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Myanmar, Korean speakers sign MoU on bilateral cooperation

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

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

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

The Korean Speaker spoke of the need of economic reform and development for democratization as well as the important role of science and technology in national development. He tipped technologies of Korea and resources of Myanmar for mutual benefits of the two nations. Korean companies and businessmen are interested to make investment in Myanmar, said the Korean Speaker.

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

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

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

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

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

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

(See page 8)

***Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann holds discussion with Korean National Assembly Speaker Mr Kang Chang-hee.*—MNA**

Mobile team and illegal trade routes

Byline: Waw Win Maung

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

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

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

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

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

Trs: MT
Kyemon 27.4.2013

Personnel of mobile team inspecting loads of truck at Hsatthwachon Village in Waw Township on 10 April.

Conflict-sensitive reporting course opened

MANDALAY, 27 April—Conflict-sensitive reporting course will be conducted in Mandalay from 5 to 7 May.

Jointly organized by Myanmar Peace Center (MPC) and International Media Support (IMS), the course is designed to improve the presentation skills of Myanmar journalists in reporting conflict and peace process news.

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

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

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

Kyemon

Significant day temperatures (27-4-2013)

Aunglan	43°C
Bawlakhe	43°C

LOCAL NEWS

Tornado touches down in some townships of Mandalay Region

MANDALAY, 27 April— A tornado touched down in Lewe Township of Mandalay Region at about 3.15 pm on 22 April, blowing some roofs of an ordination hall of Kunchan Village monastery and destroying the wall of Basic Education Post Primary School in the village. Three people including Thet Naing Win of the village were wounded in the incident. Likewise, the tornado ripped into Lay Ka Thein, Hmawkon and Kanthaaye villages, damaging BEPS and 73 houses. But no causalities were reported. Umbrellas of Laba Theikhti and Yanpyay Pagodas fell down on the ground and 20 houses were damaged in Lewe Township due to the strong wind at about 3.50 pm on that day.

At Ngetoe ward of Amarapura Township, a tree had fallen on a house, leaving Ma San Yi, 38, and Aung Pyae, 12, injured. The victims were sent to Mandalay Hospital for receiving special treatment.

Kyemon

SIM cards handed over at South Dagon (25) ward

YANGON, 27 April— MEC Tel CDMA-800 MHz prepaid low-priced SIM cards were handed over to ward dwellers at ward-25 of Dagon Myothit (South) Township on 24 April.

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

Kyemon

YCDC Cup Summer Golf Championship 2013 goes on

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

At men's professional event, Aung Win (Srixon) led the event with a handicap of 6 for two days followed by Thein Zaw Myint (KM Golf) with a handicap of 5 and Naing Naing Lin (Srixon) with a handicap of 2.

Kyemon

Electricity supply resumes in disaster-hit Sagaing Township

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

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

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

Kengtung Township sees couple of fires in single day

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

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

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

Kyemon

Kyaukse set to fully supply itself with safe and clean drinking water

KYAUKSE, 27 April— Kyaukse Township Development Affairs Department is carrying out building of more water supply facilities to meet the high demand for potable water as the region has experienced high temperature this year. Local people in Kyaukse Township are being provided with 308,000 gallons of safe and clean drinking water daily through 2155 household taps and 12 public water tanks supplied from Zawgyi and Zeedaw water purifying plants. Moreover, 480,000 gallons of water pumped from Zawgyi river are being supplied to the township through water treatment tanks. "First, river water is pumped to the sedimentation tanks. Next, filtration process followed under slow sand filter system. Then 0.5 mg of chlorine is added to one liter of water. In this way, local people have access to safe and clean drinking water. Laboratory experiments made at Public Health Laboratory in Mandalay showed that the pH level of water rests between 7.2 and 7.6. There was no evidence of chemical side effects," says Deputy Director U Lay Lwin of Kyaukse Township Development Affairs Department.

Supply of water by pumping water from Zawgyi river has started with 528 household taps since 1995. Two water purifying plants were built in 2003 for water safety. As drinking water is in high demand year by year, works are underway to build more sedimentation and filtration tanks starting from 2012-2013 fiscal year. Upon completion, more safe and clean drinking water will be supplied to the whole township.

Kyemon

APSF Board of Executive Committee Meeting held

NAY PYI TAW, 27 April— Regarding the 7th ASEAN Para Games that will be held in Nay Pyi Taw in January 2014, APSF Board of Executive Committee Meeting took place at Zabuthiri Hotel, here, yesterday morning.

It was attended by President of Myanmar Para Sports Federation Maj-Gen Nay Lin, the vice-president and executives, the President of ASEAN Para Sports Federation and executives and representatives from ASEAN countries.

First, MPSF President Maj-Gen Nay Lin made an opening address. Next, the APSF President extended greetings.

Then those present held discussions on activities of APSF, and Executive Col Thein Win (Retd) of MPSF explained preparations for the 7th ASEAN Para Games.

After holding discussions on opening date and logo of the games, number of sports events and matters related to opening and closing ceremonies, the meeting came to an end.

The 7th ASEAN Para Games will be held in Nay Pyi Taw from 14 to 20 January in 2014.

Kyemon

Cash donation for School for the Deaf in Mandalay

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

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

Kyemon

Beware of fire

11 killed, 40 injured in bomb blast in Pakistan's Karachi

People examine the blast site in southern Pakistani port city of Karachi on 26 April, 2013.— XINHUA

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

According to the reports, the bomb exploded near a corner meeting of a political party Awami National Party (ANP) or "People 's National Party" in Mominabad area of Karachi, killing six people on the spot while injuring 45 others including six children.

Police, security forces and rescue teams rushed to the site and shifted the bodies and injured to the Abbasi Shaheed Hospital and Civil Hospital of the city where five of the wounded succumbed to their injuries.

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

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

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

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

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

Xinhua

Anger on streets as Bangladesh building toll passes 300

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

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

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

Army spokesman Shahinur Islam said the death toll had reached 304 and H T Imam, an adviser to the Prime Minister, said it could exceed 350. Anger over the working conditions of Bangladesh's 3.6 million garment workers, the overwhelming majority of them women, has grown steadily since the disaster, with thousands taking to the streets to protest on Friday.

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

Reuters

A rescue worker is seen next to the bodies of garment workers lying among the rubble of the collapsed Rana Plaza building, in Savar, 30 km (19 miles) outside Dhaka on 25 April, 2013.—REUTERS

Boston bomb suspect moved to prison from hospital

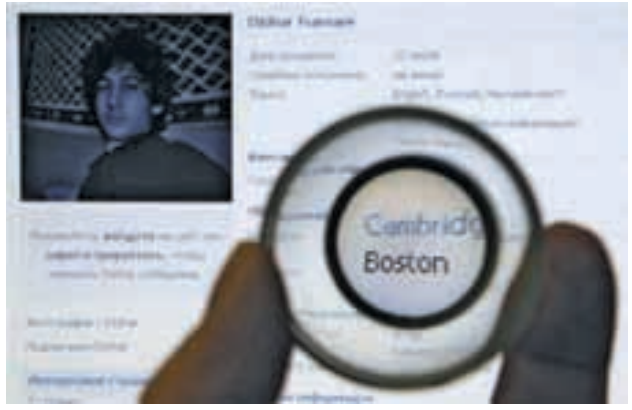
BOSTON, 27 April— Boston Marathon bombing suspect Dzhokhar Tsarnaev has been moved to a prison medical center from the hospital where he had been held since his arrest a week ago while recovering from gunshot wounds, US officials said on Friday.

The 19-year-old ethnic Chechen, wounded in a night-time shootout with police on 18 April hours after authorities released pictures of him and his older brother as suspects, was formally charged on Monday and could face the death penalty if convicted. His brother, Tamerlan Tsarnaev, 26, died in the shootout.

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

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

US lawmakers are demanding answers from security officials about what they might have known about the brothers, particularly Tamerlan, before the bombing at the marathon finish line that killed three people and injured 264 others. In 2011, Russia had asked the FBI to question Tamerlan because of concerns that he may have been an Islamic militant.—*Reuters*



A photograph of Djohar Tsarnaev, who is believed to be Dzhokhar Tsarnaev, a suspect in the Boston Marathon bombing, is seen on his page of Russian social networking site Vkontakte (VK), as pictured on a monitor in St Petersburg on 18 April, 2013.—REUTERS

Mourners offer flowers and candles at a memorial for victims of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster in Slavutich, Ukraine, on 26 April, 2013, the 27th anniversary of the disaster.—KYODO NEWS

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

BERLIN, 27 April—A 74-year-old gunman shot dead the mayor of a northwestern German county on Friday morning before killing himself, local police said. The shooting took place around 10 am local time in Hamelin-Pyrmont county of the German State of Lower Saxony. Local police confirmed that the county mayor Ruediger Butte was shot dead by the gunman who then turned the firearm on himself.There was no direct witness. According to local media, county spokeswoman Sandra Lummitsch heard the shots in a neighboring office. She alerted the police, then locked herself in the office with her colleagues.

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

US denies attempting to destabilize Venezuela

WASHINGTON, 27 April —The United States on Friday denied making any effort to destabilize the Venezuelan government, and called an American arrested in the South American nation "a private US citizen."State Department spokesman Patrick Ventrell said at a regular news briefing that Washington was seeking more information on Timothy Hallet Tracy, an American documentary filmmaker arrested on Wednesday in the Venezuelan capital Caracas on charges of conspiring to destabilize the country.

Venezuela's Interior and Justice Minister Miguel Rodriguez has said that his government sees the American man as someone who " belongs to some intelligence organization," because "he is trained and he knows how to infiltrate, and how to handle sources and security information."

"These type of accusations are the latest in a series of allegations made by the Venezuelan government in recent weeks against a variety of 'foreign actors,' suggesting efforts to effect political developments in Venezuela," Ventrell told reporters here.

"These allegations have not been substantiated. The US continues to categorically reject any allegations of US government efforts to destabilize the Venezuelan government or to harm anyone in Venezuela," the spokesman said, adding that Tracy is just "a private US citizen."

Tracy was accused of inciting political opponents in Venezuela to take part in violent street protests against the outcome of the 14 April presidential election, in which President Nicolas Maduro beat his closest rival only by a slim margin. The clashes last week left eight people dead.

Washington has not recognized Maduro as Venezuela's new president, and has been pushing for a recount of the presidential votes. US-Venezuela relations have been strained in recent years, and the two countries have not had each other's ambassadors since July 2010. Maduro and his predecessor, late President Hugo Chavez, have regularly accused Washington of seeking to destabilize their oil-rich country.

Xinhua

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Growth concerns dog Amazon as it shores up digital beachhead

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

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

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

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

As growth concerns worsen, the company will have trouble justifying its triple-digit price-earnings multiple. Analysts at JP Morgan, Credit Suisse and Pacific Crest Securities on Friday lowered their price targets on Amazon shares, citing the top-line deceleration

Longer-term, investors are keeping a close eye on a fundamental shift in its business.

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

It has diversified aggressively into other revenue streams like digital content, advertising and the Amazon Web Services cloud computing business. Lately, it has even branched into creating original video content.

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

"Over the long term it does help margins," said Ben Schachter, an analyst at Macquarie. "You don't have to put these things on a truck and ship them."

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

Reuters

LivingSocial cyber attack affects millions of customers

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

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

LivingSocial stressed customer credit card and merchants' financial and banking information were not affected or accessed. It also does not store passwords in plain text.

"We are actively working with law enforcement to investigate this issue," the company, part-owned by Amazon.com Inc, wrote in an email to employees.

LivingSocial does not disclose how many customers it has. However, spokesman Andrew Weinstein said "a substantial portion" of the company's customer base was affected. LivingSocial is also contacting customers who closed accounts, because it still has their information stored in databases, he added.

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

"In light of recent successful widespread attacks against major social networking sites, it's obvious that these providers are simply not doing enough to protect their customers' information," said George Tubin, senior security strategist at Trusteer, a computer security company.

The attack comes as LivingSocial struggles to handle a decline in consumer and merchant demand for daily deals. The company raised $110 million from investors, including Amazon earlier this year, but was forced to make large concessions to get the new money.

Amazon invested $56 million in LivingSocial in the first quarter, according to a regulatory filing on Friday, which also revealed the company had a first-quarter operating loss of $44 million on revenue of $135 million.

LivingSocial said on Friday it was beginning to contact more than 50 million customers whose data may have been affected by the cyber attack.

LivingSocial told customers in an email that they should log on to LivingSocial.com to create a new password for their accounts.

"We also encourage you, for your own personal data security, to consider changing password(s) on any other sites on which you use the same or similar password(s)," LivingSocial Chief Executive Tim O'Shaughnessy wrote in the email.—*Reuters*

Mobile broadband demand pushes Ericsson Brazil plant to capacity

***The exterior of Ericsson's headquarters are seen in Stockholm on 30 April, 2009.—*REUTERS**

RIO DE JANEIRO, 27 April—Strong demand for mobile broadband equipment in Latin America will keep Ericsson's plant in Brazil at full capacity this year, says a senior executive at the telecom equipment manufacturer.

Mobile phone operators in Brazil are scrambling to improve their networks after heavy scrutiny from regulators because of poor service and a lack of investment in mobile infrastructure in recent years. The problems came despite a ballooning client base in Latin America's biggest economy.

But strong demand for faster, smartphone-friendly networks in neighbouring countries is also fueling a growing need for mobile equipment elsewhere in the region.

"We see a growing demand in Latin America, both in 3G and 4G," said Andre Gildin, Ericsson's market intelligence director for the region, referring to the higher-speed networks that Brazil, Mexico, Colombia and other countries are rolling out.

The Swedish-based company expects 3G equipment to make up most of the demand this year in Brazil. Demand for 4G equipment is growing too as the industry begins building the country's fourth-generation mobile network.

The 4G effort is beginning in cities that in June will host soccer games during the Confederations Cup. The contest is a prelude to next year's World Cup, a much bigger event that is expected to strain Brazil's mobile telephone networks.

In 2012, about 40,000 pieces of mobile signal transmission equipment were produced at Ericsson's factory in the state of Sao Paulo. That took the factory to its production limit, a level that should be reached again by the end of the year.

"Our expectations are to finish this year with a similar number", Gildin said in an interview this week. Half of this year's production will supply the Brazilian market, he added, while the rest would be exported to other Latin American countries. Big customers include operators in Mexico, which is implementing its 4G network, and Colombia, which is expanding both 4G and 3G services.

Argentina, Chile and Peru are also improving their mobile phone networks.

Ericsson says it has about 40 percent of the market in Brazil for 3G equipment. While the 3G network still has a long way to go in the country, the initial steps toward 4G services are helping the company get an early lead in that segment too, Gildin said.—*Reuters*

NY City sues BP over Deepwater Horizon spill

NEW YORK, 27 April—New York City said on Friday it sued BP Plc for more than $39 million (25.1 million pounds) of losses it claims beneficiaries of the city's pension funds sustained due to BP's "misconduct and fraudulent behaviour" linked to the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill.

"BP failed to disclose to shareowners the serious risks involved in its offshore drilling operation," Comptroller John Liu said. "After the spill began, it misleadingly attempted to minimize the extent of the damage and the cost to shareowners."

The lawsuit, filed in the Southern District of New York, alleges BP failed to disclose facts about the dangers involved in offshore drilling operations, the extent of the leak and the estimated cost of the cleanup costs.

BP declined to comment on New York's lawsuit.

"The estimated transactional investment losses to City pension beneficiaries caused by BP's misconduct and fraudulent behaviour exceed $39 million," the Comptroller's office said in the news release.

***A hard hat from an oil worker lies in oil from the Deepwater Horizon oil spill on East Grand Terre Island, Louisiana on 8 June, 2010.—*REUTERS**

BP's New York-traded stock was down 0.1 percent at $42.2 after the news, about in line with the overall market. The broad based S&P 500 was down 0.2 percent. The 2010 disaster in the Gulf of Mexico killed 11 rig workers and spilled 4 million barrels of oil in the worst offshore spill in US history.

BP has estimated it could spend more than $42 billion to cover clean-up, fines and other liabilities. It has been selling a variety of assets to help cover its costs.

A trial for direct damages related to the spill got underway in February. The trial is being held with no jury before Judge Carl Barbier at federal court in New Orleans.—*Reuters*

BUSINESS & HEALTH

Moody's, S&P settle lawsuits over debt vehicle ratings

A Moody's sign on the 7 World Trade Centre tower is photographed in New York on 2 August, 2011.—Reuters

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

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

Morgan Stanley, which marketed both SIVs and helped structure the Rhinebridge SIV, also settled.

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

"This settlement allows us to put the significant legal defence and related costs, as well as the distraction, of these very protracted litigations behind us," Adler said.

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

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

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

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

S&P still faces the US Department of Justice's $5 billion civil fraud lawsuit filed in February over its ratings, the government's first major post-crisis action against a credit rating agency. The credit rating agency is trying to dismiss that case.—*Reuters*

Boeing says ready to build seven Dreamliners a month by mid-year

Tokyo, 27 April — Boeing Co (BA.N) said on Saturday it is ready to build seven *787 Dreamliners* a month from mid-year and is still on course for 10 per month by the end of the year.

On Friday, Japanese authorities gave Japan Airlines (9201.T) and All Nippon Airways (9202.T) the green light to fly the grounded Dreamliner following US approval.

The fuel-efficient passenger jet was grounded since mid-January due to lithium-ion battery problems.—*Reuters*

Goldman Sachs lines up $1.75 billion J C Penney loan

A man with a Macy's bag walks past the JC Penney's store in New York, on 11 April, 2013.—Reuters

New York, 27 April — Goldman Sachs has arranged a $1.75 billion financing package for JC Penney Co Inc (JCP.N), backed by the department store chain's real estate and other assets, a source familiar with the situation said on Friday. Shares of the ailing retailer closed 11.5 percent higher at $17 on Friday, having touched their highest levels in nearly two months, after CNBC first reported the financing had been arranged.

Penney spokesman Joey Thomas said the company does not comment on speculation or rumor. Goldman did not respond to a request for comment.

The retailer has not yet agreed to a deal and there is no guarantee it will, said the source, who did not want to be identified because the information was not public.

Penney, which ended the last fiscal year with less than $1 billion in cash, has been exploring various options to shore up capital after a steep sales slump followed a botched turnaround attempt by former CEO Ron Johnson.

"The debt will buy them time and get them through Christmas. Then you take each day at a time and try to win back customers slowly," said David Berman of Durban Capital, a hedge fund firm focused on retail and e-commerce.

While a debt deal of this type "would allow them to live for this year," Berman said, "it's hard to know what they'll need."

Reuters

Draft bill gives FDA authority over some pharmacies

Washington, 27 April — The Food and Drug Administration would gain greater authority over pharmacies that compound sterile drugs and ship them across state lines under proposed legislation announced on Friday.

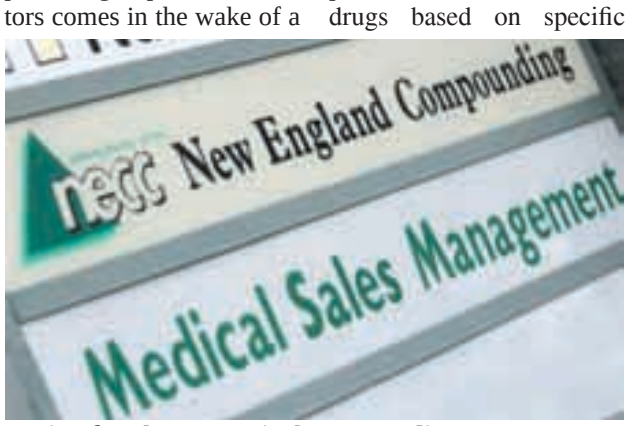
The proposal from a bipartisan group of US senators comes in the wake of a meningitis outbreak last fall that killed 53 people and sickened more than 700. The outbreak was linked to a tainted steroid distributed by the New England Compounding Centre.

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

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

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

Reuters



A sign for pharmaceutical compounding company New England Compounding Centre (NECC), a producer of the steroid methylprednisolone acetate, is seen in Framingham, Massachusetts on 8 Oct, 2012.—Reuters

Vodafone investors want bigger bid or full takeover by Verizon

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

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

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

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

"Without wishing to be too disrespectful, (Vodafone is) sitting with a rather ugly set of assets once you lose the Verizon Wireless stake," said Ralph Brook-Fox, UK equities fund manager at Ignis Asset Management, a top 40 institutional shareholder in Vodafone.

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

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

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

It also received before the end of 2012 a 2.4 billion pound dividend from its Verizon Wireless stake, and said it would pass on 1.5 billion pounds to its shareholders via a buy-back, showing the importance to the group of its holding.—*Reuters*

A Verizon logo is seen during the International CTIA WIRELESS Conference & Exposition in New Orleans, Louisiana in this 9 May, 2012 file photograph.—Reuters

WORLD

Japan lifts grounding of Boeing 787 airliners

TOKYO, 27 April—The Japanese Transport Ministry said on Friday it has given the green light for *Boeing 787 Dreamliners* to resume operation after the planes were grounded worldwide for more than three months, although the root cause of the trouble remains unidentified. The move came after the US Federal Aviation Administration's decision to allow *787* jets to fly again effective Friday following approval of Boeing Co's modified battery system last week.

Photo shows Boeing 787 Dreamliner jets parked at Tokyo's Haneda airport on 22 April , 2013.
KYODO NEWS

With approval from aviation authorities, carriers worldwide with *787*s are striving to resume flights using the advanced, fuel-efficient jet at an early date. "It's been a long three months and 10 days" of suspension, said Japan Airlines Co President Yoshiharu Ueki in Tokyo after receiving the nod from the aviation authorities. "If things go properly, we can start (commercial *787* flights) in early June," he said. Ethiopian Airlines also expects to resume its *787* operations possibly Saturday, while United Airlines, the only US airline with *787*s in its fleet, is looking to resume flights in late May.

All Nippon Airways Co and Japan Airlines —the world's two largest *787* operators— were ordered by Japan's transport ministry in January to ground their *787* fleets and make battery modifications approved by the ministry's Civil Aviation Bureau.

The carriers have already begun installing the modified lithium-ion batteries in their Dreamliner jets and are planning to conduct test flights using revamped *787*s before resuming commercial operations in June at the earliest. With Dreamliners expected to return to service, the chiefs of JAL and ANA both indicated plans to seek compensation from Boeing.

Kyodo News

Israeli army breaks up Palestinian march on Jewish settlement

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

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

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

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

Mexican university building designed by Japan architect Ando completed

LOS ANGELES, 27 April —A school building designed by Japanese architect Tadao Ando has been completed at the University of Monterrey in northern Mexico. Ando, 71, who has won various awards for his works, attended the building's inauguration ceremony on Wednesday. People can pass through the lower part of the six-story building, Centro Roberto Garza Sada, alternately called the "Gate of Creation." The building was the first designed by Ando in Central and South America, the university said.

Ando said Mexico is known for many world-class architects, such as Luis Barragan Morfin (1902-1988), and called on university students who walk through the Gate of Creation to have the spirit to become leaders in Mexico and in the world. The university spent 600 million pesos (about $49 million or 4.9 billion yen) to build the structure, which has classrooms and conference rooms for the students studying architecture and art. Among Ando's works are the Sumiyoshi-no-Nagaya linear concrete house in Osaka and the Chichu Art Museum on Nao Island in the Seto Inland Sea, western Japan. Ando was awarded the Pritzker Architecture Prize in 1995, the royal gold medal from the Royal Institute of British Architects in 1997 and the gold medal from the International Union of Architects in 2005.—*Kyodo News*

Japanese architect Tadao Ando (L) receives an honourary doctorate from the University of Monterrey in northern Mexico on 24 April, 2013.
KYODO NEWS

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

JUBA, 27 April—An estimated 3,000 South Sudanese rebels have surrendered and accepted an amnesty, a government official said on Friday, ending a long-standing insurgency in the oil-producing north of the country. South Sudan's government has been struggling to contain several insurgencies it claims are supported by its old civil war foe Khartoum since it gained independence from Sudan in July 2011. Sudan denies the claims.

Relations between the Sudans have thawed in recent months, paving the way in April for the resumption of the South's oil being piped through Sudan after a 15-month shutdown. On Friday, South Sudan's President Salva Kiir issued an amnesty for six rebel commanders including Bapiny Monytuil, the leader of the South Sudan Liberation Army (SSLA), and their troops. "The (SSLA) militia that have been in the north have surrendered. All of them have come," Unity State government spokesman Joseph Arop Malual told *Reuters*. Unity contains several oilfields.

Led by a senior commander, Matthew Puljang, a large group of SSLA crossed the border with around 100 trucks from Sudan, where they are believed to have a training base, Malual said. The SSLA, formed in the late 1990s, is one of largest rebel groups in the region. It switched sides several times during the civil war between north and south Sudan that killed some 2 million people in fighting over oil, religion, ideology and identity. The war, which began in 1983, ended with a 2005 peace deal that paved the way for the southern secession.—*Reuters*

***South Sudanese soldiers walk alongside a tank as they withdraw from the town of Jau, at the disputed border with Sudan on 17 March , 2013.—*REUTERS**

15 rescued after hospital ceiling collapses in India

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

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

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

Xinhua

Turkey warns opposition against sabotaging Kurdish peace moves

ISTANBUL, 27 April— The Turkish government welcomed a planned withdrawal by Kurdish militants as significant progress towards ending three decades of conflict on Friday, and it warned its nationalist opponents not to sabotage the peace process. The main nationalist party, however, was quick to reiterate its opposition to any dealings with the militants. Rebel field commander Murat Karayilan on Thursday ordered his fighters to begin leaving Turkey on May 8 for the mountains of northern Iraq, in a step to halt a war that has killed more than 40,000 and scarred the nation.

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

"It is necessary to determinedly avoid behavior and actions which would sabotage the process," he said, criticizing opposition parties including the Nationalist Movement Party (MHP) for seeking to "besmirch" the government.

Reuters

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

LOCAL NEWS

Water needy persons get water supply from wellwishers

KYAUKME, 27 April—Dwellers in Kyaukme are facing shortage of water due to lack of wate at wells in some wards of Kyaukme and lesser volume of Kyaukmegyi spring.

Tube-well owners invite all the people to take water from their wells at any time. Some wellwishers supply water to the wards where the people face water shortage.

"We all are pleased for donation of water by some wellwishers in South Ingyin Ward and Mongngaw Ward while facing shortage of water due to lesser volume of water poured out from Kyaukmegyi spring. It is necessary to give educative talks on growing trees to the people," said teacher Daw Khin Than Kyu.

Ko Soe, who donated water onboard his vehicle, said that he had been supplying water to the water needy persons for five days.

He donated four to five times a day. He was pleased for donation of water to the needy persons.—*Myanma Alinn*

Umbrella hoisted atop quake-striven pagoda in Wetlet Township

WETLET, 27 April—Min Bandu Pagoda in the precinct of Nyaungkoebin Monastery in Hanlin Model Village of Wetlet Township was damaged in the shakes of Richter Scale 6.8 earthquake on 11 November 2012.

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

The pagoda was works of the Konbaung Period. It was over 200 years old. Nyaungkoebin Sayadaw Bhaddanta Tejaniya organizes Buddha Pujaniya of the pagoda annually.

Myanma Alinn

Wellwishers invited to donate cash and kind to fire victims

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

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

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

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

Squalls destroys trees, lamp-posts in Sagaing

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

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

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

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

Myanma Alinn

Books, medicines donated to staff of Sittoung Paper Mill

KYAIKTO, 27 April—Deputy Minister for Information U Pike Htwe and wife, and Director-General U Ye Tint of Information and Public Relations Department donated medicines and cash to the fund to Thithsin Pariyatti Monastery of Theinzayat Township in Kyaikto Township of Mon State on 23 April morning.

The deputy minister and party paid homage to Myatheindan Pagoda.

In meeting with staff at Sittoung Paper Mill, they donated books to Alinein Library, medicines for staff and snacks to children of Pre-Primary School.

Then, they paid homage to Kyaikpawlaw Hmeshindaw Pagoda. Later, they met staff of Kyaikto Township Information and Public Relations Department and gave necessary instructions.

Myanma Alinn

Express bus plunges into drain from bridge on Yangon-Mandalay Expressway

TOUNGOO, 27 April—Aye Chan Myaing express bus that left Yangon for Magway to take passengers plunged into the drain due to out of control from the bridge between mile post 154/2 on Yangon-Mandalay Expresswsay in Ketumadi Myothit of Toungoo District at 5 am on 21 April.

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

Four security personnel wounded in arresting suspect

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

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

In the incident, U Than Soe was injured with one bruise at right ankle, Min Htet Aung at right arm pit and right arm, Zin Min Oo at right thigh, and Hein Ko Latt at chest and thigh.

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

Kyemon

The New Light of Myanmar

PERSPECTIVES

Sunday, 28 April, 2013

Put the past behind

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

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

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

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

Surprise check conducted in PyinOoLwin

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

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

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

KYEMON

NATIONAL

Myanmar, Korean speakers sign…

(from page 1)

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

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

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

MNA

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker meets Australian Senate President

Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann poses for documentary photo together with President of the Australian Senate Senator Hon John Joseph Hogg.—MNA

YANGON, 27 April—Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann met President of the Australian Senate Senator Hon John Joseph Hogg and party at Hluttaw Office Branch (Yangon) this afternoon.

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

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

MNA

Australian Senate President arrives in Yangon

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

Chairperson of Pyithu Hluttaw Rule of Law and Tranquility Committee Daw Aung San Suu Kyi shakes hands with President of Australian Senate Senator Hon John Joseph Hogg.—MNA

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

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

MNA

LOCAL NEWS

SIM card sale in Dagon Myothit

YANGON, 27 April—The direct sale of CDMA 800 MHz SIM cards to end users was launched at No.108 ward administrator office in Dagon Myothit (East) Township in Yangon Region on 24 April.

Townselders joined the staff of the office to help sell the SIM cards by lots.

Kyemon

Low-cost SIM cards sold in Yedashe Township

YEDASHE, 27 April—Low-cost SIM cards were sold through lucky draw programme in Yedashe of Bago Region on 24 April. SIM cards quotas for local people is 1027 and 413 for governmental staff. Low-priced SIM cards will be sold monthly there.—*Kyemon*

Buddha Pujaniya of historic Kanni Myathitin Pagoda held

TOUNGOO, 27 April—Buddha Pujaniya of historic Kanni Myathitin Pagoda was held in Kanni Village of Toungoo Township from Fullmoon day of Tagu to 2nd Waning of Tagu.

During the Pujaniya, not only beach bazaar which is at the foot of the pagoda hill but also in the precinct of pagoda were crowded with pilgrims. The merry-makers were seen in Sittoung River. The Pujaniya is yearly held by the people of Kanni, Shwelay Inn and East Hsin Ywa village-tracts from the east bank of Sittoung River and Thaphanpin and West Hsin Ywa village-tracts from the west bank of Sittoung River.

According to Kaytumadi-Toungoo History, Bagan King Narapati Sithu paid homage to Shwedagon and Shwemawdaw Pagodas in Ramanya Region in 553 Myanmar Era and renovated Tayahtel Nyinaung and Shinpin Kyaukhsaung Pagodas. He also found damaged Myathitin Pagoda at the confluence of Sittoung River and Kanni creek and renovated it.—*Kyemon*

Lightning kills two in Kawkareik

KAWKAREIK, 27 April—Strong winds hit Kyondo region of Kawkareik Township in Kayin State on 24 April afternoon.

The disaster destroyed the roof of Basic Education Post-Primary School in Thayattaw village, causing a loss valued at K 320,000. Another strong winds destroyed the roof of house in Thalwehtaw village in Myaukkanmageik village on the same day, causing a damage of K 1,026,500.

U Tun, aged 46 and Ma Waing Sein, aged 13 who reside in Thahtaygon ward in Kyauktaga of Bago Region were struck by lightning and killed while taking shelter from rain at U Thein Tin's house.—*Kyemon*

Raising reading habit in Katha District

YANGON, 27 April—Head of Katha District Information and Public Relations Department of Sagaing Region U Khin Maung Thein Lwin accompanied by TV Technician Grade-3 Daw Nyein Nyein Thant met village administrator, village elders, village authorities, library committee members and rural people at the village administrator's office in Thabaya Village of Katha Township on 25 April.

The head of District IPRD explained public service media and broaden the horizon of the local people by sharing knowledge from publications. They inspected the construction of library and urged officials to timely complete the construction tasks meeting set standard.

Kyemon

Educative talks on anti-human trafficking given in Mandalay

MANDALAY, 27 April—Educative talks on anti-human trafficking was held at Youth Development Training School in Aungmyethazan Township, Mandalay yesterday.

Responsible persons from World Vision (Myanmar) gave talks on anti-human trafficking. It was attended by Police Captain U Myo Zin of Mandalay Region Anti-Human Trafficking Squad, Township Administrator U Soe Myint Win of Township General Administration Depart-ment, Principal Daw Naing Naing Aung of Women's Vocational Training School of Social Welfare Department, departmental officials, members of Women's Affairs Organization, Maternal and Child Welfare Association and INGO.

For more information about the human trafficking cases, may dial 067-412555 and 067-412666 (Nay Pyi Taw), 09-49555666 (Muse), 09-49555777 (Mandalay), 09-49555888 and 09-49555999 (Yangon).

Kyemon

Lychee yield drops due to scorching weather

THANDAUNG, 27 April—Lychees from Leiktho and Bawgali sub-townships have been distributed Toungoo and other townships beginning the third week of April and the prices are reported to be higher in comparison with the same period previous year.

The high price is due to low harvest as a result of hot weather this year. According to lychee seller in Toungoo, a packet of lychees was sold at the price of K 3500 during Thingyan as it first came onto market and then it is now sold at K 1500 as the supplies increase.

As lychees are juicy and taste sweet-and-sour and thus are one of the hot sales item in scorching summer like this time.

Kyemon

Ember fire torches 32 houses in ChaungU Township

CHAUNGU, 27 April—Cooking of 7-year-old child caused fire that engulfed 32 houses in Shwegu Village of ChaungU Township at 2.40 pm yesterday.

The fire started from the kitchen of a house at plot No 7 in Shwegu Village while cooking rice by Ma Moe Moe Win, daughter of U Ba Hman (a) Zaw Min Oo, torching 32 houses and three pigs.

Members of Fire Brigade and about 100 local people joined hands in fire fighting and the fire died down at 4 pm.

Shwegu Village included in Amyint Village-tract is located nine miles west of ChaungU.

Kyemon

Fire reduces one house to ashes in Nyaunglebin Township

NYAUNGLEBIN, 27 April—An ember fire broke out in Gyogyarkwin Village of Nyaunglebin Township at 3.15 pm on 25 April.

According to the report presented by SIP Thein Aung who discharged duty at Nyaunglebin Township Police Station, the authorities inspected the outbreak of fire that started from the ember of kitchen at the house of U Ye Thwe, 28, son of U Aung Win. Outbreak of fire caused loss of K 100,000.

Officials of the Township Fire Services Department and members of Myanmar Police Force put out the fire in time. Action was taken against the negligent fire user under the law.

Kyemon

Haul of drugs seized in Muse

MUSE, 27 April—Members of Muse Anti-Drug (Special) Squad from Muse together with witnesses, Shan State (North) searched China made Lifan-125 motorcycle driven by Sai Hsan Saw near Asia World Toll Gate on 17 March.

They found WY brand pink 148,500 stimulant tablets weighing 13.365 kilos worth about K 297 million packed with paper and plastic tapes inside Ai Tang brand two sound boxes from the tool box of the motorcycle.

Police Inspector Min Thein from Muse Police Station opened a file against drug possessor Sai Hsan Saw.

Efforts are being made to arrest those involved in cooperation with local police force.

Kyemon

WORLD

British Islamists jailed for al-Qaeda suicide bomb plot

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

A fourth man, their associate, was sentenced for terrorist financing. With the help of others, the three plotters had intended to detonate eight rucksack bombs in a mass attack and possibly use timers to set off other devices in crowded places. They had also considered welding knife blades to a truck and ramming it into a crowd of people, prosecutors said.

They said that although the targets remained unidentified, the intent was to create an attack more devastating than the four suicide bombings on London's transport system on 7 July, 2005 which killed 52 people on underground trains and a bus. Irfan Naseer, Irfan Khalid and Ashik Ali were being sentenced after their conviction at London's Woolwich Crown Court in on 12 February counts of committing acts in preparation for terrorism between December 2010 and September 2011.—*Reuters*

***Ashik Ali, Irfan Khalid and Irfan Naseer (L-R) are seen in undated mugshots provided by the West Midlands Police in Birmingham on 21 Feb, 2013.*—REUTERS**

Cambodia's oil imports down 12 pct in Q1

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

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

Kazakhstan offers to host UN regional centre

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

The idea, proposed by President Nursultan Nazarbayev, is aimed at addressing the lack of a systematic UN field presence in the vast central region of Eurasia, Idrisov said at a regional foreign ministers' conference on Afghanistan.

"Having such a centre in Almaty can be complemented by the construction of a UN storage depot in case of humanitarian emergencies," Idrisov said.

According to the minister, Kazakhstan would create all the conditions for establishing the center and ensure its functioning without any additional burden on the budget of the UN in the early stages.

Xinhua

China, EU hold first-ever dialogue on higher education

BRUSSELS, 27 April— Dozens of university presidents from China and Europe were brought together on Thursday to share their success stories and concerns in establishing cooperation projects, so as to provide policy suggestions and enhance compatibility between the two's higher education systems.

"China's higher education aims at achieving better quality, better structure, deeper reform and more fairness, and the European Union (EU) is successful in transforming its diversity into vitality and impetus for development," China's Vice Education Minister Du Yubo said in the opening speech. The event was the first meeting of the EU-China higher education platform for cooperation and exchanges (HEPCE), a flagship event in the framework of the high-level people-to-people dialogue established last year as the third pillar of the EU-China relations complementing the strategic dialogue and the economic and trade dialogue.

"As an innovative project for the China-EU partnership, the people-to-people dialogue is both realistically and strategically important for consolidating public support," he added. There are more than 35,000 students from EU member states studying in China. According to Du, the Chinese government is scheduled to offer 30,000 scholarships for European students and researchers in the next five years. "We welcome new scholarship schemes from China, and the EU is ready to offer grants," said Jan Truszczynski, directorate-general for education and culture in the European Commission, adding that an EU-China language project was to be launched in June. Presidents and representatives of Chinese and European universities had extensive exchanges over models for EU-China joint higher education institutions, joint degree programnes and cooperation in the fields of European studies and Chinese studies.—*Xinhua*

***Presidents from both Chinese and European universities exchanges views with each other at the EU-CHINA University Presidents' Dialogue during the 1st Meeting of EU-China Higher Education Platform for Cooperation and Exchange (HEPCE) in Brussels, Belgium, on 25 April, 2013.*—XINHUA**

Wendy's launches "Tomodachi" burger to help post-disaster recovery

TOKYO, 27 April— Wendy's Japan LLC on Friday launched a special "Tomodachi" burger, proceeds from which will be partly used to support Japan's recovery from the March 2011 earthquake and tsunami as well as to deepen Japan-US economic and cultural ties through youth exchanges.

The barbecue burger, priced at 480 yen, will be sold for six weeks at three Wendy's stores in Tokyo through early June under the campaign to raise awareness of the Tomodachi Initiative, a public-private partnership aimed at strengthening relations between the two countries' young people as well as supporting Japan's disaster recovery efforts. Wendy's Japan Chairman Ernest Higa and US Ambassador to Japan John Roos handed the first Tomodachi burgers to customers at the US burger chain's store in the Omotesando district. Members of the public were invited to submit recipe ideas for the burger, 20 percent of the proceeds of which will be donated to the Tomodachi Initiative. Roos said the initiative's programmes, such as music, sports and arts exchanges and scholarships, will "connect not only the young people of Tohoku and provide them with hopes and dreams, but all the young people of Japan". The partnership was named after Operation Tomodachi (Friends), the US military's relief effort in disaster-ravaged regions in Japan's northeast.

Kyodo News

45 dead as Afghan bus hits tanker wrecked by Taleban

KANDAHAR, 27 April— A passenger bus in Afghanistan collided today with a wrecked fuel tanker left on a road after a Taleban insurgent attack, killing at least 45 people, officials said.

The accident occurred before dawn in the Maiwand district of Kandahar Province when the packed bus ploughed into the tanker, which had been burnt out in a Taleban strike several days ago.

PTI

Two killed at explosion in Hyderabad Gulf Oil factory

NEW DELHI, 27 April —Gulf Oil Corporation Ltd said two of its workmen were killed in an explosion in its Hyderabad factory.

"There was an explosion in the Finishing Section of the Detonating Cord Plant at Hyderabad Factory on 25 April... at around 7.09 pm," the company said in a filing to the stock exchanges.

The explosion caused a cave in of the roof in the Finishing Section and some damages in the spinning and packing sections.—*PTI*

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

Winston Churchill to appear on new British pound banknote

LONDON, 27 April— Former British Prime Minister Sir Winston Churchill will appear on a new Bank of England (BoE) banknote, its governor Mervyn King announced on Friday.

"Sir Winston Churchill was a truly great British leader, orator and writer. His energy, courage, eloquence, wit and public service are an inspiration to us all," King said in Chartwell of Kent, the family home of the wartime prime minister. Churchill served as the British Prime Minister in May, 1940 until 1945. He returned to office in 1951, and retired at 80 in 1955.

According to the current plan, 5-pound notes that would contain Churchill's portrait would be issued in 2016. "Further details on the full design will be revealed when the new note is launched, together with a full promotion and awareness campaign," said the BoE. The central bank issues nearly a billion banknotes each year, and withdraws almost as many from circulation.—*Xinhua*

REGIONAL

Ex-top Japan financial diplomat Nakao named new ADB head

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

Former Japanese Vice Finance Minister for International Affairs Takehiko Nakao holds a Press conference at the Finance Ministry in Tokyo on 26 April, 2013, after being named new president of the Asian Development Bank. — KYODO NEWS

The 57-year-old Nakao succeeds Haruhiko Kuroda, who assumed the post of Bank of Japan governor on 20 March, and will serve out the latter's remaining term through November 2016.

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

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

"His extensive experience in international finance and development and broad and deep knowledge of the Asian region will serve ADB well in pursuing its vision of an Asia-Pacific region free of poverty," he added. Japanese Finance Minister Taro Aso, in a statement, thanked ADB members who supported Nakao's candidacy and wished him "the very best in assuming the ADB presidency, drawing on his rich experience in the areas of international finance and development." Since its establishment in 1966, a Japanese nominee has traditionally been chosen to head the 67-member ADB, where voting rights are allocated in proportion to members' contributions.

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

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

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

Kyodo News

Photo shows Roppongi Hills commercial complex in Tokyo on 25 April, 2013, the 10th anniversary of its opening.—KYODO NEWS

HK to pursue bilateral FTA with ASEAN

HONG KONG, 27 April — Hong Kong will pursue a bilateral free trade agreement with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, the HK trade minister said on Friday.

"The establishment of an FTA with ASEAN is in line with Hong Kong's strategic goal of strengthening its economic partnership with the 10 ASEAN member states," Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development Gregory So said.

ASEAN comprises Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam. The ASEAN states collectively are Hong Kong's second-largest partner in terms of goods trade and fourth largest in services, So said.

"We will consult with various sectors who have businesses with ASEAN states. There is no deadline for the preparatory work because the FTA involves complicated issues with different countries," he said.

The agreement is expected to cover issues including tariffs, preferential rules of origin, investment promotion and a dispute-settlement mechanism.

Hong Kong originally put forward a request to ASEAN for joining the China-ASEAN Free Trade Area. ASEAN counter-proposed engaging Hong Kong bilaterally for a Hong Kong-ASEAN pact, which was later approved by the Chief Executive-in-Council.

Kyodo News

Steps to halt increase of radioactive water at Fukushima plant studied

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

Plant operator Tokyo Electric Power Co. has so far dealt with the situation by increasing the number of water storage tanks at the site. It has also built a dozen wells to pump out part of the groundwater that enters the reactor buildings as it flows from the mountain-side to the ocean-side. But the panel, also joined by officials of the government and TEPCO, hopes to find a more fundamental solution because the utility could eventually run out of water storage capacity. Some proposals were presented during the meeting of the panel members Friday, such as building an underground wall around reactor buildings by using a clay-like material.

TEPCO once considered building a wall on the mountain side of the reactor building after the plant was crippled by a huge earthquake and tsunami in March 2011, but it abandoned the idea because of the risk that contaminated water accumulating inside the reactor buildings could flow onto the soil outside. The problem of keeping massive amounts of radioactive water at the plant has recently drawn renewed attention after TEPCO found some underground water storage pools containing contaminated water had leaked and had to find a secure storage space.—*Kyodo News*

Chinese cuisine attracts holiday-makers at Osaka exhibition

OSAKA, 27 April — Coinciding with Japan's major holiday season that starts this weekend, Chinese dishes and cooking techniques have been attracting holiday-makers and gourmets around a booth at Japan's biggest food exhibition.

The event, a dream for any epicurean, opened Friday at a large exhibition facility in the western Japanese city of Osaka, which is known as "Japan's kitchen" because of its rich culinary culture.

The exhibition, officially called the "International Food Expo Utage 2013 in Osaka," is being held at INTEX Osaka (International Exhibition Centre Osaka) where nearly 100 various Chinese dishes, large and small, colorfully and skillfully decorated by a total of 100 Chinese and Japanese chefs, are on display at a dedicated booth to celebrate the expo's opening.

Ten of the artistic Chinese dishes on exhibit are awarded each day by senior chefs in categories such as appetizers, seafood and meat dishes, warm vegetable dishes, noodles and desserts. Attendees can watch techniques for quickly slicing radish, carrots and gourd, as well as carefully carving these vegetables to different shapes of flowers, shrimps and other designs.

Choh Ki Hoh, senior technician and chef and a native of China's Shandong Province, stressed that a key factor in the presentation of Chinese cuisine is how one creates "gorgeousness" to enhance its high-quality image.

Xinhua

China on secondary disaster alert after quake

CHENGDU, 27 April — China is on high alert for secondary disasters like landslides in the quake-hit region in southwest China's Sichuan Province as the rainy season approaches.

The provincial government has put in place an emergency response plan against geological hazards. Currently more than 400 professionals are identifying risks in the affected areas, especially around temporary settlements.

Based on the hazard evaluation, they will formulate plans for early warning, evacuation and emergency rescue to prevent the loss of lives and property caused by secondary hazards.

Qian Jiangpeng, chief engineer of Sichuan Institute of Geological Engineering Investigation, discovered many rocks had fallen to the edges of cliffs and cracks were found on the ground."

Those rocks and soil will be dangerous for people and buildings under the mountain in case of heavy rain or a strong aftershock," Qian told *Xinhua* on Friday.

The 7.0-magnitude earthquake hit Lushan County, Ya'an City on Saturday morning and has claimed nearly 200 lives. Ya'an is nicknamed the "city of rain" with an annual precipitation of 1,800 mm.

As of 4 pm Friday, 5,086 aftershocks had been recorded, including four between the magnitudes of 5.0 and 5.9, according to the provincial seismological bureau.

Xinhua

Firefighters fight against a forest fire in Qinfeng Township of Lufeng County, southwest China's Yunnan Province, on 26 April, 2013. Over 2,200 firefighters and service men have been mobilized to fight against a forest fire which broke out at around 16:00 (0800 GMT) on 23 April . As of 16 pm on Friday, part of the burning area have been under control. —XINHUA

Anil Goswami appointed new Home Secretary

NEW DELHI, 27 April — Senior IAS officer Anil Goswami, a seasoned hand on Jammu and Kashmir affairs, was today appointed as the new Home Secretary and will have a two-year tenure from June end.

58-year-old Goswami, a 1978 batch IAS officer, is the first bureaucrat from Jammu and Kashmir cadre to be appointed to the top post.

PTI

ADVERTISEMENT & GENERAL

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV KOTA RANCAK VOY NO (711)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA RANCAK VOY NO (711) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 28.4.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV SINGAPORE BRIDGE VOY NO (038)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SINGAPORE BRIDGE VOY NO (038) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 28.4.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINES

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV GSS YANGON VOY NO (1316)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV GSS YANGON VOY NO (1316) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 28.4.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S CHINA SHIPPING (MALAYSIA) AGENCY SDN BHD

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

Bombs kill at least 20 across Iraqi capital

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

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

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

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

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

Reuters

Brazil government to tighten football financial rules

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

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

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

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

Photo shows the building housing MRI International Inc's Japan office in Tokyo on 26 April, 2013. The US asset management firm is suspected of mishandling funds invested by thousands of Japanese clients, resulting in losses totaling more than 130 billion yen, sources familiar with the matter said on 26 April . The Securities and Exchange Surveillance Commission raided the Tokyo office of the Nevada-based company and other related locations that afternoon.—KYODO NEWS

Portuguese parade in downtown Lisbon, Portugal, on 25 April , 2013, celebrating the 39th anniversary of the victory of the Carnation Revolution on 25 April, 1974.
XINHUA

Six people killed after Arab communities clash in northern Mali

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

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

"This confrontation was due to the events that took place at Ber, where the Arab traders who are organized under the banner of the Arab Movement for Azawad (MAA) pushed out the members of the National Movement for the Liberation of Azawad (MNLA) and injured two of their members.

"The MNLA fighters came to revenge against the peaceful Arab traders in Anefis as they were fleeing to Kidal.

The reprisal attacks occurred under the watch of the Serval forces and the International Support Mission for Mali (MISMA)," another source said. The sources said the MNLA had deployed its fighters in Anefis with about thirty vehicles.

Xinhua

Terracotta warriors to be displayed in Romania

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

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

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

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

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

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

Xinhua

ENTERTAINMENT

Jennifer Aniston, Justin Theroux postpone wedding till August

Jennifer Aniston and Justin Theroux

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PTI

Justin Bieber shrugs off "rumours" after Swedish drug find

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

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

On Thursday, Swedish police said an officer smelled marijuana on an empty tour bus outside the hotel where Bieber was staying before his Stockholm concert on Wednesday. They said they found a small amount of drugs but had no suspects and did not plan further action.

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

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

Canadian singer Justin Bieber performs on stage during the first of his three concerts at Telenor Arena in Oslo on 16 April, 2013.

Rihanna boosts Chris Brown's confidence

London, 27 April—The 25-year-old Stay singer rekindled her relationship with the 23-year-old R&B star last year, despite the fact he is still on probation for beating her in 2009, and has been hugely supportive as he tries to get his career back on track and prepares to release his new album X.

A source close to the Fine China singer told HollywoodLife.com: "Chris was definitely in a tough spot after the assault. But patching things up with Rihanna really gave him the confidence to start focusing on his music again.

"Now his career is hotter than ever because he feels like he has her blessing to be a star again.

"The industry is definitely anticipating for him to make a big impact with his new album coming out this summer."

Last month Chris admitted he is "extremely grateful" that Rihanna was able to forgive him for attacking her and said that the incident made him realise he could "lose it all" but he is trying to move forward. He said: "It's all about my responsibility. I just tried my best to be the best man I could be over the years and just show her how remorseful and sorry I was for the incident and that time was probably the worst part of my life and being that she has and she's a wonderful person I'm eternally grateful and thankful.

"People are entitled to their opinions. I can't go around blaming. It's all about my responsibility and me growing up as a man. I think now that I'm becoming older, and trying to mature in this life under the public eye at all times, I have to focus on doing the right thing and being more of a humble individual."

PTI

Rihanna

Beyonce previews bikini collection and new song

New Delhi, 27 April—It's a match made in music and fashion retail heaven. Beyonce gives fans a sneak peek at a new song, possibly to be included on her fifth album, in a new video for high street giant H&M.

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

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

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

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

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

PTI

Beyonce

SPORTS

Two wins in a day put Nadal into Barcelona semis

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

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

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

After a few hours rest, Nadal returned to centre court to dispatch fellow Spaniard Albert Ramos 6-3 6-0 for his 37th consecutive Barcelona Open win.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Reuters

Rafa Nadal

Ronaldo out of Madrid derby but should be ok for Dortmund

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Reuters

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

Wenger confirms Arsenal guard of honour for champions

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

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

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

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

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

Manchester United secured their 20th league title with a 3-0 win over Aston Villa on Monday thanks to a hat-trick from former Arsenal striker Robin van Persie.

Reuters

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

Champions United face key role in another race

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

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

"Having won the league, there's always a danger of falling into the trap of 'it's all over and we can relax' and enjoy ourselves but I think we've got a duty to other clubs who are chasing Champions League places," Ferguson told a news conference.

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

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

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

Everton, on 56, are mathematically, if rather unrealistically, also involved.

Ferguson said he would field a strong side for the trip to north London, where top scorer Robin van Persie could face boos from fans at his former club.

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

Motivation also comes from the record points total that United are still chasing and they know if they win their four remaining matches they would surpass the mark of 95 set by Chelsea in 2004-05.

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

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

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

"I don't think Robin should bother about it either," he said.

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

Reuters

Manchester United's Rio Ferdinand (L) and Michael Carrick celebrate after they 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

No deal with Lewandowski

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

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

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

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

Borussia Dortmund's Robert Lewandowski celebrates with his team mate Marcel Schmelzer (R) after scoring a hat-trick against Real Madrid during their Champions League semi-final first leg soccer match at BVB stadium in Dortmund on 24 April, 2013.

REUTERS

He, unlike Goetze, does not have a buy-out clause in his contract and could be forced to stay on.

"Until today we have no offer for him. He has a contract until 2014 without a buy-out clause," Dortmund boss Hans-Joachim Watzke told Bild newspaper.

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

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

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

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

Reuters

Ichiro Oishi, a volunteer clown who has been travelling across the disaster-hit regions in northeastern Japan to perform and help cheer up quake survivors, stands in front of his ramen shop in Kawagoe, Saitama Prefecture in February 2013. Oishi decided to close the shop to continue volunteering activities.

KYODO NEWS

Killing of policemen an act of cowards

JAMMU, 27 April — Chief Minister Omar Abdullah condemned the killing of four police personnel in Sopore area of Jammu and Kashmir's Baramulla District and termed it as "an act of cowards".

In a condolence message, the Chief Minister expressed his solidarity with the bereaved families and the police force.

Police jawans sacrifice their lives for the protection and safety of the people and exhibit highest degree of bravery, he said.

PTI

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

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Texas executes man for 2002 murder, kidnapping

MILWAUKEE, 27 April — Texas on Thursday executed a convicted murderer who, along with an accomplice, had robbed a convenience store in 2002, kidnapping two women who worked there and a male customer who was later shot dead.

Richard Cobb, 29, was given a lethal injection and pronounced dead at 6:27 pm CDT (7:27 pm EDT) at a state prison in Huntsville, the Texas Department of Criminal Justice said in a statement.

In his final statement, Cobb said: "Life is too short to harbor feelings of hatred and anger. That's it." Cobb and his accomplice, Beunka Adams, who was executed in 2012, entered BDJ's convenience store in Rusk, Texas, armed with a shotgun and wearing masks, and demanded money, according to the state attorney general's office.

They took store clerks Candace Driver and Nikki Ansley Dement hostage along with customer Kenneth Vandever and forced them into Driver's Cadillac, the account said.

Adams drove to an open pasture and forced Driver and Vandever into the trunk while Cobb held the gun. Adams then took Dement to a wooded area and raped her.

Later, according to the account, Cobb fatally shot Vandever and either Cobb or Adams shot the two women, both of whom survived. Cobb was the fourth person executed in Texas this year and the ninth in the United States, according to the Death Penalty Information Centre.

Reuters

Torres will reclaim Spain place, says Hernandez

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

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

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

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

*Chelsea's manager Rafael Benitez (R) speaks with player Fernando Torres during their FA Cup semi-final soccer match against Manchester City at Wembley Stadium in London on 14 April, 2013. —*REUTERS

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

"All strikers love scoring goals. He went through a spell of not scoring goals and people criticised him.

"But Fernando has always been a big player and I think he will get back into the national team in the future.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

He was left out of the Spain squad for the recent World Cup qualifiers against Finland and France.—*Reuters*

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Sunday, 28 April, 2013

Union ministers visit farms in Bago Region

NAY PYI TAW, 27 April—Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing and Union Minister for Livestock and Fisheries U Ohn Myint visited land reclamation site of 2000-acre mechanized farmland in Kyettetnyaungbin Village, Ottwin Township, Bago Region yesterday.

The Union ministers then went to diversion weir construction site of Pyu Creek Reservoir Project in Pyu Township, calling for huge investment of private sector in farming to help farmers and breeders step forward to industrial scale production for exports. The two Union ministers also called for a special focus on chemical-free agricultural produce for food safety.

MNA

Union Labour Minister visits the Philippines

NAY PYI TAW, 27 April—Union Minister for Labour, Employment and Social Welfare U Maung Myint visited the Philippines on 22-26 April to observe processes in dealing with migrant workers there at an invitation of the Philippine minister of labour and employment.

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

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

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

MNA

Union Minister U Maung Myint holds talks with Ms. Rosalinda Dimapilis-Baldoz, Philippine Secretary of Labour and Employment.—MNA

First Ethnic Media Conference held in Mawlamyine

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

Ethnic media conference in progress in Mawlamyine on 25 April.—MNA

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

Today, approval was sought for recommendations made by participants who also adopted the future plans. The second ethnic media conference is set to be held in Taunggyi in 2014.

The conference was aimed to ensure freedom and legitimatization of ethnic languages for development of ethnic media. It is the first of its series since the bud of democracy begins to blossom in Myanmar.

MNA

Leading Committee for holding 7th ASEAN Para Games meets

Seventh meeting of the Leading Committee for holding 7th ASEAN Para Games and Management Committee of ASEAN Para Sports Federations (APSF) in progress.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 27 April— Seventh meeting of the Leading Committee for holding 7th ASEAN Para Games and Management Committee of ASEAN Para Sports Federations (APSF) was opened at Zabuthiri Hotel, here, on 26 April, with an address by Committee Chairman Union Minister U Tint Hsan. APSF President Dato Zainal Abu Zarin spoke words of honour. President of Myanmar Para Sports Federation Maj-Gen Nay Lin and the APSF President singed the MoU on holding 7th ASEAN Para Games.

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

The three-day meeting was also attended by Deputy Minister U Thaung Htaik, officials from Myanmar Para Sports Federation and APSF Management Committee and delegates from ASEAN countries.—*MNA*

Union S & T Minister calls for establishment of resource centres

NAY PYI TAW, 27 April—Union Minister for Science and Technology Dr Ko Ko Oo addressed the work coordination meeting of the ministry here this noon.

The Union minister called on the rectors and principals of respective seats of education to take steps to dramatically improve the education standards in line with the instructions of the President.

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

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

MNA

Outlook for subsequent two days

Likelihood of rain or thundershowers in the Northern Myanmar areas.

NLM