ASEAN Summit

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, 24 April—Brunei Darussalam is proud to chair ASEAN this year, and the country is all geared up to welcome delegates and media. First off the starters block will be the 22nd ASEAN Summit, which starts on 24 April.

Visitors to the Bandar Seri Begawan, the capital of the Sultanate, are immediately greeted by flags, banners, and posters. Pick up a copy of the local newspaper, and you are immediately reminded of the Sum-

mit. "As we approach the establishment of the ASEAN Community in 2015, all ASEAN Member States are aware of the need to deliver the objectives which we set for ourselves," said ASEAN Secretary-General Le Luong Minh. "Our ability to meet the objectives will have far-reaching effect for ASEAN beyond 2015."

According to the World Bank, ASEAN and the Asia-Pacific is expected to grow by 7.9 percent this year, and 7.6 percent in 2014. This makes the



region one of the fastest growing areas in the world.

Wednesday and Thursday's meetings are expected to set the agenda for the following ASEAN meetings this year, leading to the 23rd ASEAN Summit in October. Leaders from

the 10 member states are also expected to discuss topics such as ASEAN's Central Role and the Regional Architecture, ASEAN's Future Direction, and Exchange of Views on Regional and International Issues.—Xinhua

SingTel announces islandwide LTE coverage in Singapore

SINGAPORE, 24 April—Singapore Telecommunications (SingTel) announced on Tuesday that it has achieved nationwide LTE (long-term evolution) coverage in Singapore, a city state of about 700 square kilometres. This makes SingTel the second carrier to announce islandwide 4G coverage. Another carrier M1 has announced its nationwide LTE coverage in September last year. SingTel said it has spent 150 million Singapore dollars (120 million US dollars) over the last year to deploy its LTE network, which now covers 95 percent of the island, including over 800 outdoor locations on street level and over 500 indoor locations such as shopping malls. This, however, does not extend to the underground subway network, parks and reservoirs. SingTel also said its 3G network speed has also been upgraded from 21 Mbps to 42 Mbps.

SingTel said it has had a total of 300,000 subscribers on its 4G network over the past nine months, while M1 currently has 223,000 subscribers for its 4G network as of 31 March.—Xinhua

Gov't to set up scholarship fund to help students study abroad

TOKYO, 24 April—The Japanese government plans to establish a scholarship fund to encourage university students to study abroad, sources close to the matter said on Tuesday. For the current fiscal year through next March, the education ministry earmarked 3.6 billion in its budget plan to provide more than 100,000 yen a month to 200 students to study abroad for more than one year and around 80,000 yen for those under-

taking shorter periods.

The Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology will also seek financial support from private firms to set up a public-private fund and increase its annual amount to 7 to 10 billion yen next fiscal year to provide the scholarship to around 20,000 students, according to the sources. According to ministry figures, 58,060 Japanese studied abroad in 2010, down 1,863 from the

previous year for the sixth straight year of fall.

The ministry attributes the decline to the prolonged economic recession in Japan, insufficient support schemes at universities and an inward-looking attitude among Japanese people. It aims to increase the number of those studying abroad to roughly 120,000 in 10 years to foster a workforce more capable of operating on an international level.

Kyodo News

Student volunteers help deliver relief supplies to disaster areas

BEIJING, 24 April—Leading the team is You Chao, she's been working at this stadium as a volunteer since the first day of the earthquake. You Chao is in her third year at Sichuan Agriculture University. The school asked the students to leave after the quake. But she decided to stay. You Chao said, "Actually I am free to go, but I want to stay because I want to do as much as I can, though indirectly, for those people who are still trapped in the disaster area."

Most of the volunteers helping load and unload supplies are male. But You is just as willing to join in the hard manual labour. You Chao said, "I am very strong, as much as those boys, so don't look down on me, I

can help!" Since roads to the disaster area remain blocked by rocks and mud caused by landslides, trucks have had limited access. Ya'an stadium has become one of four transfer stops in the city where relief supplies are

stored while they wait to be sent into the affected areas.

Han Fengwei, Ya'an Civil Affairs Bureau, said, "The stadium has played an important role for delivering supplies needed in the affected areas. But the problem is



Rescuers carry an injured person in the quake-hit town of Muping, Baoxing County in southwest China's Sichuan Province, on 22 April, 2013.—XINHUA

Abe to leave for Russia, Saudi Arabia, UAE, Turkey on Sunday

TOKYO, 24 April—Prime Minister Shinzo Abe will make a four-nation tour starting this weekend that will take him first to Moscow, where he and President Vladimir Putin will discuss a long-standing bilateral territorial issue, Japan's top government spokesman said on Tuesday. After travelling to Russia on Sunday, Abe will visit Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Turkey before returning home on 4

May, Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga said at a news conference.

Abe will be accompanied by business leaders on the tour, which is also aimed at generating Japan's economic growth.

Kyodo News



Prime Minister Shinzo Abe

Japan to introduce countermeasures against H7N9

TOKYO, 24 April—A health ministry panel on Wednesday compiled countermeasures against the H7N9 strain of bird flu in the face of the rapid spread of the virus in China.

Under the steps, prefectural governors will be

authorized to recommend that patients or suspected patients be hospitalized and to impose restrictions on work.

The Health, Labour and Welfare Ministry aims at introducing the measures in early May by revising government ordinances under the Infectious Disease Law and the Quarantine Law, ministry officials said.

Kyodo News

Police station in S Philippines attacked

MANILA, 24 April—A group of unidentified suspects attacked on Tuesday night a police station by using a grenade launcher in southern Philippines, local police said.

According to Compostela Valley Provincial Police Office, an alleged M203 grenade was fired to the police station of Mabini, a town in the province, at around 7:25 pm from the national highway, hitting the second floor of the building.

There was no reported casualty from the policemen, however, the building of the Mabini Police Station was damaged and the windowpanes were broken, it said.

Teams from the provincial police and the Philippine Army were proceeding to the area as the alert level has been raised in the said police station, it added.—Xinhua

A young boy reads a pop-up book at a library in Nantong City, east China's Jiangsu Province, on 23 April, 2013, on the occasion of the World Book and Copyright Day. XINHUA



Japan old industrial facilities may become UNESCO heritage assets

TOKYO, 24 April—Municipalities in southern and southwestern Japan submitted on Tuesday a document to the central government requesting that coal mines and other old industrial facilities in their areas be collectively added

to UNESCO's list of World Cultural Heritage sites in 2015.

Eight prefectures, including Fukuoka and Kagoshima, and 11 cities are seeking that a total of 28 facilities used in the late 19th century that contrib-

uted to the development of Japan's heavy industry be part of the list. The facilities include a reverberating furnace in Hagi, Yamaguchi Prefecture, and the Hashima coal complex in Nagasaki, Nagasaki Prefecture.—Kyodo News

ADVERTISEMENT & GENERAL

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV SPRING SKY VOY NO (23)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SPRING SKY VOY NO (23) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 25.4.2013 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: EASTERN CAR LINER S'PORE
PTE LTD**

Phone No: 256924/256914

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV TUSON VOY NO (-)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV TUSON VOY NO (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 25.4.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W(3) where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 256924/256914



Actor Karl Urban (1st L), Zachary Quinto (2nd L), Chris Pine (1st R) and Director J.J. Abrams pose for photos as they arrive for the Australian premiere of film "Star Trek Into Darkness" in Sydney, Australia, on 23 April, 2013.—XINHUA

Zambia earns 15.2 mln USD from emerald auction

LUSAKA, 24 April—Zambia earned a total of 15.2 million US dollars from the auctioning of emeralds done last week, the African country's main producer said on Tuesday. Gemfields Plc, which owns 75 percent of Kagem Mining Limited, Zambia's biggest emerald producer, last week held its local auctioning of the green stones attracting 25 companies, mainly from India. The Zambian government owns the other 25 percent shares in the company.

Ian Harebottle, the company's chief executive officer, said in a statement that the company generated record revenues from the low quality auction, the most it has ever raised from a lower quality auction. The London-listed company, which has held 12 auctions since July 2009, had put 17.3 million carats on offer for its local auctioning with the average price per carat of the stones at 2.42 dollars, down by seven percent from its last lower quality auction in Jaipur, India, according to the official. The official attributed this to a number of declined auction invitations, which was higher than in previ-

ous auctions, mainly due to travel complications for the buyers to reach Lusaka as the journey involved 24 hours of flying. About 31 companies were invited for the auctioning but seven declined. "We are generally satisfied with the results of the auction taking into account the prevailing uncertainty surrounding the Gemfields future ability to sell emerald outside Zambia. The results were reasonable but probably not as optimal as they would have been," he said.

The official however said clarity and stability within the company's operating environment will no doubt also have a positive impact in the longer term and on the peace of mind of its customers. Last week, the company said it should be restricted to conduct its auctions only in Zambia but should be allowed to do its auctions in any part of the world where it thinks it would fetch a higher price.

The Zambian government has already described the auction as a success and has since urged other gemstone companies to consider auctioning locally in future.

Reuters

Cyber vulnerabilities found in Navy's newest warship

WASHINGTON, 24 April—The computer network on the US Navy's newest class of coastal warships showed vulnerabilities in Navy cybersecurity tests, but the issues were not severe enough to prevent an eight-month deployment to Singapore, a Navy official said on Tuesday.

A Navy team of computer hacking experts found some deficiencies when assigned to try to penetrate the network of the USS Freedom, the lead vessel in the \$37 billion Littoral Combat Ship program, said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The Freedom arrived in Singapore last week for an eight-month stay, which its builder, Lockheed Martin Corp, hopes will stimulate Asian de-

mand for the fast, agile and stealthy ships. "We do these types of inspections across the fleet to find individual vulnerabilities, as well as



fleet-wide trends," said the official. Cybersecurity is a major priority for the Navy, which relies heavily on communications and satellite networks for its weap-

ons systems and situational awareness.

Defense Department spokeswoman Jennifer Elzea said the Pentagon's

The details of that assessment are classified," Elzea said.

Lockheed spokesman Keith Little said the com-

US Navy sailors look at the littoral combat ship USS Freedom as it arrives in Changi Naval Base in this 18 April, 2013 photo provided by the US Navy.

REUTERS

chief weapons test agency addressed "information assurance vulnerabilities" for the Littoral Combat Ship in an assessment provided to the Navy."

pany was working with the Navy to ensure that USS Freedom's networks were secure during the deployment.

Reuters

Mazda starts shipping midsize cars from Russia's Far East



VLADIVOSTOK, 24 April—Mazda Motor Corp on Tuesday started shipping Mazda6 midsize passenger cars to western Russia from its new production base in Vladivostok.

The Japanese automaker shipped 39 cars to Moscow and nine to Novo-

sibirsk by rail. Production at the Vladivostok plant began on 12 April.

Mazda also assembles the CX-5 sport utility vehicle at the new factory, operated jointly with the major Russian automaker OJSC Sollers.

Kyodo News

Afghan governor's offer of base to US raises questions

MAZAR-I-SHARIF, (Afghanistan), 24 April—Even as the Afghan government and the United States continue negotiations over maintaining bases in Afghanistan after 2014, an influential Afghan governor has invited US forces to stay on at a camp made available to them in northern Afghanistan.

Atta Mohammad Noor, a Mujahideen fighter-turned-politician and now governor of Balkh Province believes Afghanistan needs the presence of foreign forces beyond 2014. And Noor, tipped as a strong candidate in the April 2014 presidential elections, appears to be trying to look and act presidential.

His office has its own presidential air and it is already bigger and more

decorative than President Hamid Karzai's office in Kabul. And Balkh is home to two camps for foreign forces in Afghanistan. In Mazar-i-Sharif, the provincial capital, Marmal is known as the largest German base outside Germany.

The second base, set up about two years ago, is on a piece of land "we have given them on the southeastern part of Mazar-i-Sharif Airport, which (foreign forces) are using for strategic operations," Noor said.

Camp Marmal, in addition to the German contingent, hosts troops from Croatia and 15 NATO countries, but the International Security Assistance Force has already started drawing down its forces from the base and it appears Noor wants the United States to remain in his region.—Kyodo News



A pet groomer combs the hair of a pet dog during the fourth International Pet Groomers Show at the International Exhibition Center in Kiev, capital of Ukraine, on 23 April, 2013. The fourth International Pet Groomers Show, which will last until on 25 April, attracted 25 pet groomers from Ukraine, Russia and other countries.—XINHUA

ENTERTAINMENT

Shakespeare's new London playhouse to open without the Bard

LONDON, 24 April—A new playhouse attached to Shakespeare's Globe theatre in London announced its inaugural season on Monday, but there was no room for a single work by the Bard.

Instead the opening line-up at the candlelit Sam Wanamaker Playhouse, named after the American director who pioneered the main Globe, will feature three Jacobean plays including John Webster's blood-fest "The Duchess of Malfi".

Also part of the programme in the tiny red brick building adjacent to the Globe will be a new youth company and a collaboration with the Royal Opera House.



"In time we will perform the plays of Shakespeare in there, but we could not be more delighted than to be opening this theatre with three such shining jewels from this time — a macabre tragedy, a riotous comedy and a beautiful phil-

osophical satire," artistic director Dominic Dromgoole told reporters.

Dromgoole will direct Webster's Malfi first, followed by the anarchic comedy "The Knight of the Burning Pestle" by Francis Beaumont and a produc-

tion of John Marston's "The Malcontent" by the newly created youth company.

The new playhouse will also collaborate with Britain's Royal Opera to put on 17th century Italian composer Francesco Cavalli's "L'Ormindo". "It's going to be astonishingly small, incredibly intimate with 360 people packed into a very tiny space," Dromgoole said at a briefing in the Globe's sleekly refurbished foyer.

Royal Opera's director of opera Kasper Holten said he jumped at the chance to bring Cavalli to the new theatre on London's South Bank, which launches its opening season in January, 2014.—Reuters

Jury chosen in Michael Jackson wrongful death trial

LOS ANGELES, 24 April —A jury was chosen on Monday in the \$40 billion (26 billion pounds) civil lawsuit over the death of Michael Jackson that pits the pop star's mother against concert promoters AEG Live.

After a month-long search for a jury, six men and six women were seated to hear what could be an emotional three-month trial that will revisit the chequered life and 2009 death of the "King of Pop" on the

hiring Dr Conrad Murray to care for the singer while he rehearsed for a series of 50 shows.

AEG Live contends that it did not hire or supervise Murray and that Jackson had prescription drug and addiction problems for years before entering into any agreement with it for the "This Is It" London concerts.

The concert promoters also argue that they could not have foreseen that Murray, who was convicted



US pop star Michael Jackson waves to fans as he leaves after the "Premium VIP Party with Michael Jackson" in Tokyo on 8 March, 2007.
REUTERS

eve of a planned comeback.

Three alternate jurors still have to be chosen, clearing the way for opening statements to begin possibly later this week or early next week.

Jackson's 82-year-old mother, Katherine, is suing AEG Live, the promoters of the never-realized series of 2009 London concerts, for the wrongful death of her son. The lawsuit alleges AEG Live was negligent in

in 2011 of involuntary manslaughter in Jackson's death, posed a danger to the singer.

Jackson, 50, died in Los Angeles on June 25, 2009, from a lethal dose of the surgical anaesthetic propofol that Murray was administering for sleep problems. The day before he had been in final rehearsals for the concerts due to start on 13 July.

Reuters

US folk musician Richie Havens dead at 72

LOS ANGELES, 24 April—US folk musician Richie Havens, who opened the historic 1969 Woodstock musical festival and energized the crowd with his version of "Motherless Child/Freedom," died of a heart attack on Monday at the age of 72, his talent agency said.

Havens, who emerged from the New York folk scene in the 1960s and went on to sing for the Dalai Lama and President Bill Clinton, died at his home in Jersey City, New Jersey, Roots Agency President Tim Drake told Reuters.

His family said a public memorial would be announced later and asked for privacy in the meantime.

"Beyond his music, those who have met Havens will remember his gentle and compassionate nature, his light humour and his powerful presence," his family said in a statement.

Known for his driving acoustic guitar and soulful covers of songs by The Beatles, Bob Dylan and The Who, Havens used his music to champion the causes of personal freedom and brotherhood.—Reuters



Musician Richie Havens reprises his 1969 performance of "Freedom" at the site of the original Woodstock Music Festival in Bethel, New York on 14 Aug, 2009.
REUTERS

John Galliano to teach master class at NY fashion school

NEW YORK, 24 April—Disgraced fashion designer John Galliano is continuing his public image rehabilitation with an upcoming stint teaching a master class at one of New York's leading design schools.

Galliano, who was fired by Dior in 2011 after he was caught on camera making anti-Semitic remarks in a Paris cafe, will teach a course titled "Show Me Emotion" at Parsons The New School For Design, the school said on Monday.

Parsons said the class "will be a dynamic and intimate opportunity for our students to learn from an immensely talented designer."

"We believe that over the past two years Galliano has demonstrated a serious intent to make amends for his past actions," the school added. Earlier this year, the 52-year-old British designer, widely thought of as one of the most talented and creative names in fashion,



British designer John Galliano appears at the end of his Haute Couture Spring-Summer 2011 fashion show for French fashion house Dior in Paris on 24 Jan, 2011.—REUTERS

spent several weeks working at Oscar de la Renta's studio in New York, preparing for de la Renta's New York Fashion Week show in February.

A French court handed out a 6,000-euro (5,237 pounds) suspended fine to Galliano in 2011 after he was found guilty of anti-Semitic behaviour. Galliano has said an addiction to drugs and alcohol had

left him out of control and he was determined to make amends. Parsons said students in the master class "will have the opportunity to engage in a frank conversation with Mr Galliano about the challenges and complications of leading a design house in the 21st century." Following his Dior dismissal, Galliano designed British model Kate Moss's wedding dress.—Reuters

Backstreet Boys get Hollywood star ahead of world tour

LOS ANGELES, 24 April —Boy band the Backstreet Boys — now all grown men — on Monday marked their 20th anniversary and their upcoming world tour by getting a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

"Backstreet is Back ... and we aren't going anywhere," Nick Carter, 33, told fans as all five members of the 1990s band gathered to unveil their star — located right next to another popular boy band, Boyz II Men.

The close harmony singers were visibly emotional as they thanked their families and fans for their support over the years.

"What an honour it is," said Kevin Richardson, 40, holding back tears. "What a beautiful day. What another beautiful way to celebrate 20 years together."

Formed in 1993 in Florida, the Backstreet Boys went on to sell more than 130 million albums

worldwide and score hits like "I Want It That Way," and "Shape of My Heart."

The other members of the group are Brian Littrell, A.J. McLean and Howie Dorough.

After several hiatuses in the 2000s and the departure of Richardson, the five

original members officially got back together last year and will embark on a world tour in May, starting in China.

Backstreet Boys are also due to release a new album this summer, and a music documentary in 2014.—Reuters



Backstreet Boys (from L counterclockwise) Howie Dorough, Brian Littrell, AJ McLean, Kevin Richardson and Nick Carter lie on their star after it was unveiled on the Walk of Fame in Los Angeles, California on 22 April, 2013.
REUTERS

SPORTS

Berdych tested by Davydenko, Gulbis downs Verdasco

MADRID, 24 April—World number six Tomas Berdych was given a tough workout by Nikolay Davydenko at the Barcelona Open on Tuesday before seeing off the former number three 3-6, 7-5, 6-4 to secure a berth in the last 16.

Czech Berdych, who had a bye into the second round and is seeded three on the clay at the Real Club de Tennis, served poorly against the 31-year-old Russian, who had won nine of their 11 previous matches.

After having his service broken twice in losing the first set, Berdych managed to turn things around to edge the second before lifting his game in the decider and sealing victory with a ninth ace.

The 27-year-old will play the winner of the

match between Bulgaria's Grigor Dimitrov, the 14th seed, and 2004 champion Tommy Robredo of Spain for a place in the quarter-finals.

Latvian qualifier Ernests Gulbis provided the surprise of the day when he thumped former world number seven and 12th seed Fernando Verdasco of Spain, who won the event in 2010, 6-3, 6-4.

World number five Rafa Nadal begins his bid for an eighth Barcelona title in nine years with a second-round clash against unseeded Argentine Carlos Berlocq on Wednesday.

Recently back from seven months out with a knee injury, Nadal is seeded second and beat top-seeded Spanish compatriot David Ferrer, the world number four, in the final in 2008,



Tomas Berdych

2009, 2011 and 2012.

Ferrer plays his second-round match against

Russian qualifier Dmitry Tursunov on Wednesday.

Reuters

Torres mask can't slip in Chelsea's Europa pursuit

LONDON, 24 April—Chelsea are in the last chance saloon as far as a trophy goes and Fernando Torres, complete with his 'Mask of Zorro', must continue his recent improvement in swashbuckling style in Thursday's Europa League semi-finals.

Fenerbahce welcome Benfica in their first leg while European champions Chelsea face a tricky trip to Basel without the cup-tied Demba Ba, meaning fellow striker Torres will take up the fight as the Londoners chase Europe's second prize.

Group stage elimination as holders in the Champions League has been followed by the lack of a Premier League title challenge and defeat in the FA Cup semi-finals by Man-



Chelsea's Fernando Torres leaves the pitch after the Europa League quarter-final second leg soccer match against Rubin Kazan at the Luzhniki stadium in Moscow on 11 April, 2013.—REUTERS

quitting in May with a modicum of pride restored and Spanish compatriot Torres, still playing with a mask to protect a broken nose, feels upbeat.

"We have a young squad and we need to learn winning ways and this is a very good way. It is not the Champions League but it is the Europa League," Torres told www.uefa.com.

"Now we're in the semi-finals everyone can see we want to win and the team I think is happy.

"The competition is helping the team a lot because it is giving us a lot of satisfaction - not like in the Premier League this season, and we lost the semi-final of the FA Cup, so we were also close. But the Europa League is keeping us in a good mood and thinking it

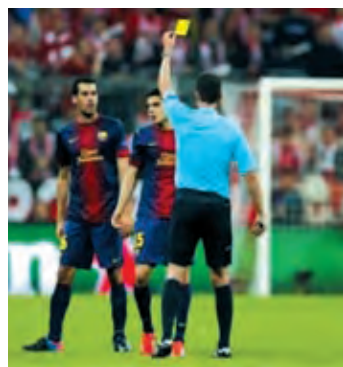
could be a good season."

Torres, who has struggled for sustained form since joining Chelsea in 2011, was highly impressive in the last round when he scored three goals in the two legs against Rubin Kazan.

His improved confidence has even led pundits to say he should stick with the mask until the end of the season, some comparing it to a 'comfort blanket' he can hide behind.

However, he laboured against former club Liverpool in Sunday's 2-2 Premier League draw. John Terry, Frank Lampard, Ashley Cole, Gary Cahill, Victor Moses and Yossi Benayoun were all left out of the starting XI at Anfield but are likely to return on Thursday.—Reuters

Bayern crush Barca with dynamic four-goal show



Referee Viktor Kassai of Hungary shows a yellow card to Barcelona's Marc Bartra (C) next to his team mate Sergio Busquets (L) during their Champions League semi-final first leg soccer match against Bayern Munich at Arena stadium in Munich, on 23 April, 2013.—REUTERS

MUNICH, 24 April—Barcelona, who have changed the face of the game in recent years, were handed a footballing lesson when they were crushed 4-0 by Bayern Munich in an extraordinary Champions

League semi-final first leg on Tuesday.

The Catalans, winners of the trophy in 2009 and 2011, had no answer to Bayern's power, speed, pressing and resolute defence as they slumped to

their heaviest defeat for almost six years and matched their worst result in European competition.

The victory was so comprehensive the 68,000 crowd at the Allianz Arena may have wondered whether they were witnessing the end of an era as the all-conquering visitors were ripped apart in the second half.

Thomas Mueller was the architect, scoring the first and last goals and setting up the second for Mario Gomez as the Bavarians, already crowned Bundesliga champions, continued an astonishing season

that could yet yield a treble.

"We played fantastically today," Bayern chairman Karl-Heinz Rummenigge told reporters. "I have never experienced a night like this and I have been around for quite some time.

"I think we all saw Lionel Messi was not fully fit. We have a very good chance now of reaching the final." World Player of the Year Messi, returning from a hamstring injury, made little impact up front for Barca while midfield duo Xavi and Andres Iniesta lacked their usual cutting edge.—Reuters

Statistics on Bayern Munich's 4-0 win over Barcelona

MUNICH, 24 April—A selection of statistics surrounding Bayern Munich's 4-0 victory over Barcelona in the Champions League semi-final first leg on Tuesday.

* Barcelona conceded four goals in a Champions League match for the first time since losing 4-2 to Chelsea in the last 16 in March 2005.

* The last team to beat Barcelona 4-0 in the competition were Dynamo Kiev in the group stages in November 1997.

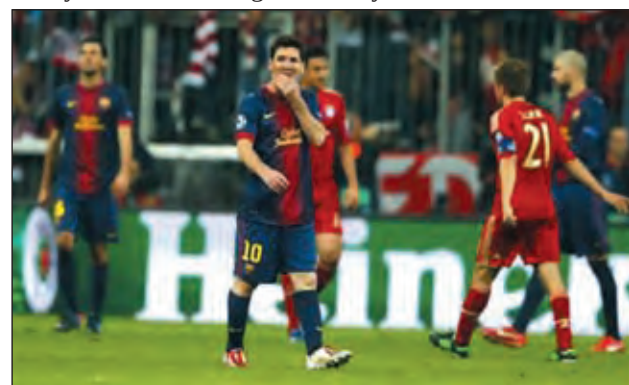
* No team has ever lost the first leg of a Champions League/European Cup tie by four or more goals

and progressed to the next round.

* The last time Barcelona's Lionel Messi featured in a team that lost 4-0 was in Argentina's 2010 World Cup quarter-final against Germany. Thomas Mueller, who scored twice on Tuesday, netted in that game too.

* Barcelona only had one shot on target against Bayern, the joint lowest they have managed in the Champions League this season.

* In all competitions Barcelona have not lost 4-0 since they were beaten by Getafe in the King's Cup in May 2007.—Reuters



Barcelona's Lionel Messi (C) reacts at the end of their Champions League semi-final first leg soccer match against Bayern Munich at Arena stadium in Munich, on 23 April, 2013.—REUTERS

United and Ferguson made for winning, say peers

DORTMUND, (Germany), 24 April—Manchester United's Premier League title triumph and the winning mentality of evergreen manager Alex Ferguson were widely praised across the game on Tuesday, with England boss Roy Hodgson labelling him a "magician".

United clinched their 20th league title on Monday after Robin van Persie's hat-trick sealed a 3-0 win over Aston Villa, giving Ferguson the 49th trophy in his long managerial career.

Real Madrid coach Jose Mourinho, who challenged United's domestic dominance by winning two titles with Chelsea between 2004-2007, hailed Ferguson on the eve of Real's Champions League semi-final first leg at Borussia Dortmund.

"What he did is what he has been doing all his life, winning," Portuguese Mourinho told reporters. "Sometimes not consecutively because it is impossible to do it.

"That's his life and his career. I congratulate him, it is not a surprise to me or to the world that Sir Alex

and Manchester United won the title again."

Real eliminated United in the Champions League last 16 when Mourinho, long linked in the media with one day replacing the 71-year-old Ferguson, showed his admiration for the English side by saying the best team had lost.

Hodgson, whose England side rely on United players such as Wayne Rooney and Danny Welbeck, was in awe at the way United had recovered from losing last term's title in the final kick on goal difference to Manchester City.

Reuters



Manchester United's manager Alex Ferguson celebrates after his team clinched the English Premier League soccer title with a win against Aston Villa at Old Trafford in Manchester, northern England, on 22 April, 2013.—REUTERS

GENERAL

Suarez accepts bite charge but queries longer ban

LONDON, 24 April—Liverpool forward Luis Suarez has disputed the English FA's view that his punishment for biting Chelsea defender Branislav Ivanovic at the weekend merits a longer punishment than the usual three-game ban.

The FA said in a statement on Tuesday the Uruguayan international had accepted a charge of violent conduct but "has denied the FA's claim the standard punishment of three matches is clearly insufficient for this offence".

The incident in Sunday's 2-2 Premier League draw at Anfield was not

seen by match officials and is being retrospectively reviewed.

An independent regulatory commission will hear the case on Wednesday. Suarez has already apolo-



Liverpool's Luis Suarez reacts during their English Premier League soccer match against Reading at the Madejski Stadium in Reading, on 13 April, 2013.—REUTERS

gised to Serbia centre half Ivanovic and been fined by his club.

Suarez, who scored an injury-time equaliser following the bite midway through the second half, received a seven-game ban from the Dutch FA for biting an opponent while playing for Ajax Amsterdam in 2010 shortly before he joined Liverpool.

The 26-year-old, top scorer in the Premier League this term with 23 goals, also served an eight-match ban for racially abusing Manchester United defender Patrice Evra last season.

Reuters

Ex-world boxing champ Tokuyama arrested for punching two men

KOBE, 24 April — Former world boxing champion Masamori Tokuyama was arrested on Tuesday on suspicion of attacking and injuring two men on a street in western Japan, police said.

The 38-year-old Osaka resident, whose Korean name is Hong Chang Su, has admitted punching the men in the face several times during the 10-minute altercation starting around

6:15 pm on Monday in Sanda, Hyogo Prefecture, following a possible traffic incident near a gas station, according to the police. Tokuyama, who is now a restaurant owner, punched a 24-year-old man who turned his vehicle in front of the former champion after exiting the gas station.

He also punched a 53-year-old manager of the station, who had been guiding the man's vehicle onto

the street. "I did bad things to them. I was infuriated by the vehicle's sudden appearance and the way the manager directed it," the police quoted Tokuyama as saying. Tokuyama won the WBC super flyweight title in 2000 and successfully defended it eight times. He lost the title in 2004, regained it the following year and defended it once more before retiring in 2007.

Kyodo News

John Galliano to teach master class at NY fashion school



Fashion designer John Galliano surrounded by policemen leaves after a hearing in a police station in Paris on 28 Feb, 2011.—REUTERS

NEW YORK, 24 April — Disgraced fashion designer John Galliano is continuing his public image rehabilitation with an upcoming stint teaching a master class at

one of New York's leading design schools. Galliano, who was fired by Dior in 2011 after he was caught on camera making anti-Semitic remarks in a Paris

cafe, will teach a course titled "Show Me Emotion" at Parsons The New School For Design, the school said on Monday.

Parsons said the class "will be a dynamic and intimate opportunity for our students to learn from an immensely talented designer." "We believe that over the past two years Galliano has demonstrated a serious intent to make amends for his past actions," the school added. Earlier this year, the 52-year-old British designer, widely thought of as one of the most talented and creative names in fashion, spent several weeks working at Oscar de la Renta's studio in New York, preparing for de la Renta's

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(25-4-13 09:30 am ~ 26-4-13 09:30 am) MST

- * News
- * The Most Amazing Yangon Exhibition & Car Show
- * News
- * Myanmar Mega Factory (Episode-3)
- * News
- * Sail With SMEs in the Life's Sea
- * Easy Transport Facility
- * News
- * Zoo-per Happy Day
- * News
- * The Mountain with antique Stone Sculptures & Mural Painting
- * News
- * Culture Stage
- * News
- * Sail With SMES in the Life's Sea
- * Easy Transport Facility
- * News
- * A Field Trip Assessment for the Best Research Papers
- * US and Myanmar Strengthen friendship with Music Concert
- * Myanmar Movies "Life As Parents"

Myanmar TV

(25-4-2013, Thursday)

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|---|---|
| 6:00 am | (Part-2) |
| 1. Paritta By Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw | 2:00 pm |
| 6:30 am | 18. News |
| 2. To Be Healthy Exercise | 2:15 pm |
| 6:35 am | 19. Myanmar Video (Part-3) |
| 3. Dance & Song of National Races | 3:00 pm |
| 6:45 am | 20. News |
| 4. Documentary | 3:15 pm |
| 7:00 am | 21. Documentary |
| 5. News | 4:00 pm |
| 7:20 am | 22. News |
| 6. People Talk | 4:15 pm |
| 8:00 am | 23. Myanmar Language |
| 7. News/ International News | 4:30 pm |
| 8:25 am | 24. Dance of National Races |
| 8. My Mind Game My SEA Games | 4:40 pm |
| 9:00 am | 25. University Of Distance Education (TV Lectures) - First Year (Law) |
| 9. News/ International News | 5:15 pm |
| 9:20 am | 26. Road to 27 th SEA Games (Judo) |
| 10. How It's Works | 6:20 pm |
| 9:45 am | 27. Approaching Science Discovery World |
| 11. India Single Rock Temple | 6:45 pm |
| 10:00 am | 28. TV Drama Series |
| 12. News | 7:00 pm |
| 11:00 am | 29. News |
| 13. Sing & Enjoy | 8:00 pm |
| 12:00 pm | 30. News / International News / Weather Report |
| 14. News/ International News | 9:00 pm |
| 12:25 pm | 31. News |
| 15. Myanmar Video (Part-1) | 9:15 pm |
| 1:00 pm | 32. CLEVER |
| 16. News | 9:30 pm |
| 1:15 pm | 33. Documentary |
| 17. Myanmar Viideo | 9:45 pm |
| | 34. TV Drama Series |

Records of exchanges between Yokohama, Shanghai show at museum

YOKOHAMA, 24 April — An exhibition highlighting historical exchanges between Yokohama and Shanghai began on Wednesday at the Yokohama Archives of History to mark the 40th anniversary of a friendship agreement between the two port cities.

The event, to run through 7 July, will showcase 140 items mainly from the time of the opening of

Yokohama Port in 1859 to the early years of the Showa era so visitors could follow the footprints of those who came and went between the two cities. The exhibits include furniture used by Japanese trader Kobee Abe during his stay in Shanghai as well as the piano that was made by Chinese craftsman Zhou Xiao Sheng in Yokohama's Chinatown.

Kyodo News



Photo taken on 22 April, 2013, shows the smallest of four crested ibis chicks born in the wild but being raised at the Sado Japanese Crested Ibis Conservation Centre on Sado Island in Niigata Prefecture.—KYODO NEWS

Rhino extinction in Mozambique game park rings poaching alarm

MAPUTO, 24 April — The authorities of a southern Mozambican game park on Tuesday said no rhinos were left in the park due to rampant poaching which involves some of the game park rangers. Antonio

Abacar, the administrator of Limpopo National Park, told local media that 30 rangers are to be taken to court soon after their cases are ready. There used to be 300 rhinos in the conservation area bordering South

Africa.

He said the last 15 rhinos were killed last month. "Many tourists, Mozambicans and foreigners enjoyed seeing rhinos and elephants in the park," he said, adding that elephants

are also in danger of extinction in the Limpopo park. A fortnight ago, the World Wild Fund (WWF) said that Mozambique lost 2,500 elephants to poachers in the past two years for the illegal ivory trade.—Xinhua

President U Thein Sein arrives in Brunei

NAY PYI TAW, 24 April—President U Thein Sein flew to Bandar Seri Begawan of Brunei Darussalam to attend 22nd ASEAN Summit this morning and arrived at the city's international airport at 5.15 pm local time.

The President and party were welcomed at the airport by senior officers of Brunei Prime Minister's Office and Foreign Ministry and Myanmar Ambassador to Brunei Darussalam Daw Yin Yin Myint and embassy staff.

The delegation then proceeded to Empire Hotel

of Bandar Seri Begawan in a motorcade.

MNA

President U Thein Sein receives warm welcome by senior officers of Brunei Prime Minister Office and Foreign Ministry and Myanmar Ambassador to Brunei Darussalam Daw Yin Yin Myint and embassy staff.—MNA



Indonesian President and wife conclude visit

NAY PYI TAW, 24 April—Visiting Indonesian President Dr Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono and wife Mrs. Hajjah Ani Bambang Yudhoyono left here by special flight

this morning.

They were seen off at Nay Pyi Taw International Airport by Union Minister Dr Pe Thet Khin and wife, Union Minister U Zeyar Aung and wife, the Myanmar ambassador to Indonesia and wife, the directors-general of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the national races of the Fine Arts Department under the Ministry of Culture and officials concerned with salutes of the Guard of Honour.

Indonesian President Dr Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono and wife Mrs. Hajjah Ani Bambang Yudhoyono being seen off at the airport by officials.

MNA

MNA

Township Level Disaster Risk Management Course commences in Loikaw

LOIKAW, 24 April—Opening ceremony of township level disaster risk management course, jointly organized by the Department of Relief and Resettlement of Kayah State and Care Myanmar, was held at No.1 BEHS, here, yesterday morning.

The disaster risk management team members from General Administration Department, Information and Public Relations Department, Fire Services Department, Education Department, Health Department, Development Affairs Committee and

Myanmar Police Force are attending the course. The course covers disaster risk management and rescue process.

The course runs through 28 April, according to State Information and Public Relations Department.

Kayah State IPRD

Libraries in Myeik under maintenance for public reading

MYEIK, 24 April—Staff of Myeik District Information and Public Relations Department and Pyinnya Alinnpya Library committee members met at the Pyinnya Alinnpya Library in Pahtaw Village of Kyunsu Township in Thaninthayi Region yesterday.

The meeting focused on increasing the number of readers and maintenance of the library.

During the meeting, Daw Hla Hla Htay, Head of Myeik District IPRD urged those present to cultivate reading habit they can gain knowledge from reading

books. Head of township IPRD Daw Wah Wah Khaing suggested the maintenance of the library.

Those present discussed on a new building for the library which is currently being housed by the Dhamayon building.

Myeik IPRD

Vehicle entrance fee at Thiri Mingala Car Dealer Camp

Thiri Mingala car dealer camp was opened in Kyimyindine Township of Yangon on 19 February. As of 22 April, car pass fee will be collected, said an official of Revenue Department of Yangon City Development Committee.

“Since its establishment, Thiri Mingala car dealer camp allows dealers for their cars' exit and entry to the camp free of charge. Now, car pass fee will be

collected from users,” he continued.

Over 50 vehicles on average are sold at the camp daily. On 21 April afternoon, a total of 522 cars stopped at the camp. The number of cars at the parking is collected every one hour.

Moreover, some cars are kept at night in the camp. Keeping the car at night is allowed by the department free of charge. Number of cars that spent the night at the

camp is gathered at register every night for security of dealers.

On 22 April, officials collected three-ton vehicle per K 200, 3-5 ton vehicle per K 300 and up to five tons of vehicle per K 500. Vehicles are to pay entry fee for every time. At present, there is a regular dealing of various brand cars in regular at the camp.

Myanma Alinn: 22-4-2013

Trs: TTA



**Byline: Maung Thitsa
Photo: Tin Soe (Myanma Alinn)**